

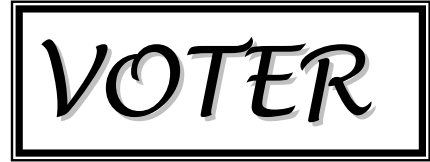


September 2014

Membership: 28

www.montrose.co.lwvnet.org

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS®
Serving Montrose and Delta Counties



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

**CELEBRATING 94 YEARS OF WOMEN'S RIGHT TO VOTE
THE 19TH AMENDMENT - THE SUSAN B. ANTHONY AMENDMENT, 1920
WOMEN'S EQUALITY DAY, AUGUST 26, 2014**



photo by Jim Schwiertert

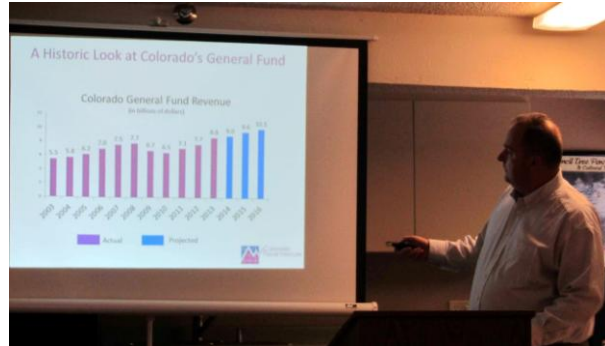
Tuesday, August 26, marked the 94th anniversary of the ratification of the 19th amendment, which stated simply "The right of citizens of the United States to vote "shall not be denied or abridged by the United States or by any state on account of sex." Finally, in 1920, after decades of struggles by our brave foremothers, came women's right to vote and validation of the right of women to run for elected offices.

To celebrate "Women's Equality Day", the League held a one-hour "parade" in front of the Montrose County Courthouse on South 1st Street at 4 pm. Dressed in "period" costumes, 13 game ladies---6 Leaguers, 4 Cedaredge Women's Literary Club members, and 3 passionate Montrosians--- carried signs highlighting the anniversary and reading "Women Make A Difference" showing the 2012 voter turnout across the United States by gender. Not shown, but present, was our League treasurer, Rod Britten. The Montrose Daily Press and KVN Community Radio memorialized the event with photos and interviews.

For those of you who enjoy historical tidbits, when Alice Paul, a Suffragette, was jailed and subsequently went on a hunger strike, President Woodrow Wilson and some of his associates tried to persuade a psychiatrist to declare Alice Paul insane so that she could be permanently institutionalized. The doctor refused. Alice Paul was strong, he said, and brave. That didn't make her crazy. The doctor admonished the men: 'Courage in women is often mistaken for insanity.' A note of interest---our state of Colorado granted women the right to vote in 1893!

LOCAL LEAGUE SUMMER PROGRAM

"The CFI Roadshow: Taxes, TABOR and The Road Ahead"



The Montrose League was pleased to have been contacted by the Colorado Fiscal Institute located in Denver in June and asked to host "the CFI roadshow". Held on July 30 at the Region 10 Enterprise Center, the noon program featured Tim Hoover, Communications Director, and Chris Stiffler, Economist, and attracted 22 attendees, all of whom we welcomed by League Vice President, Jean Aaro.

Mr. Hoover began the non-partisan PowerPoint presentation by showing our state budget and tax "pot", from what sectors the money flows into the state and their percentages, and into which areas the funds are distributed by the state was very interesting. He showed that the General Fund (discretionary income) makes up 38% of the budget and goes to five items: K-12 = 38.6%; health Care = 26%; Higher Education = 7%; Corrections = 8.2%; and, Human Services = 8.9%, leaving only 11% for everything else. Also, the comparison of our state taxes and percentage of budgetary outlays with other states was quite enlightening in that it showed that although Colorado ranks 45th in total taxes, we also rank 43rd in K-12 spending, 49th in higher education spending, and 43rd in highway spending.

Mr. Stiffler brought humor to economic theory and policy as he spoke on the somewhat stagnant status of the Colorado economy, pointing out that it is due in large part to the effects of the Taxpayer Bill of Rights (T.A.B.O.R.), the low minimum wage, state and local taxing policies, and income inequality. One concept that was very interesting was the fact that in the past it was products that were purchased by consumers and that products are taxed. Now, many products are purchased over the Internet so states and municipalities are losing revenue and that services are now a major purchase and they are not taxed. Because of T.A.B.O.R., the state government is unable to raise taxes without a vote of the people, meaning they cannot invest revenue in good times or save for a rainy day; therefore, our tax structure needs to change and adapt. He also spoke on the equalities of U.S. income tax system saying that the wealthy pay a smaller share of their incomes and that 2/3 of the tax breaks go to the top 20% of the population.

LOCAL LEAGUE FALL PROGRAMS OVERVIEW

MARK YOUR CALENDAR!

**THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF MONTROSE COUNTY
INVITES THE COMMUNITY TO ATTEND**

"OUR CHILDREN, OUR FUTURE"

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 11 AT NOON

MONTROSE LIBRARY COMMUNITY ROOM

PRESENTED BY "YES FOR OUR SCHOOLS"

Ballot initiative 3A would expand the financial resources available to our school district.

CANCELLED

CANDIDATE FORUM - U.S. HOUSE DISTRICT 3

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 23

BILL HEDDLES RECREATION CENTER, DELTA

SCOTT TIPTON'S OFFICE WROTE TO SAY HE HAD A CALENDAR CONFLICT

**STATE OF COLORADO BALLOT ISSUES FORUM + "2014 ELECTION
BRIEFING" BY FRAN LONG, MONTROSE COUNTY CLERK & RECORDER**

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 2 AT NOON

MONTROSE LIBRARY COMMUNITY ROOM

NATIONAL VOTER REGISTRATION DAY

September 23, 2014

Continuing the League's work for voting rights and encouraging youth to participate in the democratic process, our local League will mark this important date by facilitating with online voter registration at Delta-Montrose Technical College on Thursday, September 25 from 11 am to 1 pm and at C.M.U.'s Montrose campus on Tuesday, September 30 from 1-4 pm.

Want to help? Contact Karen Connor at 249-2135.

**CHECK OUT THE LEAGUE CALENDAR ON PAGE 6 FOR ALL UPCOMING
SEPTEMBER AND OCTOBER ACTIVITIES AND PROGRAMS**

STATE LEAGUE NEWS

LEAGUE DAY 2014 - SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 20, 2014 - Denver

Fall 2014 elections will be front and center at this year's League Day. The morning program will feature a League sponsored candidates forum for the position of Colorado Secretary of State. Following the forum Gerry Cummins, LWVCO Voter Service VP, will address the Colorado Ballot Issues. In the afternoon, Barbara Mattison, President Elect of LWVCO, will give a presentation entitled, "Behavioral Health Task Force – Where From Here?"

Other presentations in the works include:

- Informing us on methods for amending the US Constitution in preparation for the LWVUS new study and review on campaign finance
- Understanding the new LWVUS position on human trafficking
- Sharing innovative activities being conducted by several local Leagues

Ballot issues pamphlets will be ready for pick up by local Leagues.

MONEY IN POLITICS

by Shirley Jin, LWV/Boulder County Campaign Finance Committee Chair

Money in politics is now so vast a corrupting influence that it is causing the decline of our democracy. Decisions are often made in favor of wealthy special interests and for corporate interests rather than the people. In June, LWVUS convention delegates chose campaign finance reform as a priority for advocacy. With local Leagues cooperating for action throughout the country, the League is uniquely suited to the task of educating people about the need for reform.

The LWV of Boulder County Campaign Finance Reform committee is proposing that each Colorado local League form its own committee, and that a member of each committee participate in a statewide conference call to discuss plans, tactics and activities. Our website, lwwbc.org, will also be used to share information. We hope that our Colorado network, once established, will be a model for other states so that local Leagues throughout the U.S. can share information and advocate more effectively.

The LWVUS task force on campaign finance reform is creating a tool kit for local Leagues.

INTERESTED? CONTACT CAITLIN AT montroselowv@gmail.com

Excerpts from an article entitled **CO Insurance Industry: Immigrant Licenses Create Safer Roads** written by Stephanie Carson of Public News Service (CO) on August 25, 2014 regarding the approximately 45,000 immigrants in Colorado who are eligible for driver's license permits:

The League of Women Voters of Colorado supports the availability of the permits, but is concerned about the scarcity of locations that offer testing. At 155 appointments a day statewide, Bobbie Heisterkamp, president of the League in Colorado, is concerned about the amount of time it will take to make sure all immigrant drivers are properly trained. "There are too few places where they can make appointments and actually carry through," Heisterkamp says. "It's like a big bottleneck. How are they possibly going to get through 45,000 people?"

The issued license will bear a slightly different banner than the standard Colorado driver's license. Those who hold the license will **not** be able to use them as valid federal identification, for voting or state benefits.

NATIONAL LEAGUE NEWS

Finding Inspiration from the Past and Present

By: Elisabeth MacNamara, August 22, 2014

Next week will mark the 94th anniversary of the ratification of the 19th Amendment, granting women the right to vote. With that ratification, the work of the newly formed League of Women Voters, which was founded to finish the fight for suffrage, really began. An estimated 25 million women were, with the stroke of a pen, eligible to vote. The task of registering and informing those new women voters was enormous. Add to that the understandable desire of those who had worked so long and hard for woman suffrage to make a difference with their votes.

It is tempting to look back on those early days of the League for inspiration, especially as we look forward to a federal midterm election where much is at stake, but where too often voter enthusiasm is low. While it may be challenging, I am also inspired by the fact that so many Leagues and members are already out in their communities registering and educating voters through voters' guides, candidate debates and VOTE411.org. I also find inspiration in the following passage from a convention speech by the League's first president Maud Wood Park referring to interests hostile to the mission of the League:



By far the most serious of our opponents is the colossal inertia of large numbers of persons. If this nation ever faces final disaster, it will be because what 'is everybody's business is nobody's business except the self-seekers.' We need to rewrite that old adage...In this respect ours is a stupendous undertaking, for inertia is a thoroughly uninteresting opponent. Thrills do not come easily in a struggle against sheer dead weight, but that weight must be moved if we are to succeed...**If we have the courage to try, we do not need genius or even extraordinary qualities in order to succeed. All that we shall require is steadfast faith in democracy, common sense and persistence...if we have all three - and keep them together - we are invincible.**

All these years later, the League has had those qualities and kept them together, and we have been and will continue to be invincible.



LWVUS is sponsoring the Colorado VOTE411 website where voters can find information on national, state and local candidates, as well as pros and cons of ballot issues that will appear on their ballots. Anyone can access this helpful website via **www.VOTE411.org** or by going to our local website, **www.montrose.co.lwvnet.org**.

Be a better informed voter by checking out information posted by the candidates themselves in response to questions posed by the League!

IT'S NOT TOO LATE TO JOIN THE 2014-2015 BOARD TO LEARN & ENJOY!

As can be seen from the list of Board Members on Page 7, there are still several positions to be filled. Fresh ideas are always welcome, and Caitlin and the other Executive Board members are anxious to hear yours! Rest assured mentoring is available!

S T R E T C H yourself! It is really rewarding, and remember Democracy is not a spectator sport! Contact Caitlin at montroselowv@gmail.com.

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**

League Calendar

September

- 11** "Yes for Our Schools" Ballot Issue 3A program - Montrose Library Community Room - Noon
- 20** LWVCO League Day - Denver
- 25** Voter Registration - Delta-Montrose Technical College - 11am-1pm
- 30** Voter Registration - C.M.U - 1-4 pm

October

- 2** Ballot Issues Forum + "2014 Election Briefing"- Fran Tipton-Long - Montrose Library Community Room - Noon
- 7** State House 61 & Senate 5 Candidate Forum - Memorial Hall, Hotchkiss, 6:30 pm
- 8** Heidi's Forum Ballot Issues Presentation-Heidi's Deli - 8 am
- 9** Montrose County Commissioner Candidate Forum - City Council Chambers - doors open at 6:30 pm
- 14** Ballot Issues Forum - Memorial Hall, Hotchkiss - 6:30 pm
- 25** LWV membership drive and voter registration - Connect for Health Colorado Insurance Fair Centennial Room - 9 am-12 pm -

**Join League of Women Voters of Montrose
County
2014-2015
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:

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

Membership:

Program Chair:

Fundraising:

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/

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.

