



Colorado Voter

Volume 29, Number 2, 2015

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

LWVCO LEGISLATIVE CONFERENCE

Monday, January 25, 2016

Registration Deadline: Tuesday, January 19, 2016
Register today! Only 150 seats available...

MORNING 9 a.m. – Noon
Old Supreme Court Chambers, State Capitol,
200 E Colfax Ave, Denver 80203
(Doors Open: 8:30 a.m.)

**Preview of the 2016 Colorado Legislative Session;
Kathy Underwood, Hunger Free CO;
Mizram Cordero and Laura Giocomo, Denver Metro Chamber of Commerce**

AFTERNOON 12:30 p.m. - 2:00 p.m.
Scottish Rite Temple, 1370 Grant St, Denver, 80203

Lunch
Legislative Overview by LWVCO Staff Lobbyist Chris Watson

LEGISLATIVE CONFERENCE REGISTRATION FORM

(Deadline: Tuesday, January 19, 2016)

Registration Fee: \$30.00 includes program and buffet lunch of salad and wraps
(vegetarian and gluten-free choices included)

Name: _____

Local League: _____

Email address or phone: _____

Pay by: (\$30 Per Person)

_____ Check payable to LWVCO

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

Send completed form to: LWVCO, 1410 Grant #B204, Denver, CO 80203-1855
Fax: 303.837.9917 Email: info@lwvcolorado.org

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We encourage you to receive your newsletter electronically. Email Julie Leonard at info@LWVColorado.org to receive the Voter by email in printable format.

Colorado Voter, November, 2015

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Marilyn Brown

From Our President...

By Barbara Mattison, President, League of Women Voters of Colorado

Leagues in Colorado are hard at work – having two national studies and a state study puts a lot on our plates. Thank you for rising to this task!

At the state League level, we're working in the following areas:

- **Building a Better Colorado** is a statewide coalition to engage Coloradans in a conversation about what our state should be within these topic areas: 1) How we create laws and amend our constitution; 2) How we elect our representatives; and 3) How we manage the state budget. Building a Better Colorado encourages citizen conversation and input at community summits during fall 2015 and will present an analysis of this input in December 2015. **LWVCO will be a Host for this process and will communicate regularly with local Leagues.**
- **ColoradoCare Initiative 20** is collecting signatures for possible 2016 ballot inclusion. From their website: "ColoradoCare is a resident-owned, non-governmental health care financing system designed to ensure comprehensive, quality, accessible, lifetime health care for every Colorado resident. The benefit package would enhance the comprehensive health care services required by Medicaid and the Affordable Care Act. Premiums would be collected from Coloradans based on income, securing health care regardless of financial circumstance." **If enough signatures are collected for inclusion on the ballot, the LWVCO Board of Directors will vote regarding League support at our December 7, 2015 meeting.**

LWVCO's Board has two 2015-16 goals:

- **Achieve LWVUS concurrence with the LWVCO Behavioral Health Position by June 2016** (as a LWVUS Recommended Program at the LWVUS 2016 Convention). The LWVCO Behavioral Health Study is underway; depending on consensus question responses, a draft Behavioral Health position will go to the LWVCO Board December 7. If this position is approved, LWVCO will propose adoption through concurrence at the LWVUS Convention and will lobby all state Leagues to make this happen.
- **In partnership with local Leagues, develop and implement a plan that increases League's impact and visibility statewide.** LWVCO has strengthened its Board Liaison to Local Leagues job description and has formulated a local League support plan called LINK - League Information, Networking and Know-how. LWVCO Board liaisons will contact all local Leagues three times a year to provide information about LWVCO's work and to listen to, and try to address, local League questions and needs.

All local Leagues are an integral and important part of the efforts noted above and LWVCO will continue to communicate and to report progress in these areas.

SENATOR STEADMAN TO ADDRESS LOBBYIST WORKSHOP

By Jean Fredlund, Chair, Legislative Action Committee

Would you like to learn the most effective ways to influence your legislators at the local, and state level? Plan to attend (either in person or virtually by conference call) the Lobbyist Workshop, sponsored by the LWVCO Legislative Action Committee on December 11, 2015, at the LWVCO office in Denver across from the State Capitol.

Actually, all League members are advocates, either for League issues or for our own personal issues. We all talk about issues to our friends and families, and to other League members. If you would like to learn more about the best way to be effective in influencing lawmakers, be sure to attend to this year's workshop, either in person or virtually, from 8:20 to 10 a.m. on December 11. The LWVCO office is located at 1410 Grant Street, Suite B204, Denver, 80203.

State Senator Pat Steadman has agreed to talk with us about his experiences both as a lobbyist and a legislator. Afterward, LAC members will update the information in their packets and plan the upcoming year. To be part of the conference call please dial 1-518-530-1840. When prompted, enter meeting ID 717-475-177#. Check with the LWVCO office for suggestions on parking or public transportation.

The League of Women Voters has three main areas of emphasis: voter education, advocacy based on our grassroots positions, and protection of voting rights.

Keep apprised of legislative progress of bills of interest to Leaguers during the session by subscribing to the *Legislative Letter!* (see below)

LWVCO SPONSORS COLORADO CHANNEL

By Julie Leonard, Executive Director

If you've watched the Colorado Senate or House of Representatives in session without traveling to the Capitol itself, it's courtesy of the Colorado Channel. On Comcast cable, the chambers alternate day by day, but you can choose which one you want to watch streaming on the web at www.coloradochannel.net. If watching live isn't convenient, you can view archived recordings of past sessions.

On the Colorado Channel website you can also listen to essentially all legislative committee hearings, as they're happening or after they're posted to the archive, usually within 24 hours. The LWVCO Legislative Action Committee makes much use of this service, which means that League members from all over Colorado can participate.

In recognition of its importance to open government in the state, LWVCO has recently become a sponsor of the Colorado Channel. Our logo and name on the *Sponsors* page of the website will also increase League visibility. In the Denver area, Colorado Channel is channel 165 on Comcast cable; check with your local Comcast cable listing to see if you can get it on your TV.

When the legislature isn't in session, we recommend looking through the educational videos available on the *Additional Content* page of the website. Here you can find the State of the State address, the State of the Judiciary address, *How a Bill Becomes a Law in Colorado*, *The Colorado State Amphibian: The Western Tiger Salamander*, and more.

Subscribe to the *Legislative Letter*

Stay up to date during the 2016 Colorado legislative session— still only \$20.

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

Name _____

Choose Delivery Method:

___ Email to _____

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Two payment options (\$20 annual subscription):

- Check made out to LWVCO
- Credit card at lwvcolorado.org/legislative-action.html (no PayPal account necessary)

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LEAGUE DAY 2015

By Nancy Crow, LWVCO VP Program

Saturday, September 19, found 125 League members convened for a daylong program of gathering information and networking. The morning program focused on voting and elections, the afternoon on current studies, and ending with a presentation on polling. The take-home messages from each speaker are as follows:

Suzanne Staiert, Deputy Secretary of State – Successful innovations in Colorado voting are same day registration, all mail-in ballots, and on-line registration. Challenges include establishing a uniform voting system (at present Colorado has nine systems that vary county by county).

Gerry Cummins, LWVCO VP Voter Service – Proposition BB is the only ballot issue for the fall 2015 election. The major provisions of this proposition allow the state to keep tax revenue from the sale of marijuana, permitting the state to spend this revenue to provide \$40 million for public school construction. If Prop BB fails, refunds will go to retail marijuana cultivation facilities, to retail marijuana purchasers, and to Colorado taxpayers who file.

Nancy Crow, LWVCO VP Program – The LWVCO supports Proposition BB.

Cecilia Ruffing and Celeste Landry, LWV Boulder County – Through a participatory demonstration, we learned the mechanics of four voting methods – plurality voting, approval voting, range (or score) voting, and instant runoff voting.

Clay Shentrup, Co-founder of The Center for Election Science – Some benefits of preferential voting methods are as follows: remove the vote-for-one restriction, broadly supported candidates are favored, and voters can always include their honest favorite.

Nancy Crow, LWVCO VP Program – There are a number of electoral reforms that have been proposed. The LWV supports some, but has no position on many others.

Barbara Mattison, LWVCO President and Chair of the Behavioral Health Study Committee – Barbara drew our attention to the new study materials in the updated LWVCO Behavioral Health Task Force Report that will inform the consensus process.

Toni Larson*, VP LWVUS - Comprehensive materials for the two LWVUS studies - Money in Politics and Amending the Constitution - are easily accessible on the LWVUS website. On the home page, select League Management. On the next page under Our Work there is a pull down menu that will link you to materials for both studies.

Bonnie Seals, LWV Estes Park – Important decisions are made in politics based on polling. Polls in the 21st century face challenges their 20th century counterparts did not: technology, demographics, and mail-in ballots.

Many thanks go to Cath Perrone, LWVCO VP Administration, and Julie Leonard for excellent logistical help.

*Toni Larson, LWVUS VP, is a long-time League member and officer in Colorado. Check out her photo and bio at the LWVUS website: <http://lww.org/search/content/toni%20larson> .

THROUGH ADVOCACY, WE HELP MAKE DEMOCRACY WORK

By Florence Field and Linda Hutchinson, LWV Larimer County

Do you want to become informed and advocate for legislation that supports League's positions? The League of Women Voters makes it easy for members to let their elected representatives know how they feel about certain bills.

The LWVUS and LWVCO periodically issue action alerts asking League members to take action on key issues at critical times during the legislative process. These action alerts provide substantive background information as well as a quick and easy system for sending an email directly to your elected officials.

All members automatically receive action alerts issued by LWVCO. Members must sign up to receive action alerts from LWVUS. To do so, go to www.lwv.org and fill in your information under "Get Involved" on the right side of your screen. Once you have signed up to receive LWVUS e-mail news and alerts, please add info@lwv.org and egmacnamara@lwv.org to your email address book or safe sender list in order to ensure that you receive the latest League news, updates, and other important information.

NEW BANNER...THE LEAGUE'S MISSION

At League Day, a LWV Mission banner (30" wide by 48" high) hung on the wall. If your local League wants one to hang at your events, please contact Cath Perrone at pcperrone@yahoo.com, who will provide info on how to order and what it will cost.

LWVCO SIGNS ONTO LWVUS LETTER TO EPA

By Marilyn Brown, Voter Editor

LWVCO is proud to have joined 35 other state Leagues in signing on to LWVUS President Elisabeth McNamara's written comments to the EPA's Science Advisory Board (SAB) requesting revision of the current draft of a research report called *Assessment of Potential Impacts of Hydraulic Fracturing for Oil and Gas on Drinking Water Resources*. The LWV believes that the draft does not adequately represent the research funded by Congress in 2010.

The full document is available at www.lwv.org . Type League Submits Comments to EPA Science Advisory Board into Quick Search box.

PROGRAM PLANNING 2016

By Nancy Crow, VP Program

Early in each year (January or February) local Leagues participate in LWV 'program' planning by making recommendations concerning program issues. 'Program' in League lingo means the sum total of all our local, state, and national positions on issues and the grass roots process of studying issues leading to those positions. This is how the League remains a grassroots organization. Because 2016 is an even numbered year with our biennial convention this year (June 16-19 in Washington, D.C.), local Leagues will consider the national program as well as their own local program.

I. LWVUS Program

This is the opportunity for local Leagues to review LWVUS positions, propose a new study, identify a position for review, support concurrence with the position of another League, or recommend that a position be dropped.

Local Leagues will receive requests from other Leagues, either local or state, to support a particular proposed program item at the national level. Local Leagues should consider these requests and make a decision whether to support asking the LWVUS Board to recommend the item at the national convention in June 2016, and/or to support the item on the floor of the convention.

This year, assuming we reach consensus here in Colorado, the LWVCO Board will request that local and state Leagues throughout the country recommend concurrence with the LWVCO Behavioral Health Position that is being developed through this study and consensus process. (The concurrence process requires an up or down vote at convention, with no allowance for wording changes.)

The LWVCO requests that local Leagues in Colorado support this request.

II. Local Program

Similarly, this is an opportunity for local Leagues to review their own positions, propose new studies, identify a position for review, support concurrence with the position of another League, or recommend a position be dropped. Suggested program changes or additions would be addressed at the local League's annual meeting.

CONSENSUS DEADLINES FOR ON-GOING STUDIES

By Nancy Crow, 1st VP Program

December 1, 2015

The consensus reports from local Leagues (electronic only) on the LWVUS Constitutional Amendment Study are due to LWVUS.

December 1, 2015

The consensus reports from local Leagues on the LWVCO Behavioral Health Study and Update are due to LWVCO office.

February 1, 2016

The consensus reports from local Leagues (electronic only) on the LWVUS Money In Politics Review and Update are due to LWVUS.



Barb Whinery and Rose Takamoto, Greeley-Weld League members, encouraging students to register to vote at AIMS Community College Fall-in September 2. Between 75 and 100 students visited the booth.

MLD Grows in Colorado

*By Patty Schoedler and Prue Larson,
Co-coordinators for MLD in Colorado*

Thirty Shur fellows, coaches, local League representatives, and LWVCO board members gathered at the Holiday Inn Select on September 18 to discuss the workings of the Membership and Leadership Development (MLD) program. League members from around the state participated in the training sessions. With the help of nine coaches, the local Leagues are working hard to develop leadership and membership best practices.

Nearly all of our local Leagues are currently involved or have indicated that they intend to join the program this year. Ideally, we would like to see every local League in the state commit to the MLD program. With the guidance of the LWVUS Shur fellow assigned to Colorado, Nancy Eitreim, coaches work with the local Leagues to help them gain new members, engage current members, and develop new leaders to carry on the work of the League.

If your local League has questions about its involvement in MLD, please contact either Prue Larson, pruelarson@gmail.com, or Patty Schoedler, pshades@earthlink.net, to find out more details about the process.

COLORADO GIVES DAY – DECEMBER 8

By Cinnie Auer, Development Director

The League of Women Voters of Colorado invites you to support LWVCO's Ed Fund by donating to us on Colorado Gives Day, December 8, 2015. Colorado Gives Day is an annual statewide opportunity to increase philanthropy in Colorado through online giving. In our case, the beneficiary of the gifts is the LWVCO Education Fund, a 501c3 organization. Check with your tax accountant to confirm tax deductibility of your contribution.

Donations are accepted through www.ColoradoGives.org. Click on "League of Women Voters of Colorado" and it is an easy process to make your on-line donation. Starting on November 1, donations can be made ahead of time and counted in to the final total. Our goal is to raise \$7,500 to support the Ed Fund through this year's Colorado Gives Day donations. So mark your calendars, and "Give Where You Live" on or before December 8, 2015.

YOU'LL BE HEARING FROM US!

By Prue Larson, CO MLD Co-coordinator

LWVCO Board members and MLD coaches have taken significant strides to coordinate how they provide support to local Leagues. There is significant support available to local leaders and major interest in your success! Let us clarify:

At its August retreat, the state board set a goal to partner with local Leagues with the purpose of increasing League's impact and visibility statewide. Subsequently the board established a Local League Support Committee, which in turn developed a strategy called League Information, Networking and Know-how (LINK). State board members are assigned as liaisons to specific local Leagues, and they will be contacting all Leagues approximately three times per year to share information about state League activities and to gather feedback related to your relationship with the state League.

Those local Leagues enrolled in the Membership and Leadership Development program (MLD), receive monthly calls from their coaches. The focus of MLD coaching is to help local Leagues engage members, gain new members, and develop an effective leadership base – all through strong program and effective organizational practices.

State board liaisons and MLD coaches will share information in order to provide the most effective communication and support for your work.

So don't be surprised by calls throughout the year – coaches to locally designated MLD contacts and state board members to other local leaders. We all care about you and want to maintain good communication and be available to assist you when you need us.





This happy group of 35 leaders from 12 local Leagues enjoyed networking, productive sessions on skill-building, and fun at the 2015 Leadership Recharge in Frisco last June. Are you in the photo? If not, plan for your next opportunity to strengthen your League and personal skills in June 2016...

NATIONAL VOTER REGISTRATION DAY... ON THE LOCAL SCENE



Connie Fox, new member of Montezuma County League, registered voters at Mancos Balloon Festival, September 26.



Adams County members Kathleen Jensen, left, and Michele Kelley, center, celebrated National Voter Registration Day September 22 with a registration drive in American Furniture Warehouse. Store manager, Josh Silva, had arranged for a table decorated with flags, flowers, and balloons to be set up right by the front door. Three new voters were registered and hundreds of customers were reminded of their civic responsibility during the day!

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://lwwcolorado.org/local-leagues.html> 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/join.html>.

2015-2016 Calendar

November 26-27 Thanksgiving Holiday*	
December	7 Board Meeting
	8 CO Gives Day
	11 Lobbyist Workshop
	24 Winter Holiday*
January	1 New Year's Day*
	13 General Assembly Convenes
	18 M. L. King Day*
	25 Legislative Conference
February	7 Voter Deadline
	15 Presidents' Day*
March	7 Board Meeting
	25 Good Friday*
May	1 Project Fund Grant
	Submission Period Begins
	11 General Assembly Ends
	20 Board Meeting, Montrose
	21-22 LWVCO Council, Montrose
	21 Voter Deadline
June	30 Memorial Day*
	16-19 LWVUS Convention, D.C.
	TBD Leadership Recharge
	30 Project Fund Grant
Submission Deadline	
*LWVCO Office Closed	