



League of Women Voters
Of La Plata County

VOTER

Volume 8, Issue 1

Sixty-two Years Serving La Plata County
95 members

August, 2008

www.lwv.org

www.lwvlaplata.org

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Welcome new members:

**Kellie Hotter
Connie and Steve Jacobs
Trish Pegram
Barbara Shore**



Mark your calendars!

August and September Meetings

Don’t Miss the Primary Election

**Tuesday, August 12
7 a.m. – 7 p.m. or vote early**

**Voting places have been consolidated,
YOU MAY NOT BE VOTING AT YOUR USUAL SITE!**

If you are unaffiliated, you may affiliate with a party at the polls. However,
it is too late to change party affiliation if you are currently affiliated.

* * *

Get your free tickets now!

Safer, More Compassionate World 2008 presents

Greg Mortenson of “Three Cups of Tea”

**Thursday, September 18, 7 p.m.
Whalen Gym, Fort Lewis College**

(see article on page 3)

*Celebrate Women’s Equality Day August 26,
the anniversary of the passage of the 19th Amendment!!*

Teaser: Next month’s Voter will contain a summary of Bill Collins’
excellent research/update on nuclear power and recycling of nuclear waste!

Team Coordinator's Message

Our League formed the team concept at our annual meeting in May. Marilyn Brown and I can support each other as one or the other is away and we use each other's skills. We e-mail and talk to keep in touch and up to date. It certainly takes the pressure off to share responsibilities. We think it's a relaxed and yet efficient system.

We're launching the new year with an amazing program spearheaded by Bridget Irish from FLC and a League member and our very own Ross and Ellen Park. I hope you've gotten your tickets to this exciting time when Greg Mortenson, of "Three Cups of Tea" will speak.

We're also going to gather the Tuesday morning before to view a delightful ten-minute video of Pennies for Peace and to have a short review/discussion of the book. This will give us a chance to get together after the summer and hear what's happening with League around town. So save the morning of September 16th to prepare us for the evening of the 18th. Details to follow.

Do be sure to vote in the Primary on August 12th. Remember if you vote by absentee ballot to return your ballot by that date, postmarks do not count. The polling places for this election have been combined so you may not be voting at your regular location. (In November you will return to your usual polling place.) You may also vote early at the County Court House in Durango or at Bayfield Old Middle School starting on August 4th. Information on precinct locations is with the County Clerk as well as on the LWV web site, www.lwvlaplata.org.

Have a wonderful summer!

-Sally Bellerue

Congratulations, Vicki!

Kudos to LWV member Vicki Coe, who won Del Alma's Spirit of Santa Rita award for volunteerism in the area of preservation of Hispanic culture. Vicki has also been the spark-plug behind the development of the County's new Children, Youth and Family Master Plan.

Speaker's Bureau

Our league will provide trained speakers to groups and organizations to explain the pros and cons of November's upcoming state and local ballot measures. Currently, 8 ballot measures have qualified and 11 more remain to be certified by August 4th. We will hold a ballot issue forum in Bayfield, Durango and Ignacio in October. If you would like to assist the speaker's bureau with research or become a speaker, please contact Stephanie Huss at 259-7263 or stephanie@frontier.net.

Voter Registration

Twenty-one people volunteered to be trained to register people to vote. Since this effort began in the spring, we have been to eleven different places and helped 77 applicants to register or update their registration. We also handed out 65 forms for people to send in later or take to friends or family members.

People have been helped at the Durango Farmers' Market on the second and fourth Saturday of each month, the Lions' Club pancake breakfast on the Fourth of July, the Senior Centers in Ignacio, Bayfield, and Durango, and at both Sacred Heart and St. Columba churches Durango.

The last day to register for the General Election is October 6 and we will be continuing our efforts until that time. Our plans include continuing at the Durango Farmers' Market, attending the Bayfield Farmers' Market, going to the Ignacio Library, as well as the Commons Building. And we have tentative plans to be at the Durango Mall. We also hope to go to the Four Corners Health Center, Manna Soup Kitchen, the homeless shelter, and let the families at Alternative Horizons know where we will be registering people so they may come there to register.

We even recruited a new member, Trish Pegram. Welcome, Trish!

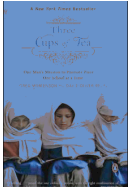
And have had a great deal of fun!

The times and locations of our voter registration drives are on our website, www.lwvlaplata.org or you may contact me at mjschili@bresnan.net.

Thanks to all of you!!!!

-Marilyn Sandstrom

A Safer More Compassionate World 2008, with Greg Mortenson



Many of you attended the inspirational event that we co-sponsored with the Fort Lewis College Common Reading Experience (FLC CRE) and Our Voices Together in November of 2007 called "A Safer More Compassionate World". At that time we announced with great anticipation that Greg Mortenson, mountaineer, humanitarian, co-author of "Three Cups of Tea", and Executive Director of the Central Asia Institute had accepted our invitation to come to Durango on **Thursday, September 18, 2008**.

The FLC CRE has chosen "Three Cups of Tea" as their 2008-9 book, and is the prime sponsor of the 2008 event, along with the League of Women Voters of La Plata County. We are grateful to our donors, who include the Ballantine Foundation, the FLC Office of the President, The Fort Lewis College Foundation, and Wells Fargo Bank.

The 2008 version of Safer More Compassionate World will include interactions between Greg and students. One of the planned activities is a Pennies for Peace event, during which a check for the pennies that are being collected at elementary schools and other locations around town will be presented to Greg for the Central Asia Institute by local elementary school students. If you see Pennies for Peace jars around town, drop in your 2 cents worth! You are welcome to bring your children or grandchildren to the Hesperus Peace Park at Fort Lewis College at 1:45 p.m. that day, but it is a school day, and the current plan is for schools to select a couple of students to make the presentation.

At other times during the day, Greg will spend time talking with Fort Lewis College students and some community folks of all ages and experiences concerning international humanitarian projects.

At 7 p.m., Greg will address a general audience in the Whalen Gymnasium at FLC and we are anticipating over 3000 persons in attendance. Admission is free but tickets are required, and donations to the Central Asia Institute are welcomed. Donation envelopes will be available at the Gym, as will books for sale.

As a co-sponsor along with Fort Lewis College, the League has a block of tickets available for our members who want to attend the 7 p.m. event. However, our response from the public has exceeded our expectations and tickets have become scarce. Consequently, remaining tickets from our League block ***will be released to the general public on August 13.***

Many of you have already ordered your tickets but if you have not, please do so no later than August 12 by sending an email to Suzanne Becker at srahmberg@aol.com, or calling 970-375-1533, stating your name, and how many tickets you require. We have estimated 2 tickets per member, but if you need a couple more let us know and we will try to accommodate you if possible.

Please note the flyer inserted in this newsletter and log on to www.fortlewis.edu/cre for more information.

-Ellen Park

Four Corners Air Quality Task Force 'Reunion'

The Four Corners Air Quality Task Force, which met for two years and developed a long list of suggestions for sponsoring agencies to use in encouraging pollution reduction and energy efficiency in our region, will meet Wednesday, August 20, 1-5 or 6 p.m. at San Juan College in Farmington to discuss progress to date, including the following agenda items:

1. Projected ozone NAAQS non-attainment for San Juan County
2. Agency priorities from task force options: what is being done, what is planned for 1-3 year timeframe
3. Task force member presentations
4. Update on Four Corners Modeling Project
5. Update on mercury issues

A tour of San Juan Generating Plant is also planned for 11 a.m. Thursday, August 21.

Everyone is welcome to attend this meeting whether or not you were involved with the task force during its two years of work. Contact Marilyn Brown (259-3593, marilbrown@aol.com) to carpool to Farmington for either the task force meeting and/or the tour.

**LWV National Convention, Portland, Oregon,
June 13-17, 2008**

Convention was a thoroughly enjoyable, educational, and exhausting event. I was honored to represent La Plata County LWV, thank you for the privilege of going.

There were 684 voting delegates in attendance on the final day of the business meeting, representing 49 states; only Rhode Island was missing. The total attendance was 997.

Half of the daytime meetings were League business sessions, chaired by LWVUS President, Mary Wilson. I was certainly impressed by her incredibly fair, process-oriented manner of chairing. I also had serious exposure to parliamentary procedure.

At these meetings there were changes to the by-laws of the LWVUS. They included (in very abbreviated form):

- *Allowing electronic meetings of the Board,
- *Clarification of local membership counts for delegate representation,
- *Scheduling procedures for Council meetings (LWVUS Board and State Presidents' meetings the years between conventions),
- *Changing the number of members of the nominating committee from 7 to 5 and
- *Altering the deadline for information to be provided to members when wishing to amend a National League position

Additionally, we concurred on the redistricting proposal; we agreed to conduct a study on a National Popular Vote Compact (this would effectively eliminate the electoral college); existing national positions were retained; education programs were approved for Health Care and Global Climate Change; and the LWVUS principles were amended by the addition of a statement recognizing the balance of the three branches of government. The proposed budget was approved along with a new PMP rate: \$28.00 in 2008-2009 and \$29.20 in 2009-2010.

When it was time to give "Guidance to the Board", Jill and I suggested LWVUS carry liability insurance permitting local leagues to get riders, thus reducing the cost of this insurance. Details of all this information may be found on the US website, www.lwv.org.

I attended several caucuses/presentations. I was most impressed with one by VOTE 18. The organization is working with high school students to teach them how important it is to vote. We attendees were asked to consider ourselves in high school and the next forty minutes were an exciting, interactive event. They provided a DVD and have emailed me their lesson plan and outline of their program. I have passed it on to the committee working with the county high schools on this fall's election.

There were a few sessions on Voter Services, my favorite topic. It was incredible to hear of the vast differences among the states. Florida LWV had sued the state due to their heavy fines and restrictive registration rules. The VA has imposed a policy of not allowing the LWV to register voters at their facilities. The national and state LWVs are taking action to change this.

Some clever ideas were presented to educate voters. The Hawaii website links to a copy of the US Constitution and another local League gives bookmarks containing the Bill of Rights to everyone they register to vote.

There were sessions discussing the "unfairness" of the primary and general election system with regard to the presidential candidates. Rotating regional primaries was discussed to prevent a few states from determining the presidential nominees and there was discussion of the general election and the campaigns primarily focusing on the "states that matter," while disregarding the others. (On a personal note, it is much more interesting to live in a state that is "Up for Grabs" than it was in California, where no campaigning occurred). I picked up a very interesting book displaying a history of states becoming more and more "red" or "blue" and reinforcing the message that fewer states "matter." I believe this sort of information had a great impact on the delegation voting to study the National Popular Vote Compact.

The guest speakers were extremely interesting. Two prior governors of Oregon spoke and there were two excellent speakers on Global Warming. At the banquet on Sunday evening the guest speaker was Judge Rebecca Love Kourlis, retired from the Colorado Supreme Court. She has left the court and started the Institute for the Advancement of the American Legal System at the University of Denver. Her objective there is to work for judicial independence and fair performance measures. It was so nice to know that Colorado has made great progress in this area, partly due to the efforts of LWVCO. Besides, all of us there from Colorado sat together at dinner and when the Judge was introduced, we made a spectacle of ourselves; the President commented, "We have a very enthusiastic Colorado delegation."

There were fun times, getting to meet the women from Colorado and spend time with them; rooming with Jodi Foran the president of the Montezuma League; and working with Jill Patton and Jodi at the Colorado "Wares" table where items to raise funds for local Leagues were for sale. I brought home books for the local high schools, *Electing the President*, some decals, notepads to have available for the candidates at our forums, membership flyers, and LWVUS *Impact on Issues* books. I also picked up an umbrella with the League logo on it, which we are using at the Farmers' Market.

Again, thanks so much for the privilege of representing you.

-Marilyn Sandstrom



Jodi Foran, Montezuma County LWV, Jill Patton and Marilyn Sandstrom, l. to r., at LWVUS Convention. Montezuma County LWV was among 16 new LWVs from across the country recognized at convention.

Patton Represents Archuleta County at LWVUS Convention

I agree with Marilyn Sandstrom – the convention was thoroughly enjoyable, educational and exhausting. This was my second national convention (I actually represented the Archuleta County LWV both times as they didn't send anyone). Attending *really* helps you understand how League works and energizes and stimulates you for the coming year – at the very least! And for the first time we have a male national board member, Norman Turrill, from Hershey PA. The local Portland newspaper wrote an article on him citing the fact that the LWV had finally ‘broken the glass ceiling’!

I would love to pass on the summation from President Mary Wilson's address, which you can read in its entirety at www.lwv.org:

“Over the last two years we HAVE reached new heights together and we CAN reach an even higher point. The ingredients:

*One cup of membership recruitment,
One cup of financial support,
One cup of leadership development,
One cup of visibility*

Mix those things together with a bushel of grassroots and you have: THE place where hands-on work to safeguard democracy leads to civic improvement.”

The other exciting thing for me (especially after the frustration we suffered at the 2006 Convention) was that

the proposed Health Care education program was passed. Of the almost 300 LWVs who submitted program planning recommendations, 83 recommended a health care program to ‘educate members and communities in order to be better prepared to do health care advocacy as needed’. Eleven other LWVs (including ours) recommended a review/update of the existing health care position, but this will not happen.

So we are now able to advocate at the national level based on our existing health care position! The national board feels that the time is now ripe for us to have an impact on legislation that may be presented in the new Congress. It will be exciting to see where we can go with this.

-Jill Patton

Colorado LWV Council meeting of May 16, 17, 2008

I had the pleasure of attending Council as a delegate replacing Sally Bellerue, who could not make it due to personal circumstances. The meeting, held in the Strater Hotel, started on Friday with the Call to Order followed by a very interesting welcome speech by Michelle Olquin, member of the Southern Ute Tribal Council. Michelle talked, among others, about the differences between the three Ute tribes and the advantages of cooperation between the tribes and the LWV since many of the goals coincide.

Marjory Beal, president, went over the administrative activities during the year, followed by a membership recruitment training session by two of the Board officers.

Chris Watson, LWVCO Lobbyist, the next speaker, gave an informative recap of the State Legislature accomplishments during the past session.

The Friday meeting was followed by a tour of Downtown Durango.

The speaker at Friday night's dinner was Troy Eid, US district attorney for Colorado. In his interesting speech concerning his duties as district attorney including prosecuting crimes committed on reservations managed by the Bureau of Indian Affairs, two major points stand out. One, the largest number of criminals that he

(cont. on p. 9)



Todd Risberg answers an audience question, while David Duncan, left, and Russell Wasley, right, consult notes.

Primary District Attorney Candidates Forum

On Wednesday, July 23, the League held a Primary Candidate Forum in the Durango Council Chambers. The sole contest on the primary ballot on August 12 in La Plata County will be for the Democratic nominee for District Attorney for the 6th Judicial District. There are two contenders for this nomination, David Duncan and Todd Risberg. They, as well as the Republican nominee, Russell Wasley, participated in the forum. The level of interest was quite high; there were 62 attendees. It was also very informative, the audience asked questions about a myriad of topics including:

What are your opinions on the current alternative courts?
 Do you believe the level of staffing is what is needed?
 How would you collaborate with Juvenile Justice?
 What plans do you have to address methamphetamine usage in the District?
 How do you feel about the use of mediation?
 How would you improve communication with law enforcement?
 What is your opinion of notifying ICE when arresting someone in the country illegally?
 Do you have an opinion on incarceration rates?
 Is there too much emphasis on plea bargaining?
 Do you support the Judicial Performance Commission versus term limits for judges?
 What is your opinion of the death penalty?
 And what is the biggest legal challenge you have faced?

We had wonderful press coverage. The Durango Herald, Pine River Times, and KSUT were there and the forum was broadcast on CitySpan 10, and will be rebroadcast several times.

Thanks to everyone who helped: Sally Bellerue for moderating; Stephanie Huss for timing; Carolyn Moller and Lois Carpenter for collecting questions; Judith Aitken, Ellen Park, and Ross Park for screening questions, Ross for publicity; and Jill Patton for working “behind the scenes.”

Plans are underway to hold forums prior to the General Election on November 4. Please let me know if you are willing to help with these forums. They help to achieve the League mission: “**Encourage informed and active participation in government.**”

-Marilyn Sandstrom

Leadership Retreat – Frisco

[Ed. Note: Lineah Davey, LWVCO organizer of the retreat, has been asked to write up LT for the national Voter.]

The LWVCO is one of two locations in the country that offer annual Leadership Retreats. It has been so successful that National is going to use it as a model to implement throughout the country. I’m fortunate to live in Colorado and thankful to LWVLP for allowing me to attend the Retreat on June 20-21 in Frisco. I returned more informed about League procedures, policies and positions and energized to put that knowledge into action.

Meeting and sharing ideas with League members throughout Colorado was an important aspect of the Retreat. Members from 12 Leagues shared their calendars of the past year’s program meetings. Our local League’s programs were impressive, even compared with larger Leagues on the Front Range.

The buzz over dinner and Marjory Beal’s State of the League Address focused on what happened at the national convention. It’s an exciting year politically and an important time for education and advocacy from the League.

-Deanna Collins

La Plata County Oil and Gas Code Revisions

We are encouraging members to attend the county planning commission public hearing **Thursday, August 7 at 6 p.m.** in the Anasazi Room, County Courthouse, to hear the discussion on the revisions to the County Oil and Gas Code, which is Chapter 90 of the County Land Use Code. The revisions have been in the works since August 2006. You can download the code (24 pp.) by googling 'La Plata County Oil and Gas Code' or go to the county's website: www.co.laplata.co.us/.

Additional documents posted on the website include the Summary "White Paper" regarding the overall content of these regulations and the response paper answering many questions advanced to the County Oil and Gas Team regarding earlier versions of this document. [I couldn't locate this response paper at press time.]

Comments are still in order if you wish to make some. The Board of Commissioners will take up the revisions on August 26.

-Marilyn Brown

We Need You!

Dr. Kristen Averyt, Herald editor Bill Roberts' niece, is still scheduled to visit La Plata County October 23, and speak on climate change at 7 p.m. as part of FLC's Life Long Learning Series. The Montezuma County LWV has also obtained a LWVUS Education Fund/Oxfam America grant to piggyback on our visit so Dr. Averyt will visit Montezuma County and speak on October 22. Her visit will be sponsored by The Durango Herald, the Cortez Journal and Sustainability Alliance of Southwest Colorado so far.

Dr. Averyt, staff scientist for Working Group I of the Intergovernmental Climate Change Panel, is now employed as a research scientist in Western Water Assessment at Cooperative Institute for Research in Environmental Sciences (CIRES), University of Colorado, NOAA in Boulder. Her current professional situation broadens her interest in and appeal to us! **We invite you to join us on the planning/hosting committee!** Contact Marilyn Brown (259-3593 or marilbrown@aol.com).

[Ed. Note: The subject of climate change is 'heating up' in La Plata County! The next several articles are summaries of recent meetings on the subject attended by LWV members.]

Climate Change Adaptation

Deanna and Bill Collins and I attended a Climate Change Adaptation Workshop in Silverton in June. The workshop was sponsored by the Mountain Studies Institute, San Juan Public Lands and Consortium for Integrated Climate Research in Western Mountains (CIRMOUNT). Most participants were experts from the National Parks and Forest Service plus EPA staff who are grappling with climate change and what it means to their agencies.

What happens when the snow melts earlier and the season is shorter? Flowers may come earlier. Robins may arrive earlier. Planners of our national forests and public lands are finding a collision between planning and climate change. Where they once could talk about 20 years out, now they aren't sure what the land, sea and air will be like. La Nina and El Nino effects seem to be breaking down. And, the greatest warming is at the highest elevations.

How should we respond to the trend? What are the concerns? Will there be less water to melt and run off to fill reservoirs? What do we do about invasive species? Are they the new species because they have adapted to warming? With less run off should we have higher elevation reservoirs? What are the pros and cons, the unintended consequences of that scenario? How does this affect water rights?

We need to come to terms with uncertainty. There's a need to incorporate climate change considerations into routine operations. With both scientific and technical uncertainty, we have social uncertainty. What should the human response be? Planners are discussing adaptive management and scenario planning. What we expect in 20 years could be very different than what actually comes along. We need to look at many scenarios.

-Sally Bellerue

Mountain Studies Institute's Air Quality Forum

Over 150 million Americans live in areas that exceed the federal health standards of the Clean Air Act. Southwestern Colorado residents may soon join the ranks, according to Mary Uhl, New Mexico Environmental Division. She presented at the *Air Quality Forum for the Four Corners & San Juan Mountains* hosted by the Mountain Studies Institute (MSI) on May 29, 2008. The one-day forum had speakers from Western Regional Air Partnership (WRAP), Southern Ute Indian Tribe, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), U.S. Forest Service, National Park Service, MSI and NM Environmental Protection Agency.

There are growing concerns in the Four Corners region about air pollutants, particularly ozone and mercury. The EPA's Air Quality Index shows that for 360 days in 2007 the main air pollutant in La Plata County was ozone. Ozone can be classified as both "good" and "bad." "Good" ozone is formed naturally in the stratosphere and protects us from the sun's ultraviolet rays. "Bad" ozone is found when nitrogen oxides (NOx), a by-product of combustion created by automobiles and power plants, and volatile organic compounds react with sunlight. It can cause respiratory problems and over the long-term a premature aging of the lungs and decreased lung function. As reported in the Durango Herald's coverage of the forum, "Mesa Verde National Park and Navajo Reservoir are flirting with the cap" of 75 ppb (parts per billion) ozone limit set by the EPA. The monitor at Navajo Lake has had two peaks of ozone of 79 ppb and there is concern that they will be in violation this summer. The fallout could also bring southwestern Colorado including La Plata County into non-attainment.

Patrick Cummins, WRAP, said that 75% of the electricity generated in the Western states comes from coal. Coal-burning power plants were built primarily in the 1970s and 80s when there were no concerns for the impact of carbon dioxide (CO2) emissions on global warming and the effects of

ozone-creating NOx. Today utility companies are looking at cleaning up old coal-burning power plants to meet clean air standards. But if tighter CO2 standards are mandated, it will be hard for them to justify the cost of adding scrubbers to their stacks, which would reduce NOx and sulfur dioxide (SO2) emissions but not CO2. Without cleaning up the coal-burning power plants, the same amount of NOx will fill our air until new power generating technologies replace them.

The other major concern in the Four Corners air quality is mercury. Coal-burning power plants are the largest human-caused source of mercury emission in the United States. San Juan County, New Mexico was the 5th largest emitter of mercury among all counties in the nation in 2004. Today power plants are not required by the EPA to monitor mercury emissions which can damage developing nervous systems in unborn babies and young children. There also is increasing evidence of cardiovascular effect in middle-age men with high levels of mercury.

According to MSI and the Pine River Watershed Group, there are few mercury monitors in the Four Corners. Mesa Verde National Park, which does monitor mercury, shows very high concentrations in precipitation. Certain species of fish from lakes and reservoirs in the region also have mercury concentrations that exceed human health criteria. Uhl said that 49 states currently have advisories to limit quantities of fish eaten from specific sources including Colorado.

Early in June, the U.S. Senate failed to act on the Climate Security Act of 2008 that would have introduced a cap-and-trade system for greenhouse gases as part of provisions to cut emissions linked to global warming nearly 70% by 2050. While we debate the realities of climate change and the consequences of our energy production and increased usage, utility companies continue to look at different technologies including wind and solar energy, nuclear energy, oil shale extraction and tar pits.

-Deanna Collins

Climate Change Reports

Two climate change reports are available in hard copy: [Climate Change 2007, Synthesis Report](#), from the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, and from the administration: [The First State of the Carbon Cycle Report \(SOCCR\)](#), [The North American Carbon Budget and Implications for the Global Carbon Cycle](#), by the U.S. Climate Change Science Program, November 2007.

Three climate change background papers are available on the LWVUS website and downloadable in .pdf format:

[Cities Take Action to Curb Global Warming](#),
[Economic Effects of Not Taking Action on Climate Change](#) and
[State Actions Address Climate Change](#)

More papers are likely to appear on the LWVUS website, check it frequently. Contact Marilyn Brown for hard copies or electronic copies of the above.

Climate Change, Greenhouse Gases and Life in La Plata County

A forum on climate change, its effects in La Plata County, and local efforts to respond to the challenge was held Tuesday evening, July 15, at the Durango Rec Center, sponsored by San Juan Citizens Alliance and Sustainability Alliance of SW CO. Mark Pearson, SJCA director, moderated; three speakers presented information from regional, state, and local perspectives.

Pam Cummins, Director of Air Quality and Climate Programs for the Western Governors' Association, reported on efforts by a majority of states in this country plus several Canadian provinces and several northern Mexico states, to get a climate registry, reporting on greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions, up and running by 2011. To date 252 national agencies/businesses have signed on to report their emissions. The next step beyond that may be a carbon cap and trade program. Interest in this is very high among state governors, regardless of party affiliations, especially in the absence of any federal action.

Jeremy Nichols, Director of the Rocky Mountain Clean Air Coalition, discussed GHG emissions in Rocky Mountain States, particularly Colorado. Besides the well-known carbon dioxide emissions from fossil fuels, he highlighted the problem of methane emissions; methane is a much more potent GHG than CO₂. Much of it is emitted in the extraction of oil and gas and methods are now being implemented by some of the more progressive companies to sharply reduce these emissions and possibly turn a small profit in doing so.

Dick White, Sustainability Alliance of Southwest Colorado, spoke on local impacts such as longer fire seasons. He also discussed elements of the La Plata County GHG emissions inventory and several strategies such as The Zero Waste Initiative, whose objective is to avoid making anything we can't disassemble and reuse.

One of the points brought up in the question and answer period was that the IPCC target for CO₂ of 450 ppm is too high, and that a target of 350, which is less than the current level, is the maximum that can be allowed in the long term. Consequently, CO₂ emission reduction goals may have to be much more severe than anyone has previously contemplated.

-Marilyn McCord and Don Anderson

Ballot Issue Advocacy

Especially interested in affirmative action, Amendment 46 and potentially Amendment 82, or in the personhood initiative, Amendment 48? Could you represent our LWV on various coalitions that are forming locally? Check with Marilyn Brown.

Colorado LWV Council... (cont. from p. 5)

prosecutes are illegal immigrants who previously were convicted of a crime, deported, re-enter the US and commit another crime. The second item is that the biggest increase in crime in Colorado is in child pornography, especially under the age of six.


I found the Saturday agenda especially interesting: First of all, Gerry Cummins discussed the various possible ballot issues for 2008 and the status thereof. One of the most important items is the ballot issue that changes the number of signatures needed for a citizen initiative to get on the ballot tied to votes cast for governor: 4% for statutory initiatives, 6% for constitutional initiatives (with 8 % to come from each of the congressional districts). A 2/3 vote is needed to change voter-approved initiated statutes for six years.

Another important item is the Affirmative Action Initiative, which would BAN the use of hiring preferences in Colorado. This item is on the ballot but the signatures are under legal challenge. Carolyn Jefferson-Jenkins of Colorado Unity (and former national president of LWV) gave a very interesting presentation on this subject. This initiative would eliminate equal opportunity programs for women and minorities. The ballot initiative language is deceptive such that the voters may be misled in thinking that they are voting against discrimination while they are actually voting for the elimination of equal opportunity programs. Carolyn stressed the importance of education of the public in this regard.

Marjory discussed the Merit Selection of Judges in Colorado (as adopted in 1966 by the Colorado voters) vs. Election of Judges as taken place in most of the other States. She also explained the procedures how a judge is being selected, evaluated and how long they serve.

This ended a very interesting and informative Colorado LWV Council meeting.

-Grace Deltscheff

<h1>Calendar</h1>			LWV La Plata County www.lwvlaplata.org 296 Highland Hill Drive Durango, CO 81301														
August		<div style="text-align: center;">Team Members</div> <table style="width: 100%; border: none;"> <tr> <td style="width: 50%; vertical-align: top;"> Spokesperson/Newsletter Marilyn Brown, 259-3593 marilbrown@aol.com </td> <td style="width: 50%; vertical-align: top;"> Team Coordinator Sally Bellerue, 385-0848 bellerue@frontier.net </td> </tr> <tr> <td style="vertical-align: top;"> Director-at-large Grace Deltscheff, 259-3040 holgnd@frontier.net </td> <td style="vertical-align: top;"> Treasurer Nadine Ancel, 259-3675 ancelnm@yahoo.com </td> </tr> <tr> <td style="vertical-align: top;"> Secretary Suzanne Becker, 375-1533 srahmberg@aol.com </td> <td style="vertical-align: top;"> Voter Service Marilyn Sandstrom, 764-4596 mjschilli@bresnan.net </td> </tr> <tr> <td style="vertical-align: top;"> Director-at-large Jill Patton, 385-4061 jgpatton@frontier.net </td> <td style="vertical-align: top;"> Director-at-large Ellen Park, 247-8116 gellenpark@aol.com </td> </tr> <tr> <td style="vertical-align: top;"> Natural Resources Co-chair Deanna Collins, 259-7845 dcdurango@msn.com </td> <td style="vertical-align: top;"> Speakers Bureau/NR Co-chair Stephanie Huss, 259-7263 Stephanie@frontier.net </td> </tr> <tr> <td style="vertical-align: top;"> Publicity Ross Park, 247-8116 lwvlpc@aol.com </td> <td style="vertical-align: top;"> Membership Sue Herbst, 382-9446 sue_herbst@frontier.net </td> </tr> <tr> <td colspan="2" style="text-align: center;"> Great Decisions Pat Chatfield, 247-1692 patchwork@gobrainstorm.net </td> </tr> </table>		Spokesperson/Newsletter Marilyn Brown, 259-3593 marilbrown@aol.com	Team Coordinator Sally Bellerue, 385-0848 bellerue@frontier.net	Director-at-large Grace Deltscheff, 259-3040 holgnd@frontier.net	Treasurer Nadine Ancel, 259-3675 ancelnm@yahoo.com	Secretary Suzanne Becker, 375-1533 srahmberg@aol.com	Voter Service Marilyn Sandstrom, 764-4596 mjschilli@bresnan.net	Director-at-large Jill Patton, 385-4061 jgpatton@frontier.net	Director-at-large Ellen Park, 247-8116 gellenpark@aol.com	Natural Resources Co-chair Deanna Collins, 259-7845 dcdurango@msn.com	Speakers Bureau/NR Co-chair Stephanie Huss, 259-7263 Stephanie@frontier.net	Publicity Ross Park, 247-8116 lwvlpc@aol.com	Membership Sue Herbst, 382-9446 sue_herbst@frontier.net	Great Decisions Pat Chatfield, 247-1692 patchwork@gobrainstorm.net	
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Wed 6	SMCW-08 Cmte, Common Sense Café C.R., 12-2																
Thurs 7	County Planning Comm. hearing on Oil/Gas Code Revisions, Anasazi Rm. Courthouse, 7																
Tue 12	PRIMARY ELECTION																
Wed 13	Voter Service Cmte, Christ the King Church, 10-11:30 for those registering voters																
Wed 20	Four Corners Air Quality TF, San Juan College, Farmington, 1-5 p.m.																
Tue 26	Women's Equality Day!																
September																	
Tue 9	Voter Service Cmte, C.S. Café, 11:30-1:30 for those planning candidate/ballot issue forums																
Wed 10	Team Mtg., Marilyn Brown's, 9-12																
Sat 13	LPEA Election of Directors																
Tue 16	General meeting: 'Three Cups of Tea' discussion and social hour, Time a.m./venue: TBA																
Thurs 18	Greg Mortenson, Whalen Gym, Fort Lewis College, 7 p.m. (Free tickets required)																
October																	
Wed 1	County Commissioner Candidate Forums*:																
Mon 6	Bayfield Library																
Tue 7	Durango City Council Chambers																
Tue 7	Ignacio Library																
Thurs 2	Voter Service Cmte, Speakers Bureau, C.S. Café, 12-2 p.m.																
Wed 8	Voter Service Cmte, Speakers Bureau, C.S. Café, 12-2 p.m.																
Tue 14	Ballot Issues Forums*:																
Wed 15	Bayfield Library																
Thurs 16	Ignacio Library																
Thurs 16	Durango City Council Chambers																
	*all forums 5:30-7:30 p.m.																
Thurs 23	Climate Change Revisited, Dr. Kristen Averyt, 130 Noble Hall, FLC, 7 p.m.																
<p>League Mission Statement: The League of Women Voters, a nonpartisan political organization, encourages informed and active participation in government and influences public policy through education and advocacy.</p> <p>Join the League! Anyone of voting age may join the League of Women Voters. Others may be associate members. Discounted household memberships are available. Call Sue Herbst at 382-9446 for more information.</p>																	