

Voter Volume 32, Number 4, May 2019


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The Voter



Volume 32, Number 4

May 2019

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Will the Real Health Care Reform Please Stand Up?

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Volunteers Needed for Silent Auction

Looking for a way to help at Convention 2019? The Silent Auction is a fun way to help.

Voter Registration Grant

LWVCO has received a grant of \$1050 from LWVUS.

National History Day

National History Day Colorado, May 4, 2019 – Could you help Judge?

Fundraising Support

We have a variety of ways to help support the work of LWVCO

Bold and Forward Thinking Essential for the League

The League of Women Voters, like many other organizations, has embarked on a period of transformation.

Both at LWVUS and LWVCO, we are taking major steps to change and leap ahead to be a more relevant and effective organization.

While the undercurrent for transformation has been going on for a few years, the process in Colorado took on a dramatic turning point a year ago when the state League embarked on a strategic planning process. We have made astounding progress in many areas in a short period of time. We have moved beyond identifying priority areas to various stages of implementation including hiring an executive director, developing a communications plan, increasing fundraising efforts, and identifying more strategic partnerships.

Executive Director/Governance

The state League now has an executive director, Beth Hendrix, a first for the Colorado League. She is playing a significant role in fulfilling aspects of the strategic plan. This task force evolved into the governance task force recently and will develop a structure more in tune with the other changes occurring in the organization.

Communications

A consultant is preparing a communications map for us that will improve how we “talk” to each other and external constituents and how

we share information.

Fund Raising

Our fundraising is expanding. We are contacting corporations, foundations, and individuals outside the League, and are studying how to increase earned revenues. In addition, we have received three significant bequests recently and three grants from the national League totaling more than \$27,000. The grants focus on redistricting, census, and voter education programming, as well as helping with some administrative expenses.

Partnerships

A major part of our Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion priority is expanding our partnerships. We are targeting partnerships more concerted to help us fulfill our goals of attracting more young people and people from various backgrounds and abilities, as well as to work with us to fulfill our advocacy and voter service agendas.

One area needing additional discussion and development is Local League Support. While much progress has been made in this area, such as agreement on establishing a resource center, holding workshops around the state as well as the Denver metro area, and state board contacts, we are still working on the best way to individualize discussions and identify the needs of local Leagues.

For those of you concerned about voter service and action on issues, as I am, these two areas are being brought more formally into the strategic planning process. To date the emphasis has been on reinforcing the League's foundation by addressing the areas above. Now that we are successfully accomplishing our goals in these areas, we can move on to focus more on voter service and action, both core activities of League.

Change is difficult. It can be disruptive, create uncertainty, affect how and what people do. But if we do not change, it is highly likely we will become irrelevant. We are on course to reach our highest potential. To do this, we cannot just change; we must transform. We have great potential and an amazing foundation upon which to accomplish this. We must be bold, forward-thinking, and work toward the best path forward for the League of Women Voters.

Toni E. Larson, Ph.D.

President

League of Women Voters Colorado

720-387-8487 (h); 303-249-2064 (c)

Legislative Action Committee

Action and Advocacy Continues as the 2019 Legislative Session Nears its Close

In honor of Earth Day, LWVCO's most recent Legislative Letter highlights the raft of bills this session by Colorado's legislators that would reduce greenhouse gases, track emissions, and, in general, reduce and manage waste materials.



[Click here to read the most recent copy of our Legislative Letter.](#)

Action at the National

LWVUS Advocates for For the People Act and the Elimination of Gerrymandering

The For the People Act has been introduced in the U.S. Senate! This historic legislation will modernize our election system, reform redistricting, and restore the Voting Rights Act.



H.R. 1

FOR THE PEOPLE ACT

[Click here for the text of the For the People Act.](#)

[Click here to contact your Senators about the For the People Act.](#)

Communications Task Force Survey Results

Thanks so much to the many League members who responded to our recent survey conducted by the LWVCO Strategic Planning Communications Task Force in March.

The survey asked members to state what type of communication they value from the state League and how they would like to receive it.

We are grateful for your participation and excellent suggestions. Your comments will be central to evaluating present communication venues and developing new ways to better provide the information and news you need. The survey results are below. If you have

questions, additional comments or suggestions please let us know. Look forward to hearing from you.

Marlu Burkamp, LWVCO Board, marluburkamp@gmail.com

Peggy Leech, Boulder LWV

Nancy Ball, Montrose, LWV



COMMUNICATIONS SURVEY

Conducted: March 7 – March 20, 2019

Sent: 828 invitations to participate

Received: 235 responses, nearly 30% response rate.

Based on the sample size and participation rate, we are 95% confident (within a margin of error of +/- 5%) that the survey responses reflect the membership.

Key Takeaways

- Members receive “League” information from a variety of sources but they value their local newsletters, the state Voter and Action Alerts the most. They also rely on local League communication for most of their other information needs.
- Members would like to see the state Voter, now published quarterly, more frequently.
- Members overwhelmingly said they would prefer receiving the state Voter, or a similar publication, monthly vs. twice a month. (81% vs 18%)
- Members said they would like state publications with shorter, simpler, and engaging content containing links to more in-depth information. Publications must be printable and contain a calendar of programs and events.
- State league news, links to legislative activity and state issues, as well as publications and information on local and state events, are most valued by members.

- Members also want more facts on state and national issues and wish to connect more with other Colorado league members working on similar issues.
- While most members do not follow the state social media platforms, of those who do use social media, Facebook is the leading social media platform.

Silent Auction – LWVCO Convention

Silent Auction at LWVCO Convention benefits LWVCO AND Local Leagues

Raise money for your Local League at Convention by participating in the Silent Auction. Revenues are split 50/50 with LWVCO. We suggest items such as gift baskets, artwork, and condo stays to bring in the highest bid. This is a Basket Only Auction as no individual items will be accepted unless they are considered artwork, a gift certificate or for services.

Please deliver your silent auction item(s) to the lower level at the hotel starting at 9am on Friday, May 30th. All items (every basket, artwork piece or certificate) will require a DESCRIPTION and VALUE written out on a 4x6 index card to attach to the item. Feel free to do this task prior to delivery.



Volunteers Needed for Silent Auction

Volunteers Needed for Silent Auction at LWVCO Convention

Looking for a way to help at Convention 2019? The Silent Auction is a fun way to help - and your local League can benefit from proceeds (50/50 split) from baskets and items donated.

Friday, May 31, 9 AM - 12 noon: Baskets and other donations from local Leagues arrive at the auction area between 8:30 AM and 12

noon. I'll be there and need three volunteers to receive items, check forms, assign numbers and affix stickers and arrange the auction display. This year, the auction will be in the general convention hall, making it possible for people to bid more frequently.

Friday, May 31 - 10 PM: As the auction closes, we need two volunteers to help accept payments and with close-out procedures.

Saturday, June 1 - 7:30 - 9 AM: We need two volunteers to help winning bidders pick up their items.

To volunteer, call or email Barb Mattison, LWVCO Director for Development: 303-322-4878 or mattisonleague@gmail.com. Thanks and I look forward to hearing from you!

LWVCO Archive Update – A Force for Change

Wilma Davidson wrote the history of the League of Women Voters of Colorado from 1928 to 1995, and it was published on the 75th anniversary of the national League.

On April 24th, a small committee of League members gathered to plan a revised edition of this excellent narrative. Gerry Cummins, Bobbie Heisterkamp, Rona Shor, Lorie Young and Diane Young will be working on this project for the next year. The first phase is to gather source materials for the period 1996 to 2018, which was the 90th anniversary of the LWVCO.

We are looking for all the Colorado Voters that were published in this period, and thanks to personal files, we have been able to scan 63 of the 92 editions we are looking for. We are asking members of the League to look in their files and see if you have some of the 29 missing ones: Apr. 1999; Nov. 2002; Apr. & Aug. 2003; Jan. & Aug. 2004; Jan. Aug. & Nov. 2005; Jan. & Aug. 2006; Jan. Aug. & Nov. 2007; Jan. May. Aug. & Nov. 2008; Jan. 2009; Jan. 2010; Nov. 2011; Jan. May & Aug 2012; Jan. Aug. & Nov. 2013; and Jan. & May 2015. We will scan them and return them to you. Thanks!

Bobbie Heisterkamp (BDHEISTKMP@aol.com)

Celebrating Phyllis Horney & Ann Levy

CELEBRATING PHYLIS HORNEY

CELEBRATING PHYLLIS HORNEY

Phyllis Horney, a Lifetime member of the League of Women Voters of Denver, passed away August 16, 2018. She served the League in many capacities, including researching, writing, and lobbying to the Colorado Legislature. She was particularly passionate about fiscal policy and TABOR and its impacts on our state and was known as an expert on the state budget. She was active in the League's successful motor voter initiatives and more.

Phyllis had moved to Oregon in her later years to be closer to her son and daughter, who survive her, but she kept the League in her heart until the end.



CELEBRATING ANN LEVY

Ann Levy, a Lifetime member of the League of Women Voters of Denver, passed away Feb. 27, 2019.

Ann was a staunch and passionate advocate for peace and equality, and her support of numerous anti-war and civil rights organizations made her a regular at the Colorado Capitol. At the League, her work focused on women's and civil rights and the promotion of nonviolence.

Joining the University Club as one of its early barrier-breaking women members was always a source of pride for Ann.

Ann was one of the founding members of Denver's Friends of Chamber and was active with the Denver (later Colorado) Symphony, the Aspen Music Festival, Central City Opera, Santa Fe Opera, the Denver Art Museum, Young Audiences, and many other arts organizations, large and small. She served on the first board of the Colorado Council on the Arts, appointed by Gov. John Love.



May the memories of these women serve as inspiration to all current and future Leaguers!

LWVCO Convention Health Care Caucus

Will the Real Health Care Reform Please Stand Up?

Friday, May 31 8- 9:30 PM, Denver Conference Room

Because of the persisting deficiencies in our overpriced and under-performing health care financing system, a majority of Americans are now ready for the vastly superior model of single payer Medicare for All. Our LWVUS Health Care position supports this model which would ensure affordable health care for everyone.

What are the hallmarks of a true single payer reform bill that League envisions? Are there legislative proposals in Congress that reflect our criteria? How can we distinguish misleading claims in proposals for “universal health care”?

Members of the LWV of Larimer County invite delegates to join them for a stimulating dialogue and previews of films useful for taking the issue back to communities.

Not attending Convention? Contact us to be added to the state network -

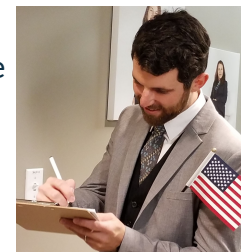
Linda Mahan <Lmahan@alum.bu.edu>

Voter Registration Grant

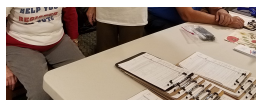
LWVCO has received a grant of \$1050 from LWVUS for voter registration expenses related to registering new citizens at Naturalization Ceremonies, thanks to Gerry Cummins!

The League began this project in February of 2017 when the United States Citizen Immigration Services (USCIS) office in Colorado approved the League of Women Voters as an organization that was qualified to register voters. The USCIS office is located in Centennial in the South Metro Area in Arapahoe County.

USCIS schedules the dates for League to be present at the ceremonies and typically assigns 5-7 dates each month. To date, the League has registered more than 2,000 new citizens.



LWV Arapahoe County/Douglas County has coordinated this project by recruiting volunteers to cover the ceremonies under the able leadership of Gladys Hodges. Gladys has been certified by the Secretary of State's office and has recruited volunteers from both LWV Jefferson County and LWV Denver.



Thank you to Gladys and all of the volunteers who have supported this project over the last two years. The terminology used by the Secretary of State per statute refers to Gladys as the 'organizer' and the volunteers as "circulators". The organizer and the circulators are required to take the annual training which can be taken at any time during the year.



The grant money is also available to local Leagues who register voters at Naturalization Ceremonies in their area.

National History Day



The League of Women Voters of Colorado participates annually in National History Day Colorado, an exciting competition for middle and high school students across the state at the University of Colorado at Denver.

Students enter the overall competition and various categories. LWVCO's category is Best Presentation on An Amendment to the Constitution. LWV Larimer County's Sonia Koetting and Jane Hamburger and LWV Estes Park's Jean McGuire are judges in the League's category, and LWVCO Executive Director Beth Hendrix will judge in the overall competition. The winner in the League's category will be honored June 6 at Leader of Democracy 2019!

Project topics include *Loving v. Virginia*, the landmark decision of the U.S. Supreme Court which struck down all state laws banning

interracial marriage as violations of the Equal Protection and Due Process Clauses of the Fourteenth Amendment; *Tinker v. Des Moines*, a historic Supreme Court ruling from 1969 that cemented students' rights to free speech in public schools; and, of course, the fight for the 19th Amendment, allowing American women citizens the right to vote.

Join us on June 6th to honor the student participants of National History Day Colorado as a part of our Leader of Democracy celebration!

Leader of Democracy Awards



League of Women Voters of Colorado 6th Annual

LEADER OF DEMOCRACY AWARDS

THURS., JUNE 6th, 2019
5:30 – 7:30 P.M., **Wellshire Event Center**, Denver

CELEBRATING COLORADO
as **the Safest State to Cast a Vote**

HONORING
* WAYNE WILLIAMS
Colorado Secretary of State 2015-19

* FAIR MAPS COLORADO
The Coalition sponsoring Redistricting Amendments Y and Z

* And League's 2019 National History Day Student Winner!

Come to honor Coloradans who are making a true difference in our state!
The evening includes heavy hors d'oeuvres, a cash bar and free parking.



Dottie Lamm is the event's Honorary Chair and Emcee!

REGISTER HERE

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HONOR YOUR
MOTHER OR YOUR
DAUGHTER.

This Mother's



*Day, honor her
fighting spirit
with a gift to the
League in her
name.*

Because the fight isn't over.
www.lwvcolorado.org



LWVCO Memorials and Honors

Is this a Memorial or an Honor (circle one)?

Name of person(s) being remembered or honored: _____

Special information about this person or persons: _____

Relation to you: _____

Your Name: _____

Your Address (street, apt., city, state _____

Your Phone/Email: _____

Amount of Your Gift: _____ Date of Gift: _____

Thank You!

About Us

We envision a democracy where every person has the desire, the right, the knowledge and the confidence to participate. We believe in the power of women to create a more perfect democracy.

The League is proud to be nonpartisan, neither supporting nor opposing candidates or political parties at any level of government, but always working on vital issues of concern to members and the public.

Leadership & Staff

LWVCO Board of Directors 2018-19

Toni Larson, President

Ruth Stemler, 1st Vice-President, Program

Cath Perrone, 2nd Vice-President, Administration

Gerry Cummins, 4th Vice-President, Voter Service

Jeanette Scotland, Co-Secretary

Andrea Mitchell, Co-Secretary

Bonnie Seals, Treasurer

Barbara Mattison, Director, Development; Nominating Chair

Lena Brown, Director, Voter Editor

Leslie Chomic, Director, Legislative Action

Patty Schoedler, Director, LLS

Marlu Burkamp, Director at Large

Jean Fredlund, Director at Large, Census & Redistricting

Judy Beerbaum, Director at Large

Off Board Committee Chairs

Liz Black, Investment Committee

Vicki Harmon, Nominating Committee

Patricia Long, Budget Committee

Jean McGuire, 100th Anniversary Committee

Liz Nick, Project Fund Grant Committee

Rionda Osman-Jouchoux, Assoc. Management System Task Force

Cath Perrone, Vote411.org

LWVCO Office & Staff

League of Women Voters of CO, LWVCO Office

Beth Hendrix, LWVCO Exec. Director

Beth Sale, Office Administrator

Andrea Wilkins, LWVCO Advocate

History



MAUD WOOD PARK
LWV President, 1920-24

Since 1920 we have been an activist, grassroots organization whose leaders believed that voters should play a critical role in democracy. **In Colorado, the League of Women Voters (LWVCO) was organized in 1928.**

Membership & Local Leagues

Our members are passionate activists who support our work across the state of Colorado. **Join us today!**

Newsroom

Check out our latest **press statements and news clips** about our priorities and our work.

Contact Us

Submissions - Have a photo, comment or article you'd like to submit for publication in the next LWVCO Voter? Send them to **Lena Brown** at lenawilmoth@hotmail.com.

General Info - Contact LWVCO state office at info@lwvcolorado.org or call 303-863-0437.

"Women have suffered an agony of soul which you can never comprehend that you and your daughters might inherit political freedom. That vote has been costly. Prize it!"

MRS. CARRIE CHAPMAN CATT,, 1859-1947
President, National American Woman Suffrage Association, 1900-1904 and 1915-1920
Honorary National President, League of Women Voters, 1920-1947



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