



Boulder County Voter
League of Women Voters of Boulder County
lwbvc.org
May 2015 Members 160
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Update**

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Don't Forget...

**Annual meeting,
Saturday, May 1,
Fox Hill Country
Club**

Doing Democracy

Liz Black, (See photo below), Diana Barney and Ruth Stemler represented our League by participating in the Sixth Annual "Doing Democracy Day" (DDD) at the Longmont Civic Center on April 21. The event was sponsored this year by the St. Vrain Valley School District Superintendent's Office, the Silver Creek Leadership Academy, the St Vrain Valley Education Association, the City of Longmont, Lessons on Local Government (brought to you by Colorado Municipal League and Special District Association), CU, Sunflower Bank, LiveWell Longmont, Longmont Area Chamber of Commerce-Education Committee, and CENTRALongmont (a Presbyterian congregation). The event is a multi-community, multi-school event devoted to area students wrestling with local issues. Local leaders, such as the LWVBC reps, participate as resources in the morning and judges in the afternoon. Students are challenged to work on a team and create a presentation in which they give an overview of a problem, discuss merits of alternative solutions and tell the panel of judges their recommendation. Each government teacher brings up to five students who are not told in advance the problems to be considered. On DDD they are randomly assigned to teams of peers from other schools and given their topic.

Approximately 60 high school students from the St. Vrain School District and the St. Vrain community participated. Among the schools represented were Silver Creek, Skyline, Niwot, Longmont, Lyons, Erie, Frederick, Twin Peaks, and Mead. The students were gaining experience with public policy issues such as minimum wage, race and justice, plastic bags, immunizations, mental health and student participation on school boards. Kent Willman, CU instructor, and Carrie Adams, Silver Creek High School, organized and coordinated the event. This was a great opportunity for the League to learn from and network with the students and many community leaders. And LWVBC has been invited back for next year.



President's Ponderings

Thank you to members that attended April Community Meetings— we got some great feedback on issues of importance in our community and ways our League can be more effective! As part of our **Strategic Planning**, we'll be compiling and reviewing that feedback.

Also within the scope of **Strategic Planning**, we are in process of community outreach— looking for opportunities to create partnerships for the League by interviewing staff in professional organizations and youth related programs as well as leaders in the Latino community. We've already seen some good results, such as support for providing Voter Service activities at the Boulder Valley YMCA, an invitation to participate in in high schools' DO DEMOCRACY DAY, and an invitation to a Latino community outreach event.

As League member Sara Michl commented..."this almost instant response to the League's very preliminary efforts to broaden our reach through partnering is EXCITING! Let's dig into exploring partnerships on specific issues or events with ever more government entities, volunteer organizations, schools, churches, business and other groups.... I'm enthused about magnifying our efforts through partnerships. Thanks to all who've been working on re-evaluating/reinventing our League."

As your Board and other League leaders follow up on such results, our League will become more active in the community. To do that successfully, we will also need **YOU**, as a volunteer! Can you give a couple hours, once/year, month, or week? Help your League accomplish our mission: *to encourage the informed and active participation of citizens in government, work to increase understanding of major public policy issues, and influence public policy through education and advocacy.*

Watch your email and VOTER for opportunities to participate, small or big, and help the League build a better community. If you want to get started right away— don't wait, call me or any Board member and let us know you can help.

Hope to see you soon at our Annual Meeting, May 2nd (details: www.lwvbc.org).

If you are attending or volunteering (many thanks) at State Convention May 16-17, remember that our Social Policy Team will be working hard there, advocating for state concurrence on our new wage position.

~Ceal



Boulder County Voter
10 Issues per Year
League of Women Voters of Boulder County
P.O. Box 21274, Boulder CO 80308
www.lwvbc.org

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Calendar MAY

2 Annual Meeting
16-17 State Convention **HERE**
20 Legislative Wrap-Up
27 Board Meeting/Voter Deadline

JUNE

1 Bulb Orders Due
24 Board Meeting
26-27 Leadership Retreat in Frisco
30 Project Fund Grant submissions due



Campaign Finance Reform Blast

Money in Colorado 2014 Elections

The Center for Responsive Politics/ Open Secrets, provides information on the money spent in the Mark Udall, Cory Gardner race for the U.S. Senate. They include the names of the group or organization making each contribution and whether the money was spent supporting or opposing a candidate. Most of the information comes from reports to the FEC. Some of the information on 501c spending came from other research. Totals of the monies spent by liberals and conservatives are shown in the table below.

Udall/Gardner Race:

	Liberal	Conservative
Candidate/committee	\$20,462,553	\$12,490,384
PAC	\$11,950,131	\$10,055,462
Super Pac	\$19,883,204	\$5,763,045
501c groups	\$4,212,785	\$17,402,291
Total	\$56,508,673	\$45,711,182

This race was seen as critical to the control of the U.S. Senate. The total money spent was at least **103 million dollars**, most of it coming from out of state and from extremely wealthy individuals and groups.

The Sunlight Foundation/Open States provides information on the money raised by the winners of Colorado's U.S. House races in 2014.

Mike Coffman was re-elected to represent Colorado House District 6. He received contributions of **\$3,896,386**. The interest group providing the largest funding for his campaign was the oil and gas industry. This included contributions from Koch Industries and ExxonMobil.

Ed Perlmutter was re-elected to represent Colorado House District 7. He received contributions of **\$2,168,934**. The interest group providing the largest funding for his campaign was banks and credit with lawyers/law firms a close second. Contributors included Capitol One, First Bank, JP Morgan Chase and Wells Fargo.

Scott Tipton was re-elected to represent Colorado House District 3. He received contributions of **\$1,328,802**. The largest interest group funding his election was the oil and gas industry. The contributors included Haliburton.

Jared Polis was re-elected to represent Colorado House District 2. He received contributions of \$1,276,783. The interest group providing the largest funding for his campaign was the Democratic Party of Colorado.

Ken Buck was elected to represent Colorado House District 4. He received contributions of **\$1,111,008**. The interest group providing the largest funding for his campaign was the oil and gas industry. Contributors included Cade Oil and Gas.

Diana Degette was re-elected to represent Colorado House District 1. She received contributions of **\$948,577**. The interest groups providing the largest funding for her campaign were the pharmaceuticals/health products and health professions about equally. Contributors included Jstreetpac and Abbott Laboratories.

Doug Lamborn was re-elected to represent Colorado House, District 5. He received contributions of **\$507,505**. The interest group providing the largest funding for his campaign was the oil and gas industry. Contributors included Koch brothers, Honeywell, Northrup Grumman and Lockheed.

For more information: www.lwvbc.org

Follow us on Facebook:



The League of Women Voters is a non-partisan political organization encouraging informed and active participation in government. The League influences public policy through education and advocacy.

IT IS HOLLAND BULB TIME AGAIN!

The League of Women Voters of Boulder County is selling beautiful Holland bulbs again this year. We are doing this sale in conjunction with the Denver League of Women Voters. Last year our league raised almost \$200.00 from the bulb sales to support our programs.

The bulbs come directly from a grower in Holland and are of very high quality. The spring I have beautiful crocuses and daffodils from the bulbs I purchased last year!

Packets with pictures of the bulbs and order forms will be available at our May annual meeting. Do see if you can sell some to your friends and neighbors – they make wonderful gifts, as well.

Order deadline is June 1st! An order form follows on the next page. Please call or email if you have any questions:

Lois Linsky Finance Chair LFLinsky@hotmail.com 303-499-2689



Pictures from my garden....

Mail forms + checks to:
 Lois Linsky
 1645 Bear Mountain Dr
 Boulder CO 80305
 LFLINSKY@hotmail.com
 303-499-2689

ORDER NUMBER: BOULDER 1021

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS - DENVER
 2015
 2015 HOLLAND BULB SALE

SOLD TO OR DELIVER TO: _____
 FULL ADDRESS & ZIP: _____ PHONE: _____
 SELLER: _____ SELLER'S PHONE: _____ UNIT: _____

FALL PLANTING/SPRING FLOWERING

TYPE & VARIETY	TIME HT COLOR	PRICE EACH	QTY	TOTAL
TULIPS Time-HT-Color Price for 12				
Abba	M-12"-R	12.00		
Ancilla	E-6"-W+	13.00		
Angelique	L-18"-Pk	14.00		
Beauty of Apeldoorn	M-20"-P	13.00		
Blushing Lady	L-30"-P+	15.00		
Darwin Hybrids Mix	M-22"	13.00		
Day Dream	M-20"-Y+	14.00		
Hamilton	L-26"-Y	15.00		
Ile de France	L-24"-R	13.00		
Kingsblood	L-24"-R	15.00		
Menton	L-24"-P	14.00		
Mount Tacoma	L-18"-W	15.00		
Negrita	M-18"-Pu	12.00		
Ollioules	M-22"-P+	13.00		
Olympic Flame	M-18"-Y+	14.00		
Passionale	M-16"-Pu	13.00		
Pink Impression	M-22"-Pk	14.00		
Rembrandt Mixed	M-18"	15.00		
Renown	L-26"-Pk	14.00		
White Emperor	E-18"-W	13.00		
White Parrot	L-20"-W	17.00		

DAFFODILS

Dutch Master	E-18"-Y	22.00		
Tahiti	M-16"-Y+	23.00		
Tete-a-Tete	E-6"-Y	13.00		
White Lion	M-16"-W+	22.00		

Flowering Key		E=early	M=mid	L=late
Color Key		B=blue	O=orange	
P=peach	Pk=pink	Pu=purple	R=red	
V=violet	W=white	Y=yellow	Br=bronze	
Heights May Vary		+=accent color		

MISCELLANEOUS

TYPE & VARIETY	TIME HT COLOR	PRICE EACH	QTY	TOTAL
Allium Oreophilum	L-10"-Pk	16.00		
Chionodoxa	E-6"-B	15.00		
Crocus Mixed	E-4"	14.00		
Dutch Iris Mixed	L-22"	15.00		
Iris P. Sensation	L-22"-Pu	16.00		
Iris Reticulata	E-6"-Pu+	15.00		
Muscari	E-6"-B	14.00		
		FOR 12		
Hyacinths Mixed	M-10"	20.00		
		EACH		
Allium globemaster	L-32"-Pu	11.00		

INDOOR FORCING BULBS

TYPE	PRICE	QTY	TOTAL
NARCISSI			
Paperwhites	FOR 12	22.00	
AMARYLLIS			
	Jumbo		
Dutch Belle	EACH	21.00	
Picotee	EACH	22.00	
Pasadena	EACH	21.00	
Red Lion	EACH	22.00	

ALL PRICES INCLUDE SALES TAX
 Orders of \$100 will receive 12 free tulips,
 \$200 will receive 24 free tulips, etc.

MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO LWV - DENVER

FLOWER ORDER TOTAL	
BEAUTIFY DENVER DONATION	
CASH DONATION TO LWV-DENVER	
TOTAL	

NATIONAL LEAGUE NEWS

Article written by Sonya Pennock, Program Chair of the Arapahoe/Douglas League

THE U.S. CONSTITUTION: TO AMEND OR NOT TO AMEND?

The League of Women Voters has long supported the Voting Rights Act and legislation limiting the role of money in politics. Supreme Court rulings have negated important sections of the Voting Rights Act and gutted Campaign Finance laws. Whatever else it may or may not have done, the Court's rulings have galvanized a huge groundswell of citizens to act. New civic organizations have sprung up across the country, proposals for Constitutional amendments proliferated and action was demanded from regulators and Congress. What to do? Given Congress's unwillingness or inability to propose Constitutional changes, some are advocating using other tools provided in the Constitution for amending the Constitution.

Article V of the U.S. Constitution provides two ways for proposing Constitutional changes: Congress, by a two-thirds vote of both chambers, may propose constitutional amendments to the states for ratification. OR, the legislatures of two-thirds of the states (34 at present) may ask Congress to call a national convention to propose amendments to the Constitution. Amendments proposed by either of these methods must be ratified by three-fourths of the states (38 states) either by state legislative action or through state conventions called expressly for the purpose of voting on ratification.

The fall 2015 League of Women Voters study of the Constitutional Amendment process will seek member agreement on the path we should advocate for amending our nation's Constitution. How would the Article V Convention process work? What would be the role of the states? Who would decide the topics to be considered in the Convention? How would delegates be selected? How would delegates be apportioned? How would the ratification process work if the Convention proposes multiple amendments? Would the Convention's action be re-viewable in federal or state courts?

New Education Website

The topic of education has certainly been in the forefront of our local news media of late. So, if you are interested in learning about school issues around the country, be sure to visit the National League's new education blog----lwveducation.com. You will find informative data, studies, and perspectives and you are encouraged to send stories of relevant events in our communities. You can also subscribe to the blog to receive notices of new posts. Use the information you find to advocate for League positions and be a more informed Leaguer!

Democracy is not a spectator sport!

League of Women Voters of Boulder County
P.O. Box 21274
Boulder CO 80308

To join the League of Women Voters of Boulder County, complete the form below and mail with your check (made payable to LWVBC) to LWVBC, P.O. Box 21274, Boulder CO 80308.

Dues are for one year and include membership in the state (LWVCO) and national Leagues (LWVUS), as well as our local League. Members will receive the *Boulder County Voter* and the *Colorado Voter*. Members may also sign up for various electronic newsletters. Please note that all membership in now managed by local Leagues. Any payment sent to the national League will be gratefully accepted as a gift but will not confer membership.

Because dues do not cover our costs, please consider adding a contribution. Contributions to the LWVBC are not tax deductible as charitable contributions, but a separate check payable to the LWVCO Education Fund is tax-deductible and will be placed in an account for qualifying activities of the League. For business contributions, contact Louisa Young 303 444 6428 or send an e-mail: louisa.young@colorado.edu

☐ New Member ☐ Renewal Today's Date _____

☐ \$55 Single Membership ☐ \$82.50 Two members (same address) ☐ \$25 Student

(NEW) Sustaining Membership ☐ \$120 individual ☐ \$200 household

Name (please print) _____

Address _____

City _____ Zip _____

Phone (home) _____

E-mail (please print) _____