



May 2013

Membership: 30

www.Montrose.co.lwvnet.org

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF MONTROSE COUNTY

Serving Montrose and Delta Counties

www.lwv.orgwww.lwvcolorado.org

VOTER



League of Women Voters of Montrose County Annual Meeting

Thursday, May 2nd, Noon
Vista Charter School, 1810 St.
Mary's Drive (just off
Niagara)

Directions may be found on our website on the calendar page.

- **Approve the Annual Budget**
- **Learn What League Will Take On In The Coming Year**

Special Guest Speaker:
Beth Sass, Principal
Beth will talk about the mission of
Vista and give us a tour
of their new facility



Box Lunches Catered by Camp Robber
\$11.50 per person
Lunch includes a wrap, fruit salad,
dessert and bottled water

If you have not sent an RSVP to secure your reservation and would like to attend, contact Karen Connor. A few additions can still be accommodated.

* To learn more about Vista Charter School, go to page 3.

The League Year In Review

It is traditional at this time of the year to look back on what the League has been able to accomplish in the last year. The Montrose League has been active in Voter Service, developed new programs and provided educational presentations that have met the needs not only of League members but those of regional citizens as well.

Voters Service:

- Facilitated two forums for DMEA Board elections – Montrose and Orchard City
- Hosted a forum for County Commissioner Candidates in the Republican June primary
- Presented the movie Patriocracy, a nonpartisan examination of Washington dysfunction with input from HD 58 Representative Don Coram on his experiences in the state legislature
- President Karen Connor organized VOTE411 for the state of Colorado
- Presented *Democracy in the Balance* on the topic of campaign finance
- Held two State Ballot Issues presentations
- Set up a Montrose Library display encouraging citizens to be informed voters
- Hosted 2012 general election candidate forums in Delta and Montrose Counties
- Karen Connor spoke to Montrose Youth Council on voter registration and the responsibility of voting.
- Jean Aaro served as a legislative action committee volunteer for LWVCO during the 2012 legislative session.

Collaborated with Community groups:

- Hosted with the Center for Mental Health a community presentation on ACA by Marguerite Salazar, regional director of the Department of Health and Human Services
- Jointly sponsored with the Montrose Regional Library 8 foreign policy discussions

Training:

- Kathryn Carson attended June LWVCO Leadership Conference/Karen Connor presented
- Karen Connor attended LWVUS National Convention in Washington, D.C.
- Karen Connor represented the Montrose league at League Day in September
- Nancy Ball, Bob Connor and Bonnie Koch will be delegates to the LWVCO State Convention (Karen Connor will attend as a member of the LWVCO State Board)

(Continued on page 2).

Year In Review – Continued

Program:

- Held our first annual Making Democracy Work Award event in conjunction with a Western Slope Roundup of candidates in the 2012 general election and local elected officials. Six nominees/58 in attendance
- Hosted successful January regional fracking forum with 6 speakers and 130 in attendance from four counties
- Member viewing of documentary *Split Estate*, about conflict between surface landowners and industry when minerals are extracted beneath their land
- Participated in LWVCO fracking consensus discussion
- Hosted presentation by Norm Bircher, Montrose Forest Products on the re-opening of the regional sawmill
- Hosted presentation by Bell Policy Center Health Analyst Bob Semro on the ACA

Successful fundraising:

- recipient of 2012 LWVCO grant to help fund MDWA and costs of hosting a general election in a large venue
- Area businesses and artists provided "in kind" donations for the MDWA event
- Horsefly Brewing Company Community Tap Night
- Red Barn Community Dinner Night

Newer to League? Want to know more about how League functions?

Learn new skills for our League, meet Leaguers from across the state, enjoy beautiful Frisco, Colorado! All this and more are possible at the 2013 Leadership Retreat.

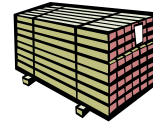
Past trainings have included:

- the Membership Leadership Development program, with useful ideas for nurturing membership and new leaders,
- Forms of local League organization, and
- Voter Service how-tos

Friday, June 21 – Saturday, June 22, 2013
Best Western Lake Dillon Lodge, Frisco, Colorado

Call Karen Connor **today** and tell her you'll attend!

Field Trip



The April League program on Montrose Forest Products presented by Norm Birtcher was not only interesting, but impressive with the company's commitment to sustainably, a League principle.

Mr. Birtcher announced at the meeting that a follow-up tour of the facilities has been set up for League members on Wednesday, May 8th at 10:00 a.m., 11925 6530 Rd., Montrose, CO 81401. A location map is available on the calendar page of our website. Click on the address.

A tour can only accommodate 15 people. Several people signed up at the meeting that day. If you have not signed up, yet, and would like to attend, please contact Karen Connor to see if there are spots still available.

Meet New Member Tammy Theis

Tammie was born in Denver, but moved to Cedaredge when she was teenager, graduating from the high school there. Because she was able to fill her high school requirements early, she drove to Delta from Cedaredge everyday so she could work as a Candy Stripper in the hospital there.

Initially, she was interested in architecture and attended Montrose Vo Tech. The day after her graduation, D.M.E.A. called and asked her to come and work for them, where she was employed up until 2012. Tammie also served in executive positions for the Western Colorado Trade and Labor Unions for 16 years.

As a person with many achievements, Tammie has always been an avid volunteer beginning with her involvement with the Women's Resource Center for twelve years.

Family is her main priority. She and her husband, Robert, have a daughter and son living in the Denver area.

The League also welcomes Gerry Murano of Cedaredge as a new member. Membership Chair, Kathy Stigall has not been able to reach her for a welcoming interview.

Know Your Health Care Facts

As the provisions of the Affordable Care Act are implemented, FlackCheck.org's *Guide to Detecting Patterns of Deception in The Affordable Care Act* page surveys the deceptive moves employed to date by its proponents and opponents. No doubt your friends - or you- have received emails or articles about the ACA that contain questionable information. This is one reliable source for sorting out myth from fact. Go to www.flackcheck.org. Click "Explore", move your cursor to "Detecting Patterns of Deception", then click on Affordable Care Act.

For coverage of the League sponsored April program on the Affordable Care Act, turn to page 4.

What is Vista Charter School?

Just how much do you know about the Vista Charter School? The following information from their website will help you get to know about the valuable part they play in educational opportunities in the area.

Vista is not in competition with the traditional high schools in our district. The first choice would be for each student to stay in the traditional high school, but "one size fits all" does not work for everyone. Vista serves a need in our community for those students who might not otherwise earn a high school diploma. We work on building good relationships with our students, and we make sure they leave our program with a career plan, which may include enrolling in an institution for higher education.

Overview

- Grades 9-12
- Accredited High School Diploma
- Individualize Instruction
- Self-Paced Instruction
- Computerized & Standards Based Course Curriculum
- 21 Credits to Graduate on a Higher Ed or Voc-Ed Graduation Plan
- Work-Study Credit Available
- Ages 16 up to 21 years
- Dropout Retrieval Program
- Alternative Learning School
- Students Over 21 Pay Tuition
- Students Attend:
 - 1 of 3 Sessions Daily (additional sessions available)
 - Work a minimum of 10 hours/week

History

In 1987 Vista began as a Second Chance School Program in the District. It functioned as a district drop out retrieval program. It grew as a district program for many years. In 2003, the district spearheaded a community-wide Feasibility Study, which determined the potential success of a Charter School. In 2004, Vista Charter School opened in the district trailers, as a conversion charter school. In the spring of 2005, the school moved to a 6000 sq. ft. building that houses the school today. Vista Charter School became a Designated Alternative High School in 2006, affirmed by CDE in recognition that 95% of our student population had at least one at-risk factor.

About Vista

Vista Charter School: An Accredited High School Diploma Program

"Vista Charter High School is a successful educational opportunity for students who seek an alternative means to earn a high school diploma. Since Vista's establishment in 1984, more than 890 students have graduated from the program. Vista provides a flexible class schedule that allows students to secure employment while attending school. Course work is individualized, and credit is earned at a self-paced rate. Vista offers both computerized courses and more traditional textbook courses to students. Credit is awarded based on completion of course work. When students earn the required number of credits, they graduate immediately. Two formal graduation ceremonies are held each school year to honor the graduates and award accredited high school diplomas."

Our Mission

The mission of Vista Charter School is to ensure that all students master the skills required to earn a high school diploma and that they acquire the tools necessary for future success.

The FOUR C's

Four Cornerstones of Character for Student Success:

CONNECTION-

Developing connections with others to create a sense of belonging and teamwork

COMPETENCY-

Achieving academic proficiency in Math, Reading, and Writing

CONFIDENCE-

Creating a healthy self-confidence to assist in making positive choices toward a career path

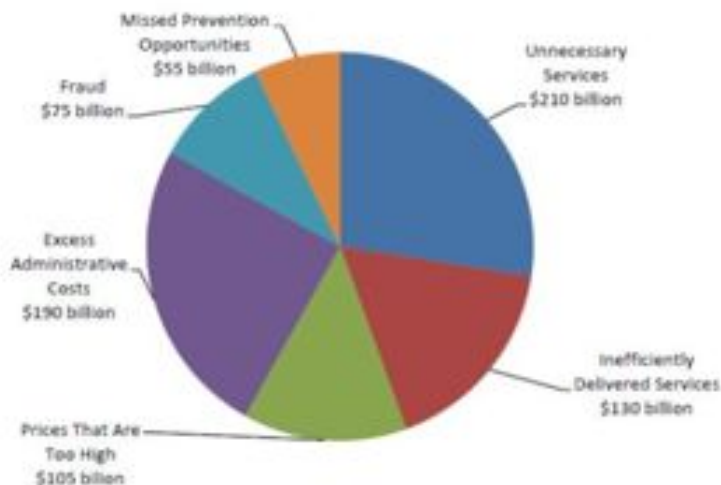
COMMUNITY-

Learning to give back to the community with the resources you have available

Affordable Health Care Program



The April 26th presentation on the ACA held in the conference rooms of Montrose Hospital highlighted the incredible intricacies of the legislation. Bob Semro, Bell Policy Center Health Care Policy Analyst met with Program Chair Nancy Ball, President Karen Connor and Linda Gann, Western Slope Outreach Coordinator for the Colorado Insurance Exchange, for a pre-presentation discussion – above left. As guests arrived, Mr. Semro asked individual audience members what aspects of the act they were most interested in hearing about – above right. The numbers in attendance filled two joined conference rooms – below left. After the presentation, Mr. Semro stayed to answer individual questions that audience members had – below right. Audience members brought many perspectives to the program. Mr. Semro did an exceptional job at making sure listeners understood he was only presenting factual information on what the legislation covered, not giving a pro or con message.



Mr. Semro emphasized that while the ACA will shrink the rise in health care costs over the next several years, it won't eliminate it. One of the biggest reasons for the continuous rise in costs is waste in expenses. He told the audience that he highly recommended reading the March 4th issue of Time Magazine on wasted costs if they had not already done so. The chart to the left illustrates how much money is wasted. Numbers are from the Institute of Medicine.



846 Main St. Montrose, Colorado

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

**Tuesday, May 28th
5:30 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
Starting at 3 PM**

**Get there early/avoid the crowd
Order off the regular menu**

10% of proceeds tonight will go to our League.

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:

Thursday, May 2nd, noon, Vista Charter School: Annual meeting; Principal Beth Sass as main speaker/tour director.

May 8th, 10:00 am, Montrose Forest Products, 11925 6530 Rd., Montrose, CO 81401: Tour of the sawmill facility.

May 10th/11th, Crowne Plaza, Colorado Springs: 2012 League of Women Voters of Colorado State Convention

Wednesday, May 15th, DMEA Offices, Montrose: League moderates forum for DMEA Board Candidates

Wednesday, May 22nd, Location TBD, Hotchkiss: League moderates forum for DMEA Board Candidates

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, Time TBD: Linda Gann, Western Slope Coordinator for the Colorado Insurance Exchange, will discuss how citizens can make use of the Colorado Exchange to access insurance.

2012-2013 Board Members

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

Co-Vice President: Peggy Baxter, 856-6225,
peggybax@gmail.com

Co-Vice President: Martha Grewall, 856-4748,
grewalmarta@yahoo.com

Secretary: Nancy Ball, 249-8963
nancyball@montrose.net

Treasurer: Kathryn Carson, 249-3776,
pkcarson@bresnan.net

Membership: Kathie Stigall, 249-6648
Ink@frontier.net

Voter Service: Barb Krebs, 249-3989
stukrebs@hotmail.com

At Large: Bette Nickell, 252-0616,
b_nickell@q.com

At Large: Rod Britten, 240-1119,
rodbritten@montrose.net

Voter/Website: Bonnie Koch, 252-1110
toouray@aol.com

Join League of Women Voters of Montrose County

2012-2013

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.