



League of Women Voters of Montezuma County

VOTER

Montezuma County, Colorado

www.lwvmontezuma.org Total Membership: 27

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

General Meetings

- Aug 4 (Mon) 11:30am Marcia's birthday celebration and short General Meeting on Voter Service, Foran's house.

Board Meetings

- Aug 4 (Mon), 1:30pm Board Meeting (after the General Meeting), Foran's house.

Other Events

- July 14, (Mon) Last day to register for Primary.
- July 24 We **CANCELED** the primary Candidate Forum
- Aug 2-8 Early Primary Election
- Aug 12 Primary Election

Join the League!

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

Happy 90th
 Birthday
 Marcia !!!

President's Message

Like May, June was a busy month. We held our annual meeting and elected officers who will organize our League efforts for next year. I'm happy to report that all of our chairmen / directors are joining hands with the new officers ensuring an easier transition. Thanks to all Board for the work they do for LWVMZC! Special appreciation to Judy Schuenemeyer for her service as Vice-President during the time we became a full League. We couldn't have done it without you, Judy. Thanks to Eleanor Kuhl for stepping with enthusiasm into the position of President-elect. Eleanor and Judy are very busy serving the community of Montezuma County in numerous ways and we're grateful for the dedication of energy to League activities.

After attending the LWVUS convention held in Portland June 13 – 17, I have a much better understanding of League at the national level. The convention was an awesome gathering of energy, passion and knowledge. In addition to being able to meet and observe our national officers and directors, most of the national staff attended and many presented very helpful workshops. I hope all members have a chance to experience a national convention which demonstrated parliamentary procedure in action when over 650 delegates were making decisions! In addition to networking with Leaguers from all over the nation, I enjoyed the opportunity to know better members of LWVCO and LaPlata County delegates.

I learned how strong the reputation of the League is nationally. We are over 850 local leagues strong and are very respected for 88 years of League work. Many organizations that are nationally structured and singular issue oriented do not have grass root local organizations and want to form coalitions

with the League because the national League has access to reputable local Leagues of informed, passionate folks! Coalitions are the way to advocate many issues and policies today. To study and advocate issues today, Leagues at all levels must form appropriate coalitions, including our League. When advocating a change in policy or position, a coalition is an effective effort to overcome the polarized, partisan approach that has become the norm of national policy and government.

On July 2 several League members attended a press conference at MVNP to call upon the Bush administration to abandon the change being considered by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. I thank the several Leaguers who made the drive to Chapin Mesa amphitheater to attend the press conference. See our article on the following pages.

Several Leaguers attended the July 3 Cortez meeting of Senator Ken Salazar where he primarily spoke about the new federal farm bill. He did address the above EPA proposal and his opposition to it. He also spoke of the effort to roll-back the 10% cut in Medicare reimbursement. He emphasized that the roll-back effort failed by one vote and that Senator Allard of Colorado voted to support the ten percent decrease in reimbursement to physicians and hospitals. Such a decrease in reimbursement will be devastating to our rural area – its physicians and hospital. Senator Salazar emphasized that the US health care system is broken, and that it must be changed.

— *Jodi Foran*

Member Focus: Marcia Boon



Marcia was born in Chicago. At age 11 her family moved for a short time to Dallas before settling in Los Angeles during the 1929 depression.

In LA, her father was a jeweler to stars such as Mae West, Claudette Colbert and Marlene Dietrich at Paramount Studios for 20 years. Marcia worked at the studio for a few years as a young woman.

One of Marcia's career's was 20 years for the City of LA where she first worked as a secretary in Street Maintenance, then in Engineering and finally as Executive Assistant to the CEO.

Her next career was with LA Social Services where she finally retired from the City. Marcia's retirement party was held at the top of the 20 story City Hall.

Her next career was at the Bank of America in LA where she retired for the second time.

During these careers, Marcia raised her children, Denis and Niki as a single mom.

Marcia and Denis came to know this area through working vacations at Crow Canyon. They bought five acres here and in October of 2001, after Denis retired, they moved here.

While being a member of our League, Marcia is also a member of the Harmony Club and volunteers for the Democratic Party as well as volunteering at the Cortez Cultural Center and the Sherriff's Citizen's Emergency Response Team.

Marcia keeps a very active schedule and still drives herself around town. She does water aerobics at the Recreation Center three times a week and travels with the Rec. Center whenever she can.

This month Marcia's daughter, Niki, will be taking her to Hawaii as an early birthday present.

Marcia likes to garden and has a solar dome which extends the season for her to raise vegetables and flowers.

Marcia will be 90 years old next month. We all hope to be as vibrant and active members of the community as Marcia is when we're her age.

Happy 90th Birthday, Marcia!

Our Dear Marcia Boon begins her tenth decade August 6, and the League will celebrate her 90th birthday week Monday, August 4 with a luncheon at the Foran's house at 11 am. (Immediately after Marcia's party, we'll have a short General meeting on voter service followed by a Board meeting at 1:30pm.)

Denis Boon will be hosting a party for his mother at the Cortez Cultural Center on Marcia's birth date – Wednesday, August 6 from 10 am – 2 pm to which EVERYONE is invited. Pizza will be served for lunch. Marcia's granddaughter, Kristen, will be visiting and helping Grandmom celebrate her birthday week. We're grateful Marcia for all the work you do as co-membership chairman of our League and for participating on our Board!!!

New Member

We welcome new member JoDee Powers! JoDee is a carbon footprint consultant, and very passionate about climate change. She joined after she perused the national LWVUS website and found so many topics of interest addressed. Welcome JoDee!

Annual Meeting

Our annual business meeting was held Saturday, June 7 at 8:30 at the Colorado Visitor's Center while we enjoyed good breakfast food and drinks provided by attending members. At the meeting, members approved program items, a budget for the coming year and elected the following officers: President: Jodi Foran; President-elect: Eleanor Kuhl; Secretary: Eric Janes; and Treasurer: Denis Boon.

Jodi discussed several new program items she and Eleanor learned about at the State Council meeting in May: 1) Clean Campaigns Colorado, a Proposed Program for Publicly Financed Election Campaigns, and 2) the campaign of Colorado Unity to counter the anti-affirmative action November ballot initiative. The following were adopted as LWVMZC program items for 2008-2009:

- Financial responsibilities of the state as it relates to funding at state, county and local levels.
- Health care advocacy leading to reform of the broken system.
- Air Quality / Environment: continue to participate in local and regional efforts to monitor and to control air pollution.
- Local Program Priority: study and support of county government that is accountable, responsive, flexible, efficient, effective, and able to raise sufficient revenues to

perform the duties necessary to maintain a healthy, safe, and prosperous community for all citizens. We discussed the strong need for an local observer corps which would begin its efforts by monitoring the Board of County Commissioners.

Keep in mind the many pages of State and National positions that we can use in our local League's efforts to educate and advocate various issues. Each member should have copies of LWVUS "*Impact on Issues 2006-2008*" and LWVCO's "*Program for Study and Action, Positions for Action, 2007-2009*".

Air Quality Press Conference

On Wednesday, July 2 at 10 AM a press conference was held at Mesa Verde National Park Chapin Mesa Amphitheater near park headquarters in response to a proposal that the EPA lower air quality standards for Class 1 areas (Mesa Verde National Park and Weminuche Wilderness Area). The National Parks Conservation Association listed MVNP as one of the 10 most endangered parks when considering pollution from coal fired power plants, and has reacted to this EPA rule change.

Press releases were issued to raise national awareness of the Administration and EPA's move to reduce air quality standards which was designed to allow easier approval of new coal fired power plant construction.

The following is an excerpt from the press release and was published nationally as well as in the Durango Herald:

“Mesa Verde sits at 7,000 feet, where the air is supposed to be clear and the skies blue, but we're already seeing the effects of ozone and haze because of the intensity of energy development in the Four Corners,” said Jodi Foran, president of the League of Women Voters of Montezuma County.

The EPA's proposal would change the way the impact of a new pollution source on a park is calculated by looking at annual averages, rather than peak periods, of pollution thus lowering the air quality of national parks and “Class 1” air-quality zones.



The press conference was attended by LWVMZC members Susan Thomas, Eric Janes, Matt Keefauver and Chris and Jodi Foran. Scientists in several EPA regional offices across the country and U.S. senators, including Colorado Democrat Ken Salazar, have criticized the proposals.

The Press Conference was supported by local groups interested in air quality issues including San Juan Citizens Alliance as well as our League.

LWVUS National Convention

The delegates to the LWVUS national convention elected new officers and directors for the next two years. President Mary G. Wilson, an attorney from Albuquerque, was elected to a second term. A listing of the new LWVUS Board can be found on the www.lwv.org site under “convention – report June 17”.

Widely discussed was the LWVUS proposed budget. I acquired respect for the national office and LWVUS as being a lean operation that doesn't waste a cent. Because of a general increase in operating costs (postage, paper, phone, office space), delegates voted to increase the per member payment of local leagues (PMP) next year to \$28 and for 2009-2010 to \$29.20.

Delegates voted to amend the Principles by adding, “The League of Women Voters of the United States 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: legislative, executive, and judicial”

The strength of the national League lies in the strength of its local grass root Leagues and the list below of several new Leagues including our own which were recognized demonstrates the breadth of the national organization:

- LWV of Anne Arundel County (MD)
- LWV of Benton County (AR)
- LWV of Carroll County (MD)
- LWV of Cass County (IN)
- LWV of Cumming-Forsyth County (GA)
- LWV of Currituck County (NC)
- LWV of Dawson and Pickens Counties (GA)
- LWV of Mason County (WA)
- LWV of Mesquite (NV)
- LWV of Montezuma County (CO)
- LWV of Southeast Valley (AZ)

- LWV of Southwestern Indiana (IN)

A major focus of the convention was to approve a National Program for 2008 - 2010, and time was spent in caucusing for certain programs to be adopted. The delegates adopted the following programs:

- The retention of all current LWVUS Positions in the areas of Representative Government, International Relations, Natural Resources, and Social Policy. (See your "Impact of Issues" pamphlet).
- A Health Care program to educate members and communities in order to be better prepared to do health care advocacy as needed.
- A Multi-Level Education and Advocacy Campaign to promote solutions to global climate change.
- A study entitled: "The advisability of using the national popular vote compact among the states as a method for electing the President", and to leverage the studies done by several local and state Leagues.

— Jodi Foran

What You Need to Know About Elections

- July 14 Last day to register for Primary Election
- August 2 – 8 Early voting for Primary Election
- August 5 Last day to apply in person for mail-in ballot for Primary Election if ballot is to be mailed to you
- August 8 Last day to apply in person for mail-in ballot for Primary Election
- August 12 Primary Election – polls close at 7 pm
- October 6 Last day to register for General

Election

- October 9 LWV of Montezuma County Candidate Forum, Empire Electric, 7 pm
- Oct 20 – 31 Early voting for General Election
- October 28 Last day to apply in person for mail-in ballot for General Election if ballot is to be mailed to you
- October 31 Last day to apply in person for mail-in ballot for General Election
- November 4 General Election – polls close at 7 pm

LWVMZC Board decided not to hold a **Primary** Election Forum due to many uncontested races.

Voter Status/Your State SD, HD

You can check your voter status, districts, and other personal information online at the

Colorado Secretary of State: www.elections.colorado.gov. Under "Voter Registration" select "Verify". You will have to input your name, zip code and birth date.

Active/Inactive Voting Status

If you did NOT vote in the last general election, you are considered on inactive status. You may appear at a polling place and be put on active status to vote in that election. For the current election cycle, a voter on inactive status will receive a mail-in ballot if he/she had previously requested one. Recent legislation passed by the Colorado legislature requires that an information card be mailed to registered voters for the 2008 elections.

Affiliation Change

The County Clerk's office must be informed by July 14th of a change of major party affiliation for the person to vote in the

primary. (The parties recognized as major are: American Constitution, Democratic, Green, Libertarian, and Republican.)

Unaffiliated Voters

An unaffiliated registered voter may declare a party affiliation at a polling place and vote for that party’s candidates in the primary.

Mail-In Ballots

The Montezuma County Clerk’s office mailed a form to each registered voter in May 2008 to allow the voter to apply for a permanent mail-in ballot status. You may request a mail-in ballot for the 2008 August primary and/or the November general election only with a mail-in ballot application available online or through the County Clerk’s office.

Identification

Valid identification is required at a polling place for all voters. The following various other documents are considered to be valid identification:

- A current and valid Colorado driver’s license.
- A current and valid Colorado Department of Revenue issued identification card
- A current and valid United States Passport
- A current and Valid employee identification card with a photograph of the eligible voter issued by any branch, department, agency or entity of the United States government or of this state or by any county, municipality, board authority or other political subdivision of this state
- A current and valid pilot’s license issued by the Federal Aviation Administration or other authorized agency of the United States
- A current and valid United States military identification card with a photograph of the eligible voter
- A copy of a current utility bill, bank statement, government check, paycheck or other government document that

shows the name and address of the elector

- A valid Medicare or Medicaid card issued by the U.S. Health Care Financing Administration
- A certified copy of a birth certificate for the elector issued in the U.S.
- Certified Documentation of Naturalization

A Social Security number may not be used as ID at a polling place.

Change of Address

You may inform the County Clerk of a change of address by email, fax, U.S. Mail, or at the County Clerk’s office. It must be done at least 30 days before the election, and you must live in your precinct at least 30 days before the election.

Board

Membership.....	Marcia Boon 565-7668 marciaboon@msn.com
Membership.....	Llois Stein 565-9565 llois@msn.com
Health Care.....	Eleanor Kuhl 564-0708 ekuhl@frontier.net
Voter Services.....	Dick Hoover 565-7367 johnhoover@beyondbb.com
Environment.....	Eric Janes 533-1051 ejanes@frontier.net
President.....	Jodi Foran 882-2401 jodi@foran.net
President Elect.....	Eleanor Kuhl 564-0708 ekuhl@frontier.net
Secretary.....	Eric Janes 533-1051 ejanes@frontier.net
Treasurer.....	Denis Boon 560-0404 denisboon@msn.com
Newsletter Ed.....	Chris Foran 882-2401 chris@foran.net