



Colorado Voter

Volume 30, Number 1, August 2016

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS® OF COLORADO
Educate, Advocate, Impact!

LEAGUE DAY 2016

Saturday, September 17th

Holiday Inn Cherry Creek Denver, 455 South Colorado Blvd., Denver 80246

Check-In starts at 8:30 a.m. with the Conference at 8:50 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.
\$35.00 per person / Registration Deadline Monday, Sept. 5th

Keynote speaker: Claire Levy, former state legislator
and executive director of CO Center on Law and Policy, on

INCOME INEQUALITY

Other Hot Topics:

Impact of Climate Change on Water
Pros and Cons of the Ballot Issues
League Positions on the Ballot Issues
LWVUS Campaign for Making Democracy Work
New Positions Adopted by the LWVUS Convention in June

See page 3 for information on location, parking, and lodging

Colorado League Day Registration Form - Deadline Monday, September 5th

Registration Fee \$35.00 (No refunds after September 12th)
Send in completed registration form to LWVCO.

Lunch includes Dessert and Ice Tea or Lemonade. *NOTE: A gluten-free option available for all choices.*

- (1) Chipotle Turkey Wrap - Smoked turkey, provolone, avocado, lettuce and tomato wrapped in a tortilla with chipotle spread.
- (2) Roasted Vegetable Wrap - Roasted peppers, tomato and squash on Focaccia with cream cheese spread.
- (3) Roast Salmon Salad - Salmon filet on a bed of field greens, julienne carrots, zucchini and squash, champagne pesto vinaigrette.

Name _____ Email _____

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

League _____

Lunch choice (CIRCLE ONE): 1 or 2 or 3 Special dietary need: _____

Pay by: (\$35.00 Per Person)

____ Check made payable to LWVCO

____ Online Credit Card at www.lwvcolorado.org (No PayPal account required.)

Send completed form to LWVCO via

Fax # 303.837.9917 Email: info@lwvcolorado.org or Mail: 1410 Grant St #B204, Denver, CO 80203-1855

Board of Directors 2016-2017

Barb Mattison, President
mattisonleague@gmail.com 303.322.4878

Nancy Crow, President-elect
crow.nancyc@gmail.com 703.489.9303

Toni Larson, 1st VP, Program
toni.larson@gmail.com 720.387.8487

Cath Perrone, 2nd VP Administration
pcperrone@yahoo.com 303.809.6625

Sue Vaughan, 3rd VP Local League Support
suev53@aol.com 303.277.0145

Gerry Cummins, 4th VP Voter Service
gerry.cummins@prodigy.net 303.771.0115

Jean McGuire, Secretary
jeanmcguire7777@gmail.com 630.414.5259

Bobbie Heisterkamp, Treasurer
bdheistkmp@aol.com 303.333.6818

Lisa Forbes, Communications
communication@lwvcolorado.org 720.282.9449

Marilyn Brown, Voter Editor
votereditor@lwvcolorado.org 970.946.6523

Cinnie Auer, Development
cauer56662@aol.com 303.756.2943

Ann Roux, Development
landaroux@comcast.net 303.506.8860

Karen Connor, Vote411.org
kconnor1941@gmail.com 970.275.1314

Marlu Burkamp, Director-at-Large
marluburkamp@gmail.com 303.798.2939

Linda Porter, Director-at-Large
lporterlwv@q.com 303.425.3634

Jean Fredlund, Legislative Action
jangfredlund@comcast.net 303-428-5420

Linda Rinehart, Legislative Action
linda@lindarinehart.com 720-989-8944

Staff

Julie Leonard, Executive Director
info@lwvcolorado.org 303-863-0437

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League of Women Voters of Colorado
1410 Grant Street B204, Denver CO 80203
Phone: 303.863.0437 Fax: 303.837.9917
E-mail: info@lwvcolorado.org
Website: www.lwvcolorado.org

President's Message

LWVCO BOARD RETREAT 2016: EXPANSION AND GOALS

At the July 30-31 Retreat in Frisco, Colorado, the LWVCO Board voted to expand its membership, adding Jean Fredlund, Chair of the Legislative Action Committee (LAC), and Linda Rinehart, LAC's Chair-Elect. They join Ann Roux, who recently became the Board's Co-Director for Development. Welcome Jean, Linda and Ann!

At the Retreat, the Board also set three goals for 2016-17:

Goal I: Enhance support to local Leagues, SLU's (State League Units) and MAL's (Members at Large) for increased League visibility and impact in their communities and statewide. LWVCO objectives in connection with this goal include increasing membership statewide by 5 – 10%, increasing public engagement at League-sponsored community events through provision of models for event planning and strengthening the Board Liaisons' work with local Leagues.

Goal II: LWVCO and local Leagues will conduct a campaign to "Make Democracy Work in Colorado". Directly related to the LWVUS campaign, LWVCO's objectives include Promoting Voter Service through voter mobilization and registration of high school and community college students, registration at naturalization ceremonies and voter registration in underserved communities; and through voter protection efforts, i.e. monitoring voting patterns in Colorado to detect any form of voter suppression. In addition, LWVCO will hold public meetings – and encourage local Leagues to hold meetings - to inform people about the LWVUS Money in Politics Position. Under this goal, LWVCO is also exploring introducing and supporting a bill in the Colorado General Assembly with coalition partners for voter registration whenever a citizen interfaces with a government agency.

Goal III: Educate and advocate based on LWVCO's Sustainability Principle. This principle is in *LWVCO's Program for Study and Action – Positions for Action*, page 2: "Sustainability is a way of life which seeks a balance in meeting current environmental, 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. (Adopted 2010)"

To achieve this goal, LWVCO will 1) Hold public meetings to inform people about LWVCO's Sustainability Principle; 2) Achieve adoption of LWVCO's Sustainability Principle at LWVUS Convention 2018; 3) Ensure a focus on the Sustainability Principle for the 2017 State Convention; and 4) Track 2017 Legislative Session Sustainability Legislation via LAC (LWVCO's Legislative Action Committee). I look forward to working with you to complete these goals and strengthen LWV in Colorado!

Barb Mattison

LEAGUE DAY PARKING AND LODGING

By Cath Perrone, Admin VP

On Saturday, September 17th, League members from all over the state will come together for League Day at the Holiday Inn Denver-Cherry Creek, 455 South Colorado Blvd, Denver 80246. The hotel is on the west side of South Colorado Blvd., just north of the intersection with Cherry Creek Drive North. Parking at the hotel is offered in two onsite garages accessed from the front of the hotel. The larger garage lot is below the hotel, accessed by a ramp on the left (south) side of the hotel entrance, the second is above the hotel and is accessed on the right (north) side of the hotel entrance. Carpooling is highly recommended.

If you are traveling in for the League Day, you may consider staying overnight on Friday, September 16th. Discounted rooms are available at the Holiday Inn Denver-Cherry Creek with double bed rooms for \$109 per night, not including the 14.75% tax. Up to four persons may share one room. To make your reservations, please visit the hotel's website, www.cherrycreekhotedenver.com or call Heather at 303.388.5561 ext. 7129. The special rate code is 'League of Women Voters'. Nearby hotels (No discounted rooms offered through LWV): Hilton Garden Inn Denver/Cherry Creek, 600 S Colorado Blvd, Denver 80246, website: www.hgicherrycreek.com, phone: 303.754.9800; and Hampton Inn & Suites Denver/Cherry Creek, 4150 E Kentucky Ave, Glendale 80246, website: www.hicherrycreek.com, phone: 303.692.1800.

CHECK VOTE411.ORG FOR VOTER INFO!



Sonia Koetting speaking on suffragism to 200 high school girls at an American Legion conference at U of Northern Colorado in June. The girls gave her a standing ovation and later passed a practice resolution in her honor! Sonia is a former LWVCO communications director.

Colorado Voter



Dottie Lamm (r), former First Lady of Colorado, received the 2016 Leader of Democracy Award from LWVCO President Barbara Mattison (c) in June at the historic Crawford Hill Mansion. Ms. Lamm was introduced by the 2014 Leader of Democracy recipient Carlotta LaNier (l). Ms. Lamm's key message was 'Democracy Needs You!'

BALLOT ISSUES 2016

By Gerry Cummins, Voter Service Director

At this writing, the situation remains fluid. Petition signatures on initiatives are due to the Secretary of State's office by August 8. The Secretary has 30 days to review the signatures and qualify each of the issues for the ballot. 98,492 signatures are required to qualify for the ballot.

As of today there are three issues that will be on the ballot:

- Amendment T – No exception to certain Involuntary Servitude Prohibition: Removes language that currently allows slavery and involuntary servitude to be used as punishment for the conviction of a crime.
- Amendment U-Exempt Certain Possessory Interests from Property Tax: Beginning in 2018 eliminates the property taxes for individuals or businesses that use government- owned property for a private benefit worth \$6,000 or less in market value. It adjusts the \$6,000 figure for inflation every two years thereafter.
- Amendment 69 – ColoradoCare: Establishes a Statewide Healthcare System.

Petition signatures for the Minimum Wage issue (gradually increase the minimum wage to \$12/hour) and Medical Aid in Dying are undergoing signature review. Other issue groups are also gathering signatures. A draft of the Blue Book describing all ballot issues that have made the ballot is available online at: <https://www.colorado.gov/pacific/cga-legislativecouncil/ballotblue-book>. The latest info on the status of all proposed initiatives may be found at: <http://www.sos.state.co.us/pubs/elections/Initiatives/titleBoard/>

LWVCO BOARD 501 TASK FORCE PROGRESS

By Toni Larson, Program VP

The LWVCO board task force on consolidating the activities of 501(c)(4) arm of the LWVCO into the 501(c)(3) arm asked the Board for support to move forward with the necessary research and evaluation. The task force has been given permission to proceed and will research the steps necessary for conversion and also will investigate any problems that potentially could arise.

The plan is to have a full report with a recommendation for the January LWVCO Board meeting. If the task force recommends conversion and the Board approves the recommendation, the task force will then develop the documents necessary for approval by our LWVCO Convention in May.

LWVCO BOARD VOTES TO SUPPORT MINIMUM WAGE BALLOT PROPOSAL

By Toni Larson, VP Program

Per Board vote at its recent board meeting, LWVColorado supports the Minimum Wage proposal that is the subject of an initiated petition drive. As of this writing, supporters of the proposal have submitted what they believe to be enough signatures to get the proposal on the ballot. Passage of the proposal would amend the state Constitution to raise the minimum hourly wage by 2020 in Colorado to \$12.00 and index it to the cost of living thereafter.

LWVColorado based its support on the following position: "Support programs and policies to prevent or reduce poverty and to promote self-sufficiency for individuals and families" (*Impact on Issues*, 2014-2016, p.3).



Vehicles for Charity – Are you thinking about getting rid of an old vehicle? Donate any unwanted vehicle—car, truck, RV, etc. Vehicles can be running or not running.

LWVCO has recently partnered with Vehicles for Charity program. We have information about the new program on our website. It is an easy process and donors receive a donation acknowledgement.

Please call or e-mail Cinnie Auer at 303 756-2943 or cauer56662@aol.com for more information.



By Cath Perrone, Admin VP

Campaign finance reform is a hot topic! In Colorado, the money has been taken out of the election of judges. We are marking 50 years of choosing judges based on merit. **Not money. Not politics.** The **Judicial Merit Selection System** works for all Coloradans by providing fair and impartial judges.

Please consider hosting an **educational, fun event** in your community to celebrate this landmark anniversary. Book a speaker from the **Our Courts** organization to present *Our State Courts: How Colorado's procedure for selecting, disciplining, and evaluating judges keep our state courts fair and impartial.* (Available in Spanish.) These volunteer speakers do not take positions on any court-related issue. *Our Courts* is a nationally recognized program and a LWVCO-affiliated organization. To book a speaker, visit www.ourcourtscolorado.org or call/email Carolyn Gravit, 303-860-1115 or ourcourts@cobar.org.

Looking for **CO Judicial Elections** simple, impartial nonpartisan facts? Visit www.KnowYourJudge.com, a Colorado LWV Education Fund co-sponsored educational website. Watch, post and share our educational video at <https://vimeo.com/87090892>.

Colorado's Judicial Merit Selection System

In 1966, Colorado voters approved a merit selection system for judicial appointments. This citizen-involved process helps ensure that Colorado judges are highly qualified, fair, and impartial. It is the gold standard that safeguards equal treatment for all Coloradans coming into court. *How does it work?*

Three important steps keep us focused on qualifications, not politics.

1) Judicial Nominating Commissions — Non-partisan citizen commissions with a majority of non-lawyers review applications and nominate candidates to the governor. The governor must select one of them.

2) Judicial Performance Commissions — Non-partisan citizen commissions with a majority of non-lawyers conduct extensive reviews of each judge's performance, including surveys, interviews, and direct observation. They assess whether the judge treats people fairly and applies the law impartially. The commissions publish performance evaluations online at www.ojpe.org and in the State Ballot Information Booklet (Blue Book), which is mailed to all Colorado voters.

3) Retention Elections — After a two-year period of service, and thereafter at regular intervals, each judge stands for retention. This is a non-partisan election with no party affiliation and the judges do not campaign. Instead, the public votes on whether the judge had performed his or her judicial duties effectively and may continue serving the people of Colorado.

How can you participate? Volunteer to serve on nominating and performance commissions at www.ojpe.org; educate yourself about the judges whose retention is on the ballot, either online or with the Colorado Blue Book; VOTE!

LWVUS CONVENTION 2016

By Nancy Crow, President Elect LWVCO

Seven hundred and eighty-four voting delegates gathered in Washington DC for the fifty-second convention of the League of Women Voters of the United States (LWVUS), including twenty-five from Colorado. These delegates took action to adopt the entire program proposed by the LWVUS Board, amendments to the Bylaws, the per member payment rate for 2016-2018, a budget for 2016-2018, and six resolutions. Delegates also elected officers, directors, and a nominating committee.

The LWVUS Adopted Program for 2016-2018

- Retain all current LWVUS Positions in the areas of Representative Government, International Relations, Natural Resources and Social Policy.
- Conduct a League-wide Campaign for Making Democracy Work®, focusing on voter protection and mobilization, election reform, and money in politics, constitutional amendment, and redistricting
- Concurrence with the Redistricting position proposed by the LWVUS Redistricting Task Force.
- Concurrence with the Behavioral Health position of the LWV Colorado, including amending the LWVUS Health Care position.

For full details of these adopted items, download the Convention 2016 Workbook and Program and see pages 30-33.

<http://forum.lwv.org/member-resources/article/convention-2016-workbook-and-program>

Concurrence with LWVCO Behavioral Health Position was passed by a two-thirds voice vote. Barb Mattison made us all proud as she conducted a caucus attended by over eighty delegates to inform them on our position. The speakers were all national leaders in the field of behavioral health and included: the CEO of Mental Health America; the Executive Director of NAMI (National Alliance on Mental Illness); and the Branch Chief, Office of Policy Planning and Innovation of SAMHSA (Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration.)

Amendments to the Bylaws of LWVUS

On the second day of convention there was a lively and lengthy debate about amending the Bylaws of the LWVUS. The final action was to amend Article III, Section 2 (A) by replacing the word ‘citizens’ with the word ‘persons’ and replacing the age 18 with 16. [League members no longer have to be U.S. citizens.]

Article III, Section 2 (A) Types of Membership now begins as follows:

Voting Members.

Persons at least 16 years of age who join the League shall be voting members of local Leagues, state Leagues and of the LWVUS.

As League policy requires “consistency” in the first three articles of the bylaws of all Leagues, follow this link to the memorandum that explains how state and local Leagues and ILOs should amend their own bylaws to reflect those of LWVUS.

<http://forum.lwv.org/member-resources/article/amendment-conform-bylaws-adopted-lwvus-convention-2016>

Per Member Payment and 2016-2018 LWVUS Budget

On the third and last day of convention, delegates voted to **retain** the current PMP rate of \$32 for the 2016-2018 biennium and the proposed LWVUS budget for 2016–2018 biennium that you can find on pages 36-40 in the Convention 2016 Workbook and Program.

Resolutions adopted by the delegates to the LWVUS Convention 2016;

- Continue to support our longstanding LWVUS position on Gun Violence.
- Support restoration of funding for gun violence research at the Centers for Disease Control (CDC).
- Support legislation that will establish statehood for the people of the District of Columbia.
- Consider signing onto an Amicus Brief with the 21 youth plaintiffs from Our Children's Trust. Note: 21 young people from across the United States have filed a landmark constitutional climate change lawsuit against the federal government in the U.S. District Court for the District of Oregon.
- Support the United States ratification of the UN COP 21 Paris Agreement. Note: The 2015 United Nations Climate

Change Conference, COP 21 was held in Paris.

- Continue working for full implementation of the EPA Clean Power Plan, especially at the state level, as a first step. LWVUS to call on the White House to implement an updated science-based Climate Action Plan that stabilizes global warming by bringing CO2 levels down to no more than 350 ppm by 2100.

Election Of LWVUS Officers, Directors And Nominating Committee

The Convention delegates elected the following LWVUS Board, Officers, and Nominating Committee.

Officers:

Chris Carson, president
Karen Nicholson, vice president
Toni Zimmer, secretary
Henrietta Saunders, treasurer

Directors: Maribel Balbin, Amy Hjerstedt, Kim Lauth, Anita Loch, Jessica Lowe-Minor

Brenda Rogers, Jessica Rohloff, Deborah Turner

Nominating Committee: Peggy Appler, chair, Mary Ann Reeves, Susan Smith

Banquet Speaker

Ari Berman, author of *Give Us the Ballot*, spoke to the transformation of American democracy under the Voting Rights Act and the counterrevolution that has sought to limit voting rights from 1965 to the present. The book is a recommended read to inform the League's effort for voter protection and mobilization.



Colorado's Delegation to the 2016 LWVUS Convention, Washington, D.C. in June

Please consider a lasting gift to The League of Women Voters of Colorado through your estate. See the LWVCO website for details and our new Planned Giving Brochure.



Twenty-five Leaguers hard at work reviewing Vote411.com during Leadership Retreat

Photo credit: Bob Gibson

DON'T FORGET: WE HAVE A GIFT FOR YOU!

By Prue Larson and Patty Schoedler, CO MLD Coordinators

The Membership and Leadership Development program (MLD) is a gift for you. It's a free resource of support for local Leagues, providing you with a personal coach – an experienced member from outside your own League – helping you generate creative ideas to recruit members, actively engage current members, and develop strong leaders.

If your League plans to participate in MLD during this coming League year, we invite you to join us Friday, September 16 for a training session on MLD in Denver, at the same location as League Day, which is scheduled the following day. Members who plan to attend League Day may want to come to town a day early. We will provide a free lunch, followed by an afternoon exploring MLD. Details and registration information will be coming to you soon. Contact Patty Schoedler pshades@earthlink.net if you have questions.

LASSO THE HISTORIC ROCKIES WITH LWVCO

August 19 to 26, 2017

By Patty Cordova, Chair, Trip Committee

Your Trip Committee is excited to announce that we have an opportunity for YOU and Leaguers and friends from other states to experience an historic adventure next summer.

The trip itinerary follows the “Circle Route”, which was popular in the 1920s. The route starts and ends in Denver, and circles to Estes Park, Grand Lake, and Winter Park. We will visit historic places, take in scenic views, and interact with local League members along the way.

Highlights include: riding the Denver International Airport commuter rail; staying at the historic Oxford Hotel across from Union Station; celebrating the 19th Amendment at the Molly Brown House; walking with tour guides in Denver and Estes Park; hearing about the Ghosts at the Stanley Hotel in Estes Park; traveling by Jeep via Fall River Road; traveling through Rocky Mountain National Park; viewing headwaters of the Colorado River from Holzworth Ranch; sipping tea at Grand Lake Lodge; enjoying panoramic views on Continental Divide, at Milner Pass, in Winter Park and Berthoud Pass; and experiencing some of the people and places that make Colorful Colorado special.

This adventure will be limited to 20 participants. For more information and trip itinerary: info@lwvcolorado.org or 303-863-0437.

Trip Committee: Bobbie Heisterkamp, Patty Cordova, Deb Armbruster, Gerry Cummins, Cynthia Thorstad, Mitch Krayton (Krayton Travel and Trafalgar Tours)

Costs: \$250 to Ed Fund and \$3200 to Trafalgar Tours

CHECK VOTE411.ORG FOR VOTER INFO!

Nineteen Estes Park Leaguers marched in the Estes Park Rodeo Parade July 6



FUNDING THE WORK OF THE LEAGUE

Contributors to the LWVCO and the Lobby Fund, July 1, 2015 – June 30, 2016

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			Margaret Zierdt

Cinnie Auer and Michael Buffum, in memory of Stasia Davison
Pikes Peak League, to help fund the Behavioral Health Study

Throughout our 86-year history, the League of Women Voters has played a vital role in lobbying for government and social reform legislation. Donations to League of Women Voters of Colorado support the Legislative Action Committee (LAC); our advocacy corps at the Colorado Legislature; our staff lobbyist Christine Watson; and the *Legislative Letter*, published every two weeks during the Legislative session.

**Contributions also support our annual Leader of Democracy Award.
WE APPRECIATE YOUR SUPPORT! THANK YOU SO MUCH!**

FUNDING THE WORK OF THE LEAGUE

Contributors to the Education Fund July 1, 2015 – June 30, 2016

Jean Aaro	Judy Filusch	Julie Leonard and David Keith	Ann and Gerald Saul
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Libby Fay and David Mustoe	Prue Larson	Beatriz Roederer	Patricia A. and Harold N. Gabow Family Fund
Karlene Ferguson	Carol Lassen	Charles and Cheryl Roy	Delta Kappa Gamma Society Int'l, Alpha Gamma Chapter
	Mary Leonard		

Myra Barrett, in honor of Cheryl Brown-Kovacic, Eileen Rogers

Bobbie Heisterkamp, in memory of Roberta Long-Twyman

Frank and Carla Bennett, in memory of Roberta Long-Twyman

Ann Rutkovsky, in memory of Fran Yehle

Susan Stark, in honor of Marge Fisch to thank her for years of volunteering and leadership in the LWVCO

We wish to express special thanks to the Rudy and Alice Ramsey Foundation for the grant for printing and recording of the 2016 Ballot Issue pamphlets.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR GENEROUS SUPPORT OF THE LWVCO EDUCATION FUND!!

COMING SOON: An all new LWVCO Speakers Bureau!

Watch for exciting details in the next Voter!

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS
OF COLORADO
1410 GRANT ST STE B204
DENVER CO 80203-1855

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Mission

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

Interested in the League of Women Voters?

Please join us!

*All persons 16 years of age and older are invited to join as voting members.
Those under 16 are welcome to join as associate members.*

Find a local League in your county or area by checking the LWVCO website at <http://lwwcolorado.org/lwv/local-leagues/> or contacting the LWVCO office.

If there is no local League in your county, we invite you to join LWVCO as a member-at-large (MAL). Annual dues are \$50. Please make your check payable to LWVCO or join online.

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Email _____

Phone _____

Mail the above form, with check, to:
LWVCO, 1410 Grant Street B204, Denver, Colorado 80203-1855 or pay online at
<http://lwwcolorado.org/lwv/join/>

Calendar

Aug	26	Women's Equality Day
Sept	5	Labor Day*
	16	MLD Training
	17	League Day, Denver
	22	Board Meeting
Nov	1	Voter Deadline
	8	Election Day
	24-25	Thanksgiving Holiday*
Dec	6	CO Gives Day
	8	Board Meeting
	24-1/1	Winter Holiday*

*Office Closed