



The Voter

League of Women Voters® of Arapahoe County

February 2013

Membership 80

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It's February and time for Valentine's Day and the League's 93rd Birthday. Both are on February 14th - an auspicious day to start an organization that worked so hard for women's suffrage. No candy and flowers for those women - just a strong dedication to educate voters, help shape public policy and promote informed citizen participation at all levels of government.

This month we encourage members to help shape public policy by participating in our Program Planning unit meetings, learn more about international politics at the Great Decisions Program and educate each other via informal conversation at our lunch bunch and book club meetings. Enjoy!

Friday, February 1, 2013

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

Monday, February 4, 2013

Unit Meeting: Program Planning
5:30 pm @ Garcia's Mexican Restaurant
5050 S. Syracuse St., Centennial

Wednesday, February 6, 2013

Discussion with DC members re
formation of a joint Arapahoe
County/Douglas County LWV
10 a.m. @ Parker Library
10851 S. Crossroads Dr., Parker

Thursday, February 7, 2013

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

Thursday, February 14, 2013

LWV's 93rd Birthday
Valentine's Day



Tuesday, February 19, 2013

Lunch Bunch
11:30 a.m. @ Macaroni Grill
7979 E. Arapahoe Rd, Centennial

Wednesday, February 20, 2013

LWVAC Book Club
10 a.m. Southglenn Library
6972 S. Vine St.,
Streets of Southglenn, Centennial

Monday, February 25, 2013

LWVAC Management Team
6:30 p.m.
Koelbel Public Library
5955 S. Holly St., Centennial

FEBRUARY UNITS: PROGRAM PLANNING

This month we will conduct program planning at our February unit meetings – an annual ritual performed by Leagues throughout the U.S. during January and February. The goal: to review existing League program positions and suggest new issues we think our national, state and local Leagues should pursue. This year we are looking at our state and local positions.

A coupon, information explaining the process, and the positions to be reviewed, were sent to all members January 30th. Please read and bring to the unit meetings. We'll also celebrate the League's 93rd birthday and Valentines Day early, by providing treats, and engaging participants with a bit of league history and a quiz or two. So please come. And wear something red. After all a League Birthday is a red letter day!

MEMBERSHIP BRIEFINGS

MEMBERSHIP UPDATE

As of January 31, 2013, the date we send our report to LWVUS,* LWVAC has 80 members. Thanks to all who renewed and to those who joined us this January. We are grateful for your support.

As we never stop recruiting new members, we ask you to help by talking to your friends, co-workers and other people you know about league and the benefits of being a member. Bring them to a unit meeting, invite them to a new member orientation, and encourage them to attend one of our public meetings. We're always available to talk over a cup of coffee.

* The number of members we turn in to LWVUS on January 31, determines how much our per member payment to LWVUS is for 2013. Of the \$60 you pay for an individual membership, \$31 goes to the national League and \$18 goes to the state league. They, in turn, provide us with materials, programs and advocacy at the state and national level.

CONDOLENCES

Our heartfelt condolences to LWVAC member, Janice Green, whose husband died January 30th. Our sympathy and support go with you.

MEMBER NOTES

WELCOME TO NEW MEMBER, Carol Sarche. A graduate of the University of Illinois, Carol and her family moved to Colorado in 1969. She and her husband have four children, and participate in a wide range of interests, including the Great Decisions Program with LWVAC member, Fay Plummer. Carol also managed and operated her own consulting business in Health Information Management for 29 years.

LWVAC Lifetime member, Wilma Davidson is currently in rehab at the Cherrelyn Healthcare Center, 5555 E. Elati, Littleton, 80120. She would love a card, visit or a call at 303-795-0059.

Wilma is one of those amazing women who has been involved in League for over 50 years. Her career includes a LWVCO and LWVAC presidency, work on national issues and instrumental in many legislative policies and proposals. She also wrote a brief commemorative history of how the Arapahoe League was formed and who was involved. It's a great primer for anyone interested in learning about our history and the people involved.

IN MEMORIAM

Rosalie Schiff, 88, a LWVAC member and long time pillar of the Littleton Community, died January 13, 2013. Her activities and involvement in community events, political activities and League were legendary. From 1975 through 1987 she was Executive Director of Colorado Common Cause, where she co-invented the 'sunset' and "sunshine" provisions, legislative devices that became hugely influential throughout the country. Rosalie was also on the national board of Common Cause, the state Board of the Colorado League of Women Voters and the Board of Directors of the Arapahoe League, and was a member of the Littleton Human Relations Council. In 1968 she was named Littleton's "Mother of the Year" by the Littleton Independent newspaper.

She is survived by her immediate family, grandchildren, and husband, Donald Schiff, who was Littleton's first pediatrician. Our condolences to her family and friends.

LWVCO Legislative Conference



The Colorado State Capital was the place to be Monday, January 28th as more than 140 League members, gathered in the old Supreme Court Chambers to hear a variety of speakers discuss issues concerning Colorado's future and the bills proposed by Colorado legislators. The following is a brief description of each presentation.

- Assistant House Majority Leader, Dan Pabon welcomed League members and outlined the major legislative efforts for the 2013 session, including passage of a Civil Union bill, in-state tuition for students of undocumented immigrants, additional funding for education, and economic growth.
- He was followed by Representative Dickey Lee Hullinghorst, House Majority Leader and Representative Mark Waller, House Minority Leader who shared their views on upcoming legislation.

The two appeared at a LWVCO Legislative Conference 6 years ago to tell what it was like to be a newly elected representative. That was followed by a second "show & Tell" a few years ago, and now, in 2013 they both hold leadership positions in the House.

- John Salazar, the Colorado commissioner of Agriculture, brought us up to date on the state's agriculture picture, which he said is good at every level. Exports increased by 39.8% during the last two years despite the 2012 drought. This is partly due to the Federal free trade agreements which now show Canada as Colorado's number one trading partner with Mexico a close second. The availability of water, however, is still a most pressing need due to the state's population growth.
- Matt Lepore, Executive Director of the Colorado Oil and Gas Conservation Committee (COGCC) and Barbara Green, Environmental and Land Use Attorney, spoke about local control issues in Hydraulic Fracturing. Both concluded there is much tension between local control and oil and gas development as the state has granted both the COGCC and local governments authority over land use and development. COGCC has authority over the technical and mechanical aspect of oil and gas development; local governments have authority over land use regulations. The problems arise over what each entity can do within the legal limits of the law. To date, there are 50,000 active wells in Colorado, 20,000 of which are in Weld County.
- Lisa Well of Great Education Colorado talked about *2013 Year of the Student* and the need to pressure state Legislators for additional funds for educational programs, including professional development for teachers, early childhood education, improved technology and differentiated learning for students.
- League members then adjourned to the Central Presbyterian Church to eat lunch and listen of an overview of the 2013 legislative session from Chris Watson, LWVCO Staff Lobbyist. Chris said the Civil Union bill should be passed by March and in-state tuition for students of undocumented immigrants has a "really really" good chance of passing. Support from some business leaders is also slowly being built for a future tax increase election as additional sources of funding for state programs is limited. The General Assembly must also address regulations concerning the use and sale of marijuana, the proposals regarding gun control, and perhaps, consider whether the state adopts an all-mail ballot. Unfortunately her talk was cut short by a fire alarm that forced us to leave the building and end the conference.
- Arapahoe members who attended were Susan Meeker, Mary Alyce Behrns, Chris Angle, Sonya Pennock, Fern Black, Vicki Harimon, Barbara Barlow, Jo Ann Feder, Justine Compo, Alice Ramsey, Gerry Cummins, Jeannette Albersheim, Dala Giffin, Karen Hart, Deb Armbruster and Marlu Burkamp.

NEWS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

GREAT DECISIONS PROGRAM

The first Great Decisions meeting has passed but seven remain. Topics & dates:

- ▶ 2/8/2013: Myanmar & Southeast Asia
- ▶ 2/15/2013: China In Africa
- ▶ 2/22/2013: Egypt
- ▶ 3/1/2013: Future of the Euro
- ▶ 3/8/2013: Intervention
- ▶ 3/15/2013: Iran
- ▶ 3/22/2013: NATO

All meetings are Friday mornings either at Castlewood or Southglenn Library. Castlewood discussions start at 9:30 a.m.; Southglenn starts at 10 a.m. For location information contact Vicki Harimon, vickiharimon@aol.com or Monique Hea, heamph@hotmail.com

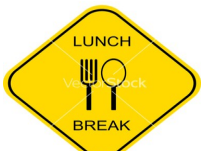
LWVAC BOOK CLUB

The holidays are over and winter is here. Time to settle down with a good book. The LWVAC Book Club is back and has a good suggestion - *The Greater Journey, Americans in Paris* by David McCullough. Originally scheduled last year during the hectic election season, our intrepid book club organizer, Maggie Markey, is proposing members consider the book again, as it contains information about many of the more famous American's (Mark Twain, Harriet Beecher Stowe, etc.), who went to Paris from 1830-1900 and how their experiences affected America's politics, art and science.

Wednesday, February 20, 2013 @ 10 a.m. in Southglenn Library's Room A, 6972 S. Vine St., in the Streets of Southglenn Shopping area. All are welcome.
maggimarkey@mindspring.com



LWVAC LUNCH BUNCH



This month we're changing the day and the location.

The LWVAC Lunch Bunch will meet Tuesday, February 19 at 11:30 a.m. at Macaroni Grill, 7979 E. Arapahoe Rd., Centennial. .

Choosing a restaurant that is central to most members and has reasonable prices can be tricky. If you have a restaurant suggestion please let me know. Douglas County would be great as would places in east Centennial. Actually, looking for someone to work with me on this program. Interested? 303-798-2939
marluburkamp@gmail.com

AC/DC FORMATION DISCUSSION

Just to be clear, that's the short title for the management Team's decision to explore the formation of a joint Arapahoe County/Douglas County League. It's just so much shorter to write AC/DC.

To this end, the first meeting to discuss this issue is scheduled for Wednesday, February 6, 2013 at 10 a.m. at Parker Library, 10851 S. Crossroads Dr., Parker, CO. Douglas County individuals, who are members of the LWVAC will be asked to share their opinions about the issue and offer their suggestions. Management Team member and Douglas County liaison, Barbara Barlow, will chair the meeting. Contact Barbara for more information, 303-346-4496,
b.gomesbarlow@gmail.com.

LWVUS CLEARING HOUSE FOR STUDIES AND RESEARCH

Just in time for our program planning meeting.

The LWVUS has established a clearing house for league members, containing numerous studies and research conducted by league members throughout the U.S. Looking for a study on water? Climate Change? Redistricting? It's all there. It even tells you how to submit a study and terms of use. You can browse for a study, search one or download a document. It's an amazing wealth of information. Very helpful if you are thinking of proposing a new study. Take a look. clearinghouse.lwv.org

LWVCO/LWVUS NEWS

LWVCO LEGISLATIVE LETTER

The annual LWVCO Legislative Letter is here again - a vital source of information about all the Colorado legislative bills as compiled by the state's Legislative Action Committee. League members may receive it via a \$20 subscription. While the letter will eventually appear on the LWVCO web site, it's much better to receive it as soon as it is printed. Your subscription helps pay for paper, printing and other materials. Subscribe and stay up to date during the 2013 Colorado Legislative session.

Send your name, delivery method (email or regular mail) and a check or credit card information to LWVCO, 1410 Grant St., #B204, Denver, CO 80203. Phone: 303-863-0437, You can also use PayPal at www.colorado.org.

LWVCO ADVOCACY AGENDA 2013

The Advocacy Agenda reflects the priority issues that will be addressed by League in both legislative and citizen-initiated activities across Colorado.

- Government:** Voting Rights
Fiscal Policy
- Natural Resources** Environmental protection & pollution control
- Social Policy** Child Welfare
Health Care
Immigration
Education policy and fiscal issues

COLORADO WOMEN'S LEGISLATIVE BREAKFAST

LWVCO is one of many sponsors of this annual event. It usually includes many of the Colorado legislators, as well as other community members and friends.

It's Tuesday, February 26, 2013 at the First Baptist Church, 1373 Grant St., Denver, CO. Registration and breakfast begins at 7 a.m. The keynote speaker will be Gloria Leyba on the "Changing Political Landscape."

Tickets are \$20 each and includes printed materials, a breakfast burrito, fruit and drink. To register visit www.CWLB.org or call 303-628-0925.

NEW STUDY FROM LWVUS AGRICULTURE UPDATE

At the LWVUS 2012 Convention, convention delegates voted to adopt a new study: Agriculture Update.

This study will focus on current technology issues in agriculture including genetically modified organisms (GMO's) herbicides, pesticides, sustainable farming, agriculture water pollution, aquifer depletion, antibiotics in livestock, accurate food labeling AND current agriculture finance issues including consolidation in agriculture industries, crop subsidies and the federal agricultural regulatory process.

Whew: Nothing like a small study. But take care. The committee charged with the development of study materials, consensus questions and such has from January 2013 - April 2014. Just wanted you to know what you have to look forward to.

LWVAC MANAGEMENT TEAM NOTES

At the January meeting members discussed the proposed formation of a AC/DC joint league, retention of League records, a scheduled new member orientation and membership development, proposed discussion guidelines for the Great Decisions program, and program planning for February, March & April. Members also agreed that two unit meetings are needed for studies requiring a consensus . Next meeting: 2/25/2013 @ 6:30 p.m. at Koelbel Library.





**The League of Women Voters
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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