

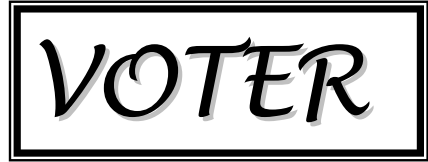


March 2016

Membership: 35

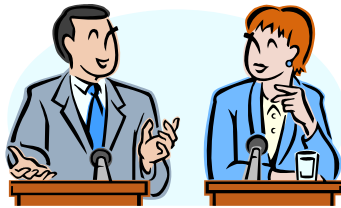
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**LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS®**  
*Serving Montrose and Delta  
Counties*



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**MONTROSE CITY COUNCIL  
CANDIDATE FORUM  
THURSDAY, MARCH 3, 7PM  
MONTROSE CITY COUNCIL  
CHAMBERS  
107 SOUTH CASCADE, MONTROSE**



Question and Answer session to follow introductions and opening statements  
Town Hall format, Forum will be televised live on the City's TV channel 191. Doors open at 6:30. Come with questions and bring a friend!

### WHAT IS COLORADOCARE?

**AMENDMENT 69 WILL APPEAR ON OUR NOVEMBER BALLOTS, SO TAKE THIS OPPORTUNITY TO LEARN ABOUT IT!**

Guest speaker, T.R. Reid, internationally known journalist, author, film writer, public radio commentator and speaker, has studied health care around the world and has committed his support to **ColoradoCare Amendment #69**. He will be working with local Colorado Leagues on his speaking tour on the Western Slope, including Grand Junction, **Montrose** and Durango.

**Wednesday, March 23, 5:30pm, Venue TBD. We'll keep you updated!**

Q & A to follow. See page 5.

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### "GREAT DECISIONS" Date Changes

**The March meeting dates have been shifted forward one week due to the March 3 City Council Candidate Forum.**

Great Decisions is a series of discussions produced by the Foreign Policy Association, a non-profit, non-partisan educational arm of the World Affairs Councils of America, co-sponsored by the League of Women Voters of Montrose County and the Montrose Regional Library. Meetings from 7-9 pm in the Montrose Library Community Room begin with a video in which foreign policy experts present their perspectives, and a group discussion follows. Questions? Call Meg Nagel at 964-2548.

March program topics are: March 10 The Koreas; Mar 17 The United Nations; Mar 24 Climate change; Mar 31 Cuba and the U.S.

## LOCAL LEAGUE NEWS

### WELCOME New Member, Kathy Heavers



Our newest member is a third generation Colorado native, born and raised in Brighton on the Front Range. She is married to Tim Heavers and is the mother of two boys, Scott and Mike, who live on opposite sides of our country in California and New York. Kathy earned her B.A. in English in Wisconsin and her M.A. in Secondary Education at Western State College in Gunnison. She began her 45-year teaching career in 1969, which was the same year she became a teacher in Montrose in the RE1-J school district, retiring in 2015 from a position at Vista Charter School. During her distinguished tenure, she co-authored numerous educational books and received many laurels, including Colorado Teacher of the Year in 2005 and the Governor's Award for Excellence in Education.

Kathy currently keeps busy with her volunteer activities as facilitator at the Heidi's Forum, and through the years was active with various community projects through the Montrose Chamber of Commerce, in her church, as coordinator of "**Chalk Talk**", a weekly newspaper column of articles written by teachers, and as an adjunct professor at Adams State College, where she took additional graduate classes.

When asked why she joined the League, Kathy said she wanted to be more informed and that she has followed the local programming, including our candidate forums, and wanted to take part. She reflected that she has always respected and trusted the research on issues performed by the League and has relied on our ballot issues pamphlets and candidate forums to become a more informed voter. Kathy added that she learned of some issues that she wasn't even aware of through the League!

### **KUDOS to League Members!**

#### **Susan Welk de Valdez**

from the Montrose Press, February 11, 2016

## **Governor appoints Susan Valdez**

Susan Welk de Valdez of Delta, and formerly of Montrose, has been appointed to the state's Minority Business Advisory Council.

Gov. John Hickenlooper appointed Valdez on Feb. 5, to serve a term that expires in 2019. She is to serve as a representative of a minority-owned business and as a community representative.

The Minority Business Advisory Council provides a public forum at which the perspective of minority businesses is brought to the attention of the state, and makes recommendations for regulatory changes needed at all levels of the government to encourage the initiation, stability and growth of minority businesses in Colorado.

Susan will attend the 1st Minority Business Advisory Council meeting in Denver on February 24.

#### **Susan Chandler-Reed**

for her election as President-Elect of the Society for American Archaeology. She will assume her position as President in 2017.



## 96 Years and Still Going Strong!

A group of local League members celebrated the LWVUS' 96th Birthday at The Bridges on February 13 with scintillating conversation on many topics, which made for a fine time!



## MILLENNIALS OUTREACH



**Millennials now comprise the largest generation in the U.S. workforce and will make up 1/3 of the November 2016 electorate!**

Our League's first step toward learning which local, state and national issues are important to our local 18-35 year-olds and why took place at the Proximity Space on February 16. Karen Connor and Nancy Ball met with six young adults from the upper end of the age range and learned that student debt, the cost of health care, the high cost of housing, the tight economy, the temptation of easy credit, and the difficult job market even with college degrees are at the top of their lists. Two themes they stressed for their generation were accountability and a solid work ethic. It was also made very clear that any and all news they receive comes via their Smart/I phones on social media platforms.

They were amazingly honest (perhaps we looked grandmotherly to them?) and said that to stimulate interest in programs we would have to offer them something tangible, make them feel as though they would be missing something, and offer a complaint platform ahead of time and then address that issue.

So, across our nation, if the League wants to reach these 83 million young people, we are going to have to modernize our mode of communication and strategize the messages we send.

One other tidbit regarding League membership. There was interest in joining, and one young man asked if League was for women only per our name, and when we said "no", he said we should publicize that fact!

By the way, if you have not as yet visited and toured the Proximity Space located at 210 East Main Street in Montrose, take the opportunity to do so. It is an amazing addition to our community!

***Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed, citizens can change the world. Indeed, it is the only thing that ever has. Margaret Mead***

## Planning Meeting, February 18

Eleven League members participated in the 2-hour fully-packed agenda meeting held at the Montrose Library. A fair number of the items discussed were recent and upcoming local and state League events which are reported on within this issue, but below is a short run down of several other items.

Last year a \$275 grant was received from the LWVCO for expenses related to a **Kids Vote** event. Caitlin Switzer provided us with a good lead on how to proceed and Diane Balk volunteered to follow up on it.

The LWV of Minnesota presented a proposal to leagues across the nation to amend the LWVUS bylaws regarding League membership asking for their support so that the proposals could be presented to the LWVUS at its convention to be held in Washington, D.C. June 17-19. One proposal asked to amend Article III, Section 2, Voting Members, by striking out the word "Citizens" and inserting the word "Persons" to read "Persons at least 18 years of age who join the League shall be voting members of local Leagues, state Leagues and of the LWVUS." The second proposal was to amend Article III, Section 2, Voting Members, to strike out the words "at least 18 years of age" to read "Citizens who join the League shall be voting members....as above. Their rationale included "changing demographics, universal suffrage within the LWV, and inclusivity that they feel will enlarge and diversity the talent pool, enrich discussions and inform LWV decision making." After a scintillating discussion, we voted not to support either of the proposed amendments because we felt our name implies that members are voters---citizens---and we want to uphold its tradition. Of course, we strive to include all residents in our activities and will work to spread information to future citizens and future voters and encourage citizenship. A response has been filed with comments.

The LWV of Needham, Massachusetts, proposed to add a new bullet item to the LWVUS list of action opportunities---Sustainable Planet/Sustainable Democracy---citing that "the issue of climate change and sustainability clearly falls within the general framework of "Making Democracy Work" because "the impacts of climate change around the world and on our economy pose a serious threat to our democracy and the civil liberties and freedoms that our democracy is built upon". Following a short discussion, we voted to support the proposal bullet item. A response form will be filed prior to March 1.

Karen Connor reported that **Vote411** is an ongoing League project and new information regarding ballot issues, candidates and elections is being added as it is received. To see what is on YOUR ballot, go to



Nancy Ball presented the **program topics survey results**: #1 through #6: Money in Politics, Single Payer Health Care, Voting Rights/Voting Districts, Immigration/Citizenship, Minimum Wage/Living Wage, and Gun Safety/Crime Stats/Gun Legislation. Our programming will be planned to reflect the results.

### **Teen Opportunity Expo, February 24, Montrose High School**

Pursuant to a request from the Montrose Youth Council, our League will be hosting a booth from 2:30 pm to 4pm in the school cafeteria to assist with online voter registration of students.

### **It's That Time of Year Again---New Leadership!**

Nominating committee members are needed to find a slate of new officers---president, vice-president, secretary and treasurer---for the 2016-2017 year to be voted on at our annual meeting tentatively scheduled for Thursday, May 5. The slate must be in place 30 days prior to the meeting---April 5. Call Karen Connor at 275-1314 if you would be willing to step up and serve on the committee.

**A full agenda, indeed!**

## **STATE LEAGUE NEWS**

### **Behavioral Health Concurrence**

The Board of the LWVCO requested that all CO local Leagues propose concurrence with its newly-adopted Position on Behavioral Health. Locally, we voted on concurrence at our February 18 meeting and the outcome was unanimous support. The response report to the LWVUS has been filed.

### **LWVCO Council - May 21-22**

The theme of this year's Council is "Making Democracy Work", and as you are aware, our local League will be hosting Council here in Montrose. Each League is entitled to two delegates, and the registration fee and meals (\$45) will be paid by each League. Sharron Baldwin volunteered to be one of the delegates from Montrose/Delta, so there is one open delegate space. If you are interested in attending as a voting delegate, please contact Karen Connor at 275-1314, as the registration deadline is April 25. Observers may attend at no cost. Needless to say, as the host League, volunteer helpers will be needed, so again contact Karen if you are interested in assisting.

### **ColoradoCare Amendment 69**

From Nancy Crow, LWVCO 1st Vice President Programming

The LWVCO has taken the position of SUPPORT on ColoradoCare Ballot Amendment #69 that will be on the ballot in the fall elections of 2016. The LWVCO Board based its support of Amendment #69 on the LWVUS Position on Health Care. Here is a brief description of ColoradoCare:

- It uses an option of the Affordable Care Act that allows Colorado to obtain waivers to create its own health care program
  - It provides comprehensive coverage for all residents of Colorado
  - It uses a member-owned cooperative business model; e.g., example Rural Electric Association
  - It will be primary coverage for all **except** individuals who have coverage under federal health care programs, i.e., Medicare and Veteran Administration Health. Those residents will use ColoradoCare as secondary coverage
  - It claims it will cost less than the current system.

### **STATE INNOVATION MODEL GRANT TO DEVELOP INTEGRATED BEHAVIORAL HEALTH AND PHYSICAL HEALTH CARE; CAROL PACE APPOINTED TO ADVISORY BOARD**

By Marilyn Brown, Voter Editor

Colorado is among select states to receive a federal State Innovation Model (SIM) grant. SIM grants, provided for under the Affordable Care Act (ACA) allow individual states to explore new methods for health care payment and delivery in specific focus areas. Colorado chose to focus on integration of behavioral and physical health care delivery systems. This has also been a strong LWVCO focus, and a national focus for many groups. The \$65 million grant over four years will fund broad participation in practice models, involving hundreds of health care practices, researchers, consumers and other stakeholders statewide. The grant hopes to reach clinicians caring for 80% of the population of Colorado.

With a strong interest in health care systems and consumer advocacy, Carol Pace, from the Denver League, recent LWVCO Board member, and active participant in the Legislative Action Committee, is one of two consumers appointed by Governor Hickenlooper to the SIM advisory board. Carol is looking forward to hearing from consumers and sharing ways they can be involved in this unique Colorado opportunity.

## **NATIONAL LEAGUE NEWS**

### **Constitutional Convention Needs Safeguards**

02/03/2016 | by Kelly Ceballos |

#### ***League of Women Voters Announces New Position***

The League of Women Voters today announced [a new position](#) calling for safeguards to govern the constitutional convention process of proposing amendments to the U.S. Constitution.

"The League believes that procedural safeguards must be put in place to protect democratic values and ensure that any proposed amendments reflect the concerns of citizens," said Elisabeth MacNamara, president of the League of Women Voters of the United States.

"We cannot afford to have a chaotic or unrepresentative process for amending the Constitution. We can't afford to let special interests dominate a constitutional convention," MacNamara continued.

There are many current proposals for constitutional amendments, from both the right and the political left, from a Balanced Budget Amendment to one curbing the rights of corporations. "Everyone should be concerned what a runaway, topsy-turvy Constitutional Convention might do. Before we head into uncharted territory that could affect our basic principles of government and our individual rights, we need to make sure some basic rules are in place," according to MacNamara.

The League supports these safeguards for a Constitutional Convention:

- 1) The Convention must be transparent and not conducted in secret;
- 2) Representation at the Convention must be based on population rather than one state, one vote; and delegates should be elected rather than appointed;
- 3) Voting at the Convention must be by delegate, not by state;
- 4) The Convention must be limited to a specific topic;
- 5) Only state resolutions on a single topic count when determining if a Convention should be called; and
- 6) The validity of state calls for an Article V Constitutional Convention should be determined by the most recent action of the state.

The new League position is especially relevant because the Balanced Budget Amendment is close to achieving the number of states needed to require Congress to call a convention. "The states that have called for a convention on the Balanced Budget Amendment have not provided for the safeguards that are necessary. Any calls for a constitutional convention must have built-in protections to ensure it is not hijacked by a small minority," MacNamara said.

Article 5 of the U.S. Constitution provides for two ways to amend the constitution. Congress can initiate an amendment or, if two-thirds of the states petition Congress to do so, a Constitutional Convention can be called to propose amendments. Under either mechanism, proposed amendments must be ratified by three-fourths of the states in order to take effect. There has never been a constitutional convention called under the U.S. Constitution.

"There are many unresolved questions about the powers and processes of an Article V Constitutional Convention. These problems must be solved before America embarks on a dangerous journey," MacNamara concluded.

## **2015-2016 LWV Community Support**

The League of Women Voters of Montrose County, serving Montrose and Delta counties, 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.

**Dennis Olmstead**  
**The Montrose Mirror**  
**Horsefly Brewing Company**  
**Shirley Ela**  
**Dalby, Wendland & Co.**  
**Alpine Bank**  
**Altrusa International of Montrose**  
**Alpine Archeological**  
**Karen & Bob Nicholson**

## **MARK YOUR CALENDARS!**

### **March**

#### **3 Montrose City Council Candidate Forum**

7:00 Montrose City Council Chambers

#### **23 ColoradoCares - T.R. Reid**

5:30 Venue TBD

### **April**

#### **14 Citizenship/Immigration**

Noon Montrose Library

### **May**

#### **5 Annual Meeting- Luncheon & Election of Officers**

Noon Venue TBD

#### **12 Income Inequality/Living Wage**

Noon Montrose Library

#### **21-22 LWVCO Council**

Holiday Inn Express & The Pavilion



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/](http://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.



### **Check us out on Facebook too:**

Google "League of Women Voters of Montrose County, Colorado" and then click "Like us" on Facebook

Susan is handling this site as well!

**Join League of Women Voters of Montrose County  
serving Montrose & Delta counties  
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

**2015-2016 Board Members**

**President:** Karen Connor, 249-2135,  
kconnor1941@gmail.com

**Vice President:**

**Secretary:** Robin Flom, 249-8963,  
nancyball@montrose.net

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

**Membership:** membership information available at  
[http://montrose.co.lwvnet.org/join\\_form.html](http://montrose.co.lwvnet.org/join_form.html)

**Voter Newsletter:** Nancy Ball, 249-8963  
nancyball@montrose.net

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

**At Large:**

Rosemary Murphy, 249-3925,  
[mmurfh@hotmail.com](mailto:mmurfh@hotmail.com)

Barbara Krebs, 249-3989,  
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LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS® of MONTROSE COUNTY  
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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.