



# League of Women Voters of Montezuma County

# VOTER

Montezuma County, Colorado

[www.lwvmontezuma.org](http://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

Wed Oct 22, LWV General meeting  
"Climate Change Update" Dr. Kristen  
Averyt, Calvin Denton Room, EEA, 7 pm

### Board Meetings

- Mon Oct 13, Visitor's Center 9:30a

### Other Events

- Thur Sep 18, Greg Mortensen:  
Whalen Gym, FLC (Free ticket  
required)
- Fri Sep 26, Drive to Denver 11am
- Sat Sep 27, League Day in Denver  
and return
- Sat Oct 18, Pumpkin Festival Booth:  
Cortez Cultural Center. Distribute  
literature.

### 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.

Congratulations  
on Retirement  
Betty !!!

## *President's Message*

It's been a busy month and the pace continues to accelerate!

What are the ramifications of the Colorado Director of Election's resignations last week? The departure of Holly Lowder comes two months before what is expected to be one of the biggest elections in recent Colorado history. Lowder's work centered on the implementation of the new statewide voter registration system. The secretary of state's office, which oversees statewide elections, lost two other employees in the elections division this summer who handled testing and certification of voting equipment. In addition, Secretary of State Mike Coffman has been running for the 6th Congressional District seat. He won the primary last month and faces a Democratic opponent in November. Coolidge would not give details on why Lowder stepped down

Many experienced news announcers have said this is the most important national election they have witnessed. How can our League help to ensure an informed voter and an election process of accuracy and integrity? You can help! We are distributing Colorado Ballot Issue pamphlets, Affirmative Action information brochures, holding a candidate forum, distributing to high school teachers and libraries a LWVUS booklet the Cortez Journal has printed on the presidential election process.

We've also shared with high school teachers in the county booklets and curriculum that promote the Vote 18 Project which I learned of at National Convention. Vote 18 helps to create an active exercise for students that takes only one class period and demonstrates how important each vote is. <http://www.vote18.org/>

We began August with a general luncheon

meeting held at Foran's where we celebrated the ninetieth birthday of Marcia Boon, our co-membership chair. Marcia was instrumental in raising the majority of money needed for the Ballot Issue 2008 pamphlet. THANKS for all of your efforts to support and promote the League, Marcia!! You inspire us all with your service attitude and loving energy.

This month our general membership efforts are directed to encouraging our members to attend League Day in Denver, September 27. The emphasis of the meeting will be Ballot Issue initiatives. Marcia, Chris and I attended last year's League Day and experienced the energy of the gathering and the extent of the state organization. This year it would be wonderful to have 2 car loads of Montezuma members in attendance!! September 16 is the last day to register.

In August LWVUS called for a moratorium on the construction of new power plants. Included in our Voter is the statement and attached to our Voter is a seven page file detailing facts and questions regarding coal fired power plants. This is certainly an example of our League reaping the strength of the national organization and the efforts of more than 850 local leagues.

Also in this issue is "Nuclear Power Primer" written by Bill Collins, a member of the LaPlata County League. Increasing the use of nuclear power to satisfy electrical power is a political issue that will be discussed more in the next few weeks.

Our League received a grant from LWVUS Oxfam to use to promote information about Climate Change and the impact of Climate Change especially in underdeveloped countries. We are using the grant money to bring Dr. Kristen Averyt to Cortez. Dr. Averyt was a staff member of the UN International Panel on Climate Change which shared the Nobel peace Prize last year with Al Gore. She is now involved in writing the Governor's

Report on Climate Change in Colorado due out in early October – very timely for us. I’ve also arranged a meeting with the water district managers in the county. Dr. Averyt asked to meet with middle and high school girls interested in science, and I’m working to schedule events. Attached to this voter will be a flyer for Dr. Averyt’s visit. Please print two copies and place about town. Thanks!

I accepted a LWVCO Board position in July. I’ll be working to represent new, small, rural, and West slope local Leagues. My first assignment is to help Board members attend meetings remotely by determining how! I’ll be researching and suggesting to the LWVCO Board technology that can be used.

Be sure to circle dates of League activities and plan your participation.

— *Jodi Foran*

**Calendar**

<b>September</b>	
Thur 18	Greg Mortensen: Whalen Gym, FLC (Free ticket required)
Fri 26	Drive to Denver 11am
Sat 27	League Day in Denver and return
<b>October</b>	
Wed 1	Business Club presentation on Ballot Issues by Speaker’s Bureau, Elk’s Club. Open to public, noon
Mon 6	Last day to register for General Election
Mon 13	Board meeting, Visitor’s Center 9:30a
Sat 18	Pumpkin Festival Booth at the Cortez Cultural Center. Distribute literature.
Wed 22	Chamber of Commerce presentation on Ballot Issues by Speaker’s Bureau, Shiloh’s. Open to public, noon
Wed 22	LWV General meeting “Climate Change Update” Dr. Kristen Averyt, Calvin Denton Room, EEA, 7 pm
<b>November</b>	
Tues 4	<b>ELECTION DAY!</b>
Mon 10	Board meeting, Visitor’s Center 9:30a
Sat 22	General Meeting, Oxfam Sisters of the Planet Climate Change, Ponderosa Restaurant, Dolores

## ***YOU CAN HELP!!***

LWVMZC has ordered 2000 English and 200 Spanish language ballot issues pamphlets that are written and funded by LWVCO-Education Fund. These pamphlets present the pros and cons of all state wide November ballot initiatives and referenda on the state ballot and number a daunting 18.

Leaguers are needed to help distribute the pamphlets to various groups, business, libraries, churches, agencies throughout Montezuma County.

### **Help with Speaker's Bureau**

- Participate in a Speakers Bureau on the Ballot Issues. LWVCO – Education Fund is creating a computer presentation on the pros and cons of each issue. Jodi needs help in 1) contacting and scheduling times for presentations to various service clubs and other groups. 2) Participate making LWVCO computer presentation.

### **Help with Voter Service Publications**

- Distribution of Ballot Issue Pamphlets and Affirmative Action brochures where needed (libraries, businesses, organizations, churches, school staff)

### **Help with Candidate Forum**

- October 7, Thursday at 7 pm  
Generate questions prior to the Forum, Set-up for Forum, Timer, Vet questions, Greeter, Publicity

### **Help with Visit of Dr. Kristen Averyt**

- Publicize
- Schedule day in Cortez and help with logistics

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## ***Congratulations Betty Janes!***

We wish Betty an enjoyable retirement from her career with the National Park Service.

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## ***What does League Do?***

Have you ever had a friend or acquaintance ask you that question? Non-members often don't understand that we are non-partisan, that we have a network of statewide and national resources at our fingertips, that at times we wear different hats of education and advocacy or how we arrive at positions. Spread the message and ask them to consider us as a valuable community organization. Encourage their interest if appropriate. Give / send them a membership brochure. Send them a link to [www.lwvmontezuma.org](http://www.lwvmontezuma.org) , [www.lwv.org](http://www.lwv.org) and [www.lwvcolorado.org](http://www.lwvcolorado.org)

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## ***Dr. Averyt to Speak in Cortez and Durango***

On Wednesday, October 22, Dr Kristin Averyt will present a "*Climate Change Update*" at 7pm in Empire Electric's Calvin Denton Room.

Again on Thursday, October 23, Dr. Averyt will speak in Durango at Fort Lewis College at 7 p.m. in 130 Noble Hall. Her talk will be one of the FLC Life-Long Learning Lecture Series.

This is an unparalleled opportunity for Four Corners residents to learn about climate change.

Dr. Averyt is currently a Research Scientist, Western Water Assessment, Cooperative Institute for Research in Environmental Sciences (CIRES), University of Colorado/NOAA. She is currently crunching

climate data to determine the probable impact of climate change on the state of Colorado. The report is due to Governor Ritter in early October.

Her immediate past position was Staff Scientist with Working Group I, Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC).

The IPCC and former president Al Gore won the 2007 Nobel Peace Prize. Working Group I focused on the physical science behind climate change.

Dr. Averyt's visit is co-sponsored by the League of Women Voters Educational Fund, Oxfam America, The Durango Herald and Cortez Journal. Her visit has also been facilitated by the League of Women Voters of both LaPlata and Montezuma Counties as well as Montezuma Climate Action Network and San Juan Citizens Alliance.

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## ***LWVUS Calls for Moratorium On Coal Fired Power Plants***

### **Moratorium on New Coal-Fired Electric Power Plants Is Imperative to Address Global Warming**

**Global warming is happening, and its impacts are already being felt today.**

Evidence includes disappearing glaciers, increasingly severe heat waves and droughts in some areas, intensifying hurricanes and floods in others, and more wildfires. If left unchecked, the effects could be catastrophic: millions of people displaced as rising sea levels flood coastal areas; many regions devastated by reduced crop yields and shortages of drinking water; human health threatened by the spread of malaria and other vector-borne diseases; many plant and animal species at risk of extinction.

**Coal is the single largest source of global warming pollution in the U.S.**

A thickening "blanket" of carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>) and other greenhouse gases (GHGs) in the atmosphere is trapping solar heat and warming the earth's surface. Most of the CO<sub>2</sub> comes from burning fossil fuels. Coal is the most carbon-intensive fossil fuel, producing more CO<sub>2</sub> per million Btus of energy than burning oil or gas. Coal-fired power plants are responsible for 33 percent of CO<sub>2</sub> emissions in the U.S.

### **Restricting CO<sub>2</sub> emissions from coal-fired power plants is imperative.**

The League of Women Voters is calling for a ten-year moratorium on the new construction of coal-fired electric power plants. This will allow the coal and power industries more time to test carbon capture and storage (CCS) technologies and to determine whether the long-term storage of CO<sub>2</sub> is feasible and safe. The League will work at all levels to help policy makers and the public understand that investing in climate-friendly energy technologies is essential if we are to avoid irreversible damage to our planet.

### **We cannot afford to wait any longer to cut greenhouse gas emissions.**

The global climate is changing faster than was predicted just a few years ago, and what we do in the next two to three years will determine our future. Power plants have a lifetime of 50 years or more. Building new conventional coal-fired plants today will commit us to decades of unnecessary carbon emissions and foreclose the possibility of preventing dangerous global warming.

### **Energy efficiency and renewable energy can meet our electrical needs.**

A combination of energy conservation, greater efficiency in the use of electricity, and increased development and use of renewable energy can ensure that there is enough electricity to support continued economic growth without building a new generation of CO<sub>2</sub>-emitting power plants. The California experience shows that this strategy works. Through a variety of efficiency initiatives, California has held per capita electrical consumption essentially constant since 1975 while maintaining a robust economy.

**The U.S. must lead with strong action.**

As the world's largest economy and largest per capita emitter of global warming pollution, the U.S. must provide leadership in international efforts to reduce GHG emissions. Aggressive action in this country will help influence China, India and other rapidly developing nations to take steps to control their own emissions. Moreover, by developing and sharing clean-energy technologies, the U.S. can help these developing countries leapfrog over the fossil-fuel-based model of development practiced here and take a more sustainable growth path.

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Also attached to LWVMZC Voter is a LWVUS Facts and Questions file downloaded from LWVUS web site [www.lwv.org](http://www.lwv.org)

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## ***Tackling the Health Care Crisis***

*The following is a letter from Senator Ken Salazar recently mailed to the public.*

Over the last month, I traveled to 28 Colorado counties to discuss the state of our nation's health care system with local residents, health care providers, and small business owners. Across the state, the message was the same: our health care system is fundamentally broken, and the time for reform has come.

The average American family spends more than \$12,000 on insurance premiums each year - a staggering amount considering that the median household income in the United States is around \$50,000. As these costs continue to rise, so too will the strain on the budgets of American families.

These rising costs carry with them severe consequences. One Coloradan told me about the anguish he feels because his father, a

Vietnam veteran, cannot retire in spite of his age. Without his job, he fears he won't be able to afford health care. An employee in Pueblo told me that her company is struggling to stay afloat because the cost of coverage rose 30 percent last year.

The high cost of health insurance has also contributed to the growing number of uninsured. Today, 47 million Americans lack coverage, 9 million of them children. They are people like the husband and wife from Denver who spent last Christmas desperately worried about the health of their infant son, but, because the out-of-pocket expenses were exorbitant, they had to forego a visit to the doctor.

The growing number of uninsured Americans increases the cost of care for everybody in the system. And though we spend so much on health care, we stack up poorly against other developed nations on outcomes and results: we are last among our peers in preventable deaths, rank in the bottom half of developed nations for life expectancy, and have an infant mortality rate more than twice our peers.

We can and must do better than this.

While a comprehensive solution to our nation's health care crisis will likely fall to the next administration and Congress, I believe there are important reforms we can make before that time. I recently introduced The Consumer Health and Education Transparency Act, which I will push in the coming weeks. This bill will standardize benefits summaries for insurance plans, provide grants to schools to promote healthy habits and help consumers make hard health insurance choices with free, independent advice.

My journeys throughout Colorado have further strengthened my resolve to work tirelessly to fix our broken health care system. I thank all of you who attended the

meetings and shared your views and experiences with me. I will be your voice in the U.S. Senate as we debate this critical issue.

Sincerely,

Ken Salazar  
United States Senator

### **Four Corners Air Quality**

The Four Corners Air Quality Group reconvened at San Juan College in Farmington on the afternoon of August 20<sup>th</sup>. This was the first meeting of the group since its November, 2007 completion of a Final Task Force Report.

A Panel of Agency Representatives from EPA Regions 6 and 8, Navajo Nation EPA, Southern Ute Indian Tribe, State Air Quality Regulators (CO, NM), San Juan Public Lands Center (Durango) and BLM Farmington was assembled. Panel members gave specific updates on what the various agencies were doing and what's been accomplished regarding 30 key air quality control options. For example:

- With Colorado DPHE funding, on June 17, 2008 ozone and PM 2.5 monitoring was installed in Cortez. Preliminary results show ozone levels slightly higher in Cortez than at Chapin Mesa in Mesa Verde, but still within standards.
- At Molas Pass, the BLM plans to install a long-term mercury deposition network monitor in cooperation with the town of Silverton Recreation Site and others.

Industry (represented by Conoco, Phillip, Red Willow Production and Red River Compression) provided details on numerous innovative measures being taken in their operations to improve air quality. Updates on

mercury, the Four Corners modeling project, and the new EPA ozone standard of 75 PPB rounded out the agenda.

For more information, see [nmenv.state.nm.us/aqb/4c/index.html](http://nmenv.state.nm.us/aqb/4c/index.html)

### **Nuclear Power Primer**

*This article was first published in the LaPlata County League August, 2008, Newsletter and is repeated here with the author's permission.*

**by Bill Collins, LWVLC member**  
August 2008

*The author of this article, Bill Collins, is a member of the LaPlata County League, an electrical engineer and worked twenty-six years before retiring at Los Alamos National Laboratory.*

*(Author's note: This article is an attempt to provide some background information to assist in making informed judgments with regard to nuclear power. This is a very emotional and political topic so most of the available information is biased and conflicting. Much of the negativity is driven by the fear of radioactivity which dates back to the atomic bombs dropped in WWII, followed by the Chernobyl and Three Mile Island accidents and finally the controversy of how to deal with the nuclear waste. Against this is the need to increase the availability of electrical power while reducing the use of fossil fuels because of their effect on the environment and dealing with the security and economic concerns from importing seventy percent of our oil. I have tried to provide information without opinions and left this up to the references that present different sides of the issues.)*

### **Nuclear Power Basics**

Like fossil fuel power plants, nuclear power plants produce electricity by heating water to make steam that is used to drive turbines. A nuclear power plant produces the heat in the reactor core through the fission (splitting) of uranium and plutonium atoms. Naturally occurring uranium is a mixture of Uranium 235 (about 0.7%) and Uranium 238 (about 99.3%). Fuel rods in the reactor core must have the Uranium 235 enriched to a concentration of three to five percent. When a Uranium 235 atom captures a neutron the atom will fission releasing substantial amounts of heat energy and two or three neutrons. The neutrons from the fission are "slowed down" so they are more easily captured

by Uranium 235 atoms. Control rods that absorb neutrons are lowered and raised to control the fission reaction rate. The Uranium 238 atom is more stable and when it captures a slow neutron it will be transmuted to Plutonium 239 that is fissionable by slow neutrons. By the time that the Uranium 235 in the fuel has been depleted to the point that it must be replaced, plutonium is contributing more than half the power the plant generates. For a "once-through" process where the spent fuel is treated as nuclear waste, only 1% of the potential energy of the mined uranium is used and a large amount of radiotoxic nuclear waste is created.

Essentially all commercial nuclear power plants worldwide utilize a thermal reactor where water is circulated through the core to remove heat and to slow down the neutrons. In the pressurized water thermal reactor, water in the primary reactor loop is pressurized to around 150 atmospheres to prevent boiling when it is circulated through the reactor core that has an operating temperature of about 300 degrees Celsius. Heat is transferred to a secondary water loop that operates at a lower pressure and thus produces steam that is used to drive a power turbine. In the boiling water thermal reactor, water is at a lower pressure so steam is created in the core eliminating the need for a secondary water loop.

The reactor core is housed in a steel and concrete containment vessel that is typically three to four feet thick to protect against radiation leakage during normal operation or in case of an accident. Unfortunately the Chernobyl reactor, unlike the Three Mile Island reactor, was not in a containment vessel.

Reactors are categorized by generations. The prototype reactors built in the 1950s and early 1960s were Gen I. Most of the existing commercial reactors were built from the 1960s to the early 1990s and are called Gen II. Improved safety and efficiency resulted in the Gen III reactors built since then. Gen IV reactors are new designs that are currently being researched and in some cases prototyped, and are several decades away from significant commercial development. The Gen IV prototypes must undergo extensive testing to verify they are safe

before approval by the United States Nuclear Regulatory Commission. They also need to become cost effective to be accepted by the financial community.

### **Nuclear Waste**

The first nuclear waste is created when the mined uranium ore is milled to separate the uranium from all the other elements in the ore. The tailings have significant radioactivity primarily from decayed isotopes of Uranium 238. In the early days of nuclear activity, these tailings were stockpiled at the mills and often used as road base and other fill applications, as was the case in Durango. Currently, mill tailing are regulated and stored in a controlled facility. The second type of nuclear waste consists of the Uranium 238 tailings left over from the enrichment process. Again these tailings are radioactive and must be regulated and stored. These tailings are less radioactive than naturally occurring uranium. The third type of nuclear waste is the spent fuel from the nuclear power plants and is a mixture of three types. About 94% is depleted uranium that resembles natural uranium. About 5% are products from the fission of the Uranium 235 that are highly radioactive and "hot" for several years and after a decade or so, the radioactivity is dominated by cesium and strontium that are water-soluble and must be contained for about 300 years. The remaining 1% is the real problem as it consists of a blend of plutonium isotopes and americium that have long half-lives and require safe storage essentially forever (tens of thousands of years). None of this nuclear waste creates a nuclear proliferation risk. The spent fuel contains plutonium but its separation is a complex and difficult process.

The "holy grail" of nuclear waste is reprocessing of the spent fuel to separate the uranium and plutonium from other elements and completely reuse them to eliminate most of the volume and the elements having long half-lives. France, Great Britain and Russia have been running large reprocessing plants for more than a decade. To date, France is the only country that reuses some of the separated uranium and plutonium. This reprocessing is very costly and appears to create

more problems than it solves. The United States abandoned this approach in the 1970's because of concern over the spread of plutonium and even after the ban was lifted in the 1980's has not commercially reconsidered it for economic reasons.

Countries continue to pursue better reprocessing and reuse technologies to deal with the nuclear waste and to make more efficient use of the uranium. The United States Advanced Fuel Cycle Initiative has the goal of reprocessing the spent fuel from thermal reactors to create a uranium and plutonium fuel that can be burned in fast neutron reactors to produce more energy. No weapons grade plutonium would be produced at any step in the process. This initiative is described in the December 2005 Scientific American article, "Smart Use of Nuclear Waste". Counter arguments are given in the May 2008 Scientific American article, "Rethinking Nuclear Fuel Recycling" and the article "Nuclear Recycling Fails the Test" [www.fpif.org/fpifxt/5351](http://www.fpif.org/fpifxt/5351). A second initiative is the research and development of GEN IV nuclear reactor technology which is described in the January 2002 Scientific American article "Next Generation Nuclear Power". The September 2006 Scientific American article "The Nuclear Option" discusses both these initiatives and I found it to be the most useful technical article that advocates nuclear power. The article was based on the 2003 MIT study "The Future of Nuclear Power" which can be found at [web.mit.edu/nuclearpower/](http://web.mit.edu/nuclearpower/). A third initiative is the Global Nuclear Energy Partnership (GNEP) launched in 2006 to encourage the worldwide expansion of nuclear energy while avoiding the need for non-nuclear nations to develop their own uranium fuel enrichment or reprocessing technologies. Up to date information advocating these three initiatives is available at the Nuclear Energy Institute web site [www.nei.org](http://www.nei.org) and the Department of Energy web site [www.ne.doe.gov](http://www.ne.doe.gov).

The House Energy and Water Appropriations Subcommittee recommendations for the FY 2009 Department of Energy funding bill decreased funding for the Advanced Fuel Cycle Initiative to \$120 million from the \$302 million requested by the Administration, increased the funding for

demonstrating the GEN IV nuclear reactor technology to \$200 million from the \$70 million requested by the Administration and provided no funding for the Global Nuclear Energy Partnership, which it called poorly designed and poorly executed. It is too early to predict what the final funding bill will be. The American Institute of Physics web site [www.aip.org/fyi/2008/](http://www.aip.org/fyi/2008/) gives up-to-date science policy news.

The nuclear power community is in general agreement that all nuclear power plants built in the next several decades will use Gen III thermal reactors. The only exception might be small (100 MW) Gen IV high temperature gas reactors. This being the case, nothing will change in the generation of nuclear waste except the accumulation rate.

The official position of the United States government and nuclear power industry is to proceed with the Yucca Mountain storage facility. On June 3, 2008 the Department of Energy filed a license application with the Nuclear Regulatory Commission for Yucca Mountain to be used for nuclear fuel waste and high-level radioactive waste. So far over \$8 billion has been spent on research and development and the cost to completion is estimated to be over \$96 billion. Completion is defined as the time when the facility is sealed forever. At least part of this cost will be paid out of the Nuclear Waste Fund that was established in 1982 by taxing the electricity produced by nuclear power. The fund has collected \$27 billion from which the \$8 billion has been paid. Unfortunately the tax has not been adjusted for inflation. In the meantime the spent fuel is first stored in cooling ponds and then placed in large steel and concrete containers for storage at the power plants. Since Yucca Mountain did not open as scheduled, the government is spending about \$300 million per year for this temporary storage. It has been suggested that the storage containers be stored at interim (maybe permanent) regional sites away from population centers. This would make the spent fuel available if recycling becomes feasible in the future. Another option is an underground facility in the salt formations of southeast New Mexico where a facility for the storage of nuclear

weapons waste already exists.

**The Nuclear Renaissance**

The nuclear power renaissance is driven by the increasing need for more electrical power especially if the future for transportation will be batteries and fuel cells and if a carbon tax makes other forms of energy more competitive with fossil fuels. Initially, the government will heavily subsidize new nuclear power plants to restart the industry in this country. The 2005 energy bill passed by Congress included an estimated \$18 billion in subsidies for the first few nuclear power plants that would be built including liability protection in case of a nuclear accident, a production tax credit estimated to be at least \$6 billion and promised reimbursement of all costs up to \$500 million apiece for the first two power plants for any government-caused licensing delays. It is possible that the government will have to guarantee 100 % of the financing for the first few plants built. Various estimates give the cost of building a new 1000 MW plant as \$4 billion to \$8 billion. To sustain the nuclear power renaissance the financial establishment will have to be convinced that nuclear power is a good investment and state regulators will have to raise electric rates to recover the construction costs. In addition to cost, the availability of materials, components and technical know-how will limit the number of plants that will be built worldwide in the coming decade. Currently, the steel reactor containment vessel is only available from a company in Japan that produces four or five vessels per year.

I believe that efficiency, nuclear, solar, wind, co-generation, bio-fuels, fuel cells and carbon sequestration all need to be vigorously pursued in the coming years with the energy producing winners being determined by the marketplace and public opinion.

Additional information:

- Wall Street Journal article “The Case For and Against Nuclear Power” [online.wsj.com/public/article\\_print/SB121432182593500119.html](http://online.wsj.com/public/article_print/SB121432182593500119.html)

- MSNBC article “New Nuclear Power a Wave or Just a Ripple” [www.msnbc.msn.com/id/16272910/](http://www.msnbc.msn.com/id/16272910/).
- World Nuclear Association website [www.world-nuclear.org/](http://www.world-nuclear.org/) contains information about how nuclear works from uranium mining through the decommissioning of nuclear reactors.
- Nuclear Regulatory Commission website [www.nrc.gov/](http://www.nrc.gov/) contains information about current and proposed nuclear reactors, nuclear waste, nuclear materials and nuclear safety.

**Board**

Membership.....	Marcia Boon 565-7668 marciaboon@msn.com
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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

## ***Ballot Issues***

There may be as many as 19 state ballot issues and one local issue on the November 4 ballot. Many are very confusing and complicated. The education arm of the local LWV is ready to provide speakers to groups interested in hearing the pros and cons of each issue. Please call Jodi Foran at 882-2401 if you need a speaker.

### **STATE-WIDE BALLOT ISSUES 2008 LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF COLORADO**

**C=Constitutional S=Statutory**

#### **Referenda on the Ballot**

- Ref. L (C)      Qualifications for Serving in the Legislature**  
(Lowers the age from 25 to 21 to qualify for serving in the State Legislature.)
- Ref. M (C)      Obsolete Constitutional Provisions Relating to Land Value Increases**  
(Repeals a planting exemption that says hedges, orchards and trees are included in assessing lands for taxation.)
- Ref. N (C)      Obsolete Constitutional Provisions Relating to Alcohol beverages**  
(Repeals laws pertaining to spurious and drugged liquors.)
- Ref. O (C)      Citizen-Initiated State Laws**  
(Increases the number of signatures needed for a citizen initiative to get on the ballot as a constitutional amendment to 6% of last General Election for Governor. Decreases number for statutory initiative to 4%. Also, 8% of signatures would have to come from each congressional district. Protection from change by legislature without 2/3 vote for statutory initiatives for 5 years.)

#### **Initiatives on the Ballot**

- Amend. 46 (C)      Discrimination and Preferential Treatment by Governments**  
(Would prohibit discrimination or preferential treatment based on race, sex, ethnicity or national origin in public education, hiring and contracting.)
- Amend. 47 (C)      Prohibition on Mandatory Labor Union Membership and Dues**  
(Prohibits requiring workers to join and pay dues to a union as a condition of employment.)

- Amend. 48 (C) Definition of Person**  
(Defines a person as any human being from the moment of fertilization and protects the rights of such a person in the state Constitution.)
- Amend. 49 (C) Allowable Government Paychecks Deductions**  
(Would allow deductions from payroll checks for governmentally required items such as Social Security, Medicare, etc. and charitable contributions. Union dues would not be allowed.)
- Amend. 50 (C) Limited Gaming in Central City, Black Hawk and Cripple Creek**  
(Increases bet limit from \$5 to \$100 with 22% of revenues over that collected in fiscal year 2007 going to gaming towns and 78% to financial aid to higher education.)
- Amend. 51(C) State Sales Tax for Services for People with Developmental Disabilities**  
(Sales tax increase in 2009 of \$.01 per \$10 purchase and another \$.01 per \$10 in 2010 to fund long term services for those unable to care for themselves.)
- Amend. 52 (C) Use of Severance Tax Revenue for Transportation**  
(Creates the Colorado Transportation Trust Fund from state's share (50%) of the severance taxes collected. 90% of monies of state's share in excess of revenue collected over the previous year's total, adjusted for inflation will go to Fund. First priority goes to relieving I-70 congestion.)
- Amend. 53 (S) Criminal Accountability of Business Executives**  
(Establishes criminal liability of Business Entities & their Executive Officials found guilty of criminal conduct.)
- Amend. 54 (C) Campaign Contributions from Certain Government Contractors**  
(Would bar companies and shareholders of more than 10% of shares, unions and officers and extended family from contributing to parties or political candidates for the duration of and two years after the contract, if they have a sole source-non- bid- contract—over \$100,000 to any governmental entity in Colorado.)
- Amend. 55 (C) Allowable Causes for Employee Discharge or Suspension**  
(Establishes allowable reasons for employee dismissal or suspension.)
- Amend. 56 (C) Employer Responsibility for Health Insurance**  
(Would require employers with 20+ employees to provide health insurance for employee and dependents or offer participation in a new state authority plan and requires the legislature to set up a state medical authority to administer the program.)
- Amend. 57(S) Safe Workplace and Additional Remedies for Injured Employees**  
(Employers must maintain a safe and and healthy workplace. Allows

employees to seek further damages over workman's compensation levels.)

**Amend. 58 (S) Severance Tax on Oil and Natural Gas Industry**

(Would eliminate property tax credit for those producers paying severance taxes on oil and gas. Redistributes severance tax revenues to create Severance Tax Stabilization Trust Fund-56%, Severance Tax Trust Fund-22% and Local Government Severance Tax fund-22%, 60% of Stabilization Fund going to higher education scholarships, rest going to wildlife habitat, clean energy, impacted area transportation projects, drinking/wastewater projects.)

**Amend. 59 (C) Education Funding and TABOR Rebates**

(Changing education funding and ending TABOR refunds. Creates an Education Fund through a .33% tax on all Federal taxable income and requires education funding at 1% plus inflation through 2012 and no less than inflation thereafter. A 2/3 vote of the legislature could transfer money from the fund to spend on K-12 education outside the 6% spending limit.)

### League Day

Attend League Day and experience Colorado Leaguers at their best! Let's carpool and have a good time there and in travel! The registration deadline is Friday, September 19. Call Jodi for more information about sharing transportation.

## LWVCO League Day

Saturday, September 27, 2008

Registration 8:30 a.m., Conference 9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.

Colorado Room, Holiday Inn Select Denver, 455 South Colorado Blvd.

Rooms available to Leaguers for \$99.00 plus tax. Call 888-388-6129 for reservations.

The hotel is located just north of the intersection of South Colorado Boulevard and Cherry Creek Drive North.

### Registration Fee \$36.00

The registration fee covers coffee, rolls and fresh fruit before the conference, the plated lunch, the use of all rooms, microphone, podium, and speaker charges.

### Program

9:00 - 11:55 a.m.

1. Lisa Esgar, Deputy Director, Governor's Office of State Planning and Budget  
—Colorado's Financial Situation
2. Patricia Barela Rivera, former District Small Business Administration Director  
— How Affirmative Action Affects Women and Hispanic Business Owners.
3. Andrew Romanoff, Speaker of the Colorado House Representatives

Lunch 12:00-1:00 p.m.

1:00-3:00 p.m. Pros and Cons of 19 State Ballot Issues, see titles on pages 4 and 5

### Colorado League Day Registration Form - Deadline Friday, September 19, 2008

Registration Fee \$36.00

Three choices for lunch: (1) 1/2 Classic Turkey Wrap with chips, fruit, cookie (2) 1/2 Vegetarian Wrap with chips, fruit, cookie, (3) A Naked (no wrap or dressing) Classic Turkey Wrap and fruit. Please circle the number of your choice that follows your name. Please contact the League office for diet restrictions.

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Lunch choice: 1 or 2 or 3  
(Please print name as you wish to have it appear on the name tag.)

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Lunch choice: 1 or 2 or 3

Name of League \_\_\_\_\_

Make your check payable to LWVCO

Number of persons \_\_\_ x \$36.00

Mail to: LWV of COLORADO

Total Amount.....\$ \_\_\_\_\_

1410 GRANT ST STE B204

DENVER CO 80203-1855

No refunds after September 19, 2008