



# Colorado Voter

Volume 28, Number 3, 2015

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS® OF COLORADO

## LWVCO Convention

May 16 & 17, 2015

9:00 a.m. Saturday to 12:30 p.m. Sunday

Millennium Harvest House  
1345 Twenty-Eighth St., Boulder, CO 80302

Please plan on joining us in Boulder, CO at the 2015 League of Women Voters of Colorado Convention.

The Millennium Hotel provides a picturesque, interesting and beautiful place along Colorado's Front Range. If time permits in your calendar, we encourage you to spend additional time exploring the Boulder community, as there is a lot to see.

### Delegates to Convention:

- The delegates chosen by the members of each Local League in the number provided by the Bylaws - Article IX, Section 4.
- The President of each Local League or an Alternate chosen by its Board.
- The President of each State League Unit (new name for MAL Unit) or an Alternate chosen by the State League Unit.
- The members of the Board of Directors of LWVCO.

### Observers:

Any member of the League of Women Voters of Colorado may attend as an observer by registering in advance and paying the registration fees.

**Registration:** \$60.00 per person (Registration will start on March 20, 2015 and end on April 17, 2015)

**Meals:** Saturday Lunch \$25 Saturday Dinner \$35

**Rooms:** Standard room with two queen beds \$145 plus taxes  
(Reservations at this price will be available starting on March 20, 2015)

**TOURS:** There will be four tours available on Saturday afternoon. Each tour will cost \$10 per person and is limited to 20 participants. Reservations will be made and payments collected with delegate/observer convention fees when you register after March 20. Check out the great tour options in the article on page three.

**DISPLAYS:** Space will be available for local League displays including items for sale, local publications, etc. Space must be reserved on the registration form that will be in the Final Call in March. Please keep in mind that an attendant must be provided to handle sale items.

**SILENT AUCTION:** Local Leagues are invited to donate items for the Silent Auction. The revenues from your donated items are shared between state and your local League. What a fun and easy way to raise some money! More information will be presented with the Final Call in March.

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To receive your newsletter electronically, email Julie Leonard at [info@LWVColorado.org](mailto:info@LWVColorado.org).

### *Colorado Voter, February, 2015*

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Julie Ott: [votereditor@lwvcolorado.org](mailto:votereditor@lwvcolorado.org)

## From the President

Even though the groundhog saw its shadow, I am hoping we have a milder winter for the next six weeks with more gentle rain and less icy snow. Let the snow fall in the mountains where it belongs. We heard about the new Colorado water plan at Legislative Day, and the snowpack is essential for keeping the rivers filled. We also heard that the snow was melting earlier each year, making it harder to sustain the water flow all through the summer.

Legislative Day in January brought Leaguers from all over the state to hear what the legislature might do in its 2015 session. Carol Hedges from the Colorado Fiscal Institute gave us a comprehensive overview of the consequences of the Taxpayer Bill of Rights and some ideas about the pending TABOR refund. Carol is speaking to several local Leagues this month, and I recommend that your League invite her to give the TABOR overview so that we can all refresh our knowledge on this vital subject.

Plans for the LWVCO Convention are flying along. The Boulder League will host us May 16-17 at the Millennium Hotel, and the program is packed with activities that will benefit every League in the state. It is the important time when we choose our state program for the next two years, and several compelling ideas have emerged. They include the Behavioral Health study mentored by president-elect Barbara Mattison. Other program ideas, at this time, include a new look at the Fracking Study (Larimer), a study on Voting Methods (Boulder) and a concurrence on Living Wage (Boulder). We encourage each League to send all of the delegates it is allowed by membership count. This is where the grassroots are heard.

On February 14<sup>th</sup> the League of Women Voters celebrated its ninety-fifth birthday. Your state League planned a non-party: sending out electronic invitations which encouraged you to stay home, leave your fancy clothes in the closet and read a good book (\$25), watch a movie (\$50), listen to music (\$75) or have a delicious dinner (\$100). It's not too late to celebrate this milestone by sending a tax-deductible donation to the LWVCO Education Fund marked "Non-Party." What an accomplishment for the League to have been a vital part of our community for 95 years!

*Bobbie Heisterkamp, LWVCO President*

## COLORADO LEADER OF DEMOCRACY AWARD EVENT

*By Cinnie Auer, LWVCO Board Director, Fundraising*

Please join us on Wednesday, June 17, 5:30 - 7:30 p.m. at a cocktail reception for this year's recipient of the Leader of Democracy Award. This is our second annual event honoring a Coloradoan who has championed democracy for the citizens of our state. The award winner will be the featured speaker at the event. This year's recipient will be announced in March. Many thanks to the award selection committee and its chairperson, Diane Young. For more information about the event, please contact Cinnie Auer at [cauer56662@aol.com](mailto:cauer56662@aol.com).

# LOOKING AHEAD WITH LEAGUE

## What's New with MLD?

*By Margie Beal, MLD State Coordinator*

Watch for the MLD (Membership and Leadership Development) presentation at LWVCO convention in May. We are anxious to share the latest and greatest from the program with all of you. There are some interesting things in the pipeline as the program continues to grow and develop. It will continue to be an integral part of the LWV program in local Leagues, if all members remain informed and engaged with their coaches.

See you all in May!

## NEW FOR 2015 – Leadership Recharge!

*Formerly the Leadership Retreat*

The Leadership RECHARGE will provide Leaguers (rookie and seasoned) with a fresh perspective on our organization. You will learn new skills for your League, meet Leaguers from across the state, and enjoy beautiful Frisco, Colorado! All this and more are possible at the 2015 Leadership Recharge. All local League board members and future leaders are welcome to attend. Trainings will include ideas and planning tools to:

- Nurture membership and new leaders,
- Improve your visibility in the community,
- Advocate at the local level,
- Educate the public on key issues,
- And much more!

### SAVE THE DATE:

Friday, June 26 – Saturday, June 27,  
at the  
Baymont Inn and Suites,  
Frisco, Colorado

## Tours! LWVCO Convention 2015

Want to take time for tea? Maybe beer? These are two options for touring a bit of Boulder during our LWVCO Convention. Additional options include a walking historic tour and a tour of an internationally known recycle center doing good work. The Boulder County League offers to share all this with Convention-goers. Each tour will cost \$10 per person and is limited to 20 participants. Reserve your space when you register for Convention.

### Avery Brewery

Walk the catwalk at Avery Brewing Company's new facility and learn about the brewing process. The tour is about 30 minutes, leaving you time to purchase a pint in their taproom. Avery's description of their brews: Since 1993 our brewery has been committed to producing eccentric ales and lagers that defy styles or categories. Avery's products are thoroughly American at heart: blending Old World tradition and expertise with ingenuity, creativity and boldness.

### Celestial Seasonings

From raw ingredients to finished products, learn how wholesome products are blended into teas, packaged, and shipped. The 45-minute tour begins with a short video and includes a 30-minute walking tour through the factory. Sampling available before and after. Gift shop adjacent.

### CHaRM Recycle Center

Eco-Cycle is one of the largest non-profit recyclers in the USA and has an international reputation as a pioneer and innovator in resource conservation. As well as operating Boulder County's recycling center for processing materials from residential and business collection, Eco-Cycle opened CHaRM (the Center for Hard to Recycle Materials) in 2001, the first facility of its kind in the nation. CHaRM accepts drop-off of unusual materials like electronics, block styrofoam, and plastic bags for reuse and recycling. On our tour of CHaRM, we will learn what it means to "go for zero waste" and how services like CHaRM's fit into Eco-Cycle's mission. We will see first-hand the types of items that are accepted at CHaRM and learn what those items will be made into or how they will be processed for reuse.

### Historic Mapleton District

Get a little fresh air and a dose of local history with a walking tour highlighting architecture and stories of figures in early Boulder history. The leader is Bruce MacKenzie, long-time League member (recent 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President). The tour starts at the Boulderado Hotel and concludes at First Congregational Church. Bruce retired in 1998 after 26 years as Senior Pastor at First Congregational Church. Bruce has been active in Historic Boulder for many years.

See you in Boulder!

## 2015 AWARD NOMINATION DEADLINE APRIL 15th, 2015

Feeling special? Or know a Leaguer who is? Every two years, the LWVCO honors a League and Leaguer that has impacted their community in a strong and positive way. Now is the time to submit your nominations to LWVCO.

### LEAGUE – THE “POWER” AWARD

What has your League accomplished in the past two years? What has been the impact on your community? How is your League exemplifying the LWV mission and principles? Please describe your League’s accomplishments and don't forget to include Name of League, address and contact person (name, email and phone).

### LEAGUER - THE “ENERGIZER” AWARD

Who has been the energizer in your League during the past two years? Describe what he/she has done and how the action(s) helped your League be an effective organization and don't forget to include Name of Nominee, address, nominating League and a contact person's name, address and email.

Turn in all nominations by APRIL 15<sup>th</sup>, 2015 to: LWVCO, 1410 Grant Street, B204, Denver, CO 80203.

Electronic submissions are preferred, sent to [info@lwvcolorado.org](mailto:info@lwvcolorado.org).

For more information, please contact Julie Leonard at the above email or 303.863.0437.

## 3 Cheers for Affiliations, Dropbox, and Youth Voter Month

*By Sonia Koetting, Communications Director, LWVCO Board*

League Leaders, I’m compelled to share some useful resources and ideas to goose your spring communications.

- Do you know about our Dropbox? It’s easy to use and hosts very useful items, like various versions of our most recent logo. If a logo doesn’t print well, chances are it’s the wrong file type and you need to reach for another. Yay Dropbox! Contact Julie Leonard for a how-to.
- Through the years, we’ve built affiliations with some amazing groups in Colorado. How to access this wealth of connection? DropBox. For studies and events, look at the list to see which group could help you with background information, or possibly to share news of your event. Perhaps you’d like to attend one of theirs. The name of the Leaguer who knows of the group is also listed. Included are groups like Colorado Water Quality Forum, Public Advocacy for Voter Protection, Colorado Freedom of Information Council, Transit Alliance, Fiscal Education Network, and so much more.
- Members who know me know I’m big on youth outreach. We all should be. February is Youth Voter Month. While voter pre-registration with driver licenses will take some pressure off of our Voter Service teams to register students in high schools, Youth Voter Month creates a great opportunity to reach to a college or high school for a contest, or just to speak to a class about civic participation. Here’s a link to a story, written by a Millennial about the thoughts of “hippie” William Blake, that could spur some discussion about today’s polarity in politics:  
<https://medium.com/@katherineoostman/william-blake-and-the-fossilization-of-the-imagination-570aad1e1ba5>

I think it shows a Leaguer’s mindset to stay open and curious.

And since VOTE411.org isn’t being updated right now, here’s a good list of online sources where students and anyone can investigate political rhetoric:

Factcheck.com  
Politifact.org

Votesmart.org  
[WashingtonPost.com/blog/fact-checker](http://WashingtonPost.com/blog/fact-checker)

### In Appreciation of Margaret Stuvell

LWV was a big part of Margaret Stuvell's life. She transferred from the Denver League to Adams County in 1999. She became the Communications Chair/Voter Editor in 2001 and remained such until her death January 5. A teacher, Margaret came to Denver in the late 1940s; she joined the Denver Unitarian Church, joined the Denver LWV, and taught in the Denver Public Schools, married, and raised a family in the Westminster area. Once her family was grown and gone Margaret pursued a variety of interests, including becoming more active in LWV. She was quite a lady and she will be missed!

# FUNDING THE WORK OF LEAGUE

## LWVCO Grants to Help Fund Local League Work

*By Liz Nick, Committee Chairwoman*

Apply for a 2015-16 Project Fund Grant or an EZ Grant between May 1 and June 30, 2015. Local Leagues may apply for up to \$1500. The Project Fund Grant application can be found in Dropbox or contact the LWVCO office for an application. These grants can be used for various projects. If you need some ideas, past applications may be viewed in the LWVCO Dropbox. The grant is made possible by the Eva Fifkova Bequest and is funded by the interest and dividends earned. It is not an Education Fund project.

The EZ Grant applies to four specific projects with maximum amounts: (1) Great Decision materials (\$300), (2) public meetings of representatives of multiple levels of local government (\$300), (3) ads for VOTE 411 (\$500), and (4) contests involving local high schools (\$500). In your application letter, list the type of project, outline of plan, contact person with local board approval, cost estimates, amount of dollars requested. This grant is also funded by the Eva Fifkova Bequest.

In July, a committee reviews all applications and makes recommendations to the LWVCO Board. The Board makes the final decision as to which Leagues receive the grants. Checks are then mailed to local Leagues in late August, 2015.

## Results of Colorado Gives Day 2014

*By Julie Leonard, Executive Director*

The Community First Foundation continues to provide a very valuable service to Colorado's nonprofits. Potential donors can view profiles of participating organizations year round on the website at [www.coloradogives.org](http://www.coloradogives.org). Donations can also be made year round, but the big push comes on Colorado Gives Day in December.

On December 9, 2014, the LWVCO Education Fund received 51 donations totaling \$4505.00. This total was lower than \$6465 in 2013, but if we leave aside one especially large donation made last year, donations were slightly up. Thank you, everyone, for your generosity!

The most significant impact of Colorado Gives Day is that it makes it easy for us to reach out into the community for support. Almost half, 47%, of the donors were not League members. Doesn't it feel good to know that so many non-members appreciate what League does for the community?

Another way to look at the impact is that 20 of the donors, 39%, gave to LWVCOEF for the first time on Colorado Gives Day. Another five were "lapsed donors," who hadn't given to the Ed Fund for two years or more. We're so glad to have them all on board.

The Ed Fund's share of the incentive fund, based on our percent of total donations, was \$198.23. Even though we received less in donations than last year, the incentive fund had been increased. Since the board had decided to share the incentive fund among the local Leagues' Ed Fund accounts, \$10.44 has been added to each, more than double last year's \$4.15. We'd all like to see that continue to increase, so please share with us any ideas you have for reaching more community members on Colorado Gives Day.

## Behavioral Health Crisis Centers Open in Colorado

*By Barbara Mattison, Chair, LWVCO Behavioral Health Task Force*

Health care has taken another step forward. Eleven walk-in Behavioral Health Crisis Centers are now open 24/7 and offer confidential in-person crisis support, information and referrals to anyone in need in Colorado. Some locations provide crisis beds for 1-5 days for voluntary or involuntary treatment. The centers are located in Denver, Westminster, Aurora, Lakewood, Littleton, Boulder, Ft. Collins, Greeley, Grand Junction, Pueblo, and Colorado Springs.

In addition to the Walk-in Centers, 1-844-493-TALK (8255) is a 24/7/365 support line for anyone affected by a mental health, substance use, or emotional crisis. According to Colorado Crisis Services, all calls are connected to a mental health professional who provides support and connections to further resources.

The centers and the crisis line are the result of \$21 million in state funding. Although the centers are located across the state, rural and mountain areas still remain underserved. For information on the Crisis Centers (locations, map, services) and the Crisis Hot Line, go to [www.coloradocrisiservices.org](http://www.coloradocrisiservices.org).

# LEAGUE ADVOCACY

## LWVCO Advocacy Agenda 2015

The Advocacy Agenda reflects the priority issues that will be addressed by League in both legislative and citizen-education activities across Colorado. These priority items inform our decision-making when conflicts arise, but do not limit the scope of legislative advocacy. League's advocacy agenda for 2015 is below.

**Elections and Voting** – In the area of elections and voting, we will continue to be active in the evolving nature of voting in Colorado to protect accessibility of the ballot for all.

**Environmental Quality and Land Use Planning** – The now-healthy economy reminds us a balance must be maintained between using natural resources for growth and maintaining the quality of life of our communities, both rural and urban.

**Fundamental Needs of Colorado's Future** – Practical policies for education, for helping those afflicted with behavioral health issues, and for ensuring our state infrastructure, appropriately funded, are fundamental to our state's long term stability.

## Quo Vadis Pesticides?

*By Jim Cope, Member, LWV Estes Park, and General Public Representative on the Pesticides Advisory Committee.*

Pursuant to Colorado's 1976 "Sunset Law" (the first of its kind in the U.S.), the Colorado Department of Regulatory Agencies (DORA) has reviewed Colorado's Pesticide Applicators' Act. In a thirty-four page report released October 15, 2014, among other things, DORA:

-- Points out that the chief national law governing pesticides is the Federal Insecticide, Fungicide, and Rodenticide Act (FIFRA);

- Relates how the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), which enforces FIFRA, works with federal, state and tribal regulatory partners to assure compliance with pesticide laws; and

-- Notes "There is a movement across the nation to incorporate integrated pest management (IPM) in schools. IPM is a strategy that emphasizes sanitation and exclusion of pests first, and using pesticides only as a last resort. An IPM strategy is meant to lessen the amount and impact of toxins due to pesticide applications."

DORA makes 5 recommendations to the General Assembly, the most significant being:

1.) Continue the Pesticide Applicator's Act for nine years, until 2024;

2.) "Require Limited Commercial Applicators and individuals who perform pesticide applications for Public Applicators, to acquire training in the core elements of pesticide use, established by the Commissioner (of Agriculture), prior to applying general use pesticides." (This would be the new regulatory requirement.)

3.) Add to the Pesticides Advisory Committee (PAC), representation from the agricultural sector affected by the "Worker Protection Standard" **and** from organic growers.

DORA recommends to the Colorado Department of Agriculture "The CDA should develop an easily accessible web-based complaint initiation process."

DORA's legislative recommendations were introduced in the Senate January 26, 2015 as Senate Bill 15-119. Sponsors: Senate, Sonnenberg; House, KC Becker. The Senate Ag Committee amended the bill in draft form and deleted recommendation #2, above and on February 5, 2015, approved it without further amendment. The bill is now ready for Senate approval, then to the House for House Ag Committee review. The legislature will probably receive more recommendations on pesticides from organic growers, beekeepers and others.

LWVCO's Legislative Action Committee (LAC) reviews all bills and, if indicated, makes recommendations to the LWVCO Board of Directors. Copies of documents referred to above are available from LWVCO headquarters.

*(Jim Cope serves as the General Public Representative on the 11 member Pesticides Advisory Committee. Gerry Cummins, LWVCO's Vice-President, Voter Services, preceded him in that role.)*

## LEAGUE ADVOCACY

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Subscribe to the **Legislative Letter**  
and stay up to date during the 2015 Colorado legislative session – still only **\$20**

*The biweekly letter is created by the Legislative Action Committee and the staff lobbyist, who follow proposed legislation and analyze pending bills based on League positions.*

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Pick one delivery method:

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Three payment options (\$20 annual subscription):

- Check made out to LWVCO
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### Legislative Conference

*By Jean Fredlund, Legislative Action Committee Chair*

The LWVCO Legislative Conference was held on January 12, 2015. Over 120 League members braved the inclement weather to attend an excellent program. Speaking to the group in the Old Supreme Court Chambers at the Capitol were Carol Hedges on TABOR issues, Jim Eklund about the Colorado Water Plan, and Cathy Proctor regarding energy.

Carol Hedges, who is the Executive Director of the Colorado Fiscal Institute, spoke about the Taxpayer's Bill of Rights (TABOR) and the refunds that the improving economy has mandated. She told us that there are three methods for refunding these monies: a sales tax rebate based on income, a permanent increase in the earned income tax credit (EITC), and a temporary reduction in the income tax rate from 4.63% to 4.5%. While we would like to see the “overage” spent on needed services, of the three options, we prefer either the sales tax rebate or the EITC as they are the least regressive, with a higher proportion going to low-income people. Ms. Hedges also addressed the impact of the overage on highway funds.

Jim Eklund, the Executive Director of the Colorado Water Conservation Board, spoke of his experiences dealing with the many factions involved with the distribution of Colorado's scarce water supplies, especially the west slope/east slope rivalry and the ongoing need to honor the promises made to other states such as Arizona, Nevada, and California. We expect several water bills to be introduced this year.

Cathy Proctor, reporter for the Denver Business Journal, told us of her extensive experience covering the oil and gas industry in Colorado. She gave us a different perspective on gas and oil drilling and fracking, one that was neither for or against, but addressed both sides of this often emotional issue. She also reported on the work of the Governor's Task Force.

Lunch was held at the Scottish Rite Temple, right across the street from the Capitol. Sonia Koetting, Communications Director for LWVCO, introduced Eric Galatas, the new reporter for Public News Service. This service provides an entry into mass media for agencies that usually have a hard time being heard, such as non-profits like ours. Notify Sonia if you have an article to suggest. Access to these articles can be found in social media at <https://www.facebook.com/PublicNewsService?ref=tf> or by accessing their podcast on Stitcher.com.

Christine Watson once again captivated the audience with her knowledge of the issues, personalities, and politics of the Colorado General Assembly. She gave an overview of expected bills and followed with a lengthy question and answer session that gave all of us extensive information on many subjects.

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS  
OF COLORADO  
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DENVER CO 80203-1855

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\$50. Please make your check  
payable to LWVCO or join online.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_

State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

Mail, with check, to:  
LWVCO, 1410 Grant Street B204,  
Denver, Colorado 80203-1855

Join online, through PayPal, at  
<http://www.lwvcolorado.org>.

### 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](mailto:info@lwvcolorado.org)

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

### Calendar

#### 2015

March 2	Board Meeting
April 3	Good Friday*
April 17	LWVCO Convention Registration Deadline
May 1	Project Fund Grant Submission Period Begins
May 6	General Assembly Adjourns
May 15	Board Meeting
May 16-17	LWVCO Convention (Boulder)
May 25	<i>Voter</i> Deadline
May 25	Memorial Day*
June 18-21	LWVUS Council
June 26-27	Leadership Recharge
June 30	Project Fund Grant Submission Period Closes

\*Office Closed