



The Voter

League of Women Voters® of Arapahoe County

May 2012

Membership 82

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Before the very hectic days of elections, ballot speaks, candidate forums and voter registration drives, we're offering LWVAC members a chance to enjoy a pleasant diversion this month with a field trip to the new Colorado History Museum. We understand the new museum is fascinating, so please put May 17 on your calendar.

We'll then end the League year in June with our Annual Meeting featuring a return of Elena Nunez, Executive Director of Colorado Common Cause, speaking on the ramifications of the voting rights bills passed and/or defeated this year by the Colorado Legislature. Details for both events on page 2.

Monday, May 5, 2012
Cinco de Mayo

Tuesday, May 8, 2012
Special District Elections

Friday & Saturday, May 11 & 12
LWVCO Council
Pueblo, Colorado

Sunday, May 13, 2012
Mother's Day

Thursday, May 17, 2012
10 a.m.
LWVAC Field Trip
Colorado History Museum
1200 Broadway, Denver

Monday, May 21, 2012
LWVAC Management Team Mtg.
6:30 p.m.
Highlands Ranch Library
9292 Ridgeline Blvd.,
Highlands Ranch, Colorado

Wednesday, May 23, 2012

LWVAC Book Club
10 a.m.
Southglenn Library, Room A
6792 S. Vine St. in the Streets of
Southglenn Shopping Center

Saturday, June 9, 2012

LWVAC Annual Meeting
11 a.m.- 3 p.m.
Southglenn Library
6972 S. Vine St. in the Streets of
Southglenn Shopping Center

QUESTIONS TO PONDER

- Where can you visit Colorado's past on a real time machine?
- Enroll in a small town High School and get your picture taken for the school year book?
- Take a joy ride on a model T
- Talk to a mountain man and visit Ute Indian Tribes?

MAY & JUNE MEETINGS


HISTORY Colorado



HISTORY COLORADO NOW

Find answers to all your questions at the new History Colorado Museum!

Our annual field trip this May will involve a visit to the new History Colorado Museum and lunch on Thursday, May 17, 2012. The event will begin at 10 a.m. and include a leisurely 2-hour self guided tour of the entertaining and interactive museum exhibits followed by lunch in the museum's restaurant or at the Denver Art Museum's Palettes Restaurant.

LWVAC members are urged to arrive on time and gather in the museum's atrium. While you will be free to tour on your own, we'd like to welcome you and note the number of members attending. If you can find that league pin you received, please wear it so museum personnel will know who we are. Charlotte Faris, whose husband is on Board of Directors of History Colorado, will gladly answer questions and show us where the various items are located. At about noon, we will meet back at the atrium and adjourn to the museum restaurant or cross the street and eat at Palettes. We're hedging our lunch bets as the museum's restaurant may not be open by the 17.

Entrance tickets are \$10 for adults and \$8 for seniors. Lunch expenses are up to you. As this is a LWVAC member event, we welcome husbands and significant others, but please no children.

Depending on where you live, we urge you to car pool or take the light rail. Parking is available at the cultural garage across from the Denver Art Museum. The museum's address is 1200 Broadway, Denver 80203.

LWVAC ANNUAL MEETING JUNE 9, 2012

It's time for our 43rd Annual Meeting



Join us in celebrating our many accomplishments and learn about plans for this election year at our 43th Annual Meeting, Saturday, June 9 from 11 a.m.- 3 p.m. at the Southglenn Library, 6972 S. Vine Street, Centennial. The library is located in the Streets of Southglenn Shopping Center on the southwest corner of Broadway and University.

And to celebrate, we'll treat you to lunch!

The program will begin at 11 a.m. with a repeat performance by Elena Nunez, Executive Director of Colorado Common Cause speaking on the ramifications of the voting rights bills passed and/or defeated by this year's Colorado Legislature. She'll also provide updates on the national scene as well. A member question and answer session will follow. Lunch will be served at noon, followed by the business meeting at 1 p.m.

An Annual Meeting packet with the agenda, proposed budget and other business items will be sent to all LWVAC members via email by mid May. In the meantime, make sure the date is on your calendar.

MEMBERSHIP BRIEFINGS

WELCOME TO NEW MEMBERS JEAN ANN PALMER AND JEAN TWOMBLEY

Jean Ann is originally from Indiana, but has lived in Denver since 1972 when she moved to Colorado to attend the University of Denver. She worked for Cherry Creek Schools for 28 years as a teacher before retiring, but still substitutes for the District. Jean is married and has two sons: a 2nd Lt. in the Marine Corps and a junior at Notre Dame. She liked to read, cook and run.

Jean Twombley is married with three grown children and three grandkids. She is now retired after serving 35 years in nonprofit organizations, such as the Nebraska Governor's Commission on Women and Denver's Victim Assistance Center. She has been Director of the Adams County Violence program for two years, and the Jeffco Family Support Network for children of mentally ill parents for a few years. Jean also worked for the Arapahoe Community Alternatives for low-risk offenders. Her husband is a retired architect. Jean is interested in voter registration for the League.

We regretfully announce the resignation of LWVAC member, **Mary Power**, who served as the League's social chairperson. Mary was responsible for starting the popular lunch bunch series, the League book club and the September welcome back parties for league members. She also worked with Julie Beekhuizen on the annual Christmas parties and was instrumental in setting up the new member orientation in January. Mary and her husband plan to move back to Wisconsin later this year to be closer to her friends and family.

VOTER SERVICES

VOTER REGISTRATION CONTINUES

In advance of the May 29th deadline to register to voters for the June 26 primary election, Marilyn Ayers' Voter Registration teams have been busy registering voters throughout Arapahoe and Douglas Counties. April and early May dates include:

- Aurora Community College
- Arapahoe Community College
- Windcrest Retirement Community
- Highlands Ranch Home Improvement Fair
- Students at the Alternative School, Daniel Oaks High School, Castle Rock.

For additional information or to schedule a voter registration date for your community organization or business contact Marilyn, 303-471-8301, mk303@comcast.net



VOTER SERVICES

SPECIAL DISTRICT ELECTIONS MAY 8, 2012

On Tuesday, May 8, many Special Districts in Colorado will hold elections for candidates seeking a position on the District's Board of Directors.

Many of these Districts are fire protection districts, park and recreation districts, sanitation districts and water districts. It would be safe to say that all LWVAC members reside in one or more of these Districts and pay taxes for the provided services. And since the District's Board of Directors are responsible for determining the tax rates and operations of their District, it is important to know who is on the board and who is seeking an elected position. .

Unfortunately, each district is responsible for conducting its own election, so the notification process is sporadic. You may or may not receive a ballot or election notice in the mail. Some will ask you to call them to request a mail ballot. Voting guidelines may be published on their web sites, but not always. All, however, will list a polling place which will be open to voters on May 8th.

To this end LWVAC Voter Service Chair, Karen Hart, researched many of the special districts and their web sites in Arapahoe and Douglas counties. They are listed in two emails sent to all LWVAC members, Thursday, May 3. Take a look and see what's happening with your special district(s). If you don't know what district you're in, look at you tax statement.



COLORADO PRIMARY ELECTIONS JUNE 26

A primary election in June? Isn't it usually held in August?

Not anymore. The date was moved in response to a federal law (the MOVE ACT: Military and Overseas Voter Empowerment) that requires ballots go to military and overseas voters 45 days before the general election. This is intended to help absentee voters participate in elections who are either in the military or are U.S. citizens living abroad.

So all registered voters affiliated with the major political parties in Colorado (American Constitution, Democratic & Republican) will be casting their vote by June 26 for candidates they want to represent them in the November General Election.

Most candidates for local and state races are nominated by their respective parties at assemblies, but others may petition to be on the ballot if they collect enough signatures and receive a small percentage of votes at the assemblies. Some states allow the unaffiliated (independent) voters to vote in the state primaries, but Colorado does not. So if you want to vote in the primary, you must declare a political affiliation. The last day to do so is May 25th.

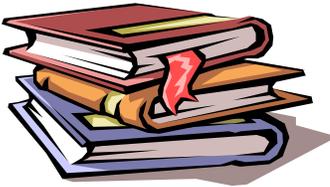
The 2012 primary election will be an all mail ballot election. The Arapahoe and Douglas County Clerks will begin mailing ballot to eligible voters beginning June 4th. The last day to register to vote for the primary is Tuesday, May 29, 2012

Postage to return your voted mail ballot is 45 cents. The last day to request a mail-in ballot is June 19th. The deadline to return the ballots is 7 p.m. on June 26th.

You can also return your ballots to various drop off centers or voter service centers. For locations, times, etc. go to www.arapahoevotes.com for Arapahoe County, and www.douglas.co.us/clerk/elections/ for Douglas County.

NEWS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

LWVAC BOOK CLUB



The Non-Fiction Book Club will meet Wednesday, May 23 at 10 a.m. in Room A at the Southglenn Library, 6972 S. Vine St. in the Streets of

Southglenn Shopping Center, southwest corner of Arapahoe Rd. and University Blvd.

The Book is the 2011 version of ***Collapse: How Societies Choose to Fail or Succeed*** by Jared Diamond and is available in paperback from Penquin Books. It pulls together clear and compelling explanations of how events unfolded, and continue to unfold, in various parts of the world to shape our business and political landscapes.

Everyone is welcome to attend and participate even if you haven't read the book. For more information contact Maggie Markey 303-814-

LWVUS CAMPAIGN FINANCE TASK

The LWVUS has created a Campaign Finance Task Force to provide information and input on campaign finance issues, including short and long term strategies for reform. It is also charged with creating educational programs on campaign finance for local leagues to present to their communities. And will research and provide information to members on the proposed constitutional amendment proposals which have been introduced in the U.S. Congress in reaction to the Supreme Court's decision on Citizen United. Watch for periodic reports in this newsletter.

DOUGLAS COUNTY NEWS

Barbara Barlow, a LWVAC member who lives in Douglas County, has been following the Douglas County School Board's open Teacher Contract Negotiations. Here's some information for those wish to learn more about the process. .

There are audio recordings of the open negotiation sessions between the Douglas County Federation of Teachers (DCFT) and the Douglas County School District (DCSD) on the DCSD website. Just go to the DCSD home page at www.dcsdK12.org, right click on Budget Negotiations and Proposal. This page has the School Administration's version of the budget for the 2012-2013 school year. On the right side click on open negotiations information. Scroll down and see the links to the audio recordings of the two open sessions held thus far.

Please note there has been closed negotiation sessions occurring prior April. Currently, the DCFT has 10 members of their negotiating team led by Brenda Smith, President. The Administration has four negotiating team members led by Assistant Superintendent, Dan McMinimee.

The current contract period ends June 30, 2012. Once a contract is agreed upon , it takes approximately two weeks for each side to obtain needed approvals before it can take effect.

Barbara Barlow, b.gomesbarlow@gmail.com

LWVAC MANAGEMENT TEAM NOTES

At its April meeting, the LWVAC management team finalized plans for the Annual Meeting, the field trip to the History Colorado Museum, and set a date for a planning meeting to discuss management team nominations and composition for the 2012-2013 league year. The team also reviewed the LWVAC member consensus on the Privatization Study and regretfully accepted the resignation of team member, Mary Power. Plans for upcoming voter registration programs were also discussed.

The team also met with LWVCO President, Cath Perrone and LWVCO Membership Chair, Lineah Davey to talk about ways to incorporate more events and opportunities for the league's Douglas County members.



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of Arapahoe County**

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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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