



The Voter

League of Women Voters® of Arapahoe County

March 2013

Membership 81

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March signals the first day of Spring and a break in the snowy weather. That, at least, is my forecast for the month!

Among the various national issues being debated in Congress this season, one is immigration reform. As the talks continue, following the various proposals can be confusing. That's why our March meetings will focus on the plans, proposed changes, and an update on existing policies.

In the meantime, best wishes for a good St. Pat's Day, Easter and Passover.

Monday, March 11, 2013

Unit Meeting: Immigration Reform
5:30 p.m.
Garcia's Mexican Restaurant
5050 S. Syracuse
Denver Tech Center

Thursday, March 14, 2013

Unit Meeting: Immigration Reform
9:30 p.m.
Castlewood Library
6739 S. Uinta St., Centennial

Fridays, March 1, 8, 15 & 22, 2013

Great Decisions Discussion
Contact Monique Hea
heamph@hotmail.com for time
and location.

Sunday, March 17, 2013

St. Patrick's Day

Wednesday, March 20, 2013

First Day of Spring

Monday, March 25, 2013

LWVAC Management Team
6:30 p.m.
Koelbel Library
5955 S. Holly St., Centennial

Monday, March 25, 2013

Passover Begins

Sunday, March 31, 2012

Easter

QUESTIONS TO PONDER

- What plans do the President and the Senate Bipartisan Committee propose to strengthen border security?
- Are there provisions for a workable guest worker program?
- What are the various "path to citizenship" proposals? How will they work?

UNIT MEETINGS

IMMIGRATION 2013

Throughout history, the United States has been a popular destination for migrants from across the globe. Many arrive through appropriate channels authorized by the U.S. government; others arrive by unauthorized means. They are the 11 million undocumented immigrants who live and work in the U.S. but have no legal status. This could change, however, as President Obama, Congress and Colorado legislators are now examining a series of immigration proposals that may eventually allow these immigrants to “live the American dream.”

At the March Unit Meetings we will explain these proposals, answer questions about current immigration policies and programs and how they would look under the new proposals, look at the pros and cons, review immigration history and solicit your opinions on what you think would work best. Topics will include:

- President Obama’s Proposals
- Senate Bipartisan Committee Proposals
- Historical Immigration Time Line
- Existing & Pending Colorado Legislation
- Glossary of terms



While this seems like a lot to cover, we have planned ample time for discussion and questions. Handouts also will be available. So plan on attending.

Monday, March 11, 2013
5:30 p. m.
Garcia’s Mexican Restaurant
5050 S. Syracuse, Denver Tech Center

Thursday, March 14, 2013
9:30 p.m.
Castlewood Library
6739 S. Uinta St., Centennial

APRIL PREVIEW

April unit meetings will focus on a facilitated discussion entitled “How Can We Stop Mass Shootings in Our Communities?” We will be following an issue guide crafted by the National Issues Forum in collaboration with Kettering Foundation.

The values-based framework encompasses several options based on distinct strategies for addressing the problem. The goal is to progress from initial reactions to more reflective judgment on the options for addressing this very public issue. We will email the issue guides to you in advance and ask that you come prepared for discussion. .

MEMBERSHIP BRIEFINGS

Welcome to new members Carol Reed and Daniel Sage.

Carol moved to the Denver area from Tennessee where she briefly worked for the Kroger Grocery chain. Once settled in Denver, she continued her career as a Kroger pharmacist for several years, before moving to Heather Gardens in Aurora. She is interested in politics and current events and was given a gift membership to LWVAC by her friend, Billie Day. We look forward to seeing Carol and introducing her to other League members.

PS: recruiting a friend is a great way to grow our league. We recommend you try it with your friends.

Daniel is a retired school teacher from the Aurora Public Schools, but continues to teach part-time by providing college courses to high school students at Vista Peak High School, and “concurrent enrollment” classes in the academic disciplines of philosophy and psychology at the Community College of Aurora. He has a master’s degree in philosophy and is completing a PhD in Organizational Psychology. He was also an independent insurance and investment broker for 13 years. He is married and has a son and daughter.

Dan has followed LWV for many years and has contributed to LWVUS, but recently joined LWVAC to explore local events and activities.

Congratulations to LWVAC Members Wanda Ramey and Betsy McBride

Wanda recently received the “Gold Kettle” Volunteer of the Year Award for her work with the Salvation Army.

Betsy, a former Arapahoe member, who continues to support LWVAC through her yearly membership, was appointed by the U.S. Department of Energy to the Idaho National Laboratory Site Environmental Management Citizens Advisory Board, a volunteer citizen panel that provides advice and recommendations to DOE on its environmental cleanup operations at INL. Betsy is a self-employed public policy consultant with the Virginia-based Hampton Roads Center for Civic Engagement.

JOIN THE LEAGUE



NEWS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

DC/AC LEAGUE FORMATION DISCUSSION CONTINUES

Last month two members of the Management Team met with the Douglas County LWVAC members to gather their viewpoints on the proposal to form a joint Arapahoe County/Douglas County League.

This month we want to hear viewpoints from the LWVAC members who live in Arapahoe County. To this end, Barbara Barlow has arranged a meeting for Monday, March 18 from 9:30 - noon at the Southglenn Library, 6972 S. Vine St., in the Streets of Southglenn Shopping area.

Barbara, who will be chairing the proposed formation, will share information about the proposal and ask you for your ideas and opinions. If members of both counties agree it is a viable idea, Barbara will then form a committee, develop a timeline and proceed with the process. For more information, contact Barbara, 303-346-4498. b.gomesbarlow@gmail.com

LWVAC SURVEY COMING TO YOUR EMAIL BOX SOON

The LWVAC Management Team will soon send out an email survey to all LWVAC members to help us determine the feasibility of developing additional unit meetings.



Currently we hold two unit meetings a month: an evening meeting at Garcia's Mexican Restaurant in the Denver Tech Center, and a morning unit at Castlewood Library. They are generally held the second Monday and Thursday of each month. Exceptions are made if the League program is better served by holding an all member general meeting.

The survey is short and simple. Please, please note when the survey appears in your email, and take a few minutes to fill it out. We need your input.

LWVCO LEGISLATIVE LETTER UPDATES

The Latest issue of the LWVCO Legislative letter is out with lots of information on the various bills introduced to control gun violence. As you know, The Colorado House has already passed four gun control bills, which are now on their way to the Senate. There are, however, many more and they are listed in the legislative letter. Stay tuned: more bills are coming addressing mental illness, domestic violence, weapon manufacturers' responsibility and training for concealed-carry permit holders. To read the latest February 25th issue check the LWVCO's web site, www.lwv.colorado.org.



GREAT DECISIONS

The final four sessions of the Great Decisions Discussion Program will occur on Friday, March 1, 8, 15 & 22. Topics will include the Future of the Euro, Intervention, Iran and NATO.

As noted, the program is held either at Castlewood or Southglenn Library. For times and locations contact Vicki vickiharimon.aol.com or Monique Hea, heamph@hotmail.com

LWVAC BOOK CLUB

The next book club will not be until May, but in case you'd like to start your reading early, the selection for that meeting is *Just Like Us*, by Helen Thorpe, wife of Governor Hickenlooper. The book is about four young women from Mexico who have lived most of their lives in the US and attend the same high school.

NEWS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

LWVUS LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES FOR 2013

The LWVUS Board has established the following as the top legislative priority for this year:

- Money in Politics and the many facets of Election Reform.

Two others were included as a second focus: Climate Change, and Gun Safety & Immigration.

Other issues, such as Health Care Defense and Budget/Taxes may be acted on as opportunities arise for League action. These decisions are based on what issues are likely to come before the 113th Congress, the opportunities to make an impact, program decisions made by members at the last convention, and available resources.

LWVCO CONVENTION

The state League's Convention will be held May 10 - 11, 2013 at the Crowne Plaza in Colorado Springs.

Hosted by the Pikes Peak League, the event will include the business meetings and election of officers, as well as many speakers and special presentations. The new state position on fracking, which we all participated in earlier this year, will also be presented.

This is your chance to meet leaguers from throughout Colorado, participate in caucuses to help determine program and future activities and voice your opinions about League and its operations.

LWVAC is allowed five voting delegates. but others can attend as observers. LWVAC will pay the hotel, convention meals and registration.

If interested contact: Marlu Burkamp, 303-798-2939, marluburkamp@gmail.com.

MANAGEMENT TEAM NOTES

Management Team members reviewed a report by Barbara Barlow re her meeting with LWVAC Douglas County members on the formation of the joint DC/AC league and talked about ways DC sponsored League programs could be handled during the reorganization period; reviewed the survey re the need for additional units; reviewed suggestions received from members at the program planning meeting; set June 8 for the LWVAC Annual meeting and suggested people to serve on the nominating and budget committees; accepted Barbara Dungey's resignation from the Management Team; explored activities that could be submitted for a LWVCO 2013 grant, and agreed that LWVCO should, if appropriate, testify at a future Arapahoe County Commissioners public hearing on their MOU with the Oil & Gas Industry.

LWVUS CAMPAIGN FINANCE TASK FORCE

And speaking of money in politics, the LWVUS Campaign Finance Task Force is developing a *Money in Politics Discussion Guide* for Leagues across the country to be used in communicating with members and the public on this issue.

If any of you have information and materials you have used for other organizations, please share with the task force. Send to Toni Larson, toni.larson@gmail.com

RESOURCES ON LEAGUE TOPICS

Two articles on Fracking and the Oil and Gas Development are in the December 2012 issue of the *5280 Magazine* and the March issue of the *National Geographic*. Both are comprehensive and informative.

We mentioned this on page 4 but for information on current and pending gun safety legislation, as well as other issues, see the February 25th issue of the LWVCO Legislative newsletter.

As per the informational paper we sent you last week about the Voting Rights Act, the Supreme Court heard oral arguments challenging the Act and the Section 5 requirements, Wednesday, February 27. Expect a decision in late May or early June.

In the meantime, our May unit meetings will focus on the Act, what it does and what a Supreme Court decision could mean for the voting rights of all citizens.



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

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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

League Links

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