

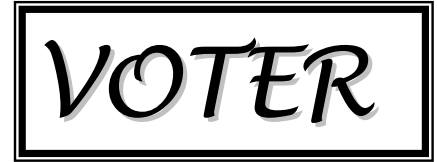


March 2018

Membership: 40

www.montrose.co.lwvnet.org

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS®
Serving Montrose and Delta Counties



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

GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING - MARCH 13, 2018

PLANNING AND LEADERSHIP DETERMINATION FOR 2018-2019 YEAR



Hear Ye! Hear Ye! It's that time when the League's current year is drawing to a close and new leaders for the upcoming year need to be determined, as well as a focus and plan for the new year's activities, outreach and programming.

2018-2019 promises to be a busy and very important time! Being a general election year, there will be ballot issues and candidates' forums, voter registration drives, and soooo much more! Plus, we have a grant from the LWVCO that provides funds for us to reach out to Millennials and minorities on voter registration.

It is vitally important that your input be received because the League's success depends on enthusiasm for what issues are important to you, what you think the goals of our League should be, how we can better engage the community in our efforts, what might attract Millennials, etc., etc., etc.

Please know that it has been a pleasure for the current administrative team to serve you, but we are at a point when several need to step down. The times truly call for fresh eyes, creative ideas, and vibrant leadership---and, **our members certainly have the potential to fulfill those needs!**

Therefore, the **Community Room at the Montrose Library has been reserved from 11am to 1pm on Tuesday, March 13. Feel free to bring your lunch.**

The rational, reasonable, civil, non-partisan voice of the League is needed as never before, so let's get to work! PLEASE think about how you can participate in the new year---in any way. Let's get creative--leadership and organization can take many forms... **With everyone pitching in just a little bit, we can truly make a positive difference in 2018-2019!**

IN THIS ISSUE

Our League in Action	Pages 1-3
State League News	Page 4
National League News	Page 5
Elected Officials Contact Information	Page 6
Calendar, Community Support, Website	Page 7
Membership Application, Admin. Team Members	Page 8

LOCAL LEAGUE NEWS

Welcome New Member – Joanne Marden



Our newest member hails from Andover, Massachusetts and has been residing in Montrose for only about four months. Because her daughter and family have lived here for roughly six years, Joanne has been visiting the area, but recently she decided to relocate and start a new phase of her life. She was a long-time member of the League in Andover and felt that joining our local League would provide her with a good information source for local and state issues and would be an avenue by which to meet involved community residents.

Joanne's interests revolve around government finance and tax policy, mimicking her interests over the past 39 years during which she served on Andover's Town Finance Committee and in the Massachusetts Municipal Association. Early in her League membership she remembered a speaker stressing the point that making policy and laws is important, but equally important was getting the funding to carry them out. That statement had a major impact on her life and she strove for many years to participate in research on issues, recommend what financial pathway was best for the town, and inform voters at open town meetings of those findings.

"Is Our Democracy for Sale?" February 8 at Montrose Library



Attendees to the second "Money in Politics" program gathered much information from a program presented by Jan Edwards, the local League secretary. Utilizing data from PowerPoint presentations created by the LWWUS and by the LWW Boulder County, background information was provided on the four major pieces of legislation dating from 1907 or 2002 that addressed efforts to regulate money in elections, on the four major Supreme Court rulings on campaign finance dating from 1976 to 2014, and on the long journey of the interpretation of the 1st Amendment as regards freedom of speech.

For yet a better understanding of how we arrived at the current scenario, Jan then went on to explain where campaign funds are coming from---individuals, PAC's and party committees, all controlled by the candidates---and outside funds---527 Groups, Super PAC's, and 501(c)4 groups, not controlled by the candidates.

Next came the complicated issue of lobbying. Since the turn of the millennium, the amount spent on lobbying in the United States has more than doubled, and in 2016, the totally lobbying spending amount to \$3.15 billion. K Street's influence is muffling our voices!

Wrapping up the informative program, Jan discussed what states and individuals can do to address the problem and what proposed legislation the LWV is following at both state and national levels.

A lively discussion followed with comments focusing mainly on the need for transparency of the outside donations in order for voters to make informed choices, especially as relates to outside money coming into our state. All would vote to have the campaign "season" greatly shortened timewise!

Montrose City Council Candidate Forum – March 1, City Council Chambers



Candidates from L to R: District I Jeremiah Quintin, Doug Glaspell; District II Dave Bowman; At Large: David Stockton and Barbara Bynum

Responding to a request by the City of Montrose to facilitate a City Council Candidate Forum, Tanya Ishikawa served ably as moderator and eight League members and one community member acted as volunteer assistants. As always, the purpose of the forum was to present the views of the candidates in a fair, non-partisan setting so the voters are better able to make informed decisions when voting.

And, indeed, after one hour of questioning, the 40 attendees came away with each candidate's perspective on a wide range of issues including crime, school and residents' safety, infrastructure, city government organization and its charter, affordable housing, homelessness, drug abuse, mental health, environmental concerns, renewable energy, the business environment, and fair representation of all minorities. Nice to see attendees from the Great Decisions group!

Additionally, as the forum was live streamed on the City's Channel 191 and aired live on KUBC (thank you, Dan Lynch of Cherry Creek Media), many more residents were able to learn of the candidates' views.

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF COLORADO

Just a reminder about the Survey Monkey survey regarding the formation of the LWVCO Strategic Plan following input and agreement on goals from League members across the state.

Again, it will be very simple to complete. Just click on the link below if you haven't already done so. You will select one of five answers. In all sections there will also be an opportunity to give your own answer or a narrative response. The survey will be anonymous, so please be candid!!!

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/LWVCOFeedbackSurvey2018>

Questions go to Jill Inman: jill@joiningvisionandaction.com

Let's help the LWVCO to get a representative sample we need a minimum number of member surveys from every local League.

At Council in June, prizes will be awarded to the top two small Leagues and the top two large Leagues for survey completion!

And yet again, **we are all One League; we value your input!**

VOTE411 LWVCO is again participating with LWVUS to produce the VOTE411 online voter's guide for the elections in 2018. The annual fee allows all local Leagues to make use of the website for any local elections throughout 2018. While final details remain to be determined, LWVCO will cover the candidates for all contested state –level races for the Primary Election. This includes the following races: Congressional, Governor, Secretary of State, Attorney General, Treasurer, Legislative races, and CU Regent. Local Leagues will cover local County and Municipal candidates.

It's not too late to subscribe to the **Legislative Letter** and stay up to date during the 2018 Colorado legislative session Just \$30 for a subscription. The biweekly letter is created by the Legislative Action Committee and the staff lobbyist, who follow proposed legislation and analyze pending bills based on League positions.

Name _____
Email: _____

Two payment options (\$30 annual subscription):

- Check made out to LWVCO and mailed to 1410 GRANT ST STE B204, DENVER CO 80203
- PayPal at www.lwvcolorado.org (accepts all major credit cards)

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF THE U.S.

LWVUS Adopts New Mission, Vision, and Value Statements

A mission statement is described as "Why does the organization exist? A succinct expression of an organization's essential reason for being." A vision statement is described as "What does the organization want to become? A description of the world as it would exist if the organization succeeds in achieving its grandest aspirations." A value statement guides the perspective of an organization as well as its actions.

The LWVUS Board adopted the following Mission, Vision and Value Statements and the LWVPPR Admin Team subsequently adopted them at their February meeting:

Mission Statement:

Empowering Voters. Defending Democracy.

Vision Statement:

We envision a democracy where every person has the desire, the right, the knowledge and the confidence to participate.

Value Statement:

We believe in the power of women to create a more perfect democracy.

Why These Statements are Important:

- The League is stronger when we speak with one voice and these statements reinforce our priorities: advancing voting rights and improving democracy.
- These words define who we are in a concise and memorable way.
- These statements are designed to be inclusive – using "WE" instead of "The League."
- As we look to grow and diversify our network, this language will help us be more welcoming as an organization.
- As part of our greater organizational transformation, these words will help us keep our strategic focus on our mission impact work.
- Our Mission, Vision, and Value Statements give us flexibility to talk about ourselves in different ways to different audiences.

The words chosen for all three statements were intentional and chosen with care. The specific wording of our value statement is a reaffirmation of the organization's founding and history – to our 98-year commitment to the belief that women have a strong role in our democracy. It is well understood that it takes a collective movement to drive change. We welcome all, but it is part of our competitive advantage that we offer opportunities to women not found elsewhere.

The entire organization needs to be aligned behind the Mission and Vision Statements, because they describe what kind of future we want for our democracy and how we intend to bring that future into being. The intended audience could be considered when including the value statement.

LWVUS will use all three statements going forward.

Contact info for the Colorado U.S. Congressional Delegation

Sen. Cory Gardner | 303-391-5777 <https://www.gardner.senate.gov/contact-cory/email-cory>

Sen. Michael Bennet | 303-455-7600 / 866-455-9866 <https://www.bennet.senate.gov/?p=contact>

Rep. Diana DeGette (CO District 1) | 303-844-4988 <https://degette.house.gov/contact/send-me-an-email/email-me>

Rep. Jared Polis (CO District 2) | 303-484-9596 <https://polis.house.gov/forms/writeyourrep/>

Rep. Scott Tipton (CO District 3) | 970-241-2499 <https://tipton.house.gov/contact/email>

Rep. Ken Buck (CO District 4) | 970-702-2136 <https://buck.house.gov/contact/email>

Rep. Doug Lamborn (CO District 5) | 719-520-0055 <https://lamborn.house.gov/contact/leave-a-comment.htm>

Rep. Mike Coffman (CO District 6) | 720-748-7514 <https://coffman.house.gov/contact/>

Rep. Ed Perlmutter (CO District 7) | 303-274-7944
<https://perlmutter.house.gov/forms/writeyourrep/>

Contact Info for Colorado General Assembly

Rep. Marc Catlin (CO House District 58) 303-866-2955
marc.catlin.house@state.co.us

Sen. Don Coram (CO Senate District 6) 303-866-4884
don.coram.senate@state.co.us



MAKE YOUR VOICE HEARD!

**2017-2018 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.

**Alpine Archeological
Alpine Bank
Horsefly Brewing Company
La Voz del Pueblo
The Montrose Mirror
Dennis Olmstead
Ron Britten
Karen and Bob Nicholson
Judy Kittson**

**Local League
Calendar**

Mark Yours!

**General Membership
Planning Meeting**

Tuesday, March 13, 11am
Montrose Library
Community Room

April Community Program
– TBD on March 13

Check out our Website:

www.montrose.co.lwvnet.org

Our new webmaster, Tanya Ishikawa, will keep 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.



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.

**Join League of Women Voters of Montrose County
serving Montrose & Delta counties - 2017-2018
Not for Women Only!**

Name(s) _____

Address _____

Phone (H) _____ (Cell) _____

E-mail _____

___ **Individual \$60** (Of this amount \$32 goes to National League; \$20 goes to State League; \$8 is retained by the Montrose League)

___ **Household \$90** – Two members in one household (National League receives \$48; State League \$30; \$12 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

Membership information is available at
<http://montrose.co.lwvnet.org/join form.html>

2017-2018 Administrative Team

Gretchen Nicholoff, LWVCO liaison
970-525-3997, gnicholoff@gmail.com

Jan Edwards, Secretary
1-832-754-6302
janmsw96@icloud.com

Nancy Ball, Treasurer, *Voter* editor
249-8963, nancyball@montrose.net

Tanya Ishikawa, Communications
1-303-819-7784
itanya2008@gmail.com

Susan Chandler-Reed, At Large
249-1076,
susan.chandler.reed@gmail.com

Barb Krebs, At Large
249-3989, stukrebs@hotmail.com

Suze Gingery, At Large
970-258-4067, suze6@q.com

Still looking for a *Voter* editor! Fresh eyes for our new year. If you are interested in taking on this role, contact Nancy Ball at 249-8963.



THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF MONTROSE COUNTY
SERVING MONTROSE AND DELTA COUNTIES
P.O. BOX 3321, MONTROSE, CO 81402

The League of Women Voters, a non-partisan 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.