



Colorado Voter

May 2010, Volume 23, Number 4

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS®
OF COLORADO

Tribute to the League of Women Voters at the State Capitol



More than a dozen local and state League members were present at the State Capitol to meet legislators in honor of the League's 90th anniversary. Members were in the Colorado House Chamber (see photo to the left) to receive the proclamation sponsored by Representative Sara Gagliardi, and accompanied by Representatives Cherylin Peniston, Judy Solano and John Soper, all members of LWVCO. A few minutes later, League members were seated in the Senate chambers, where the Senators took up a formal resolution for the same purpose, SR 10-007, sponsored by Senator Evie Hudak.

From left to right, front row, Anne Norwood, Linda Mahan, Patty Cordova, Sandy Eid, Liz Nick, and Representative Sara Gagliardi. Back row, Gerry Cummins, Margaret Smith, Marlu Burkamp, Marge Innes, Kay Veldorale, and Buzzy Hassrick. Photo by Kevin Wilson, Aide to Representative Sara Gagliardi.

LWVCO Sustainability Principles Statement

Concurrence adopted at League Council, May 22, 2010

Sustainability is a way of life which seeks a balance in meeting current environmental, economic and human needs without compromising the ability of future generations to meet the same goal. The concept of Sustainability is implicit in the Principles of the League of Women Voters. League positions are in compliance with the fundamental principle of sustainability, recognizing the interdependency among issues of public policy, and the impact of current decisions on the global welfare of future generations.



Council Delegates who took the Ghost Tour at the Stanley Hotel, Friday, May 21st. From left to right, Norm Ball, Nancy Ball, Sandy Eid, Rudy Ramsey, Shirley Mrochek, Alice Ramsey, Kathleen Milligan, Christine Watson, Gerry Cummins, Rose Mary Highman, Jo Rock, Cheryl Brown-Kovacic, Lineah Davey, Beth Daugherty, Patty Schoedler, Bobbie Heisterkamp, Marge Innes, and Pat Mesec. Photo courtesy of Bobbie Heisterkamp.

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From the President

Council in Estes Park, May 21-22, marked the mid-way point of my presidency, and July 1st marks the beginning of a new fiscal year for LWVCO. What are some of the highlights of the past year?

For me, one of the highlights has working with your Board of Directors! All fourteen Directors have been working as a team, and it has been exciting to be the "captain" of this winning team. The four Directors who "retired" at Council are: Anne Norwood, Marilyn Brown, Jeannette Hillery, and Marge Fisch. Many thanks to them for sharing their time and talents with us! Newly elected Directors are: Cath Perrone, Shirley Jin, Allison Beggs, and Sue Pinkham. Adding these four new Directors to continuing Board members will provide us with another winning team!

In December, due to the retiring of the project director, the AWARE Project came to a close. AWARE was a water-related project which was funded through the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment Non-point Source Program with money from the EPA. However, under the umbrella of LWVEF, the Colorado NPS Connection E-newsletter continues to be distributed quarterly to a subscriber list of over 630 interested groups, agencies and individuals. Thanks to Jeannette Hillery, Dixie Schmatz, and Laurie DiBattista for making this transition go as smoothly as possible...it was not easy!

During the past year, we have received recognition from several entities. The Colorado Judicial Institute (CJI) recognized LWVCO for being an organization which contributed to the establishment of the Institute. Our continued support of judicial independence was noted with a proclamation at their annual dinner in November. The CJI proclamation is framed and is hanging in our office.

Also in our office is a bound tribute which we received on the floor of the Colorado House of Representatives in March after our 90th anniversary reception at the Capitol. That same morning, a resolution was presented in the Senate. After many "whereases" there was a lively discussion on the Senate floor about our non-partisanship.

While we are celebrating the 90th year of LWVUS, we are also celebrating 82 years of LWVCO's existence. We have a rich history (some would say "herstory") and we stand on the shoulders of our members and leaders of the past. Former President Flodie Anderson started our Future Fund and was part of the founding of CJI. Past President Sue Joshel was also part of the formation of CJI. Sue died last year and made sizable bequests to LWV of Denver, LWVCO and LWVUS. Recently LWVCO received a large bequest from Dr. Eva Fifkova, who was a member of the Boulder County League. Please read the article in this Voter about Dr. Fifkova on page 3. The Future Fund and the bequests give us a wonderful boost and increased security!

I'm honored to serve as your 35th President!!

Patty Cordova

LWVCO Receives Generous Gift

by Deborah Hayes



LWVCO is the grateful recipient of a gift of approximately \$608,000.00 from the estate of **Dr. Eva Fifkova** (1932-2010), professor of psychology and neuroscience at the University of Colorado at Boulder and a member of the LWV of Boulder County. Born in former Czechoslovakia, Eva Fifkova was educated in Prague where she received an M.D. in 1957 and a Ph.D. in physiology in 1963. She came to the U.S. in 1968 as a research fellow in biology at Caltech. She was granted Permanent Resident status and came to CU-Boulder in 1974.

She was internationally recognized for her research in the physiology of the brain and the microanatomy of the nervous system. A CU colleague, Daniel Barth, notes that her pioneering methods for computer reconstruction of the three-dimensional organization of brain cells and their processes are still cutting-edge. "Eva's reserved demeanor belied the excitement she took in her science," he says. Students asking a five-minute question learned to expect a one-hour response. "Once Eva looked down the tubes of a microscope, there was no interrupting her pleasure and enthusiasm."

Outside of her lab, Eva took particular interest in concerts, opera, cactus, and League meetings. She named LWVCO as beneficiary of her TIAA-CREF retirement accounts. To decide how best to manage this stunningly generous gift, a committee has been formed: Flodie Anderson, flodie@earthlink.net; Bobbie Heisterkamp, bdheistkmp@aol.com; Marge Fisch, ralphmarj@msn.com; Anne Norwood, asnorwood@comcast.net; Patty Cordova, pcordova58@msn.com; and Sandy Eid, info@lwvcolorado.org. They welcome your suggestions.

LWVCO Council Report

by Alice Ramsey

On an absolutely gorgeous weekend of May 21-22, more than 40 delegates, observers, and visitors gathered at the Lake Shore Lodge in Estes Park. Bill Pinkham, Mayor of Estes Park, warmly welcomed us and cited the work the League has done in Estes Park.

President Patty Cordova chaired the meeting. Business included a review of the financial statement by treasurer Beth Daugherty, presentation and adoption of the budget (committee chaired by Bobbie Heisterkamp), and the election of officers and directors (committee chaired by Marjory Beal). Reports were given by President Patty Cordova, and the four vice-presidents: Alice Ramsey, Program; Anne Norwood, Administration; Lineah Davey, Member Services; and Gerry Cummins, Voters Service. Delegates adopted the Sustainability concurrence with one word change from "environment" to "environmental." [See the complete statement on page 1.]



President Patty Cordova at Council. Photo by Bobbie Heisterkamp.

Gerry Cummins and Patty Schoedler spoke and distributed the ballot language and analysis of Amendments 60 and 61, and Proposition 101. The League opposes these proposals and will work to defeat them in the November election.

Christine Watson, League Lobbyist, gave a wrap-up (and 20 page report for each attendee) on the 2010 State Legislature in her inimitable manner. The Legislative session was difficult and sometimes rancorous right to the end.

Friday evening Denver Leaguer and part time Estes Park resident Bobbie Heisterkamp, provided us with a look at her collection of old postcards of lodges in Estes Park and surrounding areas.

Vaughn Baker, Superintendent of Rocky Mountain National Park (RMNP), gave a history of the 95-year old park, as well as issues that have engaged the energies of Park staff. Colorado Court of Appeals Judge Steven Bernard explained the differences between the state courts and federal courts and the kinds of cases handled by each one.

Thanks to the members of the LWV of Estes Park for a great Council experience!

Proposed Amendments and Proposition on the 2010 State Ballot

by Alice Ramsey

A brief summary of Proposition 101, Amendments 60 and 61, is from the Bell Policy Center analysis of the three proposals (www.thebell.org). The LWVCO opposes these three ballot proposals, based on League positions that support adequate and flexible funding of state government programs as well as support for the ability of local governments to raise sufficient revenues to perform their duties.

Proposition 101 Reducing Government Charges

The proposed Amendment is intended to drastically reduce a wide range of state and local taxes and fees in Colorado. The first sentence of the measure reads, "This voter-approved revenue change shall be strictly enforced to reduce government revenue." Based on preliminary estimates from the Bell Policy Center, when fully implemented the provisions would reduce state income tax revenues by \$1.2 billion per year (current value); state and local revenues from a range of sales taxes and vehicle fees by over \$1.1 billion per year (current value); and state revenues from telecommunications charges and fees by \$4.5 million (current value) per year.

Amendment 60 Property Taxes

The amendment would impact the ability of all counties, school districts, municipalities and special districts to provide essential services such as roads, public safety and schools. The measure would set stricter limits on property taxes than currently imposed by TABOR. It would cripple

local governments in their ability to raise revenue by repealing the past elections by voters which allowed local districts to keep and spend property tax revenues above their revenue limits, and apply a 10 year limit on all property tax increases. It places a mechanism where taxpayers could petition for tax cuts on the ballot in every election. It would require local school districts to cut their mill levy rates in half by 2020, with local revenue to be replaced by the state.

Amendment 61 State and Local Debt Limitations

The proposed Amendment would make sweeping changes in how state and local governments can use and issue debt. It would ban the use of any kind of debt by the state of Colorado. We believe Colorado would become the only state in the nation without the authority to issue debt. It would limit the amount of debt issued by local governments, require all local debt be approved by the voters in a November election, and require local governments to cut their tax rates equal to the average annual debt payments as debts are repaid. A strict reading of the proposed initiative indicates that the state of Colorado would be prohibited from issuing debt of any kind, including general obligation bonds, certificates of participation, revenue bonds, tax anticipation notes or borrowing by "any other name." According to the proponents, Amendment 61 would reinstate the ban on "debt in any form" contained in Colorado's 1876 constitution.

Amendment 62 Person Defined

The proposed amendment to the Colorado constitution states that "the term "person" shall apply to every human being from the beginning of the biological development of that human being." The ballot issue is a restatement of the "Personhood Amendment" of 2008 and has the same legal problems. LWVCO opposes Amendment 62.

Your Voice Your Vote

The pamphlet, published by LWVCO, is available in English and in Spanish. To obtain a copy, contact the League office or go to the League's website home page. The button is in the right sidebar of the page. The PDF document can be printed on your home printer. www.lwvcolorado.org

Bequests

From the estate of Sue Joshel, LWV of Denver, in the amount of \$25,000. From the estate of Eva Fikova, LWV of Boulder County, in the amount of approximately \$608,000.

Help Wanted: Be a Part of the 2010 Election Action!

State League seeks a part-time Office Assistant, 12-15 hours weekly, August - early November. Will be trained to answer phone and email inquiries about the election. Prefer League member with computer skills, including knowledge of Word and Excel. Spanish skills a plus. Salary \$12-\$15 per hour. No benefits. Please send resume to LWVCO Office Assistant, 1410 Grant Street, B-204, Denver CO 80203 or send an e-mail: info@lwvcolorado.org.

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 In memory of
 Jane S. Grogan
 Hines, Marjorie
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News from Local Leagues

LWV of Pueblo's local fundraiser consists of stationing actors throughout downtown Pueblo. These actors portray historical characters, and participants walk between vignettes. League member Ruth Nerenberg, found reference to a woman named Jessie Haver Butler. Jessie grew up in Pueblo, was a suffragist, and a founding League member. Ruth discovered an oral history interview when Jessie was 88 years old in 1974.

LWV of La Plata County were honored by La Plata County Commissioners declared Tuesday, March 16, 2010, "Making Democracy Work Day" in honor of the League's 90th Anniversary. Members honored 60 year member Barbara Cristol, who states she was influenced by her mother who helped establish the League in Connecticut in the early 1930s. Barbara was active in the Boulder County League, and was a registered lobbyist for the LWVCO.

LWV of Mesa County member Henrietta Hay's article on women's suffrage and the League's 90th Anniversary, and why she became a member was published February 11, 2010, in *The Daily Sentinel* newspaper of Grand Junction, Colorado. Henrietta begins: "When I was born, my mother could not vote, own property or run for office. Today I can do all three, although I think I will skip seeking office." On February 14, in the Haggerty's Hikes column, Bill Haggerty wrote about the Proclamation for LWV Making Democracy Work Day. Channel 11 also covered both the Proclamation and the Legislative Coffee.

LWV of Jefferson County mailed letters to Senators Udall and Bennett regarding the Jefferson Parkway Proposal impact on the Rocky Flats National Wildlife Refuge. Gwen Lipkie, president of the League, wrote a guest commentary about the Jefferson Parkway Plan in the online-only column in *The Denver Post*, February 21, 2010.

LWV of Boulder County held a *Fair Elections Now* public forum on May 1. Panelists were Ken Gordon, former State Senator and Elena Nunez, Common Cause Colorado Program Director. Fred Brown, retired Denver Post columnist, moderated the forum. It was televised. DVD copies of the forum were distributed to Colorado local Leagues, and they will have a caucus on the topic at the LWVUS convention.

LWV of Arapahoe County sponsored a forum on *Our Schools: Surviving the Fiscal Crisis* on March 10. From left to right, panelists were Mary Chesley, Cherry Creek Schools; Scott Murphy, Littleton Schools; John Barry, Aurora Schools; and Tracie Rainey, Executive Director of the Colorado School Finance Project. Photo by Ellen Belef.



Correction: In the February *Colorado Voter*, page 6, the photo caption is incorrect. The two women are Arapahoe Leaguers Marcia Stevens and Jimetta Pyles. The editor regrets the error.

Assistance to update new officer information or changes to your roster, LWVUS staffer Betty Taira is ready to serve you! Contact her by e-mail: membership@lww.org.



LWV of Denver were among the recipients of the Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Humanitarian Award, Class of 2010. The event took place on January 12, 2010, Receiving the award on behalf of the LWV of Denver Education Fund were Sandra Shreve, past president, and Nancy Ulrich, co-president (in January). From left to right, Governor Bill Ritter, Sandra Shreve, Nancy Ulrich, Terry Nelson, and Joe Maura.

Sign up to receive the *Colorado Voter* newsletter electronically, and you will see these photos in color. Send an e-mail to the office to verify your e-mail address. Or send a fax with your request and e-mail address to the office. If we do not receive your request, you will receive it in print format. E-mail: info@lwvcolorado.org Fax number: 303.837-9917.

LWVUS Announcements

At its recent board meeting **LWVUS recognized the new local League** LWV of Sarpy County of Nebraska.

LWV of Oregon won a U.S. Election Assistance Commission (EAC) grant. The League will partner with state and local government offices and reach approximately 80,000 students through its mock election and other voter outreach and education work.

The Public Advocacy for Voter Protection (PAVP) project will continue for its 5th year due to the generous support of a long-time supporter. As part of the PAVP project, the Arizona and Pennsylvania Leagues are working to ensure that public assistance agencies in their states comply with the National Voter Registration Act (NVRA).

Advocacy

Tell your Senators to **protect the Clean Air Act** and vote against Senator Murkowski's resolution of disapproval (S.J. Res 26) or any similar legislation that blocks EPA action against climate change, including S. 3072 introduced by Senator Jay Rockefeller (D WV). Read the League's strongly worded press release on the LWVUS website.

The League, with coalition partners, sent a letter to President Obama urging him to take a strong leadership role to bring the promise of bi-partisan action on **climate change and clean energy policy** to fruition. In a statement, the League and coalition partners commended Senators for releasing **climate change legislation**, but voiced concern over lack of funding for international action to tackle climate change.

The League issued a statement on new **campaign finance legislation**. The statement urges Congress to take quick action so that the reforms can take effect in time for the 2010 elections.

Memorial Donation

Make a memorial donation to the LWVCO in the memory of a departed League colleague. We will honor their memory and legacy in the newsletter and remember their works, friendship, and generosity. Make your check payable to LWVCO or LWVCO-EF (Education fund) and mail to the League office.

In Memoriam

Longtime League member, Laboyta Garnand, died April 2, 2010. She was a League lobbyist and LWVCO vice-president. She served on the Colorado Air Quality Control Commission and a judicial reform group.

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF COLORADO
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<p style="text-align: center;">Interested in the League of Women Voters?</p> <p>___ 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.</p> <p>Name _____ Address _____ _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____</p> <p>Mail to: LWVCO 1410 Grant Street Suite B204 Denver, Colorado 80203-1855</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Mission Statement</p> <p>The League of Women Voters, a nonpartisan political organization, promotes informed and active participation in government and influences public policy through education and advocacy.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Join the League</p> <p>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.</p> <p>Phone: 303.863.0437 Fax: 303.837.9917 E-mail: info@lwvcolorado.org Website: www.lwvcolorado.org</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">CALENDAR 2010</p> <p>June 11-14 LWVUS Convention June 25-26 League Leadership Retreat Frisco CO July 9-10 LWVCO Board Retreat August 4 Board Meeting August Voter Deadline Sept. 6 Labor Day, Office Closed Sept. 23 90th LWV Celebration Governor's Mansion Sept. 25 League Day Holiday Inn Select, Denver October 6 Board Meeting Nov. 5 Voter Deadline Nov. 25-26 Thanksgiving Holiday Office Closed Dec. 1 Board Meeting Dec. 3 Lobbyist Training</p>
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