



# The Voter

League of Women Voters® of Arapahoe County

February 2014

Membership 80

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For League members, February 14 is not only the date for romantic tete-a-tetes; it is also the LWV's Birthday!

Founded by suffragette, Carrie Chapman Catt, six months prior to the ratification of the 19th Amendment, the LWV has spent 94 years working on a diverse range of public policy issues and helped millions of woman and men become informed participants in government. Our best wishes for 94 more.

### Friday, February 7, 2014

Great Decisions program begins  
9:30 a.m. @ Castlewood Library  
6739 S. Uinta St., Centennial

### Monday, February 10, 2014

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

### Thursday, February 13, 2014

Unit Meeting: Death Penalty  
9:30 a.m. @ Castlewood Library  
6739 S. Uinta St., Centennial

### Friday, February 14, 2014

Valentines Day  
League's Birthday

### Saturday, February 15, 2014

LWVAC Membership Orientation  
10 a.m. @ Aurora Public Library  
14949 E. Alameda Parkway  
Aurora

### Monday, February 24, 2014

Management Team Meeting  
6:30 p.m. @ Koelbel Library  
5955 S. Holly, Centennial

### Wednesday, February 26, 2014

LWVAC Lunch Bunch  
11:30 a.m. @ Mimi's Café  
9155 Park Meadows Drive  
Lone Tree, Colorado 80112

### Wednesday, February 26, 2014

Movie Night: **Inequality for All**  
6:30 p.m. @ Koelbel Library  
5955 S. Holly, Centennial

## FEBRUARY UNIT MEETINGS



Information about our February unit meetings was sent to all members last week. If you did not receive it please let us know. At the meetings we will talk about whether the death penalty is a deterrent to more murders, worth the cost, and whether Colorado should eliminate the death penalty altogether. As this subject is currently in the news and may be an issue for candidates vying for governor this year, it is a timely subject to examine. League members Alice Ramsey and Fern Black will lead the discussion. As an added bonus, the meetings will feature a guest speaker from *Coloradoans for Alternatives to the Death Penalty*.

# MARCH & APRIL PREVIEW

## AGRICULTURE IS ON THE AGENDA FOR THE MARCH & APRIL UNIT MEETINGS

This year, LWVUS will update the League's national position on Agriculture. LWV delegates at the 2012 convention voted to update this position as it was adopted several years ago and did not address many of the issues, regarding food safety, GMO's, labeling, and other chemical/technical advances being practiced by today's food growers and suppliers. .

Unfortunately due to the very short turnaround local Leagues were given to research and study these very complex issues, we will not be able to cover all the issues at our two unit meetings. Instead in March we will focus on two hotly contested ones: food safety and labeling. Some national LWV consensus questions will be asked, but not the complete set.

In April a speaker from the Colorado Department of Agriculture will join us at a special all member unit meeting to talk about farming in the 21st century, what's happening with farming subsidies, and the new federal farm bill that was just passed by Congress. That meeting is intended to more broadly inform us about critical agricultural issues the U. S. faces and what issues we may be facing in the future.

More will be explained in the March & April newsletters, but here's the meeting schedule for your planning calendar.

### March Unit Meetings

**Monday, March 10, 2014**  
**5:30 p.m. @ Garcia's Mexican Restaurant**

**Thursday, March 20, 2014**  
**10 a.m. @ Southglenn Public Library.**

As you can see, the morning meeting is at a different date, time and location. Please note that on your calendar.

The program team planning these two meetings are Deb Armbruster, Vicki Harimon and Sonya Pennock. To help you prepare for these meetings The team has assembled links to papers and other resources prepared by the LWVUS national committee leading this update. See next page.

### April All Member Unit Meeting

**Thursday, April 10, 2014**  
**9:30 a.m. @ Castlewood Library**



# MARCH & APRIL PREVIEW

## AGRICULTURE RESOURCES FOR MARCH CONSENSUS QUESTIONS



Here's a list of resources. If you are short on time, start with the ones marked with an asterisk. Most are on the national web site at [lwv.org](http://www.lwv.org) under Agriculture Update.

\* Challenges and Opportunities in U.S. Agriculture (Good 27 Page Overview)  
<http://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/granule/ERP-2013/ERP-2013-chapter8/content-detail.html>

\* Agriculture Update Glossary  
<http://www.lwv.org/content/agriculture-update-glossary>

\* Interactions of Federal Agencies with Food Safety Missions  
<http://www.lwv.org/content/interaction-federal-agencies-food-safety-missions>

Genetic Engineering and Genetically Modified Organisms

<http://www.lwv.org/content/genetic-engineering-and-genetically-modified-organisms-food-system>

Overview of Pesticide Management

<http://www.lwv.org/content/overview-pesticide-management>

Overview of Nanotechnology and other technologies

<http://www.lwv.org/content/overview-nanotechnology-and-other-technologies>

\* Food Labeling: FDA and USDA

<http://lwv.org/content/food-labeling-fda-and-usda>

\* Labeling of Genetically Engineered Foods (Good Short Summary of Pro's and Con's)

<http://www.ext.colostate.edu/pubs/foodnut/09371.html>

USDA's Role in American Nutrition

<http://lwv.org/content/usda%E2%80%99s-role-american-nutrition>

FDA Nutrition Fact Label Programs and Materials

<http://www.fda.gov/food/ingredientspackaginglabeling/labelingnutrition/ucm20026097.htm>

### Additional Resources for all member April Unit Meeting

\* Overview of Agricultural Subsidies

<http://www.lwv.org/content/overview-agricultural-subsidy>

\* Overview of Farm Management

<http://lwv.org/content/overview-farm-management>

# MEMBERSHIP BRIEFINGS

## MEMBERSHIP MEETING SCHEDULED FOR AURORA RESIDENTS

The LWVAC Membership Team will hold a meeting for new and prospective members in the Aurora area to acquaint them with League's programs and activities **Saturday, February 15 at 10 a.m. at the Aurora Public Library Community Room, 14949 E Alameda Parkway in Aurora.**

The meeting is designed to promote the League, its events and activities and welcome those interested in learning more about League programs. Management Team members will talk about the League's history, upcoming programs, voter services, advocacy and action and explain the many opportunities League offers.

The meeting is free and open to the public. Refreshments will be served. For more information contact Jo Ann Feder, 904.608.3932, [joluvs10s@gmail.com](mailto:joluvs10s@gmail.com). You can also check our web site, [www.lwvarapahoe.org](http://www.lwvarapahoe.org).

## LWVAC MEMBERSHIP ROUNDUP

While we welcome and recruit new members year round, we conduct our annual renewal membership drive September 2013 through the end of January 2014. That's when we send a report to the LWVUS for their membership records.

This January we noted the LWVAC had 80 Members. Some of these were new, but most were members who continued their support.

We are extremely grateful for everyone who renewed and to those who gave an added contribution. Of the \$60 for an individual membership \$18 goes to LWVCO; \$31 to LWVUS, so your support is most appreciated.



## WELCOME NEW MEMBER STEPHANIE LOGAN

A full-time Colorado resident since 1990, Stephanie and her husband, Fred, have five almost-grown children. Stephanie has been a teacher in Littleton Public Schools since 2003. She was a substitute for 10 years, and now serves as the program coordinator for Littleton Public School's Voyager, which blends online and traditional education models for students needing a non-traditional educational model. Her hobbies are traveling, gardening, reading and the Liverpool Football Club.

Her mom, Pat Brock, was a member of the Jefferson County League in the early 80s.

**We extend our best wishes to  
Phyllis Graham**

**Whose sister is ill with cancer.**

# NEWS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

## GREAT DECISIONS BEGINS



The popular Great Decisions program begins Friday, February 7 at 9:30 a.m. at Castlewood Library. The eight week discussion program on topics of international interest and current affairs sponsored by the Foreign Policy Association, will run from February 7 - March 28, 2014. All meetings will begin at 9:30 a.m. at Castlewood library.

The first topic - U.S. Trade Policy - will be lead by Monique Hea. Additional topics include Defense Technology, Islamic Awakening, Energy Independence, Food and Climate, Turkey's Challenges, China's Foreign Policy, and Israel and the U. S.

The program is free and open to all. For information contact Monique Hea, [heamph@hotmail.com](mailto:heamph@hotmail.com) or Vicki Harimon, [vickiharimon@aol.com](mailto:vickiharimon@aol.com).

## GRANDVIEW HIGH SCHOOL GOVERNMENT CLASS

Arapahoe County's Grandview High School's U.S. Government class won the 6th Congressional District *We the People* contest in December. This competition required a wide range of study issues related to the U. S. Constitution and then included their extemporaneous analyses in response to a panel of Judges' questions.

Now they are their way to Washington, D. C, to compete against the nation. This is the kind of activity that is close to LWV's heart involving young people learning about their government and League members have, in the past, helped judge these competitions.

The group is looking for some financial support and has obtained a tax-deductible status through the Cherry Creek School District.

If you would like to make a donation please send to Diana Stordeur or Jeff Reiman at Grandview High School, 20500 E. Arapahoe Rd, Aurora, 80016. Make the check out to "Grandview High School - We the People."

## NEW LWVAC PROGRAM CHAIR

Alas, our intrepid program coordinator, Chris Angle, is preparing to move to Tuscan, AZ, and has resigned from the Management Team and her program duties.

We will miss Chris and wish her well. In the meantime Sonya Pennock, LWVAC program and Management Team member, will serve as the interim program chair until further notice.

## LWVAC LUNCH BUNCH

Had enough of the cold weather? Feeling hemmed in and sick of all the snow? Sick and tired of being sick and tired?



**Then mark Wednesday, February 26 at 11:30 a.m. to attend the next LWVAC Lunch Bunch at Mimi's Café in Lone Tree at 9155 Park Meadows Drive. (303-799-1211)**

As usual, there's no advance reservations, all you have to do is show up and take your seat. Great way for new members to meet and talk informally with other LWVAC members.

Just pray the snow and ice will melt by then. Need more information? Contact Vicki Harimon, [vickiharimon@aol.com](mailto:vickiharimon@aol.com)

## LWVAC MOVIE NIGHT

### **Inequality for All**

Can't say enough about this movie which features Robert Reich, former labor secretary under President Clinton, explaining the widening income gap in the United States and the role it plays in the nation's economic health.

Reich is a compelling speaker who manages to present his message engagingly and with great clarity, highlighted with splashes of wit that will keep your interest long after learning the harsh facts. The film has gained national prominence and is being shown in theaters across the nation.

**Wednesday, February 26 at 6:30 p.m. at Koelbel Library, 5955 S. Holly St. Snacks will be served.**

(Yes, we know it is the same day as the lunch bunch but that's the library date we have reserved.)

# NEWS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

## LWVAC OIL & GAS DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

Thanks to all of you who responded to our Action Alert in support of the clean air regulations for the oil and gas industry being proposed by the Colorado Air Quality Control Commission.

The Commission will hold public hearings on these regulations:

- February 19: Noon - 3 pm & 5- 7 pm
- February 20: 9 a.m. - 6 p.m.
- February 21: 9 a.m. - 6 p.m.

The hearings will be at the Aurora Municipal Center Council Chambers, 15151 E. Alameda Parkway, Aurora, 80012. Right in our own backyard.

The meetings are open to the public. Jeannette Hillary, will make a statement for LWVCO; Alice Ramsey sent a statement for LWVAC.

## LWVAC MANAGEMENT TEAM NOTES

Management Team accepted Chris Angle's resignation as program chair and management team member; reviewed upcoming unit meeting programs for February through May, the Aurora membership orientation; activities of the Oil & Gas Committee; voter service updates on the LWVAC web site, and agreed to pay LWVCO \$50 to participate in the VOTE411 program. The next meeting is Monday, February 24 at 6:30 p.m. at Koelbel library.

## LWVAC JANUARY PROGRAM MEETINGS REVIEW

Members who attended the January unit meetings to review the LWVUS and LWVAC program positions agreed to retain the national and local positions as is, but had lots of suggestions for future LWVAC programs.

Members attending the evening meeting however, did express interest in supporting a Massachusetts LWV suggestion for a possible LWVUS campaign finance study, if the league decided to introduce it at the LWVUS Convention this May.

Suggestions for possible LWVAC programs and/or unit meeting topics included campaign finance, privacy, the closing of military bases, the federal role in higher education, mental health, the criminal justice system, poverty in Arapahoe

## LWVUS LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES 2014

In another related item, the national league has set as its legislative priorities for 2014, Money in Politics and Voting Rights.

The second tier of focus is the Affordable Care Act, reproductive choice, immigration, and the environment.

These decisions were based on what issues are likely to come before the second session of Congress; the opportunities to make an impact, member interest and available resources.

Issues to watch (as opportunities might arise) include fiscal policy/social and economic justice and gun safety.

VISIT  
[www.lwvarapahoe.org](http://www.lwvarapahoe.org)

New 2014 election dates and candidate Information.



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

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

[www.lwvarapahoe.org](http://www.lwvarapahoe.org)  
email: [lwvarapahoeinfo@gmail.com](mailto:lwvarapahoeinfo@gmail.com)

**LWVAC MANAGEMENT TEAM**

**Sonya Pennock**  
Program  
303-794-0430  
[sonsu@earthlink.net](mailto:sonsu@earthlink.net)

**Alice Ramsey**  
Secretary  
303-841-7839  
[alice@ramsisle.com](mailto:alice@ramsisle.com)

**Marilyn Ayers,**  
Treasurer  
303-471-8301  
[mk303@comcast.net](mailto:mk303@comcast.net)

**Jo Ann Feder**  
Membership  
904-608-3932  
[joluvs10s@gmail.com](mailto:joluvs10s@gmail.com)

**Marlu Burkamp**  
PR/Communications  
303-798-2939  
[marluburkamp@gmail.com](mailto:marluburkamp@gmail.com)

**Karen Hart**  
Voter Services  
720-234-5303  
[larkspurkaren@hotmail.com](mailto:larkspurkaren@hotmail.com)

**Fern Black, Member At-Large**  
303-793-0807  
[blackwatch5@hotmail.com](mailto:blackwatch5@hotmail.com)

**Barbara Barlow, Member At-Large & Key Contact**  
303-346-4496  
[b.gomesbarlow@gmail.com](mailto:b.gomesbarlow@gmail.com)

**Barbara Dungey, Member At-Large**  
720-253-6629  
[barbara.b.dungey@gmail.com](mailto:barbara.b.dungey@gmail.com)

**Janet Green, Member At-Large**  
541-430-4053  
[higreen@centurylink.net](mailto:higreen@centurylink.net)

## 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)  
[www.lwvcolorado.org](http://www.lwvcolorado.org)

**League of Women Voters/US**  
1730 M Street NW, Suite 1000  
Washington, DC 20036-4508  
202-429-1965  
[lwv@lwv.org](mailto:lwv@lwv.org)  
[www.lwv.org](http://www.lwv.org)