



The Voter

League of Women Voters of Arapahoe
And Douglas Counties

May 2015

Membership 107

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Exciting program on water this month as presented by the very hard working LWVADC Water Committee so please note the unit meeting dates on your calendar.

We're also gearing up for the LWVCO Convention in Boulder, a return of the movie *The Revisionaries*, and our 46th Annual Meeting on June 13 at the Country Buffet in Lone Tree. Although the League year is winding down, the management team is already thinking about their summer planning retreat, plans for this fall's elections, the behavior health and constitutional amendment consensuses, and whatever else may come our way before the holidays. Dare I say there is no rest for us intrepid Leaguers?

Thursday, May 7, 2015

Unit Meeting: Water 101
5 p.m. @ Mimi's Restaurant
205 S. Abilene, Aurora

Friday, May 8, 2015

LWVADC Discussion Group
9:30 a.m. @ Castlewood Library
6739 S. Uinta St., Centennial

Sunday, May 10, 2015

Mother's Day

Monday, May 11, 2015

Unit Meeting: Water 101
5:30 p.m. @ Garcia's Mexican
Restaurant ,5050 S. Syracuse,

Wednesday, May 13, 2015

LWVADC Administrative Team
10 a.m. @ Southglenn Library
Streets of Southglenn

Thursday, May 14, 2015

Unit Meeting: Water 101
10 a.m. @ Southglenn Library
Streets of Southglenn

Saturday/Sunday, May 16-17

LWVCO Convention
Boulder, Colorado

Thursday, May 21, 2015

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

Tuesday, May 26, 2015

LWVADC Management Team
6:30 p.m. @ Castlewood Library
6739 S. Uinta St., Centennial

Agriculture Production And Organic Food Products

At our March movie night we viewed the movie *FRESH*, a look at organic farming and the benefits of eating and supporting those farmers and food producers who are advocating the good food movement. The movie also documents how the mass produced poultry and meat we normally eat are fed with antibiotics and other food byproducts that may or may not be healthy for consumers.

While we know this and agree with the healthy lifestyle premise, changing can be expensive and inconvenient. That's why the movie urges us to start slow. Spend about \$10 a week or twice a month on organic produce and free range poultry and meat. Buy cage free, free range chicken eggs instead of your usual egg selection. Whatever you do, however small, will help those farmers who advocate "healthy farming" and keep them in business. So take a look at the attachment to this newsletter. I has information about organic labeling and a list of stores suggested by our members re supporting the FRESH movement.

MAY PROGRAM

LWVADC'S WATER STUDY PRESENTATION

WATER 101



The next time you drink a glass of water ask yourself the following questions:

Where does my water come from? Who owns it? Who controls the supply? Is it safe to drink? And, will it always be available?

Colorado's water resources, projects and availability is affected by more than just the amount of snowpack in the mountains. There is a multi layer of districts, watersheds and intergovernmental agreements, all with legal ramifications and governmental controls. Issues concerning the quantity and quality of water, distributions rights, ownership, rural vs urban needs (think east vs west slope) and the historically complex and legally adversarial water rights outlined in the Colorado water laws are just some of the items that factor into that glass of water.

All that and more will be presented at the three unit meetings this month by the LWVADC's Water Study Committee. The committee, which has met since this study was adopted at last year's annual meeting, has prepared an interesting power point presentation regarding the state's water resources, the proposed plans for an overall state water policy -The Colorado Water Plan - and water Issues in Arapahoe and Douglas counties.

The presentation will articulate the issues and the challenges we face to ensure we will have the water we need for urban, rural, recreational and agricultural use. As evidenced by the drought in California, water is not a finite resource. It behooves us to attend these meetings and begin learning about our most important resource.

Unit meetings dates and locations are listed on the front page of this newsletter. They are May 7th in Aurora; May 11th at Garcia's Mexican Restaurant and May 14th at Southglenn Library .

LWVADC ANNUAL MEETING

46TH ANNUAL MEETING SET FOR SATURDAY, JUNE 13, 2015

Check your email Wednesday, May 13th, as that's the day your annual meeting invitation and information packet will arrive. The packet will contain all the information needed to participate in the meeting.

Directions are also in the packet, but we will be meeting on Saturday, June 13 from 8 a.m. - noon at the Country Buffet Meeting Room, 7475 Park Meadows Drive, Lone Tree, Colorado. Senior rates are \$10.49 per person. That includes breakfast and a beverage.

As previously noted, this is the first meeting for our new Arapahoe/Douglas League so there will be a new set of bylaws, a newly developed budget, opportunities for new league programs and a slate of LWVADC management team members. Your presence and vote at the meeting is important.

Our guest speaker will be Cathy Proctor, energy reporter for the Denver Business Journal. She will talk about oil and gas development in the state and metro area, Arapahoe and Douglas counties, and the status of solar and wind development. Cathy spoke at the LWVCO Legislative Day in January and her informal approach and frank and courteous replies to all questions put everyone at ease. Bring your questions and comments re oil and gas development and alternative energy resources and Cathy will give you an up to date report on Colorado energy issues - the good, the bad and the ugly.

WELCOME NEW MEMBER TERRY GOLDFARB

We extend a warm welcome to our newest member, Terry Goldfarb. Terry joined in April and lives in Centennial. We look forward to meeting Terry and learning about her interests and activities.

In other news, the LWVUS Membership web site is in the redevelopment stage so we don't have access to national membership information right now. Fortunately Jo Ann Feder, membership chair, has gathered materials pertaining to LWVADC in case you have questions or need information.

Also please remember if any League member has a question about League please send your questions to this newsletter and Jo Ann will be happy to answer them.

LWVADC DISCUSSION GROUP

Friday, May 8th, will be the last discussion group meeting until September. The group, which meets the second Friday of most months at 9:30 a.m. at Castlewood Library, is an informal group that participates in the Great Decisions Program and discusses national and international issues. Interested? Contact Monique Hea, heamph@hotmail.com or Vicki Harimon, vickiharimon@aol.com.

LWVADC APRIL MANAGEMENT TEAM MEETING

Management Team members approved the new bylaws, the 2015-2016 budget and the nominating committee reports for submittal to League members for approval at the June 13, Annual Meeting. Also reviewed program, communications, membership and oil and Gas Advocacy committee reports.

NEWS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

LWVCO COLORADO LEADER OF DEMOCRACY EVENT

You are invited to attend the state League's annual Colorado Leader of Democracy Event to honor Justice Rebecca Love Kourlis and her efforts as Executive Director for the Institute for the Advancement of the American Legal System, Wednesday, June 17 at the Residences at University Hills, 2775 South Brook Drive, Denver.

This is the second annual program sponsored by LWVCO to honor an outstanding Coloradoan, and the signature fundraising event for the state league. The program will start at 5:30 p.m. with a wine and hors-oeuvres buffet followed by a speech by Ms. Kourlis at 6:15 p.m. Tickets are \$100 each. If, however, you can't make it, donations are always welcome. Event tickets and donations can be sent to the LWVCO's office, 1410 Grant St., Suite B204, Denver Colorado, or registered on the LWVCO's web site www.lwvcolorado.org/news.html.

Justice Kourlis has served Colorado's judiciary for nearly two decades, first as a trial court judge and then as a justice of the Colorado Supreme Court. During her time on the bench she witnessed a system increasingly under attack from outside forces that were failing to deliver the justice she swore to uphold, so in January 2006 she resigned from the Supreme Court to establish the Institute for the Advancement for the American Legal system. Her awards and honors are too many to list here, but they will be highlighted at the LWVCO event. Her speech at the June 17 award ceremony will also explain her organization's' goals and accomplishments.



LWVADC MEMBER FERN BLACK WINS AWARD

And speaking of awards our own Fern Black was one of two lawyers honored by the Disability Law Colorado Center for her volunteer service.

Fern was presented the Luis D. Rovira Award for her 16 years of volunteer service to help protect the rights of all Coloradoans of all ages.

The award was named for the former Chief Justice of the Colorado Supreme Court who was an outstanding lawyer and judge. Justice Rovira also advocated for citizen's rights, including the disabled and senior citizens.

The Disability Law Colorado Center was formally the Legal Center for People with Disabilities and Older People.

Congratulations Fern.



NEW FOR 2015 LEADERSHIP RECHARGE

The familiar LWVCO Leadership Retreat held every June in Frisco, Colorado has a new name: the Leadership RECHARGE!

According to the announcement, this annual retreat will provide Leaguers (rookie and seasoned) with a fresh perspective on their organization through new ideas and training methods.

The recharge will cover ways to nurture membership and new leaders, improve visibility in the community, advocate at the local level and educate the public on key issues.

Dates are Friday, June 26 and Saturday, June 27 at the Baymont Inn and suites, Frisco, Colorado.

Additional details will be announced at the annual meeting and in future emails.

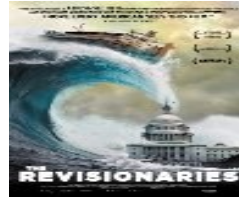
LWVCO CONVENTION May 16-17, 2015

Six members of the LWVADC Management Team will represent our League as voting delegates at the State League Convention May 16 & 17 in Boulder Colorado.

Delegates will be asked to vote on the LWVCO budget, Board of Directors, program and any bylaw changes. Additional activities will include informational speakers, a silent auction, and tours of interesting Boulder events and businesses.

As you remember at our January program planning meetings members considered several suggestions for state study. They included an update to the LWVCO's Task Force on behavioral health, additions to the current LWVCO fracking position, a study about different voting methods and a concurrence with the Boulder League on wage issues. The state board has recommended delegates adopt the update of the behavioral health study as the state-wide program, but it is expected the other leagues will lobby for their suggested programs.

LWVADC delegates are Jo Ann Feder, Sonya Pennock, Alice Ramsey, Fern Black and Maggi Markey. Marlu Burkamp will also attend as a member of the state board.



MOVIE NIGHT
6:30 p.m.
Wednesday, May 21, 2015
Southglenn Library
Streets of Southglenn

Back by popular demand! **THE REVISIONARIES**. We showed this last January but the weather was so bad, only a few attended. The weather is better now (we hope) so plan to attend and see this eye opening documentary.

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. Additional revisionary proposals then continue at a startling pace.

Free refreshments & beverages.

AIR-QUALITY MONITORING AEDVANCE IN COLORADO

A mobile air-quality monitoring unit was an important line item in the budget signed by Governor Hickenlooper on April 21. Funding allotted for the unit and an operator to manage it amounts to \$402, 859. The importance of this type of monitoring device was raised by League members who attended an April 8th presentation by a representative of the Anadarko Oil Company at the Arapahoe County Planning facility. Use of a monitor for protecting atmospheric integrity was one of the recommendations submitted by Governor Hickenlooper's Oil and Gas Development Task Force.

Members of the LWVADC Oil and Gas Advocacy Committee, headed by Alice Ramsey, have attended several presentations addressing concerns swirling around oil and gas drilling operations in Arapahoe County. In addition to that held by Anadarko, committee members have met to discuss issues with a representative from Coloradoans for Responsible Energy Development (CRED), attended a meeting of the Aurora City Council Committee on Oil & Gas well drilling, and observed a meeting of the *What the Frack!* Committee from Lafayette.





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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

League Links

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