



**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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***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!***

***Happy New Year!***

**Mark Your Calendars**

- January General Meetings**
- Thursday January 10, 6:30PM  
Calvin Denton Room, Empire Electric
  - Thursday, January 24 6:30pm  
Calvin Denton Room, Empire Electric  
Immigration Consensus
- Board Meetings:**
- Monday Jan 14, 10AM, Welcome Center

**Board**

President.....	Jodi Foran 882-2401 jodi@foran.net
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	Marcia Boon 565-7668 marciaboon@msn.com
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Voter Services.....	Dick Hoover 565-7367 johnhoover@beyondbb.com
Environment.....	Eric Janes 533-1051 ejanes@frontier.net

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

Best wishes to everyone for a happy and healthy new year.

Our League's application for full status recognition was mailed to the LWVCO Board January 2. I felt relief and accomplishment as I turned it over to the postal clerk. Relief because we had made the deadline, and accomplishment because of what our League has done during the past ten years. When we began this journey late September we thought that we had until May to apply. Then at League Day in October, Mary G. Wilson, President, LWVUS, was asked what the deadline for national would be for our League to attain full recognition at the bi-annual convention. Her response advanced our deadline to January 2. It's been a busy few months as our application information was assembled. I want to thank ALL who contributed to the effort. The State Board will be considering our request for full League recognition on January 8. The LWVUS Board will consider our request at a March meeting.

It's also important to recognize ALL those who participated in League activities of the past ten years. KUDOS to YOU! You created a League reputation in Montezuma County that must be maintained and extended. Some of the accomplishments include:

- Candidate forums for nearly every major election of county, state, US Congressional districts in the past ten years, including primary elections
- Candidate forums for Cortez City Council
- When requested, candidate forums for school districts having contested seats
- Registration of Voters for seven years until voter registration law became restrictive following the 2004 election
- Two-county (Montezuma and Dolores counties) Health Care Survey of 9HealthFair participants. Over 200 surveys were tabulated and the survey report was distributed to community leaders.
- Study of health care delivery in Montezuma County including study of Montezuma Hospital District (taxing authority) and the Southwest Memorial Hospital (operational corporation)
- Oral testimony and written comments regarding construction of Desert Rock Energy

Project at both PSD and EIS hearings by League president for the League and by individual League members speaking for self

- Active participation in multi-state Four Corners Air Quality Task Force and various sub-committees over a two year period. The Task Force was exemplary in bring together various national and state governmental agencies, industry, and environmental groups to discuss air quality issues and to create and implement plans that will improve air quality.
- Oral testimony and written comments at 208 Commission Health Care Reform Hearings by League president and by individual League members speaking for self
- Informational meetings on various county and state referendums over the past ten years
- Informational meetings featuring various governmental officials over the past ten years
- Held at least eighteen meetings per year
- Purchased and distributed LWVCO Ballot Issues pamphlets for state elections
- Response to Action Alerts coming down from national and state Leagues
- League members were very instrumental in having ozone monitoring equipment installed in the County by the state of Colorado
- Offered to help Board of County Commissioners understand scientific ramifications coal-fired power plants (At least thirty-five percent of our League members are scientifically or technically trained.)
- Occasional attendance of LWVCO sessions – Legislative Conference and League Day
- Participated in LWVCO Training with LWVLPC in April, 2007
- Participated in LWVUS Immigration Study and consensus process
- Participated in Teen Maze by providing “pre- and post-testing” for the Maze experience using county voting machines for last four years.


Two general meetings will be held in January on the 10<sup>th</sup> and 24<sup>th</sup> to discuss the national Immigration Study and to develop consensus if possible. Marilyn Brown, our advisor, will be moderating our discussion. The meetings should be very

interesting!

Next month we'll be participating in Program Planning. This is your opportunity to determine what our League studies and advocates. Again your participation is critical to ensuring a vibrant League in Montezuma County. Besides, we have a reputation to maintain!

-Jodi Foran

## **Calendar**

Our calendar can be viewed on-line on the Cortez Area Chamber of Commerce website ([www.cortezchamber.com](http://www.cortezchamber.com)). Select their calendar page and go to the bottom of that page. It may take a little time for the big calendar to appear. You can remove organizations by clicking the calendar list button  at the upper right of the calendar and un-checking the organizations you aren't interested in before clicking the list button again. That may make it easier to see our meetings and events

Our calendar is also available in the same format at [www.fourcornerscalendars.org](http://www.fourcornerscalendars.org).

### **General Meetings**

- January 10 (Thur) Immigration, Calvin Denton room of Empire Electric.
- January 24 (Thur) Immigration, Calvin Denton room of Empire Electric.
- February 16 (Sat) 9:30am Program Planning, Visitor Center
- March 20 (Thur) 7pm Health Care Forum, Calvin Denton Room of Empire Electric

### **Board Meetings**

- January 14 (Mon) 10am Visitor Center
- February 11 (Mon) 10am Visitor Center
- March 10 (Mon) 10am Visitor Center

## **Members, New and Renewed**

Here is the list of new and currently renewed members.

The following twenty members have renewed:

Marcia Boon, Denis Boon, Jodi Foran, Chris Foran, Dick Hoover, Louetta Hoover, Eric Janes, Betty Janes, Eleanor Kuhl, Helen Rohrbaugh, Jack

Schuenemeyer, Judy Schuenemeyer, Betty Snair, Llois Stein, Billy Swope, Susan Thomas, Julia Hesse, Ann Stevenson, Pete Dumond, Matt Keefauver .

Llois Stein is now a lifetime member. Congratulations, Llois, and thank you for your service.

We welcome our newest members, William Hendrickson, Lorna Wilkes, Kathy Berg and Nancy McGill.

## **Member Focus: Llois Stein**

Llois has been politically active since the age of 14. She has been a League member for 50 years. She was a member first in Chicago, followed by Evanston, Illinois then Northfield, Illinois and now here in Cortez. She was President five times, membership chairman "on and off for years" and has chaired several studies. She is presently chair of our membership committee and is facilitating our participation in the national Immigration study.

Llois spent 20 years at the Field Museum of Natural History in Chicago where she was the Associate for the Oceanic Collection which is the second largest Oceanic collection in the world. She enjoys collecting tribal art and books.

An avid gardener for many years, Llois completed the Master Gardener course in both Durango and Cortez.

She has been and remains active in various civic organizations. She also has volunteered at the Anasazi Heritage Center for several years.

She is the only person ever to graduate two dogs simultaneously at Dennis Spurles Dog Obedience center. She enjoys exercising her dogs and "body building" at a local fitness center.

## **Our Nonpartisan League**

*(Editor's note: The following suggestion is taken from the December issue of League Lines, the newsletter of the League of Women Voters of Larimer County, and is worth our attention as well.)*

Although those of us who have joined the LWV come from different backgrounds, represent various age groups, and pursue a wide range of interests outside of the League, we are united in our desire to encourage the informed participation of citizens in the democratic process and to advocate and

educate the community on matters of public policy. We join together to achieve these goals.

Since we are a diverse group, it is important for every one of us to recognize and respect the fact that not all League members share the exact same political views or support the same political party. It is also important to remember that the League's nonpartisan policy is a major contributor to our credibility in the community. We would like to ask all members to be mindful of our nonpartisan policy as we strive to make everyone feel welcome and included at every League meeting.

### ***About Consensus***

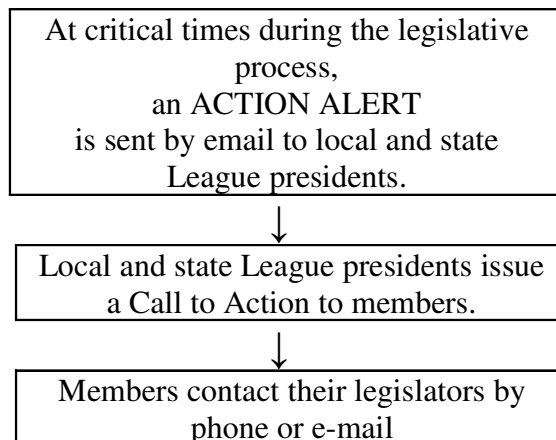
Reaching consensus is not like voting. Consensus is the process used in the League to reach agreement on study issues. Consensus does not mean that the group reaches majority or unanimous agreement on questions. After discussion and the exchange of ideas, we come to an ***overall sense of the group***. In other words, consensus results from answers to questions on which members can find common ground and agreement. This is best done through group discussion.

Suggested guidelines for discussion and reaching consensus:

- Listen thoughtfully and critically
- Keep an open mind – respect all views
- Do not interrupt
- Speak in turn, don't speak a second time until everyone who wants to speak has spoken
- Keep comments short-do not monopolize discussion
- Differ with dignity—no personal attacks, don't take difference personally
- Stay focused—no digressions
- No sidebar conversations

### ***Call to Action***

An Action Alert is a notification of a Call to Action. This is how the Call to Action list works:



An alert not only asks Leagues and League members to take action on a key issue, but also provides substantive and political background information. A quick and easy system for sending an e-mail directly to members of congress / legislature, or writing a letter to the editor also is provided.

Current Action Alerts, Legislative Updates and other advocacy tools are posted on the LWVUS Web site at [www.lwv.org](http://www.lwv.org). Past Calls to Action have included campaign finance reform, D. C. voting rights, and civil liberties. The Call to Action list is an effective way to make your voice heard and the League's position's known.

### ***LWVUS League Advocacy***

#### **League and Other Groups Disappointed with Proposed House Office of Congressional Ethics**

The League and other reform groups expressed disappointment with the proposed new House Office of Congressional Ethics and the absence of any investigatory powers to carry out its responsibilities.

#### **League Objects to New Ethics Rule Allowing Loopholes in Recently Enacted Legislation**

The League and coalition partners strongly object to the guidance recently issued by the House Ethics Committee to implement the new ethics rule to restrict House members from participating in parties that take place at the national nominating convention to "honor" those members. This guidance opens gaping loopholes in the new ethics rule just enacted a few months ago that prevents lobbyists and lobbying organizations from gaining favor and influence with Representatives by paying for lavish parties to "honor" those members. The

League is mentioned in news coverage of this issue.

### **League Urges Senators to Oppose Bill that Would Unnecessarily Limit Civil Liberties (NEW)**

The League and others urged senators to oppose the FISA Amendments Act of 2007 which would unreasonably and unnecessarily authorize broad surveillance of American's international communications without meaningful Fourth Amendment protections including: no individualized warrant issued by a court, no determination of probable cause of wrongdoing, and no specification of the location or means of the surveillance.

## ***Immigration Study***

### ***LWVUS Positions That Relate to the 2007-2008 Immigration Study***

Boulder Valley LWV published a series of immigration background materials for their members. The following, by Louisa Young, analyzes the LWVUS positions with the aim of finding how current national positions relate to immigration. Louisa, a long time League member, worked on the 1988 consensus.

We League members have already studied and arrived at consensus on a number of areas that affect immigration policy. They provide us with a base from which to discuss other studies, and perhaps we do not need to go back over those areas. Preservation of natural resources, social fiscal, and energy policies, and health care all directly affect both population increase pressures and quality of life in the U.S.-areas that are significantly impacted by immigrants.

Obviously, those positions that specifically apply to citizens have little direct effect on the immigration study except in the context of immigrants who are family members of citizens. The "anchor baby" is an example of that.

Perhaps our most applicable already established position (1973, updated 2002) on the national level relates to Trade policy. We have a fairly detailed position on liberal trade policies which would promote a higher standard of living for people in a global sense. Removal or prevention of trade barriers could affect the demand and production of goods and services, and, of course, where the goods are produced and the services are performed

will directly affect immigration policy and motivation of foreign nationals to live and work in the U.S. If poverty can be reduced in the home country, the need to leave will be lessened. Quality of life issues and population pressures in developing countries are dealt with in very specific terms as high priorities.

League members in 1986 arrived at detailed positions on U.S. Relations with Developing Countries. The positions show our desire to encourage and help developing countries as they become producers of exports. Again, if products and services can be produced or performed in foreign countries, incentives for emigration are reduced.

On the national level, we undertook a comprehensive Agriculture Policy study, reaching consensus in 1988, and that bears on one of the most controversial aspects of immigration policy: migrant farm workers. To keep agriculture sustainable and cost-effective, immigration offers the solution of non-mechanized labor at low cost. A source of low cost labor keeps family farms viable and consumer food prices reasonable. We in the League favor a free agriculture market rather than government price supports. Migrant workers enable reasonable food prices and reduce the need for government programs meant to encourage small and mid-sized farm operations and to preserve a healthy and desirable way of life in rural communities. On the other hand, the introduction of foreign culture to those communities is an unwelcome influence to some, if not many, agriculture-dependent community members.

When the League dealt with Social Policy issues (1969,1972,1980,1989), members reached sweeping consensus opposing discrimination on almost any basis. We charged government with providing broad opportunities for employment, housing, and education. Prevention and reduction of poverty are our goals, and minority integration is a priority. These positions avoid limiting benefits to citizens and specify that they apply to "individuals."

The national study on Health Care, completed in 1993, resulted in a position of support for access to a basic level of care for all U.S. residents, again avoiding the limitation of citizenship.

The League's position on the Presidency (1976, 1984) supports executive agreements with foreign countries, and these could relate to immigration. Also, the Presidency position deals with declaration

of emergencies, and some people consider today's immigration to be an emergency situation. Our members believe the President should have some fiscal powers and that the President should manage the budget consistent with priorities set by Congress. The federal treasury benefits when some immigrants pay Social Security taxes though they are not entitled to receive any benefits from the system. At the same time there are significant costs resulting from federal immigration policies, most of which are borne by state governments. (It seems League members have no position that applies directly to mandates unfunded by the federal government.)

Acknowledging that there are applicable positions, there are some gaps as well. Many regard national security as compromised if immigration is not controlled and monitored. The League's National Defense positions do not address risks to freedom from crime and terrorism. A government-issued secure identity card (SID) could enable employers to verify an applicant's citizenship or visa status and determine if an immigrant could legally work in the U.S. Leaguers lobby against voter identification requirements such as showing a birth certificate because enforcement of such laws can be used to prevent people from voting. The League does not have a position on a national identity card or SID, but the LWVUS board and those on the national level's Immigration Committee would like to know what members think of this idea.

### ***Practicality, Legality, Morality and Immigration***

*(Editors Note: As editor, I'm taking the liberty of including some thoughts I wrote back in October after first becoming involved in the League study. Consider this an editorial of sorts.)*

Underlying our legal system is a wide spectrum of moral imperative. By this statement I mean that our laws represent in widely varying degrees morally derived principles.

Don't misunderstand my meaning here... I'm NOT saying that we can obey or not obey our laws in varying degrees. Of course we must obey all our laws.

What I am saying is that the principles from which we created our laws vary in their moral imperative. For instance, "thou shalt not kill" is the moral imperative underlying our laws forbidding taking another's life. That's a pretty clear moral imperative and understood as such by everyone. On the other hand, "drivers must stop when the traffic light is red"

(rather than blue, for instance) is one of those laws which has virtually no morality underlying it. Rather it was a practical decision we made for the purpose of creating order from chaos.

While moral problems may occur (death, injury, loss of property) if either of these laws are not obeyed, the "traffic control" type of laws do not have underlying moral principles. To me, these "traffic" laws could be characterized as "designed" laws... they have a practical purpose like any engineered product, but do not necessarily embody a moral principle. These laws, it seems to me, should be subject to dispassionate review, modification and improvement just as any of our technical gizmos are improved as needed.

We might consider improving our traffic laws by specifying that the red light blinks rapidly, the yellow blinks more slowly and green is solid. Thus we accommodate rather than criminalize those who cannot distinguish colors. At the same time the rest of us are safer and we lighten the enforcement and judicial burden. We would have redesigned a law so that everyone "wins".

My personal view is that immigration laws solve problems in a way similar to traffic laws. We have arrived at a national consensus that, for whatever reason, our immigration system (laws, enforcement, etc) isn't serving us as it should. If we take the view of this problem that laws are immutable and must be enforced at any cost (rather than being modified to better suit our purposes), in the process assuming that all laws are of the "moral imperative" type, then reason is easily displaced by passion.

Applying this thinking to a single aspect of our immigration dilemma, that of agricultural workers, is not as simple as my traffic light example, but can still be a useful approach. Rational thinking, unfettered by the emotion of moral imperative, I believe, will allow us to redesign the applicable laws to our national satisfaction and to the benefit of everyone affected. I hope our national debate on immigration will benefit from such dispassionate thinking.

-Chris Foran

### ***Empire Electric Energy Efficiency Seminar***

On Wednesday, January 16, from 6pm to 8pm Empire Electric will sponsor a seminar in the Calvin Denton room of the Empire Electric building at 801 N Broadway, Cortez.

They will present topics including:

- Energy Efficiency Credits (also called “Green

- Power Credits” ?)
- Time of Use Rate
- Kill-O-Watt Meter
- Home Performance
- Heat Pumps
- Q & A Panel

**You must pre-register.** Call Nita Reddert at 970-564-4469.