



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 Calendar

Oct 8, Thursday
Four Corner Air Quality and Health Forum, 7-9 p.m. 130 Noble Hall, FLC

Oct 12, Monday
Board Meeting, 9:30 a.m, Colorado Visitor's Center.

Oct 19, Saturday
General Meeting, 9 a.m
Ponderosa Restaurant, Dolores.

Oct 22, Thursday,
Colorado Water Workshop, Durango, all day

Join the League!

Anyone of voting age may join the League. Discounted household memberships are available. Call Betty Janes at 533-1051 for more information

President's Message

Circle Saturday morning, October 17 on your calendar! We will have a general breakfast meeting at 9 am at the Ponderosa Restaurant in Dolores. Newly appointed State Senator Bruce Whitehead from Hesperus will join us for an informative dialog with League members. The New Year and another legislative session will be here so soon. This is your chance to meet our new state senator.

The LaPlata League has planned a very informative forum on the health effects of poor air quality for October 7 at 7 pm as part of Fort Lewis College's Life Long Learning Series. Check out the credentials of the experts who will be participating. The Forum is an excellent opportunity to become more informed regarding health impacts resulting from poor quality air.

I would be very discouraged to be an elected member of the Colorado Legislature as the Colorado budget crisis just gets worse. The presentation by Carol Hedges to the Cortez Business Club, September 2 again emphasized how difficult it is to address the fiscal crisis of Colorado. The discussion of facts led to the issue that debated passionately across the country: "How big do we want government to be?"

October is membership renewal month. I'm very grateful for your membership and support!!! As our national political climate seems to become crasser and polarized it is more important than ever that the League maintain a presence in Montezuma County. It was eighteen months ago that we received our national charter, and we've worked hard to provide informative events and activities.

It's time to ask for greater community support, and I welcome your participation in this effort. You can help identify potential members and financial supports.

Consider participating in the Great Decisions Program that LuAnn Burkett is assessing. We can have some interesting, structured discussions of international issues right here in Montezuma County! The 2010 discussion topics are listed in the newsletter. The Foreign Policy Association provides a DVD, discussion guide and reading material for each registrant at minimal cost.

Eric Janes and I have been working with LaPlata County League and San Juan Citizens Alliance to propose a solution to the problem of the Four Corners area not receiving a stronger EPA focus for its environmentally based problems. We don't want to continue to be known as an environmental "sacrificial zone". Eric and his professional experience has been a tremendous asset to the Committee and has been a keystone to its efforts. I along with Marilyn Brown will be presenting the Committee's proposal to LWVCO at the October Board meeting and asking for its support. We have been in initial contact with the state boards of Arizona, new Mexico and Utah and once we have the full support of the LWVCO Board will contact them further as well as leaders of the four tribes in the area.

An important workshop "Dealing with Drought" will be held in Durango - Oct 22 It is co-hosted by Mountain Studies Institute along with the CO Water Conservation Board, CU-NOAA Western Water Assessment, and others. In the workshop, participants will: engage with Colorado climate scientists in instructional sessions to

learn more about Colorado's climate and climate variability, the history of past drought in Colorado, scenarios for future climate change, and implications of climate change for water resources. More information can be found on our website.

— *Jodi Foran*

Help Us Update Our Fundraising Mailing List

Our role as informed citizens never stops. The need for League services exists more than ever. For the first time since we received our LWVUS Charter eighteen months ago, our League will be sending out a Fund Raising Request letter to individuals and businesses within Montezuma County, and we are asking our members to help us establish a mailing list database. Please send Jodi Foran your suggestions for possible contributors and whether we can mention you in the letter.

Health Care Debate

The debate in the U.S. Congress and emotional reporting in the media rages on. League supports comprehensive health care reform and is active in lobbying Congress for its passage. The League urges you to contact Senator Udall, Senator Bennet and US Representative John Salazar to pass such legislation. Myths abound and you are reminded of two websites where there are nonpartisan fact check web sites to determine the validity of "facts."

FactCheck.org – www.factcheck.org/ - is a project of the Annenberg Public Policy

Center of the University of Pennsylvania.

PolitiFact is a project of the St. Petersburg Times whose mission is to find the truth in American politics. Reporters and editors from the Times fact check statements by members of Congress, the White House, lobbyists and interest groups and rate them on a Truth-O-Meter. <http://politifact.com/truth-o-meter/statements/>

On the www.lwv.org website you can

- Read the League's response to the Senate Finance Committee's failure to protect consumer choice and control costs by defeating amendments to include a public option in health care reform legislation.
 - Find details behind the League of American Voters' campaign to block health care reform from the Huffington Post Investigative Fund.
 - Read an article on the League's recent efforts to promote civic action and civil discourse in the health care debate.
-

Cost of NPVC Study

LWVUS recently released a summary of the actual and in-kind costs for conducting the National Popular Vote Compact Study, which, you recall, ended in no consensus. When attending a national conventions when new studies are adopted the study costs may preclude its adoption. The following is what the NPV cost as a national level:

Volunteer labor costs for the five-member task force were estimated to be \$35,438(500 hours of work for the chair and 250 hours

each for other members, at a rate of \$20.25/hour.)

Actual staff labor costs equaled \$20,203 based on an average pay rate (including fringe benefit rate of 45%) of \$26.04/hour.

When conference calls fees were included make a grand total of \$55,684. This is a lot of money! It's too bad we didn't come up with a more useful outcome.

— *Marilyn Brown, LWVLP*

Great Decisions Topics Announced

LuAnn Burkett is assessing the possibility of our League sponsoring the Great Decisions Discussion Series beginning in mid-November / December. Watch for additional information in future newsletters. Topics for the 2010 series are:

- Special Envoys
- Preventing Genocide
- Global Crime
- U.S.-China Security Relations
- Global Financial Crisis
- Russia and its Neighbors
- The Persian Gulf
- Peacebuilding and Conflict Resolution

If interested in participating, give LouAnn A call at 882-4666. Help to determine a good time for the discussion group to meet regularly.

Four Corners Air Quality and Our Health

Don't miss the Forum on Health Issues related to poor air quality scheduled for Thursday, October 7, 7 -9 PM, Fort Lewis College, 130 Noble Hall.

The following three very informative speakers will make presentations! Let's carpool!!

- **Mike Silverstein** is the Colorado Air Pollution Control Division's deputy director and the manager of the division's Planning and Policy Program. His main area of expertise is in air quality planning, which involves working with industry, government agencies and citizens to develop plans for areas that have violated National Ambient Air Quality Standards, such as the ozone standard. Mike also leads the division's efforts to assess air quality issues in Rocky Mountain National Park and the Four Corners region. Mike holds B.S and M.S. degrees in Geography from the University of Colorado. Prior to joining the division, Mike was an environmental scientist with the E.P.A. in Denver and an environmental consultant.
- **Patrick Cummins** is the Director of Air Quality Programs for the Western Governors' Association, based in Denver. In this position, Patrick serves as the Director of the Western Regional Air Partnership and as Project Manager for the Western Climate Initiative. He holds a B.S. in Chemistry from Fort Lewis College and an M.P.A. in Environmental Policy from Indiana University. Prior to joining WGA, Patrick worked for the E.P.A. and as

Deputy Director of Denver's Regional Air Quality Council.

- **Bob Thompson** worked as a faculty associate at Arizona State University in the Life Sciences Department where he taught Environmental Geology and Biological Systems and Pollution vs. Protection – Counting the Cost. He is a Certified Professional Geological Scientist. Recent publications include “Fire Story – Vallecito Burning” and “Evidence for a Connection Between Wildfires, Erosion, and Landscape Development over the Past 3600 Years in Southwestern Colorado”. He recently wrote a paper on “Mercury in the Environment (Everything You Didn't Really Want to Know About Mercury....And More).” Bob's degrees are from Northern Arizona University with postgraduate work at ASU, Penn State, New Mexico State and Farleigh Dickinson University. Prior to teaching, he worked for the U.S. Geological Survey and NASA.

LWV's Proposed Regional EPA Liaison

Our League with the League of Women Voters of La Plata working with the San Juan Citizens Alliance, an environmental group active in the Four Corners area, are proposing an Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) air quality liaison in the Four Corners area. We propose that the Regional Administrators of U.S. EPA Regions 6, 8 and 9, which have jurisdiction in the Four Corners, establish a senior level liaison position that would report to all three EPA Administrators and be responsible for coordinating a unified EPA approach on Four Corners air and related water quality issues.

The proposal is adapted from a 2008 recommendation of the Four Corners Air Quality Task Force.

The Four Corners area encompasses four states and four sovereign tribes. Consequently, the U.S. EPA jurisdiction over air quality in the Four Corners area is burdensome and complex. None of the EPA offices is designated as a lead for the Four Corners Region and each operates independently. Each state air quality enforcement agency also acts independently and the tribes each have their own environmental offices. Four Corners atmospheric processes are complex and large scale. The existing EPA regional divisions of jurisdiction lack coordination and fail to achieve the degree of holistic assessment or permitting that is called for by the large and dynamic nature of the Four Corners air resources and the rapid industrial changes underway that threaten air and water quality.

An EPA Four Corners air quality liaison is needed as the Four Corners area is experiencing disproportionate adverse air and water quality impacts from the clustering of industrial sources, including coal-fired and natural gas facilities that are endangering the public quality of life. The LWVLC and LWVMC Boards believe that a Four Corners EPA liaison would enhance the protection of our air and water in SW Colorado as well as the health of our citizens.

League Day

League Day was held in Denver on Saturday, September 26th. Over 100 Colorado Leaguers received information

about Census 2010 and the fiscal crisis, then listened to speakers discuss important issues. Speakers included:

- Allison Eid, Associate Justice, Colorado Supreme Court on her experience as the newest Justice
- Mark Cavanaugh, Director of the Governor's Economic Recovery Team on American Recovery and Reinvestment (ARRA) funds in Colorado
- Alicia Archibald from BETTR Recycling in Colorado Springs, on Real Community-Real Sustainability
- Irene Aquilar, MD, President of Healthcare for All CO, on Understanding Health Care Financing and Reform in CO

Traveling to Denver is cumbersome. However, I learned about ARRA funds, received information about this legislative session and networked with leaguers from all over the state. It was a very informative session and was well organized.

— *Stephanie Huss, President LWVLCPC*

The presentations by Mark Cavanaugh and Irene Aquilar are on www.lwvmontezuma.org along with an update of Colorado's fiscal state by Phyllis Horney.

Meeting with Ernest House, Jr.

Members of LWVLCPC and LWVMZC Leagues met in early September with Ernest House, Jr., the Executive Secretary of the Colorado Commission on Indian Affairs. He is a member of the Ute Mountain Ute Tribe, who works with the Lieutenant Governor's office. Our wide ranging discussion covered

voter registration, Census 2010, and EPA jurisdiction. We look forward to working with Mr. House on these and other issues.

Planning and Zoning Comprehensive Plan Update

Stay tuned to and engage in the County's effort to update the County's Land Use Plan and Code. Learn more about the county's efforts on the County's website.

<http://www.co.montezuma.co.us/newsite/planninghome.html>

Workshop: Dealing with Drought

Durango - Oct 22

Co-hosted by MSI along with the CO Water Conservation Board, CU-NOAA Western Water Assessment, and others.

This workshop builds on themes and information from the October 2008 Governor's Conference on Managing Drought and Climate Risk, though attendance at that conference is not required to participate in the workshop.

In the workshop, participants will: **Engage with Colorado climate scientists** in instructional sessions to learn more about Colorado's climate and climate variability, the history of past drought in Colorado, scenarios for future climate change, and implications of climate change for water resources.

Dealing with Drought workshop: Outline of workshop sessions

1) Fundamentals of Colorado climate

Introduction to the basics of climate, with an emphasis on Colorado's climate, including the distribution of temperature and precipitation in the state

2) Fundamentals of climate variability

Variability is a fact of life in Colorado; where does the year-to-year variation come from?

Review of El Nino and other climate factors that can influence variability.

3) Drought (including paleoclimate)

Discussion of the observed record of droughts and the evidence from tree rings for extended dry and wet periods in the state's past.

4) Breakout discussion sessions on drought

Using information presented in the morning sessions, discuss past and potential impacts of drought; potential adaptation strategies; barriers to adaptation and planning; what would help to mitigate these barriers?

5) Web resources for climate and drought information

Introduction to resources at the Colorado Climate Center, NIDIS's drought.gov, and other

6) Scenarios of climate change in Colorado

Based on the *Climate Change in Colorado* report, we present scenarios of how Colorado's climate might be different by mid-century, and the global and local reasons this may happen.

7) Potential implications of climate change for water in the state

Using information from the *Climate Change in Colorado* report and recent research articles, we will highlight some of the potential implications for water resources in the state.

8) Breakout/discussion session on climate change perceptions and vulnerability

Using information presented during the day, discuss potential impacts of climate change; potential adaptation strategies and barriers to adaptation and planning; what would help to mitigate these barriers?

9) Reports from the breakout groups to the full group and open discussion

*Presenters (*not at all three workshops):*

- Kristen Averyt,
Western Water Assessment*
- Joe Barsugli, University of Colorado –
CIRES and Western Water Assessment
- Nolan Doesken, CSU Colorado Climate
Center*
- Jeff Lukas, Western Water Assessment
- Chad McNutt, NOAA National Integrated
Drought Information System (NIDIS)

Census Count 2010

The LWVMZC has joined numerous organizations in collaborating with the 2010 Census Count. We have sent forms expressing our support to the regional census bureau. This may include speakers at public meetings, encouraging citizens to fill out their census forms, educational articles in League newsletters and local media

sources and working with area officials to ensure the census is completed and returned by all residents in their respective communities. Remember **the count impacts ten years of funding, representation and allocation of public services and infrastructure, including federal funds for Medicaid, social services block grants and vocational education.** Census numbers also redraw boundaries for congressional districts and state and house districts. We will be receiving materials soon. If you are interested in participating, contact Jodi Foran, jodi@foran.net 882-2401. Another opportunity to help!

School Board Election

Mail-in ballot only

To receive a ballot, you must be an active voter registered with the Montezuma County Clerk at your current address by October 5.

Your ballot must arrive by mail or personal drop off with the Montezuma County Clerk by 7pm, Tuesday, November 3.

Calendar

October	
Thursday, 8	Four Corner Air Quality and Health Forum, 7-9 p.m. 130 Noble Hall, FLC Sponsored by LWVLPC and LWVMZC
Monday, 12	Board Meeting, Colorado Visitor's Center 9:30 a.m.
Saturday, 19	General Meeting, Ponderosa Restaurant, Dolores, 9 a.m.
Thursday, 22	Colorado Water Workshop, Durango, all day

Board

Membership.....	Betty Janes 533-1051 ejanes@frontier.net
50 Year Member	Llois Stein 565-9565 llois@msn.com
Health Care.....	Eleanor Kuhl 564-0708 ekuhl@frontier.net
Voter Services.....	
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
Hospitality.....	Marcia Boon 565-7668 marciaboone@msn.com