1 March 2017



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https://instagram.com/lwvbc



It's almost Spring!

The Voting Methods Team will have conducted Consensus Meetings by the time you read this message. Hope you were able to attend, learn and participate. Voting methods are an important issue in Making Our Democracy Work for All! If LWVBC can come to consensus, our plan is to get concurrence with other local Colorado Leagues at the state convention on May 20 and 21st in



Ruth Stemler, President, LWVBC

Fort Collins. And then to begin taking action and advocating for change!

continued on the next page

BREAKING NEWS

LWVBC has just received notice from IRS that it has been approved as a 501(C)(3) organization. That means that contributions to LWVBC are tax deductible to the contributor/donor. How could this happen since we are a lobbying organization you may ask. We elected to have the extent of our lobbying activities be measured by the amount of money we spend on lobbyists. LWVBC does not pay a lobbyist, and all of our efforts to influence legislation (which is narrowly defined) are volunteers. Influencing legislation means lobbying decision-makers on a specific piece of legislation. When we seek to inform and influence the public, especially voters, that effort does not constitute lobbying. So, all the money you give the League is deductible on your income tax return unless you get something in return, such as a meal. Then the value of what you get is not deductible, but any profit to the League is deductible by you. So, let your generosity show (it's okay to get a tax advantage for it).

This also means it will be much easier for our Fund Development co-chairs to raise money, since many grant makers require that their recipients be tax exempt as charities. We have been using the LWVCO Education Fund as a conduit, and it has been awkward and sometimes unwieldy. No more!



1 March 2017

President's Letter (continued)

New media and technology are increasingly essential parts of our organization. One of our newer board members, Shiquita Yarbrough, a Generation Xer, continues to push us into the 21st century. We have recently Livestreamed three events on Facebook; Rank Choice Voting, Approval Voting and the Electoral College. On these three evenings in February we had between 900 and 1,000 Facebook "views" in total. We also had a Facetime conversation with the filmmaker of IVoted? to learn more about his film. Go to our LWVBC Facebook page or our LWVBC YouTube channel to watch the videos. Rank Choice Voting, https://youtu.be/N5ebl9Sgv58, Approval Voting, https://youtu.be/-Cuh0-KBLSQ and Electoral College, https://youtu.be/6Su3JdftZYM. Thank you to our "Tech Team" Shiquita, Laura Coates, Peggy Leech and Dave Stemler.

Jeannette Hillery is leading the effort for a monthly 4-minute program on KGNU. The workings of LWVBC will be highlighted in these programs. Be sure to tune in. At this writing the program does not have a regular day/time. KGNU would also like to begin audio streaming our educational events. We'll keep you posted on the details.

Tools like social media, technology and radio will help facilitate our goal of educating citizens and voters and bringing about greater civic engagement. With these techniques, I believe we are reaching younger people, more diverse communities and underrepresented voters, and propelling our dynamic, energetic organization into the future.

Looking forward to seeing you at one of our community events soon!

League of Women Voters of Boulder County Box 21274, Boulder CO 80308 www.lwvbc.org

Membership: 204 as of February 2017

President: Ruth J. Stemler president@lwvbc.org

Membership: Liz Black membership@lwvbc.org

Boulder County Voter (10 issues per year)

Editor: Rionda Osman editor@lwvbc.org

Mark Your Calendars

Thursday, March 2, 2017, 6:30pm-8pm:

Consensus Meeting: Voting Methods.

Materials are available on our <u>website</u>. Front Range CC Classroom Bldg, Rm C1482, <u>2121</u> <u>Miller Dr, Longmont, CO 80501</u>

Saturday, March 4, 2017, 10am-11:30am

Meet Your Legislators

BVSD Board Room, <u>6500 Arapahoe Rd, Boulder,</u> CO 80303

Monday, March 6, 2017, 5:30pm-6:30pm

Drinks and Dialogue: Redistricting

740 Front Restaurant, <u>740 Front St (across from the library, Louisville, CO 80026</u>

Tuesday, March 7, 2017, 6:30pm-8:30pm

Campaign Finance Reform Team Meeting.

Agenda: LWVCO's Campaign to Make Democracy Work in Colorado

request info: <u>Campaign Finance Reform Team</u>

<u>Leader</u>

Tuesday, March 7, 2017, 8:00am-3:00pm

Doing Democracy Day

Longmont Civic Center, <u>350 Kimbark St,</u> Longmont, CO 80501

Thursday, March 16, 2017, 6:15-8:30pm

Board Meeting. Members Welcome!

request info: President

Sunday, March 19, 2017, 1:30pm-3:30pm

Social Policy Team Meeting. Agenda: Living

Wage; Noncitizen Rights

request info: Social Policy Team Leader

Thursday, March 23, 2017, 6pm-7:45pm

I Voted? film screening and discussion.

FREE admission.

Lafayette Library, lower level meeting room 775 W. Baseline Rd, Lafayette, CO 80026

Monday, April 3, 2017, 5:30p-6:30pm

Drinks and Dialogue: Voter Suppression.

Gondolier Italian Eatery, 4800 Baseline Rd,

Boulder, CO 80303



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Grocery Card Fundraiser: Easy Money for the League

From Louisa Young

Our on-going fundraising campaign with grocery cards needs your help. LWVBC has been working with the King Soopers and Safeway stores in Boulder County for a few years. Some people are regular users, but there are many who have not taken advantage of this opportunity to generate money for the League. Here is the way it works:

Get Your Card

Contact Lois Linsky, Louisa Young, or Ruth Stemler

Buy a pre-loaded gift card for \$10. The card has a \$10 credit, and you pay \$10 for that card.

Use Your Card in the Check-out Line

Scan the gift card just as you would a credit card, or hand the gift card to the checker. Ten dollars from the card will be used to pay your bill – exactly what you paid for the card.

COMMUNITY GIVING RELOAD CARD Store Procedure, (swinted | 1 jph cert.) Then below percent to into a Demokales's COMMUNITY Demokales's



Reload Your Card

The next time you shop, tell the checker before he or she scans your purchases that you wish to reload your gift card. The Customer Service clerks can also reload your gift card. You can use cash, check, or a credit card to reload. As a bonus, if your credit card provides rewards, like airline miles, you get the reward. It also works when you buy gasoline at the affiliated grocery store.

Keep Track of the Balance

You can ask the checker to scan the card to tell you how much money you still have on the card and reload before he or she starts scanning your order. You can check the receipt to see how much is left, and reload when the balance gets low.

You do not lose any money in the deal, but the League gets a percent of your payment automatically because the card is linked to the League. It's painless and free.

An Added Incentive

The Jeffco League makes around \$10,000 through this program! We could, too, but it is underutilized in the Boulder County League. Let's change that!!!





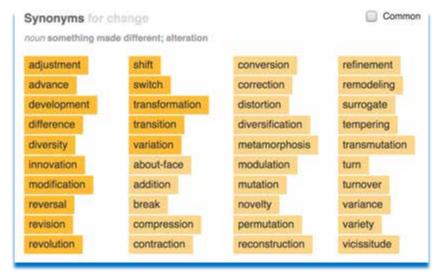
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Coming Soon! New Membership Management Software!

From Rionda Osman

A change is coming to the way LWVBC manages membership data, collects dues and donations, schedules and advertises events, sends emails to members and interested parties, and shares the results of our research and advocacy.

Last summer, at the Board's Strategic Planning retreat, we identified some issues with how we track our members' status and how we communicate from one team to another. We also found that our information and our "corporate knowledge" was dispersed among many individuals and that almost no one had an overall view of our organization.



Synonyms for "change" (www.thesaurus.com/browse/change)

A team was formed to define our needs and look for ways to make some of our tasks easier and more manageable. That team is: Elizabeth Black, Laura Coates, Deborah Hayes, Peggy Leech, Lois Linsky, Lurbin Moore, Rionda Osman, Susan Saunders, Ruth Stemler, Deborah Vink, and Louisa Young.

We first worked on defining our needs more completely and then looked at tools that might be useful. In our research, we found membership management software could answer many of our questions. Then, when narrowing our focus on those tools, we found the League of Women Voters of Orange County (Florida) had adopted a membership management system by Club Express. Pat Grierson of LWVOC has been generous with her time, giving us a tour of their site, sharing her research, and offering advice. You can take a look at the LWVOC site: http://lwvoc.org/

Our next step was to start a test site with Club Express. We wanted to determine what we would need to do to use their tools and, more importantly, whether their system could be used for our type of organization. We have the skeleton of our new site, and Club Express will work for us. The Board approved our recommendation to purchase the software and services. We have entered an agreement with Club Express to use their software tools, including a new web site.

We have started the change. The Membership Team, represented by Liz Black and Debbie Vink, are working with support staff to upload our membership data and contact lists. Our web master, Deborah Hayes, and I have been working on how to set up and transfer all the information on our current web site to the new one.

Things are changing every day, but you can take a look now: http://www.lwvbc.clubexpress.com/

In a couple of months, the transition should be complete. Then, you'll receive a notice that will ask you to log in to the new system and set up your data.

Things are changing! And it'll be fun!!



1 March 2017



League Members in Action

Taking Action: Social Policy Educating and Advocating for Undocumented Persons

From Mary Ann Wilner

The Social Policy Team is fortunate to have four new active members: Annie Lessem, Denice Walker, Cynthia Rain Keller and Molly Sacamano, bringing the team membership to twelve. We are creating a Power Point on the rights of undocumented individuals which we will deliver to various audiences in the county; looking into the advantages and disadvantages of community-wide identification cards; planning a KGNU spot on immigration for April or May and starting the discussion in Longmont to raise the minimum wage for municipal workers to be adjusted to the current Self- Sufficiency Standard.

We meet on the third Sunday afternoon of most months, from 1:30pm to 3:30pm. Like all League Issue Teams, we welcome new participants! You don't have to be an expert--or even a League member--to attend one of our team meetings and learn more. Contact Social Policy Team Leader for meeting location and more information about our agenda. Visit our webpage to learn more.



Taking Action: Doing Democracy Day

From Deb Smith

Doing Democracy Day (DDD) is back. Doing Democracy Day is multi-community, multi-school event devoted to area students wrestling with local issues, using local leaders as resources. DDD has been a great success due to the participation of local leaders and public servants. We hope you can join us again this year. This year's event will be Tuesday, March 7th, from 8:00-3:00 pm at the Longmont Civic Center.

Most leaders are needed from 9:00-11:30 am. Others are needed as judges from 12:30-2:00 pm. Local leaders and public servants from all St. Vrain communities and St. Vrain Schools are invited to share their expertise as walking resources for students. (No advanced preparation is necessary.) Students from Silver Creek, Skyline, Niwot, Longmont, Lyons, Erie, Frederick, Twin Peaks, Mead, and other schools will be participating in a day of grappling with local government issues. Susan Saunders and Deb Smith will conduct a Voter Registration Drive over the lunch hour. Please join us.

Local issues to be investigated by the students: Opioid Abuse, Homelessness, Social Media Literacy Training in Schools, Indigenous Persons Day, Funding for Pre-K and Full Day Kindergarten, Student Voting Seat on School Board

Tuesday, March 7th, from 8:00-3:00 pm at the Longmont Civic Center Agenda:

8:00-9:00 am	Students arrive, welcome, overview and begin committee issue research
9:00-11:30 am	Committee workLOCAL LEADERS NEEDED
11:30 am -12:30 pm	Lunch - committee preparation for presentations & Voter Registration Drive
12:30-2:30 pm	Large group presentationsLOCAL LEADERS NEEDED
2:30-3:00 pm	Awards



1 March 2017

Thoughts from Members

Collected by Susan Saunders

About two weeks ago, I was out and about delivering LWVBC Handbooks to new and renewed members in the 80304-zip code area. It covers more ground than I imagined, but the half near my home was still walkable. I enjoyed a chance to chat with some of you who were home when I happened by and I appreciate your taking the time in the midst of your activities. I learned two things I believe are worth drawing attention to:

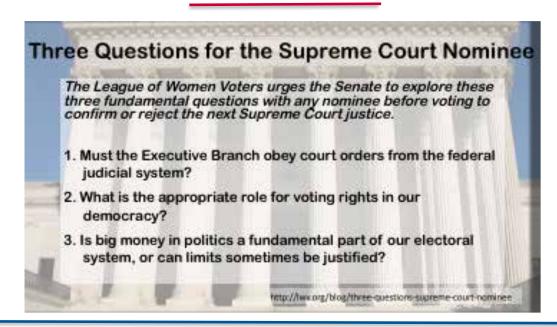
Several longer-term members mentioned the thank you letters for their contributions seem formal or distant.

Explanation: The task of writing these letters moves from member to member over the years, working on behalf of the President. The producers are often newer members who may not have met you AND these letters are your documentation for tax purposes so they are kept businesslike. Much as "the president" might like to say "Hi!" or use your familiar names, it can't be done.

Because I was delivering in Boulder, I heard at least two comments about this year's lack of meetings in the city of Boulder.

Explanation: Improving the LWVBC's visibility in the county's communities and its relevancy to those communities is our focus. This past year has been spent identifying new venues, which we can afford and which work for our newer formats of Community Conversations and Drinks & Dialogue. This has been more difficult in Boulder than other towns in part due to new restrictions by the Library system, but a couple of our next events will test the Boulder venues we've identified. I am happy to report these new meeting formats have attracted members and importantly, nonmembers, who are learning what the LWVBC has to offer in terms of education and routes to advocacy. Please come out and join us, I think you'll be pleased with the atmosphere and the enthusiasm generated by the mix of people.

It's your League! Call or email if you have questions, complaints or suggestions, and don't wait until next year's handbooks come out! Contact me at: 303-494-4544 or league@lwvbc.org





1 March 2017

Membership News

From Liz Black

Following the efforts in December and January to encourage all existing members to stay with the league, in February the focus shifted to assembly and distribution of the 2016-17 local program handbook. Help came from Laura Coates, Carolyn Elliott, Mickey Greenberg, Kay Forsythe, Annie Lessem, Lois Linsky, Marlys Robertson, Susan Saunders and Shiquita Yarbrough, with each of them arranging for members in their zip code neighborhoods to get handbooks. The way they pitched in was awesome and greatly appreciated. If anyone has not get gotten the handbook with orange covers, bound with paper fasteners in two of the three punched holes, please contact Liz Black. Note that these are complete handbooks and supersede the abridged version passed out at the fall kick-off meeting.

Now during March and April, it is time to think of the annual awards given out to leaguers as well as partners outside our organization who have impressed us with all they've done to further the goals of our local league. What will the Awards committee be looking for? The ideal member nominee has done innovative work that has had a great impact within the county and has enhanced the visibility of the LWVBC. He or she has made the league relevant for young people and/or the Latino segment of our population and, in the process, has strengthened the league's ties to those who are underrepresented in our group. Awards are to be given out to members in some or all of the following categories: Emerging League leader for someone who joined in the last five years, Outstanding Board Member for an officer or director who has gone above and beyond the duties outlined in the job description, Member of the Year, Outstanding Issue Team Leader and Outstanding Member of an administrative or an issue team.

The Community Partner Award was inaugurated last year with Maeve Conran of KGNU being the one so honored. For this year, we seek also to honor an Elected Official. For both awards, consideration will be given to individuals whose work has produced tangible outcomes in the areas of better educated citizens, increased civic participation and/or government policies which have made people's lives better. The awards committee urges you to submit nominations. Which leaguers, community partners and/or government officials ought to be recognized? Send to Liz Black along with a description of what they've done and the difference their work has made. Listing the award category is optional but encouraged. You may even nominate yourself. Nominate by email (black@colorado.edu), by post (149 S Carter Ct, Louisville, 80027-2134) or by phone (303-666-5248)

Note that those working on the Governance & Leadership aspect of our Strategic Plan recommend that we continue to announce the achievement award honorees at the annual meeting but move the presentations of longevity awards to the kick-off meeting. Accordingly, in the fall we will recognize those who've reached their 25-year anniversary with the league or other significant anniversaries at multiples of 5 years greater 25. Those who've been a member for 50 years carry the distinction of life membership which means no dues are assessed from that point forward.



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Updates from the Events Team

From Peggy Leech

February was a busy month for the Events Team. We held our first Drinks & Dialogue (on the Electoral College), our first screening of the documentary film "I Voted?", two Community Conversations on different Voting Methods (ranked-choice voting and approval voting, in conjunction with the Voting Methods Team), and two consensus meetings on Voting Methods (one of which was re-scheduled to March 2 because of weather).

The February events were quite successful, drawing a mix of community members (60%) and League members (40%). And, we started livestreaming some of our events on Facebook, which reached several hundred more audience members. We aim to provide our audience members with awareness and some action they can take in Making Democracy Work for All. Check out our videos on YouTube:

Rank Choice Voting: https://youtu.be/N5ebl9Sgv58

More Choices for Voters, Part 1. Implications of Maine's decision for instant-runoff voting for Colorado and the nation. Speaker: Rob Richie, Executive Director of FairVote, a non-profit organization that researches and advocates election reforms that increase voter turnout and fair representation. FREE PUBLIC MEETING cosponsored by LWVBC, <u>Lafayette Public Library</u>, <u>RCVforColorado</u>, and <u>Approval Voting USA</u>. February 2, 2017, at the Lafayette Library in Lafayette

Approval Voting: https://youtu.be/-Cuh0-KBLSQ

More Choices for Voters, Part 2. Colorado's Approval Voting bill and the use of this method by CU student government. Speakers: Rep. Jonathan Singer (D-Longmont) and Neal McBurnett, board member, The Center for Election Science. FREE PUBLIC MEETING cosponsored by LWVBC, <u>Lafayette Public Library</u>, <u>RCVforColorado</u>, and <u>Approval Voting USA</u>. February 21, 2017, at the Lafayette Library in Lafayette

Electoral College: https://youtu.be/6Su3JdftZYM

Drinks and Dialogue: How can we eliminate the Electoral College? No cost to participate, and refreshments are available to buy. Dialogue was opened by Nancy Crow, president-elect of the LWV of Colorado. February 6, 2017 at St. Vrain Cidery, Longmont

Ruth Stemler and the audience telechat with director Jason Grant Smith, February 13, 2017, at the Longmont Library. after a screening of his documentary, "I Voted?", which raises questions about our voting processes around the country.





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The crowd enjoyed Drinks & Dialogue February 6, 2017, at the St. Vrain Cidery, Longmont. The topic was "How Can We Eliminate the Electoral College?"

Upcoming Events

We have scheduled "More Choices for Voters, Part 3" for April 18. This is the third in a series on Voting Methods, and the topic is: What would Proportional Representation look like in Colorado?".

The next two Drinks & Dialogue sessions are:

Monday, March 6, 740 Front Restaurant in Louisville. Redistricting: How does it work, and why should we care? Speaker: Elena Nunez, Executive Director, Colorado Common Cause.

Monday, April 3, Gondolier Italian Eatery, Boulder. Voter suppression: Fact or Fiction? Speaker: Wayne Williams, Colorado Secretary of State.

We have two more screenings of the film "I Voted?", a nonpartisan documentary that raises questions about our voting processes around the country. It premiered at the Tribeca film festival in 2016. The screenings are on March 23 (Lafayette), and May 11 (Boulder). We have arranged to have the filmmaker, Jason Grant Smith, available for Q&A after each screening. At our Longmont screening in February, the audience very much enjoyed the discussion afterwards.

In addition, we have scheduled the Meet Your Legislators event at BVSD for the morning of March 4.

Members of the team are: Shiquita Yarbrough, Marion Read, Diana Barney, Ruth Stemler, and Peggy Leech. Kay Forsythe and Mickey Greenberg have handled arrangements for any meetings at Frasier. If anyone else is interested in helping with this team, please contact <u>Peggy Leech</u>. Stay tuned to our website for more information.

Washington, DC – The League of Women Voters president, **Chris Carson**, issued the following statement in response to the announcement by the Trump administration that the federal government will drop opposition to Texas' strict voter ID law:

"The League of Women Voters is deeply disappointed that the Trump administration is changing policy to support voter discrimination measures. Contrary to the Trump administration, the Texas voter ID law intentionally discriminates, and discrimination in voting is wrong."

League Opposes End to Voting Agency Passed by House Panel

02/07/2017 | by Sarah Courtney

Abolishing the Election Assistance Commission is "Irresponsible"

Washington, DC - Today the House Administration Committee voted to terminate the federal Election Assistance Commission (EAC), the only federal agency devoted exclusively to improving election administration on a bi-partisan basis. The EAC Termination Act was sponsored by the committee chairman, Rep. Gregg Harper (R-Miss.).

"Eliminating the bi-partisan EAC is an irresponsible decision by the House Administration Committee," said Chris Carson, President of the League of Women Voters of the U.S. "This legislation leaves voting machine standards in limbo just as machines around the country are reaching the end of their useful lives."

The standards for election equipment were last significantly updated in 2007 and new standards, which the EAC is in the process of developing, need to be approved.

...

"Rather than eliminating the EAC, Congress should provide the agency with resources and a renewed commitment to sponsoring and encouraging information sharing among state and local officials, EAC committees, the non-partisan voting rights community, technical experts and others," Carson said.

"Elections are the life blood of a democracy. The League of Women Voters strongly opposes this legislation," Carson concluded.

League Statement on Immigration

01/31/2017 | by Sarah Courtney

Washington, DC – The League of Women Voters president, Chris Carson, issued the following statement in response to President Trump's immigration ban:

"The League of Women Voters is opposed to deportation of non-criminal undocumented immigrants.

The League supports cities, towns, counties and states that make a decision not to cooperate with federal deportation and enforcement actions that include non-criminal undocumented immigrants. Moreover, the Trump Administration's orders are of dubious legality.

It is simply wrong, and a perversion of the American system of justice, for the Executive Branch to refuse to obey federal court orders.

The LWV is opposed to discrimination, including discrimination in immigration, based on religion. The Trump Administration's orders appear to be targeted at Muslims and immigrants from majority-Muslims nations."



Wednesday, March 8, 2017 at 6 PM

Honor Colorado women, past and present, for their economic, political and social achievements.

Boulder Jewish Community Center 6007, Oreg Ave, Boulder

Spend the evening with these two inspiring members of The Colorado Women's Hall of Fame



2017 Zonta Foothills Woman of Achievement

Jean Dubofsky

Noted local judge, activist, philanthropist who broke through the glass ceiling in 1979 when she became the first woman appointed to the Colorado Supreme Court. Jean argued and won the landmark gay rights case before the U.S. Supreme Court. Dubofsky is in the Colorado Hall of Fame.



Keynote Speaker and Author

Jill Tietjen

Author of the award-winning book "Her Story: A Timeline of the Women Who Changed America", our keynote speaker Jill Tietjen will educate and inspire us.

A formidable advocate and champion for women, Tietjen is in the Colorado Hall of Fame.

Admission is Free

Thank you to our partners in the Women's Collaborative of Boulder County









For more info, visit: www.zontafoothills.org





LWVBC Calendar

- 2 March 2017, 6:30-8:00 pm: **Consensus Meeting: Voting Methods**Front Range Community College, Classroom Bldg, Rm C1482, 2121
 Miller Dr, Longmont
- 4 March 2017, 10:00-11:30 am: **Meet Your Legislators**BVSD Board Rm, 6500 Arapahoe Rd, Boulder
- 6 March 2017, 5:30-6:30 pm: **Drinks & Dialogue: Redistricting** 740 Front Restaurant, 740 Front St, Louisville
- 7 March 2017, 8:00 am 3:00 pm: **Doing Democracy Day**Longmont Civic Center, Longmont
- 7 March 2017, 6:30-8:30 pm: Campaign Finance Reform Team request info: Campaign Finance Reform Team Leader
- 16 March 2017, 6:15-8:30 pm: **Board Meeting** (members welcome) request info: President
- 19 March 2017, 1:30-3:30 pm: **Social Policy Team Meeting** request info: <u>Social Policy Team Leader</u>
- 23 March 20107, 6:00-7:45 pm: "I Voted?" Film Screening Lafayette Library
- 3 April 2017, 5:30-6:30 pm: **Drinks & Dialogue: Voter Suppression**Gondolier Italian Eatery, 4800 Baseline Rd, Boulder

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