



The Voter

League of Women Voters® of Arapahoe County

January 2012

Membership 80

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HAPPY NEW YEAR

Best wishes to all for a very Happy, Prosperous and Healthy New Year! As we know, 2012 is a presidential election year, which means extensive Voter Service programs for Leagues throughout the U.S. So when making your New Year's resolutions, think about volunteering for a League activity. It can be for an hour, a day, a month or more. It's up to you. We've got a lot planned for the coming year. You know how to reach us.

IMPORTANT DATES

Monday, January 9, 2012

Unit Meeting: Program Planning & Web Site Review
 5:30 pm @ Garcia's Mexican Restaurant
 5050 S. Syracuse Street

Thursday, January 12, 2012

Unit Meeting: Program Planning & Web Site Review
 9:30 am @Castlewood Library
 6739 S. Uinta Street

Monday, January 16, 2012

LWVAC Management Team Mtg.
 6:30 p.m. @ TBA

Wednesday, January 18, 2012

Lunch Bunch
 11:30 am @ Benedict's Restaurant
 8181 E. Arapahoe Rd.
 Across from Castlewood Library

Monday, January 23, 2012

LWVCO Legislative Conference
 8:30 am - 2 pm @ State Capital
 Old Supreme Court Headquarters

Wednesday, January 25, 2012

LWVAC Member Orientation
 10am @ Julie Beekhuizen's home
 1834 W. Cape Cod Way, Littleton
 303-738-0926

LWVAC MEMBER ORIENTATION

An orientation session for all LWVAC members - new & old - is scheduled for Wednesday, January 25, 10 to 11:30 a.m. at Julie Beekhuizen's home. Learn more about League, how we reach League positions, our non-partisan policy and the terms used in discussing league issues. Other items will include an explanation of our Voter Service program, our unit structure and public programs, and how our management team works. Members of the LWVAC Management Team will also be available to explain their various functions as well as present opportunities for involvement. It's your opportunity to ask questions and learn everything you always wanted to know, but were afraid to ask.

Directions: Go to Broadway and travel north or south to the intersection of Broadway and Mineral. Turn west on Mineral (A Safeway is at that corner) and travel about a mile to Peninsula Drive. Turn left on Peninsula Drive and follow it down the hill and to the left around the swimming pool for about 2 blocks until you reach W. Cape Cod Way. Watch for the 1843 address and park along the north side of the cul de sac.

UPCOMING MEETINGS

JANUARY UNIT MEETINGS

As previously mentioned in the program planning primer sent to you the end of December, our January unit meetings will focus on the annual program planning process. It will also include a tutorial on the LWVAC web site.

In terms of the program planning process we will learn about the LWVUS program positions and our local positions and discuss whether they need to be retained, revised or amended. If you have not read the program primer yet, please print and read. We hope to have a lively discussion with lots of questions.

The web site tutorial will feature Julie Beekhuizen, our web mistress, guiding you through the basics of the site and soliciting your suggestions for additional topics or issues. Please bring your laptops, smart phones and ipads if they have WiFi to the Thursday morning meetings. For the Monday meeting, please bring your smart phones and your idpads if you have access to the internet.

www.lwvarapahoe.org

NOTE: We may not have time to study the national and local positions at the same meeting. If that is the case, we will look at the local positions during part of the February unit meeting.

LWVCO LEGISLATIVE CONFERENCE

The LWVCO annual day at the legislature is Monday, January 23, 2012. Registration begins at 8:30 a.m. at the Old Supreme Court chambers at the State Capital, followed from 9 a.m. to noon, by a preview of the 2012 Legislative Session.

Participants will then adjourn a few blocks away to the Central Presbyterian Church to eat lunch, hear a presentation by our League lobbyist, Chris Watson, and join issue related breakout sessions.

Deadline for registration is Friday, January 13, 2012. Cost is \$25 per person. A registration form is attached with this newsletter.

LUNCH BUNCH

The next lunch bunch gathering will be Wednesday, January 18 at 11:30 a.m. at Benedict's Restaurant, 8181 E. Arapahoe Rd. Rd., across from Castlewood Library.



FEBRUARY PREVIEW

“The best laid schemes o’ mice an’ men gang aft agley”.....

With apologies to Robert Burns, that is exactly what happened to our plans to present a preview of the LWVUS privatization study at the February unit meetings. Unfortunately the national study materials and proposed consensus questions arrived just before New Years and the study committee needs more time to process the information AND prepare their presentation. To this end the program committee is looking to determine whether we’ll need one or two meetings on privatization, and where to plug in our planned units on voter suppression and water.

MEMBERSHIP BRIEFINGS

JANUARY is the last month for the majority of LWVAC members to **renew** as we must turn in our membership number to LWVUS by January 31st. If you haven't renewed, or added your renewal contribution, we sincerely hope you will do so before the end of January.

Individual memberships are \$60; Household memberships are \$85. Memberships run for one year. Make your check payable to LWV Arapahoe County and mail to Charlotte Faris, 5358 S. Ukraine Way, Aurora, Colorado 80015. You can also contact Charlotte at 303-690-8466, faris18603@comcast.net

To those who have renewed, we extend our sincere thanks and hope we will see you at our programs and activities in the near future. It is a pleasure to meet all of you and learn about your interests and viewpoints. Your support is very much appreciated

We also extend a warm welcome to new members Charlotte Adgie, Beverly Balter, Jane Barru and Miriam Wilson. All are residents of Wind Crest, a retirement community in Highlands Ranch.

Beverly worked in the real estate field in New Jersey before retiring to Florida. She and her husband lived in Florida for 20 years, then moved to Colorado in 2008. They both "love" Colorado and living at Wind Crest. Beverly's favorite pastime is reading.

Jane was very active in the Scarsdale, New York League many years ago and has always supported League's programs and positions. She and her husband have lived in Colorado for 38 years and moved to Wind Crest three years ago. She has also enjoyed participating in the Great Decisions Program sponsored by the retirement community.

Miriam is a former League member as was her mother. In 1981, however, she decided to add some humor to the issues at hand and became a clown. In this capacity she facilitated a humor center in the Washington D.C area. Ironically the center was located between the Pentagon and the CIA building. Miriam is now retired and lives at Wind Crest with her husband.

Charlotte will be profiled in the February issue.

Special thanks to Sandee Quick and Jan Finney for adding the extra household membership to their individual renewals; to the Carolyn Melphy household for their additional contribution, and to Barbara Schulmeister for her generous contribution.

NEWS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

GREAT DECISIONS

An attachment listing the topics, authors and a brief synopsis the 2012 Great Decisions programs are attached with this newsletter.

The program will begin Friday, February 3rd and meet every Friday for eight weeks till the end of March. Meetings are held at the Castlewood Library, 6739 S. Uinta St. each Friday morning at 9:30 a.m. The February 10 and March 9th meeting, however, will be held at 10 a.m. at the Southglenn Library, located in the Streets of Southglenn. For more information and to obtain a discussion book contact Monique Hea, heamph@hotmail.com, 303-220-9273

LWVCO LEGISLATIVE LETTER

The LWVCO Legislative Letter is a newsletter created by the LWVCO Legislative Action Committee during the Colorado Legislative Session for League members, legislators and other interested parties. It lists the proposed bills, their sponsors and an analysis of the proposed legislation.

You can subscribe to this letter and receive it by email or regular mail for \$20. Just note your subscription preferences and mail your check or credit card number to LWVCO, 1410 Grant St., #B204, Denver, CO 80203-1855. Information: 303-863-0437.



LWVAC members at the December 5th Holiday Party. Thanks to Julie Beekhuizen for hosting the enjoyable event and to all who shared their delicious hors d'oeuvres. Additional pictures courtesy of Rudy Ramsey and Charlotte Faris on Page 5.

A NEW COUNTY COMMISSIONER & 2012 CANDIDATES

Frank Wedding, Arapahoe County Commissioner for District 5, which includes portions of Aurora and the City of Glendale, is resigning effective January 3rd, 2012. As his term doesn't expire until January 2014, an Aurora resident, Bill Holden, was appointed to serve the remainder of Wedding's term. Holden is a Vietnam veteran, a former staff member for Senator Gary Hart and a staff member for Rep. Ed Perlmutter. Holden will begin his term January 3rd.

In other news, two candidates have announced their intention to run for the District 1 Arapahoe County Commissioner seat currently held by Susan Beckman. Beckman, who is term limited, will leave office January, 2013.

Candidates are Nancy Doty, the Arapahoe County Clerk and Recorder, and former Littleton Mayor, Doug Clark. If Doty is elected in 2012, she will resign her current position and the Commissioners will appoint someone to fill the remainder of her term, which runs through 2014. Clark recently resigned his position as Mayor and member of the Littleton City Council.

NEWS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

LWVAC 2 11HOLIDAY PARTY



ARAPAHOE COUNTY LAND USE REGULATIONS

Concerned by the impacts of the oil and gas exploration in the county, the Arapahoe County Commissioners directed the County Attorney and Planning Department to draft land use regulations to provide “reasonable “ limitations and safeguards to protect the impact the explorations have on the environment, roads, pollution, etc.

LWVAC is following this process and has submitted statements at two County Planning Commission public hearings and is planning to speak again at a public hearing before the Arapahoe County Commissioners, January 3rd, 2012. at 9:30 a.m. at the County’s Administration Building in Littleton. The statements LWVAC has submitted pertain to the proposed land use regulations only and are based on environmental positions developed by LWVCO and LWVAC. In general, LWVAC favors the proposal to enact land use regulations, but has some concerns with the set back requirements, the short application renewal process and some of the requirements concerning water quality and pollution. If you are interested in learning more call Marlu Burkamp, 303-798-2939, marluburkamp@gmail.com



**The League of Women Voters
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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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