



Colorado Voter

February 2010, Volume 23, Number 3

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS®
OF COLORADO

League of Women Voters 90th Birthday Celebration

Monday, March 15, 2010

Colorado State Capitol, North Wing, First Floor

8:00 - 10:00 a.m.

Join League members on Monday, March 15, to celebrate the 90th Birthday of the League of Women Voters of the United States.

We will gather in the North Wing, on the first floor of the Colorado State Capitol.

The League of Women Voters (LWV), a nonpartisan political organization that works to improve our system of government and impact public policies through citizen education and advocacy, celebrates its 90th anniversary in 2010. Not coincidentally, the 19th amendment to the United States Constitution that gave women the right to vote celebrates its 90th anniversary in 2010, as well.

In 1920, after a 72 year struggle, passage of the 19th amendment appeared to be imminent, and members of the National American Woman Suffrage Association met to form the League of Women Voters, the organization to educate the newly franchised women to effectively use the vote.

Source: Excerpts from the press release issued by LWVUS.

LWVCO Council 2010

Friday, May 21, 1:00 p.m. through noon Saturday, May 22

Lake Shore Lodge, 1700 Big Thompson Avenue. Estes Park, Colorado

Lake Shore Lodge sleeping rooms, two queen beds, continental breakfast, \$108.70 (includes tax). Call 800-332-6867 to make your hotel reservations by April 15.

The Council is composed of the president (or alternate) and one delegate chosen by each local League, each Member-at-Large Unit, and the LWVCO Board.

League members may attend as observers as space permits.

In addition to League business, presentations will include a representative from Our Courts, and a presentation of a postcard collection of Estes Park/Rocky Mountain National Park.

Board of Directors 2009-10

Officers

Patty Cordova, President
pcordova58@msn.com 303.388-0012

Alice Ramsey, 1st VP Program
alice@ramsisle.com 303.841.7839

Anne Norwood, 2nd VP Administration
asnorwood@comcast.net 303.499.0620

Lineah Davey, 3rd VP Member Services
frankdavey@comcast.net 719.634.8529

Gerry Cummins, 4th VP Voters Service
gerry.cummins@prodigy.net 303.771.0115

Marilyn Brown, Secretary
marilbrown@aol.com 970-259-3593

Beth Daugherty, Treasurer
beth_daugherty@hotmail.com 970.227.0384

Directors

Marge Fisch, Public Relations
ralphmarj@msn.com 303.322.4235

Jeannette Hillery, Legislative Action
jmhillery915@comcast.net 303.494.7718

Kayleen Herzog, Development
kghnrh@msn.com 303.321.3719

Elizabeth Nick, Voter Editor
anthro@privatei.com 303.665.2986

Linda Mahan, Director-at-Large
Lmahan@alum.bu.edu 970.484.2259

Jodi Foran, Director-at-Large
jodi@foran.net 970.882.2401

Patty Schoedler, Assistant Voters Service
pshades@earthlink.net 303.979.4782

Staff

Sandy Eid, Executive Director
info@lwvcolorado.org 303.863.0437

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Published quarterly by the League of Women Voters of Colorado, 1410 Grant Street B204, Denver CO 80203
Phone: 303.863.0437 Fax:303.837.9917
E-mail: info@lwvcolorado.org
Website: www.lwvcolorado.org
Send articles and photos to the editor, Liz Nick, e-mail: anthro@privatei.com

From the President

2010 is off to a good start...

We have begun to celebrate the League of Women Voters of the United States (LWVUS) 90th anniversary!

—LWV of Chaffee County and LWV of Pikes Peak, Making Democracy Work Awards (page 6)
—LWVCO Reception at the Colorado State Capitol on March 15, 8-10:00 a.m. (page 1). We are encouraging legislators to help us celebrate by joining us for coffee and muffins before they begin their session.

Colorado legislators convened on January 13 and our Legislative Action Committee (LAC) began meeting a few days later. What an impressive group of volunteers! Over 20 of them squeezed around the conference table at the office to discuss bills and our League positions. They listen to each other and plan their strategies. Then they lobby legislators based upon whether or not our positions would support or oppose a bill. Jeannette Hillery is Director of Legislative Action, and Christine Watson is our General Lobbyist. Those of you who attended the Legislative Conference were able to see our LAC in action.

Your Local League has received the "First Call to Council 2010" which will be held in Estes Park in May (page 1). Adoption of the 2010-11 budget, the Legislative Wrap-up, and the State Board elections will be the order of business.

Now is the time for all of us to look around and think about League leaders to serve on the State Board. Please contact Margie Beal (Jefferson County), chair of the Nominating Committee, j_mbeal@msn.com to recommend someone from your Local League. Other members on the committee to contact are: Bobbie Heisterkamp (Denver) bdheistkmp@aol.com Lineah Davey (Pikes Peak) frankdavey@comcast.net Barb Whinery (Greeley/Weld) blwhinerh@comcast.net

Thanks to all of you...LWVCO is off to a good start in 2010!

Patty Cordova

The Susan Bee

News Highlights from the LWV of the United States
This four page electronic publication reports on the highlights of the national League, twice a year. The League also publishes an electronic newsletter each month, *LeaguE-Voice*. Register and subscribe through the LWVUS website.
<https://member.lwv.org/Login.asp>

LWVCO Board Announcements

- Voted to endorse the debate on the subject of “Direct File” with the Colorado District Attorneys’ Council and the Stop Direct Filing organization, pending the League’s participation in the planning process.
[Stop Direct File is a group of Coloradans who wish to end the practice of direct file. Direct file allows District Attorneys in Colorado to charge and try a juvenile as an adult without a hearing or testimony of any kind from the offender. The group’s goal is to educate the public about direct file.]
www.stopdirectfile.org
- Accepted the positions taken by the League’s Legislative Action Committee (LAC).
- Jeannette Hillery was the first non-government chair of the Rocky Flats Stewardship Council.
- A fund-raiser to celebrate the League’s 90th birthday is planned for September 24, the night prior to League Day. The community will be invited.
- The deadline for local League responses on the sustainability concurrence is March 26.
- Approved the appointment of Karen Boster as webmaster of the LWVCO website.
- Board members completed the State League Assessment Tool by consensus. The results will be sent to LWVUS. Local League boards will be asked to complete the form at a future date to identify strengths and weaknesses.

Leadership Retreat to Focus on League Visibility

by Lineah Davey, 3rd Vice-President, Member Services

Plan to attend the Leadership Retreat June 25-26 at the Holiday Inn in Frisco, Colorado. Learn how to increase your League’s visibility in your community. 2010 will be a big election year, and Leagues usually gain members as the public hears from us about election issues and as we hold candidate forums.

We will learn proven tactics to ask people to join the League and to help us gain more visibility. In addition, we will focus on the “how-to” guidelines of Voters Service activities. This is a great opportunity for new League board members to learn about League processes, and for returning Board members to increase their knowledge. Plan to send at least two people from your League and join the fun.

The Holiday Inn in Frisco, off I-70, will be our meeting place from Friday noon through Saturday until about 2:00 p.m. You will meet Leaguers from across the state, ask questions of LWVCO Board members, and learn from local Leaguers who have “been there, done that.”

Costs will be \$40 for the first member of a League attending the retreat, and \$75 for additional members. This price includes your shared room, three meals, all materials, and expert advice! What a bargain!

LWVCO Future Fund

The Future Fund was established in 2006 to provide a cash flow for operations in the event of a temporary interruption of income; to provide a buffer allowing time to adjust operating expenses in the event of an unanticipated long-term reduction of income. The goal is to collect \$100,000. Once we have reached that goal, we can use the interest from that principal for operating income. To make a contribution, use the form on page 7.

LWVCO Legislative Conference Report

by Alice Ramsey, First Vice-president, Program

January 25 found 135 Leaguers from all over Colorado attending the annual Legislative Conference at the Colorado History Museum in Denver. President Patty Cordova welcomed all and turned the meeting over to Jeannette Hillery, Legislative Action Committee chair and organizer of the event. She was assisted in the planning of the event by Sandy Eid, LWVCO Executive Director, and Legislative Action Committee (LAC) members Sally Augden and Barb Whinery.

The first speaker, Representative Carole Murray (R-Castle Rock) spoke about voting issues and explained HB1047, which attempts to clarify the language of initiatives. Elizabeth Garner, the Colorado State Demographer, explained how population size, growth, and age affect jobs, roads, housing, education, and many other areas of state expenditures. The numbers are used by state and local governments as well as public organizations. She has been working on the Census, explaining that the distribution of Federal and State funds are based on its numbers.

One of three members on the Education panel, John Karakoulakis, Director of Legislative Affairs for the Colorado Department of Higher Education, noted that General Fund financing and tuition provides the major revenue for Higher Education, however Colorado has 65% of funding compared to its peers around the U.S.

Tracie Rainey, Executive Director of the Colorado School Finance Project, described Colorado's fall from being in the top third of funding for Education in the U.S. in 1980 to now being at the bottom of the states, getting almost \$2,000 less per pupil in state funding than the national average. Nora Flood, the Vice-president of Services for the Colorado League of Charter Schools, noted that there are 160 charter schools in Colorado with 62,000 students including 38% minority representation.

Christine Watson, the LWVCO lobbyist, spoke about the dire need to fix the PERA financial shortfall and whether Pinnacle Insurance should be privatized, providing the state with some of time revenue. Chris also touched on Campaign Finance Reform changes that may be needed based on the recent Supreme Court ruling. Health care, medical marijuana, and the initiatives that could drastically change the way Colorado funds its government.

Senator Rollie Heath (D-Boulder), who was chairman of the Interim Committee on Fiscal Stability, reviewed Colorado's Gordian Knot of fiscal restraints on the state's financial ability. He asked "Is this the state we want to live in?" A bill has passed the legislature to form a Tax Review Study by the University of Denver funded privately, the first since 1958, which may provide some answers on unraveling the knot.

United Nations Seminar

The LWV of Colorado is a co-sponsor for the annual United Nations Seminar. The theme of this year's February 20th event is *The United Nations: Millennium Development Goals for Peace: Dream or Reality*. The keynote speaker will be Ambassador Thomas Miller, the new President and CEO of the United Nations Association of USA and former Ambassador to Greece and Bosnia/Herzegovina. The event will be in a new location at the Denver Center for International Studies, 574 West 6th Avenue, Denver. Registration fee is \$40 (includes lunch) for adults, \$20 for students. Send your registration check payable to UNA/USA Colorado to Ruth Purkaple, 4570 E Yale Avenue, Unit 1102, Denver CO 80222. For information call 303-756-0842.

LWVUS 49th National Convention

June 11-15, 2010

Atlanta Marriott Marquis
265 Peachtree Center Avenue
Atlanta, Georgia

For the latest information about program and schedule, go to LWVUS website.

www.lwv.org

LeaguE-Voice Newsletter

We invite you to sign up for the *LeaguE-Voice*, the new electronic newsletter published by LWVUS. Sent monthly, the newsletter includes timely action alerts and press releases as well as program updates and upcoming events. To sign up, go to LWVUS website: www.lwv.org

Global Democracy: Civic Hosting Program

LWV of Boulder County



Delegation from Azerbaijan with Diana Barney (5th from the left) who chaired the local League committee for the event. From left to right, Aybaniz Mammadova, Jeyhun Garajayev, Zahid Orujov, County Commissioner Will Toor, Diana Barney, Adnan Jafaroz, and Elshad Ismayilov. Photo courtesy of Marge Maagoe.



Jeyhun Garajayev, Louisville City Councilman Dave Clabots, facilitator Aybaniz Mammadova, translator Adnan Jafaroz, Ganira Pashayera, U.S. Representative Jared Polis, Elshad Ismayilov, and Zahid Orujov. Below the delegation visiting at the Left Hand Water District site with Bo Shafer. Photos courtesy of Marge Maagoe.



The LWV of Boulder County hosted a delegation of members of parliament and senior staff from Azerbaijan, January 20-27. The League received a grant through the Open World Program and the League of Women Voters Civic Hosting Program. For information about the program contact LWVUS. www.lwv.org

The delegation stayed two nights in Denver, visiting the State Legislature on Thursday. Friday morning they attended the National Conference of State Legislators, and in the afternoon they attended the National Western Stock Show. Friday evening they met their host families at a reception hosted by Dave and Margie Robinson. The delegation stayed two nights with their host families: Rose Mary and Clif Highman, Janet and Steve Reynolds, Paul and Suze Riederer, Marlys and Phil Robertson, and Bruce MacKenzie. The delegation spent the remaining three nights at the Boulderado Hotel in Boulder. Early Wednesday morning, they left Colorado and flew to Washington D.C.

The Azerbaijanies met various elected officials representing different levels of government. They met Charles Sisk, the mayor of Louisville, during a Saturday reception. Sunday, they met with U.S. Representative Jared Polis, and in the afternoon, most of the delegation enjoyed a visit to Rocky Mountain National Park. On Monday they visited county commissioner Will Toor at the Boulder County Courthouse. Later, most of the delegation visited with county clerk Hillary Hall, while a couple of the others participated in an hour long interview by the Citizen Channel 54. Tuesday morning they visited the Left Hand Water District, and after lunch, they toured Celestial Seasonings, the largest speciality tea manufacturer in North America. Later the delegates attended the political science class of Professor Billica on the CU campus in Boulder. Tuesday evening, the delegation, host families, and League committee members, participated in an "American Potluck Dinner" hosted by Marlys and Phil Robertson.

Everyone had a great experience in bridging different cultures. It is hoped that the delegation learned about the different levels of government, as well as aspects of the American culture.

The League committee, who made the arrangements and accompanied the delegation were Diana Barney, Peg Leech, Angie Layton, Louisa Young, Marge Maagoe, and Julie Leonard.

News from Local Leagues

LWV of Denver Receives Humanitarian Award

At a ceremony and concert at Boettcher Concert Hall on January 12, 2010, the LWV of Denver's Education Fund was among the recipients of the Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Humanitarian Award, Class of 2010. The award, given annually for 21 years, honors people and organizations in the Denver community who have "given freely from their hearts to others, given their time, talent and energy to meet unmet needs..." in service to the community.

Others honored included: Clinica Tepeyac, Rhonda Fields, La Academia at the Denver Inner City Parish, Pastor Heidi McGinness and Alyssa Allende Motz. Lifetime achievement awards were given to former Senator Dorothy Rupert and Cleo Parker Robinson.

The Denver League is very honored to be among the recipients. For more information contact Nancy Ulrich, 303.393.6300; cell phone: 303.358.1484.

LWV of Chaffee County — Making Democracy Work Award

The League awarded their first Making Democracy Work Award to longtime resident and Collegiate Peaks Bank President, Charles Forster, on February 1st at the historic SteamPlant Event Center in Salida. He was chosen from nominees submitted by local citizens. At the same event, they celebrated the League's 90th Anniversary.

LWV of Pikes Peak — Making Democracy Work Award

The League will be presenting their fourth award on February 11th to a woman engaged in outstanding work in the community. All of the nominees will participate in the event, which is co-sponsored by the Colorado Springs Independent newspaper.

LWV of Arapahoe Health Program by Fern Black

In a program presented November 23, 2009 and sponsored by LWVAC in association with Arapahoe Library District, T. R. Reid, author of *The Healing of America, A Global Quest for Better, Cheaper, and Fairer Health Care*, responded to questions by the 200 plus attendees about health care reform in the U.S.



Speaker T. R. Reid, Fern Black and unknown. Photo by Fran Rew.

The question session followed a showing of *Sick Around the World*, a film documenting Reid's visits to the United Kingdom, Japan, Germany, Taiwan, and Switzerland, to investigate the health care systems of other capitalist democracies. The system of each of these countries delivers health care for everyone at a lower cost than in the U.S. when compared as a percentage of the gross domestic product. The result for citizens of four of the countries (no figures for Taiwan) is better health—all exceed the U.S. in life expectancy and have much lower infant mortality rates.

Reid stated the bills currently pending in Congress represent "tinkering at the margins" of the U.S. system which needs fundamental change. The system began with nonprofit insurance companies that became for-profit with changed ownership.

According to Reid, the U.S. has never made what he characterizes as a "moral decision to provide health care to everyone." For those who raise the fear of a government operated health care system in the U.S., Reid pointed to the success of Medicare for American seniors and the Veterans Administration for veterans of the American military. Reid's investigations in other countries revealed no citizens are forced into bankruptcy by unpaid medical expenses.

Regardless of the decisions pending in Washington, Reid offered some hope for future change in the U.S.

In Memoriam

An invaluable League member, Margaret McNamara passed away January 12, 2010 at the age of 94. Margaret was a member of the Denver League and served on the LWVCO Board for several years. She was a member of the Legislative Action Committee, followed voting rights bills, and assisted with Voters Service issues.

Please remember the League of Women Voters of Colorado's **Future Fund** as you plan your giving. The **Future Fund** sustains the activities of the LWVCO and is not tax-deductible.

Name: _____ League _____

Address: _____ Phone number: _____

Amount _____ Please make your check payable to Future Fund LWVCO or you may charge your credit card (MC or VISA) Account Number _____

Expiration Date _____ Signature _____

LWVUS Announcements

Making Democracy Work: A History of change. A Future of Hope.

LWVUS invites all members to join fellow Leaguers from 50 states, the Virgin Islands, Puerto Rico and Hong Kong to celebrate 90 remarkable years of League achievements and chart the course for the next biennium of League programs. All League members are invited to attend Convention, but Presidents of local, state, and ILO Leagues appoint their allotted delegates.

Sunshine Week National Dialogue 2010

On Friday, March 19, from 12:00 to 2:00 p.m. (ET), LWVEF will co-host the 5th Annual Sunshine Week National Dialogue. The event will focus on transparency in the Obama administration, and will be broadcast live via the web. State and local Leagues are encouraged to host "viewing 'parties'" in their communities.

League Launches 2010 Survey on Democracy

2010 will shape the political landscape for the next decade. The League is asking supporters to complete its 2010 Survey on Democracy, available on the LWVUS website.

We've already received thousands of responses; add your voice today!

Advocacy

- The **Public Advocacy for Voter Protection (PAVP)** project is supporting the LWV of Ohio to help them accomplish the crucial task of developing and implementing an effective strategy to monitor the implementation of the *LWVO v. Brunner* lawsuit Settlement Agreement.
This lawsuit dealt with numerous issues relating to the voting system in Ohio, including improving the administration of statewide voter database systems, improving polling place management and poll worker training.
- The League and coalition partners sent a **letter to the Senate** urging opposition to Senator Murkowski's amendment attacking the Clean Air Act.
- The **LWV of Wisconsin** is highlighted in the Wall Street Journal for their work on recusal reform. Recently the Wisconsin State Supreme Court rejected proposals to require recusal when campaign contributions exceed a certain amount. The Wisconsin League had petitioned the Court to prohibit judges from ruling on cases involving major campaign contributors.
- LWVUS President Mary Wilson visited the Carolinas last month to discuss **climate change** with media, community members and Senate staff, holding a press conference at the South Carolina State House.
- In January, League President Mary Wilson joined a coalition of groups pushing for **health care reform** at a press conference in D.C.

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF COLORADO
 1410 GRANT ST STE B204
 DENVER CO 80203-1855

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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 _____ 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>Feb. 12 Legislative Action Committee Feb. 15 President's Day, Office Closed Feb. 26 Legislative Action Committee</p> <p>March 3 LWVCO Board Meeting March 12 Legislative Action Committee March 15 90th Birthday Celebration State Capitol</p> <p>March 26 Legislative Action Committee April 9 Legislative Action Committee April 23 Legislative Action Committee</p> <p>May 5 LWVCO Board Meeting Colorado Voter Deadline May 21-22 LWVCO Council, Estes Park</p> <p>June 11-14 LWVUS Convention June 25-26 Leadership Retreat, Frisco CO</p>
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