



President and Executive Director End-of-Year Report
Karen Sheek and Beth Hendrix

The League's 100th year proved to be one of our more challenging. With the pandemic, we were required to find new ways to stay in touch and continue our work — and find new ways we did! We may all be suffering from ZOOM fatigue, but we were able to creatively use technology to conduct business and provide Colorado voters throughout the state with opportunities to learn about ballot issues, meet their candidates, and learn about challenges to our democracy. LWVLP developed an excellent Candidates Forum Zoom Handbook which they graciously shared with Leagues throughout the state. There was a spirit of collaboration and willingness to help one another that enabled Leagues statewide to continue to function, especially during this most important 2020 election year. Kudos to each of you for rising to the challenge!

Some highlights:

- LWVCO, on behalf of all Colorado Leagues, accepted the Medallion Award from the National Association of Secretaries of State for our tireless work on educating Colorado's electorate.
- LWVCO partnered with the National Popular Vote (NPV) Campaign, including:
 - the collaborative creation of radio ads promoting NPV
 - Board President Karen Sheek and Sen. Mike Foote met with editorial staff at a number of newspapers requesting their endorsement of the NPV
 - League membership manned phone banks to encourage support of the NPV
 - Proposition 113, National Popular Vote Interstate Compact Referendum, passed with 52.33% of the vote
 - In addition to Colorado signing onto the NPV Interstate Compact, Colorado became the first state in which the NPV won at the polls!
- We're continuing to work on redistricting by monitoring the selection of Colorado's two independent redistricting commissions and will be empowering our Redistricting Observer Corps shortly as we near the arrival of 2020 Census data;
- We're writing and publishing a white paper, *The Effectiveness of Colorado's Voting and Elections Systems*. When complete, it will be distributed to LWVUS and other state Leagues to serve as an educational resource as states work to develop elections systems as secure and user-friendly as Colorado's.
- LWVCO made advocacy trainings available across the state, with plans to provide this training quarterly.
- The LAC recruited members statewide. It is geographically more diverse and includes three college students; every other meeting is held on a Saturday to allow for greater inclusivity.
- Justice, Equity, Diversity and Inclusion has been a Board focus; the JEDI Committee was formed, and a trainer was brought in to work with the Board, with follow-up trainings to continue. In concert with the Joint By-laws and Policies & Procedures Committee, work is being done to create an inclusive

DEI/Non-Discrimination Policy. The Legislative Action Committee continues to review all potential legislation through a DEI lens, and the Nominating Committee was successful in presenting a slate of candidates to the Board that reflects our desire to be more inclusive.

- The By-laws have been updated to streamline and modernize the language and remove elements that were policies or procedures rather than bylaws.
- The Board took an active role in fundraising this year by participating as Ambassadors for the Leaders of Democracy virtual fundraising event.
- Presidents Calls are continuing to ensure strong communications and collaboration amongst and between all Colorado Leagues.
- LWVCO is a ClubExpress Pilot Site, with Larimer County and Boulder County, for testing a data link to LWVUS that will streamline membership management and simplify our data exchanges with LWVUS. Leadership believes that the ClubExpress/ LWVUS coordination will be labor-saving for us all. The less time we expend in administrative tasks, the more time we will have to do the work we love.
- LWVCO is continuing to make a concerted effort to increase our visibility and impacts through print articles, mentions on TV and radio and online media that reference the work of the League. These are posted in the news module on the website homepage.

Work continues on defining Board and staff roles as we shift from a working Board to a “governing Board that works,” with the ultimate goal of having an organization with a governing Board. As we transition, we are also keeping our vision focused on the Voter Services and Advocacy, which are the very foundation of what the League does. We are examining ways to be more efficient in these areas and as things change — as they always are — how might we adjust our focus and strategy to use all of our resources most effectively? That’s the question and will require vision, collaboration, and a willingness to change.

Each member of the LWVCO Board of Directors exemplifies their commitment to LWVCO through their time, talent, and treasure – we regularly have 100% attendance at meetings, and all have contributed their expertise and their hard-earned money to support the organization. For this, we are truly grateful!

We’ll distribute a survey at Convention to gauge how LWVCO is meeting the needs of Colorado Leagues and where additional support is needed. We look forward to learning the results so that we might continue to grow and increase services and activities. We’re available to discuss ideas and concerns, answer questions, and provide support as needed -- please don’t hesitate to contact us.

Last but certainly not least, THANK YOU for your dedication and work for the League and for our great democracy, which has bent this year but not broken.

Gratefully,

Karen Sheek
President

Beth Hendrix
Executive Director