

July 2019 Voter

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From the LWVCO President

Hope you are having a great summer. And catching your breath a bit before the important work of the League fall season begins!

Please mark your calendars and plan to attend **Making Democracy Work Day (League Day) on September 21st at the Colorado History Museum** in Denver. The agenda will be out soon. Leagues who need financial assistance may apply for a TRIP (Travel Reimbursement Incentive Program) grant from the state office. Please look on the LWVCO website for more information. We hope to see many of you there!

HAIL AND FAREWELL to the board members who have finished their terms: **Marlu Burkamp, Cath Perrone, Patty Schoedler, and Sue Vaughan!** Thank you all for your years of hard work and dedication to the mission of LWVCO. Marlu has continued to help us with communications and Cath will continue leading VOTE411. We haven't let them go far!

We're sad to say that **Beth Sale**, our Office Administrator for the past two years, has moved on to a new job and will be sorely missed! We thank her for her dedicated service to LWVCO and for being such a great first stop for members and the general public alike.

We welcome Jessie Koerner, part-time communication specialist, and Cameron Manning, full-time Operations Manager. Jessie started in mid-July and Cameron will be joining us in late August. Thank you for your patience during this transition.

Our new LWVCO website powered by Club Express launched on Monday, July 22nd. Please check it out and look for new resources! We look forward to the many important features, including membership management, emailing, document library, and events marketing, of this new LWVCO tool. As always, our associates remain available for feedback and suggestions.

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Our LWVCO annual board retreat was held on July 24th in Denver. This year's theme was "Celebrating Growth and Building Consensus." Topics included: celebrating our progress, organizational culture, board/staff roles, organization chart, DEI and Year Two Strategic Plan goals. We have not received the final report as of this writing. We will keep local leaders and members informed and engaged as we proceed.

Feel free to contact the LWVCO office if we can assist: info@lwwcolorado.org!

Thank you for all you do to *Make Democracy Work*,
Ruth Stemler
President

Alert – Recalls

Recall petition drives are becoming somewhat more frequent in Colorado. Local Leagues faced with recall in their areas are concerned about what the role of the League should be in these drives.

In the past, reasons for recalls have generally been for malfeasance in office, misdemeanors, high crimes, etc., rather than political differences.

To begin with, the League of Women Voters does not have a position on recall petition drives or elections. Thus, the League cannot act either for or against a recall election effort. It can be argued that recall elections, in many cases, go against good government practices and seek to overturn the stated will of the people; this may be the case, but again, the League has no position on recall elections.



Recall of state officers is governed by the Colorado Constitution, Article XXI. The website of the Secretary of State (www.sos.state.co.us) has a summary of the provisions—click on "Elections and voting," then "Recall elections." It is a petition process with the requirement as follows: "...[S]uch petition shall contain a general statement...of the ground or grounds on which such recall is sought, which statement is intended for the information of the registered electors, and the registered electors shall be the sole and exclusive judges of the legality, reasonableness and sufficiency of such ground or grounds assigned for such recall and said ground or grounds shall not

each grant or grants assigned for each year, and said grant or grants shall not be open to review." The Colorado Constitution is silent about the causes for which a recall petition may be passed and charges voters with determining the fairness of the recall. To put it simply, the current recall process contains neither a validity review of the petition before signature gathering begins nor a requirement of abuse of office, misdeeds reflecting lack of character, or other actions (short of criminal activity) for the recall process to be initiated.

-- Dr. Toni Larson, Director of Advocacy, LWVCO

2020 Census – Federal Funding

LWVCO is applying for a federal Census 2020 grant through the Department of Local Affairs, with funding to be distributed to participating Leagues throughout Colorado. Grant dollars will be awarded to conduct 2020 census outreach, promotion, and education, focusing on hard-to-count communities in the state (seniors, children under 5, communities of color including Native populations, people living in rural areas, people without internet access, people with limited English skills, people who are transient or homeless).

IF YOUR LEAGUE WANTS TO PARTICIPATE, LWVCO NEEDS TO KNOW:

- What activities will your League take to increase participation in the Census amongst hard-to-reach communities? Provide details.
- What costs are associated with these activities? Please provide a list or budget.

PLEASE SEND THIS INFO TO bhendrix@lwvcolorado.org BY AUGUST 23 FOR INCLUSION IN THE FEDERAL GRANT PROPOSAL.
QUESTIONS? CALL BETH AT 303-863-0437.

Making Democracy Work! Day (aka League Day)

SEPTEMBER 21, 2019
8:30am - 3:00pm
HISTORY COLORADO CENTER
DENVER, COLORADO

MAKING DEMOCRACY WORK! DAY

2020: AMPLIFYING OUR POWER

Census - Get Out the Vote - TABOR - National Popular Vote
Speakers will be announced soon

Register now for 2019 League Day!
\$55 includes breakfast, snack, & lunch
TRIP funding is available -- **email Beth**

REGISTER HERE

Leader of Democracy 2019

Over a hundred attendees enjoyed a beautiful June evening at Denver's Wellshire Event Center as the League of Women Voters of Colorado honored Leaders of Democracy 2019: **Wayne Williams**, Colorado Secretary of State 2015-2019; **Fair Maps Colorado**, the coalition



sponsoring the successful redistricting amendments Y and Z and represented by Heidi Ganahl, CEO of Camp Bow Wow and University of Colorado Regent; and **National History Day Colorado** – Celeste Archer, Executive Director, and LWVCO's student winners Riley Lookadoo and

Samantha North.

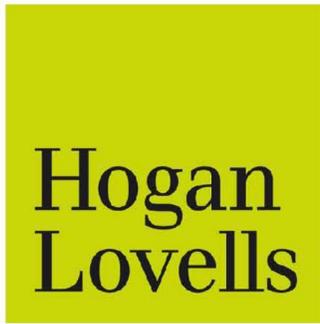
LWVCO sincerely thanks **Dottie Lamm**, past Leader of Democracy winner and former Colorado First Lady, who emceed the event. We also thank our very generous Leader of Democracy underwriters: **Hogan Lovells Law Firm**, **Bernie and Mary Beth Buescher**, **Ireland Stapleton Pryor and Pascoe Law Firm**, **S&D Law**, **Square State Strategy Group**, and **Cinnie Auer**, Leader of Democracy founder.

In accepting his award, Wayne Williams spoke eloquently about the need for cooperative, across-the-aisle work to continue to strengthen our democracy. He cited positive examples of bipartisan work from his time as Secretary of State.

Leader of Democracy 2020 is scheduled for August 2020 and will be a major celebration of the 100th Anniversary of the Ratification of the 19th Amendment!



Thanks to our Sponsors



Bernie & Mary Beth Buescher

Cynthia Auer



Leader of Democracy 2020

Leader of Democracy 2020 will Celebrate the 19th Amendment and Women Leaders

Our 100-Year Celebration Needs YOU!

LWVCO needs your help as we plan a major August 2020 celebration of the 100th Anniversary of the Ratification of the 19th Amendment. The Leader of Democracy 2020 event will honor Colorado women leaders. We need your help to plan this exciting event! To volunteer, please contact Barbara Mattison, LWVCO Director of Development, at mattisonleague@gmail.com or 303-322-4878.

Creating
 ★ **A MORE PERFECT** ★
 Democracy

Aug. 26 Kick-off Celebration of Women's Suffrage

The Colorado Women's Vote Centennial Commission is kicking off a year-long celebration of the ratification of the 19th Amendment!

Monday, August 26, 2019 from 8:30-11:00am

8:30am: Breakfast at the Center for Colorado Women's History
1310 Bannock, Denver

9:30am: Procession to the Colorado Capitol West Steps

10:00am: Launch of the Colorado Women's Vote Centennial and Presentation

Please RSVP by August 15, 2019, at 719-583-0453
or dianne.archuleta@state.co.us.

Attire: If you can, wear white or some white!

100th Anniversary Plans from LWV Larimer County

The excitement and enthusiasm began early! In January 2019, acknowledging how fast time can fly and wanting to be ready to begin celebrating with a bang in January 2020, we started brainstorming and planning.

We began with the idea of **"Planting Seeds"** with other organizations to encourage them to "grow" their own planning and celebration of this great year for women.

We connected with **local and state organizations** - NOCO National Organization of Women, American Association of University Women, Women of the Year, Fort Collins for Progress, Fort Collins Community Action Network, Black African American Cultural Center (BAACC of CSU), Women's Study Program (CSU), Colorado Women's Centennial, 2020 Women and the Vote, MLK Loveland, and our League's Colorado "Get Your Sash On." We received great response from all. We offered to partner with interested groups and planning is underway for events from January 2020 through December 2020.

The more we looked, the more we noticed that many other organizations were planning celebrations, particularly of the 100-year anniversary of women securing the vote. It is also the 100th Anniversary of the founding of *The League of Women Voters* by suffragist leader Carrie Chapman Catt. Therefore, we began to think of our commitment as a two-fold emphasis to celebrating the 100 years.

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The LWVLC is actively supporting Loveland sculptor Jane DeDecker's effort to get a statue - "**Every Word We Utter**" - honoring suffragists, placed across from the U.S. Supreme Court in Washington DC in summer of 2020. Follow how to support this at EveryWordWeUtter.com. LWVLC has an ongoing informed **Citizens Book Club** that meets monthly in two different locations to discuss nonfiction books related to current social issues or upcoming ballot issues. For 2020, we are planning to devote the first six months to books about women and the second six months to potential ballot issues for the 2020 election. Books being considered for 2020 so far are *Code Girls*, *Hidden Fences*, *The Women's Hour*, *Democracy in Chains*, and several others are being reviewed. We are open to suggestions. We also plan to use the literary talents and extensive knowledge of local historian and author Barbara Fleming.

We are planning a **Chautauqua**-type event with local League members and supporters portraying suffragists (Carrie Chapman Catt, Alice Paul, Ida B Wells, Sojourner Truth) and educating our audience on the work of the suffragists and particularly that historic day in August 1920. We also take seriously the need to face some hard truths about the exclusion of the black communities during the road to ratification and the League's founding.

LWVLC has ten **Issue Teams** and an **Events Team** that have been tasked with choosing a month and planning a themed workshop/panel discussion/presentation on an issue relevant to women and the upcoming election. These meetings serve to educate and motivate the public. Topics will be determined closer to each event. Our Voter Services Team is discovering many promotional products that get us excited.

Our PR Team will organize a **Suffragists March** in the **CSU Homecoming Parade** in October 2020 where voting will be heavily emphasized – we will dress in white, wear banners, and carry election related placards and long-stemmed yellow roses (a nod to the Ratification supporters' theme). We will invite the students in the BAACC and the CSU Women's Sports Teams to march with us.

This is our outline, which will be filled in as the year gets closer. We are brainstorming ideas for our various teams to participate at their request. We are eager to see what other Leagues are doing and how we can support and stimulate making 2020 a remarkable year for women. National and State Leagues are providing supporting resources and a slogan of "Creating a More Perfect Democracy."

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 Jane Hamburger, mjbhamburger@gmail.com 970-689-3663
 Co-Chairs: The 100 Year Celebration of Women Winning the Vote and the Founding of the League of Women Voters

Convention 2019 Highlights

HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE 2019 LWVCO CONVENTION

Thanks to all who attended the 2019 LWVCO Convention! We hope you found the event to be worthwhile, educational, and fun -- an inspirational and motivating time with fellow Leaguers. As we embark on a very important year, the LWVCO board is moving forward with plans for stronger communications and support statewide to allow Colorado's network of Leagues to thrive as the nation's most active, impactful and **united**

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An extra **THANK YOU** to all workshop presenters for sharing your expertise to strengthen our network!

A standing ovation for Cath Perrone, Beth Sale, and Sue Vaughan is well-deserved for their extensive work to make this Convention a success! Jean McGuire also put in an extraordinary amount of time ensuring we have sellable merchandise for our 100th Anniversary activities -- **HOORAY** for Jean!

- **Pre-convention workshops included a variety of presentations and training sessions! Click for workshop materials and hand-outs.**

- Action and Advocacy Practices and Hot Topics
 - **Action & Advocacy powerpoint presentation** -- Toni Larson
 - **Action & Advocacy handout of presentation slides** -- Toni Larson
 - **National Popular Vote presentation** -- Linda Sorauf
 - **Alternative Voting Methods** -- Celeste Landry
 - **2020 Census Toolkit** -- Jean Fredlund
 - **TABOR Toolkit powerpoint presentation** -- Toni Larson
 - **TABOR Toolkit powerpoint presentation slides handout** -- Toni Larson
- Club Express: Demonstration, Information and Considerations -- Rionda Osman & Andrea Mitchell
 - **Presentation**
 - **Resource List**
- **Community Engagement and Partnerships**
- **Leaders Listen and Listeners Lead: Getting Comfortable with Our Diverse Communities** - Judy Beerbaum and Lineah Davey
- Fundraising -- Barbara Mattison and Beth Hendrix
 - **Fundraising planning worksheet**
 - **Fundraising workshop presentation**
 - **Annual report template ideas**
 - **One-page strategic planning worksheet**
- Communications
 - **LWVCO's Newsroom Approach to Communications**
 - **The Newsroom Approach and local Leagues**
- **LWVCO Strategic Plan Update**
- 100th Anniversary Planning
 - **Workshop Overview**
 - **100th Anniversary Activities to Consider**
 - **100th Anniversary National & State Resources**
 - **Facing Hard Truths About the League**
 - **LWVCO: The Next 100 Years**
 - **Brief League History**
- Activities Roundtable – ideas for new programs
 - **Voter Girl**
 - **Drinks & Dialogue**



- **The convention's introduction was by Governor Jared Polis, who congratulated the League on 100 years of successful advocacy and education.**

League on 100 years of successful advocacy and education.

- We are proud of the past legislative session in Colorado – working in a bipartisan manner to the legislature passed several measures promote voting rights and education, including all-day kindergarten. A bill requiring equal pay for equal work was signed last week.
- There is now a female majority in the Colorado House of Representatives and the Governor has a cabinet with a majority of women. Having women helps to broaden representation and results in better policy.
- There are challenges to liberal democracy; it's more important than ever before that we have civic education and fair elections. We need to restore integrity and faith in our system and encourage the resolution of differences through engaging in civil debate and fair elections.
- **The financial position of the League is sound. Fundraising goals for 2019 have been achieved, and there are ambitious plans for expanding fundraising for 2020 to include corporate and foundation grants.**
- **100th Anniversary plans are in full swing, and Jean McGuire offered a table full of merchandise including shirts, caps, and pins.**
- **LWVCO approved the continuation of the Making Democracy Work advocacy and education agenda.**
- **Routine business was carried out with the usual mix of serious consideration and light-hearted comment including:**
 - Approval of the 2020 budget. LWVCO will draw a small portion of investments to fund programs and personnel for FY20. The strategy is to increase fundraising to cover these expenses in future budgets. The approved FY20 budget is available online [HERE](#). Note: during the budget discussion at Convention, someone asked why our insurance budget seems to be reduced for next year, and Executive Director Beth Hendrix was unable to explain this discrepancy on the spot. The answer is that our projected expenses for insurance for fiscal year 2019 were about \$1,000 over actual expenses, so our budgeted expense of \$2,500 for insurance is correct. (Still unclear? Don't hesitate to call Beth at 303-863-0437!)
 - Approval of the 2020 State Board and Officers (available online [HERE](#))
 - President – Ruth Stemler (Boulder County)
 - Vice President of Local League Support – Jean McGuire (Estes Park)
 - Vice President of Voter Service – Gerry Cummins (Arapahoe-Douglas)
 - Secretary – Andrea Mitchell (Denver)
 - Treasurer -- Bonnie Seals (Estes Park)
 - Director, Development – Barbara Mattison (Denver)
 - Director, Action, Advocacy & Activism – Toni Larson (Denver)
 - Director, Voter Editor – Lena Brown (Arapahoe-Douglas)
 - Director, Census & Redistricting – Jean Fredlund (Adams)
 - Director, Governance – Judy Beerbaum (Pikes Peak Region)
 - Director, Technology – Rionda Osman-Jouchoux (Boulder County)
 - Selection of the 2020 Nominating Committee:



- Connie Fox (Montezuma County)
- Chris Humphries (Denver)
- Sarah Pitts (Larimer County)
- Two additional members will be appointed by the board of directors as per by-laws
 - **Approval of board-recommended bylaws changes.**
- **There were no formal directions to the incoming LWVCO board submitted, but the following will be considered due to member comments made during Convention:**
 - Health benefits for employees

CLICK **HERE** TO SEE CONVENTION PHOTOS. Please upload yours for sharing!

As mentioned at Convention, LWVCO maintains membership in the Colorado Nonprofit Association (of which our own Toni Larson is a co-founder!), which allows all of our members to access a variety of free trainings, which are held in Denver, Colorado Springs, or via webinar. **The training calendar is here**; call or **email** Beth Hendrix (303-863-0437) if there's a training in which you're interested and she'll get you log-in information. If you're traveling to Denver for a training and need a place to stay, contact the LWVCO office and we'll search for a member with a spare room!

A medium grey Patagonia jacket was left behind -- we're happy to send it back to its rightful owner, if you'll contact the office at 303-863-0437.



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Our mailing address is:

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