

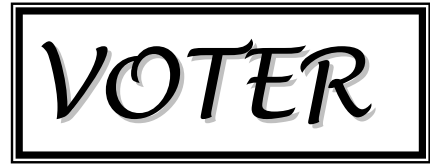


January 2015

Membership: 28

www.montrose.co.lwvnet.org

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS®
Serving Montrose and Delta Counties



Follow us on **Facebook**: <https://www.facebook.com/VoteMontrose>

HAPPY NEW YEAR!



Best wishes to our League and all of its members for a healthy, happy 2015 filled with activities that help make democracy work by working to educate the voters in our community on vital issues affecting it, our state and our nation, and taking action on them.

JANUARY MEETING REMINDER

It's time for our annual program planning, so bring your ideas for the upcoming year. As this is not an election year we might want to focus on local and state issues. Think about what pushes your buttons, what you would like to learn more about, what would benefit our community, and how League can best serve.

Date: Thursday, January 8

Time: Noon

Place: Montrose Library Community Room

LWVCO and LWVUS have some ideas too, so bring your bag lunch if you wish as we may run more than one hour. Come for all or part---your voice is important!

IT'S TIME FOR "GREAT DECISIONS"

Our League co-sponsors this annual reading and discussion group about foreign policy issues for 8 weeks each February. Briefing books are prepared by the Foreign Policy Association and cost \$20.00. They can also be checked out. Meetings are on Thursday from 7-9pm. Call Meg Nagel at 964-2548 to enroll.

This year's topics are:

Russia and the Near Abroad - Feb. 7
Privacy in the Digital Age - Feb. 12
Sectarianism in the Middle East - Feb. 19
India Changes Course - Feb. 26
U.S. Policy Toward Africa - March 5
Syria's Refugee Crisis - March 12
Human Trafficking in the 21st Century - 3/19
Brazil's Metamorphosis - March 26

LOCAL LEAGUE NEWS

HOLIDAY FETE 2014, THE BRIDGES COUNTRY CLUB, DECEMBER 11 to promote the League, encourage membership, raise funds, and have fun!



Leaguers and guests mixed well,



conversation flowed with young and old(er) alike,



and a delightful time was had by all!

FROM AROUND THE STATE LEAGUE NEWS

A COLORADO LEAGUER BECOMES ONE OF THE LWVUS CLASS OF 2015-2017 RUTH SHUR FELLOWS



16 dedicated League leaders from across the U.S. were selected through a detailed application process and from a large pool of applicants to be at the forefront of the Membership and Leadership Development (MLD) program, funded by the Fund for Local League Growth, and one was **Lineah Davey of the LWV Colorado Springs**.

When Lineah and her family moved to Boulder, Colorado in 1969, she joined the League, which had intrigued her since she read the LWV of Omaha Voters Guides, having grown up in Nebraska. After moving to Colorado Springs, Lineah became more active in League and has since held several positions on the local board, including President. Lineah served on LWVCO Board from 2005-2012 as VP of Member Services, conducting Leadership Training for local league board members, and serving as state coordinator for Membership Leadership Development. Lineah also served as a member of LWVUS Streamlining Committee.

Lineah began her career teaching English, retired as a high school social studies teacher, and now supervises social studies student-teachers at Colorado College. She and her husband have two married daughters and three grandchildren. In her free time, Lineah enjoys hiking, sewing, and reading mysteries.

BOOK REVIEW BY FELLOW LEAGUE MEMBER

Take Back Your Government: A Citizen's Guide to Grassroots Change

This is a non-partisan guide for how to contact your state and federal elected officials and includes chapters like the following: "Monitoring Legislation", "How to Read a Bill", "Registering Your Support or Opposition", "Know Your Elected Officials", "How to Testify at a Legislative Hearing", "The Legislative Calendar", "How a Bill Becomes Law and How You Can Impact Each Phase", Meeting, Calling, Emailing, Writing Your Legislators", "Preparing Fact Sheets", "Introducing Your Own Bill", to name only 13 of the 33 chapters. It concludes with a huge glossary of legislative and political terms. This book was written by Morgan Carroll, published by Fulcrum in Golden, CO in 2011. ISBN 978-1-555-91-445-5, and costs \$19.95. Morgan Carroll was the president of the Colorado Senate when she wrote this book and she is widely respected in the Senate by both Republicans and Democrats. For anyone wishing to understand how legislatures work and how we can become seriously involved in their outcomes, this is a must have. It is easy and even entertaining to read. *Lesley Marring, Lakewood/Golden Unit*

KEEPING UP WITH THE COLORADO LEGISLATORS

As a Leaguer, you know timing is critical when it comes to influencing legislation.

League of Women Voters® of Colorado Legislative Letter is an informative newsletter on state government issues published every two weeks during the Legislative session. It is created by the League's lobby corps which closely follows proposed legislation and analyzes the pending bills from the perspective of the League of Women Voters®. The League's lobby corps is known as the Legislative Action Committee (LAC) and is made up of volunteers and Chris Watson, our lobbyist. The newsletter is posted on the LWVCO website; however, if you wish to receive your own copy, you can subscribe either by e-mail or regular mail. **You receive the e-mail version the day of publication.** The subscription is \$20.00. Mail your check made payable to LWVCO, and include either your mailing or e-mail address to 1410 Grant Street, B-204, Denver, CO 80203-1855. The LWVCO office and the LAC thank all of you who donate to the LWVCO Lobby Fund and subscribe to the Legislative Letter because your continued support and dedication make the newsletter possible.

NATIONAL LEAGUE NEWS

On February 14, the League of Women Voters U.S. Will Turn 95!



December 29, 2014 Blog from LWVUS President, Elizabeth MacNamara

As 2014 comes to a close, the [League of Women Voters](#) is reflecting on the major successes we celebrated in Making Democracy Work® over the past year. From protecting voting rights to keeping money out of politics, we've made a big impact in strengthening our democracy. We're excited to celebrate our 95th anniversary in 2015 building on our accomplishments from 2014 -- and setting ambitious goals for the coming year. Here's a sample of just some of the important work the League accomplished in 2014, and what lays ahead in 2015.

Educating Voters: In the lead-up to the midterm elections, Leagues across the country worked tirelessly to ensure voters had all the information they needed to vote. League volunteers registered tens of thousands of new voters, including the 400 Leagues in 48 states that registered voters on [National Voter Registration Day](#). The League also had a successful [youth voter registration effort](#), registering thousands of young voters in over 40 communities. The League was also instrumental in getting out the vote. Throughout 2014, nearly 1.5 million voters used the League's online elections resource, [VOTE411.org](#), to find the information they needed to vote, including their polling place, and candidate and ballot information. Leagues also held nearly 600 candidate events and handed out over a million postcards and fliers to help educate voters. In 2015, we'll see the 2016 presidential cycle begin to ramp up and Leagues will continue to register new voters, particularly those in underrepresented communities as well as prepare for state and local elections occurring in 2015.

Voting Rights: This year, our supporters sent over 90,000 letters to Congress in support of the [Voting Rights Amendment Act](#) (VRAA), legislation to restore key provisions of the Voting Rights Act (VRA) of 1965. A repaired VRA will ensure that every American citizen, regardless of race or language, has equal access to the vote. The League also remained critical to helping protect voting rights at the state level through legislative and judicial action. For example, the [League of Women Voters of Missouri](#) helped stop a discriminatory voter photo ID bill and a restrictive early voting constitutional amendment, while the [League of Women Voters of Pennsylvania](#) was instrumental in thwarting a state voter photo ID law. Meanwhile, the [League of Women Voters of Minnesota](#) helped pass online voter registration thereby expanding the voter registration process for Minnesotans. The League will continue to push back against bad legislation that attempts to prevent voters from having access to the polls, and we're looking forward to more successes expanding fair and equal access to the electoral process in 2015!

Environmental Defense: In 2014, our supporters sent nearly 100,000 comments on the Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) [Clean Power Plan](#) in support of [critical measures to protect our planet and public health by limiting carbon pollution from power plants](#). In 2015, we'll continue to #actonclimate as the EPA finalizes these critical regulations by helping implement the process at the state level and defend the regulations in the face of opposition in Congress.

Money in Politics: This year, we continued to work at all levels of government to ensure that citizen participation in the political process is not drowned out by special interests and big money donors because dark money has no place in our elections. So far, we've sent 15,000 comments to the Federal Election Commission in hopes of [reducing the influence money has on our elections](#). In 2015, we have our eyes on the [DISCLOSE Act](#), critical legislation that would ensure that voters know the identity of donors who have secretly financed campaign expenditures in federal elections. We'll also closely monitor other legislation that defines coordination between candidates and outside spending groups, including Super PACs, in order to limit the big money flowing into our elections. And [we'll continue to provide comments to the IRS](#) as it redrafts a proposal that defines election activities.

As we head into our 95th year, the League will remain active in strengthening our democracy. We're committed to stepping up our work to register more new voters and help all eligible voters participate in our electoral process. We'll also keep pushing for necessary legislation and regulations at the state and federal levels to protect our planet for future generations, keep secret money out of our elections and ensure that our elections are fair, free and accessible.

LEAGUE MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL TIME!

When asked what their favorite part of League is, many people respond that it's the people they meet and the bonds they create with other people in their community that keeps them coming back to League. Time and time again, we hear that League members continue to be a part of our organization because they think the League is FUN, as well as vitally important is playing a non-partisan role in politics! They enjoy the good people, lively conversations, and the ability to learn from the others in the League.

We are gratified for your continued support and appreciate your interest in our programs and activities. **If you haven't renewed, now is the time!** We continue to hold our base dues at \$55 annually to encourage maximum participation from the community. Of course, feel free to build upon your dues to include either a contribution to our general fund or a tax-deductible contribution to our Education Fund. Remember only \$6 of your annual dues is retained by the local league. **See page 6.**

2014-2015 LWV Community Support

The League of Women Voters of Montrose County thanks these local businesses, organizations and individuals who have donated financial and in-kind support. Please add your thank you when you patronize these businesses or visit with these individuals.

**Alpine Archaeological
Red Barn Restaurant
Julie Gleason
Dennis Olmstead
Ellie and Steve Dooley
Sarah Combs
The Montrose Mirror
Rod Britten
Horsefly Brewing Company
Montrose Bank
Delta Bank
Surface Creek Bank
North Fork Bank
Shirley Ela**

LEAGUE CALENDAR

January - Program Planning

8 Noon Montrose Library

We're looking for ideas for programs that will educate and inspire us into action at both the local and state levels.

Get involved and shape our future programming by sharing your ideas!

February -

5 To be determined

12 Great Decisions

7pm Montrose Library

"A popular government without popular information, or the means of acquiring it, is but a prolog to a farce, or a tragedy, or perhaps both."

James Madison

**Join League of Women Voters of Montrose County
serving Montrose & Delta counties
2014-2015
Not for Women Only!**

Name(s) _____

Address _____

Phone (H) _____ (Cell) _____

E-mail _____

___ **Individual \$55** (Of this amount \$31 goes to National League; \$18 goes to State League; \$6 is retained by the Montrose League)

___ **Household \$90** – Two members in one household (National League receives \$46.50; State League \$27; \$16.50 is retained by the Montrose League)

___ I understand that I can join without being active, and this is my intent at the present time.

___ I would like to make a contribution beyond regular dues and understand it will go directly to our local League (Thank You!).

___ Sustaining Member \$100

___ I would like to make a tax-deductible contribution to the Montrose League. Write a separate check to **League of Women Voters CO Education Fund. Write "Montrose" on the check's memo line.**

Please make checks payable to **League of Women Voters of Montrose County**. Mail to P.O. Box 3321, Montrose, CO 81402

2014-2015 Board Members

President: Caitlin Switzer, 275-5791, caite@montrose.net

Vice President: Jean Aaro, 970-872-4256, jean@dvywest.com

Secretary: Nancy Ball, 249-8963, nancyball@montrose.net

Treasurer: Rod Britten, 240-1119, rodbritten@montrose.net

Voter Newsletter: Nancy Ball

Website: Susan Chandler-Reed, 249-1076, susan.chandler.reed@gmail.com

Membership Chair:

Program Chair:

Fundraising Chair:

At Large: Karen Connor, 249-2135, kconnor1941@gmail.com

Rosemary Murphy, 249-3925, mmurfh@hotmail.com

Barbara Krebs, 249-3989, stukrebs@hotmail.com



**LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS®
OF MONTROSE COUNTY**
Box 3321
Montrose, CO 81402

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.

Check out our Website:

www.montrose.co.lwvnet.org/

Our webmaster, Susan Chandler-Reed, is doing a terrific job keeping us updated on and linked to local, state and national activities, issues and websites.

