



August 2013

Membership: 30

www.Montrose.co.lwvnet.org

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF MONTROSE COUNTY

Serving Montrose and Delta Counties

www.lwv.orgwww.lwvcolorado.org

VOTER

This edition of the Voter honors Bonnie Koch, our dedicated Leaguer and talented editor/publisher for the past seven years, who has done a marvelous job of making us aware of upcoming events and educating us on vital local and state issues. Bonnie will be sorely missed, and we heartily wish her all the best in her new home. Minneapolis' gain is surely our loss!



THANK YOU FOR YOUR SERVICE

AND YOUR WISE COUNSEL!

NEXT ON THE CALENDAR....

DO YOU KNOW SOMEONE...

who deserves recognition for a positive contribution he/she has made to our Montrose or Delta County communities in areas such as

**Education, Community Service
Recreation, Social Services
Business, Government
Media, Environmentalism, etc.**


If so, nominate that person for **The League of Women Voters of Montrose County 2013 "Making Democracy Work Award"**. While this award will honor a resident of Montrose County for the second year, 2013 will be the inaugural year for the award in Delta County.

Nomination forms can be downloaded from our website, www.montrose.co.lwvnet.org. Forms must be received by the League of Women Voters of Montrose County, P.O. Box 3321, Montrose, CO 81402 by Monday, August 19 for Montrose County and Tuesday, August 27 for Delta County nominations.

You are encouraged to share this information with organizations with which you are involved.

In addition to the many organizations to which we have sent letters requesting nominations, we plan to extend personal invitations to city and county official of both counties, and will place notices in various media.

A community display announcing the event and seeking nominations is featured in a showcase at the of the Montrose District Library commencing July 15 and posters will be sent to the various libraries in Delta County.



The League of Women Voters®
of Montrose County
invites you to attend

**"CONNECT FOR HEALTH COLORADO-
are you ready for October 1, 2013 &
January 1, 2014?"**

Linda Gann, Western Slope Outreach Coordinator
for the Colorado Health Benefit Exchange, will
discuss the latest updates.

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 5, AT NOON

**MONTROSE MEMORIAL HOSPITAL CONFERENCE
ROOMS A&B**

**HOW DOES IT WORK? HOW IS IT FUNDED? HOW
ARE PRICES SET? AM I ELIGIBLE FOR A
SUBSIDY/TAX CREDIT? WHAT PLANS ARE
AVAILABLE AND WHEN? WHAT IF MY CURRENT
EMPLOYER'S FAMILY COVERAGE IS TOO COSTLY?**



The League of Women Voters®
of Montrose County

invites the Montrose community to the
presentation of our second annual
"MAKING DEMOCRACY WORK AWARD"

to recognize a leader actively working to keep our
community a strong and vibrant place to live.

Thursday, September 12, 6:00-8:00 PM
The Bridges Clubhouse

\$15 admission
Appetizers served
Cash Bar


MANY THANKS TO

**HORSEFLY BREWING
COMPANY**

&

RED BARN RESTAURANT

**FOR HOSTING FUNDRAISERS
AND DONATING \$108 AND
\$180 RESPECTIVELY**



The League of Women Voters®
of Montrose County

Invites the Delta County community to the
presentation of our first annual
"MAKING DEMOCRACY WORK AWARD"

to recognize a Delta County leader actively
working to keep our community a strong and
vibrant place to live.

Friday, September 27, 7:00 PM
Paonia Town Park
Mountain Harvest Festival Chili Cook-Off

LWV Reacts to Supreme Court Decision on the Voting Rights Act

SUPREME COURT ERASES PROTECTIONS AGAINST RACIAL DISCRIMINATION IN VOTING

Congress Must Act Quickly to Restore the Voting Rights Act

Washington, D.C. – “Today is a sad day in America: Through its decision in *Shelby County, Alabama v. Holder*, the U.S. Supreme Court erased fundamental protections against racial discrimination in voting that have been effective for more than 40 years,” said Elisabeth MacNamara, President of the League of Women Voters of the U.S. “Only strong action from Congress can fix this huge mistake made by the Court.”

“Today, the Court weakened the Voting Rights Act (VRA) as a mechanism to fight discrimination by striking down Section 4, which determines the states and jurisdictions that must secure federal approval before changing election laws,” said MacNamara. “We believe that today’s Supreme Court decision is naïve. The fact that the Department of Justice blocked over 700 voting changes they found to be discriminatory from 1982 through the VRA’s 2006 reauthorization speaks for itself.”

“The impact of this decision on voters will be significant and far-reaching,” MacNamara said. “This decision will only embolden those who seek to create barriers to voters’ rights. Without a strong VRA, our ability to fight off anti-voter legislation and keep our elections free, fair and accessible is significantly weakened.”

During the 2006 Congressional reauthorization of the VRA, a record of thousands of pages of testimony helped illustrate the continuing problems in covered jurisdictions. Overwhelmingly bi-partisan Congressional action was taken based on a solid case for the continued need of the VRA.

“The progress we have made eliminating discrimination in voting is because of the VRA and its enforcement over the past four decades,” said MacNamara. As Justice Ginsberg wrote in her *Shelby* dissent: “In truth, the evolution of voting discrimination into more subtle second-generation barriers is powerful evidence that a remedy as effective as preclearance remains vital to protect minority voting rights and prevent backsliding. Beyond question, the VRA is no ordinary legislation. It is extraordinary because Congress embarked on a mission long delayed and of extraordinary importance: to realize the purpose and promise of the Fifteenth Amendment. For a half century, a concerted effort has been made to end racial discrimination in voting. Thanks to the Voting Rights Act, progress once the subject of a dream has been achieved and continues to be made.”

“We need the VRA to combat these ‘second-generation barriers’ and the pernicious discrimination that is less visible than what occurred decades ago but no less harmful to the right to vote,” MacNamara said. “We will be going to Congress to fix this issue and ask them to restore the VRA to its full strength,” said MacNamara. “Solutions for voters *are* required on an issue as fundamental as the voting rights of *all* Americans.”

“The *Shelby* decision is a great disappointment,” concluded MacNamara, “but it should also be a great call to action by those who believe in free and fair access by every eligible voter. Congress must act and voters must vote at every opportunity.”

INTERESTED IN ATTENDING?

September 28, State Capital, Denver

LWVCO League Day – get the latest information on League *happenings* and the upcoming legislative session.

Contact Karen Connor at (970) 275-1314 or kconnor1941@gmail.com for details.

INTERESTED IN HELPING?

September 28 and/or 29, Mountain Harvest Festival, Paonia - host a LWV booth

Contact Peggy Baxter by August 27 at (970) 856-6225 or peggybax@gmail.com for details.

2013-2014 Proposed Program Topics

Immigration Reform

Responsible Journalism

LWUS Position/Agriculture

**Agricultural Hemp/
Water Issues**

Campaign Finance Reform

**Equality of Women in the
Workplace**

Voting Rights



LWVCO Board Retreat, July 6. Note our own Karen Connor, at-large representative. Bobbie Heisterkamp, the new LWVCO president, hosted the meeting and took the photo.

2013-2014 LWV Community Support

The Montrose County League of Women Voters thanks these local businesses, organizations and individuals who have donated financial and in-kind support for the 2013-2014 year. Please add your thank you when you patronize these businesses or visit with these individuals.

- Alpine Archaeological**
- Julie Gleason**
- Dennis Olmstead**
- Horsefly Brewing Company**
- Red Barn Restaurant**
- Ellie and Steve Dooley**

League Calendar

Make sure these dates are on your family calendar:

- August 19 & 27,** deadlines for nominations for "Making Democracy Work Award" for Montrose and Delta
- September 5, Noon, Montrose Regional Hospital Conference Rooms:** Linda Gann, Western Slope Coordinator for the Colorado Insurance Exchange, will present an update on Connect for Health Colorado.
- September 12, 6-8 pm, The Bridges Clubhouse:** Montrose County "Making Democracy Award" presentation and reception
- September 27, 7 pm, Paonia Town Park:** Delta County "Making Democracy Work Award" presentation
- October 3, Noon, Montrose Library:** Montrose County Ballot Issues
- October 10, 7 pm, Delta Courthouse:** Delta County Ballot Issues
- November 7, Noon, Montrose Library:** Immigration Reform

2013-2014 Board Members

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

Secretary: Joan Elliott, 240-4945,
joamar1@juno.com

Treasurer: Kathryn Carson, 249-3776,
pkcarson@bresnan.net

Delta Representative: Peggy Baxter, 856-6225, peggybax@gmail.com

Delta Representative: Martha Grewall, 856-4748, grewalmarta@yahoo.com

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

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

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

LWVUS Agriculture Study: Barb Krebs, 249-3989 stukrebs@hotmail.com

At Large: Rosemary Murphy, 249-3925,
mmurfh@hotmail.com

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

Membership: Tammy Theis, 209-4507,
unionyes@montrose.net

Join League of Women Voters of Montrose County

2013-2014

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 \$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 – 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 LWVCO Ed Fund – 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 Kathryn Carson, 62431 N. Star Dr., Montrose CO 81403
Questions? Contact Tammy Theis, 209-4507, unionyes@montrose.net



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.