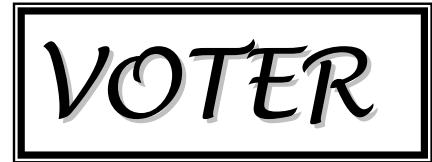




April 2016 **100th edition** Membership: 41 - 18 new members in the past year!

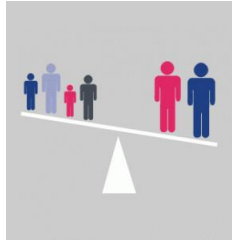
LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS®
*Serving Montrose and Delta
Counties*



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

Income Inequality/Minimum Wage/Living Wage

separate the rhetoric from the numbers



Wednesday, April 20, Noon
Montrose Library Community Room
Guest Speaker: Paul Janzen

Mr. Janzen will present the economic case illustrating our inequality and the economic effects with our current minimum wage and the effects of an increase.

Pass the word along...

LWVCO Council - May 21-22

"FIRST CALL TO LWVCO COUNCIL 2016 Making Democracy Work Throughout Colorado! May 21-22, 2016 Holiday Inn Express, Montrose" graced the front page of the March LWVCO *Vote!*

Time is drawing closer, so please contact Karen Connor if you are interested in being one of the two voting delegates from Montrose/Delta. Also, League members may attend as observers, as space permits.

Again, needless to say, as **we are the host League, volunteer helpers are needed**, so yet again contact Karen if you are interested in assisting with registration, day tours, menus, transportation, goody bag items, whatever...

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

For the vitally important 2016-2017 year we are trying something new---an **administrative team**. The recruiting committee will be calling members about participation in this exciting new concept, plus a **general membership** strategy meeting is scheduled for **Wednesday, April 6, at noon** in the Montrose Library to discuss this idea and much more. In America's politically charged climate, our non-partisan role in educating citizens and promoting dialogue is vitally important---now more than ever.

Please mark your calendars and attend!

Democracy is not a spectator sport!

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Happy April Birthdays to Karen Connor and Barb Krebs!

"Congratulations" and "many more" to our illustrious president of four terms, and to the oldest member, well oldest original member, of our local league...



LOCAL LEAGUE NEWS

WELCOME New Member, Judy Kittson



Born, raised and educated near Auckland, New Zealand, the first country to grant women the right to vote, Judy brings a new perspective to our League. It was while working as a civil engineer that she met visiting American, Jim Maloney, whom she married after a bit of continent-hopping. Their careers have brought homes in Estes Park, Florida, New York, Cape Cod, Salt Lake City, Montrose, and for Judy a recent additional stint in Denver. Their son, Jay, a mechanical, engineer, lives in Kansas, and their daughter, Erin, an accountant, lives in California and is to be married in Telluride in May. Judy is currently employed by the Bureau of Land Management as the engineer for the southwest district, and Jim retired from the same agency three year ago. She enjoys outdoor activities, like hiking and days spent at the beach, and racquet sports. One of the reasons Judy became a citizen 15 years ago was because she wanted to have the opportunity to make a difference in local politics, and she has joined League because she wants to become a better-educated voter. Her top two social interests are the cost of health care and funding mental health and Planned Parenthood, while her political interests focus on immigration and gun safety.

WELCOME New Member, Linda Gann



Linda is a Colorado native, born in Glenwood Springs, attended school in Grand Junction and Carbondale. She graduated from Roaring Fork High School in Carbondale and Colorado Mountain College in Glenwood. She and her husband David (County Commissioner 1996-2000) have three children, a daughter who teaches at Centennial Middle School and a son who works for REI in California. Their son, Matthew, passed away in 1989. While the couple owned and operated several family farms, Linda was also employed by the Re1-J School District for many years where her focus was community engagement and special projects working with the media and grant writing. Linda's proudest achievements revolve around passage of the 2002 \$23 million bond issue for capital improvements and the establishment of school-based health care centers at Northside Elementary School and in Olathe. Linda retired from her work for the school district in 2010. In 2012, because of her interest in improving the access to health coverage for western Colorado, she began her career with Connect for Health Colorado, currently serving as Senior Manager of the Western Slope Region. Linda is responsible for the social media channels of Connect for Health Colorado, educating/providing clear and unbiased information on the health care reform to folks from Steamboat to Cortez, including tribal outreach, personally and through the media. She works closely with western slope brokers and health coverage guides certified with Connect for Health Colorado. She is also a member of the San Juan Regional Council of El Pomar and of Building a Better Colorado. In her spare time she gardens, walks, and rides her bicycle. Linda joined the League because she believes in its mission of education and advocacy.

WELCOME New Member, Chelsea Rosty



A Colorado native born and raised in Grand Junction, Chelsea received her B.S. in marketing and economics from the University of Wyoming, attending on a rodeo scholarship. Following graduation, she moved to Sidney, Nebraska where she worked in the marketing department at the corporate office of Cabela's sporting goods store. She spent some time in Grand Junction working for a local marketing agency, and then moved to Montrose to work for the Montrose County Sheriff's Department. Interestingly, Chelsea said she developed professionalism in that 5-year position due to the high standards of the department. That trait obviously created a successful career pathway for her because she currently is the Vice President of Marketing for NuVista Credit Union in Montrose. Chelsea has been married to her husband, Phil, an officer of the Montrose Police Department, for two years. Her interests include running, traveling the world, and animals---their home includes dogs, goats, horses, and chickens. Our newest member said that she joined League because she wants to broaden her knowledge base on current local, state and national issues.

New members Silke and Gordon Printz will be profiled when they return from Europe.

27th Annual Colorado Women's Legislative Breakfast by Susan Welk de Valdez



Susan and Sen. Irene Aguilar (right) at the Colorado Women's Legislative Breakfast. Sen. Aguilar represents Senate District 32, and serves on the Health and Human Services and Judiciary committees

I, a Delta LWV member, attended the 27th Annual Colorado Women's Legislative Breakfast on February 23, 2016 in Denver. The approximately 90 attendees were welcomed by Peg Perl, Board Chair of the Women's Lobby of Colorado, followed by an introduction of the legislative panel. The seven legislators who comprised the bipartisan panel were: Sen. Irene Aguilar, Sen. Beth Martinez-Humenik, Sen. Larry Crowder, Rep. Daneya Esgar, Rep. Dominick Moreno, Rep. Catherine Roupe, and Rep. Jovan Melton. Each of the panel members gave brief remarks about bills they had introduced, and answered a round of questions prepared by the moderator, but I had hoped for time for audience questions! It was interesting to hear that several of the legislators had never considered running for public office. They shared a common story about being a private citizen involved in committees and projects in their communities, and voicing their frustrations with government, when somebody said, "hey, you should run for office". The keynote breakfast speaker was Rosemary Lytle, an experienced journalist, who currently serves as President of the NAACP for Colorado, Montana and Wyoming, and as the Executive Director of Positive Impact Colorado. She spoke about this being the "Year of the Woman", and peppered her speech with quotes from two of her role models -- Shirley Chisholm and Sojourner Truth.

Teen Opportunity Expo, February 24 = Success!



Answering a request from the Montrose Youth Council (M.Y.C.), our League hosted a booth at the Teen Opportunity Expo held at Montrose High School to assist with online voter registration of eligible students. "Manned" by Karen Connor and Barb Krebs and Alex Hanley of the M.Y.C., success was measured by the 11 newly-registered voters: 10 students and one 32 year old male from another booth.

Montrose City Council Candidate Forum - March 3 by Robin Flom/Photos by Jon Flom



The League of Women Voters Montrose County and the City of Montrose jointly sponsored a City Council Candidate Forum at the City Council Chambers at 7pm. Karen Connor, League president, was the moderator for the evening, and Tressa Guynes, Montrose County Clerk & Recorder, the timekeeper. All four candidates attended the forum, although two of the seats are uncontested: Ron Anderson from District III and Judy Ann Files from District IV, who is the only incumbent. Marjorie Morgenstern and Dave Bowman are seeking the single at-large seat. After each candidate gave an opening statement, Karen Connor asked the first question: "What is the first item or issue you would like to address as a member of the city council and why is this a priority?" Here are their answers in a nutshell:

Roy Anderson said his first priority is economic prosperity. He is especially interested in maintaining and restoring historic charm of our downtown.

Marjorie Morgenstern expressed concern about the roads in Montrose and economic issues.

Dave Bowman said he wants to totally understand the budget. He also stated that he is concerned about the atmosphere and relationships between the city and county governments and other entities.

Judy Ann Files is concerned about developing a connector between Grand and Rio Grande streets. She too mentioned the necessity for the different government entities to work as a team.

After the opening question, members of audience asked questions pertinent to each of the council members. One question addressed the expansion of broadband making Montrose a gigabit city. All candidates responded positively to DMEA's announcement in the *Montrose Press* that they will be bringing broadband into homes in Montrose. Roy Anderson stated, "Being a gigabit city is essential to our economy, schools, and the medical community." Other topics directed to the council candidates included questions about providing tax incentives to incoming businesses, reducing the cities' carbon footprint, and shortening the learning curve for new council members. An over-arching theme of the forum was the necessity for improving employee morale and establishing better communication between the city, county and other city government entities. The forum concluded with each member giving a brief closing statement. They then thanked the League of Women voters for hosting the forum. A lively round of applause brought the evening to a close.

Why You Should Care About ColoradoCare - March 23



With the LWVCO announcing support of ColoradoCare Amendment #69 (see page 6), our League took the opportunity to educate itself and the community on the issue by hosting guest speaker, T.R. Reid, an internationally renowned journalist, author, documentary film writer, public radio commentator and speaker, who has studied health care around the world and has committed his support to the amendment that will be on the November ballot. Mr. Reid stated that he is upset by the opening phrase of the ballot initiative because he feels it is misleading, so he and his associate, Lyn Gullette, campaign manager of ColoradoCare Yes, are on the road working to educate voters on the plan, which he readily admits is not perfect. But then we don't have a choice between perfect and not, do we!

The Peregrine Room at the Holiday Inn was overflowing with people eager to learn about our state's proposed single payer health care reform known as ColoradoCare. Thirteen League members, four who traveled all the way from Gunnison, were among the 60 attendees. Mr. Reid began by saying he feels it is a moral imperative to provide health care for all residents of the United States (the US is the only wealthy developed nation not to do so), but believes that accomplishing that goal on a national level is not possible at this time due to the gridlock in Congress. Thus, like the struggle for women's suffrage, the movement is proceeding on a state-by-state basis, and Colorado would be leading the nation. And, at evening's end, several folks stepped up to volunteer to advocate locally!

Reporting as a foreign correspondent for The Washington Post, Mr. Reid lived with his family in six countries over sixteen years, during which time health care needs arose, were handled well, and at a fraction of the cost of equal care here. So, he became intensely interested in the issue of health care, eventually finding it was a passion. Otherwise, as he said, why would a person come to the Western Slope to ask for a \$25 billion tax increase! He quickly followed up with the words "compared to what?", pointing out that Coloradoans are now paying \$30 billion for medical premiums and care. The Affordable Care Act (A.C.A.), though a step in the right direction, has left 33 million Americans without health care coverage, 22,000 people die each year from treatable diseases, and there are hundreds of thousands of bankruptcies around our nation due to inability to pay medical bills. And, we U.S. taxpayers pay for that care one way or another already! None of this is true in other wealthy developed nations.

Mr. Reid believes ColoradoCare to be a good plan, far better than what we have now, because it provides Colorado residents with universal coverage from nine months before birth to age 65, **no deductibles**, increased choice of care as there are **no "networks"**, it **costs less**---\$25 billion rather than \$30---and to the relief of a fair number of attendees it doesn't "mess with" Medicare parts A, B, and D! It will be administered within the state by a board of 21 elected members, three from each of state's seven regions, similar to the structure of rural electrical associations like D.M.E.A. Board terms are four years, with elections similar to those for D.M.E.A. board members. Administrative costs are projected to be **4%**, compared to 20% now set by the A.C.A. for health insurance companies!

Basically, the \$25 billion to cover a basic level of quality care would be raised by a payroll tax of 6.7% for employers (including workmen's compensation, which greatly pleased the several business owners in the room) and 3.3% for employees (two in a household = two payroll deductions), with self-employed folks paying the full 10%. As state taxes, they are deductible from federal income tax filings. Medicare recipients earning more than \$66,000/year would be taxed the full 10% (to questions on that issue Mr. Reid offered the explanation that while he doesn't have children in school now he still pays the tax and is glad to do so as it benefits the community). Provider pay is expected to be 133% of Medicare allowances, probably more in the range of 144% for rural providers. January 1, 2019 would be the effective date, leaving over two years to get set up, and a .9 payroll tax would go into effect a few months prior to the start date (.6 employer and .3 employee) to have money available for provider payout funds.

Of course, private health care insurance can be purchased in addition to ColoradoCare coverage. Particulars of the plan can be downloaded from the ColoradoCare Yes website www.ColoradoCareYes.co --- and the League urges you to do so!

STATE LEAGUE NEWS

LWVCO HAS A NEW WEBSITE <http://www.lwvcolorado.org/>

ColoradoCare Amendment 69 League Support Paper

Nancy Crow, the LWVCO VP Program, has written a paper explaining the state League's support of ColoradoCare Amendment #69 that will be on the ballot in the 2016 fall elections. She writes that the LWVCO Board based its support of the proposed amendment on the LWVUS position on health care that is comprised of six statements. Your local *Voter* newsletter will highlight one or two statements each month up to the general elections.

1. Basic Level of Quality Care: Every U.S. resident should have access to a basic level of care that includes the prevention of disease, health promotion and education, primary care including prenatal and reproductive health, acute care, long-term care and mental health care. Dental, vision, and hearing care also are important but lower in priority. The League believes that under any system of health care, consumer/patients should be permitted to purchase services or insurance coverage beyond the basic level.

[ColoradoCare: Provides the comprehensive care to meet the League position. Includes oral, vision and hearing for children. If revenues permit, these will be added for all members. Mental health and substance abuse treatment are included in the comprehensive care.]

LWVCO Announces Grants are Available for Local Leagues

Do you have an topic idea for a local project? Applications for a 2016-2017 Project Fund Grant or an EZ Grant are to be filed between May 1 and June 30, 2016

Behavioral Health Concurrence Update

As LWVCO received support from local and state Leagues from across the country, and thus has the geographic diversity it needed, LWVCO has sent a Behavioral Health Concurrence Proposal to LWVUS, asking the LWVUS Board of Directors to make this a recommended agenda item at LWVUS Convention, June 16 – 19, in Washington, D.C. LWVCO has e-mailed requests for support to local and state Leagues across the country and is organizing a Behavioral Health Caucus at Convention with speakers from three national organizations: Mental Health America, NAMI (National Alliance on Mental Illness) and SAMHSA (federal Substance Abuse Mental Health Services Administration).

Building a Better Colorado By Nancy Crow, LWVCO VP Program

The LWVCO Board encourages League members to participate in the statewide discussion sponsored by Building a Better Colorado. This is a nonpartisan organization that is addressing these important questions: What kind of state government do voters want? How do we create laws and amend our state constitution? How do we elect our representatives to the state government? How do we manage our state budget? These are critical questions to Colorado's future. Building a Better Colorado has held dozens of community summits across the state to engage civic leaders in a discussion about the initiative process, election system, and our financial future. Go to their website at www.betterco.org to add your comments online. The LWVCO strongly supports the participation of all citizens of Colorado in these discussions.

Congratulations to Linda Rinehart, Member LWV Arapahoe Douglas

Linda was recently presented the Peer Advocate of the Year Award by Mental Health Colorado (the new name for Mental Health America of Colorado). Linda is also a member LWVCO Legislative Action Committee and assisted in formulating the Behavioral Health Task Force Report and Study Materials.



Election Day 2016 is coming!

EDUCATE, ADVOCATE, IMPACT!

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
Snow Fox Sushi - Van Bawi- City Market

MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

April

6 **General Membership Meeting**
Noon Montrose Library

20 **Income Inequality/Living Wage**
Noon Montrose Library

May

3 **Annual Meeting- Luncheon & Election of Administrative Committee**
Noon Venue TBD

10 **Immigration/Citizenship**
12:30 Montrose Library 106

21-22 **LWVCO Council**
Holiday Inn Express & The Bridges

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.



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!



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
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

Voter Newsletter: Nancy Ball, 249-8963
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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.