

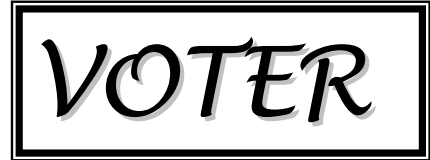


March 2015

Membership: 27

www.montrose.co.lwvnet.org

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS®
Serving Montrose and Delta



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

The announcement of the resignation of our 2014-2015 president, Caitlin Switzer, is made with much regret. Due to the expansion of her business and to her busy life as a mother of young children, Caite felt she could no longer continue in that capacity. The League's sincere thanks go out to her for stepping up last May and serving the past nine months, and best wishes are being extended for success in all of her many endeavors!

"PERSONAL PRIVACY IN THE DIGITAL AGE"



THURSDAY, MARCH 5, AT NOON

MONTROSE LIBRARY COMMUNITY ROOM

GUEST SPEAKER: PAUL JANZEN

IN CELEBRATION OF "WOMEN IN HISTORY MONTH"

LEAGUE IS HOSTING A MORNING COFFEE TO HONOR HISTORICAL WESTERN SLOPE WOMEN WHOSE LIVES MADE POSITIVE DIFFERENCES IN THEIR COMMUNITIES

SATURDAY, MARCH 14, 10-11:30AM

**MUSEUM OF THE MOUNTAIN WEST
US HWY 50 & MIAMI RD.**

GUEST SPEAKER: GAIL SAUNDERS
Ouray County Historical Society

OPTIONAL 1 HOUR MUSEUM TOUR TO FOLLOW - \$5.00

JOIN IN & BRING FRIENDS!

**PLEASE R.S.V.P. TO CHERYL GIBSON
970-249-7212 by March 9**

Your Executive Board is pleased to announce that Karen Connor, past president, will step in as Acting President of the Montrose-Delta League through the remainder of the 2014-2015 League year.

MARCH IS "WOMEN IN HISTORY MONTH"



Library exhibits are on display in Montrose and Delta featuring **Western Slope women** of historical importance. Check them out, and learn how these amazing ladies changed their communities for the better!

"GREAT DECISIONS" MARCH 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 regarding attendance.

- March 5 - U.S. Policy Toward Africa
- March 12 - Syria's Refugee Crisis
- March 19 - Human Trafficking in the 21st Century
- March 26 - Brazil's Metamorphosis

LEAGUE ELECTION OF NEW OFFICERS IS FAST APPROACHING!

As new officers are to be installed at our annual meeting in May, it is time to establish a nominating committee and a slate. Watch for an upcoming e-mail with job descriptions for the offices of president, vice president, secretary and treasurer to see if you might be just the person for the job!

If you are interested in serving as an officer, writing the Voter, serving on the board, or being on the nominating committee, contact Nancy Ball at 249-8963 or nancyball@montrose.net.

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 IN MONTROSE COUNTY?"



Karen Connor called the February 4 noon meeting held in Colorado Mesa University's Room 102 to order, explaining that the League was holding this program to educate the attendees as to the differences between a "home rule" municipality (City of Montrose) and an "arm of the state" municipality (Montrose County) when filling an elected or appointed vacated position.

The twenty attendees learned about the City's procedures from guest panelists Lisa Del Piccolo, City Clerk, and Bob Nicholson, Mayor. Under home rule which was established by charter at the city's founding, the local voters determine virtually all aspects of the city's future. The charter requires that City Council members are elected on a non-partisan basis, the Council appoints the City Attorney, City Manager, and Municipal Court Judge, and is responsible for appointing members to the many boards from qualified applicants who have applied through the open recruiting process. When a vacancy comes up on the City Council itself, there is a 30-day time frame for filling it.

How different for the County to which **all** powers are given through the State of Colorado Constitution as we learned from Teresa Williams, Montrose County Attorney. County Commissioners are granted much power but the Constitution spells out those powers, and there is no leeway, down to the number and salaries of the Commissioners. The County Commissioners have been made responsible for filling any vacancies that arise for both elected officials (partisan basis) and appointed county government staffers and board members, yet there are no definite procedures set for doing so---except when a vacancy arises on a commissioner's seat.

Then, by statutes set in the state Constitution, the political parties become involved. At that point, the party with which the commissioner was affiliated is given ten (10) days to select a replacement, and guest panelists Bob Connor, Democratic Party representative, and Dave Laursen, Republican Party representative, explained how their vacancy committees handle that situation. Should the committee not come to an agreement on a replacement within that time frame, it becomes the job of the Governor to make the selection within five (5) days.

An added highlight to the meeting was the attendance of the newly-appointed County Clerk & Recorder, Tressa Walker Guynes, who was acknowledged and introduced. She was appointed by the County Commissioners on February 2, is to be sworn in on the 9th, has lived in Montrose for two years, and is seemingly extremely qualified having worked for the state of Mississippi for several decades where she had various administrative responsibilities.

STATE LEAGUE NEWS

LWVCO CONVENTION - MAY 16, 17

City of Boulder

9 am Saturday to 12:30 pm Sunday

The Boulder League is the host city for this year's convention, and per State League president, Bobbie Heisterkamp, "Plans for the LWVCO Convention are flying along, and the program is packed with activities that will benefit every League in the state. It is the important time when we choose our state program for the next two years, and several compelling ideas have emerged. They include the Behavioral Health study mentored by president-elect Barbara Mattison. Other program ideas, at this time, include a new look at the Fracking Study (Larimer), a study on Voting Methods (Boulder) and a concurrence on Living Wage (Boulder). We encourage each League to send all of the delegates it is allowed by membership count. This is where the grassroots are heard!"

The venue is the Millenium Harvest House located at 1345 Twenty-Eighth Street, Boulder, CO 80302. Registration and room reservations will start March 20. The deadline is April 17.

Registration: \$60
Saturday Lunch: \$25
Saturday Dinner: \$35
Tours: \$10

Tours will include Avery Brewery, Celestial Seasonings, the CHaRM Recycle Center, and a walking tour of the Historic Mapleton District.

Delegates to the convention have voting rights; however; any member of the League of Women Voters of Colorado may attend as an observer by registering in advance and paying the registration fees.

SILENT AUCTION: Local Leagues are invited to donate items for the Silent Auction. The revenues from your donated items are shared between state and your local League. What a fun and easy way to raise some money!

Interested in attending? Our League has budgeted to send 2-3 representatives, so please contact Karen Connor at 275-1314 for more information. Anything to donate? Also, let Karen know.

Convention is a delightful way to meet Leaguers from other Colorado cities and towns and to learn what they are doing on their local levels!

NATIONAL LEAGUE NEWS

2015 LWVUS Legislative Priorities (reminder)

The Board adopted the following issues as LWVUS legislative priorities for 2015:

- First Tier: Voting Rights and Election Administration; Money in Politics
- Second Tier: Climate and Environmental Protection; Immigration; Health Care, including Reproductive Choice

Below is a February 12th letter from Elizabeth MacNamara, LWVUS president, to all Leaguers:

Saturday marks the 95th anniversary of the founding of the League of Women Voters. When Carrie Chapman Catt called for a League of Women Voters to "Finish the Fight," she was talking about more than just the finishing the fight for women's suffrage. **The League was founded in another gilded age when progressive activists were working to prevail over political machines and the influence of money in politics. One constant refrain throughout League history has been the danger posed by big-moneyed special interests to our democracy.**

Yesterday, I had the chance to stand up for the right of voters to demand that their elected officials represent their interests rather than the interests of wealthy donors. **The Federal Election Commission held a rare public hearing on issues of money in politics.** In addition to hearing from members of the public, the FEC heard from several panels of speakers. Among all the lawyers and academics who addressed the Commission, **I was one of a very few voices representing the interests of the voting public.** But as the president of a grassroots organization with members, supporters and activists from every state in union, I was hardly alone. In an unusually strong outpouring, tens of thousands of comments were submitted to the FEC in advance of this hearing. As one commissioner noted at the hearing, a large percentage of those comments were from the League of Women Voters.

For 95 years, the League has been Making Democracy Work® for voters not special interests. This is truly a fight that is never finished. We often speak of the opening of the floodgates and waves of big money. One speaker reminded the FEC that Senator Bill Bradley referred to special interest money as 'ants in the kitchen,' something that you must constantly battle and can never permanently get rid of. The FEC has an opportunity to promulgate clear and meaningful rules requiring disclosure of donors and requiring independent expenditures to be truly independent. The chances that the commissioners will do so may be slim, but the chances are that much greater because the League of Women Voters is taking a strong and vocal stand to protect our democracy from the billionaires and secret organizations that, like ants in the kitchen, swarm over our elections and feed off our democracy.

Happy 95th anniversary to all of you who work so hard and care so much about our country. To Carrie Catt, a League of Women Voters was the most natural, the most patriotic memorial to the courageous women and men who fought so hard for women's suffrage. We are that League, we are that living memorial and we have much to be proud of.

In League,

Elizabeth G. MacNamara

2014-2015 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.

**Alpine Archaeological
Julie Gleason
Dennis Olmstead
Sarah Combs
The Montrose Mirror
Rod Britten
Horsefly Brewing Company
Montrose Bank
Delta Bank
Surface Creek Bank
North Fork Bank
Shirley Ela**

LEAGUE CALENDAR

March -

Cybersecurity & Individual Privacy Issues

5 Noon Montrose Library

"Women in History Month" Coffee

14 10-11:30am Museum of the Mountain West

April -

Topic TBD

2 Noon Montrose Library

May - Annual Meeting

7 Noon TBD



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

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

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

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.

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.

