



Colorado Voter

November 2009, Volume 23, Number 2

League of Women Voters©
of Colorado

League Legislative Conference

Monday, January 25, 2010

8:30 a.m. - 1:15 p.m.

NEW VENUE: Colorado History Museum - State Museum

“This Legislative Conference is not sponsored by the Colorado Historical Society, and does not reflect the views of the Colorado Historical Society, its employees or sponsors.”

Room: Boettcher Auditorium

1300 Broadway, Denver

Registration Fee (includes cost of meeting space and lunch): \$26.00

Seating is limited to 150 people.

Registration 8:30 a.m.

Program 9:00 -11:45 a.m.

Education Panel, including charter schools,
Fiscal Policy Issues, Reapportionment 2010

Lunch: 12:00-1:15 p.m.

League Lobbyist Update of Legislation

Lunch Selections: **(1) Chef Salad** (cucumbers, tomatoes, red pepper, artichoke hearts, Jarlsburg cheese, Prosciutto, salami, pulled chicken breast, Nicoise olives, hardboiled eggs on mixed lettuce with vinaigrette) **(2) Thai Chicken Salad** (spiced chicken breast with traditional cellophane noodles and vegetables tossed in a Thai peanut sauce) **(3) Nicoise Vegetarian Salad** (pesto new potatoes, roasted eggplant, plum tomatoes, hardboiled eggs, French green beans on a bed of romaine with vinaigrette). All salad selections include a French baguette and butter, a brownie, shortbread or cookie.

Legislative Conference Registration Form - Deadline Wednesday, January 13, 2010

Registration Fee and lunch \$26.00 (No refunds after January 13)

Three choices for lunch (see description above): **(1) Chef Salad (2) Thai Chicken Salad (3) Nicoise Vegetarian Salad**. Circle the number of your choice that follows your name.

Name _____ Lunch choice: 1 or 2 or 3

(Please print name as you wish to have it appear on the name tag.)

Name of League _____

Pay by ___ check (made payable to LWVCO) ___ Visa ___ Mastercard **Amount \$26.00**

Card # _____ Expiration Date _____

Signature _____ LWVCO Fax # 303.837.9917

Mail to: LWV of COLORADO, 1410 GRANT ST STE B204, DENVER CO 80203-1855

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Colorado Voter

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From the President

Here's to the League of Women Voters of the United States of America!

IT'S CELEBRATION TIME...Lift your glasses high...it's time to toast the LWVUS! We will be ninety years old on February 14, 2010 and that calls for celebrations!

Now is the time to think about how your local League or how a Member at Large (MAL) will celebrate this important milestone. Will you have a party or a potluck in someone's home? Will you have a brunch, luncheon or dinner in a restaurant? How about movie nights with popcorn and drinks for refreshments? Maybe an event where "Making Democracy Work" awards are presented? Honoring an outstanding citizen with an Oscar at an Academy Award party? A Valentine Party? A suffragists gathering with a theme like "Women of the West and the Men Who Loved Them: (Estes Park Rodeo Parade Theme)? What about a program with entertainment? Or a sing-along? Hope these suggestions trigger some celebration ideas for your community.

We will be celebrating all across the U.S.A. and Colorado all year long. Your celebrations do not have to be in February. Summer may be a perfect time to have something outdoors. If your community has a festival, a parade, carnival, or other large gatherings, consider having a League of Women Voters presence with emphasis on our 90th anniversary.

We will not only be celebrating our 90 year history, but we'll have our future as part of our focus. We could raise funds and increase membership. Be inclusive—invite prospective members, neighbors, family, friends, and members of the community. If you are dining at a restaurant, collect money ahead of the event and charge a little more for a meal than it actually costs. If you are having movie nights, charge for a movie ticket and have a concession stand.

Whatever you decide to do, remember to have fun, raise a little money (or a lot), and ask people to join!

Here's to the League of Women Voters of the United States of America! May our next 90 years continue to make a positive impact in our communities!

Cheers!
Patty Cordova

P.S. I'd love to receive invitations to your celebrations!

Are You on Facebook?

Keep up with the League on Facebook at
www.facebook.com/leagueofwomenvoters

LWVCO Board Announcements

- Agreed to participate in the LWVUS Membership Recruitment Initiative
- Agreed to have Patty Schoedler serve as board liaison to Douglas County MAL, and to have Jodi Foran be the board liaison to LWV of Archuleta County
- Agreed to bring League concurrence on sustainability to be added to the program position book [see article below].
- Agreed to endorse and provide active, non-financial support when requested, to the efforts of the Leagues of La Plata and Montezuma Counties to achieve the appointment of a Four Corners EPA person. [see page 4]
- Agreed to support the LWV of Boulder County to make The Fair Elections Now Act a top advocacy priority at the LWVUS board meeting in January. [A letter was sent to State League Presidents requesting them to contact the LWVUS Board members and ask them to support the Fair Elections Now Act. The letter was signed by Patty Cordova, LWVCO president and Rose Mary Highman, LWVBC president.]
- Agreed to have Phyllis Horney represent the LWVCO at the Colorado Reform Roundtable.
- Agreed to co-sponsor the United Nations Discussion Series in February 2010. [See page 5 for details.]
- Agreed to support the Institute for the Advancement of the American Legal System, and appointed Flodie Anderson as the League's representative.

LWVUS President Mary Wilson gave the keynote address at the Seventh Annual Judicial Excellence for Colorado, November 5, 2009, at the Denver Marriott City Center in Denver. In attendance were Leaguers from Colorado, including LWVCO President, Patty Cordova. Proceeds from the event benefited the Judicial Education Fund, the Our Courts public education program and the activities of the Colorado Judicial Institute.

Sustainability Study

by Alice Ramsey, 1st Vice-President, Program

The Sustainability study material is ready and has been sent to the local League presidents. The committee members collected information on how businesses and communities are dealing with the concept of sustainability. They also looked at how the wording of current League positions already contain the essence of sustainability. When League calls for planning, conservation, cooperation between political entities, and future effects, sustainability is implied and often explicitly mentioned. Sustainability is incorporated in most of our positions whether it is Natural Resources, Social Policy or Government, and they are intertwined. The current study is asking for a concurrence with the following statement

“Sustainability is a way of life which seeks a balance in meeting current environment, economic and human needs without compromising the ability of future generations to meet the same goal.

The concept of sustainability is implicit in the Principles of the League of Women Voters. League positions are in compliance with the fundamental principle of sustainability, recognizing the interdependency among issues of public policy, and the impact of current decisions on the global welfare of future generations.”

If accepted, this statement will be added to the *Program for Study and Action* book as a Principle to be considered when LWV of Colorado decides to support or oppose legislative action or ballot issues.

Four Corners Regional EPA Liaison Proposal

by Jodi Foran and Stephanie Huss

The LWVCO Board voted to endorse and to provide active, non-financial support, when requested, of the efforts of the Leagues of La Plata and Montezuma Counties to achieve the appointment of a Four Corners based EPA person to oversee the EPA mission in the Four Corners area.

Atmospheric processes in the Four Corners area, which includes parts of Colorado, Utah, New Mexico and Arizona, as well as tribal trust lands of four Native American tribes, are large scale and complex and do not respect political boundaries. EPA jurisdiction over air quality in the Four Corners area is fragmented, burdensome, and in need of review and modification, in order to fulfill its mission in this region.

The Four Corners area lies within the jurisdiction of three different EPA regional offices, none of which has lead oversight status. Each state air quality enforcement agency acts independently, and the tribes each have their own environmental offices. The existing EPA regional structure fails to achieve the degree of holistic oversight that is called for by the large and dynamic nature of the Four Corners air resources, the rapid

industrial changes underway that threaten air quality and the imminent likelihood of greenhouse gas regulation.

The two Leagues are proposing an EPA air quality senior level position that would report directly to the EPA in Washington and be responsible for coordinating a unified EPA approach on Four Corners air and related water quality issues. The two Leagues will solicit similar support from state and local Leagues of Arizona, Utah and New Mexico. The proposal is adapted from a recommendation in the 2007 report of the Four Corners Air Quality Task Force.

Recommended actions to improve EPA mission performance in the Four Corners include (1) promptly establish a senior level USEPA coordinator based in a Four Corners community but reporting directly to USEPA in Washington, (2) strongly consider establishing a Four Corners EPA Operations Office (by 2012).

For additional information contact Jodi Foran, president of the LWV of Montezuma County or Stephanie Huss, president of the LWV of La Plata County.

Membership Recruitment Training in Colorado

by Lineah Davey, Vice-president, Member Services

Four local Leagues from around the state have signed up to be trained by LWVUS and coached by Colorado experienced Leaguers. One more League may participate depending upon scheduling. Leagues participating are Adams County, Arapahoe County, Montezuma County, and Jefferson County. Pikes Peak League may also participate. Congratulations to these Leagues.

We have three stellar Leaguers who have agreed to coach local Leagues. They are Margie Beal, former LWVCO President; Bobbie Heisterkamp, former LWVCO Treasurer; and Lynn Young, former LWVCO Vice-President, Member Services. Lineah Davey is the state coordinator for the Membership Recruitment project.

Scheduling of the training is in process. We may become the first trainee group to utilize online "distance learning," which will alleviate travel problems this fall and winter. Training will include increasing membership through best practices that have already worked in Leagues across the U.S., and increasing the local Leagues' visibility within their communities.

LWVUS 49th National Convention

June 11-15, 2010

Atlanta Marriott Marquis

265 Peachtree Center Avenue

Atlanta, Georgia

For the latest information about program and schedule, go to the LWVUS website www.lwv.org.

Office for Rent

Across from the State Capitol, ten by twelve foot furnished office is available to sublet from LWV of Colorado. Private entrance. Monthly rent of \$200 includes utilities. Telephone, internet access, and conference room negotiable. Call 303-863-0437 or e-mail info@lwvcolorado.org.

League Day 2009 Report

by Alice Ramsey, 1st Vice-President, Program

LWVCO president Patty Cordova welcomed everyone to League Day, held at the Holiday Inn Select in Denver on September 26. Almost 120 Leaguers throughout the state heard excellent presentations about issues we are facing in our communities, state, and nation.

Allison Eid, a Colorado Supreme Court Justice and daughter-in-law of our Executive Director Sandy Eid, spoke about her experiences as a clerk for the U.S. Supreme Court Justice Clarence Thomas and how the Colorado Supreme Court differs from the national court— from the layout of the building to the contact between justices. The Federal court is limited in its jurisdiction to federal matters while the State court takes on a wide variety of cases, from water to family law.

Mark Cavanaugh spoke about the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009. He did an admirable job of relaying information to the attendees of how much various pieces of the state financial pie are receiving from the \$5.5 billion coming from the Federal government. He noted that direct spending monies were not for new programs but to fund already existent programs, from transportation and infrastructure to water and energy. Along with sustaining programs there is also “seed money” for items like spreading broadband, “race to the top” education, and health information technology.

Alicia Archibald from Colorado Springs began her “Real Community—Real Sustainability” presentation with some personal history of growing up in a very rural atmosphere where her family’s farm produced for their own use and not for the market. She pointed out that sustainability is about personal choices and that it is an “everlasting process.” We need to be forward thinking and proactive going forward for seven generations as the Native Americans believe. Leaguers can be the ones who “jump off the cliff” and bring everyone else with us into a sustainable community.

Dr. Irene Aguilar, president of Health Care for All Colorado, and a working primary care doctor gave a presentation filled with numbers (Leaguers love the facts) showing Colorado’s and the country’s health care picture. Nineteen percent of Coloradans are uninsured, which equals 880,000 people, and 500,000 people are on the Federal/State Medicaid program. Nationally 62% of bankruptcies are for medical reasons and 75% of those cases had health insurance. She said we have disease management not health management. Only a small percentage of health care costs are actually medical expenditures— almost 30% is for administration. A doctor typically spends \$68,000 for office help to deal with insurance.

League Day offered a great opportunity to network with other Leaguers and renew acquaintances during our successful event.

League Geeks Available to Aid Members

The League Geeks are League members who have volunteered to help other members with technical computer problems. Such problems might be:

- (1) registering or logging onto www.lwv.org,
- (2) locating information on www.lwv.org, or
- (3) subscribing, unsubscribing or receiving LWVUS discussion list email.

Members may now contact the League Geeks by sending an email to Geeks@lwv.org. You may also use the “Contact Us” link in the top line of every page of the website, www.lwv.org.

A volunteer will email you or call you back within a day or so. More questions? Please contact LWVUS Board member Norman Turrill at lwvturrill@mac.com.

United Nations Seminar

February 20, 2010, 8:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.
Denver Center for International Studies
574 West 6th Avenue, Denver

Theme: Ending Poverty in the Developing World:
What are the UN and the USA doing?
Featured speaker: Ambassador Thomas Miller
Workshops will be included throughout the day

Ambassador Miller is the new President and CEO of the United Nations Association of the United States. He is recently retired from the Foreign Service after serving for 29 years. His career focused on improving the lives of children living in poverty in developing countries, refugee and humanitarian issues and the Palestinian peace process. For information about the event contact Ruth Purkale, 303-757-2232

News from Local Leagues

On September 11, 2009, the LWV of Arapahoe County bid farewell to Inge Popke who will be moving to New York City as her husband changes jobs. Inge Popke was introduced to the League approximately 23 years ago by her friend Fay Plummer, also a member of the Arapahoe League for many years.

Inge and her family have lived in the Denver area for the greater part of 27 years, having moved here from Dusseldorf, Germany. As a League member, Inge served as vice-president for a number of years, then devoted her energies to program planning. She remembers when the Arapahoe League hosted



Inge Popke (on the left) and Kay Plummer. Photo courtesy of Fern Black.

the LWVCO convention in the late 1980s. She has been a member of the League's Great Decisions discussion group for 20 years. Interested in political issues and finding kindred spirits in League, Inge became a citizen in June 2005. She recalled her excitement when voting for the first time in November 2005, and again in her first mid-term election in November 2006.

Members will miss her cheerful outlook and her insightful contributions to the work of the League. (Submitted by Fern Black, LWV of Arapahoe County.)



From left to right: Stephanie DiCenzo, Jean Kocel Swartzendruber, and Mary Gilroy. Photo courtesy of Jean Swartzendruber.

LWV of Pikes Peak Region awarded Jean Kocel Swartzendruber with the League's first Annual Member of the Year Award. Jean, a 38 year League member, is still active in Voters Service. She has served as a State vice-president as well as local League president, vice-president, and many other positions. From left to right: Stephanie DiCenzo, Pikes Peak League public relations spokesperson, Jean Kocel Swartzendruber, and Mary Gilroy, former State League Board member, and local Board member. Photo courtesy of Jean Swartzendruber of Colorado Springs.



To the left is the late President John F. Kennedy. To his right is Morley Cowles Ballatine.

Durango lost an icon on October 10, 2009. Morley Cowles Ballatine, chairman and editor of *The Durango Herald*, was the La Plata County League's first 50 year member, having joined in 1954. She served on the LWVCO state board in the 1960s and was an early advocate for running efficient meetings. In the mid 1970s she served on the state Land Use Commission. "Let's ask Morley" was a rallying cry when we needed to know how to get something done. She is shown here next to the late President John F. Kennedy at a meeting of newspaper publishers. Photo used with permission from *The Durango Herald*. (Submitted by Marilyn Brown and Stephanie Huss.)

Members may now choose to receive the Colorado Voter newsletter electronically or by mail, as you now receive it. The electronic version will be sent as a PDF file. Please indicate by which method you wish to receive the next issue. If you wish to have it sent to you electronically, please print your e-mail address. Please return this form to the LWVCO office prior to December 1, 2009 by fax (303.837.9917), e-mail: info@lwvcolorado.org, or by mail: LWVCO, 1410 Grant Street B204, Denver CO 80203-1855

Name _____ LWV of _____ Please send by e-mail:

Address _____ Please send by regular mail:

E-mail address _____

LWVUS Welcomes Two New Local Leagues

The LWV of Treasure Valley (ID) participated in the LWV of Idaho Vote by Mail study and organized an event around the national Sunshine Week webcast. The LWV of Pahrump Valley (NV) moderated a candidates' night and is planning a membership/fund raising event in January.

LWVUS Creates Give & Take Business Cards

The cards allow you to share your League information with potential members and collect their information so that you can follow up with them about future League events and other opportunities to get involved. The card is small enough to fit in a wallet, has two sections, and is perforated down the middle.

Making Democracy Work Award

The LWV of Vigo County (IN) is implementing the fundamentals of the Membership Recruitment Initiative to increase their membership. The League presented the Making Democracy Work Award during their Women's Equality Day luncheon. The event attracted a wide-range of attendees, featured a former first lady of Indiana as the keynote speaker, and had the attention of local news outlets, including a TV interview. LWVUS will be presenting their first Making Democracy Work Award at the 2010 Convention. For more information on hosting your own award, visit the 90th Anniversary page on the website and click "Making Democracy Work Award."

Advocacy

League's TV Ad Viewed on YouTube

In mid October, LWVUS began airing a 30-second TV ad in support of health care reform in select stations in Maine, North Dakota and Arkansas. We also continued to promote the ad on our website, YouTube and Facebook and in a League e-engagement email. The ad and its press release were distributed to a wide media list, the White House press office and all six Senate offices in the targeted states. Feedback on Facebook has been positive, and the ad was been viewed almost 4,000 times on YouTube.

Health Care: Fighting for the Public Option

LWVUS followed Congressional action on health care, restating our support for the public option and asking voters to urge their Senators and Representatives to support strong health care reform legislation.

Climate Change

In the last two weeks of October, state League leaders from Florida, Indiana, Maine, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, North Carolina, Ohio, Pennsylvania and Washington visited the nation's capital to urge their Senators to support strong climate change legislation. National League President Mary Wilson also participated in a conference call with press outlets to discuss Oxfam America's new report *Exposed: Social Vulnerability and Climate Change in the U.S. Southeast*.

Voter ID Law Overturned in Indiana

The Indiana Court of Appeals struck down the state's voter ID law citing violation of the state Constitution and siding with the LWV of Indiana. To read the official response from Mary Wilson and Indiana League President Karen Kay Leonard, go the LWVUS website.

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF COLORADO
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___ Please send information about the LWV of Colorado.
 ___ I would like to join the League of Women Voters. Annual dues are \$50. Please make your check payable to LWVCO.

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 Denver, Colorado 80203-1855

Mission Statement

The League of Women Voters, a nonpartisan political organization, promotes informed and active participation in government and influences public policy through education and advocacy.

Join the League

Any person of voting age may join the League of Women Voters (LWV). For information or to find the local League nearest you, contact the LWV of Colorado.

Phone: 303.863.0437
 Fax: 303.837.9917
 E-mail: info@lwvcolorado.org
 Website: www.lwvcolorado.org

CALENDAR

2009

- Nov. 26-27 Thanksgiving Holiday
Office Closed
- Dec. 2 LWVCO Board Meeting
- Dec. 4 Lobbyist Training
- Dec. 24-Jan. 1 Winter Holiday
Office Closed
- 2010
- Jan. 13 General Assembly Convenes
- Jan. 15 Legislative Action Committee
- Jan. 18 Martin Luther King Holiday
Office Closed
- Jan. 25 Legislative Conference**
- Jan. 27 LWVCO Board Meeting
Colorado Voter Deadline
- Jan. 29 Legislative Action Committee
- Feb. 12 Legislative Action Committee
- Feb. 15 President's Day, Office Closed
- Feb. 26 Legislative Action Committee