

# Colorado Voter

Volume 29, Number 1, 2015

#### LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS® OF COLORADO

### LEAGUE DAY 2015: Making Voices Heard in Colorado Saturday, September 19th, 2015

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. \$32 per person / Registration Deadline Friday, Sept. 4th

You definitely will want to attend League Day this year because core issues of Voting and Elections will be the topics of discussion. Featured speakers include The Honorable Wayne Williams, Secretary of State Colorado, and our own Toni Larson, LWVUS VP Program. Secretary of State Williams will speak to successes and challenges to voting in Colorado and Toni will inform us on the two LWVUS studies - Money In Politics Review and the Constitutional Amendment Study. The Boulder County League will share what they have learned about voting methods with both speakers and an actual demonstration of how some of these methods work. The day will conclude with a presentation by Bonnie Seals, LWV Estes Park entitled "Understanding the Polls".

See page three for more details, including location, parking and lodging options.

#### COLORADO LEAGUE DAY REGISTRATION FORM

Deadline: Friday, September 4th

Registration Fee \$32 (No refunds after September 15th) 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.

Name	Email
(Please print name as you wish to have it appear on the nameta	lg.)
League	
Lunch choice (CIRCLE ONE): 1 or 2 or 3	Special dietary need:
Pay by: (\$32 Per Person)	
Check made payable to LWVCO	
Online Credit Card at www.lwvcolorado.org (No Pay	Pal account required.)

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

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To receive your newsletter electronically, email Julie Leonard at info@LWVColorado.org.

Colorado Voter, August, 2015

Published quarterly by
League of Women Voters of Colorado

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#### What's on Our President's Mind?

I had the great pleasure of attending the biennial Council of the League of Women Voters of the United States (LWVUS) in June with outgoing state president Bobbie Heisterkamp. Two representatives from each state League met for almost four days at the National Conference Center in Leesburg, VA – a place NOT conveniently located to anything except walking trails. We were there to work!

Speakers from various universities, LWVUS President Elizabeth McNamara, LWVUS staff and board members presented excellent sessions with new information and



key ideas. Sessions focused on redistricting, voter ID laws, the upcoming LWVUS national studies and on *key ideas* to sustain League.

I am particularly excited about **these key ideas**:

- Focus on and strengthen <u>League impact and visibility:</u>
  - Are we visible in our communities? Do we understand that, across the country, the League of Women Voters is highly valued and respected? We need to be visible through our actions in our communities.
- Brag about League achievements:

If someone went to your League's website, would s/he *immediately* see what you've done during the past year, or would the website simply say "we're off for the summer"? Do we have attractive flyers that talk about our achievements? Are these flyers available throughout our community?

 Talk <u>engagement</u> instead of "membership" and engage people because of our achievements and our passions; create excitement about our actions:

League typically has an older membership of primarily Anglo women. We talk about recruiting members, but how do we *engage* people – women and men? How do we *engage* people in critical civic activities? How do we *excite* people about joining with us? How can people find a *meaningful* niche or "job" with League?

• 2016 Elections - Educate and register under-represented voters: The LWVUS goal is that Leagues will register 100,000 new voters before the 2016 elections!

The League of Women Voters was formed because of disenfranchisement. Women won the vote and the new League educated about the responsibility of voting. LWVUS and various state delegates to Council talked about the need to educate and register under-represented people in the U.S. They talked about forming coalitions with various citizens' rights groups and about going to immigrant centers to educate and register new voters.

This is exciting stuff! The LWVCO Board will use these key ideas to guide discussion and goal setting at our August Board Retreat. *I hope your local League will consider doing the same*. The League of Women Voters is a critical voice in today's world. **Our job is to keep the League vital and renewed.** 

Barb Mattison, LWVCO President

## PROP BB, THE ONLY STATEWIDE BALLOT ISSUE

By Gerry Cummins, VP Voter Service

Proposition BB, referred to the ballot by the General Assembly, would allow the State to keep and spend \$63.5 million in tax revenue rather than refund it to taxpayers. This tax revenue comes from the sales tax and excise tax on the sale of marijuana.

The State would spend this revenue to provide \$40 million for public school building construction, and for needs such as law enforcement, youth programs, and marijuana education and prevention programs. Refunds would go to retail marijuana cultivation facilities, to retail marijuana purchasers, and to taxpayers.

In 2013 when voters were asked to approve the marijuana tax proposed by the Legislature, there were two revenue estimates in the CO "Blue Book" from the taxes on marijuana. One estimate was for the overall state revenue subject to the state constitutional limits found in TABOR. The second estimate was for the *new* taxes associated with retail marijuana. (This refund requirement on the new taxes is for the first year only. All future taxes on marijuana can be retained.)

The retail tax from marijuana sales was lower than the estimate but due to an improving economy and the marijuana tax revenue, the *overall* state revenue was higher than the estimate found in the 2013 Blue Book. Since the overall revenue exceeded the estimate, the state is constitutionally required to give a refund to taxpayers unless voters approve having the state retain and spend the refund amount. The refund is equal to the revenue from the new taxes on marijuana in the 2014-15 fiscal year or \$63.5 million.

#### LEAGUE DAY PARKING AND LODGING

On Saturday, September 19th, League members from all over the state will come together for League Day at the Holiday Inn Denver-Cherry Creek, located at 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.

If you are traveling in for the League Day or are attending the MLD Training on Friday, you may consider **staying overnight on Friday**, September 18th. Discounted rooms are



l to r): Barbara Mattison, President, LWVCO; Rebecca Kourlis, Executive Director, Institute for the Advancement of the American Legal System (IAALS); and Bobbie Heisterkamp, Immediate Past President, LWVCO. Rebecca received this year's Colorado Leader of Democracy award for her contributions to the American legal system, and for ensuring that it provides justice for all.

#### **VOTE411 UPDATE**

By Karen Connor, VOTE411.org project coordinator

Proposition BB Retail Marijuana Taxes is the only statewide ballot issue on the November 2015 ballot and VOTE411.org, an online voter guide, will be up and running for this ballot issue at no cost to local Leagues. We hope that local Leagues will again promote the VOTE411.org web site, by including a link on their local League web site, information in local newspapers and on social media. LWVCO will have the link to VOTE411.org on their web site.

If a local League has local ballot issues or local candidates they want to include on the VOTE411.org web site there is a fee for the local League to do this. Please contact me by e-mail if your League wants to include any local ballot issues. As always, I will be available to assist the local League with getting their information on the VOTE411.org website.

available at the Holiday Inn Denver-Cherry Creek with double bed rooms for \$179 per night, not including the 14.75% tax. Up to 4 persons may share one room. To make your reservations, please visit the hotel's website,

www.cherrycreekhoteldenver.com or call Katie Halverson at 303.388.5561 ext. 7129. The special rate code is LWV.

Nearby hotels (No discounted rooms offered through LWV): Hilton Garden Inn Denver/Cherry Creek, 600 S Colorado Blvd, Denver 80246, website: <a href="https://www.hgicherrycreek.com">www.hgicherrycreek.com</a>, phone: 303.754.9800; and Hampton Inn & Suites Denver/Cherry Creek, 4150 E Kentucky Ave, Glendale 80246, website: <a href="https://www.hicherrycreek.com">www.hicherrycreek.com</a>, phone: 303.692.1800.

## PROGRAM PROMPTED LIVELY DEBATE AT CONVENTION

By Nancy Crow, LWVCO VP Program

Sixty voting delegates to the 2015 LWVCO Convention in Boulder approved by majority vote the program recommended by the LWVCO Board. This program includes the following items:

- To retain all current LWVCO positions in the areas of Government, Natural Resources, and Social Policy
- A study to update the LWVCO Health Care Position to include Behavioral Health

Two not-recommended items were brought to the floor of the convention:

- A concurrence with the LWV Boulder County Position on Minimum/Living Wage
- A study to update the LWVCO Position on Hydraulic Fracturing

Both items received a majority vote on Saturday for consideration on Sunday, but neither received the 3/5 vote necessary for adoption of a not-recommended item.

The introduction of the two not-recommended items provided the Convention with a lively and productive debate. Many thanks to the Boulder County League for proposing concurrence with their Position on Minimum/Living Wage and to the Larimer County League for proposing the update to the Hydraulic Fracturing Position. Both topics are of great interest to many LWVCO members. The discussion provided an incentive for the League to stay current on the issues and perhaps pursue them further.

[Ed. Note: At convention's close Karen Connor of the Montrose League invited all CO local Leagues to Montrose for next May's LWVCO Council. Their invitation resulted in a lengthy article in The Watch, a widely read regional newspaper out of Telluride, describing the Montrose League's recent activities with a photo, as well as information about the League of Women Voters in general.]

### BEHAVIORAL HEALTH STUDY UNDERWAY

By Barbara Mattison, Chair, LWVCO Behavioral Health Task Force and Nancy Crow, LWVCO VP Program

The League of Women Voters of Colorado's Behavioral Health Study is underway! All local Leagues have received the study materials and the consensus questions. This study's purpose is to update the current LWVCO Health Care position to include behavioral health. Study materials are the completely updated and NEW Behavioral Health Task Force 2015 Report: *An Overview of Colorado's Behavioral Health System.* 

The scope of the study deals with Access to Quality Behavioral Health Care. Study materials include an overview of 1) the need for behavioral health services, 2) Colorado's current service delivery system including the criminal justice system, 3) funding for services, 4) stigma and barriers to effective service delivery, 5) behavioral health and gun violence, 6) current trends, including integrated care, and 7) new and promising practices.

#### The timeline for the Behavioral Health Study is:

<u>August 2015</u>: Study materials and consensus questions sent via email to local League leaders and will be available on the LWVCO website.

<u>Late summer -December 1, 2015</u>: Local Leagues hold briefings and consensus meetings.

December 1, 2015: Consensus reports from Leagues due to LWVCO.

<u>December 7, 2015</u>: Consensus reports and resulting draft position(s) to LWVCO Board for approval.

By September 1, the LWVCO Behavioral Health Study Committee will provide an updated PowerPoint presentation with highlights of the study materials to all local Leagues. Study committee members will act as liaisons to their local Leagues and can present the Power Point.

Thank you to all members (and non-members) of the Behavioral Health Task Force who have worked so hard gathering information, writing, proofreading and editing the report/study materials!

#### Connect with MLD!

The Membership and Leadership Development (MLD) program is going strong in Colorado. At present 14 of 19 CO local Leagues are participating in this national League program to grow membership and develop leaders. We hope that those of you who attended Convention or Leadership Recharge learned more and were inspired to take full advantage of MLD resources. Local Leagues have been asked to respond by August 30 with a commitment to participate in the MLD coaching program for 2015-16. We welcome each League to stay with us or join in anew.

Information and registration materials for the MLD training to be offered in Denver on September 18, the day before League Day, at the same venue, have been emailed to all local Leagues. Registration for this training is also requested by August 30. For more information on either of these opportunities, please contact:

Prue Larson, CO MLD Coordinator, pruelarson@gmail.com 303.834.8711

#### FUNDING THE WORK OF THE LEAGUE

#### Contributions to LWVCO and the Lobby Fund, July 1, 2014 – June 30, 2015

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Throughout its 86-year history, the League of Women Voters of Colorado (LWVCO) has played a vital role in lobbying for government and social reform legislation. In 2015 several bills passed that fall under League positions, two of which stand out: HB 1043, the DUI bill for which we used a Call to Action, and SB 204, that moved the Child Protection Ombudsman out of the agency it was supposed to oversee. This bill took a lot of lobbying of various branches of government. Several bills we opposed were successfully defeated. LWVCO donations 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.

#### THANK YOU!

#### FUNDING THE WORK OF THE LEAGUE

### Contributions to the Education Fund, July 1, 2014 – June 30, 2015

Alpine Archaeological Rudy and Alice Ramsey Kenneth Fordyce David Keller Consultants, Inc. Foundation Paula Frease Nora Kimball Cynthia Auer Gene and Nancy Richards Margaret Fullerton Celeste Landry Alice Bakemeier Vicki Robbins Richard Garnand Prue Larson Vincent Bates Helen Rohrbaugh Ann Garstang Carol Lassen William Schoeberlein JoAnn Batev **Dorothy Gibbs** Julie Lechtanski Sandra Schuster Constance Bean Lynn Gilbert Peggy Leech Judith Beerbaum Mary Jo Shafer Ellen Gille Peggy Lehmann Mary Alyce Behrns Rona Shor Mary Leonard Marg Gostic Andrea and Hall Skeen Marilyn Borton Marjorie and Bob Gray David and Connie Leserman Virginia Boucher Marty Sloven Donna Green John Litz Julie Boyle and Donn Kuntz Paul Smith Jean Greenberg Linda Lodenkamper Marilyn and Bill Brown Kathleen Smith Faith Gross John Lohre Jean Bruns Vivienne Smithers Margaret Haagenstad Donna Lucero **Phyllis Bunting** Anne Sneed Helen Hale Bruce MacKenzie Janet Burns Peter Spurlin Kaaren Hardy Megan MacMillan Gordon Butz Ruth Stemler Mary Harlow Christina Manthey Tina Campbell Barbara Stevens Joan Harrison Barbara and Roger Mattison Arleta and Duane Carr Virginia Strange Ann Harroun Connie Mauldin Windsor Chacey Richard Sugg Susan Maxwell Anne Hatcher Amy Christiansen Ernestine Sullivan Norma Heinz Barbara McCornack Irwin and Addie Cohen Rose Tanaka Roberta Heisterkamp Vicky McLane Barbara Corwin Elizabeth Tilton Suzanne Helburn Blakely Mechau Herb Crede Nancy Urguhart Terri Helm Mary Ann Merrill Lucy Creighton Karen Utlev Donna Herrick Barbara and Paul Moe Nancy Crow Shaila Van Sickle Sigrid H Higdon William Moninger Betty Culp Ellen Waterman Elaine and Dave Hill Marcy Morrison Elizabeth Culp Weiser Engineering Jeannette Hillery Vincent Murphy Kim Wennesland Gerry Cummins Chyrl Hofsetz Mary Catherine Murphy Donna Willis Holly Darby Helen Hondius Elizabeth Nick Vivian Dodds Lorie Young Elizabeth Horn Anne Norwood Diane Young John and Mary Anna Dunn Patricia Horoschak Peter Ornstein Karen Ehrhardt-Martinez Linda Young Trudy Hutchinson Julie Ott Rosanne Elkins Mary Zahniser Susan and William Pinkham Arlene Hutchinson Janis Falkenberg Mary Zinn June Hyman-Cismoski Fav Plummer Elizabeth Fay

Frank and Carla Bennett, in honor/memory of Jerrie Bennett Julie Leonard, in memory of Marguerite Peterson

Marge Innes

Patricia Johnson

Cynthia Kahn

Catherine Felknor

Karlene Ferguson

Patricia Gabow, in memory of Thelma Hutt, with match from

Susan Stark, in memory of her mother, Ruth Stark, who would

Gala Pock

Aggie Polak

Maryjane Raabe

Robert Wood Johnson Foundation have been 100 years old this year

Donna Kornfeld, in memory of Thelma Hutt Elizabeth Winchester, in honor/memory of Elinor Winchester

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

#### LOCAL LEAGUES RECEIVE PROJECT FUND AND EZ GRANTS

By Liz Nick, Committee Chair

LWVCO is pleased to announce grants awarded to five local Leagues. We congratulate these Leagues and look forward to their written reports by April 2016, detailing the outcome of their projects.

#### **Project Fund Grants:**

- LWV of Boulder County, \$1500, for their special project (membership) of the fall semester paid college internship position to focus on youth involvement in League activities, specifically to attract college age individuals to become educated and involved with the League.
- LWV of Estes Park, \$785 for their special project to purchase LWV banners and table runners, for voter education and membership recruitment, One will replace the old 3'x 6' outdoor banner with one that is all-weather and high wind-resistant.
- LWV of Mesa County, \$1500, for their special project to hire a professional website designer to upgrade their current website to support video links and to be read by other electronic devices, to include one-year maintenance, hosting, and training two League members to maintain the site.

#### EZ Grants:

- LWV of Chaffee County \$500, towards purchase of VOTE411 ads for nine months in two newspapers in Buena Vista and Salida
- LWV of Montezuma County, \$300, Great Decisions project, to purchase materials for each group in Dolores and Mancos.

A reminder: Project Fund grants meet the following objective guidelines:

- · serve the LWVCO program, education, and/or outreach goals
- . are suitable for replication by other Leagues
- · are conducted in Colorado
- · meet the strategic goal of LWVCO to strengthen local leagues and promote the Membership Leadership and Development (MLD) goals for increasing membership and developing leadership.

The EZ Grant applies to four specific projects with maximum amounts: Great Decision materials (\$300), public meetings of representatives of multiple levels of local government (\$300), ads for VOTE411.org (\$500), and contests involving local high schools (\$500).

Both grant types are funded by the LWVCO Eva Fifkova Endownment Fund. Grant applications are accepted between May 1 and June 30 for the following year. In addition to Liz Nick, Sonia Koetting, LWVCO Communications Director, and Sue Vaughan, LWVCO Board Secretary, serve on the LWVCO Grant Committee, which reads the applications and recommends recipients to the LWVCO Board for final decision.

#### **NEWS FROM THE LOCAL SCENE**



Over 100 diverse attendees from region participated in human trafficking workshop, co-sponsored by Montezuma County League in Cortez in May. Details of their organizational effort are available from League President Eleanor Kuhl.



Estes Park League President Bonnie Seals joins Superintendent Vaughn Baker to celebrate Rocky Mountain National Park's 100<sup>th</sup> year and the permanent ban on commercial air tours over the park spearheaded by Estes Park League 17 years ago.

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF COLORADO 1410 GRANT ST STE B204 DENVER CO 80203-1855 NON-PROFIT ORG. U.S. POSTAGE PAID DENVER CO PERMIT NO. 233

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\_\_Please send information about the LWV of Colorado.

\_I would like to join the League of Women Voters. Annual dues are \$50. Please make your check payable to LWVCO or join online.

Name	
Address	
City	
StateZip	
Email	
Mail, with check, to:	, D20.4

LWVCO, 1410 Grant Street B204, Denver, Colorado 80203-1855

Join online, through PayPal, at <a href="http://www.lwvcolorado.org">http://www.lwvcolorado.org</a>.

#### **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: <u>info@lwvcolorado.org</u> Website: <u>www.lwvcolorado.org</u>

## Calendar

August 26 Women's Equality
Day

September 7 Labor Day\*

September 18 MLD Training

September 19 League Day

September 21 Board Meeting

October 19 *Voter* Deadline

November 3 Election Day

Nov. 26-27 Thanksgiving Holiday\*

December 11 Lobbyist Workshop

\*Office Closed