



# The Voter

League of Women Voters® of Arapahoe County

March 2014

Membership 85

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Spring is in the air! As March 20th is the first day of spring, here's hoping Mother Nature will recognize her responsibilities and adjust the temperature a few degrees warmer.

This month we will help update the LWVUS's national agriculture position by presenting a portion of the study that includes food safety and food labeling. And the 2014 election starts in earnest with the March 4th political caucuses. Plan to attend.

Happy St. Pats Day and beware the ides of March.

### **Tuesday, March 4, 2014**

Political Caucuses  
7 p.m. Throughout Colorado

### **Monday, March 10, 2014**

Unit Meeting: Food Safety & Food Labeling  
5:30 p.m. @ Garcia's Mexican Restaurant, 5050 S. Syracuse St. Centennial

### **Monday, March 17, 2014**

St. Patrick's Day

### **Thursday, March 20, 2014**

Unit Meeting: Food Safety & Food Labeling  
10 a.m. @ Southglenn Library  
6972 S. Vine St.  
Streets of Southglenn

### **Monday, March 24, 2014**

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

### **Wednesday, March 26, 2014**

Movie Night: *FOOD. Inc.*  
6:30 p.m. @ Koelbel Library  
5955 S. Holly, Centennial

## PARTICIPATE IN YOUR PRECINCT CAUCUS

The official start of Colorado's grassroots election process - The Precinct Caucus - kicks off at 7 p.m. Tuesday, March 4, 2014.

This process gives members of political parties the opportunity to meet, debate issues, nominate candidates to represent them on the 2014 election ballot and elect delegates to represent them at the countywide assemblies and convention.

Anyone who is a registered voter in one of Colorado's major political parties (Republican, Democrat and American Constitution) can attend and participate. Colorado does not allow unaffiliated (Independent) voters to participate.

To find your specific location you will need your precinct number. A list of the political parties and County Clerk's contact information is on page 5. Or visit our web site [www.lwvarapahoe.org](http://www.lwvarapahoe.org)

# MARCH UNIT MEETINGS

## FOOD SAFETY AND FOOD LABELING

As explained last month, the LWVAC will participate in the national study to update the LWVUS position on agriculture, but due to the short turnaround local leagues were given to research and study this issue, we will focus on two hotly contested ones: food safety and food labeling. The subjects are particularly relevant as the FDA has just proposed a new food label which, they say, more accurately reflects the realities of today's American diets. To wit:

### Food Safety

According to the UN Food & Agriculture Organization, food production will have to rise 60% between now and 2050 as the world population expands to 9 billion. How do we meet this challenge? Some argue the answer to this dilemma is biotechnology - producing higher yields and more nutritious food. Or should we lift regulations so science can produce super seeds, crops and animals and enhance food products? Some fear the push to new technologies and the use of existing technologies like antibiotics in food production may increase the risks to our health and the environment. To this end we will look at the adequacy of our current regulatory protections, the rise of new technologies in food production and the issues surrounding their impact on food safety.

### Food Labeling

We will also look at the history of food labeling rules in the U.S., the current situation and the new FDA proposal to update food labels. (The USDA separately regulates meat and poultry labeling). Discussion will include the movement to require disclosure of genetically engineered foods and how to make food labels more effective and informative. See the newly proposed food labels on page 3.

**Please note that the Thursday unit meeting is at a different date, time and location. See information on page 1.**

### Resources

- \* Challenges and Opportunities in U.S. Agriculture (Good 27 Page Overview)  
<http://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/granule/ERP-2013/ERP-2013-chapter8/content-detail.html>
- \* Agriculture Update Glossary  
<http://www.lwv.org/content/agriculture-update-glossary>
- \* Interactions of Federal Agencies with Food Safety Missions  
<http://www.lwv.org/content/interaction-federal-agencies-food-safety-missions>
- \* Food Labeling: FDA and USDA  
<http://lwv.org/content/food-labeling-fda-and-usda>
- \* Labeling of Genetically Engineered Foods (Good Short Summary of Pro's and Con's)  
<http://www.ext.colostate.edu/pubs/foodnut/09371.html>

More resources are listed in the February newsletter. You can also find them on the LWVUS web site at [lwv.org](http://lwv.org) under Agriculture Update.



# MARCH PREVIEW

## FDA PROPOSED NEW FOOD LABELS

**CURRENT**

<b>Nutrition Facts</b>	
Serving Size 2/3 cup (55g)	
Servings Per Container About 8	
<b>Amount Per Serving</b>	
<b>Calories</b> 230	Calories from Fat 40
<b>% Daily Value*</b>	
<b>Total Fat</b> 8g	<b>12%</b>
Saturated Fat 1g	<b>5%</b>
Trans Fat 0g	
<b>Cholesterol</b> 0mg	<b>0%</b>
<b>Sodium</b> 160mg	<b>7%</b>
<b>Total Carbohydrate</b> 37g	<b>12%</b>
Dietary Fiber 4g	<b>16%</b>
Sugars 1g	
<b>Protein</b> 3g	
Vitamin A 10%	
Vitamin C 8%	
Calcium 20%	
Iron 45%	
* Percent Daily Values are based on a 2,000 calorie diet. Your daily value may be higher or lower depending on your calorie needs.	
Calories: 2,000 2,500	
Total Fat	Less than 65g 80g
Sat Fat	Less than 20g 25g
Cholesterol	Less than 300mg 300mg
Sodium	Less than 2,400mg 2,400mg
Total Carbohydrate	300g 375g
Dietary Fiber	25g 30g

The design would change how serving sizes are calculated and displayed

Calorie counts more prominent. "Calories from existing fat" removed.

Percentage daily values (%DV) will be in the left column so it is easier to read. Some package sizes would be required to show both "per serving" and "per package" calories and count.

Vitamin D & Pottassium counts would be required. Vitamins A & C will be optional.

**PROPOSED**

<b>Nutrition Facts</b>	
<b>8 servings per container</b>	
Serving size	2/3 cup (55g)
<b>Amount per 2/3 cup</b>	
<b>Calories</b>	<b>230</b>
<b>% DV*</b>	
<b>12%</b>	<b>Total Fat</b> 8g
<b>5%</b>	<b>Saturated Fat</b> 1g
	<b>Trans Fat</b> 0g
<b>0%</b>	<b>Cholesterol</b> 0mg
<b>7%</b>	<b>Sodium</b> 160mg
<b>12%</b>	<b>Total Carbs</b> 37g
<b>14%</b>	<b>Dietary Fiber</b> 4g
	<b>Sugars</b> 1g
	<b>Added Sugars</b> 0g
	<b>Protein</b> 3g
<b>10%</b>	<b>Vitamin D</b> 2mcg
<b>20%</b>	<b>Calcium</b> 260mg
<b>45%</b>	<b>Iron</b> 8mg
<b>5%</b>	<b>Potassium</b> 235mg
* Footnote on Daily Values (DV) and calories reference to be inserted here.	

# MEMBERSHIP BRIEFINGS

## WELCOME NEW LWVAC MEMBERS

Congratulations to the new members who joined LWVAC since last month. We now have 85 members.

We enthusiastically welcome new members Su Ryden, Colorado Representative for District 36, Meg Froelich, Ann McGill and the Barbara and Ken Mervine household . Meg's bio is below. Additional bios will be published in the April issue.

**Meg Froelich** has been involved in political campaigns and non-profits in Colorado and California. She has served as a Greenwood Village Council member, is the founder of WE LEAD -*Women Elected: Leadership, Education And Development*, and WE WIN, an Independent Expenditure dedicated to electing women. She is a former Executive Director of the House Majority Project, the Colorado Institute for Leadership Training and has produced documentaries for PBS and A&E. She received a BA degree from Bryn Mawr College and a Masters in History from the University of Michigan. She is currently co-producing a documentary entitled *Strong Sisters: Elected Women in Colorado* to air on Rocky Mountain PBS this month. And she has three teenage children!

## NEW AURORA UNIT IN SEPTEMBER??

At the February 15 new member orientation in Aurora, we received several requests to establish a unit meeting location in the Aurora area.

Management Team members discussed the proposal and agreed to further investigate that possibility. This action, however, would require members in the Aurora area to work on the idea and, with help from management team, recruit participants. To this end Charlotte Faris has agreed to work on this with other Aurora members.

We'll keep you posted, but if successful, the unit would begin in September.



# NEWS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

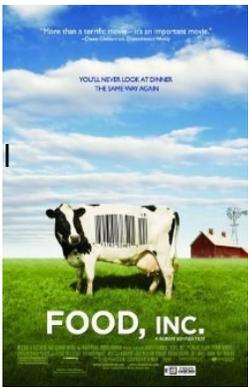
## APRIL UNIT MEETING PREVIEW

In April we will continue our focus on agriculture, but the emphasis will be the here and now.

Ron Carleton, Colorado Deputy Commissioner of Agriculture will be our featured speaker at an all member general meeting Thursday, April 10 at 9:30 a.m. @ Castlewood Library.

More information will appear in the April newsletter but it promises to be interesting as Commissioner Carleton will talk about farming in the 21st century (and boy, has it changed), and the new federal farm bill recently passed by Congress. This meeting will help us learn about the critical agricultural issues the U.S. faces and what issues we may be facing in the future.

## LWVAC MOVIE NIGHT



In keeping with the Agriculture theme, the March movie will be **FOOD, Inc.**, an unflattering look at the food business, corporate style. The health, and safety of the food itself, the animals, the workers and the consumers are often overlooked by big business and the govern-

ment to provide cheap food for consumer consumption.

Movie night is Wednesday, March 26 @ 6:30 pm at Koelbel Library, 5955 S. Holly, Centennial. Snacks & Beverages will be available.

## CAUCUS INFORMATION

Contacts for precinct and caucus information

- Arapahoe County Democrats [website](#)  
303-338-1202
- Arapahoe County Republicans [website](#)  
303-779-1115
- Arapahoe County Clerk [website](#)  
303-795-4511
- Douglas County Democrats [website](#)  
720-509-9048
- Douglas County Republicans [website](#),  
303-730-0100
- Douglas County Clerk [website](#),  
303-660-7469

## LWVCO LEGISLATIVE ACTION COMMITTEE PRIORITIES

The Legislative Action Committee (LAC) has set their priorities for the 2014 Colorado Legislative Session.

The main priority is, as always, voting rights and election issues; the second is fiscal balance. According to the LAC, given the financial constraints in the state budget and the fact that League focuses on a variety of issues, the fiscal balance concept seemed right, considering that the TABOR cap puts any increased state revenue in jeopardy.

The LAC is a volunteer group of League members who follow proposed legislation and analyze pending bills in the Colorado Legislature. They also publish a newsletter to inform League members of their actions and the status of bills. To subscribe call the LWVCO office, 303-863-0437.

# NEWS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

## LWVUS STARTS NEW REDISTRICTING TASK FORCE

The LWVUS Board is appointing a Redistricting Task Force to review the various methods and criteria that have been used by states and the positions of state Leagues on redistricting. The task force will also consider how well the methods and criteria have worked, develop materials to educate Leagues and communities, and make recommendations on next steps.

The LWVUS is doing this to be more of an effective force in the redistricting process which will occur during the 2020 census. They plan on appointing the task force as soon as possible so it can be finished for the LWVUS Council in 2015. If you are interested in participating please go to [LWV.org](http://LWV.org) and look for redistricting task force.

## MEMBER PARTICIPATION IN MEETINGS

LWVAC Management Team received a note from a League member stating the Death Penalty unit meeting presentations were one sided in favor of abolishing the Death Penalty. If the national, state or LWVAC League has a position on an issue, we are not required to present both sides, however, we encourage all members to express their opinions and comments during any League meeting and encourage you to speak up if you disagree with the presentations being given. To this end we will ensure all members attending the unit meetings have a chance to offer their viewpoints.

## WE WON

Many, many thanks to you all who responded to our Action Alert in support of the clean air regulations for the oil and gas industry as proposed by the Colorado Air Quality Control Commission.

The proposed regulations were passed Sunday, February 23 and will take effect upon publication of the decision by the Secretary of State.

Among other items, the decision calls for control of methane produced by fracking and is touted as one of the strongest clean air regulations in the U.S.

## LWVAC MANAGEMENT TEAM NOTES

Management team discussed a letter from a League member concerning the lack of pro and con information at unit meetings; discussed the request for the establishment of a unit meeting location in Aurora; agreed to provide a moderator for a possible Castle Rock City Council candidate forum; delegated Alice Ramsey to write a thank you to the Air Quality Control Commission; appointed Marilyn Ayers, Fern Black and Alice Ramsey serve on the LWVAC committee to form a proposed 2015 budget and discussed the LWVUS's call to action re IRS regulations concerning 501(c)4's.

Team members also discussed the status of the decision to form a joint Arapahoe County/ Douglas County League.





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

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541-430-4053  
[higreen@centurylink.net](mailto:higreen@centurylink.net)

## 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](mailto: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](mailto:info@lwvcolorado.org)  
[www.lwvcolorado.org](http://www.lwvcolorado.org)

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