



**League of Women Voters of Montezuma County**  
**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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November/December, 2007

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***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 or Marcia Boon at 565-7668 for more information.

**THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS WORKS FOR YOU**

- VOTER INFORMATION**
- HEALTH CARE**
- WATER AND AIR QUALITY**
- EDUCATION**
- NATIONAL RESOURCES**
- HAZARDOUS & NUCLEAR WASTE**
- CHILDREN AND FAMILY ISSUES**
- CAMPAIGN FINANCE**
- ELECTION REFORM**
- CRIMINAL JUSTICE**
- RECYCLING**

***Democracy is not a spectator sport!***

**Mark Your Calendars**

**Next (November) General Meeting**  
 Thursday November 15, 6:30PM  
 Calvin Denton Room, Empire Electric  
**December General Meeting**  
 Saturday, December 1, 8am breakfast  
 meeting at the former Anasazi Restaurant.

Board Meetings:  
 Monday Nov. 12, 9AM, Welcome Center

**Board of Directors**

President.....	Jodi Foran 882-2401 jodi@foran.net
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Secretary.....	Eric Janes 533-1051 ejanes@frontier.net
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**Committee Chairs**

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Health Care.....	Eleanor Kuhl 564-0708 ekuhl@frontier.net
Voter Services.....	Roberta Conway 565-3121 rdowntain@yahoo.com Lou Etta and Dick Hoover 565-7367 johnhoover@beyondbb.com
Environment.....	Eric Janes 533-1051 ejanes@frontier.net

## ***President's Message***

After the election in September, Eric Janes and I composed a letter to the BOCC which was approved by the Board in which we attached LWVMZC's comments regarding the Desert Rock Energy Project EIS and stating the League's availability to speak with the Commissioners more in depth regarding some of the issues. We have not received a response.

Ellen Roberts, Representative of the 59<sup>th</sup> District that includes some of Montezuma County held a Town Meeting at the Colorado Visitor's Center, October 17, where all attendees were LWVMZC members! Discussion topics included her initiative to involve students in the political process and to facilitate their understanding how legislation is created. M-CHS students have been actively involved in drafting a bill that Ellen will sponsor that would establish a Colorado Youth Advisory Council. Ellen was very complimentary of the M-CHS AP government class and their interest and involvement in the legislative process. We as a local League haven't had interaction with county students on a meaningful level much in the past. How can our local League connect with and support Montezuma County students who might be interested in League programs?

During the League Day weekend in Denver, Mary G. Wilson, LWVUS President, was asked about the schedule of our application and approval for fully chartered League status. We will submit to the LWVCO Board who will submit to national. Our goal is to be recognized at the bi-annual LWVUS national convention to be held in Portland, June 2008. When various Board meeting schedules were traced back from the convention date, our original target date in May became a January 7, 2008 deadline to submit our application!

Part of the application package will be creation and approval of our own policies and by-laws. The Board began an initial discussion of proposed documents and will present documents for full membership approval in December. (Until we become a fully chartered League we operate under the by-laws and policies of LWVCO).

Also included in the application package will be a listing of all the League events and activities that

have taken place the past ten years. A comprehensive list isn't available, and I'm very much dependent on the memories of all of you who have been members in the last ten years. PLEASE jot down LWV events and activities you remember took place over the last ten years.

Lineah Davey LWVCO Board Member is helping us by sharing with us the application of Chaffee County, the last League in CO to request full charter status, to ensure that we understand fully how to present an excellent application from Montezuma County!

The Immigration Study continues to be most interesting. Our last meeting before the January Consensus meeting will be held Thursday, November 15 at 6:30 - 8pm in the Calvin Denton Room at Empire Electric. In addition to the "white papers" which can be downloaded from [www.lwv.org](http://www.lwv.org) (follow the links to Immigration Study), this newsletter contains additional information.

We're experimenting with general meeting times trying to find times that will accommodate our members. The December 1 general meeting will be held Saturday morning and will be an update on our local league activities and our presentation to the State Board as well as the adoption of by-laws. We want to spend most of our time on socializing, sharing the journey of our League the past few months and defining in general terms our new year, when we'll be discussing and adopting "programs to study and advocate". The League has its own definition of the word "Program" which we'll be discussing more fully at the general meeting.

Jodi Foran

## ***208 Commission Hearing – October 10<sup>th</sup>, 2007***

The Blue Ribbon Commission for Health Care Reform (also called the 208 Commission from the number of the bill that created it) met with the SW Colorado community and others around the state recently. The purpose of the hearings was to take input on the five plans currently under consideration by the Commission for presentation to the legislature next January.

Four of the plans were chosen from the 31 originally presented to the Commission, and represent four

different approaches to health care reform for Colorado. One of these plans subsidizes health insurance for needy people, two mandate insurance coverage for everyone, and a fourth is a “single-payer” system. The fifth is a composite developed by Commission members, combining ideas from other plans. (For details go to [www.colorado.gov/208commission](http://www.colorado.gov/208commission))

The first four plans were evaluated by the Lewin Group for associated costs. Colorado’s health care budget is currently \$30 billion. The first three plans would increase this to between \$30.4 and \$31.3 billion. The “single-payer” plan would save over \$1.4 billion. The fifth plan is still to some degree a “work in progress”, so has not been evaluated for costs.

Over 60 people attended the Durango hearing when four commissioners (Steven Summer, Lynn Westberg, Steve ErkenBrack and Mark Simon) took questions and comments from the audience. Steven Summer is President of the Colorado Hospital Association and I had met with him earlier at SWMH with the hospital administration and Board members. In the early 90s he had been friends with LWVUS President and had worked together for reform at the national level. Stephen spoke to me highly of his interaction with the LWVUS and of his respect for the League.

Jill Patton, VP of the LaPlata League and I read the LWVCO prepared statement together. I also presented and read two other letters: one from our League detailing our local study findings and one from me as a private individual who is a SHS Board Director.

The text of the LWVCO statement is contained in this newsletter. Most of the 30-40 persons who spoke were in favor of the “single payer” model. Lynn Westberg, a member of the 208 Commission from Durango, told Jill later that at the hearing in Grand Junction the following evening, there was also a lot of support for “single payer”. Steven Summer also told me that many speaking at hearings he had attended on the Front Range also spoke strongly in favor of a “single payer” program. State Rep., Ellen Roberts, attended the hearing, as did representatives of both John and Ken Salazar. The commissioners took lots of notes –and hopefully they’ll make good use of them!

Jodi Foran

## **LWVCO Healthcare Position**

*The following is a position of the League of Women Voters of Colorado (LWVCO).*

The League of Women Voters (LWV) has promoted social and economic justice and the health and safety of all Americans since its inception in 1920. Health care reform has been a major goal of the last 15 years. The LWV favors a national health insurance plan financed through general taxes in place of individual insurance premiums. As the US moves toward a national plan we urge Colorado to take a bold leadership role in adopting a proposal that will demonstrate systemic reform and serve as a model for the country. The work of your Commission and the prospect of real reform to provide comprehensive, quality health care at an affordable cost to all Coloradans are encouraging. LWVCO believes any proposal for health care reform in Colorado should include the following:

- Coverage for everyone, guaranteed issue with no barriers for pre-existing conditions or denial of services based on ability to pay.
- Comprehensive benefits to include prevention of disease, health promotion and education, primary care, acute care, long-term care, and mental health care, (with dental, vision and hearing care next in priority).
- Strong cost-containment measures such as minimizing administrative costs, the use of information technology and regional planning for allocation of personnel, facilities and equipment.
- Health care resources distributed equitably so that no region is underserved.
- Provision for health care professionals to be trained to fill gaps in understaffed fields of expertise.

The League believes that government, individuals, employers and providers should share responsibility for assuring the health of residents. Providers should continually strive to improve their relationships with their patients and the effectiveness of their treatment. Individuals should be encouraged to partner with their provider, take responsibility for healthy behavior and be held accountable. Employers are the single largest beneficiary of a healthy workforce and should therefore support healthy behaviors in their

employees.

Since the task of providing comprehensive, quality care for all is larger than individuals, employers and providers can accomplish alone, we believe there is a role for government in the solution of economic and social problems that affect the general welfare. Because the private market in health care has failed to provide affordable insurance for 792,000 people in Colorado (and figures show an equal number are under-insured) increased government involvement is the solution to achieving universal health care access.

Of the 5 proposals, the Colorado Health Services Plan solely meets the LWV concept of true health care reform. The administrative savings realized across many segments of health care will enable universal coverage and a comprehensive health care program for our residents. The strong cost containment measures help to insure affordability and sustainability for the future.

Thank you for this opportunity to contribute to the public dialogue and share in the solution of a pressing social and economic problem facing our state.

### ***Members Renewed***

Here is the list of new and currently renewed members. **If your name isn't on the following list, you haven't renewed your membership.** Please do so soon using the form attached to this newsletter. We need your help as a member.

The following sixteen members have renewed: Marcia Boon, Denis Boon, Jodi Foran, Chris Foran, John Hoover, Louetta Hoover, Eric Janes, Betty Janes, Eleanor Kuhl, Helen Rohrbaugh, Jack Schuenemeyer, Judy Schuenemeyer, Betty Snair, Llois Stein, Billy Swope, Susan Thomas.

### ***Member Focus: Eric Janes***

Eric has a lifetime of training and experience in water and environmental issues. He received his BS in Forest Management from UC Berkeley in 1967 and his MS in Range Watershed Management from UC Berkeley in 1969.

He most recently was Senior Hydrologist for the

Bureau of Land Management (BLM) in Washington, D.C. where he advised the Director and the Interior Secretariat on Colorado River Basin water resource and salinity management issues.

A partial list of other positions he has held includes; Associate Field Office Manager and Deputy Forest Supervisor at the San Juan National Forest and BLM Field Office, Durango, Colorado; Deputy Chief, Rangelands, Soil, Water & Air Division, Washington, D.C.; Director's lead for BLM's participation in the \$250 million Clean Water Initiative which involved significant water quality cleanup of abandoned mine land sites (UT, CO, MT), new policy development for watershed management, and strengthening cooperation among federal, state, tribal and local watershed restoration efforts; Senior Hydrologist, National Applied Resource Science Center, BLM, Denver, Colorado; State Office Hydrology Program Lead, BLM Colorado State Office, Denver; Environmental Specialist, National Park Service, Denver Service Center, Denver.

Eric's list of accomplishments is too long for this newsletter but here is a sampling:

He Established the first service-wide BLM training in water quality sampling and analysis and worked with the U.S. Forest Service in the development of a BLM-USFS course for managers on the Clean Water Act and water quality regulation.

During 1998-2001 Eric was instrumental in gaining Administration and Congressional support for the BLM abandoned mine land remediation, water quality improvement, and stream restoration work

Eric directed the work of a team of senior federal department representatives in reviewing water resources and resource management affecting the western U.S. Including American Indian Tribes. This work led to the convening of a national tribal listening session on water resources in 2002.

Eric served as a Federal advisor to the leadership of the National Association of Conservation Districts (NACD) on land and water management topics.

Eric's civic activities have included:

Since 2006, he has served on the Board of Directors for the Public Lands Foundation of Arlington, VA.

During 2005-2006 Eric participated in the Cortez League of Women Voters air quality committee

while that committee assessed air quality monitoring data and needs in the Four Corners Region and briefed local governmental bodies on the assessment results.

Eric was the primary author of the Cortez League's letter of commentary on the Desert Rock Power Station draft Environmental Impact Statement.

He has also volunteered his time and expertise for the Friends of Crow Canyon in planning their Distinguished Lecturer Series, as well as volunteering at Mesa Verde once in a while.

Some of his favorite activities are landscaping with native stone, gardening, hiking, trout fishing, visiting some of the Great Lodges of North America, learning about the landscape ecology and geology of the Colorado Plateau Region and the Native American cultures of this Region.

In short, we're lucky to have Eric as a member of the League of Women Voters of Montezuma County!

## **Immigration**

### **Federal Immigration Policy and Proposed Reforms**

*The following paper from the LWV national website is **included as an attachment** to this newsletter. It is a very informative overview.*

**Overview: Federal Immigration Policy and Proposed Reforms**  
By Deborah Macmillan

### **Jeffco League Immigration Q and A**

*The following questions and answers are taken from the Jefferson County, Colorado, October Voter. The Jeffco League is large and these questions arose from multiple unit meetings that occurred in September.*

**We would like to have seen a demographic where immigrants have come from.**

In 2006, over one-half of the 37.5 million foreign-

## **LWVCO Advises Voters to "Decline to Sign"**

### **Civil Rights Initiative Petitions**

"Proposed measure a direct threat to equal opportunity"

The anti-equal opportunity campaign, ironically calling itself the "Colorado Civil Rights Initiative", has begun circulating petitions for signatures around the state to place an anti-affirmative action measure on the November 2008 ballot.

You may run into hired petition circulators at grocery stores and other locations. LWVCO recommends that if you are asked to sign a petition for this initiative, **you decline to sign.**

If approved by the state's voters, this constitutional amendment would outlaw all affirmative action related to education, public employment and public contracting for women and minorities at the state and local level.

It is similar to measures passed in recent years in California, Washington, and Michigan, which -- like this measure-- were backed by Ward Connerly, Chairman of the American Civil Rights Institute.

The proposed amendment is a threat to equal opportunity in Colorado. If passed, it would:

\*Cancel programs that encourage girls to pursue careers in math, science and engineering.

\*End programs that recruit and assist minority students at Colorado colleges and universities.

\*Prevent state and local governments from seeking minority-owned and women-owned businesses to apply for government contracts.

*This item is taken from the Pikes Peak Voter November, 2007.*

born residents in the United States were from Latin America, and over one-fourth were from Asia. Taken together, the population originating from Asia and Latin America make up four-fifths of all foreign-born residents. However, there are wide demographic and socioeconomic differences between these two groups. Those from Latin America tend to have less education, fewer skills,

and lower incomes. They are filling jobs in construction, manufacturing, and the service sector, while those from Asia have higher incomes, on average, and are more likely to be enrolled in college or working in professional or managerial positions

### **What was the impact on agriculture sector when the Bracero Program was discontinued?**

At the end of World War II, Mexican workers were ousted from their jobs by workers coming out of wartime industries and by returning servicemen. By 1947, the Emergency Farm Labor Service was working on decreasing the amount of Mexican labor imported. By the 1960s, an overflow of "illegal" agricultural workers along with the invention of the mechanical cotton harvester, diminished the practicality and appeal of the bracero program. These events, added to the gross humanitarian violations of bracero employers, brought the program to an end in 1964. Without the cheap Mexican labor, farmers increasingly mechanized the harvest over the next three decades, resulting in a quadrupling in the production of tomatoes destined for processing and a fall in real prices.

### **Do permanent residents get Soc. Sec benefits?**

Yes, if they meet the Social Security qualifications of working for at least ten years.

### **Can a non citizen obtain a Social Security Number?**

In general, only non citizens who have permission to work from the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) can apply for a Social Security number. To apply for a Social Security number you must have original documents proving your Immigration status; Work eligibility; Age; and Identity. If you need a number for tax purposes and you are not authorized to work in the U.S., you can apply for an Individual Taxpayer Identification Number (TIN) from the Internal Revenue Service (IRS).

### **How do you get a green card?**

A green card (Permanent Resident Card) is a life-long visa ("pass") allowing a foreigner to live and work in the United States. A green card is not citizenship. The card itself is a government-issued plastic ID card that serves as proof of this permanent resident status in the United States. In size and format, it generally resembles a driver's license. The Permanent Resident Card currently is

issued with 10-year validity. Your status as a Permanent Resident does not expire with the 10-year validity. Only the card expires. The card is only valid up to the expiration date and must be renewed before it expires.

### **How can you lose permanent residence status?**

A green card can be revoked if a person does not maintain permanent residence in the United States, travels outside the country for too long, or breaks certain laws.

### **What are the rules regarding citizenship thru marriage?**

Generally, certain lawful permanent residents married to a U.S. citizen may file for naturalization after residing continuously in the United States for three years. There are also exceptions for lawful permanent residents married to U.S. citizens stationed or employed abroad.

In order for a relative to sponsor you to immigrate to the United States, they must meet the following criteria:

- They must be a citizen or lawful permanent resident of the U.S. and be able to provide documentation providing that status.
- They must prove that they can support you at 125% above the mandated poverty line, by filling out an Affidavit of Support

If the sponsor is a U.S. Citizen, they may petition for the following foreign national relatives to immigrate to the U.S: Husband or wife, Unmarried child under 21 years of age, Unmarried son or daughter over 21, Married son or daughter of any age, Brother or sister, if the sponsor is at least 21 years old, or Parent, if the sponsor is at least 21 years old.

If the sponsor is a lawful permanent resident, they may petition for the following foreign national relatives to immigrate to the U.S.: Husband or wife, or Unmarried son or daughter of any age. In any case, the sponsor must be able to provide proof of the relationship.

### **Do other countries allow children born in their country to none citizens, automatically become citizens of that country?**

There are various methods by which a person may obtain the citizenship of a country. Each country outlines by these methods. See website for individual country info. *For country listings:*

<http://www.opm.gov/extra/investigate/IS-01.pdf>

**Citizenship by Birth:** Citizenship is granted due to birth within the country. The legal term for this is '*jus solis*.' In most cases, there are few stipulations on citizenship being granted. Birth in the country automatically confers citizenship regardless of the parents' citizenship or status. In the case of U.S. citizens born abroad in a country under the principle of *jus solis*, the question arises as to whether the other citizenship continues after the child has left the country of birth.

**Citizenship by Descent:** Citizenship of a nation is passed on to a child based upon at least one of the parents being a citizen of that nation, regardless of the child's actual country of birth. The term for this is '*jus sanguinis*.' Though most countries adhere to the principle of citizenship by descent, they differ on some factors (father's vs. mother's rights, citizenship of one or both parents, the marital status of the parents, and others). As a person reaches an age of maturity, continuing the condition of citizenship by birth (*jus solis*) or citizenship by descent (*jus sanguinis*) may depend on factors unique to the nation of that citizenship.

### **Are all US citizens going to receive a "Real ID" by 2008? Who determined that this was to be required?**

Don't know. It has yet to be determined if Colorado will issue the Real IDs. There was a Colorado House Joint Resolution 07-1047 that got out of committee but the details are unknown on what happened next. Any "Real ID" legislative action will be tracked by League in the next Legislative Session.

### **In what circumstances can naturalized citizens be deported or removed?**

You are required to obey all of the laws of the United States, the States, and localities. You are required to file your income tax returns and report you income to the US Internal Revenue Service and State IRS. You are expected to support the democratic form of government and cannot attempt to change the government through illegal means. If you are a male, age 18 through 25, you are required to register with the Selective Service

### **Is it a felony to be arrested and found to be an illegal immigrant?**

No, it is not a felony to be an illegal immigrant.

### **What sparked the 1924 legislation (Johnson Reed Act)?**

Following the First World War and the Red Scare of 1919-20, the restrictionists achieved a long-lasting victory. In 1921, the Quota Act, passed by Congress, placed ceilings on the number of immigrants admitted from each country outside of the Western Hemisphere. Then the Johnson-Reed Act of 1924 limited the total European immigration to 150,000 per year, and reduced each nationality's allowance to 2 percent of its U.S. population in 1890. Because significantly fewer Southern and Eastern Europeans were recorded in the 1890 census than in 1920, this effectively reduced immigration from these regions while making more room than was necessary for countries like Great Britain. In 1929, when the quota system was finalized, the ratio of immigrants admissible from northern and western Europe versus southern and eastern Europe was roughly five to one.

### **What exactly is the role of diversity in immigration? The 1965 legislation opened immigration to all countries and created quotas?**

The Immigration and Nationality Act has been amended a number of times since its conception; the most dramatic amendments were in 1965 when the national origins quota system was abolished. A visa preference system, based on family relations was put into place for Eastern Hemisphere countries with an annual limit of 170,000 including an annual cap of 20,000 per country. A limitation was also placed on Western Hemisphere countries for the first time, with an annual limit of 120,000, though no per-country restrictions were enacted. In 1976, per country limits were applied to the Western Hemisphere, followed in 1978 by the change to an annual worldwide limit of 290,000 visas. Discrimination on the basis of nationality was essentially eliminated. The emphasis on family reunification, however, limited immigration from Western Europe to a certain degree, and benefited the more recent immigrants.

In 1990, legislation was passed approving an annual immigration level of 675,000 per year based on visa preferences including a combination of family reunification (480,000), occupational skill and job creation preferences (140,000), and a "diversity" visa lottery (55,000). Diversity visas are available by lottery to people from countries with low immigration rates. Usually the low rate is a result of the 1965 shift to family-

based visa preference. The eligible countries change from year to year.

**Answers were obtained from various sources:** [www.usimmigrationsupport.org](http://www.usimmigrationsupport.org), Social Security Websites, US Citizenship Information websites.

## ***Environment***

### ***Four Corners Air Quality Task Force***

*This report was written after interviewing Silvia Oliva by phone. Any errors can be attributed to the process and the newsletter editor.*

The Four Corners Air Quality Task Force held its last formal meeting Wednesday, November 7, and was attended by Judy and Jack Schuenemeyer and Sylvia Oliva. The final report of the Task Force can be found at [www.4cornersair.org](http://www.4cornersair.org). It is recognized by the professional sectors as being a unique and rather incredible instrument.

The meeting was punctuated with occasional heart-felt reaction with regard to the completion of the Task Force project culminating in a 650 page report.

In August, 2008, a follow up meeting is planned to assess the usefulness of the report with respect to agencies, industry and the public. There will also be a presentation of the state of New Mexico's air quality modeling project.

The future is bright and hopeful for the continued cooperation of the air quality agencies of Colorado and new Mexico.

The project and report are likely the first such successful collaborative effort of the government, public and industrial sectors to focus on air quality issues that resulted from positive cooperation of the 100+ participants representing diverse interests. This cooperative effort promises to be a model for other task forces dealing with diverse interests.

### ***Renewable Energy Seminar***

*The following article on the Renewable Energy Seminar is taken directly from the LaPlata County League Voter of November/December*

2007.

### **Highlights of Renewable Energy Seminar**

The Delta-Montrose Electric Association, a rural electric cooperative similar to our La Plata County Electric Association, organized a Renewable Energy Forum and Expo in Montrose, October 19-20. New LWV member Deanna Collins and Marilyn Brown attended the sessions focusing on topics of interest to residents; the previous day's session focused on issues of interest to utilities. The very interesting sessions emphasized on the latest passive and active solar options for residential use, both new and retro-fit; wind energy systems for homes and small businesses; plug-in hybrid vehicles and conversion kits for Ford Escape and Toyota Prius hybrids (a kit for the Toyota Highlander will be available in 2008); bio-diesel and biodiesel blends; hydrogen-fueled vehicles and selecting green financial investments. The session closed with talks and Q/A with both state Senators Gail Schwartz and Josh Penry, mostly reviewing the 2007 CO Legislature's energy activities. The parking lot in front of the Montrose Pavilion was filled with far out, mostly multi-fuel ready vehicles, such as a hydrogen fueled Hummer, and a plug-in Toyota Prius hybrid.

### ***Highlights:***

Residential and small business heating/cooling:

1. Solar and wind options must be tailored to your specific site.
2. Buildings must be well-insulated with leaks minimized, prior to consideration of purchase of renewable equipment.
3. Homeowner associations and local governmental agencies are an issue with renewable applications, mainly because they are not used to dealing with them. CO has legislation prohibiting discrimination against solar equipment.
4. Three magazines, Home Power, Solar Today magazines and Mother Earth News, focus on renewable energy applications for residential use.
5. The ground under your property can be used as a heat/cooling storage mass, similar to a concrete/stone floor or tromb wall, with a ground source heat pump system.
6. Solar and wind equipment can be expensive (~ \$13,000 for a 35-foot high wind generator) and



payback times depend on many variables. State and federal tax credits are available.

Green vehicles:

7. Batteries are the best way to store energy for vehicles and battery technology is improving.
8. Current gas-hybrid vehicles can be converted to plug-in hybrids with doubling of gas mpg.
9. Conversion to plug-in is expensive (up to \$32,000) but state and federal credits exist.
10. Plug-in hybrids can be used to feed back power to the grid.
11. Net metering (the requirement that utilities buy excess power generated by distributed sources) is essential to increasing the cost-effectiveness of renewable energy equipment to home/business owners.
12. Rudolph Diesel ran the first diesel engine on peanut oil in 1893. The first hybrid was introduced in Tokyo in 1977. The first mass produced hybrid was offered in Japan in 1997.
13. Bio-diesel fuel takes MANY forms. The key is to use local sources.
14. One acre of algae can produce 819 U.S. gallons of biodiesel.
15. If you're going to do more than local driving a multi-fuel capable vehicle is a must.
16. The 25 x '25 national campaign, launched in 2004, is an effort by farmers, ranchers and foresters to produce 25% of the energy used in the U.S. by 2025 while continuing to produce safe, abundant, affordable food, feed and fiber. The University of Tennessee has conducted a study proving that this is possible. Components of the action plan would include; production of 86 billion gallons of ethanol, 1.1 million gallons of diesel, 932 billion kilowatts of wind energy, 15 quads of biomass from manure, etc., including reduction of carbon dioxide emissions by increasing no-till farming, etc. By 2025 the plan would increase farm income by \$180 billion and generate \$700 billion in new economic activity, create four to five million new jobs, reduce oil consumption by 2.5 million barrels per day – 10 percent of U.S. projected consumption in 2025, and reduce carbon dioxide emissions by 1 billion tons – two thirds of projected emissions growth by 2025.

When choosing an investment in renewable energy businesses, learn about the industry and look at the time horizon of the marketability of the products.

-Marilyn Brown and Deanna Collins

### ***Desert Rock Alternatives Forum***

On Thursday, November 8, the FLC Environmental Center hosted a reception and forum entitled "Renewable Energy on Dine Land".

The reception honored photographer Carlan Tapp whose photography exhibit "Question of Power," is focused on the social, health, and environmental issues facing the Diné (Navajo) living in the area of the proposed Desert Rock Power Plant. A panel following the reception discussed the potential for renewable energy projects and "green jobs" on Diné land.

Dailan Jake, of Diné Care, a grassroots Navajo environmental organization, presented a summary of the report prepared for them by Ecos Consulting of Durango titled "Frequently Asked Questions Regarding Alternatives to the Desert Rock Energy Project". Some points made follow:

- There are 34 existing coal fired power plants in the Southwest (four corners states plus Nevada) and 19 proposed.
- Analysis by the National Energy Technology Laboratory (NETL) reveals that supercritical pulverized coal plants such as Desert Rock shift from being the least expensive to the most expensive of the fossil-fueled generating options once the cost of carbon capture is included. Plant costs rise by 82% to \$2,870/kW. Electricity production costs rise by 81% to 11.48 cents/kWh. This would price Desert Rock out of the regional power market.
- According to NETL, 31,313 MW of proposed coal plants representing nearly \$40 billion of investment were canceled in the U.S. In the last five years alone, while only 2,749 MW of new coal generation (only 1.8 Desert Rock equivalents) have come on-line in the entire U.S. In that time.
- By comparison, the U.S. Added approximately 2,500 MW of new wind capacity in 2005 and another 2,454 MW in 2006 and is expected to add at least 3,000 MW more in 2007.
- A map was displayed showing at least a half dozen large areas of the Navajo Nation with solar resources suitable for concentrated solar power generation which are also in close proximity to existing or planned transmission lines ("the Transmission Corridor").
- A map was displayed showing at least nine areas of the Navajo Nation with Class 3 thru 7 wind

resources which are in close proximity to the Transmission Corridor.

- Overall, the renewable resources combined with currently available natural gas (for peaking and when wind and solar output drop) within the Navajo Nation total enough to exceed Desert Rock's GWh/yr generating potential. These calculations take into account realistic "Capacity Factors" for all these resources. The cost would be 6.69 cents per KWh compared to coal's 6.9 cents.
- Alternative energy scenarios would create 80% more construction jobs and five times as many long-term operations and maintenance jobs, as well as providing greater indirect job creation and economic multipliers within the regional economy. Therefore, even if the amounts paid to the Navajo government in coal taxes, coal royalties and water fees are much lower with alternatives, the economic benefits remain much higher as net benefits. Much of this is attributable to the financial premium at which green power can be sold and the much lower risk of carbon mitigation costs. The net economic benefits of the alternative scenario are approximately four times those of Desert Rock, without accounting for health care cost differences, which would further reduce the net economic benefits of Desert Rock.

Chris Foran

design the Pedal Power machine which is bringing electrical energy and lighting to Nepali villages.

There was a Pedal Power machine available for forum participants to try. I produced enough electrical power using the machine and storage batteries to light a small LED lamp. The equipment is elegantly functional and has brought electrical energy to several Nepali villages to drive various appliances, provide home light and to filter water to improve sanitation. Ecosystems of Nepal assembles the equipment.

[www.ecosystemsnepal.com](http://www.ecosystemsnepal.com)

Tom's wife, Linda Mahan, a LWVCO Board member talked about how she shared her twenty-five years of League experience to create civic curriculum in India and Nepal to encourage citizens to engage more in the democratic process. Both Linda and Paula taught English as a second language in underdeveloped countries resulting in life long, heart tugging friendships.

Jodi Foran

### ***Safer, More Compassionate World Community Forum***

Those who attended the Safer, More Compassionate World Community Forum in Durango, Saturday, November 10, were treated to a memorable and inspiring day! The Forum was very well organized by the LWVLPC and FLC, and more than two hundred attended the six hour forum. Each presenter related remarkable experiences of following one's interest and passion to create a difference in the world. Twelve very interesting and compassionate folks inspired and encouraged the audience with their, often serendipitous, experiences.

Speakers included Diane Wilson, author of *An Unreasonable Woman*; Paula Huntley, author of *The Hemingway Book Club of Kosovo*; Tom Grams, a retired Durango dentist who has made several trips to Afghanistan to treat patients; and Tom Mahan, retired CSU professor, who helped to

