



# The Voter

League of Women Voters® of Arapahoe County

September 2013

Membership 81

## IN THIS ISSUE

- ▶ September Unit Meetings
- ▶ September Public Meetings
- ▶ Voter Service Programs
- ▶ News & Announcements
- ▶ Management Retreat Notes
- ▶ LWVCO League Day

## Welcome back.

We're bursting at the seams with multiple programs, activities and announcements that need to be promoted this month so this will be brief.

Be sure to read about our *Making Ends Meet* unit meetings, the public programs on navigating health care reform and the funding education ballot issue, the candidate forums, National Voter Registration Day, movie nights and LWVCO League Day.

Then commit to attend. Just do it!

### Monday, September 9, 2013

Unit Meeting: *Making Ends Meet*  
5:30 p.m. @ Garcia's Mexican Restaurant, 5050 S. Syracuse St Centennial

### Thursday, September 12, 2013

Unit Meeting: *Making Ends Meet*  
9:30 a.m. @ Castlewood Library  
6739 S. Uinta St., Centennial

### Friday, September 13, 2013

LWVAC Discussion Group  
10 a.m. @ Castlewood Library  
6739 S. Uinta St., Centennial

### Thursday, September 19, 2013

Public Meeting: Navigating Health Care Reform  
6:30 - 8:45 p.m. @ Koelbel Library  
5955 S. Holly St., Centennial

### Monday, September 23, 2013

Management Team Meeting  
6:30 p.m. Address: TBA

### Tuesday, September 24, 2013

National Voter Registration Day  
9:30 a.m. - 4 p.m. @ Aurora Central Library, 14949 E. Alameda Pkwy, Aurora

### Thursday, September 26, 2013

Public Meeting: Ballot Issue #66  
6:30 - 8:30 p.m. @ Highlands Ranch Library, 9292 Ridgeline Blvd, Highlands Ranch

### Saturday, September 28, 2013

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

### Monday, September 30, 2013

LWVAC Movie Night: *The United States of ALEC*  
6:30 p.m. @ Koelbel Library.

## ELECTION NEWS



Our voter service programs this year will highlight the municipal and school board elections, as well as state and local ballot issues. To this end Karen Hart, Voter Service, is checking candidate deadlines and talking with City Clerks and school officials to ascertain the dates for candidate forums. Marilyn Ayers, voter registration, is also planning a few registration events at local community colleges as well as recruiting LWVAC members to help on National Voter Registration Day, September 24 at the Aurora Central Library. And, LWVAC will again present information on the state-wide ballot issues via the LWVCO pamphlets, at a public program, unit meetings and a speaker's bureau. Since most candidates have until the end of August to certify their petitions, **we'll have the information on the LWVAC web site and in a special member email by the first week in September.**

# SEPTEMBER UNIT MEETINGS

## MAKING ENDS MEET IS THERE A WAY TO HELP WORKING AMERICANS?



“Today, millions of Americans are struggling to stay economically afloat. Many of them are working full-time, but they cannot make their paychecks stretch to pay the bills for basic necessities. What has come of the American Dream that if you work hard and play by the rules, you will prosper?” \*National Issues Forum

September’s unit meetings will focus on this issue and review a series of perspectives on what can be done to ease these financial problems. This will be a facilitated discussion similar to the one we presented on gun safety last April.

Your thoughts and opinions will be asked regarding the perspectives presented in a discussion issues guide crafted by the National Issues Forum in collaboration with the Kettering Foundation.

As this program is all about encouraging public consideration, we encourage you to express your ideas and your

opinions. You will not be asked to choose any particular perspective, but to look at the consequences and tradeoffs and understand the complexity of the issue. We will mail a **large** issue guide to you prior to the meetings and ask that you come prepared for discussion.

## OCTOBER PREVIEW

Two State-wide ballot issues will be up for a vote this November. The first will ask voters to approve a sales and excise tax on the sale of retail marijuana; the second will ask voters to approve a two-tiered income-tax hike that would raise an additional \$950 million to fund public schools.

As part of our voter service program the LWVAC, in conjunction with the Arapahoe Library District, will present the pros and cons of each issue at a public meeting, October 3 at Koelbel Library. We will also give LWVAC members a second opportunity to learn about the ballot issues at an all League general meeting, October 10 at Castlewood Library. Ballot issue pamphlets will be available. Details in October’s newsletter, the web site and the special Voter Service member email in September.

# September Public programs



Navigating the maze of health care provisions outlined by the Affordable Care Act (Obamacare) can be difficult. Finding the right path is not an easy task.

You can find answers to all your Obamacare questions, and learn about Connect for Health Colorado - a new healthcare insurance exchange beginning this October - at a free program sponsored by LWVAC and the Arapahoe Library District.

Experts will explain the exchange program, the coverage choices, cost, benefits and who is eligible for subsidies. They will also explain the key elements of Obamacare and how it will affect those receiving Medicare, Medicaid and Cover Colorado. An audience Q & A will follow and informational materials will be available.

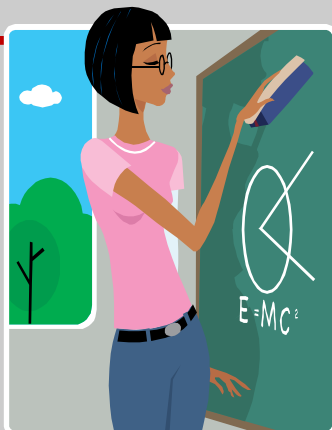
Plan to attend and bring your friends. Speakers will be Robert Semro, Health Care Policy Analyst, the Bell Policy Center, and Larry Hanan, a retired health care executive for the Connect for Health Colorado Speaker's Bureau.

Thursday, September 19, 2013

6:30 - 8:45 p.m.

Koelbel Library, 5955 S. Holly St.  
Centennial

The program is free and open to the public, but since it is co-sponsored by the Library District, you will have to call the library, 303-542-7279, to register.



## AMENDMENT #66: STATE FUNDING FOR EDUCATION

### PLUS OR MINUS?

The pros and cons of the proposed state-wide ballot issue, amendment #66 will be presented by the LWVAC, Thursday, September 26. 6:30 - 8:30 p.m. at the Highlands Ranch Library, 9292 Ridgeline Blvd, Highlands Ranch.

The proposed Issue will ask voters to approve a two-tiered income tax hike that would raise an additional \$950 million to fund public schools. If passed the money would be used to help fund changes to the state's new school finance system approved this year by the Colorado Legislature.

Speakers will include Colorado Senator, Mike Johnston, author of the legislation and the ballot issue; Ms. Liane Morrison, Executive Director of Great Education Colorado and Laura Boggs, Colorado for Real Education Reform. Senator Johnston will explain the proposal. Mrs. Morrison will speak in favor of the issue; Ms. Boggs will speak in opposition.

**This forum will debate an important issue and we recommend you plan to attend. Free and open to the public. Information: 303.346.4496.**

# SEPTEMBER VOTER SERVICE

Millions of people will vote this year. Will You?



Did you know that 1,500 state-wide and local elections and ballot initiatives will be held on Election Day, Tuesday, November 5, 2013.? Make sure you and those you know are one of the millions voting by registering to vote.

We're sure most League members are registered, but as a LWVAC member you can urge others to register. Lets ensure we all have a voice in the democratic process.

Join us on National Voter Registration Day, Tuesday, September 24, 2013. We'll have a table from 9:30 a.m.- 4 p.m. at the Aurora Central Library, 14949 E. Alameda Pkwy, Aurora.

Or, you can register online right now!!!

## LWVAC CANDIDATE FORUMS TO DATE

### Littleton School Board Candidates

Tuesday, September 17, 2013  
6:30 - 8:30 p.m.  
Arapahoe High School  
2201 E. Dry Creek Rd., Centennial

Tuesday, October 1, 2013  
6:30 - 8:30 p.m.  
Littleton High School  
199 E. Littleton Blvd., Littleton

Two free public forums are scheduled. All candidates will appear at each forum.

There are five candidates vying for three 4-year term vacancies on the school board. They will replace members Bob Colwell, Renee Howell and Sue Chandler who are term limited.

Candidates are

- ▶ Dallas Jones
- ▶ Kelly Perez
- ▶ Robert Reichardt
- ▶ Jack Reutzel
- ▶ Carrie Warren-Gully

**Watch for more information about the forums and the candidates in early September. All forums are free and open to the public.**

### City Council Candidates

Thursday, October 3, 2013  
6 - 10 p.m.  
Aurora Municipal Building, City Council Chambers, 15151 E. Alameda Pkwy. Aurora

Free & open to the public. Sponsored by the Aurora Chamber of Commerce, LWVAC, Aurora Sentinel, Aurora Business Women and the Aurora Election Commission.

The event will be televised by Channel 8, the city's TV and video station. Candidates for City Council wards 1, 2, & 3, and at-large positions will present their views and answer questions posed by the sponsors.

Wednesday, October 9, 2013  
Littleton City Council At-Large Candidates  
6:30 p.m.  
Bemis Public Library, 6014 S. Datura St., Littleton

Saturday, October 12, 2013  
Centennial candidates  
2 p.m.  
Koelbel Library,  
5955 S. Holly St  
Centennial



# NEWS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

## LWVAC DISCUSSION GROUP

The group will discuss the various bills that were passed by the 2013 Colorado Legislature and set meeting topics for the remainder of 2013 at its meeting, Friday, September 13 at 10 a.m. at Castlewood Library, 6739 Uinta St., Centennial

Free and open to the public. Contact Monique Hea, 303-220-9273  
[heamph@hotmail.com](mailto:heamph@hotmail.com)

## JOIN US FOR MOVIE NIGHT

We're introducing a new program this year:



monthly movie nights. Based on the enthusiastic comments we received this spring when we showed the movie, *A Place At the Table*, we decided this type of venue would be a great way

to inform, educate and discuss issues via the silver screen.

This month we invite LWVAC members and their friends to view the movie, *The United States of ALEC*, a special report by Bill Moyers on how the American Legislative Exchange Council (ALEC) has helped corporate American propose and even draft legislation for states across the country. Funded in part by the Koch Brothers, ALEC is a national network of state politicians and cooperate members who have come under scrutiny for promoting gun laws, voter suppression bills and other such legislation. Discussion will follow the movie.

**Monday, September 30, 2013  
 6:30 p.m. @ Koelbel Library,  
 5955 S. Holly Street, Centennial  
 Snacks will be available.**

## MANAGEMENT TEAM NOTES

The annual LWVAC planning retreat, July 22 at Karen Hart's house generated a lot of new ideas and enthusiastic discussion.

League unit and public programs for September-December were set and a new program—movie night—was approved. The program committee is also considering a program next February on privacy issues (think NSA) in conjunction with the Arapahoe Library District.

Douglas County LWVAC members will also work on sponsoring a forum on the proposed educational funding ballot issue and a possible candidate forum for DC school board candidates in September.

Jo An Feder, membership, plans on contacting all LWVAC members re their interest and involvement in LWVAC, and Chris Angle will contact people in Aurora and Highlands Ranch who said they would be interested in hosting a new league unit meeting.

Each team member also relayed goals ranging from recruiting new members and developing a standing committee to work on programs to developing a LWVAC Facebook page and Twitter account.

The team also welcomed two new members: Alice Ramsey as secretary and Barbara Dungey as a member-at-large. For a detailed copy of the retreat minutes contact Alice Ramsey, [alice@ramsisle.com](mailto:alice@ramsisle.com)

## LEAGUE ADVOCACY

The retreat also generated discussion about the limited role LWVAC does in advocating for issues concerning their community and state.

To this end the Management team adopted two goals as the League's advocacy focus for 2013-2014: Hunger in Arapahoe and Douglas County and oil and gas development, including fracking, in the two county area.

Currently, Chris Angle will focus on hunger; Sonya Penock, Alice Ramsey and Marlu Burkamp will look into oil and gas development.

**But we also need a group of volunteers who will join our efforts. We know your opinions about these issues and know you too are concerned. How about joining us and providing your suggestions? How about agreeing to be on a standing committee? Chris is looking for members willing to work with her on the issue of hunger in Arapahoe County. We need you. Contact: [marluburkamp@mail.com](mailto:marluburkamp@mail.com).**

# NEWS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

## LWVCO LEAGUE DAY 2013

**Saturday, September 28, 2013**  
**Registration at 8:30 a.m., Conference 8:50 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.**  
**Colorado Room, Holiday Inn Select Denver, 455 South Colorado Blvd., Denver**

The hotel is located on the west side of South Colorado Blvd, just north of the intersection with Cherry Creek Drive North. **Note:** 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 (south) side of the hotel entrance, the second is above the hotel and is accessed on the right (north) side of the hotel entrance.

**Registration Fee \$32.00** (The registration fee covers the meeting room, lunch, audiovisual equipment, refreshments prior to the conference, and conference materials.)

League Day 2013 brings Leaguers a full day of timely information on critical issues. This year our agenda includes leading experts on three topics. Denver Deputy Mayor and Chief Financial Officer **Cary Kennedy's** presentation is titled **Colorado School Finance, Past, Present and Future**. **Elisabeth Arenales**, Health Care Program Director of the Colorado Center on Law and Policy, will speak on the **Exchanges Under the Affordable Health Care Act**, especially Medicaid expansion, a hot topic for the Fall of 2013 as open enrollment begins on October 1, 2013. Our own **Gerry Cummings** will inform us on **Colorado's Ballot Issues for the Upcoming November Election and Changes in Voter Registration**.

Leaguers **Barbara Mattison** and **Jeannette Hillery** will update us on the **Mental Health Task Force** and **Hydraulic Fracturing**, respectively. Hold on, there is more – we will hear about projects in two local Leagues, as well as receive some technology hints and be introduced to the LWVUS Clearinghouse.

**Colorado League Day Registration Form - Deadline Friday, September 20**  
**Registration Fee \$32.00 (No refunds after September 20)**

Lunch includes dessert and coffee or tea.

**(1) Orange Chicken Salad** (tossed Romaine and spring lettuce mix, oranges and cashews, topped with grilled chicken breast, balsamic vinaigrette served on the side).

**(2) Turkey Cobb** (diced smoked turkey breast served over a bed of mixed greens with eggs, bacon, bleu cheese, cucumber, tomato, and carrots).

**(3) Seasonal Fruit Salad** (assortment of fresh seasonal fruits and berries, served with yogurt.)

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_  
(Please print name as you wish to have it appear on the name tag.)

Name of League \_\_\_\_\_

Lunch choice (CIRCLE ONE): 1 or 2 or 3

Pay by  Check (made payable to LWVCO) or  PayPal on [www.lwvcolorado.org](http://www.lwvcolorado.org) (accepts credit cards)

Or  Credit Card, Card # \_\_\_\_\_ Expiration Date \_\_\_\_\_ (**Amount \$32.00**)

Signature \_\_\_\_\_ LWVCO Fax # 303.837.9917

*Mail to: LWVCO, 1410 GRANT ST STE B204, DENVER CO 80203-1855*



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

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303-730-2356

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email: [lwvarapahoeinfo@gmail.com](mailto:lwvarapahoeinfo@gmail.com)

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**Janet Green, Member At-Large**  
541-430-4053  
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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  
[joluvs10s@gmail.com](mailto:joluvs10s@gmail.com)

## 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)  
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