



League of Women Voters  
Of La Plata County

# VOTER

Volume 9, Issue 3

Sixty-three Years Serving La Plata County  
97 members

October, 2009

[www.lwv.org](http://www.lwv.org)

[www.lwvlaplata.org](http://www.lwvlaplata.org)

[www.lwvcolorado.org](http://www.lwvcolorado.org)

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### **Your Membership Renewal is Overdue!**

Please fill out the survey  
and send your check in the  
return envelope you  
received. Thanks to  
everyone who has already  
returned his/her check and  
survey. We need all of you!



*Mark your calendars!*

### **October Meetings**

#### **- Four Corners Air Quality and Our Health -**

**Thursday, October 8, 7-9 p.m.**  
**130 Noble Hall, Fort Lewis College**

Speakers:

**Mike Silverstein**, CO Dept of Public Health and Environment  
**Patrick Cummins**, Western Governors’ Association  
**Bob Thompson**, Arizona State University  
See page 2 for bios of our outstanding speakers  
(Flyer attached)

\* \* \*

#### **- Durango School District 9-R Board of Education Candidates Forum -**

**Thursday, October 15, 6-7:30 p.m.**  
**Durango City Council Chambers**  
**949 E. 2<sup>nd</sup> Avenue, Durango**

Candidates:

**Bill Bowlby, Andrew Burns, Joseph C. Colgan,**  
**Julia Levy, Jeff Schell**  
(see attached flyer)

\* \* \*

#### **- Farmers Market Booth -**

**October 3, 8-12 noon**

Be sure to stop by and greet the members on duty while you shop.  
We will have educational materials available and mail-in voter registration  
forms for address changes or permanent mail-in ballots.

**President's Message - Education and Advocacy.**

There are significant differences in how we perform the League's most important functions.

We educate when we:

- invite a fiscal analyst to discuss the size of Colorado's government
- organize an air quality symposium to understand what's in our air, and what we can do about it
- introduce voters to school board candidates at a forum

We advocate when:

- our U.S. Senator holds a town hall and we comment about health care
- we call our local House representative in response to an action alert
- we write the governor in opposition to Desert Rock

We only advocate after we have reached consensus on issues we have studied extensively. It's important to note that you don't have to agree with everything the League does. We can choose to remain silent, or concentrate on education. The League has many purposes. Find one you care about and, as always, give me a call if you want to discuss the issue further.

*-Stephanie Huss*

**Census 2010**

2010 Census data will directly affect how more than \$3 trillion is allocated to local, state and tribal governments over the next 10 years. The goal is to count everybody and count them only once. LWV National, State and La Plata County are official Census 2010 Partners. We plan to use our knowledge of this unique community to increase awareness of and response rates to the Census in La Plata County. Grant money is available until November 1<sup>st</sup>. **The committee will meet Monday, October 19, 1-3 p.m. at Marilyn Brown's home. Contact Nadine Ancel at [ancelnm@yahoo.com](mailto:ancelnm@yahoo.com) or 259-3675 if you are interested in joining the committee.**

**Speakers – Four Corners Air Quality and Our Health – October 8**

**Mike Silverstein** is the Colorado Air Pollution Control Division's deputy director and the manager of the division's Planning and Policy Program. His main area of expertise is in air quality planning, which involves working with industry, government agencies and citizens to develop plans for areas that have violated National Ambient Air Quality Standards, such as the ozone standard. Mike also leads the division's efforts to assess air quality issues in Rocky Mountain National Park and the Four Corners region. Mike holds B.S and M.S. degrees in Geography from the University of Colorado. Prior to joining the division, Mike was an environmental scientist with the U.S.E.P.A. in Denver and an environmental consultant.

**Patrick Cummins** is the Director of Air Quality Programs for the Western Governors' Association (WGA), which is based in Denver. In this position, Patrick serves as the Director of the Western Regional Air Partnership and as Project Manager for the Western Climate Initiative. He holds a B.S. in Chemistry from Fort Lewis College and an M.P.A. in Environmental Policy from Indiana University. Prior to joining WGA, Patrick worked for the U.S.E.P.A. and as Deputy Director of Denver's Regional Air Quality Council.

**Bob Thompson** worked as a faculty associate at Arizona State University in the Life Sciences Department where he taught Environmental Geology and Biological Systems and Pollution vs. Protection – Counting the Cost. He is a Certified Professional Geological Scientist. Recent publications include "Fire Story – Vallecito Burning" and "Evidence for a Connection Between Wildfires, Erosion, and Landscape Development over the Past 3600 Years in Southwestern Colorado". He recently wrote a paper on "Mercury in the Environment (Everything You Didn't Really Want to Know About Mercury....And More)." Bob's degrees are from Northern Arizona University with post-graduate work at ASU, Penn State, New Mexico State and Farleigh Dickinson University. Prior to teaching, he worked for the U.S. Geological Survey and NASA.

## Health Care Update

While we wait to see what Congress will do about health care reform at the national level, I want to report on the Community Health Care Capacity Project under way locally.

As many of you know, Julie Thompson was hired in March as project coordinator, and recently gave an interim report on her findings with regard to seven different community models she has investigated. A description of the project can be found at [www.chaclaplata.org](http://www.chaclaplata.org) under "What's New". Her report, "Community Approaches to Health Care Access and Cost", will be made available on the same website.

In her report, Julie reviewed seven models, and for each gave the goal, what they did, how it is financed, the key factors in success, and lessons learned.

The seven models are:

1. **Weld County CO/Northern Colorado Health Alliance**, which focuses on the un/under-insured. They have created a stand-alone non-profit that provides no services but selects community projects for implementation. The Board of Directors consists of representatives including medical clinics, the community health center, public health, United Way, county government, the hospital and local university.
2. **Grand Junction/Mesa County CO**, which was highlighted by President Obama's visit there recently. They have created a community health care system that reimburses providers for quality, cost-effective care and provides access for all members of the community. Rocky Mountain Health Plans, based in Grand Junction, has been an active partner in this project from the outset.

3. **Partnerships for Health Initiative - Northwestern Colorado Visiting Nurses Association (VNA)** created a steering committee with hospitals, VNA and an independent community health center to establish criteria and processes.

4. **Health Access Pueblo (CO)** created a non-profit organization that sponsors a limited benefit package for qualified employees. Board members come from hospitals, clinics, employers, the county medical society and county government.

5. **ECHO (Enchanted Circle Health Outreach for Kids)** in Taos, NM organized a non-profit that negotiates with providers for pediatric and pre-natal care. They created a voucher program to pay for care for children and pregnant mothers who meet eligibility criteria.

6. **Project Access**, based in Asheville/Buncombe County, NC. Here the County Medical Society assumed administrative ownership of a program designed as a donated services model. Participating primary care providers agree to see 10 patients/year from the program. Secondary specialists agree to see 20 patients/year. Pharmacies dispense medications at cost. This program has expanded and there are now 44 in the country, including one in Santa Fe, NM.

7. **Vermont Blueprint for Health** created a multi-pronged approach to reducing the cost of care, involving insurance reform, creating community care teams, integrating public health and private health care delivery systems and using health information technology.

Julie and the local group who hired her will be reviewing these and probably other models to see what can best be used to benefit La Plata County. Stay tuned!

*-Jill Patton*

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## The Future and Seniors

Looking beyond healthcare, several of us see a study of seniors and their future needs, wants, problems, concerns and longevity (transportation, housing, nutrition, exercise) as a major influence and effect on the future of La Plata County and our country. Many of us are seniors and the impact of this ever-expanding segment of the population that will be demanding a larger and larger share of our limited resources in a county that is youth oriented should be explored now not later. Contact Stephanie Huss, [stephanie@frontier.net](mailto:stephanie@frontier.net) if you want to be on this committee with Mary Ruth Bowman and Tom Darnell.

*-Tom Darnell*

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## Membership Renewal Time

By now you should have received your membership renewal package in the mail. Many of you have responded. Thank you so much. For those of you who have not, please take the time to fill out the application and the survey and return with your check to our treasurer, Nadine Ancel, P.O. Box 2113, Durango, CO, 81302.

If you have any questions, please contact Marilyn Sandstrom at 970-764-4596 or [mjschili@bresnan.net](mailto:mjschili@bresnan.net). We're looking forward to another great year with YOU as a member of LWVLC!

### **LWVs' Proposed Regional EPA Liaison**

The League of Women Voters of La Plata (LWVLPC) and Montezuma Counties (LWVMC), Colorado, working with the San Juan Citizens Alliance, an environmental group active in the Four Corners area, are proposing an Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) air quality liaison in the Four Corners area. We propose that the EPA establish a senior level liaison position that would work with the three EPA Regional Administrators with jurisdictional responsibilities in the Four Corners and be responsible for coordinating a unified EPA approach on Four Corners air and related water quality issues. The proposal is adapted from a 2008 recommendation of the Four Corners Air Quality Task Force. A summary paper of this proposal is available upon request ([dcdurango@msn.com](mailto:dcdurango@msn.com)).

The Four Corners area encompasses four states and four sovereign tribes. As a consequence, the U.S. EPA jurisdiction over air quality in the Four Corners area is burdensome and complex. None of the EPA offices has been designated as a lead and each operates independently. Each state air quality enforcement agency also acts independently and the tribes each have their own environmental offices.

Four Corners atmospheric processes are complex and large scale. The existing EPA regional divisions of jurisdiction lack coordination and fail to achieve the degree of holistic assessment or permitting that is called for by the large and dynamic nature of the Four Corners air resources and the rapid industrial changes underway that threaten air and water quality.

An EPA Four Corners air quality liaison is needed as the Four Corners area is experiencing disproportionate adverse air and water quality impacts from the clustering of industrial sources, including coal-fired and natural gas facilities that are endangering the public quality of life. The LWVLPC and LWVMC Boards believe that a Four Corners EPA liaison would enhance the protection of our air and water in SW Colorado as well as the health of our citizens.

–Deanna Collins

### **Great Decisions Topics Announced**

Our LWV and the Durango Public Library will again co-sponsor the Great Decisions Discussion Series beginning in mid-January. Watch for additional information in future newsletters. Topics for the 2010 series are:

- Special Envoys
- Preventing Genocide
- Global Crime
- U.S.-China Security Relations
- Global Financial Crisis
- Russia and its Neighbors
- The Persian Gulf
- Peacebuilding and Conflict Resolution

Contact Pat Chatfield, 247-1692, for additional information.

### **Meeting with Ernest House, Jr.**

Several members of our local league met in early September with Ernest House, Jr., the Executive Secretary of the Colorado Commission on Indian Affairs, and Jodi Foran of the Montezuma County LWV. He is a member of the Ute Mountain Ute Tribe, who works with the Lieutenant Governor's office. Our wide ranging discussion covered voter registration, Census 2010, and EPA jurisdiction. We look forward to working with Mr. House on these and other issues.

–Stephanie Huss



**Carol Hedges, CO Fiscal Policy Institute, speaking September 1 to interested citizens about CO's economic future. Check our website [www.lwvlaplata.org](http://www.lwvlaplata.org) to see recent Hedges papers under Economy 2009, Past Events.**

### **Updated NCHC Health Care Brochure**

An updated brochure entitled 'Building a Better Health Care System' from the National Coalition on Health Care is available at <http://www.nchc.org>, click on Specifications for Reform.

### Cost of NPVC Study

LWVUS recently released a summary of the actual and in-kind costs for conducting the National Popular Vote Compact Study, which, you recall, ended in no consensus. I have never seen anything like this released before. Those of you who have attended national conventions have no doubt heard, whenever a new study is suggested, that the costs of the study may preclude its adoption. Here's a good example of what a study costs.

Volunteer labor costs for the five-member task force were estimated to be \$35,438 based on 500 hours of work for the chair, Carolee Mullan, and 250 hours each for the other members, at a rate of \$20.25/hour.

Actual staff labor costs equaled \$20,203 based on an average pay rate (including fringe benefit rate of 45%) of \$26.04/hour. The total of volunteer and paid costs equaled \$55,641, which when conference calls fees were included make a grand total of \$55,684.

This is a lot of money! It's too bad we didn't come up with a more useful outcome.

*-Marilyn Brown*



President Stephanie Huss discussing Census 2010 at the LWV membership meeting September 23<sup>rd</sup>.

### Advocacy for Kids

The Colorado Children's Campaign (CCC) and the La Plata County *It's About Kids* (IAK) Advocacy Network hosted a Pep Rally for kids at the Durango Recreation Center on September 24<sup>th</sup>. Scott Groginsky of CCC discussed the impact of the budget crisis and 2010 legislative priorities. Statewide IAK Network Coordinator Liz Houston reminded us that advocacy works and the La Plata County IAK has been instrumental in speaking out for kids. Several local officials also spoke. Thanks to CCC, IAK and Leaguers Victoria Romero Coe and Marsha Porter-Norton for keeping us informed and to Scott and Liz, for flying in from Denver. To receive CCC legislative updates, email local IAK coordinator Kate Jones at [fatherhelp@yahoo.com](mailto:fatherhelp@yahoo.com).



LWVCO hosted League Day in Denver on Saturday, September 26<sup>th</sup>. Speakers included Justice Allison Eid (above), an Associate Justice of the Colorado Supreme Court; Mark Cavanaugh, the Director of the Governor's Economic Recovery Team; Alicia Archibald, President of Better Environment Through Total Recovery; and Irene Aquilar, MD, President of Health Care for All Colorado.

*Detailed information about League Day and Colorado's management of American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) funds can be found on our website, [www.lwvlaplata.org](http://www.lwvlaplata.org)*

**Happy 64<sup>th</sup> Birthday,  
United Nations!!  
October 24<sup>th</sup>**



**United Nations Flag**

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
|--|--|--|--|--|--|
| <h1>Calendar</h1>  |  |    | <b>LWV La Plata County</b><br><a href="http://www.lwvlaplata.org">www.lwvlaplata.org</a><br>296 Highland Hill Drive<br>Durango, CO 81301 |  |  |
| <b>October</b>   |  |  |  |  |  |
| Sat 3  | Voter Education Booth, Farmers Market, 8-12, 1 <sup>st</sup> Natl Bank parking lot   |  |  |  |  |
| Thur 8   | Four Corners Air Quality and Our Health, 7-9 p.m. 130 Noble Hall, FLC  |  |  |  |  |
| Thur 15  | Dgo 9-R School Board Forum, City Council Chambers, 6-7:30 p.m.   |  |  |  |  |
| Mon 19   | Census 2010 Cmte Mtg, 1-3, Browns' Home  |  |  |  |  |
| Wed 21   | Board Meeting, 1-3, Browns' Home   |  |  |  |  |
| Sat 24   | United Nations Day (64 <sup>th</sup> Birthday!)  |  |  |  |  |
| <b>November</b>  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Tue 3  | Durango 9-R School Board Election (Mail-in Only)   |  |  |  |  |
| Thur 12  | Empowerment: One Heart at a Time, Ellen/Ross Park, Life Long Learning, 130 Noble Hall, 7 p.m.  |  |  |  |  |
| TBD  | General Meeting on Census 2010   |  |  |  |  |
| <b>December</b>  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Sat 5  | Holiday Potluck, 11-1, Deanna Collins' home  |  |  |  |  |
| <i>For more information on our committees, meetings, Colorado's fiscal crisis, the LWV LPC calendar and easy links to pertinent articles, check out our website at <a href="http://www.lwvlaplata.org">www.lwvlaplata.org</a>. Contact Ross Park, webmaster, for a tutorial at <a href="mailto:eandrpark@aol.com">eandrpark@aol.com</a>.</i>   |  |  |  |  |  |
| <p><b>League Mission Statement:</b> The League of Women Voters, a nonpartisan political organization, encourages informed and active participation in government and influences public policy through education and advocacy.</p> <p><b>Join the League!</b> Anyone of voting age may join the League of Women Voters. Others may be associate members. Discounted household memberships are available. Call Marilyn Sandstrom, 764-4596, for more information.</p>  |  | <p><b><u>Board of Directors</u></b></p> <table style="width: 100%; border: none;"> <tr> <td style="width: 50%; vertical-align: top;"> <p><b>President</b><br/>Stephanie Huss, 259-7263<br/><a href="mailto:stephanie@frontier.net">stephanie@frontier.net</a></p> <p><b>Secretary</b><br/>Grace Deltscheff, 259-3040<br/><a href="mailto:holgnd@frontier.net">holgnd@frontier.net</a></p> <p><b>Health Care</b><br/>Jill Patton, 385-4061<br/><a href="mailto:jgpatton@frontier.net">jgpatton@frontier.net</a></p> <p><b>Env, Energy, Sustainability</b><br/>Deanna Collins, 259-7845<br/><a href="mailto:dcdurango@msn.com">dcdurango@msn.com</a></p> <p><b>Great Decisions*</b><br/>Pat Chatfield, 247-1692<br/><a href="mailto:patchwork@gobrainstorm.net">patchwork@gobrainstorm.net</a></p> <p><b>Ex Officio*</b><br/>Sally Bellerue, 385-0848<br/><a href="mailto:bellerue@frontier.net">bellerue@frontier.net</a></p> </td> <td style="width: 50%; vertical-align: top;"> <p><b>Vice President</b><br/>Trish Pegram, 382-8248<br/><a href="mailto:trishpegram@bresnan.net">trishpegram@bresnan.net</a></p> <p><b>Treasurer</b><br/>Nadine Ancel, 259-3675<br/><a href="mailto:ancelnm@yahoo.com">ancelnm@yahoo.com</a></p> <p><b>Membership</b><br/>Marilyn Sandstrom, 764-4596<br/><a href="mailto:mjschili@bresnan.net">mjschili@bresnan.net</a></p> <p><b>Legislative Action*</b><br/>Ellen Park, 247-8116<br/><a href="mailto:gellenpark@aol.com">gellenpark@aol.com</a></p> <p><b>Website*</b><br/>Ross Park, 247-8116<br/><a href="mailto:eandrpark@aol.com">eandrpark@aol.com</a></p> <p><b>Newsletter Editor*</b><br/>Marilyn Brown, 259-3593<br/><a href="mailto:marilbrown@aol.com">marilbrown@aol.com</a></p> </td> </tr> </table> |  | <p><b>President</b><br/>Stephanie Huss, 259-7263<br/><a href="mailto:stephanie@frontier.net">stephanie@frontier.net</a></p> <p><b>Secretary</b><br/>Grace Deltscheff, 259-3040<br/><a href="mailto:holgnd@frontier.net">holgnd@frontier.net</a></p> <p><b>Health Care</b><br/>Jill Patton, 385-4061<br/><a href="mailto:jgpatton@frontier.net">jgpatton@frontier.net</a></p> <p><b>Env, Energy, Sustainability</b><br/>Deanna Collins, 259-7845<br/><a href="mailto:dcdurango@msn.com">dcdurango@msn.com</a></p> <p><b>Great Decisions*</b><br/>Pat Chatfield, 247-1692<br/><a href="mailto:patchwork@gobrainstorm.net">patchwork@gobrainstorm.net</a></p> <p><b>Ex Officio*</b><br/>Sally Bellerue, 385-0848<br/><a href="mailto:bellerue@frontier.net">bellerue@frontier.net</a></p> | <p><b>Vice President</b><br/>Trish Pegram, 382-8248<br/><a href="mailto:trishpegram@bresnan.net">trishpegram@bresnan.net</a></p> <p><b>Treasurer</b><br/>Nadine Ancel, 259-3675<br/><a href="mailto:ancelnm@yahoo.com">ancelnm@yahoo.com</a></p> <p><b>Membership</b><br/>Marilyn Sandstrom, 764-4596<br/><a href="mailto:mjschili@bresnan.net">mjschili@bresnan.net</a></p> <p><b>Legislative Action*</b><br/>Ellen Park, 247-8116<br/><a href="mailto:gellenpark@aol.com">gellenpark@aol.com</a></p> <p><b>Website*</b><br/>Ross Park, 247-8116<br/><a href="mailto:eandrpark@aol.com">eandrpark@aol.com</a></p> <p><b>Newsletter Editor*</b><br/>Marilyn Brown, 259-3593<br/><a href="mailto:marilbrown@aol.com">marilbrown@aol.com</a></p> |
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|  |  | *Off-board   |  |  |  |