



# The Voter

League of Women Voters® of Arapahoe County

Summer 2012

Membership 84

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Consider this publication part of your summer reading list. It contains reports about our 43rd annual meeting, the LWVCO Council, an On Target meeting on the Supreme Court Health Care decision in July, the results of the LWVUS Convention and a host of election information from LWVAC, LWVCO and LWVUS.

As this is an extremely active year, you'll also receive periodic updates on LWVAC election activities and volunteer opportunities to participate in "Power the Vote." That's the LWVUS's slogan for this year's league election activities and from the looks of it, we'll need all the power we can get. In the meantime, Happy Summer!

**Thursday, June 28, 2012**  
 Management Team Meeting  
 6:30 p.m. @ Koelbel Library  
 5955 S. Holly, Centennial

**Tuesday, July 10, 2012**  
 LWVAC *On Target* Meeting  
 Supreme Court Decision on  
 Health Care Legislation  
 6:30 p.m. @ Koelbel Library  
 5955 S. Holly, Centennial

**July, 2012**  
 Management Team Retreat &  
 Training  
 TBA

**Saturday, August 4, 2012**  
 Speaker Training for ballot issue  
 presentations  
 10 a.m. @ Koelbel Library  
 5955 S. Holly, Centennial

**Saturday, August 11, 2012**  
 Speaker Training for ballot issue  
 Presentations  
 10 a.m. @ Koelbel Library  
 5955 S. Holly, Centennial

**Saturday, September 22, 2012**  
 LWVCO League Day

## The Supreme Court Decision on Health Care

By the time you receive this, the Supreme Court's decision on health care will have been announced. As a result the media will be full of comments, commentators, comparisons, and candidate cacophony. So what does it all mean? What will happen next? And who will or will not benefit?

Join us in discussing this issue at a special LWVAC *On Target* Program for League members and their friends Tuesday, July 10, 6:30-8:30 p.m. at Koelbel Library, 5955 S. Holly St., Centennial. It will feature Robert Semro, Policy Analyst for the Bell Policy Center, and Ashley Sheeland, Health Policy Attorney for the Colorado Consumer Health Initiative. They will share their views on the Court's decision, how it impacts the availability of health care resources, and what changes may or may not happen after the November election.

Please join us for this very informal discussion. The *On Target* program is a new feature initiated two years ago for LWVAC members and their guests. It features speakers and an informal question and answer session on the hot topics of the day. For more information, contact Deb Armbruster, [darmbr@aol.com](mailto:darmbr@aol.com).

# LWVAC EVENTS & INFO

## LWVAC ANNUAL MEETING



There were no empty chairs at the LWVAC's 43rd Annual Meeting, Saturday June 9 at the Southglenn library. More than 25 members enjoyed the presentation by Elena Nunez, Executive Director of Colorado Common Cause, the delightful lunch provided by the League, and the subsequent business meeting.

Thanks to management team members, Deb Armbruster and Barbara Dungey for arranging the lunch, Fern Black for chairing the meeting, and to all of you for your participation and interest.

### Highlights Included:

- Updates on voter suppression legislation and tactics implemented by states throughout the U.S. as presented by Elena Nunez. They include Florida's stringent voter registration rules, the re-viewing of state voter rolls for "ineligible" voters, fraudulent robo calls to voters with misinformation about polling place locations and times, voter challenges at the polls, and legislation to require mandatory photo IDs to vote. These methods are expected to mushroom this election year and Ms. Nunez asked League to continue to be monitor these activities and educate voters about such proposals and practices.
- Adoption of 2012-2013 budget. Income/expenses for LWVAC operations is projected at \$8,595; \$2,300 is projected for the education fund.
- Approval of existing of LWVAC program positions. No new studies were proposed.
- Election of LWVAC Management Team as follows:
  - Key Contact/Communications: Marlu Burkamp
  - Secretary: Barbara Dungey
  - Treasurer: Marilyn Ayers
  - Program: Chris Angle
  - Membership: Charlotte Faris
  - Voter Service: Karen Hart
  - Fern Black: Member At-Large
  - Barbara Barlow: Member At-Large
  - Sonya Pennock: Member At-Large
- Awards to outgoing Management Team members Deb Armbruster and Julie Beekhuizen, and to the current management Team for their continued administrative guidance.
- Management Team announcements about upcoming programs and events . See page 3 for details.

## THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS NEEDS YOU

As evidenced by the 2012-2013 Management Team slate, many familiar names are once again filling the Management team leadership positions.

We need new faces. We also need members willing to serve on committees and help with events and voter service projects. In short, **WE NEED YOU!**

At the Annual Meeting, Chris Angle, our program chair, distributed an interest survey to meeting attendees asking for their input on future programs and events. She also requested that people who wish to work on short term projects volunteer to further acquaint themselves with league programs and learn more about how League works. In terms of programs, members can volunteer to work on the unit meeting team, the study and consensus team, the public meeting team and the Hot Topic team. These would be small committees to assist Chris is presenting programs responsive to you and your community. To this end the interest survey and information about the program teams will be emailed to all members later this year and follow up phone calls will be initiated.

**Voter Service:** We received a terrific response when we asked for voter registration volunteers. We now need more of you to help on short term projects involving other voter service projects and election events.

**Membership:** We also need more members to serve on our membership committee, including a social chairman to work with the committee to continue the lunch bunch, book club and other social events for LWVAC members that we initiated last year.

In short, we need you to help advance LWVAC. In the last four years, we've added new members, sponsored more public programs, gained additional community recognition and enhanced our reputation. With your help we can continue that momentum. So don't wait for us to call you, call us and we'll talk informally about the various opportunities that meet your interest and expertise. We promise just to talk; not sign you up for indentured service.

But come to think of it, indentured service does have its advantages. Hummmm!

Chris Angle, Program: 303.779.0814  
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 Karen Hart, Voter Service: 720.234.5303  
[larkspurKaren@hotmail.com](mailto:larkspurKaren@hotmail.com)  
 Charlotte Faris, Membership: 303.690.8466  
[faris18603@comcast.net](mailto:faris18603@comcast.net)

## LWVAC TO EXPLORE ORGANIZATIONAL CHANGE

The LWVAC Management Team has voted to explore establishing an Arapahoe & Douglas County League of Women Voters.

LWVAC currently has about 25 members living in Douglas County and we believe the organizational change would allow us to more fully represent the interests of the Douglas County residents and initiate League activities to serve their needs as well as our Arapahoe County members. Additionally, since previous efforts to establish a separate Douglas County League have failed, the LWVAC Management Team believes the development of a joint League would give Douglas County residents an opportunity to learn more about League, it's operations, principals, and advocacy efforts and strengthen League influence in Douglas County.

Douglas County resident and LWVAC member, Barbara Barlow, has already held a meeting with some LWVAC/Douglas County members to ascertain their interest in developing a League Observer Corp to observe the Douglas County School Board and work with other community organizations in setting up candidate forums and voter registration programs. Her actions also prompted us to consider creating a broader area of interest with the knowledge we have as an established League.

All this, however, will take at least a year before anything is finalized. It will involve asking LWVAC members what they think, looking at all the pros and cons, developing a new organizational and financial structure, new bylaws, new management team structure and lots more. We will also need the approval of the LWVCO and the LWVUS. To this end we will ask LWVCO to assign a state board liaison to provide the needed guidance, and will be soliciting your opinions as we progress.

So stay tuned. We will need your input! Questions? Management Team contacts are on the last page of this newsletter.

## IDEA TEAM

### Got an idea for a League program or event?

Join the Idea Team! New for the 2012-2013 League year, this is an opportunity for those members who want to serve in a less structured process. The mandate of the idea team is to come up with ideas that the Program Committee can use for future meetings. To accomplish this, the Idea Team will keep abreast of local, state and national issues that will be of interest to our local league.

Chris Angle, Program person, would love to talk with you about this new concept. 303.779.0814  
[mcangle@comcast.net](mailto:mcangle@comcast.net)

# LWVCO EVENTS & INFO



"Everyone here? Good. Meeting topic: Setting world record for shortest meeting. All in favor say aye. Ayes have it. Meeting over."

## LWVCO BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Elected for a one year term 2012-13

### **President Elect:**

Bobbie Heisterkamp (Denver)

### **Director Voter Editor**

Julie Ott (Pikes Peak)

Two Year terms (2012-14)

### **2nd VP Administration**

Shirley Jin (Boulder County)

### **3rd VP Member Services**

Sharron Baldwin (Gunnison)

### **Secretary**

Carol McMcdivitt (Larimer)

### **Director Communications**

Sonia Koetting (Larimer)

### **Director Development**

Cinnie Auer (Denver)

### **Director At-Large**

Jodie Foran (Montezuma County)

Continuing on Board (2012-13)

### **President**

Cath Perrone (Jefferson County)

### **1st VP Program**

Barb Mattison (Denver)

### **4th VP Voter Service**

Gerry Cummins (Arapahoe)

### **Treasurer**

Liz Black (Boulder County)

### **Director Legislative Action**

Sally Augden (Denver)

### **Director At-Large**

Karon Connor (Montrose)

### **Director At-Large**

Linda Mahan (Larimer)

## LWVCO COUNCIL REPORTS

The major items of interest to LWVAC members are listed below. Items dealing with LWVAC, LWVCO and LWVUS election matters are on page 6, 7 & 8. The LWVCO Council was held May 11 & 12, 2012 in Pueblo. Over 40 members attended from leagues throughout Colorado.

**FRACKING STUDY** Colorado Leagues will begin a state-wide Fracking Study this September. The study will be introduced at League Day, September 22, and study materials will be available for all Leagues. Some information will also be available this summer so Leagues can begin making contacts and researching locally.

Timeline: 1. Introductory materials this summer. 2. Unit ready materials at League Day. 3. Fracking Study Unit meetings held November 2012–January 2013. 4. Consensus due February 15, 2013. 5. LWVCO position adopted at May 2013 Convention.

NOTE: LWVAC members Sandy Blackstone and Alice Ramsey are on the study committee so we hope we can use their expertise and research. Hint, Hint.

### **PRIVATIZATION POSITION**

The LWVUS has developed the privatization position. It is attached. Twelve out of 18 Colorado Leagues participated in the study. Nationally, 227 leagues participated.

### **SEND A MESSAGE**

The paper copy listing contact information for all the Colorado legislators and elected officials will no longer be printed for publication. Instead it will be on the LWVCO web site, [www.lwvcolorado.org](http://www.lwvcolorado.org)

### **LEGISLATIVE WRAPUP**

The Legislative Action Committee (LAC) has over 20 registered volunteer lobbyists, most of which, participated in this year's legislative process. This team watched, gave testimony and influenced over 90 bills this legislative season. For an indept look, see the final reports on the LWVCO web site [www.lwvcolorado.org](http://www.lwvcolorado.org)

The LAC will also be asked to review and recommend positions for the upcoming November ballot issues. These positions will be announced at League Day, September 22, 2012.

### **LWVCO BUDGET**

Approved the organization budget for 2012-2013 at \$119,836; the Education Fund at \$41,100.

### **AND MORE.....**

Council attendees were also treated to a presentation on Director & Officers Insurance, an overview of the new *Our Courts* programs, and the Fiscal Education Speaker Network as presented by Toni Larson.

# LWVUS NEWS

## POWER THE VOTE: THE 50TH LWVUS NATIONAL CONVENTION

Drawing on the election excitement this year, the LWVUS's 50th National Biennial Convention June 9-11 in Washington DC, drew 700 "powerful movers and shakers," mostly women. While no one from the Arapahoe League attended here are some highlights courtesy of Lisa Young, from the Boulder County League newsletter.

- *Power The Vote* is the national League's theme this year for all our election activities. We are encouraged to use this theme on all our election related materials and speaking engagements.
- The national board recommended no new studies, but there was a recommendation to concur with a position adopted by the League of the District of Columbia. It states: "The LWVUS believes alternatives to imprisonment should be explored and utilized, taking into consideration the circumstances and nature of the crime. The LWVUS opposes mandatory minimum sentences for drug offences." This was approved. Concurrence is a substantial agreement of the League members on a position previously adopted by another League.
- A non-recommended study item, however, was approved by the delegates. It deals with updating the League's 1988 Agriculture position. The review would "investigate genetic modification, consolidation in the food industry, money in the regulatory process, and the consumer's right to accurate and comprehensive food labeling." It is anticipated this update (study) would not begin until late 2013 or early 2014.
- Delegates also approved a resolution which authorizes the national board to advocate strongly for "all appropriate, duly-considered measures which may include, but are not limited to, a Constitutional Amendment and which are consistent with our current positions on campaign finance reform and individual liberties; allow Congress and the States to set reasonable regulations on campaign contributions and expenditures; and ensure that elections are determined by the voters.
- The national PMP (per member payment to national) was raised from \$30 to \$31 per member annually.
- The national bylaws were amended to allow more local league members to attend future conventions. Until now, each local league was allowed one voting delegate, plus one, for each 100 league members. Now, local leagues can send one voting delegate plus one for every 50 members.
- Toni Larson, (Denver League) was among those elected to the National LWVUS Board.
- Delegates authorized the LWVUS Board to develop a "comprehensive program to educate member and communities on the issue of campaign finance in order to inform our education and legislative efforts as needed. "



## LWVUS REPORT ON CAMPAIGN FINANCE

The LWVUS Campaign Finance Task Force is up and running. It will serve as a resource to the LWVUS Board and provide information and input on campaign finance issues. Additionally, here's some of the activities the national League is currently working on to protect campaign finance reform.

- Working to pass the DISCLOSE ACT of 2012. This will require financial disclosure for all campaign advertising. No more secret contributions to run election ads.
- Filed an amicus brief urging the Supreme Court to consider the case of *American Tradition Partnership v. Bullock*. In this case, the Supreme Court of Montana challenged the U.S. Supreme Court's assumptions in *Citizen's United*. Montana, which had a state ban on corporate participation in candidate elections, claimed its ban was justified because it had an historical record of corruption. On June 25, however, the Court ruled against Montana saying its 2010 ruling on *Citizen's United* still stands.
- Sent a petition of over 25,000 signatures to President Obama asking him to appoint five new commissioners to the Federal Elections Commission. According to League, the Commission is not enforcing the current campaign finance law. An official reply from the White House was received mid June, but it was noncommittal.
- Working with an Independent Sector group to help the non-profit community combat the increasing use of existing and new 501c(4) social welfare organizations that engage in electoral activities. Many non-profit social welfare organizations are concerned their reputations will be "tainted" by these groups, which have a 501c(4) tax code, but are specifically created to funnel funds into electoral races.

### WHAT LOCAL AND STATE LEAGUES CAN DO NOW

- Call your senators and representatives to support the DISCLOSE ACT. Respond to LWVUS Action Alerts. Write a letter to your local papers and call attention to the problems of secret money in campaigns. Voters deserve to know where the money is coming from.
- Participate in the "Stations: Stand by Your Ad" campaign. LWVUS is encouraging Leagues to participate in a project of the Annenberg Public Policy Center that identifies ways TV and radio stations can reduce the number of erroneous campaign ads run by third party organizations. A description of the campaign and how Leagues and others can get involved at: [www.flackcheck.org/media-watch](http://www.flackcheck.org/media-watch)
- Engage in public education about how to watch TV campaign ads with a critical eye. LWVUS will be developing a tip fact sheet later this summer.



#### In doubt about the TV ads? Can't decipher fact from fiction?

Go to [Factcheck.org](http://Factcheck.org). It is run by the Annenberg Public Policy Center and has a wealth of information about the election ads and internet rumors. You can learn how to become a spin detector, use Flackcheck, (it's "lighter side of spin") and look at the 2012 Players Guide which lists many of the Super Pacs and their objectives. Very Interesting.

# ELECTION INFORMATION

## COLORADO BALLOT ISSUES



Thus far, only 2 state-wide ballot issues have been certified to be on the November Ballot: a constitutional amendment referred by the Colorado

Legislature to change certain measures of the state personnel system, and a citizen initiated constitutional amendment to legalize recreational use of marijuana with certain regulations.

Among the other proposed ballot measures is a personhood amendment, changes regarding the use of Colorado's water and streams, limits on water diversion, and changing the drivers license application process to require certain documents be presented before an license is issued. The first three are constitutional amendments, the latter is statutory.

For full details and to follow the ballot process go to [www.leg.state.co.us](http://www.leg.state.co.us), click on General Legislative Information and look for Draft Ballot Information Book.

Predicting the number that will actually make it on the November ballot is tricky, but Gerry Cummins, LWVCO Voter Service Director, believes it could only be 5 or 6 issues. The deadline to turn in ballot petitions is August 6, 2012. Over 85,000 signatures are needed to certify the issue, so groups usually collect about a third more signatures than necessary to ensure the petition meets the certification.

In terms of the LWVCO ballot pamphlets, Gerry said League members will research the issues this summer and send the pamphlet to the printers the day the Secretary of State certifies the November ballot. Pamphlets in English and Spanish, along with a power point presentation, will be ready at League Day, September 22, 2012. There will also be an audio file

Secretary of State's Web Site  
[www.SOS.state.co.us](http://www.SOS.state.co.us)

## VOTE 411.ORG

This election season, LWVAC will participate in the LWVUS's national online Election Guide, [Vote411.org](http://Vote411.org).

Launched by the LWVUS Education Fund, in 2006, [Vote411.org](http://Vote411.org) is a national database containing non-partisan election-related information for the public on all aspects of the election process. You will be able to find your precinct, all the candidates in your area and other voting information in one central place— a “one-stop-shop.” We will also be able to link this to our web site.

Candidates will be instructed to enter their experience and answers to a questionnaire directly to the web site.

The state league is promoting this and will be paying LWVUS \$6,000 to cover the state-wide cost. Our portion is \$50. LWVCO will also cover the US House of Representatives, Colorado Legislature, State Board of Education, CU Regents and the Regional Transit District. They will provide technical support and a media press kit to promote this national database. We will be working with local candidates.

As there is lots more to this database, this is just a preview to let you know where our election information will be found. More info later this summer.

## REGISTER TO VOTE

**The June primary is over and it's time to prepare for the November elections. Since we've heard a lot about “inactive” voters I asked Nancy Doty, Arapahoe Clerk & Recorder, to clarify what that means and if “inactive” voters can vote in November. Here's the scoop:**

**If you did not vote in the 2010 election, you are moved to the “inactive failed to vote” category. BUT you are still a registered voter. You do not need to re-register in order to vote. If, however, you were on the list to be mailed a ballot, you will need to request a mail ballot again, as you would have been removed from that list.**

**You can do that on the Secretary of State's web site .**

## SIGN UP FOR SPEAKER TRAINING



Leaguers interested in speaking on behalf of the League and want to learn how to make their presentation exciting and interesting (and overcome the fear of public speaking) are encouraged to attend two training sessions scheduled for the first two Saturdays in August.

Rita Schweitz of Rita Schweitz Facilitating and Consulting will lead seminars at Koebel Library 10 a.m. to noon Saturdays, August 4 and 11, 2012. She will focus on ballot issue presentations and forum moderating, but anyone interested in leading meetings or events will find the material and exercises helpful.

To RSVP or request further details, please contact Karen Hart, Voter Services, at 720.234.5303 [larkspurkaren@hotmail.com](mailto:larkspurkaren@hotmail.com).

This program is made possible through a \$1,500 grant from LWVCO. LWVAC submitted a request for the grant last August in response to the state League's new Project Grant Funding Program.\* We requested speaker training to help League members feel more comfortable presenting the 2012 ballot issues to public groups.

We hope you will participate in the training, and then join our ballot speaker team as we will need volunteers to present the ballot issues to community groups and organizations as part of our voter service program.

\* The state grant program is part of a \$25,000 project fund to provide money to those local leagues unable to fund such projects. It is designed to serve the LWVCO education and outreach goals and was made possible through a large bequest given to the state from a former

## ERIC VOTER REGISTRATION PROGRAM

Colorado has agreed to participate in a pilot program initiated by the Pew Center on the States to increase voter registration.

Pew's research has found that more than 24% of eligible citizens are unregistered and that approximately one of every eight voter registrations are no longer valid or have significant inaccuracies. In short, the voter registration practices have not kept pace with our advanced technology and mobile society.

Thus, eight U.S. states, including Colorado, are spearheading an effort to make their registration lists more accurate. The plan is to match voter registration and motor vehicle data with other data sources such as the Postal Services Change of Address form, public health records and death records from the Social Security Administration.

To this end the Colorado Secretary of State will send out a bilingual mailing to try and reach the voters who are unregistered. The state estimates there are approximately one million such eligible voters in the Colorado, so the Secretary of State is calling this the largest registration drive in Colorado history. The cost for this mailing, about \$300,000, was a supplemental appropriation approved by the Joint Budget Committee.

According to voter registration sources, the Secretary of State (SOS) is currently doing a series of test mailings with tentative plans to start the campaign sometime after the June 26 primary.

## MEMBERSHIP BRIEFINGS

We have gained three new members since the first of June! That makes 85 LWVAC members. Since this newsletter is already so full, we'll send out the new member profiles at a later date.

In the meantime welcome Linda Blakey, a Parker resident; Judy Dearasaugh, a Windcrest member, and Janet Green, a recent arrival from Oregon. We thank you for your support and interest and look forward to working with you on our various League projects and programs.





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

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**Sonya Pennock, Member At-Large**  
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**LWVAC Web Site**  
Julie Beekhuizen  
303-738-0926  
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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 Charlotte Faris, 303-690-8466  
[faris18603@comcast.net](mailto: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](mailto:info@lwvcolorado.org)  
[www.lwvcolorado.org](http://www.lwvcolorado.org)

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