



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

General Meetings

Mon, May 11, LWVMZC Annual Meeting & Brunch Potluck, Visitor's Center 10:00 a.m. - noon Margie Beal, LWVCO President and Patty Cordova, LWVCO President-elect will attend.

Board Meetings

Mon, May 11, Visitor's Center 9:00am - 10:00am Mon June 8, Visitor's Center 9:30am

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.

President's Message

The dust storms have been strong and too numerous this spring. Signaling change? Blowing away old thoughts? We determine what's the replacement, so what will it be?

Several Leaguers met on March 26 and held an interesting and sometimes lively discussion that resulted in our League coming to a consensus regarding the National Popular Vote questions of LWVUS. Since then I entered our consensus results into the LWVUS database to be compiled with results from other local Leagues after which the LWVUS Board will take an official position on NPV. Only after that can our League discuss the results of our consensus!

Need I remind you that we will hold our Annual Meeting next Monday? Please plan to attend!!! Print and bring to the meeting the agenda and budget emailed earlier. Come, enjoy the friendship of our group, and meet the state President and President-elect. Let us talk to them about living in the Four Corners area and the challenge of being a small league establishing a reputation in a poor, rural county. Specifically, what is the value of the state league to us? What do we want the state Board to do for us? For each, what has been the most rewarding and memorable League experience?

Do you have any strong thoughts regarding the League name? One of the League list serves has been actively discussing the questions. Please share your perceptions at our annual meeting.

The EPA has rescinded the air permit for Desert Rock Power Plant - at least for the present. Good news! Our League with Eric Janes's leadership and comment paper addressed many of the issues that the EPA listed in rescinding the permit.Stay tuned.

Eric Janes and I have been working with LWV

LaPlata and San Juan Citizen's Alliance to address the lack of a strong EPA focus in the Four Corners area. As you know, there are three different regional EPA offices that oversee the Four Corners area and none of the three has a singular focus on FC environmental problems. Eric has written in his usual thorough way a draft proposal for an EPA manager to be located permanently in the area. Once various folks review the draft, the task force will begin to obtain support politically.

Thanks to those Leaguers who participated in Teen Maze this year – one of the best organized and biggest in the country! Thanks to Judy Schuenemeyer for organizing the League's participation each year and for Jack Schuenemeyer for the before and after "ballot questions" participants answer when entering and exiting the maze. Jack also created very informative posters about the history of voting in the US that hung in the League area.

Thanks to the following for helping with the League booth: Judy and Jack Schuenemeyer, Marcia Boon, Eleanor Kuhl, LuAnn Burkett, Lorna Wilkes, Betty Janes, Chris and Jodi Foran. I also saw Leaguers Terri Helm and Llois Stein helping with the Maze in another area. Thanks folks!

Eleanor and I are attending LWVCO Convention in Golden, May 16 and 17. More later about what we experience. At the Annual Meeting, you'll have an opportunity to question Marjie Beal, Patty Cordova, Eleanor and me on issues.

I'll be emailing separately a Resolution to the Board by LWV Larimer County on Health Care Reform. Let's plan to talk about it at the Annual Meeting.

See you Monday, May 11 at 10 a.m. at the Annual Meeting.

— *Jodi Foran*

Summary of our 2008-2009 League Year

By President Jodi Foran

While we are a small and relatively newly chartered League, – presently 26 members – we have been able to establish a presence in Montezuma County and to encourage informed and active participation in government for both our members and citizens of our County this past year.

This has occurred in part because so many of our members are active in other community activities and because many League members have participated in and supported League activities.

Voter Service

- A core focus of the League is Voter Service, an ongoing activity.
- We encouraged teachers at our three high schools to use League developed curriculum on the Presidential election printed for us by the Cortez Journal.
- We participated in M-CHS voter information program.
- We made twelve informational presentations to community groups on Colorado ballot issues.
- We raised community funding to provide our 2000 English ballot pamphlets and 300 in Spanish.
- We held a Legislative Lowdown forum with our legislators that was standing room only.
- We held a well attended Candidate Forum.
- We participated in Teen Maze using a post experience “vote” using actual county provided voting booths.

- Our website had links for various election web sites

Climate Change

- In October, we sponsored with the aid of LWVUS grant the visitation of Dr. Kristen Averyt who is a UN IPCC scientist who helped to write its report. Dr. Averyt detailed the scientific process of gathering and analyzing data regarding climate change. She emphasized the results of the enormous efforts of international scientists to understand climate change due to man's activity.
- During Dr. Averyt's visit, she spoke at three high schools about science as a career for women.
- Dr. Averyt also visited local water managers.
- The League collaborated with Montezuma Climate Action Network to bring Patrick Cummins, Program Director: Climate Change and Air Quality of the Western Governors Association.
- The League attends the Board meetings of local rural electric cooperative and provides the directors with updated articles on climate change.

Health

- Health care legislation and action is a concern of several of our members. We have continued to monitor national and state reform efforts.
- We have initiated an effort with LWV LaPlata to sponsor an October, 2009 Forum on the health problems associated with poor air quality, particularly in the Four Corners Area where the coal fired power plants have impacted us.

Collaboration

- In spite of our small size, the LWV of Montezuma County has found that it can have an incredible impact on our community by not only offering our own events, but also working with other groups when they share similar positions.
- We have joined a county-wide group for information sharing purposes.
- We alert our members to meetings and activities of other environmental, health and planning groups.
- We have provided the various groups with a form to complete when observing an open meeting.

Many Opportunities to Become Involved in Montezuma County!!!

Comprehensive Plan

The County is reviewing its Comprehensive Land Plan. The Montezuma County Planning Commission will be conducting scoping meetings focusing on the need to update or rewrite the Montezuma County Comprehensive Plan. The purpose of the meetings is to determine if the vision for Montezuma County is the same as it was when the Comprehensive Plan was adopted or if the vision has changed. For an overview Power Point presentation of the current Comprehensive Plan visit the County website at www.co.montezuma.co.us; and click on Montezuma Comprehensive Plan Presentation.

The first of four meetings will be held at the Montezuma County Annex Building located at 107 N. Chestnut, Cortez, CO., on Thursday, May 14, 2009, at 6:00 p.m. Put the schedule on your calendar, attend and give input. Check the "Hearing notices" on the County's Website

www.co.montezuma.co.us

A copy of the current Montezuma County Comprehensive Plan is available for review on the Planning Website at www.co.montezuma.co.us and is also available at the Montezuma County Planning Office, 109 West Main, Room 305, Cortez, Colorado, (970) 565-2801 and may be inspected during regular office hours.

Hovenweep Oil and Gas Dump, officially known as the Outhouse Recycling Facility

On March 26, 2009, the Montezuma County Planning Commission voted to approve the Special Use Permit and High Impact Permit for Nathan Barton (designer and operator) and Casey and Kelly McClellan (land owners and business partners) of Four Corners Recycling to develop a recycling center for O&G drilling waste products.

The County Commissioners, who have the power to grant final approval for these permits, AND issue a Certificate of Designation for a NEW solid waste facility in Montezuma County, will hear from the applicants and community members on Monday, June 1, 2009, at 9:15 AM in the County Annex. They are expecting a large crowd. It is important that you express your concerns at a public hearing where they become public record.

Check out the Hovenweep Alliance website for more information on the proposed Outhouse Recycling Facility www.hovenweepalliance.com.

Verde Fest

Montezuma Climate Action Network (M-CAN) has agreed to organize Verde Fest this year on August 15 in the Cortez City Park. Last year Mesa Verde National Park organized the first festival that was held in

the Park.

M-CAN's Countywide Renewable Energy Projects

Check out M-CAN's website www.m-can.org for information on the following recently organized groups: Hands On! Renewable Energy Group for Homeowners and Community Renewable Energy Group – with a Mancos focus.

Dates may change for the above events but you can access the Google Four Corners calendar for up-to date information if you have a Google calendar account. See www.fourcornerscalendars.org for information.

Montezuma Vision Project

Members of the Montezuma Vision Project share much in common with League members particularly in policy of planning, preserving our environment and natural resources. They have a new website www.montezumavisioncoalition.org for you to learn about the organization and its activities. There is much overlap particularly with the projects and issues outlined above.

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.

Memberships are \$50 per individual; \$80 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. www.lwvmontezuma.org

The League is extremely grateful to all of its

members whatever their participation!

Budget Adoption and Bylaw Changes

The annual meeting is a time to make any changes and adopt it for the next year.

Please bring to the Annual meeting a copy of the proposed budget emailed earlier to members. Our budget is simple. Individual members pay many expenses. We are fortunate not to have to rent a meeting facility.

Our payments to the state and national Leagues have increased. Additionally, membership per member payment (PMP) for LWVUS will rise for the second year in a row. This particularly affects our individual membership dues. In 2008-2009, we realized only \$4 from each individual membership. In 2009-2010, we will realize only \$2.80, after paying PMP's to LWVUS (\$29.20) and LWVCO (\$18.00). Even so again, your Board has decided not to raise dues for the coming fiscal year.

Loss in income from dues will depend upon additional fundraising or greater contributions in order to support our program.

Health Care at the National Level

With health care at the forefront at both the state and national levels, LWVUS is working toward the passage of meaningful reform. Additionally, a LWVUS Health Care Education Task Force is educating League members about health care issues. Over the past few months, Task Force members have been drafting papers dealing with a variety of health care issues. Two fact sheets are

now available with several more in process. Our League is planning to hold a forum soon relating to the debated policies and issues as health care reform will be a topic not finalized any time soon.

Subscribe to LWVUS-Sponsored Email Lists

The League has some nifty and informative email lists. All members who are interested in subscribing to or unsubscribing from an LWVUS discussion list can do so on the LWVUS website (<http://www.lwv.org/>). Visit the member login page >click on “get involved”. Scroll down and at the bottom of the page, read the paragraph “League Sponsored email lists”. Click “Join a new list or manage your account”. Enter your user ID and personal password. Once logged in, choose “League Sponsored Email Lists” from the menu on the left side of the page, and you can manage your email subscriptions.

The LeagueVoice Newsletter – keeps you up-to-date on the latest League news, activities and other important information.

e-Activist List / Grassroots Lobby Corps - Help get the League's message to Congress. Join the Grassroots Lobby Corps and receive Action Alerts in your inbox.

Leaders Update - Bi-weekly newsletter

LIST SERVS – You can also read messages that were previously posted.

- Campaign Finance Reform
- Civil Liberties
- Climate Change
- Death Penalty Health Care
- Public Education

- United Nations
 - Development and Fundraising
 - League Leaders
 - League Webmasters
 - Membership and Outreach
 - National Popular Vote Study – now closed
 - Voters Service
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Two Additional Climate Change Papers Now Online

Go to the LWVUS home page: www.lwv.org and click on TAKE ACTION and choose “Climate Change”. Look for a reference to documents. It's not always easy to navigate around the League's website. Persevere!

1. “Cap-and-Trade versus Carbon Tax: Two Approaches to Curbing Greenhouse Gas Emissions” by Eleanor Revelle (LWVIL and LWVUS Climate Change Task Force member)

2. “Positive Feedbacks and Climate Runaway: The Need to Act Without Delay” by Chad Tolman (LWVDE and LWVUS Climate Change Task Force member).

Dick, Thanks for the Wireless Microphone!

Thanks to Dick Hoover for providing the League with a wireless microphone to be used at public forums. Remember how difficult it was for the attendees to hear Representatives Ellen Roberts and Scott Tipton when we held the meeting with them in February? That won't happen again thanks to Dick.

Calendar

May	
Wednesday, May 6	LWVCO Board Meeting, Denver
Monday, May 11	9:00 a.m. - 10:00 Board Meeting, Visitor's Center 10:00 – noon LWVMZC Annual Meeting & Brunch Potluck, Visitor's Center, Margie Beal, LWVCO President and Patty Cordova, LWVCO President-elect will attend.
Tuesday, May 12	7 p.m. County Annex Hovenweep Alliance will host Tweeti Blancett, a 6 th generation rancher from northwest New Mexico who will talk about the impacts of energy exploration and development and the power of grassroots organizations to change how land is used.
Thursday, May 14	6 p.m. County Annex Planning & Zoning Commission. The first of 4 scoping meetings held by the County Planning and Zoning Commission in regard to updating the County's Comprehensive Plan. Stay tuned for the dates of the other meetings with county residents.
Friday, May 15	Drive to Golden for State Convention
Saturday & Sunday May 16 - 17	LWVCO State Convention – Golden CO
June	
Monday, June 1	9:15 a.m. BOCC hearing to grant final approval for solid waste dump for O&G development wastes near Hovenweep. County Annex.

Monday, June 8	Board Meeting, Visitor's Center 9:30 a.m. Board will watch DVD on Health Care Reform
Friday, June 15 - 16	LWVCO Leadership Retreat in Frisco, CO
July	
August	
Saturday 15	Verde Fest in Cortez City Park

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 johnnhoover@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

Montezuma County LWV Annual Meeting

a time to renew friendships, enjoy brunch and plan for the new League year!

Monday, May 11th 10:00 A.M.
Colorado Visitor's Center Conference Room

Adoption of the 2009 budget

Vote on bylaw changes

Election of New Officers

Guests:

Margie Beal, LWVCO President

Patty Cordova, LWVCO President-Elect

Invite a friend to find out more about League

Please and bring with you the following proposed documents that were emailed earlier to you:

Agenda

Bylaw changes

The proposed budget

Health Care Resolution