



# 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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November-December, 2008

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## Mark Your Calendars

### General Meetings

- **Sat Nov 22, LWV General Meeting, "Oxfam Sisters of the Planet and Climate Change", JoDee Powers, a new LWVUS member will present. Ponderosa Restaurant, Dolores 8:30 am**

### Board Meetings

- **Mon Dec 8, Visitor's Center 10:00am**

### 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.

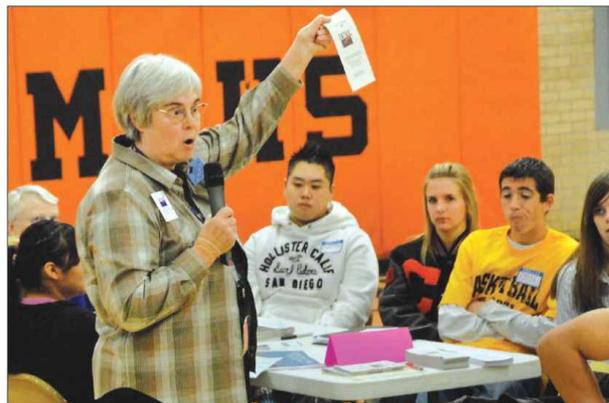
### Reminder:

**Now is the time to pay 2009 dues to Denis Boon. Please see back page for complete information.**

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

This newsletter is delayed as I recover from a busy October. What a busy month for voter service and we could have done more!

Dick Hoover organized a great Candidate Forum and Judy Schuenemeyer was a superb moderator for the event attended by standing room only.



***Jodi Explains Ballot Issues to Cortez HS Students***

Judy Schuenemeyer and I gave eleven ballot issue presentations throughout the month to the following groups: Cortez Business Club, Dolores Rotary Club, Mesa Verde Kiwanis Club, Mancos Forum sponsored by Mancos Library, Dolores Action Group, Montezuma-Cortez High School Forum, Leadership Montezuma, Chamber of Commerce, Ute Mountain Tribe, Public Retired Employees' Association of Montezuma County, and the Cowbelles. Whew!

A personal note illustrating the interest of the world in our presidential election. Within seconds of the announcement that Barack Obama was projected to win the presidential election we received a phone call of congratulations from Moscow. Our Russian friend had stayed up all night watching CNN and called us excitedly just before leaving home to begin her work day.

Dr. Kristen Averyt's visit to Montezuma County provided our area access to a very interesting and knowledgeable climate scientist. How fortunate for us! She was very agreeable to begin her day early by meeting with M-CHS students and talking to girls about a career in science. That day she met with four other groups before giving her evening presentation as we



***Judy Explains the Procedure...***



***...To a Full Room***

made the most of her time in Montezuma County. (Only the young can maintain such a pace. I was only the driver.) Her presentation was very informative and interesting as she led the audience through the process engaged by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change in arriving at its scientific conclusions that time is running out for earthlings to reduce the generation of carbon dioxide. She stressed the need to alter carbon dioxide production by humans on the planet.

We're hoping our state representatives can meet with us on a January Saturday. Stay tuned.

New League member JoDee Powers incorporated Oxfam International's material and emphasis that Climate change is exacerbating the problems and inequities that women already face. She has prepared a very interesting and thoughtful presentation for us at our November 22 meeting. Please read more about her presentation in the newsletter. The meeting begins at 8:30 AM and her presentation at 9 AM. Don't miss this interesting meeting! See you Saturday.

— *Jodi Foran*

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### ***Thanks for the Ballot Issue Pamphlets!***

Our League distributed 2000 pamphlets and over 250 Spanish pamphlets. Please take time to thank the following businesses for purchasing the pamphlets from LWVCO:

- ◆ Cortez Journal, Mancos Times, Dolores Star
- ◆ Southwest Statistical Consulting, LLC
- ◆ Tom Ervin State Farm Insurance
- ◆ Four Corners Financial, LLC
- ◆ The Dolores State Bank
- ◆ Shiloh Steak House

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### ***National Popular Vote Contract Gains Favor!***

After hearing again about the workings of the Electoral College and its importance – many voters are thinking about a change in the way we elect the President. An opportunity to study an alternative to electing the president is being afforded us by LWVUS. At the June 2008 convention delegates voted to study this issue. Our League will be discussing the issue and taking a consensus position in February.

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### **Financial Development**

As pleas for political contributions die down, our League will be asking the Montezuma Community for donations to support the activities of the LWVMZC. Our League depends on individual contributions from the public to help with our operating expenses. Member dues and donations aren't enough for all we'd like to undertake. Do you know someone, not a League member, whom we could approach for a donation? Our League performs a valuable service in the community and we are sure that there are people who would like to give us a boost financially.

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### **Welcome New Members!**

We welcome new member Susan Reed who has a wonderful art exhibit at Main Gallery! You will enjoy her sense of colors and depiction of women, rural scenes and farm animals.

### **Calendar**

Mon 8	Board meeting, Visitor's Center 9:30am
<b>November</b>	
Sat 22	General Meeting, "Oxfam Sisters of the Planet and Climate Change", JoDee Powers, a new LWVMZC member will present. Ponderosa Restaurant, Dolores 8:30 am
<b>December</b>	
Mon 8	Board meeting, Visitor's Center 9:30am

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### **Climate Change, Women and the Earth: Issues of Impact, Equity and Adaptation**

**November 22, LWV General Meeting, 8:30 AM  
Ponderosa Restaurant, Dolores**

We all know that climate change is affecting everyone on the planet, even the polar bears! But did you know that the affects of climate change are already impacting poorer people, in particular, women? Climate change is exacerbating the problems and inequities that women already face. Women are generally bound by the need to collect food, fuel and water as well as the cultural mores that may prevent them from being educated, owning land or presenting solutions to village leaders.

When a climate disaster strikes, women's tasks and survival are threatened. The death toll among women following natural disasters ranges from 50%-70% compared to men. Think that this equation only applies to women in developing countries? Just ask the women who suffered through Katrina, losing their homes, livelihoods, support systems and way of life. Katrina forced many poor women into overcrowded living conditions, raising the level of domestic violence and abuse. Worldwide, women are the first to lose their homes and jobs following weather-related disasters and the last to receive aid, technical help or education.

Until 2003, the UNFCCC did not take gender into account when evaluating any policies toward climate mitigation and adaptation.

Join JoDee Powers, November 22, 8:30am, at the Ponderosa Restaurant in Dolores to learn more about climate change and the issues of equity, impacts

and adaptation. Discover why climate and equity has become a key issue at the UN and why women must begin to take leadership roles and contribute their expertise and experience at the community, national and international levels. Join in the discussion and exploration of how women can create viable ways of impacting the next climate treaty and on the policies and legislation adopted here in the US. Climate change is not gender neutral.

### ***Climate Change Issues Revisited***



***Dr. Averyt Speaks at LWVMZC Meeting***

Dr. Kristen Averyt's visit to Montezuma County on October 22 proved to be educational for many. She spoke with – CHS, CMS and DHS school groups about science as a career and her talk at the evening League Meeting drew 43 people and ended with an interesting Q/A period. (More information is online at <http://www.colorado.edu>). She also talked with Montezuma County water district managers.

Her visit to Cortez was funded by a grant from Oxfam America and co-sponsored by the Cortez Journal, and Montezuma Climate Action Network (M-CAN).

The main thrust of her message is that for

us in CO, water will be the delivery mechanism of the temperature increases resulting from climate change. These regional climate changes are linked to global changes and most likely anthropogenic.



***Dr. Averyt concluded with predicted climate conditions for Colorado.***

Her presentation was based on two significant reports. One written by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, for which she served as staff scientist for Working Group I, which focused on the physical science behind climate change. The second and new report 'Climate Change in CO', of which she is one of three lead authors, and which was prepared for discussion at the Governor's Conference on Drought held in early October. See <http://cwcb.state.co.us/>.

In CO temperatures have increased about 2 degrees F. in the past 30 years. Climate models predict a further increase of 2.5 degrees F. by 2025, relative to the 1950-1999 baseline, and 4 degrees F. by 2050. Typical monthly summer temperatures will be as warm or warmer than the hottest 10% of summers that occurred between 1950 and 1999 and winter projections show fewer extreme cold months, more extreme warm months and more strings of

consecutive warm winters. No consistent long-term trends in annual precipitation have been detected, partly because variability is high. Although an increase in precipitation falling as rain rather than snow has been detected throughout the West, these changes are much less significant in CO due to our altitude, where winter temperatures will remain well below freezing, helping to preserve the snowpack.

Between 1978 and 2004, the spring pulse (the onset of streamflows of melting snows) has shifted earlier by two weeks. The timing of runoff is projected to be earlier in the spring and late summer flows reduced.

The report concludes that climate change will affect CO's use and distribution of water and these conclusions are consistent with broader conclusion in other important studies. In a nutshell, this report suggests a reduction in total water supply by the mid-21st century. 'When combined with temperature increases and related changes in evaporation and soil moisture, all recent hydrologic projections show a decline in runoff for most of CO's river basins by mid-21st century', including a 6-20% decline in the CO River Basin.

Dr. Averyt's current work involves calculating the amount of water used in energy production in CO and the amount of energy expended in the transport of water in CO, topics of vital interest to Montezuma County since we have significant reserves of natural gas.

We are grateful to the LWVUS and to Oxfam America for helping us bring someone of Dr. Averyt's experience and work to Montezuma County. Additionally, we are thankful to LWV of LaPlata County for bringing to our attention the opportunity to apply for the grant – our first- and to leverage LWVUS awarding LWV LPC the Oxfam grant first.

—*Marilyn Brown, KWV LPC*  
and  
—*Jodi Foran, LWVMZC*

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## ***LWVUS Climate Change White Papers***

The LWVUS has posted on its web site several interesting and informative papers on Global Climate Change. More will be posted in the next months as the National Committee provides League members with papers which will help League participate in informed discussions.

[www.lwv.org](http://www.lwv.org) (click on Global Climate Change)

- Cities Take Action to Curb Global Warming
  - Coal – The Great Hope, The False Promise Or a Disaster In the Making?
  - Do A Little. Change A Lot: A Biographical Sketch On Energy
  - Economic Effects of Not Taking Action on Climate Change
  - State Actions Address Climate Change
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## ***Calling ALL Members!***

High interest in the election issues and candidate campaigns engaged many new people in the political process. NOW is the time to capitalize on the energy and enthusiasm in our community. In the post election season, we encourage members to invite a guest to consider membership in the League. Take a look at what's happening this month and ask a friend to join you at our Saturday morning November 22, meeting. Most new members join because they were asked. What do you have to lose in asking them? There is much to gain – more interesting discussions and new energy and commitment for our League.

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## ***Day At the Legislature***

**Learn about the 2009 Colorado State  
Legislature  
Monday, January 5<sup>th</sup>  
in Denver at Capitol**

LWVCO is offering an opportunity to stay aware of what direction our state legislature will take in 2009 at the State Capitol.

Registration Deadline: December 18th

9:00 – 12:00, Panel Discussion:

- Education is Over – What Needs to Be Done?
- Transportation and Infrastructure Issues
- Panel of New and Re-elected Legislators – Their Issues

12:15 – 2:00 Lunch and Break-out Sessions

League Lobbyist Christine Watson (originally from Cortez!) discusses 2009 bills

Check the the LWVCO November Voter for more information.

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## ***Message from Mary Wilson, President, LWVUS***

Election Day has now come and gone. As American citizens and League members, we have been fortunate to participate in such an exciting, history-making presidential election.

Voters are the heart and soul of any election process, and this election was truly a triumph for voter participation. But, as President-elect Barack Obama noted in his acceptance speech on election night, now the work begins for all of us. As League members, we all look forward to working together with renewed vigor to advocate to make “change” mirror our deeply held positions on public policy issues.

*Through the years the League, has enabled countless Americans to be informed about issues and candidates in communities throughout the country and to better participate in our democracy. LWV is an indicator of what is going right in America.*

Voters are already asking the League to continue our efforts to improve the election system. So, don't get too comfortable—we have a lot more work to do on that front!

— *Mary Wilson, President LWVUS*

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## ***LWVUS Online Post-Election Survey***

The LWVUS is asking voters to tell us about their Election Day experiences by taking our online post-election survey. [Click here](#) for the survey.

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## **State League Monitors Voter Fraud**

*League of Women Voters of Colorado was busy right up until Election Day ensuring that no Colorado citizen was disenfranchised. At issue was a voter registration form where some applicants did not check a box indicating they did not have a driver's license and the form was determined to be invalid. Below is the letter that the State League sent to the Secretary of State.*

*Dear Secretary Coffman:*

*The League of Women Voters of Colorado has serious concerns about the potential disqualification of voters who did not check the appropriate box on their voter registration form asking for the following pieces of information:*

- Colorado Driver's License Number*
- Colorado ID number*
- Check a box which indicated that they had neither of the above*
- Complete the line requesting the last 4 digits of their Social Security Number*

*We have done an informal survey of our League members around the State who received the Voter Registration Drive (VRD) training conducted by the Secretary of State's office. Our survey revealed that information on the above-described issue was provided on an inconsistent basis. Some League members stated that information about the policy was stressed at their training; others said it was mentioned in passing and many said it was simply not covered.*

*We believe if this was a policy adopted to follow state and federal law, it should have been covered in the training materials, and at all voter registration training sessions.*

*The League of Women Voters is trusted for its nonpartisan and accurate voter service activities. We also pride ourselves on following the law to the best of our ability. We cannot do our best unless we have complete and accurate information. We fear the inconsistent training methods provided by your office may result in disenfranchised voters. Therefore, we ask that you grant those new voters the benefit of the doubt when determining their eligibility to vote.*

*Sincerely;*

*Marjory Beal, President*

*Gerry Cummins, Voter Service Chair*

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## **The LWVUS Joins the National Coalition on Health Care (NEW)**

The LWVUS Board has voted to join The National Coalition on Health Care (NCHC), a coalition of over 70 member organizations, including medical associations, labor unions, businesses, religious groups and health care advocates. The NCHC focuses on five principles in health care reform: health care coverage for all, cost management, improvement of health care quality and safety, equitable financing, and simplified administration. [Click here](#) for more information about NCHC ([www.nchc.org](http://www.nchc.org)).

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## **Join Us!**

Join the League of Women Voters to help make your community a strong, safe and vibrant place to live. Help shape the important issues that affect you and your family. Membership renewal begins this month with reminders to renew your LWVMZC membership and enjoy the information and activities we provide.

Memberships are \$50 per individual; \$85 for households. For more information call Marcia Boon or LLois Stein, our co-membership chairpersons or go to our

website and print the membership form.  
<http://www.lwvmontezuma.org/Join.html>

Please remember to send your renewal this month to ensure we “grow” our membership base and enlarge our volunteer opportunities. **Send your membership renewal to Denis Boon, 14030 Raod 21, Cortez, CO, 81321.**

The League is extremely grateful to all of its members whatever their participation!

**Member Focus: Dick Hoover**

Dick graduated from the University of Colorado in Boulder in Pharmacy and was a partner in a pharmacy and surgical supply business in Hackettstown, NJ.

Dick was a hands-on school board member in Hackettstown for 17 years during which the town built additions to three schools. He frequently made on-site “executive” decisions when the building contractors ran into problems.

Dick and Lou Etta also owned a winter home in Odessa, Florida, (near Tarpon Springs) before giving it all up to move to Cortez in 1993. For many ears before moving here they visited friends who owned trading posts at various sites in the Four Corners region.

Dick has been a member of the Montezuma County League for 2 years.

**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



**League of Women Voters of Montezuma County  
2008- 9 Membership Form**

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_  
 e-mail \_\_\_\_\_  
 Phone [h] \_\_\_\_\_ [w] \_\_\_\_\_ [cell] \_\_\_\_\_  
 Address \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

The \$50 membership fee supports the League of Women Voters of the United States and the League of Women Voters of Colorado for their studies, voter education and advocacy on your behalf.

Dues are payable in September and renewed each year.

<b>Dues Amounts:</b>	
Regular dues.....	\$50 _____
Additional household member(s)* ...	\$30 _____
Student regular dues.....	\$30 _____
<b>TOTAL.....</b>	<b>\$ _____</b>

Please give names and email addresses of the other members of your household who are joining:

\_\_\_\_\_

I would like to receive the Cortez-Montezuma newsletter (12 issues per year) via:  
 e-mail..... \_\_\_\_\_ (This saves us money we can then allocate to community events)  
 paper (mail) \_\_\_\_\_ (Only one sent per household)

Please make checks payable to “**LWVMZC**” and mail with this form to:  
 Denis Boon, Treasurer  
 LWV of Montezuma County  
 14030 Rd 21, Cortez, CO 81321