



The Voter

League of Women Voters of Arapahoe
And Douglas Counties

April 2015

Membership 106

IN THIS ISSUE

- ▶ April Unit Meetings
- ▶ May Preview
- ▶ LWVADC Annual Meeting
- ▶ Membership Briefings
- ▶ News & Announcements
- ▶ Management Team Notes

We're a little late this month due to computer problems but here's the news.

The April units on Behavioral Health will provide us with information gained from a two year study of the issue, including available treatments, services and new programs for those experiencing mental health and substance problems. And see the preview of the May unit meetings on water. You won't want to miss this one. Thanks to Jo Feder, Charlotte Faris and Mary Ann McCoy for arranging the interesting meeting on special districts and the Mervines for the great movie, FRESH.

Happy Spring, Happy Easter, and Happy Passover.

Thursday, April 2, 2015

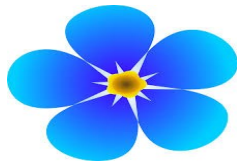
Unit Meeting: Aurora Update
5 p.m. @ Mimi's Restaurant
205 S. Abilene, Aurora

Friday, April 3, 2015

Passover Begins
Good Friday

Sunday, April 5, 2015

Easter



Thursday, April 9, 2015

Unit Meeting: Behavioral Health
9:30 p.m. @ Arapahoe Library Dis-
trict's Administration Building
12855 E. Adam Aircraft Circle
Near Centennial Airport

Friday, April 10, 2015

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

Monday, April 13, 2015

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

Wednesday, April 22, 2015

LWVADC Movie Night
Poliwood
6:30 p.m. @ Southglenn Library
Streets Of Southglenn Center

Monday, April 27, 2015

LWVADC Management Team
6:30 p.m. @ Castlewood Library

First ANNOUNCEMENT: LWVADC ANNUAL MEETING

Our 46th Annual Meeting will be Saturday, June 13, 2015 at the Country Buffet, 7475 Park Meadows Drive in Douglas County. Members are invited to enjoy breakfast, talk with friends and meet new members from 8-9 a.m. The business meeting will start at 9 a.m.

As it is the first annual meeting for our new Arapahoe/Douglas League, we will be reviewing new bylaws, a new expanded budget, new opportunities for League program and new members of the Management Team. Our Guest speaker will be Cathy Proctor, energy reporter for the Denver Business Journal. She will speak on energy issues in Colorado, including the effect of low oil prices on the state's oil and gas development (or lack thereof) in Colorado. An annual meeting packet with all the details will be sent to all LWVADC members by May 13, 2015.

APRIL PROGRAM

BEHAVIORAL HEALTH

By now you have received two notices re our April behavioral health unit meetings which will feature the findings of the LWVCO's task force on the subject. The report outlines the research conducted throughout the state regarding available services, treatments and options provided by behavioral health providers, and the task force's recommendations on promising practices, suggestions for change and action regarding access to care.

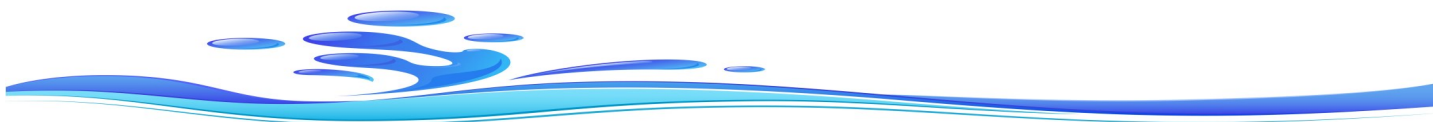
The April 9th unit at the Arapahoe Library District Administration Building will feature speaker Barbara Mattison, who chaired the Task Force and guided their research. The April 13 meeting at Garcia's Mexican Restaurant will feature Linda Rinehart, LWVADC member, who has worked with the LWVCO's legislation Action Committee on behavioral health issues at the state capital and is a speaker and advocate for mental and behavioral health issues in the metro area.

The meetings will also include a power point presentation and copies of the presentation will be available to all attendees.

Addresses to the two unit locations are on the front page. If you need directions please contact marluburkamp@gmail.com.

MAY PREVIEW

LWVADC'S WATER STUDY PRESENTATION



Presentations for the three May unit meetings will feature research conducted by the League's Water Committee. This committee, which has met since this study was adopted at last year's annual meeting, has developed an interesting power point presentation and member materials regarding the state's water resources and the proposed plans for an overall state water policy - the Colorado Water Plan. Here's what they will cover:

- History and important terms
- Where do we get our water?
- Special Districts and Partnerships
- Issues of Quality and Quantity
- Capacity Building projects
- The League's Position
- The Colorado Water Plan
- Resources

Colorado's water resources and projects are affected by a multi layer of districts, watersheds and intergovernmental agreements, all with legal ramifications and governmental controls. This presentation will articulate the issues and the challenges we face to ensure we will have the water we need for urban, rural, recreational and agricultural use. As the water committee plans to continue their study and report additional findings to us during the 2015-2016 League year it behooves us to attend these meetings and begin learning about our most important resource.

Unit meetings will be May 7th in Aurora; May 11th at Garcia's and May 14 at Castlewood. Mark your calendars and watch for a detailed report in the May newsletter.

MEMBERSHIP BRIEFINGS



WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

We are pleased to announce the addition of two new members:

Kristi Moran from Centennial
Tom and Carol Tobiassen from Aurora

Please remember if any League member has a question about League, its organizational structure or guidelines, please feel free to send your questions to this newsletter. We know a new organization can be confusing and we're happy to help. Our membership chair, Jo Ann Feder, joluvs10s@gmail.com is always ready to answer questions or talk with you. Or, send questions to the newsletter at marluburkamp@gmail.com

NEWS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

BEHAVIORAL HEALTH CRISIS CENTER OPEN IN COLORADO

More Behavioral Health news from Barbara Mattison, Chair, LWVCO Behavioral Health Task Force

Eleven walk-in-Behavioral Health Crisis Centers are now open 24/7 and offer confidential in-person crisis support, information and referrals to anyone in need in Colorado. Some locations provide crisis beds for 1-5 days for voluntary or involuntary treatment. The centers are located in Denver, Westminster, Aurora, Lakewood, Littleton, Boulder, Ft. Collins, Greeley, Grand Junction, Pueblo and Colorado Springs.

In addition to the Walk-in-Centers, 1-844-493-TALK (8255) is a 24/7/365 support line for anyone affected by a mental health, substance use, or emotional crisis. According to Colorado Crisis Services, all calls are connected to a mental health professional who provides support and connections to further resources.

The centers and the crisis line are the result of \$21 million in state funding. Although the centers are located across the state, rural and mountain areas still remain underserved. For information on the Crisis Centers (locations, map, services) and the Crisis Hot Line, go to www.coloradocrisiservices.org

NATIONAL HISTORY DAY COLORADO

Each year the LWVCO works with the people coordinating the National History Day Colorado in seeking judges to evaluate the materials students submit to complete for various awards. To this end LWVCO is asking League members if they would like to participate in the day by judging some of the entries and scoring their results. Interested? Here's the scoop

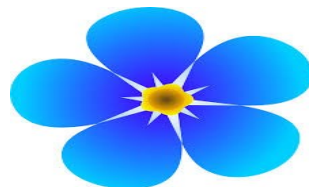
National History Day an academic program for Colorado middle and high school students. In Colorado the program is sponsored by the University of Colorado Denver. This national program annually challenges students to conduct historical research on annual themes through libraries, archives, museums, oral history interviews, the internet and historic sites. Students then present their work in original papers, websites, exhibits, performances and documentaries for awards at local, state and national levels.

The final competition is May 2 and LWVCO is seeking volunteer league members to help. You will receive training, and assistance from League members and get to meet many interesting and informative students.

Contact Carol Pace, LWVCO Board Member, at 303-751-4125, pacecag@gmail.com. She can tell you all about it and what you could do. And if you do volunteer let us know so we can report on your experience in this newsletter.

MANAGEMENT TEAM NOTES

The March meeting of the management team included discussion re the Annual Meeting; upcoming oil and gas meetings with government officials; unit meeting programs for the remainder of the League year; LWVCO convention delegates; available meeting space for unit meetings, and dates for the budget committee to develop a 2015 -2016 budget.



CITIZEN'S ACADEMY

LWVADC member Vicki Harimon asked to include this information in the newsletter as she and other league members have participated in this program and found it very helpful.

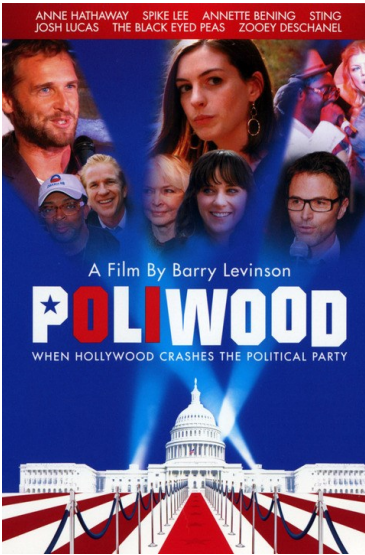
The Arapahoe County Sheriff's Office will be conducting a series of citizen public safety academies throughout 2015. These academies are designed to provide you with a "behind the scenes" look at your sheriff's office. The academy is held at the Sheriff's Office at 13101 E. Broncos Parkway in Centennial. Participation requires a commitment of two nights per week, 6-9 p.m. for the five week period and two Saturdays. There is no fee for the academy, but each academy is limited to 30 participants, 21 years or older. Food is provided during each class.

If you are interested you must fill out an application and return it, along with a copy of your photo ID/drivers license and mail it to Deputy Brian McKnight at bmcknight@arapahoegov.com.

Since it may be too late to enroll in the first one which runs from April 9- May 7, 2015, I'm suggesting you email Brian first and see if you still have time to enroll. If not you can find when the next academy is scheduled. Please note you will be subject to a criminal background check as part of your enrollment procedure.

LWVADC DISCUSSION GROUP

Having finished with the Great Decisions program for this year, the group will continue meeting for a couple of months to discuss current events and the outcome of the discussion series. Next Meeting: Friday, April 10, 2015 @ 9:30 a.m. Castlewood Library, 6730 S.Uinta St. Centennial



LWVADC MOVIE NIGHT

Oscar winner Barry Levinson's documentary about the 2008 Republican and Democratic national conventions examines the way in which celebrities and politics have become intertwined in the U.S. The movie featuring a variety of entertainers expressing their viewpoints, especially during the 2008 national Democratic convention held in Denver.

In reading the reviews most critics said it did not include the conservative viewpoints as those interviewed mostly expressed their "liberal" opinions.

Nevertheless, it does exhibit how politicians are now featuring celebrities as spokespeople in hopes that might sway voters. As voters, it is interesting to see how we feel about a celebrity's endorsement. Does it convince you to vote for that politician? Knowing leaguers I doubt it, but what about the rest of the populace?

Wednesday, April 22 at 6:30 p.m. at Southglenn Library in the Streets of Southglenn. Popcorn, snacks and beverages will be served.

WHY MOVIE NIGHTS?

Recently I was approached by a League member who asked me why League sponsors movie nights. What purpose do they serve and why waste our time sponsoring movies when there are so many more serious items to consider.

Good question. The answer is we do consider serious items. The topics studied by participants in our Great Decisions program, unit meetings and public programs and all the election activities we study and conduct each year are serious issues. We're also serious about attending the many symposiums and other public meetings to ascertain more information about the topics we're studying. We are serious. Sometimes too serious.

So we sponsor movie nights as a way of learning more about social and political issues in a more relaxing format. It's a method we use to know more about what's happening in the world, especially subjects that are not adequately covered by the media because the Kardashians are far more interesting. It doesn't require another study or research program by our members. It is an alternative way to provide lots more information about lots more subjects than we could ever handle in a typical league year. Its another method to attract those whose interests are not always covered by our designated program subjects. And it's just plain fun to relax, eat popcorn and absorb what's on the "silver screen."

To wit: Throughout the years we've learned about child poverty in Colorado and the need for adequate food stamp funding; listened to Bill Moyers about the American Legislative Exchange Council (ALEC) and how they help corporate American draft legislation to suit their interests, and heard about the devastating drought in California before it became public knowledge. Check out *Last Call at the Oasis*.

We've also laughed and cried with Robert Reich, former labor secretary under President Clinton, as he explained the widening income gap in the U.S.; reviewed campaign finance and the devious ways to donate "dark" money, and were enlightened by movies about the food business, farming and agriculture. One favorite was watching comedian Mo Rocca describe his quest to find the location of the Electoral College and his humorous interviews with citizens and members of the "college" as to their functions and responsibilities. Didn't we learn about that I high school?

There's more but you get the point. These movie nights inform, educate and motivate. They are free and open to all members and their families. So plan to attend one... some are provocative, others informative, and others just plain fun. But they all make you think. And the discussions that follow can be just as interesting.

Marlu Burkamp, LWVADC League member and Newsletter editor.



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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

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