



League of Women Voters of Montezuma County

VOTER

Montezuma County, Colorado

www.lwvmontezuma.org Total Membership: 26

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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Mark Your Calendars

Board Meetings:

- May 12 (Mon) 10am Visitor Center

General Meetings

- May 7 (Wed) 12pm "Looking Forward" presentation Cortez Business Club, at the Cortez Elks Club
- May 15 (Thur), 7pm, EEA Calvin Denton Room, LWVMZC Health Care Forum

May Events

- May 16-17 (Fri-Sat), LWVCO Council Meeting, Durango, Register 12:15pm Fri

Join the League!

Anyone of voting age may join the League. Discounted household memberships are available. Call Lois Stein at 564-9565 or Marcia Boon at 565-7668 for more information.

Greater Dolores Action Group Awarded \$91k Recycling Grant !!

Hello All,

I wanted to pass on a copy of the award letter we received from the state of Colorado to fully fund our Four Corners Recycling Initiative!!!!

Congratulations and a huge thanks to all the people who helped out in this effort and committed their support! This is a great first step to expanding the recycling opportunities in the Montezuma County region!

Thanks again to everyone, Now we just have to make this happen!

Please feel free to contact me with questions and please pass this on to anyone who I may have missed.

Have a great day - Eric
Eric Freels
Wildlife Biological Technician
Dolores Public Lands Office

President's Message

May is a busy month for LWVMZC. It begins with our participation in Teen Maze May 1st and 2nd. Judy Schuenemeyer has been our representative planning the event, and several League volunteers are helping to staff the LWVMZC booth. Jack Schuenemeyer has collaborated with the Teen Maze staff for several years in developing the ballot questions for the participants and has worked with the Carol Tullis, our County Clerk to use actual voting machines. Thanks to all Leaguers who are helping in some way with Teen Maze this year!

It has been an active Colorado legislative session in Denver this year with new initiatives in reducing the ease of amending the state constitution, proposing to undue some of Tabor's restrictions, moving away from so much CSAP focus. The League has three meetings in May!

1. The League is sponsoring a "Looking Forward" presentation to be given by a representation of the Colorado Children's Campaign at the monthly meeting of Cortez Business Club, Wednesday, May 7, 2008 at the Elk's Club. Usually about twenty-five folks attend the monthly meeting, but let's increase that by fifty percent with our attendance. A buffet luncheon is available to purchase. Come and listen to an interesting presentation and ask questions! Wear your League pin proudly.

2. A Rural Health Care Forum will be held Thursday, May 15 at EEA's Calvin Denton Room at 7 pm. Eleanor Kuhl is bringing together an interesting panel to speak including; the Medical Director of Valley Wide Health Systems which operates the Mancos Clinic, Interim CEO of SWMH, CFO of SWMH, the Director of Physicians Hospital Organization affiliated with SWMH, and Dr. Karla Demby. What can be done to ensure sufficient primary care physicians for our population? If and when universal health coverage becomes available, there will be an even greater shortage of PCP. I know we're going to run out of time at this meeting!

3. The LWVCO Council meeting is being held in Durango, May 16 – 17. I think attendance at this State meeting is a first for our League, primarily because they are normally held east of the divide. Eleanor and I will be attending as delegates.

Our annual business meeting is scheduled

Saturday, June 7 at 9:30 at the Colorado Visitor's Center. Breakfast food and drinks will be provided. At the meeting new officers will be elected, and members will approve our program for the next year and budget for next year. Also, there will be time to socialize - we are an interesting group. Please plan to attend. You will be receiving more about the Annual meeting in the coming days.

Late in March I wrote a letter stating the LWVMZC's support of **Greater Dolores Action Group's** request for funds for increased recycling availability to Montezuma County. It was just announced that GDAG was awarded the full request of \$92K. Local recycling efforts will be expanded to Montezuma County areas outside the limits of the City of Cortez for the recycling of cardboard, mixed papers and metals. The grant proposed that local hauling companies pick up cardboard, paper and mixed metals generated by large institutions and local households. The cardboard and paper will be baled by equipment owned and in use at the county landfill, then sold to generate additional revenue for the county. We are fortunate to have located in the county a metal salvage company.

In the letter I commended GDAG's effort to bring various groups together for a focused effort to increase recycling awareness and opportunities within Montezuma County.

I didn't know when I wrote the letter in support of the grant that LWVCO Board member, Cynthia Peterson, is a member of the Committee that made the award.

— Jodi Foran

Calendar

View our calendar on-line on our website (www.lwvmontezuma.org) as well as at the Cortez Area Chamber of Commerce website (www.cortezchamber.com)

General Meetings

- May 7 (Wed) 12pm LWVMZC sponsors “Looking Forward” presentation by Colorado Children’s Campaign, Business Club meeting at Elks Club.
- May 15 (Thur) 7pm LWVMZC sponsors Health Care Forum on Rural Healthcare Issues, Calvin Denton Room of Empire Electric

Board Meetings

- May 12 (Mon) 10am Visitor Center

Other Events

- June 7, (Sat) LWVMZC Annual Meeting, 8:30am, Visitor Center. Breakfast food and fun!
- May 16-17 (Fri, Sat), 12:15pm, LWVCO Council Meeting, Durango.

Annual Meeting

Circle Saturday, June 7, 8:30 AM on your calendar as the date the Board voted to hold our League’s annual business meeting at the CO Welcome Center. At the meeting the membership will elect officers and vote to approve the annual budget, and proposed program, (strategic programs/issues to study, advocate). Materials specific to the meeting will be emailed later. Let’s not make it all business, but a time to gather in friendship and celebration. Eric Janes is heading up the Nominating Committee with two non-Board members. In addition to names submitted by the Committee, nominations are welcomed from the floor. Various breakfast items will be served.

New Members

We welcome Rani Williams as our newest member.

EEA Membership

I recently learned that I was not a member of Empire Electric Association and not privy to the

benefits of membership – voting, use of the Calvin Denton Room, capitol credits. I felt disenfranchised! To become a member Chris had to complete a written request, witnessed by two persons, that I be added to his household membership – a simple process by mail or in person. (The household is only allocated one vote.) For voting and capitol credit purposes, I suggest that you check the name(s) listed on the EEA bill.

— Jodi Foran

Member Focus: Denis Boon



Denis was born and raised in Los Angeles. After vacationing in the Four Corners area for its opportunities to indulge his love of archaeology, Denis bought property here in 1990 and retired from his position as a L.A. traffic signal technician to live in Montezuma County in 2001.

Denis monitors multiple archaeological sites in Canyon of the Ancients National Monument and

Chaco Canyon. He volunteers at the Cortez Cultural Center as well as the Anasazi Heritage Center and leads tours to Yellow Jacket and Mud Springs ruins.

Denis is enrolled to practice before the IRS and owns Four Corners Financial, where he does accounting and income taxes. In addition to being our LWVMZC treasurer, Denis is treasurer for the Montezuma County chapter of Habitat for Humanity.

Denis likes to travel internationally and has been a League member for three years.

LWVMZC Awarded Climate Change Grant

Our League has received a grant for \$500 offered by the national LWV in partnership with Oxfam of America to present a program on issues relating to global climate change. The goal of the grant is to increase the dialog of a community regarding the issue of climate change and the connection between how practices affect climate change elsewhere. The grant will help us bring Kristen Averyt, a staff scientist with the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), to speak in October. Dr. Averyt was one of five scientists supporting the IPCC Working Group I, which assessed the physical scientific aspects of the climate system and climate change. She will speak about the IPCC process as well as its findings. We are leveraging her trip to Durango sponsored by LWVLPC. Additionally, Oxfam of America will supply us with a variety of other resources on climate change, including their Sisters on the Planet package, which contains videos of women in other countries affected by climate change.

Richard Ballentine and Suzy Meyer have agreed that the Durango Herald and Cortez Journal will co-sponsor Dr. Averyt's presentation and have committed to publicizing the events.

Looking Forward - Post Ref C

**May 7, Cortez Business Club Luncheon
Sponsored by LWVMZC**

The "Looking Forward" Presentation will be given by a representative of the Colorado Children's

Campaign at the monthly meeting of Cortez Business Club, Wednesday, May 7, 2008 at the Elk's Club. **This a League meeting!!**

The presentation is based on the ***Looking Forward Report*** written by a team of eight economists and analysts from the Bell Policy Center, Colorado Children's Campaign and Colorado Fiscal Policy Institute.

The report compiles a reliable set of projections about future fiscal conditions and provides the context in which future decisions need to be discussed and made.

The analysts focused on the six-year study period of FY 2007-08 through FY 2012-13 — the last three years of the Referendum C time-out and the first three years of the new Ref C revenue cap. The ***Looking Forward Report*** projects revenues and expenditures for the five largest state agencies, assuming a continuation of 2007 levels of service. It analyzes the effects of TABOR, the Arveschoug-Bird 6 percent spending formula and the varying forces that drive spending, agency by agency. It also looks at the future needs of the state's capital budgets, including transportation and capital construction.

LWVCO Council

Durango May 16-17

La Plata County LWV will be hosting the Council meeting at the Strater Hotel. The agenda will include State Board elections, adoption of the 2008-2009 budget, Legislative wrap-up, and other workshops. It begins at noon on Friday and will end Saturday afternoon. Jodi Foran and Eleanor Kuhl are our League's voting delegates. However, Council offers all members of LWVMZC an opportunity to meet and network with Leaguers from without Colorado by being an observer, but you must register in advance as such. Also, if you'd like to help with the registration process phone Marilyn Brown in Durango as there are opportunities to help with registration tasks.

LWVCO Leadership Retreat

Best Western, Frisco. June 20-21

This is a great opportunity to learn about League and how you can become more effective in your participation in League. Training will be offered in voter service, membership fund raising, and other aspects of League. Find out more about the League and your place in it in a beautiful setting. The cost is very reasonable and I think we'll have at least one person attending. You can find more information at www.lwvcolorado.org

Air Quality Forum

Mountain Studies Institute is sponsoring an air quality forum geared to the Four Corners and San Juan Mountain areas. Registration is free if received before May 5. The all day forum will be held at FLC from 8:30 AM – 4:30 PM. This will be an interesting meeting!

More information is available at www.mountainstudies.org

May 15 Rural Health Care Forum

The second Health Care Forum will be held, Thursday, May 15 at the Calvin Denton room at 7 PM. Eleanor Kuhl has invited an informed panel of guests.

Dr. Ricardo Velásquez, is Medical Director of the Valley Wide Health Systems. Valley Wide, which provides health care services with special consideration for medically underserved populations, is a private non-profit corporation governed by a volunteer community board. It has fourteen primary health care delivery sites strategically located throughout southern Colorado including Mancos. Valley Wide, which leases its facility from Montezuma County Health District, staffs and operates the Mancos Clinic. Dr. Velásquez will speak on rural health clinics and physician recruitment and retention in such clinics.

Dr. Carla Demby, a Cortez Internist will speak more specifically about recruiting physicians to eliminate the shortage in Montezuma County.

Nelson Toebee, Interim CEO at SWMH will speak on Rural Health Center (RHC) reimbursement opportunities and why SWMH is seeking a designation of a Critical Access Hospital as well as the ramifications of that status. He will also speak on the recent establishment of SWMH's RHC.

Dan Jessup, CO at SWMH will talk briefly about financial aspects of rural health care.

Laura Rice, Director of the Physicians Hospital Organization will talk about the difficulty of dealing with managed care insurers and the financial viability issues for physicians in a rural area.

LWVUS Proposed Program for 2008-2010

The LWVUS Board is recommending to the national convention delegates the following to be adopted by the delegates as a program for 2008-10.

Based on Program Planning responses received from local leagues by March 1, the LWVUS Board recommends retaining all current LWVUS Positions in the areas of Representative Government, International Relations, Natural Resources and Social Policy. The LWVUS Board recommends a Health Care program to educate members and communities in order to be better prepared to do health care advocacy as needed. The Board also recommends the following proposed concurrence to amend the LWVUS Principles: 'The LWVUS believes that all powers of the U.S. government should be exercised within the constitutional framework of a balance among the three branches of government: executive, legislative and judicial.'

LWVUS Immigration Position

The following position was adopted by LWVUS Board in April after compiling the results of the consensus reports of local leagues.

The League of Women Voters believes that immigration policies should promote reunification of immediate families; meet the economic, business and employment needs of the United States; and be responsive to those facing political persecution or humanitarian crises. Provision should also be made for qualified persons to enter the U.S. on

student visas. All persons should receive fair treatment under the law.

The League supports federal immigration law that provides an efficient, expeditious system (with minimal or no backlogs) for legal entry of immigrants into the U.S.

To complement these goals the League supports federal policies to improve economies, education, job opportunities, and living conditions in nations with large emigrating populations.

In transition to a reformed system, the League supports provisions for unauthorized immigrants already in the country to earn legal status

The League supports federal payments to impacted communities to address the financial costs borne by states and local governments with large immigrant populations.

Criteria for Legal Admission to the U.S.

The League supports the following criteria for legal admission of persons into the United States:

- Family reunification of spouses or minor children with authorized immigrants or citizens;
- Flight from persecution or response to humanitarian crises in home countries;
- Economic, business and employment needs in the U.S.;
- Education and training needs of the U.S.;
- Educational program opportunities; and
- Lack of a history of serious criminal activity.

Administration and Enforcement

The League supports due process for all persons, including the right to a fair hearing, right to counsel, right of appeal and right to humane treatment.

The League supports:

- Improved technology to facilitate employer verification of employee status;
- Verification documents, such as status cards and work permits, with secure identifiers;
- Significant fines and penalties for employers who hire unauthorized workers;
- Improved technology for sharing information among federal agencies;

- More effective tracking of individuals who enter the United States; and
- Increased personnel at borders.

The League also supports programs allowing foreign workers to enter and leave the U.S. to meet seasonal or sporadic labor needs.

Unauthorized Immigrants Already in the U.S.

In achieving overall policy goals, the League supports a system for unauthorized immigrants already in the country to earn legal status, including citizenship, by paying taxes, learning English, studying civics and meeting other relevant criteria. While policy reforms, including a path to legal status, remain unachieved, the League does not support deporting unauthorized immigrants who have no history of criminal activity.

Board

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