

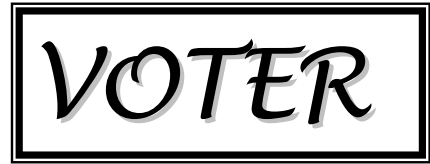


February 2015

Membership: 28

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

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



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## HAPPY 95th BIRTHDAY TO THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS!



*League of Women Voters National Board of Directors, Chicago Convention, February 1920*

On February 14, 1920, roughly six months before the passage of the 19<sup>th</sup> Amendment, Carrie Chapman Catt founded the League of Women Voters. Designed to help 20 million women carry out their new responsibilities as voters, Catt called the League "a mighty experiment." "...[N]o one could tell...in which direction its evolution would go," founder Carrie Catt remarked at the League's 1921 National Convention.

Nearly 95 years after the League's founding, we hope Catt would be nothing short of exceedingly proud of the direction in which the League has traveled, including the great process it has made in Making Democracy Work®. Boasting nearly 800 chapters across the country, the League has educated millions of voters over the past century and helped to protect our democracy at the national, state and local levels.

Two interesting facts: Catt received a Bachelor of Science degree in general science in 1880. She was the only woman in her class. When her husband died in 1885, Catt made a living by becoming San Francisco's first female newspaper reporter. ---excerpts from report written by Renee Davidson on January 7, 2015

## LOCAL LEAGUE NEWS - FEBRUARY PROGRAM

### **"THE REPLACEMENT PROCESS --- AS VACANCIES FOR ELECTED AND APPOINTED OFFICIALS ARISE, HOW ARE THEY ARE FILLED IN THE CITY OF MONTROSE AND MONTROSE COUNTY?"**

**WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 4, AT NOON**  
**MONTROSE LIBRARY COMMUNITY ROOM**

GUEST PANEL:

Lisa Del Piccolo, City Clerk  
Bob Nicholson, Mayor  
Teresa Williams, Montrose County Attorney  
Bob Connor, Democratic Party representative  
Dave Laursen, Republican Party, representative

Learn the differences between a "home rule" and an "arm of the state" municipality when filling an elected or appointed position that has become vacated. Also learn when the political parties become involved in the process and how each handles that situation.

**THE PUBLIC IS INVITED TO ATTEND - BRING A FRIEND! SPREAD THE WORD!**

### **"GREAT DECISIONS" FEBRUARY PROGRAMS**

Our League and the Montrose Library co-sponsor this annual reading and discussion group about foreign policy issues for 8 weeks beginning each February. Briefing books are prepared by the Foreign Policy Association; they cost \$20.00 but three are available for check out. Meetings are on Thursday from 7-9pm at the Montrose Library. Attend one or all. Call Meg Nagel at 964-2548 to enroll.

Russia and the Near Abroad - Feb. 7  
Privacy in the Digital Age - Feb. 12  
Sectarianism in the Middle East - Feb. 19  
India Changes Course - Feb. 26

### **MARCH IS "WOMEN IN HISTORY MONTH"**

We are in the planning process of a special League event to remember and honor women who played a part in the history in Montrose, Delta and Ouray counties, so if you have information on or names of such ladies, or if you would like to get involved in the planning, contact Nancy Ball at 249-8963.

### **"MAKING DEMOCRACY WORK AWARD"**

Interested in participating in this most excellent event? **A chairperson and volunteers from both Montrose and Delta counties are needed!** Call Caitlin at 275-5791 for information. May is our target date.

## **MEET OUR NEWEST MEMBERS**



**Susan Welk de Valdez - Delta County - returning member**

Born and educated in South Dakota, at 38 years of age after working for General Mills and Pillsbury in Minnesota, Susan decided to make a change in her life following up on her desire to learn a new language and live in a foreign country. She moved to Cancun, Mexico where she taught English to adults, including Mexican immigrations officers, at a premier school while she was an undocumented worker! In Cancun, she met and married Martin Valdez with whom she has twin children, Leah and Ross, both of whom now are adults living on the Eastern Slope. After a couple of back and forth moves between Mexico and the U.S., the family settled in Montrose in 2005, where Susan served as a bilingual paralegal. Currently Susan is the editor of La Voz del Pueblo Spanish Newspaper, the mission of which is to educate the Hispanic community in matters of health, education and immigration, and to celebrate those cultures. She is also a board member of the Western Colorado Latino Chamber of Commerce based in Grand Junction.

Now residing in Delta, Susan re-joined the League because she "holds in high esteem its non-partisan role in the political realm and enjoys the camaraderie." She thinks the LWVUS represents an excellent vehicle for getting the voices of ordinary citizens heard loud and clear amidst the moneyed force of lobbyists and corporations.



**Karen Sherman Perez - Montrose County**

A Montrose native, Karen received her B.S. degree in Environmental Biology from Fort Lewis College, following which as a Peace Corps Volunteer and ESL instructor she lived in El Salvador for five years. She is married to Ricardo Perez and has worked with the immigrant and migrant farmworker communities since returning to Montrose in 2003. Karen is currently the Development Director at the Colorado Immigrant Rights Coalition, CIRC.

I enjoy time spent in the great outdoors, in the garden and with my nose in a good novel!

Karen said she joined the LWV because she has always been a big supporter of the League and decided it was finally time to join. She said "There is so much polarization in our nation stemming from the partisan divide— many people just don't engage because they are frustrated and totally turned off.

And this is precisely why real change isn't happening. There is always power in numbers and hopefully more active involvement from community members with non-partisan groups such as the LWV will help promote increased voter engagement and involvement in issues impacting the community."

I hope to connect with others in the community members and contribute in some way, even if it's small, to local efforts to educate voters to take action on critical issues that impact us all on the local, state and national levels. There are so many big issues to address, but first and foremost, if we are to improve our democracy and political system, we need to reform our country's campaign finance system and now is the time to really dig into this issue. I think the League can have an impact in raising community awareness about other issues that are having a significant impact on our state such as oil and gas, climate change and immigration. Finally, continuing efforts to ensure that Montrose County voters are registered to vote, and ultimately turned on to vote come election time is what will truly make the difference."

### **Carol Fike - Montrose County**



Carol grew up in Amarillo, Texas and then lived 25 years in Austin, Texas. She has degrees from Texas Tech University and Texas University at Austin. Carol worked in public education as a teacher, principal, and director of elementary schools for 30 years. After marrying Richard Fike, founder of the Museum of the Mountain West, she earned her transformational coaching certification through Newfield Network where she serves as an International Coach, Mentor Coach, and representative to several international coaching organizations. Areas of expertise include an understanding of the latest research in the science of the brain/body and how our view of the world affects how we think, feel, and move and, thus, how we appear to others with whom we interact.

Carol joined the League because she "cares about what we do in this world, how the politicians are leading us... or not, and what more of the facts are around major issues. All of this information influences what I discuss with others and how I vote. I hope the League keeps me up-to-date on current happenings as well as the issues this year."

### **CALLING INTERESTED MINDS**

Do the topics Amending the Constitution, Human Trafficking, Oil & Gas Advocacy, Behavioral Health, Campaign Finance Reform, Income Inequality, and Water stimulate your interest? LWVUS and LWVCO will be working on them in 2015, and it would be so helpful to have a local member responsible for each topic to follow those efforts, contribute to them where possible, and report back to our local League from time to time, perhaps via a short article for the Voter. If interested, contact Nancy Ball at 249-8963 or [nancyball@montrose.net](mailto:nancyball@montrose.net).

## **STATE LEAGUE NEWS**

### **Behavioral Health Task Force Update**

Barb Mattison, chair, reported that the new Behavioral Health Crisis Centers across the state are open. A task force member visited the Denver facility and found a warm and welcoming atmosphere with a friendly receptionist and noted that signage outside publicized the 24-hour walk-in crisis services. The centers and the crisis line are the result of \$21 million in state funding; they are housed in existing public behavioral health facilities. Most are on the Front Range and in populated areas of the state. **The center for the Western Slope is in Grand Junction. Western Colorado still remains underserved.** There are administrative offices in Greeley, Durango, Aurora and Colorado Springs. Several crisis centers can offer short-stay beds: 1 – 5 days of residential care. Colorado Crisis Services, the overall administrator of the crisis centers and crisis line, is preparing an outreach program and we will get more information.

## **NATIONAL LEAGUE NEWS**

### **Nearly 30,000 Supporters Join Us in Fighting Secret Money**

By: Renee Davidson 01/21/2015, LWWUS Blog

The 2014 election was the most expensive midterm election in U.S. history, due to hundreds of millions of dollars of secret money donated through Super PACs. As a result, the voices of special interest groups are threatening to become louder than those of voters. That's why [we've been pushing the Federal Election Commission \(FEC\) to pass critical campaign finance reforms to protect our political system from corruption.](#)

**After months of work, we're pleased to report that -- with your help -- the League submitted a total of nearly 30,000 public comments to the FEC in support of stopping the flood of dark money into our elections!** Our comments called for stricter disclosure regulations as well as narrowing the definition of coordination between candidates and outside groups.

Five years ago this week, the U.S. Supreme Court ruled to open the floodgates to big money and special interest with its decision in *Citizens United v. FEC*. The result of this decision led to the creation of Super PACs. Today, Super PACs and other outside groups can raise and spend unlimited amounts because they are supposedly "independent" from the candidates. But in reality, there are many ways to coordinate that are not blocked by the FEC's current weak regulations.

Your comments to the FEC underscore that you believe that Americans have a right to know who is funding our nation's political campaigns. Americans deserve a democracy that is free of political manipulation – one that is responsive to voters and not big money and special interests. We're proud of the thousands of supporters across the country who are fighting for our democracy and pushing back against dark money. The stakes are too high, and the League will not stand by and let our political system be corrupted. Thank you for weighing in!

### **League Joins Amicus Brief in *King v. Burwell***

From Elizabeth MacNamara, President, LWWUS, January 29, 2015

*King v. Burwell* is the latest challenge to the Affordable Care Act (ACA) and it will determine whether tax-credit subsidies can be provided to applicants for health insurance through the federally-facilitated health exchanges or just to those using an exchange established directly by a state. The brief joined by the League focuses on the impact of the ACA on women's health and how the tax subsidies are essential to women's health and critical to the ACA's continued viability.

## **LEAGUE MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL TIME!**

We are 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, feel free to build upon your dues to include either a contribution to our general fund or a tax-deductible contribution to our Education Fund. Remember only \$6 of your annual dues is retained by the local league. **See page 7.**

### ***2014-2015 LWV Community Support***

The League of Women Voters of Montrose County 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  
Red Barn Restaurant  
Julie Gleason  
Dennis Olmstead  
Ellie and Steve Dooley  
Sarah Combs  
The Montrose Mirror  
Rod Britten  
Horsefly Brewing Company  
Montrose Bank  
Delta Bank  
Surface Creek Bank  
North Fork Bank  
Shirley Ela**

### **LEAGUE CALENDAR**

#### **February - The Replacement Process for the City and County**

**4 Noon Montrose Library**

#### **March - TBD**

**5 Noon Montrose Library**

#### **April - Cybersecurity & Individual Privacy Issues**

**2 Noon Montrose Library**

**May - Annual Meeting**

## **DEMOCRACY IS NOT A SPECTATOR SPORT!**



**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

**2014-2015 Board Members**

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

**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

**Voter Newsletter:** Nancy Ball

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

**Membership Chair:** Tammy Theis, 970-209-4507, unionyes@montrose.net

**Program Chair:**

**Fundraising Chair:**

**At Large:** Karen Connor, 249-2135, kconnor1941@gmail.com

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.

**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.

