



# The Voter

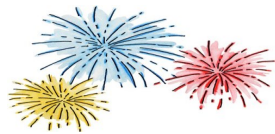
League of Women Voters of Arapahoe  
And Douglas Counties

January 2015

Membership 106

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## HAPPY NEW YEAR!

This new year will bring lots of changes to our League, including the expansion of our service area to include Douglas County and the organizational and financial changes needed to make that change. There's also interesting proposals to consider at our January program planning meetings which could result in some new state and local studies. So buckle your seat belts.... 2015 is going to be an exciting ride!

### Saturday, January 3, 2015

LWVADC Management Team Mini Retreat  
12:30 - 4 p.m. @ Lone Tree Library  
8827 Lone Tree Parkway, Lone Tree

### Thursday, January 8, 2015

Unit Meeting: Program Planning  
9:30 p.m. @ Castlewood Library  
6739 S. Uinta St., Centennial

### Thursday, January 8, 2015

Unit Meeting: Program Planning  
5:30 p.m. @ Mimi's Restaurant  
205 S. Abilene, Aurora

### Friday, January 9, 2015

LWVADC Discussion Group  
10 a.m. @ Southglenn Library  
Streets of Southglenn

### Monday, January 12, 2015

LWVCO Legislative Day  
9 a.m. - 2 p.m. @ State Capital  
200 E. Colfax Ave. Denver

### Monday, January 12, 2015

Unit Meeting: Program Planning  
5:30 p.m. @ Garcia' Mexican Restaurant,  
5050 S. Syracuse, Centennial

### Monday, January 19, 2015

Martin Luther King Day

### Wednesday, January 21, 2015

Movie Night  
"The Revisionaries"  
6:30 p.m. @ Southglenn Library  
Streets of Southglenn

## SNEAK PEEK: FUTURE LWVADC PROGRAMS

In addition to the January unit program planning meetings, the remainder of the League year will include a varied and interesting schedule. In February we'll examine the pros and cons of the Common Core Educational Standards designed to ensure students across the country learn at the same level. In March members will learn about the governing and taxation powers of the many special districts throughout Arapahoe and Douglas County, and in April the LWVCO's Behavioral Health Task Force Report will be reviewed with proposed updates for future action. In May the LWVADC committee on water issues will present the first in a series of their water issues water issues study in Arapahoe and Douglas counties.

Additional programs include movie nights, public meetings on critical issues and a possible look at the constitutional amendment process from LWVUS. Mark your calendars now.

# JANUARY MEETINGS/EVENTS

## PROGRAM PLANNING

Every year in January or February Leagues throughout the nation meet to discuss program planning. This annual event is designed to acquaint League members with the various national, state and local program positions, ascertain what they mean, how we, as a local league, can use them to advocate for issues we support, and to determine whether the positions are timely, need to be updated, changed or edited. This is also the time to solicit member suggestions for future studies and programs.

## Planning and Program Review

As we traditionally use the January unit meetings to talk about program planning, the LWVADC January unit meetings will look at state and local programs. In odd numbered years we consider state and local programs; in even numbered years, we look at national and local programs.

**A program planning packet with lots of details has been sent to all via email or regular mail**, but to pique your interest, this year there are two new proposals for you to consider: A study from the LWVCO Behavioral Health Task Force to update the state position to include support for behavioral health issues, and a Larimer County League of Women Voters request to update the LWVCO Hydraulic Fracturing position.

## LWVCO LEGISLATIVE CONFERENCE

Another traditional League event is the state League's annual Legislative Conference held each January at the start of Colorado's legislative session. The program begins in the State Capital's Old Supreme Court Chambers at 9 a.m. and continues until noon. Members then walk two short blocks to another meeting room for lunch and a presentation from our LWVCO lobbyist.

Billed as a preview of the 2015 Legislative Session, the program will include presentations by Colorado legislators, speakers on Colorado issues and other items of League interest. It is always an interesting day and a chance to meet the legislators and learn the priorities they believe will be considered in 2015.

**Monday, January 12, 2015**  
**Old Supreme Court Chambers**  
**State Capital, 200 E. Colfax Ave., Denver, 80203**  
**Registration: 8:30 a.m.; Program: 9 a.m. - noon**

**Lunch, & LWVCO Staff Lobbyist: 12:15 - 2 p.m.**  
**Scottish Rite Temple, 1370 Grant St., Denver, 80203**

**Registration Deadline: Monday, January 5, 2015**  
**Registration fee: \$32**  
**Call LWVCO 303-863-8437**



# FEBRUARY PREVIEW



February's unit meetings will focus on the State Standards Initiative, commonly known as Common Core.

This often controversial program is an American education initiative that outlines quantifiable benchmarks for all English-language arts and math at each grade level from kindergarten through high school in the U.S. Developed by a working group assembled by the National Governors Association and the Council of Chief State School Officers, the group worked from 2008– 2009 to set standards they believed would ensure a clear progression of learning for each grade so students can achieve success in college or find a good-paying job.

Implementation, however, is left to the individual states and therein lies the rub. As of July 15, 2014, 43 states, including Colorado, have approved the standards. But many Colorado parents have complained about the program and many politicians throughout the U.S. have voiced their opposition. Depending on the opposition and the difficulties initiating the standards, the future of Common Core is unknown. **So come to our February unit meetings featuring a special speaker on education to learn more and voice your opinions.**

## AND NOW, A WORD FROM THE PROGRAM COMMITTEE

The February program is just one of the many items our League is working on. As noted on page 2 you will have opportunities to add your suggestions for upcoming programs at our January program planning unit meetings, but until then, here's some more suggestions for your consideration and participation.

In addition to our local study of water issues to be presented in May, the LWVADC will be participating in several studies in 2015 and 2016. To this end we are seeking volunteers for several new committees that will guide these study issues

- A LWVUS study on the process of amending the U.S. Constitution.
- Member education and advocacy about human trafficking. This position was adopted by the League delegates at the 2014 LWVUS convention.
- A Colorado study of behavioral health. This would be a follow up to the work of the 2013 LWVCO Behavioral Task Force.

Our local committees will review the information on these topics as produced by state and national sources and, if needed, gather local information and present it at a unit meeting. It would be helpful to have at least one, and preferably two members, who normally attend each location and time of our unit meetings, participate in each study so they can provide updates to members on their progress.

There are also two on-going communities you could join:

- Oil & Gas Advocacy. This committee follows oil and gas issues statewide and in Arapahoe and Douglas counties seeking ways to advocate for responsible oil and gas development.
- Water issues in Arapahoe & Douglas Counties. This committee was formed at the 2014 LWVAC annual meeting as a new study. Members meet with officials, gather information, and will present some of their findings this May.

Interested? Contact Sonya Pennock, Program Chair, [sonsu@earthlink.net](mailto:sonsu@earthlink.net), 303-794-0430.

# MEMBERSHIP BRIEFINGS

## WELCOME NEW LWVADC MEMBERS

Thanks to the new Aurora unit for its enthusiastic showing and great membership recruitment efforts. Many of the new Aurora members live at Heather Gardens in Aurora so welcome to all and so glad you joined. **Here's our welcome to two more new members from Aurora: Jean Chrisman and Ingrid Lindemann.**

As of December 26, we have 106 members. As we are still sorting out the final numbers for an "official" report to the LWWUS by January 31, a "final number and roster will be released to members by February 1, 2015. Remember, if you've changed your address or other contact information please send Marlu Burkamp a note. We need to keep our database up to date.

Many thanks to all who renewed and to all the ones who joined this year. We do look forward to meeting you soon. In the meantime, we know there are o many questions about League that may still need answers. If you have a question, any question, please send it to me, Marlu Burkamp, [marluburkamp@gmail.com](mailto:marluburkamp@gmail.com), 303-798-2939 and our membership chair will answer. No names will be used.

We did received one question: Can a League member attend any one of the three unit meetings held each month at the various locations? The answer is yes. While we try to arrange unit meetings in a member's geographical area for their convenience, you are welcome to attend any unit meeting at any location. That's why we have morning and night meetings. If you miss the one in your geographical area, you can always attend one of the others.

## 2014 HOLIDAY PARTY



# NEWS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

## LWVADC DISCUSSION GROUP

This month's January 9th meeting at Southglenn Library will focus on the upcoming 2015 Great Decisions programs beginning Friday, February 6th. Discussion leaders will be selected and a calendar for the discussion of the Great Decisions topics will be set. See following article.

For more information contact Monique Hea, [heamph@hotmail.com](mailto:heamph@hotmail.com) or Vicki Harimon, [vickiharimon@aol.com](mailto:vickiharimon@aol.com)

## 2015 GREAT DECISIONS PROGRAM



The popular Great Decisions program will begin Friday, February 6 at 9:30 a.m. at Castlewood Library.

For those of you who are new to League, this is an eight week discussion program on topics of international interest and current affairs sponsored

by the Foreign Policy Association. The program is free and open to all but if you wish a briefing book with articles on all the topics it is about \$22 each.

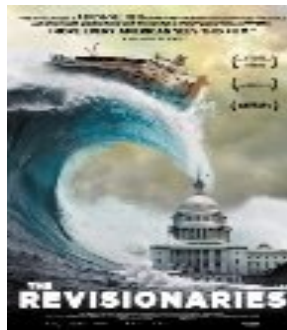
Each week the group discusses a different topic using the resources and articles listed in the book. Following a brief summary, the group launches into a spirited discussion of the weekly topic. You don't have to be an expert in foreign affairs to participate. Just listening and asking questions is great too.

The topics this year are

- Russia & the Near Abroad (Hence Putin's face on the book)
- Privacy in the Digital Age
- Sectarianism in the Middle East
- US Policy toward Africa
- India Changes Course
- Syria's Refugee Crisis
- Human Trafficking in the 21st Century
- Brazil's Metamorphosis

Contact Monique Hea, [heamph@hotmail.com](mailto:heamph@hotmail.com) or Vicki Harimon, [vickiharimon@aol.com](mailto:vickiharimon@aol.com)

## LWVADC MOVIE NIGHT



**MOVIE NIGHT**  
6:30 p.m.

**The Revisionaries**

**Wednesday, January 21**  
**Southglenn Library**  
**Streets of Southglenn**

The movie night is back! Plan to attend our popular program, much popcorn and take a thought provoking look at how an unabashed creationist seeks to revise school children's textbooks.

The background: In Austin, Texas 15 people influence what is taught to the next generation of American children. Once every decade, the highly politicized Texas State Board of Education rewrites the teaching and textbook standards for its nearly 5 million schoolchildren. And when it comes to textbooks, what happens in Texas can affect the nation as a whole.

This documentary follows the Texas Board of Education's meetings to discuss the school curriculum and the head of the board's drive to negate the text explaining the theory of evolution.

It is an eye opening look at local government and the decisions that could be made with very little democratic mandate. A local school board can slightly change a student's perception's about historical events and people. A turn of a phrase to insert the use of the middle name Hussein when citing President Barack Obama, the refusal to use the term "hip Hop" and instead label all rock and roll music, "country music." Minor items indeed, but what, this movie asks, will come next?

Some say that these "political" efforts to will negate the efforts to adopt the Common Core Standards. Is this something we should discuss in February? Come, see the movie and find out. Free and open to all LWVADC members.

## Keeping up with the Colorado Legislators

Here's what you need to know courtesy of the  
League of Women Voters of Jefferson County

### WATCH CHAMBER PROCEEDINGS

Senate and House Chamber proceedings are broadcast via the Colorado Channel, the Colorado Legislature's Cable Access Station. (Comcast cable: channel 165). Free access to the video is attainable through the Colorado Channel at [www.coloradochannel.net](http://www.coloradochannel.net).

### LISTEN TO COMMITTEE HEARINGS

Monday through Friday, after the House and Senate adjourn from morning floor proceedings, members attend committee hearings on bills. These hearing include public testimony on and debate of the merits of the bill. After public testimony committees may make amendments to the bill, refer a bill to another committee, favorably refer the bill to the House or Senate, lay a bill over to be heard another time, or postpone the bill indefinitely. If postponed indefinitely, the bill is considered dead. All other committee actions will be considered by the House and Senate members acting as what is termed the Committee of the Whole. Audio streaming of committees is available from the General Assembly's home page at [www.leg.state.co.us](http://www.leg.state.co.us) Click on Session Information.

### FOLLOW THE BILL

[www.leg.state.co.us](http://www.leg.state.co.us) Colorado General Assembly website for tracking bills, listening to committee hearings and confirming schedules.

[www.coloradocapitolwatch.com](http://www.coloradocapitolwatch.com) Capitol Watch tracks the Colorado State Legislature, including all bills, legislators and votes. The free services allow you to look up individual bills, legislators, and votes in an easy-to-use format. You can also see who's lobbied on bills and who'd donated to legislators' campaigns. Different levels of subscription (Rates from free to \$750) are available that enable you to check out your legislators and their votes from many angles using a scorecard and vote reports. The premier subscription creates scorecard and voter comparison web pages that you can send out to your colleagues, members, clients, friends, etc.

[www.lwvcolorado.org](http://www.lwvcolorado.org) The League of Women Voters of Colorado's Legislative Letter is an informative newsletter on state government issues published during the legislative session. It is created by the League's lobby corps which closely follows proposed legislation and analyzes the pending bills from the perspective of the League of Women Voters. The League's lobby corps is known as the Legislative Action Committee (LAC). The Legislative Letter is published every two weeks during the legislative session and is posted on the LWVCO website. If you wish your own copy, you can subscribe to the Legislative Letter either by email or regular mail. You receive the email version the day of publication. Subscription is \$20. Mail your check, payable to LWVCO at 1410 Grant Street, B-204, Denver, CO 80203-1855,

### SEND A MESSAGE

Contact your legislator directly regarding pending legislation. Please speak as an individual not a representative of League. To identify your legislator go to your County Clerk's web page. To send an email directly to your legislator or to reach their office contact go to [www.leg.state.co.us](http://www.leg.state.co.us).



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

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

**LWVAC MANAGEMENT TEAM**

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Program**

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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, [jolvs10s@gmail.com](mailto:jolvs10s@gmail.com)

## League Links

### League of Women Voters/Colorado

1410 Grant, B-204  
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303-863-0437 or 1-800-863-8683  
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### League of Women Voters/US

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