

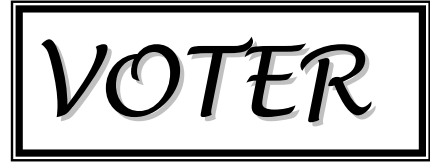


April 2015

Membership: 29

www.montrose.co.lwvnet.org

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



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Letter from the President

Happy Spring to all Montrose and Delta Leaguers!

2014-2015 has been another busy year for our League! **THANK YOU TO CAITLIN** for stepping up when League needed her most---last May to assume the position of president and overseeing our many activities. Caitlin, as you know, recently resigned her positions as president due to business demands, and I agreed to step back in as president until our annual meeting in May when a new slate of officers will be elected.

Speaking of the election of new officers in May, in order for the League to continue to do the things we do so well in 2015-2016, we need to have an active membership. This means filling the four Executive Board positions required by our by-laws---president, vice president, secretary and treasurer---as well as helping with the many programs and events. This past year the current Board worked diligently and by their efforts League's visibility has increased in our communities, resulting in several new memberships. I know we can do it yet again!

At our 2015 -2016 programming planning meeting in January, ideas for a behavioral health study, campaign finance reform, voting rights, environmental and climate concerns, voter registration, and KIDS VOTE received support. Also, in May of 2016 our League will be co-hosting the LWVCO Council with the Gunnison League, so **needless to say, our League will need a strong new Board to coordinate this ambitious agenda! Please step up and serve!**

Many thanks for being a League member and for your continued support!
Karen Connor

Our **April program** is one you won't want to miss. Hope to see you there, and do spread the word and bring a friend!

"An Overview of Social Security"

Thursday, April 2 at noon
Montrose Regional Library Community Room

An ABC's primer: What exactly are the programs that make up Social Security? Who and what do they cover? How are they administered? What is the interplay with Medicare and Medicaid? Who pays for it? How is the Social Security Fund faring?"

LOCAL LEAGUE NEWS

Introducing New Member, Tressa Walker Guyens



Tressa moved to Montrose in the summer of 2012 following 30 years of service with the State of Mississippi to enjoy the outdoor activities offered by Colorado's Western Slope with her husband, Jeff, who is a personal trainer and who worked with the Mississippi State Department of Education. She quickly became engaged in the community, logging over 500 volunteer hours!

Having served as a business/office manager, accountant/auditor, insurance examiner, Chief Examiner of the Mississippi Department of Insurance, Assistant to the Secretary of the Senate, and then Secretary of the Mississippi State Senate, she certainly deserved a rest! Her two years of relaxation have been spent hiking, snowmobiling, ATVing, downhill skiing, snow shoeing, horseback riding and playing tennis---in between her many volunteer hours.

Feeling rejuvenated and seeing the position of Montrose County Clerk and Recorder become available due to Fran Long's resignation, plus believing she was well-qualified for the job, Tressa submitted her impressive resume and was appointed by the Montrose County Commissioners to fill the seat in February on an interim basis until the election of 2016.

Tressa feels living in Montrose has turned out to be an even better experience than she had expected due to the openness and generosity of the community residents, and the dedication and the level of competency of her staff.

When asked about joining the League, Tressa said she had not been a member in Mississippi however felt it would be to her benefit "not to live in a bubble" but to broaden her scope of knowledge of issues vital to the community and the state through affiliation with a non-partisan, education-oriented group.

Realizing that her plate is oh so full as she "learns the ropes" of her new job, we are pleased to have Tressa's support and look forward to seeing her at our monthly programs!

D.M.E.A. Board Candidate Forums

DMEA has once again asked our League to moderate its candidate forums which are scheduled for May 12 at the DMEA offices in Montrose and for May 14 at the Hotchkiss Senior Center, 276 West Main Street. Both forums will start at 6:00 P.M.

MARCH PROGRAM - "PERSONAL PRIVACY IN THE DIGITAL AGE"



Karen Connor, acting president, commenced the program held at noon on March 5 in the Montrose Library by welcoming the 25 attendees, announcing the League's upcoming events in March and April, and introducing the guest presenter, Paul Janzen.

Mr. Janzen, an avid follower of this topic, presented four UTube videos and a handout, all of which drove home the point that with the rise of e-commerce, vast usage of social media, a seemingly unending egotistical need to post "selfies", Smartphones, Google, credit card purchases, global positioning systems (GPS), and the robust beginnings of the utilization of drones we are indeed "being watched" by marketers of all stripes. Are you aware the world's largest computer maker, Lenova, has pre-loaded laptop computers with adware (Superfish) that can track users' every move, even on secure sites? The company was caught and has apologized...but the adware is hard to detect and remove.

One of the main obstacles to personal privacy protection stems from the fact that technology has advanced far more quickly than the legislation to govern it. Additionally, Mr. Janzen informed us about the mega-data gathering by "aggregators" that analyze it and sell the information to marketers and producers of all stripes, and the production of sophisticated drones and GPS systems for "homeland security" that result in the privatization of some military activities. Both are big businesses supported by corporations and the government.

A lively audience discussion followed that supported the positive aspects of technology, such as drones being used for forest health and agriculture monitoring, forest fire awareness, the news media, real estate sales, and law enforcement and border surveillance. Several attendees told of negative personal experiences of being tracked unwittingly (at first) when they purchased new electronic devices.

The Federal Aviation Agency (FAA) recently released proposed rules for commercial drone use that state that drones must weigh less than 55 pounds, fly at a maximum speed of 100 mph no more than 500 feet above the ground, cannot be flown at night or over densely populated areas. However, with the capability of drones being weaponized and the fact that drones as small as mosquitoes are now being manufactured, attendees all agreed comprehensive legislation needs to be addressed asap.

The audience also came away realizing that technology is now so entrenched in our culture that the issue of personal privacy is here to stay and that we have some responsibility to maintain it!

MARCH WAS "WOMEN IN HISTORY MONTH"

And did we celebrate it! Focusing on historical women from Delta, Montrose and Ouray counties, League featured month-long exhibits at the Delta County and Montrose County libraries and held a "social" in the



fully-restored Lutheran Church sited at the Museum of the Mountain West in Montrose. The latter featured guest speaker, Gail Saunders of the Ouray County Historical Society, who kept the 37 attendees enthralled with her recounting of the active lives and incredible contributions made by nine women from the three local counties, supplemented by photos. The information was enthusiastically received by the audience, and a spirited conversation followed, with several of the attendees adding personal anecdotes. It seemed everyone learned something new and was impressed with the achievements of our female forbearers! An optional tour of the museum guided by co-owner Rich Fike followed and about ten people took advantage of the most excellent opportunity!



Diane Balk, Pat Ewen and ZillaMay Brown



Guest presenter, Gail Saunders



Karen Connor welcomes the attendees



Marilyn Cox & Gail Saunders, historians

STATE LEAGUE NEWS

NEWS FLASH:

The LWVCO Board recently voted to hold its **May 2016 Council in Montrose!** Karen Connor in her capacity as a state board member educated the Board on the many pluses of our town and advocated for it being chosen as the host city. Kudos and thanks to you, Karen!

State Convention

LWVCO CONVENTION - MAY 16, 17 City of Boulder

9 am Saturday to 12:30 pm Sunday

Convention is a time to acquaint yourself with the workings of the State League and is a delightful way to meet Leaguers from other Colorado cities and towns and to learn what issues they are dealing with on their local levels!

The venue is the Millennium Harvest House located at 1345 Twenty-Eighth Street, Boulder, CO 80302.

Registration and room reservations will start March 20. The deadline is April 17.

Tours will include Avery Brewery, Celestial Seasonings, the CHaRM Recycle Center, and a walking tour of the Historic Mapleton District. Tours: \$10

SILENT AUCTION: Local Leagues are invited to donate items for the Silent Auction. The revenues from your donated items are shared between state and your local League. What a fun and easy way to raise some money!

Interested in attending? Our League has budgeted to send 2-3 representatives, so please contact Karen Connor at 275-1314 for more information. Anything to donate? Also, let Karen know.

NATIONAL LEAGUE NEWS

ADVOCACY

League Opposes H.R. 412 and H.R. 195

The League sent a letter to the U.S. House of Representatives Committee on House Administration urging Representatives to vote no on H.R. 412 and H.R. 195. These bills would repeal the presidential public financing system and terminate the Election Assistance Commission (EAC).

League Supports Presidential Library Reform Act

The League sent letters to the U.S. House Oversight and Government Affairs Committee and the U.S. Senate Homeland Security and Government Affairs Committee in support of H.R. 1069 and S. 558, the Presidential Library Reform Act. This bipartisan legislation would introduce a measure of transparency to fundraising for presidential libraries.

League Joins Letter to EPA Regarding Ozone Standards

The League joined with more than 85 environment groups, public health advocates, labor allies, environmental justice and civil rights organizations and faith groups in support of revising the primary National Ambient Air Quality Standard (NAAQS) for ozone to a level of 60 parts per billion (ppb).

League Joins Letter to U.S. House on H.R. 425

The League joined a letter to members of the U.S. House of Representatives encouraging them to support and cosponsor H.R. 425, legislation that would end coordination between Super PACs and candidates.

League Delegates Attend the Commission on the Status of Women

By: Stephanie Drahan 03/18/2015



EDITORIAL NOTE: *This guest blog post was written by Rosalee Keech, a member of the LWWUS Board of Directors and our [United Nations Observer](#)*

Over the course of a week in March, starting on International Women's Day, more than 9,000 delegates from 1,100 non-governmental organizations joined with delegates from United Nations (UN) member states for the 59th annual [Commission on the Status of Women](#) (CSW59). Amongst those delegates, were representatives from the League of Women Voters who convened in New York City to learn, listen and bring back ideas on improving the rights of women in areas of political and economic empowerment, violence, security, health, poverty and climate change.

As CSW59 coincided with the [20th anniversary](#) of the [Fourth World Conference on Women](#), held in Beijing, the conference resulted not only in a reaffirmation of the [Beijing Declaration](#) and Platform for Action, but also a recognition that while progress has been made, unfortunately "we're not there yet".

During the [Opening Session](#), Secretary General Ban Ki-moon urged all delegates to help make political and economic empowerment of women and girls a reality as it spurs growth and sustainability as well as acts as a buffer for radicalization [saying](#) "truly powerful men are those who believe in and work for the empowerment of women." Further, he called for an end to gender violence, including at home. **For the first time in 59 years, the Security Council president spoke and attended the CSW, where she pledged to include women in rebuilding, peace-building and decision-making. Further, she underscored how violence against women and girls is a tactic of war as it immediately breaks down the community.**

Over the course of 2015, the UN will focus on finalizing the post 2015 [Sustainable Development Goals](#) (SDGs), which build upon the Millennium Development Goals. **Gender equality is a key component of the Sustainable Development Goals as currently drafted. The international community has finally recognized that unless women and girls are active partners in the solution, none of the goals will be met.**

One of the fundamental tenets of the Commission on the Status of Women is to not only highlight best practices, but also to provide research and proof that these strategies are working. As Secretary General Ban Ki-moon has iterated time and again, "what gets measured, gets done." Key to this is understanding if strategies are working and then ensuring those strategies become more effective in achieving results. Self-improvement and focus on results are critical to helping diverse actors from the private sector, civil society, academia and the UN achieve the results required.

CSW59, like its predecessors, has been and continues to be a way to share those best practices and strategies in order to implement the solutions successfully at the grass root level. **LWWUS has been an active player in this and previous Commissions, sharing best practices, research and proof of how women are making the difference at all levels of society.**

This post is part of "[Celebrating Women: Past, Present & Future](#)," the League's series honoring Women's History Month.

2014-2015 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 Archaeological
Julie Gleason
Dennis Olmstead
Sarah Combs
The Montrose Mirror
Rod Britten
Horsefly Brewing Company
Montrose Bank
Delta Bank
Surface Creek Bank
North Fork Bank
Shirley Ela**

LEAGUE CALENDAR

April - Social Security Overview

2 Noon Montrose Library

May - Annual Meeting & Election of Officers for 2015-2016 Year

7 Noon TBD

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.



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



**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.

2014-2015 Board Members

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

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

Membership: membership information available at http://montrose.co.lwvnet.org/join_form.html

Voter Newsletter: Nancy Ball

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

At Large:

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