



December 2013

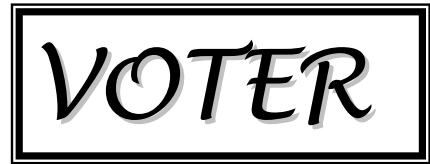
Membership: 28

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

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

[www.lwv.org](http://www.lwv.org)

[www.lwvcolorado.org](http://www.lwvcolorado.org)



### **Thank You for Renewing Your Membership!**

We're gratified for your continued support and appreciate your interest in our programs and activities. **If you haven't renewed, now is the time.** We continue to hold our base dues at \$55 annually to encourage maximum participation from the community.

Of course, please feel free to build upon your dues to include either a contribution to our general fund or a tax-deductible to LWVCO Education Fund. Remember only \$6 of your annual dues are retained by our local League...

**Thanks also** to members Kathryn Carson, Karen and Bob Connor, and Andi Furman for adding a little bit extra to their 2013-2014 dues for our general fund!

'Tis the season for giving thanks and this year we, at the League of Women Voters, have a great deal to be thankful for. ***We're thankful for our thousands of members and supporters across the country who work tirelessly to advocate for free, fair and accessible elections*** by registering voters, holding candidate debates and forums, fighting back against attacks on voting rights at the local, state and federal level and who dedicate their time and activism to reforming money in politics, defending the environment and so much more.

**We couldn't do all we do without you – on behalf of the millions of Americans you helped this year, thank you!**

As 2013 comes to a close and we begin preparing for 2014 and the midterm elections, we're already hard at work gearing up for programs to protect and empower millions of voters in 2014. Next year, we're committed to stepping up our work to register more new voters, hold more candidate forums, provide more ballot information and help all eligible voters participate in our electoral process. We'll also keep pushing for necessary environmental regulations to protect our planet for future generations and working to keep big money out of our elections.

**Thank you for your continued commitment and support for the League's important work.** We look forward to working with you to Make Democracy Work®. Thanks again for everything you do.

Sincerely,

Elisabeth MacNamara  
President, League of Women Voters

## Next on the League's programming calendar...

### Christmas Pot Luck Dinner Members Only



Thursday, December 5

Home of Bob & Karen Connor

Time to relax, enjoy and receive the latest info on the Montrose Recreation Department's plans for a community rec center presented by Ken Sherbenou, Director

Bring a dish of your choice and a guest!



The League of Women Voters®  
of Montrose County,  
serving Montrose and Delta counties,  
invites the community to attend its  
program on  
"Responsible Journalism"

Thursday, January 9, Noon  
Montrose Library Community Room

Guest speaker: Caitlin Switzer,  
Montrose Mirror owner/publisher

more info in the January Voter

### Colorado Gives Day is December 10!

When you donate to the LWVCO Education Fund on Colorado Gives Day, the giving doesn't stop there! 100% of each donation made online at [www.coloradogives.org](http://www.coloradogives.org) on December 10 goes directly to the organization of your choice.

But that's not all!

- FirstBank and the Community First Foundation will cover all credit card processing fees.
- You can pre-schedule your donation to process on December 10th so you don't forget.
- Each participating organization will receive a share of FirstBank's incentive fund of \$250,000, based on value of donations received.
- Each organization that reaches the goal of 30 donations will be entered in a drawing for 18 Luck-of-the-Draw prizes of \$5000.

Last year \$15.7 million was distributed to Colorado nonprofits as a result of Colorado Gives Day. The LWVCO Education Fund, participating for the first time, received 24 donations. Help us with our goal of 30 donations this year so we'll be eligible for a Luck-of-the-Draw prize.

### Get Ready for **Great Decisions 2014**

Co-sponsored by the League of Women Voters of Montrose County and the Montrose Regional Library, Great Decisions is a series of discussions produced by the Foreign Policy Association, a non-profit, non-partisan educational arm of the World Affairs Councils of America.

The group will meet each Thursday evening beginning February 6 from 7-9 pm in the Montrose Library community room and will continue through March.

A briefing book of well-researched background material will be available for purchase at the library at a date yet to be determined and two will be available for checkout for a 3-day period. Meetings begin with a video in which foreign policy experts present their perspectives, after which a group discussion follows.

Topics and more info will appear in the January Voter.

Questions? Call Meg Nagel at 964-2548. Plan ahead and mark your 2014 calendars now!

## NOVEMBER PROGRAMMING REPORT

### "IMMIGRATION REFORM IN COLORADO - local effects of new laws" NOVEMBER 7, 2013



35 people filled the Community Room of the Montrose Library to hear three guest speakers make presentations on the local effects of **three new Colorado laws**: Community and Law Enforcement Trust Act (SB 13-90), April 26, 2013; Colorado Advancing Students for a Stronger Tomorrow (SB 13-033 ASSET), April 29, 2013 and, the Colorado Road and Community Safety Act (SB 13-251), June 5, 2013, and the federal Guest Worker Program, H2A.

After being warmly welcomed by LWV president, Karen Connor, introductions of the **panel members** were made: John Harold, owner of Tuxedo Corn; Rick Taggart, Colorado Mesa University's Executive Director of Marketing and Student Recruitment, and Karen Sherman Perez, Development Director, Colorado Immigrant Rights Coalition.

**Rick Taggart**, whose topic was the impact of ASSET Bill (SB 13-033) and its effect on Colorado Mesa University's enrollment process, was first to speak. His talk was succinct and extremely informative, and attendees were pleased to receive a handout covering his points, as shown below. Four interesting points not shown on the handout were: yearly in-state tuition at C.M.U. is \$6,800 and for undocumented students it has been running \$13,000, almost double; under the Colorado Opportunity Fund eligible students receive aid of \$64/credit hour applied against C.M.U.'s \$280/credit hour cost; Mr. Taggart has taught business on an international level and feels diversity in classrooms is a benefit in today's global economy; and, lastly, about 60% of C.M.U.'s students hold jobs.

#### COLORADO ASSET (SB 13-033) - In-state tuition for undocumented students

##### BACKGROUND & KEY COMPONENTS

###### **Nationally:**

- Intended to help children of undocumented immigrants brought to the U.S. by their parents
- 16 states including Colorado have provisions allowing in-state tuition rates for undocumented students
  - California and Texas were first in 2001
  - 14 states provide it through state legislation, two through decisions by the governing boards of state institutions
  - Three states, including Arizona, bar undocumented students from receiving in-state tuition. In Arizona, the state attorney general's office is questioning the basis by which Pima Community College is offering in-state tuition to undocumented students

Continued below

**Colorado:**

- In 2008, the Colorado Legislature passed a ban on in-state tuition for undocumented students. In 2013, it repealed that ban and passed the ASSET (Advancing students for a Stronger Tomorrow) bill, allowing for in-state tuition for undocumented students.
- Similar to the other states that allow it, Colorado requires that the students have:
  - Attended a Colorado high school for at least three years immediately preceding graduation or earning a GED
  - Been admitted to a Colorado college or university within 12 months of graduation/GED or
  - Graduated before Sept.1, 2013 and can prove 18-months of physical presence in Colorado
  - Submitted a signed affidavit saying they have or will apply for citizenship
- Students admitted through ASSET are:
  - Eligible for the Colorado Opportunity Fund (a tuition discount program for all Colorado residents)
  - Not eligible for federal or any other state financial aid
  - Eligible for institutional earned merit, departmental and talent scholarships
- Before the legislation passed, Colorado projected about 500 students would make use of the new law. As of mid-September, about 640 had enrolled in state colleges and universities under the new ASSET program. More than half are enrolled at Metropolitan State University.

**CMU & THE FIRST-YEAR:**

- Board of Trustees supported a similar bill in the 2012 legislative session
- Currently 55 of 106 applicants are enrolled through the ASSET program
- Nine of the 55 students received merit-based scholarships - 16%
- Typically between 15-20% of all first-time students receive merit-based scholarships

**OUTLOOK FOR ASSET STUDENTS:**

- Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) is a memorandum passed on June 15, 2012 and implemented by the Department Homeland Security (DHS). It states that some individuals who immigrated illegally to the United States as children may request deferral of deportation for two years, subject to renewal.
- Under existing regulations, an individual whose case has been deferred is eligible to receive employment authorization for the period of deferred action. DHS can terminate or renew deferred action at any time at the agency's discretion.
- Deferred action does not provide an individual with lawful immigration status nor provide a path to citizenship but may provide employment authorization as a person seeks legal status or citizenship.
- Criteria that must be met include:
  - Under the age of 31 as of June 15, 2012
  - Came to the U.S, before 16th birthday
  - Continuously resided in the U.S. since June 15, 2007
  - Currently in school, has graduated from high school or received a GED or is an honorably discharged veteran of the U.S. Armed Forces or Coast Guard

Continued below

**John Harold** spoke about his support of the farmworkers Guest Worker Program, H2A, saying that "without it there is no way local agriculture can continue as we know it". And this is in spite of the fact that it is cumbersome (visa requests for workers go through several federal departments and offices in four states), that it requires that U.S. farmers provide housing, transportation and pay for the one-year visa fees of the foreign workers! The per hour rate required to be paid is roughly \$10.50 and he cannot afford to pay more than that amount because our location puts his company at a freight disadvantage. He has tried to hire local workers but they do not last. His product (Olathe sweet corn) must be handpicked, and this year he sold 620,000 boxes containing 48 ears each! Mr. Harold feels the worker program benefits all parties because workers learn about our culture and economy and take that knowledge back to their countries, which can potentially better those countries and provides a positive public relations tool for the U.S.

Mr. Harold has been working with Representative Scott Tipton and Senator Michael Bennet on federal immigration reform bills and is in favor of the House bill proposed by the Democrats (HR 15), legislation that largely replicates a bill that Senate passed in June (but removes the "border surge" provision requiring 20,000 Border Patrol agents be placed on the southwestern border). It would make visas valid for three years, allow farmers to give workers a stipend for housing, allow the workers' families to come for the season, and be run by one federal agency only---the U.S. Department of Agriculture. Mr. Harold further stated his opinion that building a wall on our border and placing 20,000 more boots on the ground is unaffordable for our government in the long term because of maintenance costs and military health care and pension costs. He feels it would be much smarter to enforce the e-verify program, which the House Judiciary Committee chose to expand nationwide on June 26, 2013 when it approved the *Legal Workforce Act* (HR 1772). and said there has been no proposal put forth by the House Republicans at this time.

Our last speaker was **Karen Sherman Perez** who opened with the statement that the Colorado Immigrant Rights Coalition (CIRC) consists of roughly 60 diverse non-profit groups, only a few of which are to be found in Western Colorado. One of the latter is the local Hispanic Affairs Project (HAP), headed by her husband, Ricardo Perez. CIRC is a statewide organization that was founded in 2002 and works to improve the lives of immigrants and refugees by making Colorado a more welcoming place to them.

Some recent CIRC accomplishments are: helping to pass SB 13-90, the "show me your papers" law that required police to alert federal authorities about immigrants suspected of living illegally in the United States, SB 13-251 authorizing the Colorado DMV to issue driver's licenses to undocumented Colorado residents, and SB 13-033 that allows in-state tuition rates for undocumented Colorado high school graduates; implementation of the Campaign to Unite Colorado Hotline which documented cases of abuse resulting from the "show your papers" law that help to pass the Trust Act, and which provides Coloradans facing deportation with resources; and working through the Deferred Action (DACA) program helped eligible youth to apply for a temporary work permit and driver's license. Handouts on CIRC and HAP were made available to attendees.

Kudos to Diane Balk for chairing this highly successful program!

#### **A FUTURE LEAGUER?**

You may recall from the November Voter that LWWNC filed a lawsuit in August challenging the state's new voting law, which voting rights advocates have called the most restrictive voting measures passed since the civil rights era. **Don't miss this!**

#### **12-yr-old takes on North Carolina Governor on voting rights!**

12-year-old Madison Kimrey of Burlington founded NC Youth Rocks after the North Carolina legislature passed voting restriction laws targeting young people, women, minorities, and the poor.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3CRSK0HItoI>

## League Calendar

Make sure these dates are on your family calendar:

**December 5, 6:30 pm: Annual potluck dinner, Connors' home, members only**

**January 9, Noon: Responsible Journalism, Montrose Library**

**February 6,?: Agriculture program, TBD, Delta County TBD**

**February 6, 7 pm: "Great Decisions" Montrose Library**

**March 6, TBD: Montrose City Council Candidates Form, Old Elks Building**

**March 20, Noon: Agriculture program, TBD, Montrose Library**

**April 3, Noon: Ag Consensus Questions meeting, Montrose Library, public invited but only members can "vote".**

**May 1, Noon: Annual Meeting, TBD, members only**

## Remember When? A History of League of Women Voters of Colorado

By Julie Leonard, Executive Director

Access to detailed historical information about LWVCO has been limited to those fortunate enough to get their hands on a copy of *A Force for Change: The League of Women Voters of Colorado, 1928-1995*, by Wilma Davidson. A project is now getting underway to scan sections of the only comprehensive history of our League, and post them on the website so more people can use them. Wilma Davidson researched and wrote *A Force for Change* after her second term as LWVCO President in 1995.

Her League career had begun in Colorado many years earlier, when a college roommate got her involved in starting a student chapter at the University of Colorado in 1937. On a field trip to the capitol, the group met with Senator Eudocia Smith, who introduced legislation to permit women to serve on juries in Colorado. After graduation Wilma worked in Denver with Mabel Costigan, who had led the formation of the Woman Citizens League of Colorado, which later became the LWVCO.

The decades brought marriage, many moves, many different jobs in education, personnel and counseling, a daughter, advanced degrees, and also active participation in the LWV in Chicago, Minnesota, Iowa, Los Angeles, North Carolina, and finally Arapahoe County starting in 1978. Major League projects she worked on included lobbying to revise and reconcile Minnesota's two constitutions, the drive for ratification of the ERA in North Carolina, and publishing Colorado: The State We're In.

To sum up her League experiences, Wilma writes: "And best of all, being a League member is an outstanding opportunity to be a supportive member in a community and to make good friends while learning how our nation is governed."

**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.



**LWVCO Legislative Conference  
Monday, January 13, 2013**

**Sound interesting? Want to Attend?**

Old Supreme Court Chambers  
State Capitol, 200 East Colfax Avenue, Denver  
Seating in the Chambers is limited to 150 spaces.  
Registration: 8:30 a.m.

Preview of the 2013 Legislative Session: 9:00 - 12:00 noon

Lunch, League lobbyist: 12:15 - 2:00 p.m.

Museum tour - History Colorado, 1200 Broadway (about 4 blocks south-west of the Capitol). Fee includes Colorado History Museum admission! Museum closes at 5:00.

Registration Fee: \$32.00 includes program, lunch, museum admission. **Deadline Tuesday, January 2, 2014.**

Call Karen Connor, 275-1314 for more information. Our local League is able to pay registration fees for two members.

**LWVCO Legislative Action Committee**

Sally Augden, LAC Chair, reported at the end of the 2013 legislative session in May that the 26-member committee "watched, reported on and testified for or against over 100 bills during the 2013 legislative session." Several of the bills supported by League passed and were signed into law: gun safety, voting rights, civil unions, and in-state tuition to undocumented states who have graduated from Colorado high schools.

Sally further reported "The League is known on at the Capitol. Legislators have commented on the increasing number of our members testifying and have expressed gratitude for the Legislative Letter each of them receives, along with the governor and the press. As an individual, your own letters and calls to your senator or representative on issues that matter to you do have tremendous impact."

The 2014 legislative session commences in January.

**ARE YOU INTERESTED?**

In learning more about the LWVCO Mental Health Task Force or campaign finance reform activities? Contact Nancy Ball at 249-8963 or [nancyball@montrose.net](mailto:nancyball@montrose.net)

Are you or a family member planning to purchase health care insurance from Connect for Health Colorado before the end of the year? Would you be interested in writing an article(s) on your experience? Contact Nancy Ball as above.

Between January and March, LWV Montrose County will be participating in the LWVUS Agriculture Update study by presenting two programs on local agriculture as they relate to the study's consensus questions. We'll keep you posted but if you have any ideas on a speaker or topic or want to assist, contact program chair Barb Krebs at 249-3989 or [stukrebs@hotmail.com](mailto:stukrebs@hotmail.com)

## LWVUS CLEARINGHOUSE

**The LWVUS has facilitated a way to easily access studies done by leagues across the United States!**

Simply, go to Google and type: lww clearinghouse. Choose the first item in the list that appears, or type <http://clearinghouse.lww.org>

The left sidebar shows all of the topics that are covered. Click on one to see the studies; i.e., click on Environmental Protection and Pollution Control, then click on LWV Colorado Hydraulic Fracturing to see LWVCO study and background papers.

There are also directions for submitting a study and the terms of use this requires.

### Home

- How to Submit a Study
- Meet the LWV Clearinghouse!
- Terms of Use

### Government

- Campaign Finance Reform
- Citizen Participation
- Congress
- Constitution
- Election Administration
- Election Systems
- Individual Liberties
- Initiative and Referendum
- Intergovernmental Relationships
- Judiciary
- Privatization
- Public Libraries
- Redistricting & Apportionment
- Representative Government
- Reproductive Choice
- Selection of the President
- State and Local Finances
- Transparent, Open Government
- Voting Rights

### International Relations

- Arms Control
- Military Policy and Defense Spending
- Trade
- U.S. Relations with Developing Countries
- United Nations

### Natural Resources

- Agriculture
- Air Quality
- Environmental Protection & Pollution Control
- Global Climate Change
- Hazardous Materials
- Land Use
- Public Participation
- Resource Management
- Solid Waste
- Transportation
- Water

### Social Policy

- Child Care
- Children & Family Issues
- Death Penalty
- Drug Policy
- Education
- Employment
- Equal Rights
- Fiscal Policy
- Growth Management
- Gun Control
- Health Care
- Housing
- Human Trafficking
- Immigration
- Juvenile Justice/Dependency
- Legal Aid
- Meeting Basic Human Needs
- Mental Health Care
- Urban Policy
- Violence Prevention
- Women's Issues



**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 **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

Membership Questions? Contact Tammy Theis, 209-4507, [unionyes@montrose.net](mailto:unionyes@montrose.net)

**2013-2014 Board Members**

**President:** Karen Connor, 249-2135  
[kconnor1941@gmail.com](mailto:kconnor1941@gmail.com)

**Secretary:** Joan Elliott, 240-4945,  
[joamar1@juno.com](mailto:joamar1@juno.com)

**Treasurer:** Kathryn Carson, 249-3776,  
[pkcarson@bresnan.net](mailto:pkcarson@bresnan.net)

**Delta Representative:** Peggy Baxter, 856-6225, [peggybax@gmail.com](mailto:peggybax@gmail.com)

**Delta Representative:** Martha Grewall, 856-4748, [grewalmartha@yahoo.com](mailto:grewalmartha@yahoo.com)

**Voter Newsletter:** Nancy Ball, 249-8963  
[nancyball@montrose.net](mailto:nancyball@montrose.net)

**Website:** Susan Chandler-Reed, 249-1076,  
[susan.chandler.reed@gmail.com](mailto:susan.chandler.reed@gmail.com)

**Voter Service:** Rod Britten, 240-1119,  
[rodbritten@montrose.net](mailto:rodbritten@montrose.net)

**Membership:** Tammy Theis, 209-4507,  
[unionyes@montrose.net](mailto:unionyes@montrose.net)

**At Large:** Rosemary Murphy, 249-3925,  
[mmurfh@hotmail.com](mailto:mmurfh@hotmail.com)

**Fundraising:** Caitlin Switzer, 275-5791,  
[caite@montrose.net](mailto:caite@montrose.net)

**LWVUS Agriculture Study:** Barb Krebs, 249-3989 [stukrebs@hotmail.com](mailto: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.