



The Voter

League of Women Voters® of Arapahoe County

April 2012

Membership 82

IN THIS ISSUE

- ▶ April Unit Meeting
- ▶ Voter Service Activities
- ▶ News & Announcements
- ▶ Membership Briefings
- ▶ Management Team Notes



Compared to last month's busy calendar, April's looks quite small. While that may be true for member events, the LWVAC management team is very busy behind the scenes setting the 2012-2013 League budget, conducting research for a possible league structural change, recruiting new management team members and readying for the **June 9th Annual Meeting.**

Voter Service activities for this election year is also heating up with several voter registration drives already scheduled, and more to come. Details to follow but for now, enjoy Spring.



Monday, April 9, 2012

LWVAC Voter Registration Drive
10 a.m.-1 p.m.
Aurora Community College
16000 E. Centretch Parkway
Aurora

Monday, April 16, 2012

LWVAC Management Team Mtg
6:30 p.m. @ Smoky Hill Library
5430 S. Biscay Circle, Centennial

Saturday, April 28, 2012

United Nations Seminar
9 a.m.–2 p.m. @ Denver University
Joef Korb School of
International Studies
2201 S. Gaylord St., Denver

Thursday, April 12, 2012 General League Meeting

Privatization Consensus
4:30-6:30 p.m. @ Castlewood
Library
6739 S. Uinta St., Centennial

Monday, April 23, 2012

LWVAC Voter Registration Drive
10 a.m.-2 p.m.
Arapahoe Community College
Littleton

Friday & Saturday, May 11 & 12

LWVCO Council
Pueblo, Colorado

Saturday, June 9, 2012

LWVAC Annual Meeting

General Unit meeting: April 12, 2012

This month, we will hold one general unit meeting on the final consensus questions for the LWVUS Privatization study on **Thursday, April 12, from 4:30–6:30 p.m. at the Castlewood library.** To this end, the consensus questions are included in a separate attachment with this newsletter.

The questions this time will deal with laws and regulations adopted by various states, and functions and procedures that should be included when privatizing public assets, services and functions. We will also discuss and identify the core governmental services that should not be privatized. While the subject may sound dull, it's important to ensure privatization efforts are transparent, and financially sound. If you attended the March unit meeting on privatization you know many such efforts suffer from hastily decisions made behind closed doors with little or no citizen knowledge or input.

The last portion of the meeting will also look at our local program positions and solicit suggestions for any new member studies. **Note: Refreshments will be served at the meeting.**

VOTER SERVICES

ARAPAHOE COUNTY PLANS FOR PRIMARY AND GENERAL ELECTION

LWVAC Voter Services Chair, Karen Hart, and Marlu Burkamp, Communications, were among the participants in a meeting with Arapahoe County Clerk and Recorder, Nancy Doty and her staff, to hear about the county's plans for this year's primary and general elections.

The primary election June 26, will be an all-mail ballot election with ballots mailed to voters by June 4th. The last day to register for the primary election is May 29th.

Election details:

- In addition to using the U.S. Postal Service, voters will be able to drop off their ballots at 16 locations throughout the county.
- The county Clerk will send a mailing to all inactive voters to encourage they update their registration for the general election.

The general election, November 6, will allow voters to cast their ballot several ways: by mail, at 30 Vote Centers located throughout the County, and at early voting locations. Ballots will be mailed to voters by October 15 and early voting will run from October 22-November 2, 2012.

The Vote Centers will need a total of 450 election workers as opposed to the 1,500 workers required by the former 200 county polling places. Nancy also said the vote centers were expected to reduce the number of provisional ballots. In 2008 over 6,000 were used mostly because voters went to the wrong location. Vote Centers are designed to allow registered voters to vote at any Vote Center location, no matter where they live in Arapahoe County

In addition, the County's election web site arapahoevotes.com will contain links to the state



Voter Registration at Arapahoe Community College



Voter Registration site; how to request a mail-in-ballot; individual voter information (precinct, sample ballot, voting districts and elected representatives); and ways to find the nearest vote center, mail ballot drop-off locations, and early voting sites. It will also provide links to the candidates web sites.

Both the Democrats and Republicans concluded their county assemblies/conventions last month and will be holding their state assemblies/conventions in April.

More information will be on our web site and in future editions of this newsletter. If, however, you have questions contact Karen Hart, 720- 234-5303. larkspurkaren@hotmail.com

LWVAC VOTER REGISTRATION UPDATE

LWVAC members conducted two voter registration drives In March at Fort Logan Elementary School in Sheridan, and Arapahoe Community College in Littleton. Chris Angle and Denise Aiello helped Keith and Marilyn Ayers at Sheridan and Ellen Belef, Marlu Burkamp and Denise Aeillo, worked with the Ayers in registering the college students.

Two more student registration drives are scheduled for Monday, April 9 from 10 a.m.-1 p.m. at Aurora Community College, and a repeat performance Monday April 23 from 10 a.m.- 2 p.m. at Arapahoe Community College.

Marilyn, Keith and Ellen Belef also registered several developmentally disabled individuals at Children's Hospital and are working with the Aurora Public Schools (APS) to register additional individuals enrolled in the SEARCH project at the APS Crossroads School later this month. Project SEARCH is an internship Job Training Program for young adults who thrive with their unique intellectual disabilities, and is a collaboration between Aurora Public Schools and Children's Hospital Colorado.

Additionally LWVCO members at the Windcrest Retirement facility are working with their facility committees to set up a registration drive for new Windcrest residents, and LWVAC members Justine Compo and Wanda Ramey are contacting high schools in Douglas and Arapahoe Counties to ask about conducting a fall registration drive for eligible high school students.

Thus far Marilyn Ayers, our intrepid Voter Registration coordinator, has trained 21 league members, ready to participate in voter registration drives. Thanks to all who volunteered. If you would like to help and/or become a voter registrar, or have suggestions for a voter registration drive, contact Marilyn, 303-471-8301, mk303@comcast.net.



UPDATE ON ELECTION AND VOTING RIGHTS BILLS IN THE COLORADO

- HB 1024 requiring ballot titles to be written in plain, nontechnical language was defeated.
- HB 1292 allowing use of tribal cards as ID; allowing change of residency up to 7 days before an election instead of the 28 day period; permitting a disabled elector to be assisted by any person they wish, and striking the section that fined voter registration drive organizers \$5000 when they "intentionally" fail to deliver applications in a timely manner, is now being considered by the Appropriations Committee.
- SB 147, which would have prohibited a person from intentionally communicating false information about election procedures or voter eligibility within 90 days prior to an election, was defeated.
- SB 155 dealing with confidentiality vs. open records is still being discussed. Legislators are trying to develop a bill that will deal with the Colorado Open Records Act that says all public records shall be open for inspection, and Article VII, Section 8 of the Colorado Constitution that protects secrecy in voting. LWVCO is taking a "watch" position to see how the bill develops.
- A bipartisan bill that would have ensured that more than 300,000 inactive voters receive a mail ballot for the November election was also defeated.

For more information on these bills and other voting/election legislation see the latest LWVCO legislative letter on www.lwvcolorado.org

NEWS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

LWVUS NEW EDUCATION POSTION

Remember the lengthy consensus meetings we held last year on the LWVUS study of the Role of the Federal Government in Education?

Well the LWVUS complied the results of the 377 leagues who participated in the study and approved a new position at its March 2012 meeting. It's too lengthy to print in this newsletter so go to the LWVUS website at

[www: lwv.org/content/federal-role-public-education-position](http://www.lwv.org/content/federal-role-public-education-position)

UNITED NATIONS CONFERENCE

The United National Association will hold its annual UN Seminar, entitled, ***The United Nations: Myth and Reality*** Saturday, April 28, 2012 from 9 a.m.-2 p.m. at the Josef Korbel School of International Studies, at Denver University, 2201 S. Gaylord St., Denver.

The event will feature discussion and conversations on the myths and realities of the United Nations, and workshops led by local non-profits and UN experts.

The keynote address, to be given by the Honorable Timothy Wirth, will highlight the challenges the UN must overcome in the eyes of the American public, including the history and background of some of the more popular myths.

Registration fee for the general public is \$25, (including lunch and parking.); \$10 for the keynote address only, and \$5 for students. To register visit <http://www.blacktie-colorado.com/rsvp>. Event code: 428.

You can also mail your checks by April 20 to Matthias Edrich—Peck, Shaffer & Williams LLP, 1801 Broadway, #1700, Denver, CO 80202. (Payable to UNA Denver, *please list phone no.*)

MARCH 4TH OIL & GAS MEETING

An audience of 70 individuals were in attendance at the last presentation in our oil and gas development series on March 4th at Smoky Hill Library.

Presenters included Matt Lepore, energy attorney and former General Counsel to the Colorado Oil and Gas Conservation Commission; Matt Sura, oil and gas attorney for landowners and environmental advocate; Thom Kerr, Acting Director of the Colorado Oil and Gas Conservation Commission, and Barbara Green, environmental and land use attorney.

Ms. Green shared her legal analysis on whether local counties and cities should develop responsible land use regulations re oil and gas development within their boundaries. Her position: It is within the rights of the localities to develop such regulations and cities and counties should do so. Ms. Green is also serving on the Governor's Task Force on Cooperative Strategies re State and Local Regulations of Oil and Gas Development.

Many thanks to Deb Armbruster for once more arranging this program and to the many LWVAC members who helped with the event. See photo's below



ASSORTED NEWS & UPDATES

- Last call for LWVAC members wishing to attend the LWVCO Council May 11-12 in Pueblo. LWVAC will pay hotel and registration expenses.
- Mark your calendar. LWVAC Annual Meeting is Saturday, June 9. A different venue is planned so stay tuned for future announcements.
- The LWVUS Convention is June 8-12 in Washington D.C. Toni Larson, Denver league member, has been nominated to be on the LWVUS Board of Directors.
- The new 2012-2013 LWVAC Management Team is being formed this month. If you are interested in learning more about the Team and the various positions, let us know. Volunteering to serve as a Member At-Large is a good way to start. And you can learn more about league by attending the Leadership Retreat. (See below)
- The LWVCO annual Leadership Retreat will be June 22-23 at the Best Western Lake Dillon Lodge in Frisco, Colorado. This is an excellent event for new and experienced management team members to learn the finer points of League program. LWVAC will pay hotel and registration costs.

For information contact Marlu Burkamp,
798-2939, marluburkamp@gmail.com

MEMBERSHIP BRIEFINGS

Welcome to two new League members: Nan Shannon and Jean Ann Palmer.

Nan and her husband moved to Colorado in 2000 from Baltimore and enjoy the Colorado weather and outdoor activities, especially road biking. She is on the paino faculty of Regis University and Metropolitan State College, and performs frequently in the area at many chamber music concerts.

The reason she joined League is to be involved in voter registration, as she is concerned at the efforts to suppress voter rights in many areas of the county.

Jean Ann is a retired teacher. unfortunately we were unable to obtain information in time for the newsletter deadline. She will be profiled in next month's newsletter.

Our condolences to Deb Armbruster on the death of her mother.

LWVAC LOCAL PROGRAM PLANNING

At the end of our privatization consensus on April 12, , we will hold a short discussion on LWVAC local program planning. While we usually do this at our January meeting, we did not have time due to the web site demonstration. Thus, we will briefly discuss our local positions and any new studies that might be suggested on April 12th.

You will receive the LWVAC positions at the meeting to review and discuss. These have been studied, adopted and amended over the years by LWVAC members. We can act on these positions and have done so during 2011 by supporting Arapahoe County's continuation of the open space tax ,and by speaking on the proposed land use regulations for oil and gas explorations in Arapahoe County at the County's Planning Commission and County Commissioners meetings. We do, however, review the positions each year to determine if they are still valid. If not, we can conduct a new study to update and/or amend the position or drop it.

You can also suggest a new item for study. Please note that to conduct a new study the item must have a team of at least three members willing to conduct the research and present it to LWVAC members. It should have a general timeline and rationale and a goal. It should also have a scope; what you plan to study, the limits of the study and how it pertains to your community. The LWVAC Management Team will then review the suggestions and their recommendations will be presented to you to approve or disapprove at the LWVAC June 9th Annual Meeting.

LWVAC MANAGEMENT TEAM NOTES

The March meeting included the following agenda items: a report regarding LWVAC members who live in Douglas County conducting programs pertaining to Douglas County; a progress report on the LWVCO Grant given to LWVAC to train speakers for the 2012 ballot presentations; the LWVAC Annual Meeting; an evaluation of the oil and gas programs given this winter; discussion of a possible On Target program in July on the Supreme Court's health care decision; approval of an LWVAC evaluation form to be used at all LWVAC sponsored events; suggested locations for a May LWVAC sponsored field trip; approval of the LWVCO voter service candidate eligibility criteria; voter registration, and a membership report.



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

5776 S. Crocker Street
Littleton, Colorado 80120
303-730-2356

www.lwvarapahoe.org

email: lwvarapahoeinfo@gmail.com

LWVAC MANAGEMENT TEAM

Chris Angle
Program Point Person/Key Contact
303-779-0814
mcangle@comcast.net

Deb Armbruster
Program Point Person/Public Programs
303-770-5505
darmbr@aol.com

Barbara Dungey
Secretary
720-253-6629
barbara.b.dungey@gmail.com

Marilyn Ayers,
Treasurer
303-471-8301
mk303@comcast.net

Charlotte Faris
Membership Point Person
303-690-8466
faris18603@comcast.net

Marlu Burkamp
PR/Communications Point Person
303-798-2939
marluburkamp@gmail.com

Karen Hart
Voter Services Point Person
720-234-5303
larkspurkaren@hotmail.com

Mary Power,
Social Point Person
303-346-2713
m2power@comcast.net

Fern Black, Member At-Large
303-793-0807
blackwatch5@hotmail.com

Julie Beekhuizen, Web
303-738-0926
jbeekhui@aol.com

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 Charlotte Faris, 303-690-8466
faris18603@comcast.net

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