



# Colorado Voter

February 2012, Volume 25, Number 3

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS®  
OF COLORADO

## Lineah Davey Selected as a Ruth S. Shur Fellow

by Cath Perrone, LWVCO President

Congratulations go out to Lineah Davey, LWVCO Board Director and Pikes Peak Leaguer, for being selected to join the team of dedicated and elite national volunteers, the Ruth S. Shur Fellows. As a Fellow, she will work in partnership to strengthen all levels of League by building upon the successful LWVUS Membership and Leadership Development program. We are familiar with Lineah's statewide work as our Member Services Director conducting the Leadership Retreat that develops our present and future leaders. The Retreat is scheduled for June 22 and 23 and will be Lineah's last LWVCO Board responsibility before moving on to her new national fellow position.



## LWVCO Council

**Friday, May 11 - Saturday noon, May 12**

Registration begins at 12:15 on Friday

Council convenes at 1:00, Friday, May 11

Pueblo Convention Center

320 Central Main Street, Pueblo, Colorado

Council Registration Fee: \$30.00 per delegate

Registration Deadline: April 20

Council shall be composed of the president (or alternate) and one delegate chosen by each local League, the leader or designated alternate of each State League Unit (SLU), and the LWVCO Board. League members may attend as observers as space permits. Detailed information regarding meal costs, meeting agenda, and workshops will be sent to Leagues in March.

Hotel reservations may be made at the Marriott Pueblo, 110 West 1st Street, Pueblo, Colorado. Phone: 866-706-7815. Cost is \$89 plus 11.7% tax. Rooms with two queen beds or single, may be reserved at the same rate for Thursday, Friday and Saturday nights. Hotel reservation deadline: April 20. The hotel is connected to the convention center.

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## From the President

Dear League Members,

I am exhausted just reviewing all the work that is being done by Leaguers right now. But this is not the time to rest, quite the opposite. The Colorado Legislature is underway, election season has begun and calls to council and convention have been received. And to top it off the Fracking study team is knee-deep in research, the Privatization study is underway, and the Role of Federal Government in Education study just finished. We are busy educating, advocating and reforming!

The Legislative Conference on January 23rd was well received. The presentations were 'meaty' as Chris Watson put it. New this year, three of the presentations were recorded and have been made available via DVD to local Leagues — *Rethinking Colorado's Government*; *Redistricting: What About Next Time*, and *The Legislative Preview*. See the recap article in this issue for the full conference rundown. Thank you to **Sally Augden**, Legislative Chair and **Christine Watson**, LWVCO Lobbyist for organizing an interesting event. A special thank you to the **Legislative Action Committee volunteers**, newsletter subscribers and financial supporters who make all our lobby efforts happen.

Speaking of video recording, Leagues across the country are being confronted with non-Leaguers wanting to record LWV forums, which could affect our ability to retain our nonpartisan reputation. In response, the LWVCO Board approved the [Video and Audio Recording Policy for Issue Forums](#). **Gerry Cummins**, 4th VP Voter Service Director, worked with an experienced team of Voter Service leaders to create this new policy. We thank Gerry and these leaders for sharing their wisdom and expertise. Local Leagues now have strong guidelines and recommendations.

The **LWVCO Council** is being hosted by the Pueblo League on May 11 and 12 and provides some exciting workshops along with the business sessions. At the request of many local Leagues, a seminar on Director and Officer's Insurance is being offered. Watch for the Final Call to LWVCO Council coming out in early March. In addition to Council, we also have the LWVUS Convention in Washington DC on June 9-12. My hope is that all local Colorado Leagues will be represented at these essential events.

With two national consensus programs and one statewide study underway, **Barbara Mattison**, 1st VP Program Director has been very busy. Under Barb's organization and the Director-at-Large, Jodi Foran's technology support, the local League Program Chair conference calls have been a grand success, allowing the Leagues to share materials and collaborate on strategies making easier for all of us to participate in these important studies. If you want to join in on the fun, please give Barbara a call today.

Yes, there is much to do. But there are many friends and the state Board Directors to link up with, and that makes it doable and fun!

In League,  
Cath Perrone

## Legislative Conference Report

by Sally Augden, Legislative Action Director

The LWVCO 2012 Legislative Conference on January 23 provided the 136 attendees with a broad perspective on three important issues facing Colorado — redistricting, finances, and education.

**Senate President Brandon Shafer** and **House Majority Caucus Leader, Representative Carole Murray**, welcomed the conferees to the Capitol, each giving their view of the 2012 legislative session.

Two members of the Colorado Reapportionment Commission related their experiences on the 2011 commission charged with determining Colorado's congressional boundaries. The two were **Dr. Robert Loevy** (R), professor emeritus at Colorado College, and **Dolores Atencio** (D), Denver attorney.

**Dr. James Griesemer**, director of the University of Denver Strategic Issues Program, presented the recommendations of DU's "Rethinking Colorado Government" panel. The recommendations can be accessed at the website: <http://www.du.edu/issues/>.

The Lobato lawsuit regarding inadequate and unequal funding for K-12 education is now on appeal to the state supreme court. The suit and its potential consequences for the state were explained by the lead lawyer for the plaintiffs, **Kathleen Gebhardt** of Children's Voices, and **David Blake**, Deputy Attorney General, speaking for the state. Lunch at Central Presbyterian Church was accompanied by an overview of potential legislation relevant to League interests from **Christine Watson**, LWVCO lobbyist.

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### Announcements

#### LWVCO 2012 Advocacy Agenda

- Voting Rights and Enfranchisement
- Fiscal Stability and Impact on Education and Higher Education
- Water Quality/Fracking
- Juvenile Justice
- Child Welfare
- Health Care including Reproductive Health Care.

#### Periodical: Electing a President

Is your local League participating with your newspaper to publish the 16 page insert ***Electing a President?*** The periodical is a great high school curriculum supplement. It can be distributed to members, at various meetings, and other venues, adding value and visibility to League. Here is a link to the PDF file from the LWVUS site. [http://www.lwv.org/files/2012ElectingThePresident\\_0.pdf](http://www.lwv.org/files/2012ElectingThePresident_0.pdf)

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#### Membership Leadership Development

by Lineah Davey, 3rd VP Member Services

I have been chosen to be a national membership coach by LWVUS and have agreed to serve for two years minimum. The first training will be February 23-26 in Baltimore.

Margie Beal has agreed to serve as state coordinator for the Membership Leadership Development state coaches. Currently there are seven coaches for 13 local Leagues.

- |                      |                               |
|----------------------|-------------------------------|
| • Margie Beal        | Arapahoe County, Greeley/Weld |
| • Bobbie Heisterkamp | Estes Park, Montezuma County  |
| • Lynn Young         | Denver, Jefferson County      |
| • Marilyn Brown      | Chaffee County, Mesa County   |
| • Marjie Gray        | Boulder County, Pikes Peak    |
| • Jan Scar           | Larimer County, Montrose      |
| • Patty Schoedler    | Pueblo                        |

Local Leagues who have increased their membership are Adams County, Arapahoe County, Larimer County, Montezuma County, and Pueblo.

#### Leadership Retreat in Frisco!

by Lineah Davey, Member Services

All local League members are invited to participate in LWVCO's annual Leadership Retreat June 22-23 at the Best Western Lake Dillion Lodge in Frisco.

The Retreat is designed to train board members in League policies and procedures. This is your chance to network with Leaguers across the state and to gain new ideas for your League.

Costs remain low to enable as many people as possible to attend: \$40.00 for the first person from a League, and \$75.00 for additional members. This fee covers your double occupancy hotel room, dinner and breakfast, and all materials, as well as expertise from state board members.

## LWVCO Program Updates

by Barbara Mattison, 1st Vice-President, Program

### Program Planning

The LWVUS Program Planning process with local Leagues is underway. LWVUS is requesting information directly from local Leagues about topics for future LWVUS studies. The deadline for responses to LWVUS is March 1, 2012.

### LWVUS Privatization Study

At least ten Colorado Leagues are participating in the Privatization study. The purpose of the study is to identify parameters and policy issues to be considered with proposals to transfer federal, state or local government services, assets and/or functions to the private sector. Local Leagues are reviewing state laws and the community impact of such transfers, and identifying strategies to ensure transparency, accountability and preservation of the common good. Local Leagues are holding Privatization study meetings January through April, 2012 and will submit consensus forms to LWVUS by May 1, 2012. The Privatization study continues to be the primary focus of Program Contacts teleconferences, now held the first Wednesdays monthly at 7 p.m. For information on these calls, contact Barbara Mattison, LWVCO Program VP, 303.322.4878, rambjm@comcast.net.

### LWVCO Fracking Study

LWVCO's Fracking Study Committee continues to gather information about various aspects of natural gas

and methane hydrofracturing in Colorado. The group, co-chaired by Jeannette Hillery (LWV Boulder County) and Sally Bellerue (LWV LaPlata), is on track to have Every Member Materials for Colorado's Fracking Study ready for local Leagues at League Day, September 2012. Watch for more information.

### Program Contacts Group

The LWVCO Program Contacts group consists of local League Program Contacts and others who are chairing the Privatization study, as well as a few local League presidents who have asked to be present. The purpose of these meetings is (1) To share and get information from other Leagues, (2) To discuss the Privatization study and share approaches and formats, and (3) To coordinate what local Leagues are doing programmatically.

Toni Larson, LWV Denver, is acting as an advisor re: Privatization. Local Leagues are developing Privatization materials. These are shared electronically among all Colorado Leagues; they are also posted on the LWVCO website: <http://www.lwvcolorado.org/studies.html>.

For more information on the Program Contacts teleconferences, contact Barbara Mattison, LWVCO Program VP, phone: 303.322-4878, e-mail: rambjm@comcast.net.

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## LWV of Larimer County Celebrates 60th Anniversary

League members celebrated their 60th anniversary on February 11th with a celebration at the Lake Sherwood Clubhouse in Fort Collins. Musical entertainment was by the Fort Collins Senior Center SOAP Troupe (Slightly Older Actors and Performers). Margaret Zierdt generously contributed a book by Bob Cooney, *Winning the Vote: The Triumph of the American Woman Suffrage Movement*.

On Monday, February 6, the League was featured on the front page of the local newspaper, *The Coloradoan*, with a large photo of Dixie Schmatz giving a speech at the 2010 Old Fashioned Rally. Linda Mahan, interviewed for the article, gave an interesting and factual overview of the League. Photos by Sonia Koetting.



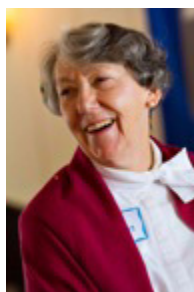
Margaret Zierdt



Lynn Young



Honorary Member Jean Weitz



Linda Mahan



Anne Marvel and LaVerna Barnhart



Jodie Rankin and Suzanne King, giving muffins to guests.

## Voter Service Notes

by Gerry Cummins, 4th VP, Voter Service

### Phrases to Use to Describe the League

I participated in a webinar for State Voter Service chairs. LWVUS has done some work with a focus group and one of the things they learned was what resonates positively with the public. This includes the following:

- League is non-partisan and does not support or oppose candidates.
- League is community-based (Use this phrase as the public is not familiar with the term 'grassroots').
- League has a 90-year history.

### Voter Registration

Suggestions to register voters: high schools, colleges, community colleges, Salvation Army, Senior Centers, naturalization ceremonies, Food Banks (on distribution days), low income communities, minority communities, etc. One suggestion made during the webinar was to follow up on a select few new registered voters. Just a 'keep in touch' sort of thing to guide them to election day. That would be something great for a League member who just wants to do the 'one-shot' activity.

LWVUS has established goals for Leagues for the Election season. They are outlined in the next column and can be adapted to your situation. Good luck!

### LWVUS Goals for this Election Season

- Host at least 5 registration events.
- Host at least 1 candidate forum/debate.
- Pursue a statewide or local online voters' guide.
- Meet with state and/or local elections officials.
- Identify five key media contacts and communicate at least once monthly with each of them (i.e. become a resource).
- Conduct get-out-the-vote efforts with registrants, volunteers and online networks.
- Consider a poll watching/poll worker recruitment program.

### *Power the Vote*

LWVUS president Elisabeth MacNamara, in her letter of February 9, wrote that the LWVUS Board adopted *Power the Vote* as "our call to action in all that we do this year, from the theme of Convention 2012 to the work that the League family does at the local, state and national level. Identifying our work as *Power the Vote* will identify us as a single unit, energized and working for voters nationwide. As you go about voter registration, voter protection advocacy, voter education through debates and voter guides, and other election year activities, this theme will unify our efforts and create greater visibility." President MacNamara urges all Leagues to use the theme in every election-related activity. (Leaders Update, February 9)

## Irene Little, LWV of Estes Park, Receives County Environmental Steward Award

by Diane Burkepile

Early in December, members of the LWV of Estes Park had a nice lunch together in Fort Collins before going to the Larimer County Courthouse for the Larimer County Environmental Stewardship Awards. The awards went to several people for various environmental issues. League member Irene Little received the award for her efforts in the recycling program in Estes Park.

When Irene received the award, she asked that part of the League's recycling committee come forward, and she mentioned that there were 40 names on our list of members. The people attending from Estes Park were Jim Cope, Don Holmes, Corinne Dyer, Jean Weaver, Jim and Diane Burkepile, Irene and Steve Little. Lynn Young, now of Fort Collins, also attended. Thanks to everyone who has helped in any way with the recycling projects through the years.

From the Editor: Irene was featured in an article by Estes Park Trail-Gazette newspaper on December 14. After describing the many projects of the recycling program, the article ended with the following statement: "The nomination received by the county says it best: "Environmental stewards come in many sizes and shapes. In Estes Park, it comes in a little, silver-haired bombshell, named Irene Little."

## LWVCO Project Fund Grants

by Jodi Foran, Director, Grant Committee Chairwoman

The LWVCO Project Fund provides financial support for local League projects. The grant approval process gives priority to local Leagues unable to fund such projects on their own due to available funds, size, location, or membership strength. The LWVCO Project Fund is possible due to the receipt of the Fikova bequest and is funded by the interest and dividends earned. The Project Fund Grant Committee reviews and recommends Project Fund requests to the LWVCO Board for final approval at least twice a year.

The following local Leagues have been awarded grant funding: Arapahoe County, Boulder County, Chaffee County, Estes Park, Greeley/Weld, Jefferson County, LaPlata, Montezuma and Montrose. The Committee is reviewing applications in February and will suggest at the March Board meeting the funding of grants. The next time period to accept applications is August 1-31, with project funding approval at the October Board meeting. To obtain a project funding application, contact the League's Executive Director, Julie Leonard.

## LWVUS Board Adopts League Logo Policy

The LWVUS Board adopted a League Logo Policy stating that all Leagues should use our family identity (our logo) and the guidelines for use of the standard logo and the new online logo. You can find the guidelines and access to the logo on the website. First login, then go to "Member," then "League Essentials," then "Policies, Bylaws and Guidelines," then "League Logo Graphic Files and Usage Policy." (Leaders Update, February 2, 2012)

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## News from League of Women Voters of the United States (LWVUS)

website: <http://www.lwv.org>

### Legislative Priorities for 2012

- Voter Protection
- Campaign Finance Reform
- Environmental Defense and Health Care defense

### Watch List for 2012

- Fair Taxation
- CEDAW (Convention for the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination Against Women)
- UN Support and Immigration

Items on the Watch List will be acted upon if the opportunity arises for League action, it does not interfere with action on an LWVUS Priority and it appears the LWVUS can make an impact.

The Board considered many issues and responses from members suggesting Legislative Priorities. The decisions were based on what issues are likely to come before the 112th Congress, the opportunities to make an impact, program decisions made by members at the last Convention, member interest and resources available to manage these priorities effectively. The Board reviews these priorities throughout the year, making changes if necessary.

### Photo ID Bill dies in Maine

Democrats and Republicans joined together in Maine in early February to defeat legislative language that would have required photo ID at the polls. In the second year of this unprecedented assault on voting rights, it is good news to see a win for democracy.

### Voter Registration at WWE Events

The League is once again teaming up with World Wrestling Entertainment (WWE) to encourage voter registration and participation among young and first-time voters. Leagues are invited to conduct voter registration at live wrestling events across the county. If an event is scheduled in your community and you would like to participate, contact Maggie Duncan at [Mduncan@lwv.org](mailto:Mduncan@lwv.org).

### ADVOCACY (Leaders Update, February 9, 2012)

Thanks to the passion and hard work of all of our members and supporters, we surpassed our goal of 25,000 signatures on the FEC petition to the White House. This feat was not easy — as many of you can attest. We want to personally thank every one of you who signed the petition and worked to get your friends, family and neighbors to do the same. As we said in a statement today, we are eagerly awaiting the response to our petition from President Obama and to hear about his plans for the government agency charged with enforcing the law and stopping illegal coordination by candidate Super PACs.

A **Campaign Finance Reform Task Force** of members with experience and expertise in campaign finance and constitutional law will prove invaluable as the League tackles long-term reform. Members with an interest in this issue as well as expertise and background in campaign finance and constitutional law who would like to apply to serve on this Task Force may do so. Applications are due by March 1, 2012.

## LWVCO Pamphlet: Your Voice, Your Vote! Voter Registration/Election Information

LWVCO recently published the 2012-2013 pamphlet, *Your Voice, Your Vote*. Each local League received copies of the pamphlets including the Leagues who attended the Legislative Conference in January. The pamphlets were mailed to County Clerks in which there is no League presence.

The pamphlet includes registration qualifications, how to register, acceptable identification forms at the polls and for first time voters, an election and registration deadline calendar for 2012, a section on mail-in ballot and early voting, and an explanation of the difference and purpose between a party caucus and the state primary election.

## League Stories

by Colorado Leaguers

Sue Pinkham (LWV of Estes Park, LWVCO Board)

“My grandmother had been a suffragette and my mother was on the state Board of Pennsylvania when she decided to promote “state membership” for people who didn’t live in an area with a local League. I became a member this way in 1964. I also was involved in starting a League in my community a few years later and have been involved ever since. League has impacted me so many ways; from developing a better understanding of local and state government, meeting and working with local officials and state legislators, to learning about different issues. In moving to different locations, League members became good friends quickly, as we have a basis for developing good communication.”

### ‘The UN and You’ Series — The United Nations: Myth and Reality

On April 28 the annual United Nations seminar will be held at the Sie Center at Denver University. It will run from 9:00 to 3:00 p.m. and feature the keynote speaker, Colorado former U.S. Senator Tim Wirth, who is the United Nations Foundation president. The agenda is not yet fixed, but the proposed topic is *Treaties the U.S. Has Not Signed*, which would include treaties on children, women and the oceans. For information, contact Alice Ramsey by phone: 303.841.7839 or by e-mail: [alice@ramsisle.com](mailto:alice@ramsisle.com).

To receive your **electronic copy of this newsletter**, the *Colorado Voter*, send your request by e-mail to Julie Leonard: [info@lwvcolorado.org](mailto:info@lwvcolorado.org). You will receive your copy two weeks prior to the regular mail copy.

Colorado’s ***Program for Study and Action 2011-13*** details the statewide positions developed after study and consensus. It is now available on the LWVCO website: [www.lwvcolorado.org](http://www.lwvcolorado.org). It is also available in print for \$5.00 from the LWVCO office.

The **LWVCO Legislative Letter** is an informative newsletter on state government issues. It is created by our Lobby Corps who follow proposed legislation and analyze the pending bills from the perspective of the League. You can subscribe to the 2012 *Legislative Letter* to receive it by e-mail or regular mail. The subscription rate is \$20.00. Fill out the subscription form below, enclose your check or credit card number and mail to LWVCO, 1410 Grant Street Suite B204, Denver CO 80203-1855.

### 2012 LWVCO Legislative Letter Subscription Form

I want the 2012 LWVCO Legislative Letter  
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City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code \_\_\_\_\_

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(please print)

Enclosed is my check, made payable to LWVCO,  
in the amount of \$20.00.

I wish to pay by credit card  Mastercard  Visa

Card number \_\_\_\_\_

Expiration date \_\_\_\_\_

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

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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.

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 1410 Grant Street Suite B204  
 Denver, Colorado 80203-1855

**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: [info@lwvcolorado.org](mailto:info@lwvcolorado.org)  
 Website: [www.lwvcolorado.org](http://www.lwvcolorado.org)

**CALENDAR**

2012

- Feb. 20 Office Closed
- Feb. 24 Legislative Action Committee
- March 5 Board Meeting**
- March 9 Legislative Action Committee
- March 23 Legislative Action Committee
- March 31 Project Grant reports due
  
- April 6 Legislative Action Committee
- April 6 Office Closed
- April 20 Legislative Action Committee
- May 4 Legislative Action Committee
- May 11 Board Meeting/Voter Deadline
- May 11-12 LWVCO Council, Pueblo**
- May 28 Office Closed
  
- June 8-12 LWVUS Convention
- June 22-23 Leadership Retreat, Frisco**
- June 30 Project Grant reports due