



The Voter

League of Women Voters® of Arapahoe County

April 2014

Membership 87

IN THIS ISSUE

- ▶ **April Unit Meeting**
- ▶ **May Preview**
- ▶ **Membership Briefings**
- ▶ **News & Announcements**
- ▶ **Management Team Notes**

April and May contain a myriad of activities and programs for LWVAC members. There's the all member meeting April 10th with the Colorado Deputy Commissioner of Agriculture, Ron Carleton; an April meeting re forming a new LWVAC Aurora unit; a voter registration drive at Arapahoe Community College, and another popular movie night.

On May 7th, we host our public meeting on Campaign Finance with related unit meetings the following week. And there's more. Take a look.

PS: Put June 7th on your calendar as the date for our Annual Meeting.

Thursday, April 3, 2014

Voter Registration Drive
10 a.m.– 2 p.m.
Arapahoe Community College
5900 S. Santa Fe Drive
Littleton

Thursday, April 10, 2014

LWVAC All Member Meeting
9:30 a.m. @ Castlewood Library
6739 S. Uinta Street
Centennial

Tuesday, April 15, 2014

LWVAC Lunch Bunch
11:30 a.m.
The Perfect Landing Restaurant
Centennial Airport
7625 S. Peoria Street
Englewood

Thursday, April 24, 2014

Meeting to discuss LWVAC
Aurora unit
6 - 9 p.m. @ Smoky Hill Library
5430 Biscay Circle
Centennial

Monday, April 28, 2014

Management Team Meeting
6:30 p.m. @ Koelbel Library
5955 S. Holly, Centennial

Wednesday, April 30, 2014

Movie Night: *Big Sky Big Money*
6:30 p.m. @ Koelbel Library
5955 S. Holly, Centennial

LWVAC TO PROCEED WITH BOUNDARY AND NAME CHANGE

At the June 2012 Annual meeting, LWVAC members agreed to explore the formation of a joint Arapahoe/Douglas County League. A committee was formed and set to work meeting the requirements outlined by the state and national leagues.

Unfortunately, two very strenuous voter service seasons and other pressing program activities delayed this process. Until now. Spearheaded by Jo Ann Feder, LWVAC membership Chair, LWVAC members from Douglas County are working to complete a formal application to extend our League boundaries to include Douglas County and officially change our name to reflect the new boundaries.

This application, containing all the details, will be sent with your Annual Meeting packets by May 7th or 8th so it can be thoroughly explained and discussed at the June 7th LWVAC Annual Meeting. Jo Ann will also take about 10 minutes at the May unit meetings to address the issue. More Details to follow next month.

APRIL UNIT MEETING

RON CARLETON
COLORADO DEPUTY COMMISSIONER OF AGRICULTURE



For those of you who attended the March unit meetings and saw the movie, *Food, Inc.*, the April LWVAC member meeting featuring Ron Carleton, Colorado Deputy Commissioner of Agriculture will be a lesson in Colorado agriculture and an opportunity to ask questions about what the department does and the services it provides.

Commissioner Carleton, who worked for over thirty years in the U.S. Congress, comes to Colorado with considerable experience in agricultural policy. He has also worked with the House Agriculture Committee on the 2008 Farm Bill and has been actively following the development of the new Farm Bill, recently passed by Congress.

To this end the Commissioner will share information about the Colorado Department of Agriculture, the Farm Bill (where did those farm subsidies go?) and what it means to be a farmer in the 21st century. .

In the meantime here's some interesting facts:

- ◆ The average US daily cow produces 22.5 quarts of milk per day. That's about 16,000 glasses of milk per year - enough for about 40 people. One cow can give 200,000 glasses of milk in a lifetime.
- ◆ It takes 24-26 hours for a hen to produce an egg: there is 30 minutes between each egg-producing cycle.
- ◆ Agriculture is one of the largest contributors to Colorado's economy, supporting more than 173,000 jobs in our state. It generates more than \$40 billion of economic activity annually and exported nearly \$1.8 billion of food and agricultural products in 2012.
- ◆ Land in farms and ranches provide habitat for wildlife and open space. That sustainable farming practices ensure that our state's resources will remain protected for generations to come.

See the back page for a list of the Departments and services. Interesting!

Thursday, April 10, 2014
9:30 a.m. @ Castlewood Library
6739 S. Uinta St., Centennial

Vicki Harimon

MAY PREVIEW



Money & Politics Who Owns Democracy?

To say that the Citizens United Court Case significantly changed the nature of political campaigns and campaign spending is an understatement. The overwhelming result: enormous amounts of money are being spent on political campaigns. (In the special election for Florida's 13th Congressional District, March, 2014, a combined total of \$12 million was raised from political and outside groups for the Republican and Democratic candidates.)* The Super PACs, the negative ads, the influx of rich, powerful donors and shadowy "non-profit" organizations that do not disclose their donors are other results. This has led to voter distrust and frustration. What lies ahead? And what, if anything, can be done to reverse this trend?

Join us for an in depth look at the nature of campaign finance and explore how the recent changes in campaign finance laws has affected elections and what we may expect this election year at a **public program featuring speaker Chantell Taylor, May 7 at 6:30 p.m., Koelbel Library, 5955 S. Holly St., Centennial.**

Ms. Taylor, an attorney for Hogan Lovell law firm, has extensive experience in campaign finance and political law. She also advises non-profits on lobbying and political activities.

More in the May newsletter, but put this date on your calendar now!

*Associated Press, Center for Responsive Politics.

MEMBERSHIP BRIEFINGS

WELCOME NEW LWVAC MEMBERS

Barbara Mervine

Barbara and her family moved to the Denver Metro area in 1992 after researching major cities in the US for about 12 years. As a professional musician and teacher, Denver, with more community choirs and advanced degrees really appealed to her. She has a private music studio which she specializes in "special needs" learning and adult lessons, primarily Voice and Piano. She is a church and synagogue choir director and with her husband, Ken, does concerts, music seminars, organ consults and installation. She also enjoys studying History and Brain Science.

Ann McGill

Ann is a new arrival from Orlando Florida, but she is not new to League as she has been a member since the 1950's and has served as Board Chairman and Newsletter editor years ago. She has four children, six grandchildren and one great grandchild. Ann believes that League is her window on the world and she treasures her League experience. "League people are a special breed and I love my association with them."

Lavonne Cashell

Lavonne came to Colorado in 1952 from Minnesota. She has lived in numerous Denver area neighborhoods and was a member of the Denver League. Prior to her retirement she was a nurse at the old Mercy Hospital and St. Joseph's Hospital. She was a volunteer at various Denver hospitals, a hospice, Channel 7, the Molly Brown House, DIA and served as an election judge for over 30 years. She is still volunteering at the Aurora Municipal Court. She has three daughters and six grandchildren.

Jane LeCates

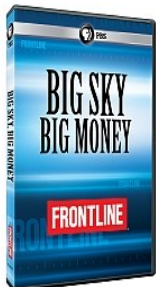
Jane grew up in Louisiana and has a BS in Elementary Education from LSU. She attended CU summer school with a friend and liked Colorado so much she decided to stay. Her educational experience is extensive. She has taught at Jefferson County Schools, at Littleton's Peabody elementary school, and the Aurora Public Schools, worked in early childhood education in Hawaii and taught student teachers at UNC. She also became an adjunct professor in California and conducted teaching classes for elementary student teachers. A highlight of her life was last summer when she had her 50th reunion at DU to celebrate the MA she received in 1963. Jane has two daughters and five grandchildren.

Su Ryden

Su is serving her third term as member of the Colorado House of Representatives for House District 36 in east central, Aurora. She is Chair of the State, Veterans & Military Affairs Committee, a member of the Business Labor, Economic & Workforce Development Committee and the Audit Committee. She also serves as Deputy Whip in the Democratic Caucus. She has owned Ryden & Associates Integrated Marketing since 1975, a firm which provides communications solutions for clients in many areas. She is a graduate of DU, with a BA in Mass Communications with a Phi Beta Kappa scholastic honorary. Her numerous community service activities include the Aurora Chamber, Aurora Fox Arts Center Board, Rotary and Colorado Ethics in Business Alliance. She and her husband have been married for 46 years. Her son is a physician doing clinical research in California.

NEWS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

LWVAC MOVIE NIGHT



As a prelude to our public meeting on campaign finance, I dug out an old Frontline video about outside money and the effect it had on candidates running in several Montana elections.

Shown on PBS October 30, 2012, the movie still resonates today as it follows an investigative reporter's quest to identify the outside groups funding the candidates and how the groups develop their negative ads, track the candidates for any mistakes, formulate an issue ad and the magic words that make the difference between campaign and issue ads. You'll also meet one of the people behind the efforts to pass Citizen's United.

In researching this 1 hour movie, I found several interesting articles re campaign finance and its effect on today's elections. I challenge you to do some research and bring your articles to share.

Wednesday, April 30, 2014 @ 6:30 p.m. at Koelbel Library. Snacks and beverages..

FIRST CALL FOR LWVAC ANNUAL MEETING

The LWVAC Annual Meeting will be Saturday morning, June 7 at the Country Buffet Meeting room, 7475 Park Meadows Drive, Lone Tree.

In addition to obtaining breakfast, meeting new Leaguers, and attending to League business, we will ask members to discuss the application developed to extend our League into Douglas County and change the name accordingly. An annual meeting informational packet with times and agendas will be sent to all by May 7 or 8,, 2014.

NEED AVAILABLE ROOMS FOR LWVAC PROGRAMS & VOTER SERVICE ACTIVITIES

The Arapahoe Library District's Koelbel Library meeting rooms - one of our favorite places for LWVAC programs and meetings - will be closed this August through December as the library is being renovated.

This obviously puts us in a bind in terms of scheduling candidate forums, ballot issue programs and public meetings for the western portion of Arapahoe County. While the other District libraries will be open, we will face fierce competition for that space from the other groups who usually meet at Koelbel.

So.... We're looking for free or very economical space. We've identified some but welcome ideas and suggestions. Contact Marlu Burkamp marluburkamp@gmail.com

VOTER REGISTRATION BEGINS

Our first voter registration drive will take place Thursday, April 3, 10 a.m.– 2 p.m. at Arapahoe Community College (ACC) in Littleton.

If you wish to volunteer and/or learn the procedure please contact Marilyn Ayers, 303-471-8301, mk303@comcast.net. If you volunteer you will need a parking permit and directions, which Marilyn will send to you. She'll also train you on the spot, so don't hesitate to volunteer.

This year promises to be a very busy election year, so join the team. Marilyn will also accept suggestions from you re organizations and groups who would like to schedule a League registration.

NEWS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

MEETING TO DISCUSS FORMATION OF NEW AURORA UNIT

LWVAC members living in the Aurora and Smoky Hill area are invited to attend a meeting, Thursday, April 24 from 6 - 9 p.m. at the Smoky Hill Library to discuss the formation of an LWVAC Aurora unit.

This action is the result of a new member meeting conducted by LWVAC Membership last month to recruit new members from the Aurora area. At that time, participants expressed a desire to have a unit meeting place more convenient to the eastern portion of Arapahoe County. Currently the two LWVAC unit meetings are conducted west of I-25.



Organized by LWVAC member Charlotte Faris, the meeting topics will include information about League unit meetings, the responsibilities and coordination of program information and activities.

If you can't make this meeting, another is scheduled for May 15

Smoky Hill Library is located at 5430 S. Biscay Circle on the corner of Smoky Hill Road and Biscay Circle. Contact Charlotte Faris, 303-690-8466, faris18603@comcast.net.

LWVAC LUNCH BUNCH



Come to the LWVAC lunch bunch and celebrate tax day **April 15** at the Perfect Landing Restaurant @ 11:30 a.m. at 7625 S. Peoria St., Englewood.

The restaurant is located at the Centennial Airport right next to the airport's landing strip. If you're lucky to get a window seat, you can watch the planes arrive and takeoff. Great fun!

And don't let the Englewood address fool you. The airport is located east of I-25 in unincorporated Arapahoe County, hence the Englewood 80112 address. Just turn on Peoria from Arapahoe Road, and follow the street to the parking lot. Call 303-649-4478 and restaurant personnel can guide you.

PS: Good way to spend your tax return too!

LWVAC MANAGEMENT TEAM NOTES

At the March meeting, members accepted, with regret, the resignation of Barbara Barlow, Douglas County Member At Large; set June 7 as the LWVAC annual meeting date; reviewed the first draft of the proposed 2013-2014 budget; determined guidelines for new and renewing membership dates; discussed room availability for next fall due to lack of Koelbel Library meeting rooms, and discussed requesting a state grant to use in procuring additional rooms. Members also reviewed the membership and program reports, and the selection of Jo Ann Feder and Marlu Burkamp to attend the LWVCO Council in May.



**The League of Women Voters
of Arapahoe County**

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Mission

The League of Women Voters, a nonpartisan political organization, encourages informed and active participation in government, works to increase understanding of major public policy issues, and influences public policy through education and advocacy.

Join Us

Join the League to help make your community a strong safe and vibrant place to live. Help shape the important issues that affect you and your family.

Memberships are \$60 per individual; \$85 for households and \$25 for students. For more information call Jo Ann Feder, 904-608-3932
joluvs10s@gmail.com

League Links

League of Women Voters/Colorado
1410 Grant, B-204
Denver, Colorado 80203
303-863-0437 or 1-800-863-8683
info@lwvcolorado.org
www.lwvcolorado.org

League of Women Voters/US
1730 M Street NW, Suite 1000
Washington, DC 20036-4508
202-429-1965
lwv@lwv.org
www.lwv.org

COLORADO DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Animal Health Division

Provides livestock disease prevention and control, as well as lab services; rodent and predator control services, pet animal facility inspection and licensing; licenses all of the state's agriculture facilities and animal cruelty investigations.

Brands Division

Inspects and verifies ownership on more than 3.8 million livestock; investigates livestock theft; records more than 35,000 livestock bands and licenses sale barns, packing plants and alternative livestock farms.

Colorado State Fair

Highlights agriculture, crops, livestock, canning, baking, needlework, flowers, art, science, and education. The highlight of the fairgrounds is the 11-day fair but is also open year-round for many activities.

Commissioner's Office

Oversees all CDA divisions. It includes the Commissioner's staff, Administrative Services, Homeland Security, Human Resources and Information Technology.

Conservation Services Division

Provides administrative and financial assistance to Colorado's 76 conservation districts. It also coordinates various programs with state and federal agencies on natural resource issues; provides guidance on stream bank erosion and riparian concerns and assists districts on various water and energy programs; noxious weed management, groundwater protection regulation and biological pest control.

Inspection & Consumer Services Division

Provides inspection of animal feed, fertilizer, anhydrous ammonia tanks, eggs, grain warehouses, agricultural commodity handlers and dealers, custom meat and wild game processors, door to door food sales companies, weighing and measuring devices, and packages for correct weight and pricing. It also provides metrology and other regulatory laboratory services, such as feed, fertilizer, groundwater and pesticide testing.

Markets Division

Assists Colorado food and agricultural companies to sell their products in local (Colorado Proud) regional, national and international markets. It collects livestock and produce market news from around the state, oversees nine market orders, grades and inspects fruits and vegetables and helps promote Colorado wines through the Colorado Wine Board.

Plant Industry Division

Provides organic certification, nursery stock inspection, produce, plant and seed export certificates, seed inspection and certification, weed free forage certification, bee inspection and investigations, chemigation (backflow prevention equipment permits and inspections), commercial and private pesticide applicator testing, licensing and investigations, pesticide product record inspections and label registration.