

## ANNIVERSARY HONORS

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To celebrate the 75th Anniversary of the founding of the League of Women Voters, local Leagues were invited to nominate outstanding members for special honors at the 1995 Convention of the League of Women Voters of Colorado, May 20–21, 1995. These are brief biographies of members nominated to receive Anniversary Honors at the Convention banquet and celebration.

### ***CAROLYN THOMPSON, League of Women Voters of Adams County.***

. . . Betty Culp

Carolyn Thompson has been an active member of the League of Women Voters since the Fall of 1958. She joined what was then called the LWV of Westminster shortly after it moved from the provisional to full status as a League. Later, this League changed to the LWV of Adams County, which it is at the present.

Carolyn has served in many leadership positions. In 1968, she became president of the LWV of Adams County during a period when the local League was struggling to fulfill obligations to the membership and community. They made it through this rough period. With the help of her League-member husband Don, Carolyn used her computer knowledge to print the bulletin and other locally-produced pamphlets. She was actively involved with an update of the "Know Your County" study, production of a booklet on "LWV of Adams County Land Use Study," a speakers' bureau on transportation issues, and the observer corps.

The Metro League, or ILO of Metro Denver, was the beneficiary of Carolyn's knowledge and energy. She served on that Board, helped with the establishment, supplied questions for congressional debates in Colorado, and was active in the regional governance issues. Carolyn served on the State Board for a period, but family obligations forced her to resign after a short tenure.

A resident of Westminster, Carolyn was active in city activities and served on local committees. In Adams County, she was appointed by the Commissioners to serve on the Citizens Advisory Committee for DRCOG. At this time, the 1980s, air pollution and waste disposal were active topics. She also served on a county committee dealing with low-cost housing.

The mother of three children, Carolyn also was involved with their activities. She served as president of the PTA at the local school. With her husband, she pursued interests in a medievalist group, Creative Anachronism, and attended science fiction conventions. Carolyn was an early entrant in the world of cable television, and was a volunteer camera person for American Cablevision. Her expertise in this area served LWV well as she helped the local League televise ballot issue talks, debates, and other public interest programs.

Currently, Carolyn, having moved two years ago, is a member of the LWV of Denver. She is volunteering at the Byers/Evans House and working with the Rocky Mountain Memorial Society, a watchdog of the funeral industry. As a grandmother, she recently got to go camping with her grandson and his Cub Scout group.

Carolyn is one of three generations of League of Women Voters members in her family. Her mother, Helen Hollister, served as state president of the LWV of Wyoming. Carolyn's daughter also was a League member. Carolyn has given many hours of time and much energy to the interests and activities of the League as an initiator and follower of League programs. She is truly a woman to be recognized as an outstanding contributor to the League of Women Voters.

## ***ALICE KELLY, League of Women Voters of Denver***

. . . Mary Hess

"Going crazy with two little kids at home" drove Alice Kelly to join the League. After her first League meeting, she was so excited, she went home and took a nap!

Alice chaired the Denver League's Education Committee during the first two years (1972–74) of city-wide school desegregation. It was a tumultuous time for the League to be involved in this process. Also for Alice, as baby Luke arrived and she resigned from the committee to look after him and do short-term projects for the League.

By 1981, Alice was ready for more involvement and served as Program Vice President, 1981–84, organizing the committees on Natural Resources and City Issues. She left the board when she and her husband became guardians of a teenage fourth child. However, she continued to chair the NR Committee and to help with the League's neighborhood tours.

As president of the Denver League, 1989–91, Alice became involved in the Police Chief's Selection Committee. She still represents the League on the Stapleton 2000 redevelopment committee. Participation in "Leadership Denver" for one year led to her appointment to that group's steering committee. She also participated in a city-to-city cultural exchange between Denver and Mexico City.

When the Denver League hosted the LWVUS national convention in 1988, she served on the committee that recruited and trained volunteer staff. Alice has worked with the League on many issues and events, including the very successful "State of the City" dinner sponsored by her League. She says she always learns a lot and finds League fascinating and fun.

## ***SHIRLEY WEAVER, League of Women Voters of Denver***

. . . Mary Hess

Thirty-seven years after she first joined the League in Lima, Ohio, when she "was pregnant all of the time," Shirley continues to be one of the most-involved Leaguers! Later, with the help of three other women who had been members in other places, she started a League in Jefferson City, Missouri. Even though it was the state capitol, it had no League of Women Voters until Shirley got there. She had also belonged to the League in Webster Grove, Missouri.

The Weaver family moved to Denver in 1969. Shirley immediately joined the Observatory Unit which met at night because her children were still young. When all were in school, she started a daytime unit which she named "St. Vrain Unit," after Ceran St. Vrain, a trader at Bent's Fort.

1972 was a memorable year as Shirley began working part-time as the assistance in the office shared by the Denver League and the Colorado State League. The offices were separated in 1974, and Shirley continued to staff the Denver League office located at Montview Presbyterian Church. Holding down a busy job never kept Shirley from volunteering for the League. Probably, many presidents of that League would not have taken the job without knowing they could rely on Shirley's expertise.

Recently, Shirley has been a member of the Denver League's Constitution Committee and the State Committee on Initiatives, as well as serving 2s unit leader, finance chair, and providing support for other activities of the Denver League. Her life has also included raising four children, spoiling two grandchildren, and keeping husband Moe happy. In her "spare time," she enjoys hiking, biking, reading, and knitting. She and Moe helped organize PFLAG (Parents and Friends of Lesbians And Gays), and have been active in that group for over ten years.

## ***MARY HESS — League of Women Voters of Denver***

. . . Marty Sloven

Although Mary Hess briefly joined the League of Women Voters in the 1960s, four small children then kept her away for a few years. She joined for good in 1972 when her youngest child started kindergarten. Originally from Victoria, Canada, Mary took on the responsibilities of U.S. citizenship with a vengeance,

Mary joined the Denver League's education committee in 1973, and shortly became co-chair. Eventually, she chaired the committee for two years. These were the desegregation years when Denver Public Schools struggled more than any time in its history. That education committee was a leader in rational thought and action. Mary was on the steering committee of PLUS (People Let's Unite for Schools). She served on many city-wide committees over the years — most often related to education. Mary's work in education was some of her most important for the League and for the city.

Mary moved on to First Vice President on the Denver League board for three years, even as she continued on the education committee. She served as President from 1981 to 1983. One of her most vivid memories as president is working on a mayoral committee to investigate the use of voting machines and finding herself in Chicago at the time Harold Washington won the primary election to that city's council.

Mary then moved on to the state level of League as Program Vice President on the State Board, 1983–85. Included in that position was the responsibility to coordinate legislative action. She became so involved that she volunteered to head the lobbying activity! At the end of her term on the Board and at the end of the General Assembly's session, she became the LWVCO's General Lobbyist, a position she filled admirably for nine years, earning high respect from legislators, lobbyists, and League members,

Mary also had the honor of being one of the first recipients of the national Rosalie Goodman Fellowships to spend a month at the League's national office in Washington, DC in 1987.

Mary was supposed to relax when she retired as lobbyist, instead, she came to the Denver League's rescue and again served as First Vice President. She has continued to work for many of the issues she advocated for as lobbyist. Her husband Gerry says that she's gone just as much, but she no longer gets paid for it!

Mary enjoys her family. She and Gerry travel, hike, and bike. She's a whirlwind of activity. Any of you have tried to keep up with her know. The League of Women Voters is a stronger, better organization because of Mary Hess. Please join us in honoring her.

## ***JOE ANN MICKELSEN, League of Women Voters of Douglas County***

. . . Alice Ramsey

The League of Women Voters of Douglas County is proud to honor Joe Ann Mickelsen as a woman of distinction from our League. Joe has been a member of the LWVDC for twenty years, and as our member with the most longevity, she has been a stabilizing force within our League. She has been an active and productive Leaguer at both state and local levels, representing the Douglas County League and the LWVCO with graciousness and ability. We are pleased to honor Joe.

Joe was born in Salt Lake City and graduated from the University of Utah with a BA in History and Political Science — already a prime candidate for League! She also obtained a Secondary Teaching Certificate. After college, she spent two years in Heidelberg, Germany working in the U.S. Intelligence Division for a political analyst. She returned to the States and taught two years in the Salt Lake Valley School District and also two years in Maryland.

Joe married M.L. Mickelsen during this period and she and "Mick" have two daughters, Cary who is in school in Durango and Jill who is a boat captain and whale watcher in Maui. They moved to Colorado Springs in 1961 and to Parker in 1971.

The first contact Joe had with the League was in Utah while searching for information on local government to use in the civics class she was teaching. She found the League was the only source available. She first joined the League in Colorado Springs (now known as Pikes Peak) and was on the local board there.

When Joe moved to the Parker area, she quickly noted that there was not a League in existence. When she inquired at the LWVCO office, she was told that the population was not large enough to ensure a League's success. However, when a League was formed in 1976, she was one of the first recruits and became Vice President. She became President when the first President, Sonya Blackstock, resigned to run for County Commissioner.

Joe was the LWVCO Organization Chair in the 1980s, traveling over the state visiting local Leagues and interested persons with Wilma Davidson and Tess McNulty. What conversations must have been going on during those trips!

At the local level, Joe served as President, Vice President, Voter Service Chair, and Observer Chair — some of these several times. She is currently Voter Service Chair. Countless hours have been spent setting up voter forums and observing, especially the county commissioners, even before she was a member in Douglas County.

Joe credits her League activity and background for her appointment to the Douglas County Planning Commission in the 1980s, and she has just finished a 6-year term as Douglas County representative on the board of the Scientific and Cultural Facilities District.

When asked what she enjoyed most about the League, she immediately responded that ". . . it was an organization where women gathered and didn't talk about diapers and formulas, but about government and current events." We can all agree with that.

For all these reasons and many more, the League of Women Voters of Douglas County nominates Joe Ann Mickelsen for her exemplary service to the League and her community,

### ***BEVERLY POOR, League of Women Voters of Pueblo***

. . . Pueblo Women's History Committee

A Pueblo native, Beverly has been a hard-working member of the League of Women Voters since 1966. She has served on the League's Board of Directors for many years, worked in every officer's position, and is presently the treasurer. Beverly works toward the League's goal of an informed electorate with incredible energy and enthusiasm. She has moderated candidates' forums, spoken to community groups about issues on the ballot, worked on voter registration drives, and helped prepare the League's Voter's Guide.

Beverly's community involvement also included serving as District Lay Leader for the United Methodist Church (Sunshine District) from 1988 to 1991. She is chair of the Community Development Block Grant Citizen's Advisory Committee and a member of the YWCA Board. Always encouraging people, Beverly writes short thank you notes, and gives little gifts in recognition of jobs well done. No matter what your contribution, Beverly doesn't let it go unnoticed or unappreciated.

Beverly has followed the admonition of Carrie Chapman Catt that "the only way to get things done is to get them done on the inside of a political party.." Active in politics, she was especially proud, in 1990, to chair the Pueblo campaign for Josie Heath, member of the Boulder Valley LWV who ran for the U.S. Senate. Beverly was recently elected to the Executive Committee of the Pueblo Democratic Party.

For these activities, Bev was nominated by the League of Women Voters of Pueblo and received an Outstanding Women Award during Woman's History Week in March 1995. The Women's History Committee established the Award program to recognize the contribution that women make to the Pueblo community, to establish a historical record of those activities, and to acknowledge the women for what they have achieved.

Traveling to Europe, the Far East, South America, the Soviet Union, Greece, Israel, and Egypt — as well as throughout the United States — has been enjoyed by this active Leaguer. She is married, and has two sons and two grandchildren.

Always involved in the community, Bev is a member of Planned Parenthood and the National Organization for Women. She has been active in Mothers Against Drunk Driving, a parent volunteer in the schools through the 1970s and 1980s, and on the boards of Head Start and Belmont Elementary PTA. She organized the Pueblo chapter of Colorado Coalition for Choice in 1992. She is employed at Sales at Earth 'n Art.

Bev earned a BA Degree in Elementary Education, and she has been an advocate of Head Start for pre-schoolers and the free lunch program for children who need that help in order to learn properly. When asked what other issues are important, she says: "Anything we can do to prevent young people from entering the penal system. Teaching mutual respect among all peoples so there will no longer be abuse of any kind: physical, mental, emotional. Other issues near and dear are those which affect poor people, such as Social Security for Seniors. The single most important issue to me is Pro-Choice and keeping our right as women to choose whether or not be bear children safe and legal."

### ***BETTE SEELAND, League of Women Voters of Jefferson County***

. . . Marcia Schafer

For twenty-eight years, Bette Seeland has been contributing in her quiet, efficient, intelligent, creative way to the Jefferson County League of Women Voters. She has held the positions of president and 2nd vice-president, and she has chaired committees on land use, membership, and voter service. Bette has even served as office manager! Unofficially, she is our Resident Sage, our League Mother, who always knows the answers and gently keeps everyone to the task.

Although a quiet, smiling lady, Bette is a bulldog when it come to Open Space. In 1971, Bette endorsed the idea of Leaguer Carol Carlin, to do something about open space in Jefferson County. They presented the idea to the Board, then, researched, prepared, and presented a unit to the membership on the need for preserving open space. From the enthusiastic response of that unit, Jeffco League helped spearhead the drive for the adoption of a 1/2 percent sales tax for the acquisition of open space land. She has been an active member and board member of Pian Jeffco, a citizen's group which promotes and monitors the open space issues in the county. Over the years, Bette has presented many updates on Open Space, has chaired committees and has written publications for League on housing, health, and education. Her latest project has been researching the impact of individual sewage disposal systems on the water in the county. Her booklet is titled, "Not Everyone Can Live Upstream."

We in Jefferson County League of Women Voters thank Bette Seeland for her guidance, her enthusiasm, her support, and her love of the League.