



June 2013 Membership: 30 www.Montrose.co.lwvnet.org

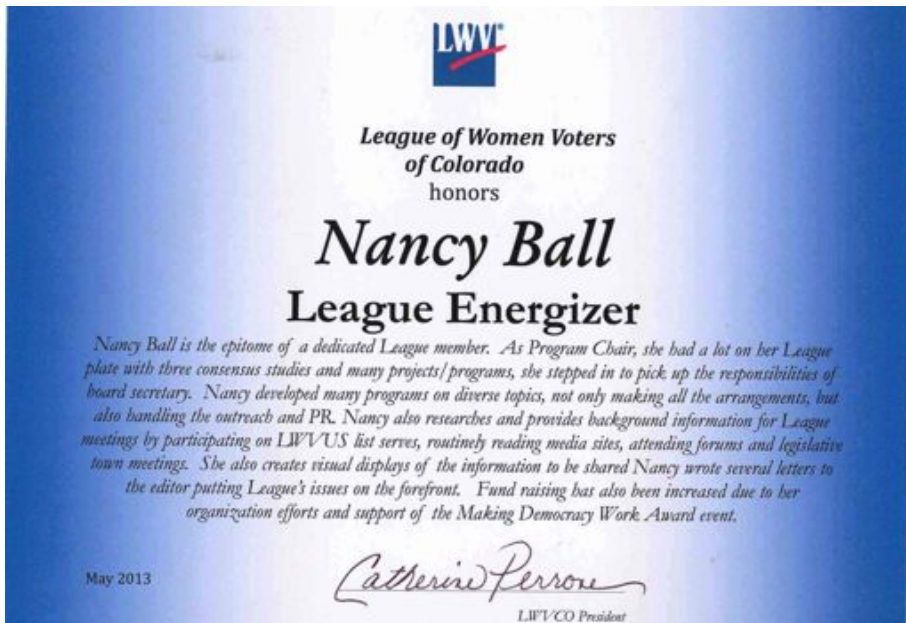
**LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS
OF MONTROSE COUNTY**

Serving Montrose and Delta Counties

www.lwv.org www.lwvcolorado.org



**Congratulations to Nancy Ball, LWVCO 2013
Energizer Award Winner!**



Our own Nancy Ball was chosen as one of two recipients for the League of Women Voters of Colorado Energizer Award given at the May State Convention. The Montrose County League had nominated her because of her outstanding contributions as both program chair and secretary. Her attention to detail and strong communication skills produced programs that have provided in depth education on diverse topics for both League members and regional citizens. Above, Nancy receives her award from Cath Perrone, outgoing president of the State League. More information on the State Convention on page 4.

Reminder

HORSEFLY
BREWING COMPANY

846 Main St. Montrose, Colorado

*Support the Montrose County League of Women Voters
At Community Tap Night*

Tuesday, May 28th, 6:00 PM to 9:00 PM
\$1 for every pint sold that evening will be donated to the League

The Horsefly Brewing Company offers hand crafted beers and sodas as well as a full grill menu featuring sandwiches, burgers, soups and salads. Beer pints are \$3.75

Invite your friends and family for dinner and make a toast to the League.

Red Barn Restaurant
1413 E. Main St.
Montrose, Colorado



*Include your friends and neighbors
and...Support the Montrose County
League of Women Voters*

Wednesday, June 5th

**Get there early/avoid the crowd
Order off the regular menu**
10% of proceeds tonight will go to our League.

Montrose County League Annual Meeting Highlights

Our League year came to a conclusion on May 2nd with an Annual Meeting hosted at Vista Charter School. During lunch, Beth Sass, Principal, gave us an overview of the school, which is in the first year at its new location. Constructed with a BEST grant, it offers alternative secondary education for students who have needs as diverse as accelerated and slower paced learners, dropouts, expulsions and students with mental health needs.

The business portion of the meeting included an updated treasurer's report and discussion of upcoming events. The proposed 2013-2014 budget was adopted and a slate of Executive Board members was elected. Proposed programs for the coming year were discussed.

Karen Connor thanked outgoing Board members with a gift of a Thermos water bottle in honor of League's efforts toward sustainability, recycling and water issues. Karen was presented with a proclamation from the board recognizing her leadership that included a toast and appetizers in her honor at the Broadmoor Hotel during the State Convention (also the place of Karen and Bob's honeymoon!)

At adjournment of the meeting, Beth Sass and Leonora Spadaforda gave tours of Vista. Below Top: Business portion of Annual Meeting; Bottom left: View of a classroom that offers individualized learning for each student; Below right: Barb Krebs and Karen Connor swing noise makers in celebratory recognition of Vista's most recent graduate.



2013-2014 Board

Executive Board Elected at Annual Meeting:

President – Karen Connor
 Treasurer – Kathryn Carson
 Secretary – Joan Elliott

Non-elected Board Members:

Nancy Ball – Voter Editor
 Susan Chandler-Reed – Web Master
 Peggy Baxter – Delta County Representative
 Martha Grewal – Delta County Representative
 Rod Britten – Assisting with Voter Service
 Barb Krebs – LWVUS Agriculture Study
 Rosemary Murphy – At Large
 Caitlin Switzer – Assisting with Fund Raising

2013-2014 Proposed Program Topics

(Board will determine the final schedule)

Voter Registration at Colorado Mesa U. and high schools – begins in August and continues into spring – Cheryl Gibson has offered to organize

September – Linda Gann, CO Health Benefit Exchange Coordinator; MDWA Reception

October - Ballot Issues Presentation for November General Election

December – Annual Holiday Party (possibly inviting new County Manager)

March – Montrose City Council Candidate Forum

Alternative suggested topics: Immigration Reform Impact on Montrose and Delta Counties; Climate Change and Water; Agricultural Hemp and Water; Legislative update from LWVCO Lobbyist; Responsible Journalism

Montrose Forest Products Sawmill

If you missed the League field trip to the Montrose Forest Products Sawmill, you may want to see if you can be included on a future tour. The facility tour was an impressive display of the creative ingenuity now used in milling lumber. The business employs about 90 local workers in one daily shift. With increased Forest Service contracts, it is possible to actually have 3 shifts in the future.

Below left: The photo is dark but it shows an employee controlling the sawing of logs using a computer screen and laser beam, which enable him to select the optimal cutting of each log.

Below right: Hands-on-work is also required. Workers, trained onsite, sort fast moving lumber by quality. Individual health coverage is included for each employee with the option of adding family coverage. Workers also have the option of participating in a 401K-investment program with the company matching 50%.

Bottom left: Lumber that has been dried. Every part of a log is used from bark chips, to sawdust for use when drilling oil and gas wells. Drying lumber is expensive, but switching to natural gas from diesel has cut the cost. The company is exploring a process to use mill remnants to create power.

Bottom right: Lumber ready to be shipped is stamped with a Montrose label. Lumber is shipped from here east as other mills in the west can meet western states' needs.



League of Women Voters of Colorado State Convention

Nancy Ball, Bob Connor, and Bonnie Koch represented the Montrose League at the LWVCO State Convention on May 10th and 11th in Colorado Springs. Karen Connor also attended as a State Board member. Altogether, there were 61 voting delegates.

A future LWVCO Voter will cover the details of the Convention, which included a fascinating keynote presentation on *The Effectiveness of Servant Leadership* by Dr. Jill Tiefenthaler, President of Colorado College, business meetings, budget adoption, and breakout sessions on various topics. Presented here is information that is particularly apropos to Montrose and Delta County members.

- After the Call to Order on Friday morning, each League was given 2 minutes to highlight a moment of **League Power** (the Convention theme) for their League. The Montrose League shared information about the very successful fracking forum held at the Bill Heddles Center in Delta in January.
- Karen Connor was elected to a second term as a State League Board Member.
- A position on fracking was adopted (see page 5). It contains discussion points that had been presented by the Montrose League including holding public meetings in the community where drilling would occur, increased education for Local Governmental Designees, ongoing research and development for environmentally friendly extraction methods and monitoring the amount of water used.
- A task force will be formed to prepare an overview of the mental health system in Colorado presentable to LWVCO at the 2014 Council Meeting. The overview will include behavioral health and gun violence.
- The Montrose League participated in the silent auction portion of the convention, which is a fundraiser for both our League and LWVCO. Some items that didn't sell at the Making Democracy Work Award night last September were included as well as a few other donated items. Proceeds will go into our Education Fund.
- A LWVCO Travel Reimbursement Incentive Program (TRIP) was adopted whereby local League members may apply to receive reimbursement for travel expenses over 150 miles to State League events. Montrose would have to show "financial hardship" by submitting a current Balance Sheet and application.
- The May 2014 LWVCO Council will be held in Grand Junction at the Two Rivers Convention Center. The Montrose/Delta League has agreed to support the Mesa County League with preparation needs.



Above left: Bonnie Koch and Karen Connor congratulate Nancy Ball on her recognition as a LWVCO Energizer. Above right: Delegates convene for a group meeting. Bonnie, Nancy and Bob are at center table, front and center.

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS® OF COLORADO
CONSENSUS POSITION -- Hydraulic Fracturing
Adopted by LWVCO on May 11th, 2013

HISTORY

After a two-year study, the Hydraulic Fracturing position was adopted at the 2013 Convention.

POSITION IN BRIEF

LWVCO supports policies that enhance public participation in the permitting and monitoring of oil and gas operations in the state. LWVCO supports efforts to improve coordination with local governmental units for environmental management and wise land use. We support strong environmental regulations for water quality, air quality and those that impact human health.

POSITION

Support for:

- Public hearings held in the actual community of the drilling
- Public notice on transparent user-friendly web sites and other media
- Transparent, user-friendly website to register complaints and view subsequent resolution
- Use of the Local Government Designee (LGD) and education for LGD's in the state in order to more easily respond to local citizen concerns
- Strong environmental and safety regulation of water quality and air quality including pre and post testing of water wells and air around all oil and gas well sites
- Transparency in the reporting of all chemicals used during drilling, posted on a neutral website that is easily accessible to the public
- Adequate number of inspectors for the volume of oil & gas activity in the state to ensure that operations are safe and accidents are properly reported and mitigated
- Research, development and use of environmentally friendly extraction methods and equipment, including those providing for the capture of methane
- Monitoring of the water quantity used for oil and gas drilling operations in a manner that is transparent to the public
- Reporting of information on the demands for water used for oil and gas drilling in specific river basins
- Reuse of produced water, with regulatory oversight

Colorado has a rich mineral history that includes oil and gas drilling. By early 2013, Colorado had over 49,000 oil and gas drilling operations, predominantly on the Front Range and in the southwest part of the state. The Colorado Oil and Gas Conservation Commission was established in 1951 to handle the permitting and oversight of these operations. There is increasing concern in many counties and municipalities regarding the public participation in the permitting process and during drilling operations. The nature of hydraulic fracturing raises issues that relate to land use, water and air quality, and public health impacts.

Revisiting Local Fracking

- The *Montrose Daily Press* reported on May 9th that the Paonia based Citizens for a Healthy Community is working with scientists from The Endocrine Disruption Exchange to develop a program to monitor air-quality in areas before drilling and fracking begin, establishing a baseline for later testing. Citizens will carry backpacks with air-sampling devices that test for methane hydrocarbons, non-methane hydrocarbons and other chemicals. Details can be found on their website, <http://www.citizensforahealthycommunity.org>. Click on "News".
- In the April Voter, it was reported that the CHC had won a U.S. District Court ruling that the BLM must publicly identify groups/individuals applying for leasing of public land for oil and gas drilling. While the BLM released names involved in that lawsuit, it has refused to do so in other situations. The CHC is working with other local and national groups to pressure them to maintain a consistent policy. See the website for more information.
- At the recommendation of League member Nancy Ball, Delta County Local Government Designee Bruce Bertram spoke to the Heidi's Forum group on May 15th. He covered many of the same points that had been discussed at our January forum, but also included the fact that Montrose County adobe hills are on Mancos Shale which is where oil and gas exploration is occurring. With that in mind, Montrose County would be well served to do some pre-planning to set parameters before any possible exploration occurs.

2013 Legislative Wrap-Up

Chris Watson, LWVCO Legislative Lobbyist, presented a review of the past legislative session during the State Convention. Montrose member, Jean Aaro was one of four Leaguers who took on the very difficult task of monitoring gun safety legislation. Excerpts from the final Legislative Team report are below. They will give you an idea as to why League positions can be challenging to follow and why politics can work against enactment of a good bill.

VIEW FROM THE DIRECTOR'S CHAIR Sally Augden

The members of LWVCO Legislative Action Committee work very hard to make good decisions about whether to support, oppose or watch any piece of legislation in our purview that comes before the Colorado General Assembly. League positions are at the core of our process, of course, but the decision is not always an easy one. As Chris Watson reminds us regularly, "Just because something fits under our position and has a worthy goal doesn't mean it is good law or good public policy." Anyone listening in to our discussions will hear the questions: does this bill fit our positions, is the timing right for this issue, are there potential ramifications in other areas we're concerned about that do not make this bill good policy, and are we jumping on board simply because other organizations we generally support are there? We are not a single-issue organization. That means we have to take a

broader perspective than many organizations as we fulfill our goal of working for good government.

OVERVIEW Chris Watson

"It was the best of times ... it was the worst of times," seems an apt way to characterize the results of the First Regular Session of the 69th General Assembly. Legislative Action Committee followed approximately 100 bills. Most that we supported passed; most that we opposed failed. We were relieved and happy when the Civil Unions bill passed, as well as the ASSET bill. As you can see from the area summaries, it was a good year for children and juvenile justice, and a quiet year (synonymous with "good" in this case) for reproductive choice. There was noisy progress in K-12 education, and we hope that the Future School Finance Act will be funded through a tax increase to be on the ballot in November, and that it will, in fact, represent progress.

For the first time in several years, the construction of the budget did not require more hard choices about what to cut. Almost every function received more money than last year, and programs helping the neediest were restored and increased. These included more slots in full day kindergarten as well as assistance to the needy disabled and to the Older Coloradans Cash Fund. Controls for enterprise zone tax credits were tightened, reducing the tax expenditure while supporting small business, in particular (HB 1142).

The new elections act (HB 1303) ensures that citizens who are registered to vote and who want a mail ballot will get one – regardless of voting history. It saves money in the future by using vote centers and saves confusion by requiring that consistently across the state.

On the other hand, many, many bills that should have been bipartisan turned into partisan fights, with the majority party shutting out the minority or renegeing on agreements. For example, HB 1303 was put together without the input of one agency that will need to implement and pay for parts of it: the Secretary of State. In Gun Safety is at least one law whose purpose has widespread agreement, but whose construction may make it unenforceable. There needs to be more conversation between environmental groups and the oil and gas industry about the impacts of drilling, especially in densely populated areas. Lots of bills reflected the lack of trust between the two parties. Several of them are not good policy because they lacked balance.

A proposal to increase the salaries of statewide elected officials (Governor, Lt. Governor, Secretary of State, Attorney General, Treasurer) did not pass its first committee. The pool of candidates for such jobs becomes very, very limited when the salaries are so low as to require substantial family and financial sacrifices to run for office and to serve.

Above all, it was EXHAUSTING. Many emotional issues led to late nights in hearings and in floor debate. LAC members were at the Capitol for many of them, especially gun safety, elections, death penalty, and education. Most everyone was more than ready when adjournment, *sine die*, came in mid-afternoon on May 8.

Making Democracy Work Award Enters New Planning Stage

After a successful first annual Making Democracy Work Award program last September, the Board has elected to expand the program in 2013. Two awards will be given, one to an outstanding citizen in Montrose County and one to an outstanding citizen in Delta County both of who have made significant contributions to their communities. Beyond recognition of leadership, goals of the program include expanding networking with community groups and increasing League's visibility.

While we would like to eventually make this a fundraiser for League through participation in the Awards night, getting it started is a large financial undertaking. Our League is applying to LWVCO for a 2013 Project Fund Grant to assist with costs. Annual Meeting attendees reviewed two budgets, one without grant income and one with potential grant income. The former would cause us to draw from our reserves. Both were adopted as needed.

If you would like to help out with this event, now scheduled for September 12th, contact Karen Connor. There are many tasks that need to be done, many of them are short term for those who would like to be involved in League activities but have a limited amount of time.

Membership Chair

Do you enjoy meeting new people? Are you comfortable with telephone and e-mail contacts? Then you might be just the person the Board is looking for to fill the role of Membership Chair.

Tasks include:

- Contacting people initially who have indicated that they would like more information about the League.
- Keeping in contact with them through invitations to programs, a copy of the monthly Voter and information about why League membership is beneficial.
- Interviewing new members for brief bios for publication in the Voter and distributing a membership booklet.
- Maintaining a League Membership contact list and entering membership info into the LWVUS database.
- Following up with current members during the fall membership drive to encourage them to renew for the following year.

Membership responsibilities are intermittent and can easily be worked into your schedule.

Kathy Sigall, our longtime Membership Chair, is stepping down from her position, but she would be happy to sit down with you and go through the steps.

Call Karen Connor today and say you'll lend a hand!

2012-2013 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 2012 - 2013 year. Please add your thank you when you visit these businesses or visit with these individuals.

**Alpine Archaeological
Dennis Olmstead
Library**

**Alpine Bank
Francis Serles
Mountain View Winery**

**Phil Ellsworth
Camp Robber Café
Ardi Halverson**

**Montrose Daily Press
Montrose Community Foundation
Horsefly Brewing Company
Red Barn Restaurant**

**Montrose Bank
Montrose District
The Montrose Mirror
City of Montrose
Stone House Restaurant
Coffee Trader
D.M.E.A.
Nole Ryder
Ted Devlin**

League Calendar

Make sure these dates are on your family calendar:

**Tuesday, May 28th, Horsefly Brewing Company,
Montrose, 5:30 – 9:00 pm:** League Fundraiser

**Wednesday, June 5th, Red Barn Restaurant, Montrose,
4-9 pm:** League Fundraiser

**June 21st/22nd, Best Western Lake Dillon Lodge,
Frisco:** LWVCO Leadership Retreat

**September 5th, Montrose Regional Hospital Conference
Rooms, Noon:** Linda Gann, Western Slope Coordinator for the Colorado Insurance Exchange, will discuss how citizens can make use of the Colorado Exchange to access insurance.

September 12th: Bridges Clubhouse: Making Democracy Award Presentations and Reception

September 28th, State Capital, Denver: LWVCO League Day – get the latest information on League *happenings* and the upcoming election season.

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,
grewalmartha@yahoo.com

Voter: 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

LWVUS Agriculture Study: Barb Krebs, 249-3989
stukrebs@hotmail.com

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

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

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 LWVCO Ed Fund – 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 Treasurer Kathryn Carson, 62431 N. Star Dr., Montrose CO 81403

Questions? Contact Kathie Stigall, 249-6648, Ink@frontier.net



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.