



August 2015

Membership: 33

[www.montrose.co.lwvnet.org](http://www.montrose.co.lwvnet.org)

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

**VOTER**

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

**JOIN US IN CELEBRATING THE 95TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE PASSAGE OF THE  
19TH AMENDMENT ON AUGUST 26  
1920 - 2015**



**To commemorate this auspicious occasion, two events are planned:**

**A parade in period costume (or as close as you can come) with signage (they are already made) near and around the Delta County Courthouse from 4-5 pm on Wednesday, the 26th of August. We will be carpooling from Montrose, so if you are interested, contact Nancy Ball at 249-8963.**

**A "Get to Know the League Movie Night" on Thursday, August 27 at 6:30 pm in the Montrose Library Community Room featuring the film "Iron Jawed Angels" .**

**Additionally, there will be exhibits in both the Delta and Montrose libraries highlighting the Suffragette movements.**

**National Voter Registration Day -  
Tuesday, September 22**

**Volunteers needed to assist with online voter registration in Delta and Montrose. It's simple, important and fun!**

**Call Karen at 249-2135 for more information and to sign up.**

## **LOCAL LEAGUE NEWS**

### **ANDI FURMAN - A REMARKABLE WOMAN WHO LIVED LIFE TO THE FULLEST**



It is with sadness that the League says farewell to Andi Furman, a staunch supporter and multi-year member, who passed away on June 22. In spite of failing health over the past several years, Andi's iron will pushed her to attend League events, and it was by sheer determination she made it our annual meeting in May, bringing her beaming smile.

During retirement years in Montrose her artistic talents as a photographer, painter and bookbinder and physical prowess as an avid hiker and tennis player bloomed, however, it was through her intellectual curiosity and input that League members best know her. College graduate, wife, mother, grandmother, hostess extraordinaire, teacher/mentor, friend, volunteer at the Museum of the Mountain West along with her beloved husband, Dick, volunteer and committee chair/organizer at the Montrose Regional Library--- she did it all well.

You will be sorely missed, Andi, but it was an honor and pleasure to know you!

---

### **A QUICK UPDATE ON BONNIE KOCH**



Our ex-president, Voter editor, program person, historian, and all-around extraordinary Leaguer made a short visit to Montrose in early July and, happily, had time for coffee and catch up with Karen Connor and me. We were delighted to learn that she is pleased with her relocation to the Minneapolis-St. Paul area, is thrilled to be near her two sons and three grandchildren, and has joined a local League. The latter, she explained, is very different from our group in that it is quite large and there is very little direction from or involvement with the State League. Bonnie attended the LWVMI state convention where the theme was innovation and collaboration, enjoys writing articles for their Voter newsletter, and plans to get even more involved on the local level in the coming year. She and her many talents are still missed! Bonnie sent her greetings to those of you who knew her.

## **INTRODUCING NEW MEMBER, ELEANOR THOMAS**

Born in Philadelphia, PA, Eleanor became a registered nurse and practiced for 50 years, married, had four children---two sons and two daughters---and resided in South Jersey during family-rearing years. She relocated to Montrose in 2007 to be near one of her daughters and her family but has spent the last year in the east due to a family matter, just recently returning. Eleanor joined the League because of her interest in politics and social issues which were fostered by a high school civics teacher. She explained that although it was stressful at the time because her parents didn't subscribe to a newspaper, she carried through on her assignments to bring an article to class each day and be prepared to discuss it, and got hooked.

## **INTRODUCING NEW MEMBER, TANYA ISHIKAWA**



Born in Dover, Delaware, Tanya's family moved to Aspen, Colorado in 1974 when she was 8. She received her bachelor's degree in Journalism and Public Relations from the University of Colorado-Boulder and subsequently moved to Tokyo, Japan in 1989, where she lived and worked in public relations for five years. Tanya moved back to the U.S. in 1994 and came to live with her parents who had relocated to Colona---quite a change from Tokyo! Industrious woman that she is, she established a tour company specializing in taking Japanese tourists to Native American reservations throughout the west before moving to the Front Range in 1998. There she worked in journalism, first at a newspaper and then as a freelance writer and public relations professional, and in 2000, she married Yasuo Ishikawa who was employed at the Japanese Consulate in Denver and whose interests extended from sushi to saxophones! At this time, Tanya began to run for political office as a Green Party candidate and garnered 10,000 votes when she ran for Jefferson County Commissioner. Despite failing to win other elections, she persevered, first being appointed to a seat on the Federal Heights City Council to serve two years, and then receiving more than 60 percent of the votes in 2011 to return to her council seat. She also served on the board of the Open Media Foundation, which operates the Denver public access television station. However, due to her mother's death and her father's illness, she cut her service short to move back to Colona in the fall of 2014 with her husband and then 9-year old son, Canyon. Tanya now works as a writer, editor, videographer, and website content manager for newspapers, magazines, nonprofits and small businesses, in addition to serving as communications coordinator for the Friends of Ridgway Schools, a volunteer parent group. Our newest member joined the League because she feels that being an informed voter is the best---only---way to have an effective government that represents the people.

## **INTRODUCING NEW MEMBER, DIXIE RINEHART**



Dixie Rinehart was born and raised in Michigan, served in the Air Force in California, and started his family in Dover, Delaware. There, he was a member of the team responsible for the spacesuit worn by the astronauts in the first missions to the moon, including Neil Armstrong's Apollo 11 Moon Landing in 1969. In 1974, he, his wife Carol and three children moved to Aspen, Colorado, where he worked as a design engineer on a wide range of products from ski gloves and ski boot warmers to pinball machines. In 1993, with all three children out of the house, they moved to the wide open spaces of Colona. Do the locales sound strangely familiar? Mr. Rinehart is the father of Tanya Ishikawa!

**MANY THANKS TO  
HORSEFLY BREWING  
COMPANY  
FOR HOSTING A  
COMMUNITY TAP NIGHT  
BENEFITTING LEAGUE ON  
JUNE 22  
AND DONATING \$215**

## **STATE LEAGUE NEWS**

### **LWVCO League Day in Denver- Saturday, September 19**

This year the agenda includes presentations on the following topics:

An interactive program from Boulder County League illustrating voting methods other than plurality voting

Discussion of the current National League study on Campaign Finance Reform

Discussion of the newly-adopted Colorado League Behavioral Health Study as an update to its health care position

Call Karen ASAP if you are interested in attending. Registration deadline is September 1.

## NATIONAL LEAGUE NEWS

### **Stopping Partisan Gerrymandering and Protecting Independent Redistricting Commissions**

By: Stephanie Drahan 06/30/2015



Yesterday, the U.S. Supreme Court issued a big victory for citizen-led democracy. In a 5-4 decision in *Arizona State Legislature v. Arizona Independent Redistricting Commission*, the Court found that voters can set up independent redistricting commissions. The state legislature in Arizona had challenged the constitutionality of the state's independent redistricting commission created by popular vote through a ballot initiative.

An *amicus* [brief by the League](#) and other concerned organizations pointed out that the Court had already ruled that excessive partisan gerrymandering is unconstitutional and argued that the "people" of the state should be able to protect themselves and their state from this unconstitutional practice. The Leagues of Women Voters of [Arizona](#) (PDF) and [Illinois](#) (PDF) also joined amicus briefs in support of independent commissions. The [League of Women Voters of Arizona](#) supported the original ballot initiative that led to the independent commission and helped lead the fight against the legislature's challenge.

In the majority opinion, [Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg](#) invoked the [Federalist Papers](#) and a key tenet of our representative democracy: that voters select their representatives and not the other way around. Recognizing the problem of partisan gerrymandering, Arizona voters removed the redistricting process from their state legislature and instead created a bipartisan and independent commission to draw fair districts. Following the decision, [League president Elisabeth MacNamara](#) issued a [statement](#):

This is a tremendous victory for democracy. Drawing the boundaries of legislative districts is too important to leave to politicians... Today, the highest court in the nation strengthened the power of the people to protect themselves from excessive partisan influence and incumbency protection in redistricting. This is a great for democracy and for those that believe in fair, effective representation for all.

The impact of this decision reaches far beyond Arizona. [Over a dozen other states](#), including [California](#), have used a similar independent redistricting process to prevent partisan gerrymandering.

### **50th Anniversary of The Voting Rights Act of 1965**

Signed into law by [President Lyndon B. Johnson](#) during the height of the [American Civil Rights Movement](#) on **August 6, 1965**, this landmark piece of federal legislation prohibits racial discrimination in [voting](#). According to the [U.S. Department of Justice](#), the Act is considered to be the most effective piece of [civil rights](#) legislation ever enacted in the country.

In [Shelby County v. Holder](#) (2013), the [U.S. Supreme Court](#) struck down the coverage formula as unconstitutional, reasoning that it was no longer responsive to current conditions.

Current proposed legislation, the Voting Rights Advancement Act (VRAA), if passed by Congress, will restore that key protection of the landmark voting rights legislation by updating the formula that determines which states have to get federal permission—or preclearance—before making any changes affecting voting or elections. The new formula targets all or parts of thirteen states with a pattern of disenfranchising minority voters. **Voter discrimination cannot be tolerated.** [Tell your members of Congress to restore its key protections!](#)



**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!

### **Facebook Page Update**



Tanya, Karen and Susan confer on Facebook page administration on August 5. Many thanks to new member, Tanya, for the invaluable assistance!

### ***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**

**DEMOCRACY IS NOT A SPECTATOR SPORT!**

**Join League of serving Montrose & Delta counties  
2015-2016  
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:** Jean Aaro, 970-872-4256, jean@dvywest.com

**Secretary:** Robin Flom, 605-660-9840, rlf44@me.com

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

**Membership:** membership information available at [http://montrose.co.lwvnet.org/join\\_for\\_m.html](http://montrose.co.lwvnet.org/join_for_m.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

Barbara Krebs, 249-3989, stukrebs@hotmail.com



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.