



March 2014

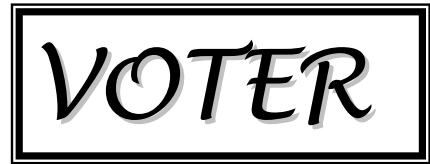
Membership: 26

www.montrose.co.lwvnet.org

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS®
Serving Montrose and Delta Counties

www.lwv.org

www.lwvcolorado.org



Local League News

Mark your calendars!

**CITY OF MONTROSE
BALLOT ISSUES FORUM
THURSDAY, MARCH 6,
7PM, (doors open at 6:30)
CITY COUNCIL CHAMBERS
107 SO. CASCADE**



**PROS & CONS OF EACH OF
THE THREE ISSUES ON
THE APRIL 1 BALLOT WILL
BE GIVEN BY THE
LEAGUE.**

MARCH IS WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH

Women impact our democracy – and our lives---yet recent attacks on voting rights at the local, state and national levels, which have a disproportionate impact on women, are the perfect reminder of how precious our right to vote is. Today's League is dedicated to fighting back against those attacks and to ensuring that **all** eligible citizens are able to have their voices heard through the ballot box.

The League has a long history of making democracy work through voter registration drives, candidate and issue forums, providing fact-based information about important community issues, and improving the quality of life where we live.

"I can't think of a better way to celebrate Women's History Month than to join the League and get involved in the hands-on work to strengthen our community", said Karen Connor, president. And, many thanks to women leaders past and present, national, state and local for their fortitude, perseverance, strength and vision!

**Welcome to new members Sheryl
Clapton and Charles Pitts!**

**FOLLOWING UP ON THE LWVUS AGRICULTURE STUDY....
OUR MARCH PROGRAM - MARK YOU CALENDARS!**

The League of Women Voters® of Montrose County,
serving Montrose and Delta counties, invites the community to

**"Our Land, Our Water, Our Food, Our Future...
they are in our hands"**



**Thursday, March 20, Noon
Montrose Library Community Room**

**Guest speakers/panelists: Corey Hicks, County Executive Director,
Farm Services Agency; Laurie Neilson, Senior Farm Loan Officer,
Farm Services Agency; Trent Hollister, 4-H Extension Agent,
Colorado State University Extension**

**This is the last of the two LWV Agriculture Update programs---
current agriculture finance issues, including crop subsidies and farm
loans, commodities and the Farm Bill, and future farmers.**

**How are you doing on the reading of the Ag Update Task Force
background/study papers? They are available on our local website by
clicking on LWVUS Update of Agriculture Position. Be prepared for our
April 5 consensus meeting!**

FEBRUARY PROGRAM REPORT

"Our Land, Our Water, Our Food, Our Future... they are in our hands"



On February 13, 2014, John Ikerd, Professor Emeritus of Agricultural Economics at University of Missouri, spoke to a standing room only crowd, addressing four vital issues: food safety, environmental concerns, human treatment of animals, and prices and choices.

Through his educated research Dr. Ikerd explained why we cannot go on as we have been. Our land, our water, our future depend on our making changes now. We have polarized communities with corporate farms that operate as industrial models abusing animals, exploiting workers, and destroying natural resources of land and water. The current methods also are heavily dependent on fossil fuels. Professor Ikerd has proven studies demonstrating how we can collectively double crop production with the better use of the land. His descriptions identified great opportunities to start with local transitions back to family farms, growing cover crops, returning to organic farming methods, increasing Food Co-ops/ Food Hubs/Food Clubs, like our local Farmers Market. He explained the "8,000 farmers markets that have emerged nationally strengthen communities with strong stable economic impacts. "The most valuable asset we have is the rural quality of life. Sustainable agriculture depends on our moving away from industrial ag-business/corporate farming supported by government policies."

"Americans spend 10 percent of their income on food, we should care that we are eating nutritious fruits and vegetables right now. We need to prevent the continued destruction. . . for the future of humanity." For more information he provided his website: www.johnikerd.com

by Tammy Theis
photos compliments of Tammy Theis and Norm Ball

Also, Dr. Ikerd was gracious enough to field questions from the audience and to remain past the allotted one-hour time frame to answer other queries. *Montrose Daily Press* reporter Katharynn Heidelberg wrote a comprehensive article covering the program for the February 14 edition.

State League News

Reduction in Pollutants Means Clearer Skies in Southwest Colorado

from the February edition of the Colorado Voter

League of Women Voters of Montezuma County and La Plata County have helped clear the air in southwest Colorado.

On August 6, 2012 the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) announced that the Four Corners Power Plant (FCPP), located near Farmington, must reduce emissions of oxides of nitrogen and particulate matter by one of two strategies, either by: 1) retrofitting the power plant according to EPA requirements, or by 2) closing down portions of the power plant. These pollutants contribute to visibility impairment in numerous National Parks (including Mesa Verde) and wilderness areas surrounding the FCPP.

Prior to 2014, the FCPP had been the largest single emitter of oxides of nitrogen in the U.S. A second crucial milestone recently occurred on December 30, 2013. Arizona Public Service, which owns the FCPP, announced that generating units 1, 2, and 3 would be retired as of January 1, 2014, and that by July 31, 2018 emission limits for oxides of nitrogen on the remaining generating units 4 and 5 will be achieved. The EPA has estimated that these actions will result in a 72 percent reduction in visibility impairment on average, at the 16 National Parks and wilderness areas surrounding the FCPP. This will certainly be reflected in better air quality for La Plata and Montezuma Counties.

League members can be proud that both the League of Women Voters of Montezuma County and La Plata County participated through written comment and oral testimony in the review process that ultimately led to these milestones. Nearly 13,000 comments were submitted to EPA.

LAC priorities for 2014 Legislative Session

By Sally Augden, LAC Chair

The LWVCO Legislative Action Committee has determined the group's priorities for the 2014 legislative session. Our number one priority is always voting rights and election issues.

Given the financial constraints in the state budget and the fact that the League focuses on a variety of issues – elections, voting, environment, child welfare, health care, education, reproductive freedom, etc. – the concept of fiscal balance has become next on our priority list. Although finances have been improving, the not far off deadline of the TBOR cap puts the increased revenues in jeopardy. As we look at programs that seem important to us, we continue to keep that in mind. Lastly, we stay focused on quality of life issues – for all citizens of Colorado.

LWVCO Council 2014

Friday, May 16 – Saturday, May 17

The Double Tree, 743 Horizon Drive, Grand Junction, CO

Registration deadline is April 22

LWV Mesa County will be hosting Council in Grand Junction and hopes that many of the local Leagues across the state will take advantage of this opportunity to visit the beautiful Western Slope. Three tours showcasing the area's assets are being planned: a guided geological tour, a tour of the Western Colorado Botanical Gardens, and a tour of Colorado's Wine Country.

Board elections, adoption of the 2014-15 budget, the Legislative Wrap-up, and leadership workshops will be the order of business. See "announcement" below for more information.

National League News

League Work on Redistricting and Apportionment

The question has come up, what can the LWVUS do regarding redistricting for the U.S. Congress? While the LWVUS has a position on apportionment and has supplemented that with its position on Voting Rights, there is no national position on the redistricting process. While the next census and consequently the next apportionment and redistricting efforts will not occur for several years, now is the time to prepare for these activities. The LWVUS is an appropriate body to be discussing redistricting as it applies to the U.S. Congress. Moreover, this is an area in which the public and elected officials look to the League. It is a core issue on how our officials are elected and how government works. The League needs to be a more effective force nationwide on this issue. The League needs to be ready for these events and now is not too early to start.

Thus, based on a decision of the LWVUS Board, a **Redistricting Task Force will be appointed** to: (1) review the various methods and criteria that have been used in the states and the positions of state Leagues on redistricting; (2) consider how well the methods and criteria have worked; (3) develop materials to educate Leagues and communities; and (4) make recommendations on next steps.

Apportionment - An act or result of apportioning; *especially*, the apportioning of representatives among the states according to United States law.

Reapportionment - The process of drawing or redrawing boundaries for electoral districts.

Current position: The LWVUS has a position on apportionment adopted in 1966 and revised in 1982, one that standing alone provides limited guidance for Leagues to take action.

"The League of Women Voters of the United States believes that congressional districts and government legislative bodies should be apportioned substantially on population. The League is convinced that this standard, established by the Supreme Court, should be maintained and the U.S. Constitution should not be amended to allow for consideration of factors other than population in apportionment." (*Impact on Issues 2012-2014*).

We have an opportunity to achieve agreement on the various facets of redistricting in plenty of time to be ready for the next cycle of redistricting following the 2020 census.

League Calls on IRS to Stop "Dark Money"

2/19/2014 | taken from an article by Stephanie Drahan |

Washington, DC – Today, the LWVUS submitted comments to the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) on their Notice of Proposed Rule-making for 501(c)(4) organizations. League President Elisabeth MacNamara urged the IRS to “keep pushing to stop the secret ‘dark money’ that has been polluting our elections since *Citizens United*, while at the same time protecting truly nonpartisan work to provide the public with unbiased voter information. “The League is commenting on the proposed new IRS rule for two critical reasons. The health of our democracy demands that we rein in the secret ‘dark money’ election spending unleashed by the U.S. Supreme Court’s 2010 *Citizens United* decision. The IRS proposal is a step in the right direction. At the same time, any new regulations must continue to allow truly non-partisan voter service activities by groups like the League. Since *Citizens United*, our nation has seen a huge explosion in the sums of money being raised and spent by 501(c)(4) organizations – social welfare organizations – to elect or defeat candidates for public office. This practice is not only contrary to the law regulating how much political activity is allowed by these organizations, but it is done in the dark. The money is not disclosed to the public, which leaves voters unable to judge the credibility and motivation of the advertising and campaigning by these groups. Reforming IRS regulations is our best opportunity to stem the tide of secret cash. The IRS can halt the abuse in its tracks by stopping 501(c)(4) organizations from spending on ‘candidate-related political activity’. The League urges the IRS to move as soon as possible with a rigorous and clear definition of ‘candidate-related political activity’ which would be barred for (c)(4) organizations. However, the new IRS proposal is too broad, because it would undermine truly nonpartisan voter service activities like those carried out by the League. We urge the IRS to use the standards currently applied to (c)(3) organizations governing nonpartisan election activities and apply them to (c)(4) organizations as well. With nearly 800 local and 50 state Leagues, we conduct truly nonpartisan debates, publish unbiased voter guides, register voters of all political persuasions, and work actively in communities across the nation to encourage all citizens to vote. In fact, in many communities, the Leagues’ voter information is the only truly nonpartisan information available to the public. Unbiased and non-partisan voter service activities deliver tremendous value to voters, potential voters and our democracy. Thus we believe that truly nonpartisan voter service and voter education activities by a 501(c)(4) organization must be clearly and explicitly allowed. We urge the IRS to do what is right,” MacNamara said.

LEAGUE ANNOUNCEMENTS - DEMOCRACY IS NOT A SPECTATOR SPORT!

LWVCO Council 2014 Friday, May 16 – Saturday, May 17

The Council shall be composed of the president (or alternate) and one delegate chosen by each Local League, the leader or designated alternate of each State League Unit (SLU), and the LWVCO Board.

Additional League members may attend as observers, as space permits.

An important feature of this year's Council will be the presentation of the report of the LWVCO's Mental Health Task Force, about Colorado's Behavioral Health System, including information available about behavioral health (mental health and substance abuse) and gun violence.

Attending Council is a great way to learn more about the functioning of the LWVCO and to meet the people who make it happen!

Contact Karen Connor if you are interested in attending.

It's that time again...

Time to be thinking about a new slate of officers for the 2014-2015 year, a general election year.

As the president, secretary, treasurer and Voter positions will be vacated by their current office holders, please seriously consider taking your turn to serve.

Officers will be elected at our annual meeting to be held on May 1.

**Board Meeting -
Friday, March 7, Noon
Montrose Library Community Room**

The slate of new officers is one of the important topics to be taken up at this meeting.

Interested members are encouraged to attend!

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
Ellie and Steve Dooley
Horsefly Brewing Company
Red Barn
Camp Robber
Sarah Combs
The Montrose Mirror**

League Calendar

**March 6, 7 pm: City of Montrose
Ballot Issues Forum, 107 S. Cascade**

**March 7, Noon: Board Meeting,
Montrose Library Community Room**

**March 20, Noon: Agriculture Update
program, 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**

**May 16-17: LWVCO Council, Grand
Junction**

**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

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, grewallmartha@yahoo.com

Voter Newsletter: 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

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

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

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

LWVUS Agriculture Study: Barb 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/

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.

