



The Voter

League of Women Voters® of Arapahoe County

January 2014

Membership 85

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Wednesday, January 8, 2014

Colorado Legislature Begins

Thursday, January 9, 2014

Unit Meeting: Program Planning
9:30 a.m. @ Castlewood Library
6739 S. Uinta St., Centennial

Friday, January 10, 2014

LWVAC Discussion Group
9:30 a.m. @ Castlewood Library
6739 S. Uinta St., Centennial
Centennial

Monday, January 13, 2014

8:30 a.m. - 2 p.m.
LWVCO Legislative Conference
Old Supreme Court Chambers
State Capitol, 200 E. Coflax Ave.
Denver

Monday, January 13, 2014

Unit Meeting: Program Planning
5:30 p.m. @ Garcia's Mexican
Restaurant,
5050 S. Syracuse St.
Centennial

Monday, January 27, 2014

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

Wednesday, January 29, 2014

Movie Night
Last Call at the Oasis
6:30 p.m. @ Koelbel Library
5955 S. Holly St., Centennial

LWVAC PROGRAM PLANNING



Help us connect the pieces of our puzzle by attending the January unit meetings on Program Planning. We will look at the national and local program positions and decide whether they fit within League objectives and advocacy efforts.

A Program Planning packet was sent to all LWVAC members with information about the process and a list of the LWVUS and LWVAC program positions. We'll also update you on the activities of the LWVAC Oil & Gas Development Task Force and a tentative schedule of program plans for this year. Coffee & rolls will be served at the Thursday morning unit.

PROGRAMS/ACTIVITIES

2014 TENTATIVE PROGRAM SCHEDULE

FEBRUARY Unit Meetings

- An update on Colorado's current death penalty legislation, the pros and cons, and bills that may be introduced this legislative session.
Movie Night: Feature TBA

MARCH Unit Meetings

- Consensus on two of the LWVUS Agriculture Update study questions: Food Safety and Food Labelling. Unit Meeting dates and locations will change for one month. Details forthcoming.
- Possible public meeting on Privacy issues.
- Movie night. Feature TBA

APRIL Unit Meetings

- General update on agriculture issues in the 21st century, including an update on the Farm Bill.
- Movie Night. Feature TBA

MAY Unit Meetings

- Campaign Finance
- Movie Night. Feature TBA
- Possible public meeting



JUNE

- Annual Meeting

Please note that this schedule is tentative. All this will depend on the assistance from LWVAC members who are interested in these topics and want to help the LWVAC program committee on obtaining speakers, researching a few items and sharing ideas. We welcome your input and suggestions and frankly, need your help. Contact Deb Armbruster, 303-770-5505, darmbr@aol.com; Sonya Pennock, 303-794-0430, sonsu@earthlink.net; or Marlu Burkamp, 303-798-2939, marluburkamp@gmail.com.

LWVCO LEGISLATIVE CONFERENCE

The theme for the annual LWVCO's Legislative Conference at the State Capital 8:30 a.m.- 2 p.m. Monday, January 13 is income inequality and "all politics is local." Former Representative Claire Levy, recently named Executive Director of the Colorado Center on Law and Policy, will speak on efforts to close the income gap, as the Economic Opportunity and Poverty Reduction task force introduces seven bills this legislative session. For lunch, members will adjourn to the History Colorado museum for a talk from LWVCO lobbyist, Christine Watson, about proposed bills and political trends a la this year's Colorado Legislative session.

The registration deadline has passed, but if you are interested in attending you might give the LWVCO a call, 303-863-0437. If you can't attend, a summary of the proceedings will be in our February newsletter.

MEMBERSHIP BRIEFINGS

MEMBER UPDATES

We have a total of 85 members as of January 1, 2014. Seven are new members, however, nine members will be deleted as of January 31 if we have not received your membership renewals. We urge you to renew your membership and continue to enjoy the benefits of League. Contact Jo Ann Feder, 2363 Primo Rd, Unit E, Highlands Ranch, CO 80129. joluvs10s@gmail.com.

Four of our new members attended a new member orientation in December and were treated to an introduction to League and the League organization. There will be another new-member/prospective member orientation in February to be held somewhere in Aurora. We're in the planning state now, so more information will be forthcoming.

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS Linda Rinehart & Priscilla Kissick

Linda is a Highlands Ranch resident and is a public speaker and mental health advocate. At the age of 35, after 11 years of battling bipolar schizoaffective disorder, Linda's doctors mandated a medical retirement for her. To this end Linda gradually immersed herself in the world of volunteering at a local hospital, food bank, meals on wheels, volunteer coordinator at a zoo, nonprofit board director, and preschool assistant. She learned that while her corporate career allowed her to make a living, early retirement has allowed her to make a life. She is a native of Collinsville, IL and her interests include public speaking (Toastmasters), writing, political activism, fitness, cooking, the arts and travel.

Priscilla is new to the Mile High area having moved here August 2012 to be nearer to three of her four children who live in the greater Denver area. Her husband unexpectedly died last year.

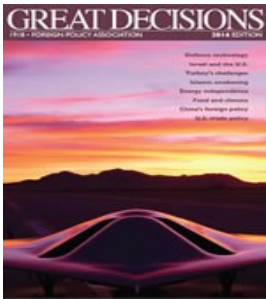
Prior to her retirement, Priscilla obtained an MS in nursing from Yale and worked as an Advanced Practice Nurse. She worked in Public Health, taught at Georgetown and later assumed the lead supervisory position. Lastly, she worked at a hospice in Philadelphia which, thanks to her efforts, grew in size and stature.

Our condolences to the family of Wilma Davidson, who died December 4, 2013. An obituary was sent to all LWVAC members in December, highlighting her involvement for over 50 years in all matters of League. She held many leadership positions in the Arapahoe and Colorado Leagues, having served as LWVCO President on two occasions, as well as participating in the Chicago, Minnesota, Iowa, Los Angeles and North Carolina Leagues. She was acknowledged by many for her activities promoting League and women's issues and was a prolific writer chronicling League and government issues. She was buried December 10, but her family plans a memorial service this month to honor her life.

NEWS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

LWVAC DISCUSSION GROUP GREAT DECISIONS

The discussion group will meet Friday, January 10, 2014 at 9:30 a.m. at Castlewood Library, 6739 S. Unita St. Centennial. Topic: bills you would like to introduce if you were a Colorado Legislator.



The Great Decisions Program conducted by the LWVAC Discussion Group will begin Friday, February 7, @ 9:30 a.m. at the Castlewood Library .

This is an eight week discussion program on topics of international interest and current affairs sponsored by the Foreign Policy Association. Participants discuss a topic each week as outlined in a briefing book prepared by the Association. The program lasts eight weeks.

The Great Decisions Program via LWVAC is free and open to all. You do not have to be *an expert on foreign affairs to participate; rather is it an excellent way to learn more, ask questions and participate in a lively discussion with others. For more information contact Monique Hea, heamph@hotmail.com, 303-220-9273 or Vicki Harimon, vickiharimon@aol.com, 303-770-8738.*

2014 topics

- Defense Technology:** New weapons for the battlefield.
- **Israel & the U.S.:** A relationship in jeopardy?
 - **Turkey's Challenges:** What do the clashes between secular & religious groups and citizen protests mean for Turkey's future?
 - **Islamic Awakening:** The aftermath of the Arab Spring and U.S. foreign policy.
 - **Energy Independence:** What does it mean for the U.S.?
 - **Food & Climate:** The effects of a changing climate on the world's food production.
 - **China's Foreign Policy:** What does the rise of this large nation mean for other countries in the region?

LWVAC OIL & GAS DEVELOPMENT TASK FORCE

In December members of the Task Force met with Jeanette Hillary, who chaired the development of the LWVCO's Fracking position, and Matt Sura, Oil & Gas Attorney for landowners and a resource to the task force on oil and gas development matters.

We reviewed the newly proposed Oil and Gas Air Quality Regulations as developed by the Colorado Air Pollution Control Division and discussed the pros and cons. If these regulations are passed, Colorado would be the first state to directly target methane reductions from oil and gas production.

While this could be a plus for Colorado and the environment, there are concerns. The rules do not adequately protect people living near oil and gas operations, and oil and gas companies are allowed to wait 5 or more days before repairing emission leaks. And while the larger oil and gas companies have endorsed the proposed rules, there is opposition from the smaller oil and gas developers and other related organizations.

To this end, public hearings on the rules will be held this February and the state League is planning to attend and testify. Jeanette has also invited Matt to make a short presentation at the LWVCO Legislative Conference and fact sheets about the proposed rules will be available. As part of this process the LWVAC Task Force will send you fact sheets, additional information and action alerts when appropriate. Stay Tuned!

NEWS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

LWVCO LEGISLATIVE LETTER

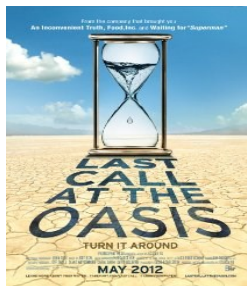
Each year, the state's legislative Action Committee volunteers publish a newsletter for League members and public officials about the legislative bills, votes and other legislative details that arise during the Legislative session.

You can stay up to date by subscribing to this letter and receive it by email or regular mail. Cost is \$20.

To pay by check, send the check and a note stating the number of subscriptions to the LWVCO office, 1410 Grant, B-204, Denver, Colorado 80203. You can also call them re other payment options at 303-863-0437. A subscription form should be up on the state's web site, www.lwvcolorado.org soon.



LWVAC MOVIE NIGHT



The Third Time's a Charm. For two months bad weather has interfered with our planned movie night, featuring *Last Call at the Oasis*.

This month, barring another round of bad weather, the movie will be shown, Wednesday, January 26 at 6:30 p.m. at Koelbel Library. Snacks and beverages will be available.

LWVCO NETS \$6,465 FROM COLORADO GIVES DAY

Thanks to 60 donors the state league netted over \$6,000 + on Colorado Gives Day, December 10. Of that, 18 donations were from non-members. The money will help keep costs low to local Leagues for the publication of VOTE411 in 2014 .

Management Team did not meet in December. The January meeting will be reported in the February newsletter.

PROPOSED IRS CHANGES TO 501(c)(4)s

Several League members have mentioned hearing about the proposed IRS changes to 501(c)(4) nonprofits to curb/regulate the use of secret money for partisan political activity. These rules, however, would also include most Leagues as they are listed as 501(c)(4) nonprofit organizations. That's because the League's operating expenses include advocacy efforts to support or oppose legislation. (So far, League educational funds are not included in the proposed rules).

LWVUS has said they favor the proposed regulations as it would rein in the money abuses seen since *Citizens United* was enacted by the Supreme Court, but are concerned about some of the proposed regulations, particularly those that could limit voter registration drives or information available during the 60 days before an election that names candidates. That ruling would affect many league activities, including VOTE411.

LWVUS sources say they intend to be very involved in the rulemaking process and that press templates and other guidance for state and local Leagues will be provided. The initial comment period re the IRS rules ends February 27, 2014, after which there would normally be a new, fully developed proposed rule and an additional comment period. In the meantime if we receive calls from national media regarding this process, direct them to Kelly Ceballos at LWVUS. She will also be a resource to us in responding to local media as well.

In addition to asking for comments on its proposed new definition of "candidate-related political activity," the IRS is seeking comments on whether similar rules should extend to business and labor associations under sections 501(c)(6) and (5), how much "candidate-related political activity" should be allowed for (c)(4) organizations and how best to deal with truly nonpartisan and unbiased voter information activities by such organizations.



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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
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League Links

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