



The Voter

League of Women Voters® of Arapahoe County

September 2014

Membership 90

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Welcome Back. This is a big issue as it contains a summer wrap up as well as our usual September events and election activities. Plan to attend our September 18th Kick off dinner meeting featuring a top notch speaker on voting and voting rights.

It's also back to business with the start of our new Aurora unit, LWVCO League Day, and all the candidate forums, ballot issue presentations, voter registration drives and various activities that always concern us during an election year. Ah yes, welcome back. We missed you.

LWVAC ALL-MEMBER DINNER MEETING AND SPEAKER ON VOTING RIGHTS

Cocktails: 5 pm

Dinner: 5:45 pm

Rendezvous Restaurant
Heather Gardens

2888 S. Heather Gardens Way
Aurora

Saturday, September 20, 2014

LWVCO League Day
8:30 a.m.- 3 p.m.
Holiday Inn Select
455 South Colorado Blvd.
Denver, CO 80246

LWVAC Management Team

Monday, September 22
6:30 p.m. @ Southglenn Library
6972 S. Vine St.
Streets of Southglenn

Tuesday, September 23, 2014

National Voter Registration Day
9:30 a.m.- 3:30 p.m.
Aurora Central Library
14949 Alameda Pky., Aurora

October 1, 2014

Ballot Issues Public Meeting
6:30 p.m.
Northridge Rec Center
8801 Broadway
Highlands Ranch,

A NOTE ABOUT LWVAC MEETING ROOMS

This year as we schedule our unit and public meetings you'll find several different addresses and locations. There's two reasons:

1. The Koelbel library meeting room will be closed until sometime in 2015 due to an extensive interior remodeling project. The Castlewood library meeting room will also be much smaller as the library staff plans to use a large portion of the space for other activities. Reserving other library rooms was difficult as we faced considerable competition from other groups who were also displaced and some of the libraries were not in Arapahoe County.

2. We are expanding our unit meetings and voter service programs to include three geographical areas: west and east Arapahoe County, and Douglas County. Our candidate forums, for example will be held in Aurora, Centennial and Douglas County. Ditto for the public ballot programs. So you will find our meetings being held in churches, recreational centers, and more. It will be a challenge, but you'll see more of Arapahoe and Douglas County

SUMMER WRAPUP

MAY-AUGUST 2014

- While we were busy with campaign finance in May the state League held their Council meeting in Grand Junction. Highlights included a panel of Mesa County citizens working to ensure environmental concerns are being addressed by the large oil and gas development in that county, and the Behavioral Task Force report submitted by LWVCO member, Barbara Mattison, who spearheaded the program. Formerly called the Mental Health Task Force, the name was changed after members learned that other issues, such as substance abuse, contributed to the mental health picture. We will learn more about the report and its recommendations at one of our unit meetings next year. To access the report and a summary click <http://lwvcolorado.org/behavioral-health.html>
- In June the National League held its 51st Convention in Texas. Delegates approved concurring with the Human Trafficking position developed by the League of Women Voters of New Jersey, and a comprehensive three-part program entitled *Structures of Democracy* to study and review 1. the process of amending the U.S. Constitution, including constitutional conventions. 2. the League's campaign finance position for a possible update and to increase member understanding of the various methods used to influence elections and erode protections against corruption in our political process. 3. the redistricting process for the U.S. Congress for the purpose of developing action steps.
- We will hear much more this program as the study of amending the constitution may be scheduled for 2015. **FYI:** Concurrence means that a majority of the delegates at the 2014 convention agreed to adopt a position previously studied and adopted by another League.
- At the June LWVAC 45th Annual Meeting, delegates voted to conduct a new local study on water resources, plans, policies and status within Arapahoe and Douglas Counties; approved the application to be sent to LWVCO and LWVUS re formation of a Arapahoe/Douglas County League, and listened to LWVCO lobbyist, Chris Watson give a rundown of the 2014 Colorado Legislative session. They also elected the 2014-2015 Management Team as listed on the back page.
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- And remember our study on agriculture? Well that new position was also released in June and contains considerable recommendations. Take a look at <http://lwv.org/content/lwvus-position-federal-agriculture-policies>.
- In July LWVAC submitted comments to the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) in support of the President's proposed Clean Air Plan. The report was written and researched by Sony Pennock based on the LWVUS's recommendations and research. www.lwvarapahoe.org
- July also brought approval from the state league re our application for a joint Arapahoe/Douglas League. It will now be sent to the national league for their consideration. LWVCO also approved a grant for \$1,500 to help us defray the cost of renting rooms for our public programs and candidate/ballot issue forums.
- In August we set dates for unit meeting programs, candidate forums and public ballot programs as well as established a League Facebook page and Twitter account. And thanks to Vicki Harimon, her husband, and Phyllis Graham for the successful End of the Summer party. August 27.

SEPTEMBER PROGRAM

LET PEOPLE VOTE



To launch our new LWVAC season and celebrate the start of a new Aurora unit, we've scheduled a special all-member meeting featuring cocktails, dinner and discussion on voting and voting rights with Andrea Sphall, ALCU member.

Passage of new laws by state legislatures to restrict voting continues at a record pace. The Brennan Center's Democracy Program noted that the last time they experienced such robust action against voting rights was during reconstruction! Explore the challenges and learn what is being done to ensure all citizens have the right to vote.

Thursday, September 18, 2014

Cash Bar: 5 p. m. Dinner: 5:45 p.m.

Rendezvous Restaurant, Heather Gardens
2888 S. Heather Gardens Way

Dinner: \$14 per person (includes coffee, tea & tip)
Please RSVP by September 14, 2014
Make checks payable to Rendezvous Restaurant

RSVP: Call or email and send dinner checks to
Sonya Pennock, 6751 S. Marion Circle West
Centennial, CO 80122
303-794-0430, sonsu@earthlink.net

**Protect
The
Vote!**



VOTERS SERVICE

VOTER SERVICE SEPTEMBER DATES & PROGRAMS

CANDIDATE FORUMS

Candidates running for Arapahoe County Commissioner in Districts 2 and 4, and the contested races for County Clerk and Recorder, Treasurer, Assessor, and Sheriff, positions will participate in the following candidate forums:

Thursday, October 2, 2014

6:30 p.m. Southglenn Public Library
6972 S. Vine St.
Streets of Southglenn, Centennial

Monday, October 6, 2014

6:30 p.m. Aurora Central Public Library
14949 E. Alameda Pky, Aurora

Douglas County candidates running in contested races for Senate District 30 and State Representative District 43, and Douglas County sheriff and County Surveyor will participate in a forum

Saturday, October 4, 2014

2:30 p.m. @ Highlands Ranch Library
9292 S. Ridgeline Blvd, Highlands Ranch, CO

BALLOT ISSUES

There will be four state-wide ballot issues on the November ballot

1. Amendment 67
Definition of Person and Child
2. Amendment 68
Horse Racetrack Gambling
3. Proposition 105
Genetically Modified Food
4. Proposition 104
School Board Meeting Requirements

The first two are constitutional amendments. The 4th and 5th are statutory.

These issues will be explained in full at our October unit meetings, but you can also hear about them at the LWVCO League Day and at one of our public LWVAC Ballot issue meetings in Douglas County, Aurora, and Centennial as explained below.



PUBLIC PROGRAMS ON THE STATEWIDE BALLOT ISSUES

Wednesday, October 1, 2014

6:30 p.m. @Northridge Recreation Center
8801 Broadway, Highlands Ranch, Co

Tuesday, October 14, 2014

6:30 p.m. @ Aurora Central Library
14949 E. Alameda Pky, Aurora

Wednesday, October 15, 2014

6:30 p.m. @ South Metro Chamber of Commerce
2145 E. Commons Ave, Streets of Southglenn
Centennial

The format will include a brief explanation of each ballot issue by a league moderator and then a 5 minute pro and con statement by representatives who support and oppose the issues.

Audience questions will be welcome. Time will also be set aside after the program so attendees can talk to the ballot issue representatives.

MEMBERSHIP BRIEFINGS



On August 26, 1920, after a 72 year struggle, Congress ratified the 19th Amendment giving women the right to vote. Six months prior to this date the League of Women Voters was born. For 94 years this volunteer organization has advocated for social change and citizen engagement in our democratic process.

Lets keep our organization alive by renewing our membership and support. Letters are being mailed this month to LWVAC members who need to renew this year and we hope you will continue to assist our efforts by renewing your membership. .

Whether you are active or not, your contribution is appreciated. We hope to continue for another 94.

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

Patricia Shaver has lived in Arapahoe County for 27 years and has had a diverse career as a private nurse, professional bail agent, and nonprofit Executive Director and Substance Abuse Counselor. She was a private nurse at Porter Hospital for former US Senator Gordon Allot and Temple Hoyne Buell. As a bail agent she was elected President of the Professional Bail Agents of Colorado and has an extensive knowledge of the criminal court system, bail bond industry, the Colorado Criminal Code, and more. Today she works as an Outreach Case Manager working with homeless veterans and serves as Executive Director for PBS Floyd, Inc. working with previously incarcerated clients. That organization has since expanded to include the School of Recovery and Self-Improvement (Sorasi) Substance Abuse Counseling and Treatment program. This year she was also elected to the Cunningham Fire Protection Board of Directors.

Susan Gilbert moved here from Chicago in 1976. She is currently a Teacher Librarian at Westminster High School having received her BS from University of Iowa. She also has two master's degrees - one in General Education with a focus in technology; the other in Information and Learning Technologies with an emphasis in School Library Media. She sponsors a multi-cultural Latin/American Student Association and is politically active. Immigration is a keen interest as Susan's school serves undocumented students.

NEWS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

LWVAC PROGRAM COMMITTEE PREVIEW

The LWVAC Program Committee has met several times during the summer to consider member suggestions, preview upcoming events and look at what's newsworthy. Here's a quick summary of unit program topics throughout 2014-2015. Some may be subject to change as per national and state studies, but all will be highlighted each month in this newsletter and on our web site and Facebook page.

September 18, 2014: Fall Kick-Off Meeting on Voting Rights.

All members will meet at Heather Gardens for a social hour and buffet dinner. Following dinner Andrea Shpall, ACLU member, will talk about voting and voting rights challenges throughout the U.S.

October: Ballot Issues Units will discuss the proposed issues on the November ballot.

November: Hot Topics What's on your mind? Members will have the opportunity to bring their favorite hot topics to unit meetings for discussion.

December: Holiday Party We will again celebrate the holidays at the Heritage Greens Club House with an evening of conversation, hors d'oeuvres, wine and soft drinks.

January, 2015: Program Planning Each year units review League's positions with an eye to retaining, dropping or updating them. This year we will consider state and local positions. Members also will have an opportunity to suggest future meeting topics. Look for a twist on the usual program.

February: Common Core Update Common Core educational standards were designed by state officials as a way to make sure that all students across the country learned at the same level. The standards had broad bipartisan support. However, today they have become a lightning rod for critics from left and right. We'll take a look at what has happened.

March: Special Districts Ann Terry, Executive Director of the Special District Association of Colorado, will speak at a general all member meeting. If you live in Arapahoe or Douglas County you'll likely find yourself in a number of special districts to which you pay taxes and that provide various services such as water, sewer, recreation and open space. Here's a chance to learn about how special districts work, how the Board members are selected and their governing powers.

April: LWVCO Behavioral Health Task Force Report At the April unit meetings, Susan Meeker who served on the task force, will summarize the task force's findings and preview follow up plans.

May: Water in Arapahoe and Douglas Counties At our annual meeting last June we voted to embark on a local study of water issues in Arapahoe and Douglas Counties. This meeting will be the first of a series hosted by the study committee.

June: Annual Meeting

As you can see, the topics are wide and varied. In addition to unit meetings, we again will offer **movie nights starting in November and host public meetings on critical issues.** We'll start off in October by hosting ballot issues public forums in western Arapahoe County, Aurora and Douglas County. If new issues emerge, we'll host special informational meetings.

NEWS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

LEAGUE DAY 2014

A registration form is included in this newsletter and we urge all to review it and plan to attend. It's always interesting and the 2014 ballot pamphlets will be ready for Leaguers to take home.

Highlights:

- A League sponsored debate between the Secretary of State candidates
- An explanation of the 4 statewide ballot issues
- A report on future activities planned by the LWVCO Behavioral Health Task Force
- Information about methods for amending the US Constitution in preparation for the LWVUS new study and review on campaign finance
- Understanding the new LWVUS position on human trafficking that was adopted in concurrence with the League of New Jersey.

Saturday, September 20, 2014

8:30 a.m.- 3 p.m.

**Holiday Inn Select Denver,
455 S. Colorado Blvd. Denver 80246.**

Registration: \$32.00

Deadline: Friday, 9/12/2014.

Registration Form, page 9



The LWVCO has planned a large PR campaign to advertise VOTE411 and its resources. To this end we will be entering local candidate information on the site and working with the state VOTE411 contact to update our information. Details to follow re the PR campaign, but in the meantime visit the site, try the various options and let us know what we need to do to make it current..

LWVAC ELECTION CENTRAL



IN addition to VOTE411, we urge you to visit the LWVAC Election Central section on our web site for Arapahoe and Douglas county voting guidelines, Vote Center locations, ballot information and deadlines. There's also a complete list of state and local candidates and their contact addresses, as well as information about the judges up for election

www.lwvarapahoe.org

VOTER REGISTRATION

LWVAC will once again participate in National Register to Vote Day, Tuesday, September 23 9:30 a.m.– 3:30 p.m. at the Aurora Central Library, 14949 E. Alameda Pky., Aurora.

If you're in the neighborhood stop by and cheer us on. To volunteer contact Marilyn Ayers, 303-471-8301, mk303@comcast.net

Additional voter registration dates and locations are on the LWVAC web site, www.lwvarapahoe.org



NEWS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

LWVUS SEEKS APPLICANTS FOR NATIONAL STUDY COMMITTEES

As part of the LWVUS's three-part Structures of Democracy Program that delegates adopted at the 2014 national convention (See page 2 for more information) the LWVUS is seeking applicants for the two studies it will be conducting under this program.

The first is the U.S. Constitution study which will examine the application of Article V of the U.S. Constitution which provides for amending the constitution. It will look at how a convention is formed, how delegates are selected and other details. Click <http://www.surveygizmo.com/s3/1769812/Constitution-Study-Application> for an application. Deadline: to apply: September 18, 2014.

The second is Money in Politics Education Committee. This will focus on the issue of campaign finance and a review of the current League position for a possible update. Application form: Click <http://www.surveygizmo.com/s3/1754009/Money-in-Politics-Education-Committee-Application> Deadline to apply: September 11, 2014.

The third is the Redistricting Task Force. This has been formed and Chris Carson, our LWVUS contact, will chair the task force. This task force will review the various methods and criteria that have been used in the states and the positions of state Leagues on redistricting, and consider how well the methods and criteria work.

LWVAC OIL & GAS DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

On September 8th two members of the LWVAC Oil & Gas Development Committee will join LWVCO member, Jeanette Hillery in a tour of a Nobel Energy fracking site in Greely, Colorado. The tour is being arranged by Nobel for women in various community organizations as part of the oil company's educational program.

The tour, however, will give us a first hand look at the drilling operation and allow us to observe how the various methods are being used to protect the environment. A report will appear in October,

Need short term research help for various subjects to be presented at our unit meetings. An update on the Common Core education plan needs some research expertise and Marlu would like to form a small temporary committee to research city and county ballot issues.

LIKE US ON FACEBOOK

This summer we finally developed a League of Women Voters of Arapahoe County Facebook page. If you have a Facebook account just google our name. We also have a Twitter account, but that's not as developed as Facebook. So we're asking all you Facebook users to go to the page and help raise our stats by "liking" us.

PS: If you have suggestions re the page, let Marlu Burkamp know. marluburkamp@gmail.com

MANAGEMENT TEAM NOTES

At the August meeting members set dates for candidate forms, reviewed the program updates for September through December and agreed to set a ballot training session for ballot presenters and other items related to election activities.

Deb Armbruster reported on the LWVAC's new water study committee ([SEE next page](#)) and members finalized responsibilities for the End of Summer Party.

The new Aurora Unit will meet the first Thursday of each month beginning October 2 at Mimi's Café, 205 S. Abilene St., Aurora, 80012. More information at our Sept. 18th kickoff.



LWVAC WATER COMMITTEE REPORT

The committee was formed at the LWVAC's Annual Meeting last June to study water issues pertaining to Arapahoe and Douglas Counties. The six-member committee chaired by Nancy Jackson, LWVAC member and Arapahoe County Commissioner, has submitted this report to acquaint you with the proposed Colorado Water Plan being discussed throughout the state as a means of dealing with water management issues and the challenge of meeting the state's future water needs. This report is a summary of an initial meeting on water issues with Julio Iturreria, Arapahoe County's Long Range Planning Manager. As the committee deals further with water issues and the many complexities of water rights and laws, more reports will be forthcoming.

In 2006, the Colorado Legislature passed the *Colorado Water for the 21st Century Act*, which formed the Interbasin Compact Committee and 9 Basin Roundtables located in the nine major Colorado river basins. Arapahoe and Douglas Counties are located in the South Platte River Basin. Those groups discuss water management issues faced by their local areas, and collaborate on solutions to Colorado's water challenges and the stakeholders' many different and often competing priorities on how our water should be managed and used.

In May 2013, Governor Hickenlooper issued an Executive Order tasking the Colorado Water Conservation Board to create Colorado's Water Plan, - a blueprint for voluntary compliance but, not a legally binding document. To this end, each of the 9 Basin Roundtables have created a Basin Implementation Plan dealing with their own water challenges and recommended solutions. These will be incorporated into the Colorado's Water Plan, a draft of which is due by December 2014.

You have an opportunity to learn more about the Colorado Water Plan and the Basin Plans at a series of meetings conducted by the State Legislature's Water Resources Review Committee. The South Platte River Basin meeting will be Wednesday, September 17 at the Fort Collins Senior Center Multipurpose Room from 1-4 p.m. The Denver Metropolitan Area meeting is Wednesday, October 1 from 10 a.m.-noon at Metropolitan State University of Denver in a room to be determined. More information on these meetings can be found at colorado.gov/lcs/WRRC.

The public is also invited to submit comments on what they would like to see prioritized in the Colorado Water Plan by going to coloradowaterplan.com and filling out a general input form. The form will ask you to identify your river basin (South Platte) and your constituent group (environment and recreation, agriculture, municipal, business and industry, etc.). Your form will be emailed to the Colorado Water Conservation Board at cowaterplan@state.co.us for consideration. All forms will be considered publicly at a Colorado Water Conservation Board meeting. A formal response to each submission will also be posted at coloradowaterplan.com. Comments should be submitted as soon as possible (no later than early October) to be considered in completing the draft water plan due in December.

Deb Armbruster, LWVAC Water Committee





COLORADO VOTER

LEAGUE DAY 2014

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 20, 2014

REGISTRATION AT 8:30 a.m., CONFERENCE 8:50 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.

Holiday Inn Select Denver-Cherry Creek, Colorado Room, 455 South Colorado Blvd, Denver CO 80246

Fall 2014 elections will be front and center at this year's League Day. The morning program will feature a League sponsored candidates forum for the position of Colorado Secretary of State. Following the forum Gerry Cummins, LWVCO Voter Service VP, will address the Colorado Ballot Issues. In the afternoon, Barbara Mattison, President Elect of LWVCO, will give a presentation entitled, "Behavioral Health Task Force Ð Where From Here?"

Other presentations in the works include:

- Informing us on methods for amending the US Constitution in preparation for the LWVUS new study and review on campaign finance
- Understanding the new LWVUS position on human trafficking
- Sharing innovative activities being conducted by several local Leagues

The 2014 registration fee remains the same as last year at \$32.00 including lunch and all materials.

All participants must complete a registration form and submit it to LWVCO before the deadline of Friday, 09/12/2014. Hotel rooms are available at a discounted rate of \$109 w/o taxes. Please see hotel room article for details.

The Holiday Inn Select is located on the west side of S. Colorado Blvd, just north of the intersection with Cherry Creek Drive North. There are two parking garages accessed from the front of the hotel. The larger lot is below the hotel, accessed by a ramp on the left side of the hotel entrance; the ramp to the smaller upper lot is on the right side.

COLORADO LEAGUE DAY REGISTRATION FORM

DEADLINE: FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 12

NAME _____ EMAIL _____

(Print as you wish your nametag to read)

LOCAL LEAGUE

PAYMENT *Registration Fee of \$32.00 includes lunch.* Payment options:

___ Check (payable to LWVCO) ___ PayPal (accepts all major credit cards) / Go to www.lwvcolorado.org

___ Credit Card (Visa or MC) # _____ Expiration Date _____

LUNCH Choice: (circle one) Chicken Salmon Veggie

Orange Chicken Salad Ð Romaine & spring lettuce mix, oranges & cashews, topped with grilled chicken breast, balsamic vinaigrette

Roast Salmon Salad (gluten free) Ð Salmon filet on a bed of field greens, julienne carrots, zucchini, squash with champagne pesto vinaigrette

Roasted Vegetable Sandwich (vegetarian) Ð Roasted peppers, tomato and squash on focaccia with cream cheese spread

MAIL TO: LWVCO, 1410 Grant Street, Suite B204, Denver, CO 80203-1855 **FAX:** 303.837.9917



**The League of Women Voters
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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, jolvs10s@gmail.com

League Links

League of Women Voters/Colorado

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