



# The Voter

League of Women Voters® of Arapahoe County

June 2013

Membership 80

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## Summer is officially here!

Time for some relaxation, right? Well, not really, but LWVAC will be moving at a slower pace the next few months.

Don't forget the Annual Meeting, Saturday, June 8th with speaker Rhonda Fields. Details on page 2. And watch for two separate attachments following the receipt of this newsletter. Details below.

### Saturday, June 8, 2013

LWVAC Annual Meeting  
8 a.m.– 12 noon  
Country Buffet  
7475 Park Meadows Drive  
Lone Tree, Colorado 80124

### Friday & Saturday, June 21-22, 2013

LWVCO Leadership Retreat  
Registration: 12:30 p.m., June 21  
Best Western Lake Dillon Lodge  
Frisco, Colorado

### Friday, June 28, 2012 LWVAC Management Team Orientation

1-3 p.m.  
Location: TBA



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## WHAT'S INSIDE

The Colorado Legislative Session is over despite the fact it was a very wild ride. According to Rhonda Fields, State Representative, House District #42, 613 bills were introduced during the 2013 legislative session. Of that 441 bills were sent to the Governor's office to be signed. They included bills changing the election process, the authorization of civil unions, school finance, and the passage of a balanced a budget with zero deficits. A list containing some of the more significant bills are outlined in this issue. Also included is the new LWVCO position on hydraulic fracturing, and a summary of LWVAC activities 2012-2013.

There are also two separate attachments; The May LWVCO newsletter has lots of information about the state convention and other activities, some of which, is printed in this newsletter, but there's lots more. The other attachment is from Bill Mears, CNN Supreme Court Producer, on the major upcoming Supreme Court Decisions that will be announced this month. FYI for all.

# JUNE EVENTS & REPORTS

## NOW SHOWING ANNUAL MEETING: THE FINAL REMINDER

Starring a cast of thousands.... In 3D..... Every intimate detail right before your eyes.....

OK.... here's the absolute final reminder of our annual meeting on June 8th at the Country Buffet, 7475 Park Meadows Rd, Lone Tree, Colorado.

The social hour will run from 8 a.m.- 9 p.m. so you can visit over coffee and breakfast before adjourning to the meeting room for the 9 a.m. business meeting. Our special guest speaker, Colorado Representative, Rhonda Fields, will follow the business meeting. Breakfast prices are: Adult: \$6.49 + \$1.99 for beverages; Seniors (60+): \$5.99 +\$1.99 for a beverage.

Directions: Use County Line Road or C-470 to access Quebec Street. Turn south on Quebec Street then east on Park Meadows Drive. Country Buffet is on the north side of Park Meadows Drive just before Sams Club.

Annual meeting packets were mailed to all LWVAC members May 8th. If you did not receive or did not see it, contact Marlu Burkamp and she will email you the "final" copy. [marluburkamp@gmail.com](mailto:marluburkamp@gmail.com).

### LWVCO MAY CONVENTION

Alice Ramsey, Barbara Barlow and Fern Black represented LWVAC at the 2013 LWVCO Convention in Colorado Springs May 10-11. A complete wrap up is in the LWVCO newsletter sent to you in a separate attachment, but here's a few highlights:

- Dr. carolyn (no typo) Brown, LWVUS liaison, journeyed from Alaska to share information from the national League.
- The state Fracturing position was adopted (see page 3).
- The Education School Finance Reform Act was updated by Senator Evie Hudak. This will be up for a vote on the November ballot.
- An analysis of the 2013 Colorado Legislative session by LWVCO lobbyist, Chris Watson.
- Marilyn Ayers, LWVAC Voter Registration Chair, was among those nominated for a LWVCO Energizer Award.
- New guidelines were introduced for League members who travel over 150 miles to league events.

### LWVCO BOARD OF DIRECTORS

New state officers were elected at the convention resulting in a new LWVCO president and other officers.

#### Officers

President:	Bobbie Heisterkamp
1st VP, Program:	Nancy Crow
2nd PV, Admin:	Shirley Jin
4th VP, Voter Service:	Gerry Cummins
Treasurer:	Liz Black
Secretary:	Carol McDivitt

#### Directors:

Communications:	Sonia Koetting
Development:	Cinnie Auer
Voter Editor:	Julie Ott
Ai Large:	Karen Connor
	Carol Pace
	Jodie Foran

# LWVCO FRACKING POSITION

## HISTORY

After a two-year study, the League of Women Voters of Colorado Hydraulic Fracturing position was adopted at their 2013 Convention. This is the result of the consensus meetings held by Colorado League members during the first three months of this year.

## POSITION IN BRIEF

LWVCO supports policies that enhance public participation in the permitting and monitoring of oil and gas operations in the state. LWVCO supports efforts to improve coordination with local governmental units for environmental management and wise land use. We support strong environmental regulations for water quality, air quality and those that impact human health.

## POSITION

Support for:

- Public hearings held in the actual community of the drilling
- Public notice on transparent user-friendly web sites and other media
- Transparent, user-friendly website to register complaints and view subsequent resolution
- Use of the Local Government Designee (LGD) and education for LGD's in the state in order to more easily respond to local citizen concerns
- Strong environmental and safety regulation of water quality and air quality including pre and post testing of water wells and air around all oil and gas well sites
- Transparency in the reporting of all chemicals used during drilling, posted on a neutral website that is easily accessible to the public
- Adequate number of inspectors for the volume of oil & gas activity in the state to ensure that operations are safe and accidents are properly reported and mitigated
- Research, development and use of environmentally friendly extraction methods and equipment including those providing for the capture of methane
- Monitoring of the water quantity used for oil and gas drilling operations in a manner that is transparent to the public
- Reporting of information on the demands for water used for oil and gas drilling in specific river basins
- Reuse of produced water, with regulatory oversight

*Colorado has a rich mineral history that includes oil and gas drilling. By early 2013, Colorado had over 49,000 oil and gas drilling operations, predominantly on the Front Range and in the southwest part of the state. The Colorado Oil and Gas Conservation Commission was established in 1951 to handle the permitting and oversight of these operations. There is increasing concern in many counties and municipalities regarding the public participation in the permitting process and during drilling operations. The nature of hydraulic fracturing raises issues that relate to land use, water and air quality, and public health impacts.*

# NEWS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

## LWVAC MEMBERSHIP

Welcome to new member, Betty Ney. A resident of Littleton, Betty was active in League many years ago and is not active working with the Littleton Library's Immigration Initiative.

## LWVAC 2012-2013 YEAR IN REVIEW

As promised, here's a monthly listing of events and activities conducted by LWVAC from September, 2012 through June, 2013.

### September, 2012

- All Member Meet & Greet and program on Understanding the Factors that Impact Job Creation.
- Candidate forums for those vying for 18th Judicial District Attorney and RTD District E positions.
- Voter Registration Drives In September & October.
- Compiled candidate profiles for LWVUS 411 Voter web site.
- Conducted speaker training for November state-wide ballot issues
- Conducted LWVAC non-fiction book club and discussion group meetings.
- LWVCO League Day

### October, 2012

- Douglas County Public meeting on Affordable Care Act
- Unit programs on state-wide ballot issues
- Candidate forums for those running for Arapahoe County Commissioners, Colorado Senate District #26, Colorado House District #3 and additional RTD positions.
- National Register to Vote Day
- Distributed ballot pamphlets to city, county and other governmental offices, libraries and community organizations.

### November, 2012

- Participated in *Just Vote Colorado's* poll monitor program
- Public meeting on the 2012 Election
- Conducted LWVAC lunch bunch and discussion group meetings.

### December, 2012

- LWVAC Holiday Party

### January, 2013

- Unit programs on Fracking consensus
- LWVCO Legislative Conference
- New Member Orientation
- Conducted LWVAC lunch bunch and discussion groups

### February, 2013

- Unit programs on program planning
- Great Decision Program begins
- Meetings re formation of joint Arapahoe/Douglas League
- Conducted LWVAC book club and lunch bunch meetings

### March, 2013

- Unit programs on Immigration Reform
- Great Decisions Program continues
- Unit meeting location survey sent to members

### April, 2013

- Unit programs discussion on gun violence & gun control
- All member movie night & discussion: A Place at the Table
- Conducted LWVAC discussion and lunch bunch meetings.

### May, 2013

- All member program on the Voting Rights Act
- LWVCO Convention
- Conducted LWVAC book club, lunch bunch and discussion meetings.

### June, 2013

- LWVAC Annual Meeting
- LWVCO Leadership Retreat

**Apologies for omitting anything and thanks to all who worked on these projects. As you can see, we need all hands on deck, so join us in helping to promote League.**



# NEWS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

## ELECTIONS IN COLORADO

Here's a reprint of an article in the LWVCO newsletter by Carol Tone, Legislative Action Committee member, on the new election bill passed by the Colorado Legislature and signed by the Governor. The bill simplifies, modernizes and standardizes election procedures statewide. Rules and Regulations must be written to implement the bill, and as they are developed, LWVCO will work with local Leagues to educate the public about the options this bill gives to Colorado voters.

### Elements of the bill:

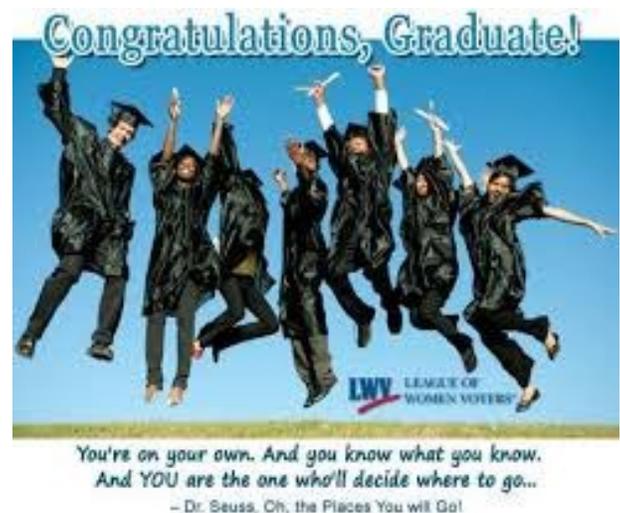
- It eliminates the Inactive-Failed to Vote Status so all active voters will be mailed a ballot.
- Voters have various options for returning the ballot: mail it in, drop it off, or vote in person at any Voter Service and Polling Center within their county.
- The period to register to vote through the mail, a registration drive, or a voter registration agency is decreased from 29 days to 22 days prior to election. Applying via a local driver's license facility or through the on-line SOS registration system can be done through 8 days before the election.
- Voter Service and Polling Centers will be open for the 15 days prior to the election, excluding Sundays.
- Same Day Registration allows voters to register and vote at a Voter Service and Polling Center within their county on Election Day.
- Creates an 11-member Commission which must meet by June 15, 2013. The Commission shall evaluate the implementation of the Act and report to the State, Veterans & Military Committee of both the House and Senate. Initial assessments and recommendations must be presented to the committees by July 15, 2013 and will continue until February 16, 2015.

## LEAGUE DAY 2013

We're jumping ahead a bit but put Saturday, September 28th on your calendar now as it is the date for the annual LWVCO League Day. The event will run from 8:30 a.m.- 3 p.m. at the Holiday Inn Select, 455 S. Colorado Blvd, Denver.

Registration fees and such will be forthcoming, but so far the program will include speakers on Health Care Roll Out in Colorado (open enrollment begins October 1, 2013); an update on what's happening re hydraulic fracturing in the state, and a presentation and discussion about the November 2012 ballot issue on School Financing.

This is always a great event, so plan to attend. September isn't that far away.



## MAKE SURE YOUR GRADUATE REGISTERS TO VOTE

Having just attended two graduations this May, I would be remiss not to mention that the LWVUS is urging all Leaguers to make sure their new high school and/or college graduates register to vote.

Whether they are going on to school or entering the workforce or military, please remind them to register now! They can register at any driver license bureau or on the Secretary of State's online registration site, [www.sos.state.co.us/pubs/elections](http://www.sos.state.co.us/pubs/elections). It's one graduation gift that won't strain your finances.

# LEGISLATIVE REPORT

## IT'S A WRAP! ON LEGISLATIVE ACTION

According to Sally Augden, LWVCO Legislative Chair, the 26 member of LWVCO's Legislative Action Committee (LAC) watched, reported on, and testified for or against over 100 bills during the 2013 legislative session. Gun bills were contentious, but several the League supported ones passed. Several Health care bills were also passed and Voter legislation has simplified the process and made voting more accessible and cost effective for eligible voters. (See article on page 5). Thanks to an improved economy, schools will begin to recover from years of funding cuts and the young and old will have more support. Ditto for the passage of the civic union bill and in-state tuition to undocumented students who have graduated from Colorado high schools.

The league is known at the Capitol. Legislators have commented on the increasing number of our members testifying and have expressed gratitude for the Legislative Letter each of them receives, along with the governor and the press. As an individual, your own letters and calls to your senator or representative on issues that matter to you do have tremendous impact.

And, according to LWVCO lobbyist, Chris Watson, the 2013 session was exhausting. Many emotional issues led to late nights in hearings and in floor debate. As LAC members were at the Capitol for many of them, most everyone was more than ready when adjournment, *sine die*, came May 8th.

Here's a summary of some of the major bills that were passed and signed by the Governor.

### Education

#### ▶ **SB 260 2013 School Finance Act**

Increases funding for K-12 by \$127 million, including funding for 3,200 new preschool slots, and additional money for special education and gifted and talented students.

#### ◆ **SB 213 Future School Finance Act**

Redesigns Colorado's 20 year old school finance system to increase the fairness of school funding throughout the state subject to future revenues. The implementation of this bill, will not, however be enacted unless the voters approves a tax increase this November to fund this proposal. This is a very complex bill so look for the full details this fall.

### Voting Rights & Elections

#### ◆ **HB 1303 Voter Access & Modernized Elections Act**

See page 5

#### ◆ **HB 1038 Voting Rights for Persons in Youth Corrections Custody**

Requires administrators of juvenile correction facilities to provide information about and help youth who will be 18 at the next election, register to vote and know about voting rights and how to cast a ballot.

#### ▶ **HB 1135 Voter Preregistration at age 16**

Allows a 16-year old who will not be 18 by the next election to preregister, update information and be automatically registered when 18. This will start at DMV locations January 1, 2014.

### Gun Safety

#### ▶ **HB 1229**

Requires background checks on most gun transfers.

#### ▶ **HB1228**

Requires gun buyers to pay for their background checks.

#### ▶ **HB 1224**

Prohibits large-capacity (more than 15 rounds) magazines.

#### ▶ **SB 196**

Requires in-person training for concealed carry permits.

#### ▶ **SB 197**

Requires domestic violence offenders to sell or turn in their firearms.

### Civil Unions

#### ▶ **SB 011**

Allows same sex couples to enter into civil unions which will provide benefits and responsibilities similar to married couples.

# LEGISLATIVE REPORT

## LEGISLATIVE REPORT CONTINUED

### Colorado Asset

#### ▶ SB 033

Allows graduates of Colorado high schools (at least 3 years attendance) to pay in-state tuition rates to attend a Colorado higher education institution, regardless of immigration status.

### Mental Health

#### ▶ SB266

Provides for a more robust crisis intervention system for those experiencing serious mental health issues and provides funding for this purpose.

#### ▶ HB1296

Creates a task force to explore combining the various forms of involuntary holds (mental health and alcohol, substance abuse) and adopting clear definitions for these holds.

### Oil & Gas

#### ▶ HB 1278

Requires oil and gas operators to report spills to the Oil and Gas Commission and the local municipality or county within 24 hours. (reduced the number of spilled barrels from 5 to 1)

#### ▶ SB 202

Added 5 more to the 17 Colorado Oil and Gas Conservation Commission inspectors hired to inspect Colorado's oil and gas operations.

### Marijuana Regulation

#### ▶ HB 1317 & SB 283

Establishes a regulatory framework for the cultivation and sale of recreational marijuana.

#### ▶ HB 1296

Refers to the citizens a ballot proposal to provide for a 15% excise tax and up to 10% sales tax on sale of Marijuana.

### Health Care

#### ▶ HB1115

Phases out Cover Colorado, Colorado's current high risk insurance pool, because health insurance carriers will no longer be able to deny coverage based on pre-existing conditions.

#### ▶ HB1245

Provides for continued funding for the Health Benefit Exchange after the federal money is no longer available in 2015. The exchange will be operational by October 1, 2014 and will be called "Connect for Health Colorado."

### Medicaid Expansion

#### ▶ SB 200

Provides health care coverage to more individuals by expanding access to Medicaid. Coverage will expand from 100% to 133% of federal poverty level, which is \$31,332 for a family of four and \$15,282 for an individual.

### Renewable Energy

#### ▶ SB 252

Requires cooperative electric associations to obtain 20% of their energy resources from renewable energy by 2020. It also expands the list of eligible energy resources to include innovative new companies and technologies.

### Budget

Due to increased revenue the budget includes increases to K-12 funding by \$127 million and adds \$36 million to the higher education budget. Also increases the general fund reserve to 5%.

**This is just a partial, abbreviated summary gleaned from a report sent by Representative Rhonda Fields and the 2013 Legislative Wrap-Up from the LWVCO Legislative Action Committee. For more information see [www.lwvcolorado.org](http://www.lwvcolorado.org)**



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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](mailto:faris18603@comcast.net)

## League Links

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