



Colorado Voter

Volume 29, Number 4, May 2016

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS® OF COLORADO

Educate, Advocate, Impact!

RECOGNIZING DOTTIE LAMM, FORMER FIRST LADY OF COLORADO

*As the League of Women Voters of Colorado's third
Leader of Democracy*

Monday, June 13, 2016

5:30-7:30 p.m.

Program and Remarks by Ms. Lamm at 6:15

Hors d'Oeuvres Buffet and Wine

The Crawford Hill Mansion

150 E. 10th Avenue

Denver, CO 80203

(Parking behind the Mansion on Sherman Street)

Hosted by Haddon, Morgan, Foreman, P.C.

*The Crawford Hill Mansion, built in 1906, is one of Denver's finest examples of
French Renaissance architecture. Learn the history of the gorgeous three-story,
7000 square foot mansion.*



The Leader of Democracy project benefits LWVCO's general fund,
including the Legislative Conference held annually early in the Legislative session.

Support the LWVCO Leader of Democracy Event:

- ☐ \$200 Patron Sponsor (Sponsor names will be listed on the LWVCO website)
- ☐ \$100 Individual Ticket
- ☐ I am unable to attend. Here's my donation.

Name(s) of Attendee(s) _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone _____ E-mail _____

Pay by:

- ☐ Check made payable to LWVCO*
- ☐ Credit card online at lwvcolorado.org (Paypal account not required)

Send completed form to: LWVCO, 1410 Grant #B204, Denver, CO 80203-1855

Fax: 303.837.9917 Email: info@lwvcolorado.org

*Call or email the state office if you do not think your reservation will arrive before the deadline June 11.

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LWVCO COUNCIL 2016- MAKING DEMOCRACY WORK IN COLORADO



Your 2016-2017 State Board

*l to r, front row: Marlu Burkamp, Jean McGuire, Gerry Cummins,
Karen Connor, Julie Leonard (executive director);
back row: Jean Fredlund (off-board LAC chair), Barb Mattison, Toni
Larson, Sue Vaughan, Lisa Forbes, Cath Perrone, Marilyn Brown,
Bobbie Heisterkamp
Missing: Nancy Crow, Linda Porter, Cinnie Auer*



*Three exceptionally exciting projects celebrated by Council:
l to r, Larimer County Cross Currents Video Project, Mary Dietrich; Pueblo
County Heroin Forums, Ruth Nerenberg; Jeffco Climate Change Panel,
Christina Manthey. Look for more info about these projects
on Local League Dropbox soon.
Congratulations!*

DOTTIE LAMM

By Cinnie Auer

Dottie Lamm, former First Lady of Colorado (1975-87) and U.S. Senate candidate, was the first Board President of The Women's Foundation of Colorado. She served as an official U.S. delegate to the United Nations Conference on Population and Development in Cairo and the Beijing Conference on Women.

“Find out what you care about, and live a life that shows it.” This quote by Kate Smith is one of Dottie Lamm's favorites. It exemplifies the altruistic values associated with Dottie's career and life. Dottie Lamm is a modern day renaissance woman who wears her many hats with great pride. She has worked countless hours for the benefit of women and girls in our state. As Colorado's First Lady (1975-87) she initiated and chaired the Governor's Task Force on Children and their families and was a member of the Governor's Commission on Women. She has spoken to numerous school classes on citizenship and the importance of reading and learning.

Dottie is a keynote speaker and workshop leader on Risk Taking and Living with Success and Failure. She has also taught courses on Risk Taking and Leadership at the University of Denver and was an Adjunct Professor at D.U.'s Graduate School of Social Work (2003-06) where she taught a legislative advocacy class.

Trained as a psychiatric social worker at this same graduate school (1965-67), Dottie has counseled welfare mothers, pregnant teens, and families of emotionally disturbed children.

In 1981, while residing in the Governor's Mansion, she was diagnosed with breast cancer and became a life-long advocate for women's health.

As an official U.S. delegate to the U.N. Cairo Conference on Population and Development and the Beijing Conference on Women during the Clinton administration, Dottie has spoken on the rights of women in places as diverse as Palo Alto, California; Salt Lake City, Utah; Farmington, New Mexico; Hanover, New Hampshire; and Barcelona, Spain.

Through her role as First Lady of Colorado, and as an activist on many levels, Dottie has promoted women's and girls' rights. She has been recognized by the The Colorado Black Women for Political Action, The Anti-Defamation League, and many others. She received the Volunteers of America Empathy Award in 2015. Her current *Denver Post* column, which she began in 1979 as First Lady, is a major vehicle through which she advocates for her passions and causes. In 1986, The Women's Foundation of Colorado created a scholarship in her name, which has been awarded to many high school sophomores. Dottie continues to meet with and to mentor some of these young women.

Dottie and her husband, three-term Colorado Governor Dick Lamm have been married for 52 years. They have two children and four grandchildren all of whom live in Denver. Dottie is an avid outdoorswoman who skis, bikes, hikes, and has climbed 35 of Colorado's 54 mountains over 14,000 feet. In her spare time, Dottie loves to spend time with her grandchildren and takes drawing lessons.

The League of Women Voters of Colorado celebrates Dottie's many contributions to Colorado and the world.

* * *

BEHAVIORAL AND PHYSICAL HEALTH INTEGRATION MOVES FORWARD

By Carol Pace, SIM Advisory Board Member and Denver League Member

Colorado's \$65 million State Innovation Model (SIM) grant to advance the integration of behavioral and physical health care delivery continues to make great strides. Approximately 100 Colorado primary care practices have now been selected as the first group to try out the new delivery model. Wide geographical diversity includes practices from Rangely to Sterling to Lamar to Durango and all areas in between on the Western Slope and Front Range. Clients will experience care where providers receive value-based compensation from insurers that have agreed to new payment mechanisms. Consumer and public input is part of the four-year process.

A Consumer Engagement Workgroup, an Advisory Board, with our own Denver League member Carol Pace as a consumer representative, along with a statewide outreach effort and ongoing solicitation of public input makes the project consumer-oriented. As an example, the SIM office, hearing that LWVCO had a white paper on Behavioral Health, immediately linked that resource to their website. Goals for the grant are ambitious. Targets are to have 80% of Colorado residents have access to integrated physical and behavioral health care services, in coordinated systems, with value-based payment structures, by 2019. Take opportunities to get involved or give input and keep up to date on this unique Colorado health care transformation project at the SIM website at www.colorado.gov/healthinnovation.

OUR NEW PLANNED GIVING PAMPHLET IS AVAILABLE IN EDITABLE FORM (.pdf)

Contact Julie Leonard, at the state office, for a copy and to learn what version of advanced Adobe software you need to edit it.

LEADERSHIP RETREAT

Friday, July 29 - Saturday, July 30, 2016

By Sue Vaughan, Local League Support Director

Would you like to find strategies and resources to "spice things up a notch" in your League?

Come to the Leadership Retreat in Frisco to gather information and network with other Colorado League leaders. We are encouraging representation from all our Leagues as we all benefit from diverse experiences. This year's retreat begins at 1 p.m. Friday, July 29 and ends at noon on Saturday, July 30.

Our focus will be on techniques to enhance visibility and engagement that you can take back and implement at your local League level. Among many "hot" topics, you will find tips for reaching out to allied groups, receive guidance on developing a communication plan, learn key principles of marketing, discuss strategies to develop leaders, and much more. You will also have an opportunity to break out into groups with small and large Leagues to discuss successes and challenges.

REGISTRATION is NOW OPEN! Deadline: July 1. Cost is \$60 per participant, which includes training, all meals, and lodging at Baymont Inn and Suites, 1202 Summit Blvd., Frisco. [Register using the form that's been sent to all local Leagues.](#) Contact LWVCO office for more copies.

BALLOT ISSUES

By Gerry Cummins

The **three ballot issues** confirmed for the ballot to date (May 17, 2016) are:

Amendment 69 – State Health Care System

Amendment T – No Exception to Involuntary Servitude Prohibition

There shall never be in this state either slavery or involuntary servitude, (except as punishment for a crime for which one has been convicted). *Voter approval would omit the phrase in parentheses.*

Amendment U – Exempt Possessory Interests in Real Property

Provides an exemption from property taxation for a possessory interest in real property when the actual value of the interest is \$6,000 or less (adjusted for future inflation).

Note: This proposal was on the ballot in 2010 but defeated by the voters. This is coming from the rural counties where it costs the county more to secure said property taxes than they collect for the value of the property. Amendments T and U were referred by the legislature. A number of initiatives have gone through the process, have received a title and are in the process of gathering signatures. Signatures for these initiatives are due by August 8.

WHAT'S HAPPENING WITH THE VOTE411.ORG VOTER GUIDE

By Karen Connor, Director, VOTE411.org

Three local Leagues (Chaffee County, Pikes Peak, and Larimer County) decided to inaugurate their 2016 VOTE411.org Voter Guide for the June primaries. This has been a learning experience for those local Leagues as well as for LWVCO. In order to make League participation as easy as possible, Cath Perrone developed a Colorado Training Guide modeled after the LWVUS Training Guide, which has been very helpful. As we head into the 2016 November general election, a training session on how to use VOTE411 will be provided for all participating Leagues. Dates, times, and locations for these hands-on training sessions are still to be determined.

As a way to increase participation of voters and candidates state wide, VOTE411 will reach out to state and local party chairs in hopes that they will encourage their candidates to participate in the Voter Guide. LWVCO will also work with counties without a LWV presence to encourage local candidate participation.

This will be a busy election season. We are glad so many local Leagues will be participating in the VOTE411.org Voter Guide. Stay tuned for training information.

POTENTIAL SIMPLIFICATION OF LWV TAX STATUS

By Toni Larson

The LWVCO Board has appointed a committee to investigate the IRS (501(c)(3) (charitable arm) and 501(c)(4)) (social welfare arm) designated structures of our organization. These two structures have caused member confusion for years, especially as regards whether or not donations to either are tax-deductible. Without going into a lot of detail at this point, several Leagues across the country have chosen to change or merge the two "branches" with the intent of streamlining the structure and providing less complexity for the organization.

The committee will begin work shortly to identify options for Colorado Leagues. The investigation will include local Leagues as well as the state League. We will try to get as much information as possible from the state office; but we may need to reach out to local Leagues directly for additional info. We anticipate that ultimately this investigation will relieve some regulatory burden. Thanks in advance for your help with this.

For those going to LWVUS Convention, there will be two sessions on the topic that you might like to attend: Friday, May 17 at 7:15 a.m. and Sunday, May 19 again at 7:15 a.m.

It's ballot issue petition season again! Think Before You Ink!!!
<http://lwvcolorado.org/lwv/ballot-issues/>

LWVCO SUPPORTS COLORADOCARE, A SINGLE-PAYER HEALTH PLAN

By Nancy Crow, LWVCO VP Program

Colorado could have the first-in-the nation single-payer health care plan and the national media has noticed. In the last few weeks the cable news networks have covered our ballot issue. *The New York Times* carried an article and even the late night comedians/political satirists have featured it.

The LWVCO supports ColoradoCare, Amendment #69, and is in a position to be a strong advocate for this health care plan that is in alignment with the LWVUS Health Care Position. ColoradoCare is a resident-owned, cooperative system designed to ensure comprehensive, quality, accessible, lifetime health care for every Colorado resident. The benefit package would enhance the comprehensive health care services established by Medicaid and the Affordable Care Act.

Local Leagues have begun to advocate. In March, T.R. Reid held a speaking tour of Colorado's Western Slope, visiting Grand Junction, Montrose, Durango, and Cortez. League sponsored programs at these locations were well attended, provided an opportunity for a successful exchange of information, and generated good questions. Senator Irene Aguilar's briefing to the LWV Denver on April 18 was well attended by League members and non-Leaguers alike.

We hope every local League in Colorado will hold at least one program to advocate for the passage of this important ballot issue in the Fall 2016 election. ColoradoCare Yes is the organization advocating for the passage of Amendment #69 and has a staff ready to assist you. Request a speaker at <http://coloradocareyes.co/get-involved/spokespeople/>.

[Editor's Note: Several other local Leagues have presented educational pro-con sessions on Amendment #69.]

* * * * *

LWVCO VOICE WILL BE HEARD AT LWVUS NATIONAL CONVENTION

By Nancy Crow, LWVCO VP Program

In April we learned that the LWVUS Board has recommended the adoption of our Behavioral Health Position by concurrence at the 2016 LWVUS Convention. This was achieved in less than a year from the time the LWVCO adopted a study to update the LWVCO Health Care Position to include Behavioral Health at LWVCO Convention in May 2015.

This expedited accomplishment was only possible because of the thorough and authoritative research conducted by the Behavioral Health Task Force, chaired by Barbara Mattison, that was established at the 2013 LWVCO State Convention. The Task Force's report was completed in time for the study and it served as the background material for the study.

The LWVCO Board set two goals at their 2015 summer retreat. One was to "Achieve LWVUS Concurrence with the LWVCO Behavioral Health Position by June 2016 (as a LWVUS Recommended Program)." Local Leagues conducted the study in the fall of 2015 and submitted consensus reports by December 1. The Behavioral Health study committee compiled the reports received from local Leagues and submitted a proposed position statement to the

LWVCO Board. The State Board voted to adopt this committee's proposed position at the December 2015 board meeting.

Starting immediately after the adoption of the position, Barb Mattison, Julie Leonard, and Nancy Crow worked on an email campaign to get local and state Leagues throughout the country to recommend this concurrence on their LWVUS program reporting form. Forty-nine local and state Leagues did so, resulting in the LWVUS Board making the concurrence part of the Recommended Program that will be presented on the floor of the convention.

Efforts are now focused on promoting attendance at our caucus at the convention and on achieving a successful vote on the floor of the convention.

LWVCO LEAGUE DAY 2016 SAVE THE DATE: SEPTEMBER 17

By Nancy Crow, LWVCO VP Program

The Fall 2016 election is sure to provide a wealth of material for interesting presentations and discussions at League Day 2016. So please save the date, September 17, and join League members throughout the state for a full day at the Holiday Inn Cherry Creek, Denver. More info and registration form will follow in the August newsletter.

HISTORY DAY AWARD

At National History Day in Colorado, LWVCO's special award went to Andrea Lin, a senior at Fairview High School, for her outstanding website on the Kennedy-Nixon Debate, at <http://98698900.nhd.weebly.com/>. Check it out!! Local Leagues can also participate in this outreach to young people and social studies teachers at the local level.

SUCCESSFUL PROJECT FUND AND EZ GRANTS

By Liz Nick, Committee Chairperson

Congratulations to the five local Leagues that received grants last August 2015, reporting in April 2016. Each one was successful with great outcomes. The success by these Leagues in their projects began with their applications. Each had done its homework, i.e., obtained the actual price of what was needed, acquired donors to help with their projects if needed, and arranged for the project to be completed by April 2016.

The local Leagues were Estes Park, \$785, purchased banners/table runners for voter education, membership recruitment; Boulder County, \$1500, fall semester college intern with focus on youth involvement and education in League activities; Mesa County, \$1500, paid professional website designer to upgrade their website with one-year maintenance, hosting. The two EZ grants, Chaffee County, \$500, purchased VOTE411 ads for nine months in two newspapers in Buena Vista and Salida; Montezuma County, \$300, Great Decisions, purchased materials for use in Dolores and Mancos.

The next application deadline is June 30, 2016. Applicants need to use the 2016 Project Fund Grant application (\$1500 limit), that is available in DropBox, or contact Liz Nick to receive one by mail. EZ Grant applicants apply for one of four specific projects, with a limit of \$500. The committee reviews all applications in July, makes recommendations to the LWVCO Board, which makes the decision to award grants in August. Grants are funded by the Eva Fikova Bequest, which is not an education fund.



Ms. Wonder Wachara, a self-described Kenyan-born American-raised millennial, treated us to an excellent talk on Democracy and Millennials at dinner during Council May 21st.

Our keynote speaker is a political science student at Colorado Mesa University. (Photo Credit: Nancy Ball)

Colorado Voter

LISA FORBES - LWVCO COMMUNICATIONS DIRECTOR

By Lisa Forbes, Communications Director

I am pleased to introduce myself as the new Communications Director for LWVCO. Communications work has been divided into the Communications Director position and a Social Media Coordinator (which remains unfilled and will report to the Communications Director). I am also on the Board of the Adams County League, where my particular interest is in increasing membership.

At the State level we have formed a Communications Committee, consisting of Lisa Forbes, chair, Barb Mattison, Cath Perrone, Julie Leonard, Marilyn Brown, Marlu Burkamp, and Sue Vaughan. Our immediate task is to create a Strategic Communications Plan that will (1) improve how State League communicates with local Leagues, (2) improve how local Leagues communicate with State and with each other; and (3) increase League visibility, impact, membership, and relevance to non-Leaguers through systematic outreach. We have also been specifically requested to create a format by which local Leagues can easily share local League news, events, successes, etc.

Many people think of League only when it comes to voting. Our overall goal is to position League as "top of mind" when the public thinks of whom to call for relevant, timely, accurate and in-depth information on the subjects on which we have a position. We intend to leverage our enormous knowledge and expertise to increase our visibility as experts on issues.

Results of our first meeting: The committee will design a pilot program to test this strategy in four areas: (1) behavioral health; (2) natural resources; (3) civics education; and (4) re-entry into society after incarceration. Because we are coordinating a Speakers Bureau, we are asking anyone who would like to be one of our "go to" persons on these subjects to please contact me. Our first steps are to take inventory of what communications resources we already have, including League members, our affiliations list, and our media list. The committee has also recommended that LWVCO create a regular "brag piece" that will go out via email to members as well as to non-members.

We invite all Leagues to identify a communications point person and to give input and ideas from your local communications plans on increasing outreach to non-Leaguers in the four areas that we have targeted to test our strategy. Stay tuned for updates!

Watch for the final Legislative Letter on the LWVCO website for a summary of the 2016 Legislative session!

May 2016

YOU'RE INVITED!

*By Prue Larson and Patty Schoedler, Colorado MLD Coordinators
pruelarson@gmail.com, pshades@earthlink.com*

Yes, your League is invited to commit to MLD – the Membership and Leadership Development program -- for the coming League year. A reminder and a commitment form are being sent to all current MLD contacts in late May. Many of our local Leagues are already enjoying the benefits of having monthly coaching by a trained League member from outside their own communities. It's a free resource, not a financial burden to you! Whether or not you have been participating in MLD this year, jump in now! We are ready to applaud your successes and innovations. And we stand by to help you think of new approaches to challenges you might face.

Why are we asking for a commitment at this time, even from those who are already participating? This is the time of year when there is some turnover in leadership in most Leagues, and we want all your team to be aware of and committed to this program. A coach will be assigned to you, and both you and your coach need to be equally invested in this effort.

To launch you into the new League year, MLD will be participating in the Leadership Retreat in Frisco, planned by state board under the direction of Sue Vaughan (see page 4). MLD Coordinators will talk about the value of Membership and Leadership Development, with an emphasis on setting realistic goals. We'll offer tips for growing leaders within your organization. And we'll lead breakout groups where our larger Leagues and our smaller Leagues will meet separately to share common concerns as well as successes. Come learn from each other! Come and be heard.

CREATIVE MLD CONTACT RETIRES

By Bobbie Heisterkamp

David Pilkenton is retiring from the Admin Team of the Mesa County LWV, but his ideas will stay behind. As his MLD coach, I have been impressed with his diligence and innovative approach. At each event, he gathered the names of non-members and wrote them personal letters about joining the League. David also reached out to like-minded organizations in Grand Junction whenever the League event topic related to their goals. As a former professor, he had many contacts at the local university and used those to gather experts on each topic.

As a result, the Mesa League started at 60 members in 2015, lost 16 to attrition, but gained 22 new members to report 66 members in 2016 (a net gain of 10%). We all realize that local Leagues are fighting an uphill battle with attrition, but David has found the answer: find their replacements and then some. Kudos are well-deserved, and I will miss working with him. Oh, by the way, David does not use the Internet. He does everything the traditional way.

Colorado Voter

GREAT IDEAS YOU CAN USE

By Prue Larson and Patty Schoedler, Colorado MLD Coordinators

Each month, MLD coaches share with each other the highlights of their conversations with local Leagues. Here, briefly noted, are some of our favorites, which may give you new ideas:

- Boulder County LWV recently capitalized on Mary Wilson, former LWVUS President, being at CU for the World Affairs Conference. They engaged her to speak on immigration.
- Chaffee County LWV and La Plata County LWV each hosted T.R. Reid to speak to their respective communities about Amendment #69 (ColoradoCare). See advocacy article on page 5 for other local Leagues in Colorado presenting meetings on Amendment #69.
- Estes Park LWV is visible in its community by focusing on local issues. Now it's providing public discussion of the desire of residents in nearby unincorporated areas to vote in Estes Park elections.
- Gunnison LWV held a Mental Health First Aid class for the community.
- Several local Leagues, including Larimer County and Jefferson County, have established book discussion groups, open to members and non-members, on important issues.
- Jefferson County LWV hosted a Climate Change Panel discussion, which attracted 170 attendees and featured speakers from CU, CSU, NREL, as well as the Governor's Climate Change manager. They reached out and invited Boulder County LWV members to attend.
- Pueblo hosted three meetings to discuss heroin abuse in their community. Health and social service providers, affected persons, and interested community members attended the meetings.
- Larimer County sponsors Cross Currents, an educational monthly video program on cable access TV [*These last three items were highlighted at Council. See page 2*]
- Larimer County LWV promoted voter registration at Ben & Jerry's on "Free Ice Cream Day".
- Pikes Peak LWV celebrated the League's birthday on February 14, at an event attended by the Colorado Springs Mayor, two Council members, and a number of guests in addition to League members.
- Two leaders from Montrose LWV held a focus group with six millennials to find out what issues were of interest to that age group and a couple of them ended up joining.

Thank you to all Colorado League members who are thinking creatively and finding exciting ways to engage their members and their communities.

The LAC and all of us are saddened by the loss of Roberta Long-Twyman, 15-year LAC member who studied legislation and advocated for children and families in the child welfare system. Roberta died in April.

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 of voting age are invited to join the League of Women Voters. Non-citizens and those under voting age are welcome to join as associate members.

Find a local League in your county or area by checking the LWVCO website at <http://lwvcolorado.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://lwvcolorado.org/lwv/join/>

Calendar

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|--|-------|---|
| June | 13 | Leader of Democracy Event |
| | 16-19 | LWVUS Convention, Washington, D.C. |
| | 28 | Colorado Primary Election |
| | 30 | Project Fund Grant Submission Deadline |
| July | 4 | Independence Day* |
| | 29-30 | Leadership Retreat, Frisco |
| Aug | 30-31 | Board Retreat, Frisco |
| | TBD | Voter Deadline |
| | 8 | Last Day to File Initiative Petitions for General Election Ballot |
| | 26 | Women's Equality Day |
| Sept | 5 | Labor Day* |
| | 16 | MLD Training, Denver |
| | 17 | League Day, Denver |
| *LWVCO Office Closed (Office closed on Fridays June and July) | | |