



League of Women Voters of Cortez-Montezuma
VOTER
 Montezuma County, Colorado

The League of Women Voters, a nonpartisan political organization, promotes informed and active participation in government and influences public policy through education and advocacy.

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**September is Membership
 Renewal Month**

Don't put it aside ---
 Fill out the enclosed membership form
 and return it with your check to:
 Denis Boon, 14030 Rd 21, Cortez, CO
 81321
before September 30th !!

Join the League!

Anyone of voting age may join the League of Women Voters. Others may be associate members. Discounted household memberships are available. Call Llois Stein at 564-9565 for more information.

Newsletter Editor: Chris Foran

Mark Your Calendars

Next Meeting
Saturday, September 22, 2007
10 AM at the Colorado Visitor Center
(Not the Cultural Center)
All members are urged to attend
the next meeting to help plan the
future of our League. We will
decide when, where and how
often to meet, we will elect
officers and we will discuss
activities for the next few months.

A change in the status of the Mesa Verde Restaurant (old Anasazi Restaurant) forced a change in our September meeting time.

The meeting place and time has changed to 10 AM at the Colorado Visitor Center on Main in the City Park. Please pass news of the change to others.

Future Meeting Times

At the September meeting we will take a survey (attachment) to help determine the day and time most convenient for various types of meetings of our membership. We'll compile the survey at the meeting which will facilitate discussion to determine future meeting times.

Most Leagues do not hold general meetings twice monthly. Chartered Leagues hold monthly Board meetings at which administrative decisions are made. League general meetings are for specific predetermined purposes and discussions such as LWVUS Immigration Study, Air Quality, Health Care, Voter Services.

At the July 21 meeting

Judy Schuenemeyer announced that she was resigning as Secretary because of personal commitments.

After the July 21 meeting, Mary Lou Asbury submitted her resignation from the League (and from all activities associated at least for the present) to Judy Schuenemeyer.

During the meeting, a committee to nominate potential Board members was appointed consisting of Eric Janes, Jodi Foran and a member to be appointed by Mary Lou Asbury. Because of her resignation from the League, Mary Lou did not select a third member. Likewise, Judy Schuenemeyer did not want to make the selection due to her resignation. Eric and Jodi selected Marsha Boon as the third nominating committee member.

The consensus of those present at the July 21 meeting was that:

- At the next meeting, a Board would be elected to administer the League.
- At the next meeting, a vote would be taken to determine if the League wanted to move from a MAL to a Chartered status. A strategy would be implemented to achieve Chartered status if the membership voted for such.
- A strategy and campaign to increase our membership is a priority.
- A name change that reflected greater county inclusiveness was desirable.

League Day, October 6, 2007 in Denver

Jodi and Chris will be driving up on Friday, October 6. Contact them if you'd like to ride or caravan. The meeting agenda includes a presentation by LWVUS President, Mary Wilson of Albuquerque. There will also be hour long presentations on Renewable Energy, Health Care – 208 Commission activity, Immigration Study and Post Referendum C. Sandwiched in the activities will be lunch. Registration deadline is September 21 and the fee is \$35 which includes lunch. See the August 2007 LWVCO Voter for more details. This will be an interesting meeting.

Marilyn Brown of Durango is our Advisor assigned by LWVCO

Marilyn worked for a major chemical company in the toxicology lab and managed an information center as well as archiving toxicology studies. She was a thirty-one year member of the Midland, MI LWV and has been a member of the LaPlata LWV

for five years. She has served as local president three times and has attended three national conventions. She is conducting the Immigration Study for LWV LPC and helping us to leverage from LaPlata's efforts.

Change of League Name and Status

The Cortez-Montezuma League was organized in 1997 by Mary Lou Asbury and other forward thinking residents. It has been a Member-at-Large (MAL) since then. At the July 21 meeting Jodi distributed, reviewed and those present discussed information on becoming a chartered League. A copy of the outline of the presentation was emailed with the minutes of that meeting along with a copy of job descriptions from the LaPlata League. Chartered Leagues have great flexibility on how their leadership is defined and how jobs are assigned. If we decide to become a regular League, we must have by-laws that will define leadership positions and their responsibilities.

If you haven't reviewed the document which defines a MAL and differentiates it from a chartered league, please review before the September 22 meeting. The document also lists the steps we must do before requesting LWVCO and LWVUS to change our status. Marilyn Brown has helped us to define the benefits of a chartered league which are included in the outline mentioned above.

Air Quality Committee: Ozone Monitors

The League Air Quality Committee has worked hard in many ways for many months representing the League and our concern for quality air. Eric and Betty Janes, Judy and Jack Schuenemeyer, Sylvia Oliva and Mary Lou Asbury have participated on the Four Corners Air Quality Task Force. A major result of their involvement and networking was the placing of five monitors in Montezuma County for the month of August!! With all the haze it was a good month to do such. The county will now have a baseline for future data collection.

Air Quality Committee: Desert Rock Hearings

The Air Quality Committee wrote and mailed a superb comment paper to the Bureau of Indian Affairs regarding the Desert Rock Energy Project. A lot of effort went into the ten detailed pages of deficiencies. Several local Leaguers also spoke at hearings and sent in comments as individuals. MANY THANKS!! Thanks especially to Eric Janes for his efforts. Eric emailed the document to those with functioning email addresses. If you did not

receive a copy, call or email Jodi Foran,
jodi@foran.net.

Cortez-Montezuma League Position on Desert Rock

The following paragraph is from the letter sent by our League to Ms. Harrilene Yazzie, NEPA Coordinator, BIA, Navajo Regional Office:

"As presently formulated in the draft EIS, the League (ed. note: Cortez-Montezuma LWV) is opposed to the Desert Rock Project. However, should BIA and Sithe add an alternative as the selected Proposed Action in the final EIS which achieves a net environmental improvement for the Four Corners regional air quality (as detailed in our League comments, ref: Pg. ES-2), the Cortez-Montezuma League will seriously consider changing our position to supporting the Desert Rock Energy Project."

Air Quality Task Force (quote from LaPlata League Newsletter, September, 2007)

"The penultimate quarterly session of the task force August 8 featured an update on proposed changes to ozone standards and a panel of state, federal and tribal officials discussing their progress on climate change issues. Our last meeting, to be held November 7, wraps up two years of work developing mitigation options for sponsoring agencies to use in their permitting processes."

"Ozone: The current ozone standard (8-hour average) is 80 parts per billion (ppb). Due to rounding, this limit encompasses readings as high as 84. The EPA is floating a suggested lowering to a figure between 70.0 and 75.0 ppb (3 significant figures to eliminate the rounding). Since ozone is a regional pollutant and it only takes one monitor out of compliance to kick the region into non-attainment, a large area could be affected. In the Four Corners, we are in compliance with the current standard; however, at 75.0 ppb, the Navajo Lake monitor would register too high; at a 70.0 ppb standard multiple monitors would register too high. Non-attainment status would affect siting of new industrial sources, require emissions offsets, transportation conformity and federal operations conformity, such as tighter requirements on ski area expansion on federal lands."

"Climate change activities: Officials from New Mexico, CO, the Southern Ute tribe, the BLM, Forest Service, our EPA Region 8, and the National Park Service summarized their activities relative to climate change. New Mexico appears to be out ahead, with Colorado, under the new

administration, hitting the ground running. The federal agencies recently discovered a last minute rule signed by Bruce Babbitt on January 19, 2001 and so far not reversed by Bush, indicating that 'global climate change is occurring...' and that Interior departments should take it into account in their long-range planning. The BLM and Park Service, held on a 'short leash' prior to discovery of this order, are affected by this ruling but not the Forest Service, which is under the Dept of Agriculture. Panel members felt that they had lost six years by not knowing about this order and will include such planning from now on."

"Pat Cummins, of the Western Governors Council, spoke briefly about the Western Regional Climate Action Initiative, of which New Mexico, Arizona, California, Oregon, Utah and Washington are founding members. Colorado and the Southern Ute tribe currently have observer status. British Columbia and Manitoba are members and the Mexican state of Sonora is an observer. This organization seeks to identify, evaluate and implement ways to collectively reduce [greenhouse gas](#) emissions in the region. The initiative requires partners to set an overall regional goal to reduce emissions, develop a market-based, multi-sector mechanism [actually a cap and trade system] to help achieve that goal, and participate in a cross-border greenhouse gas (GHG) registry."

"A side conversation with Carl Daly of EPA8 (Denver) about the recent Supreme Court ruling directing the EPA to consider carbon dioxide a pollutant revealed that the current administration is not putting any pressure on the EPA to hurry in their review, that because carbon dioxide is a new type of pollutant, the EPA will have to develop a new process to decide if it needs to be regulated and if so, what standards or limits to set. All this could take a very long time."

"Modeling Mitigation Options: A two-hour session preceding the task force meeting solicited suggestions for five scenarios of mitigation options to be modeled by a contractor. The results will show how well our suggestions could work in the Four Corners area and are the first real use of our product by the agencies sponsoring the task force."

"A tour of the Shamrock Air Monitoring Station near Bayfield followed the meeting. This station includes ozone, nitrous oxide and particulate matter monitors for lower altitudes of the Weminuche Wilderness area and includes a camera, which photographs the southwestern horizon three times a day. The visit included an interesting discussion of the geology San Juan Basin."

-Marilyn Brown

Concurrence Considered by LaPlata LWV With Our Desert Rock Position

The LaPlata League is considering a concurrence with our position. The following discussion of the term "concurrence" is from their September, 2007, Newsletter:

"What is concurrence? According to In League publication, the LWV Bible, which is posted in full on www.lwv.org, 'concurrence is the act of agreeing with – or concurring with – a position. Concurrence has been a decision-making technique used by the League for some time. Concurrence can take place in many ways. Groups of League members or League boards can concur with:

- * recommendations of a resource committee or a unit group;*
- * decision statements formulated by League boards;*
- * positions reached by another League or Leagues.*

Leagues in the same water basin have concurred with each others' positions on management of water resources in their common basin. In area Leagues, an issue which relates specifically to one jurisdiction (of the geographical area covered by the League) is often studied by members living in that jurisdiction, and, after member agreement has been reached by those members, the other members of the League are asked to concur in the results."

Immigration Study

At the July 21, 2007 meeting Marilyn Brown encouraged our league to participate in the League's National Immigration Study. The opportunity for local leagues to participate in studies of this magnitude does not occur often.

The members present at the July 21 meeting agreed that the Immigration Study would be interesting in encouraging each member to learn more about and to discuss various issues regarding Immigration Policy. Additionally, participating in the process would allow members to better understand how the League operates and determines its positions.

Thanks, Llois, for agreeing to be the facilitator for the Cortez-Montezuma LWV contribution to the national Immigration Study.

The National Study has wide breadth. LWVUS has prepared study papers which will increase our understanding of the various issues and focus discussion which are available to download from

www.lwv.org you can download the following papers:

- "The Economic Aspects of Authorized and Unauthorized Immigration"
- "The Effects of Global Interdependence on Migration"
- "Federal Immigration Policy: Enforcement Issues"
- "Immigration and the Economy"
- "US Immigration Policy: Family Reunification"
- "Immigrantes: Diversity and Inclusion"
- "Overview: Federal Immigration Policy and Proposed Reforms"
- "What Motivates Immigration to America?"
- "Immigration Study Brief 1 from the National Voter Publication"
- "Immigration Study Brief 2 from the National Voter Publication"
- "Immigration Study: A Historical Perspective"

We will study and discuss these articles and other materials after which the membership comes to **consensus** on predetermined questions.

The **Consensus Process**, which will be guided by Marilyn Brown and the LaPlata LWV, will be very interesting for all of our local participants!!

The consensus questions are also on the website. Llois and Jodi will be attending meetings with LWV LPC Immigration Committee. In October and November our League will meet to initiate discussion of the above papers. In January we will participate in the LWVUS's **consensus process** to determine the LWVUS's position on Immigration. We will have very stimulating discussions during the Immigration Study which touches so many of today's issues!

Health Care

The 208 Commission has selected the four following health plans for review by a Lewin Consultant Group to evaluate and estimate costs for each plan:

- Colorado Health Services Plan (single-payer submitted by HCAC and CO Nurses Association)
- Better Health for Colorado
- Solutions for a Healthy Colorado
- A Plan for Covering Coloradans

The Commission is developing a fifth plan. Public hearings will be held in each Congressional Districts in October for further citizen input before a final

recommendation is presented to the Legislature next year.

Those attending League Day on October 6 will hear a presentation by the chairman of the 208 commission. The 208 Commission website is: www.colorado.gov/208commission

AGENDA - Next Meeting

September 22, 2007 10 AM at the Colorado Visitor Center on Main in the Park (not the Cortez Cultural Center)

- Elect Interim Board
- Vote on Moving from MAL to charter League
- Vote on name change from "Cortez-Montezuma" to "Montezuma County"
- Meeting time survey (see attachment)
- Meeting Time for next meeting
- Committees assignments
- Membership dues \$50
- League Day
- Tentative Calendar
- Immigration Study update

Please contact Jodi if you haven't received the July 21 minutes and the paper on MAL and Chartered Status benefits. We are not required to achieve a chartered status but will be limited in what we are able to do as a League.

Election of Board (Officers)

The Nominating Committee of Eric Janes, Marcia Boon and Jodi Foran is presenting the following candidates at the September 22 meeting. This will be an interim Board until elections at the annual meeting in May, 2008.

Ballots at the next meeting will have write-in

space at each position.

Special thanks to Judy Schuenemeyer, who has agreed to add League VP to her other commitments.

The nominees presented by the committee are:

- President: Jodi Foran
- Vice-President: Judy Schuenemeyer
- Secretary: Eric Janes and Ann Stevenson
- Treasurer: Denis Boon
- Newsletter Editor and web master: Chris Foran

Every member's participation is needed in the next seven months to grow our local group and to engage with the goals of our League!!

Tentative Calendar

- Local League Meeting, September 22, 2007 Colorado Visitor Center, 10AM
- League Day, October 6, Denver
- October Board Meeting (to be determined)
- November Immigration Study Meeting (TBD)
- November Board Meeting (TBD)
- December Immigration Study (TBD)
- December Board Meeting (TBD)
- January Consensus Meeting (TBD)

Attachment List

- **Committees**

We need everyone's participation. Please print the attached "Committee Needs" document, check any committees you would like to participate in and bring to the next meeting.

- **Meeting Time Survey Form**

Print and fill out ahead of time or be prepared to fill out copies we will have at the meeting.

- **Membership Form**

Print and fill out the form. Mail it with your dues check to Denis Boon, 14030 Rd 21, Cortez, CO 81321.