



VOTER

League of Women Voters of Montezuma County

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

Nov 9, Monday

10:00 a.m. Board Meeting, Colorado Visitor's Center.
11:00 a.m. General Public Meeting, Colorado Visitor's Center. View and discuss T.R. Reid's PBS Frontline's "Sick Around the World. Brown Bag OK.

Dec 2, Wednesday

LWVCO Board Meeting, Colorado Visitor's Center.

Dec 13, Sunday

12:00 pm Holiday Potluck at home of Llois Stein,
Bring spouse / guest

Jan 13, Monday

10:00 a.m. Board Meeting, Colorado Visitor's Center

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

October was a busy month representing our League. It began by Marilyn Brown and me traveling to Denver for the LWVCO Board meeting at which the Board voted to support the EPA proposal developed by the LaPlata and Montezuma Leagues. Since then we've received support from LWVAZ and are in touch with the UT and NM state Board Presidents for each of their Boards to vote to support our efforts. In parallel, efforts are taking place to contact the four tribes of the Four Corners as to our proposal. As part of that endeavor, I met with Ernest House, Sr., Ute Mountain Tribal Chairman, and discussed a variety of topics with him including the EPA proposal, Census 2010, Voter Service offerings, renewable energy contacts, and brought to his attention the September 2009 ACLU sixty-five page report "Voting Rights in Indian Country" (<http://www.aclu.org/votingrights/minority/41203pub20090930.html>). The report mentions Montezuma County.

Additional meetings regarding the EPA proposal were with Jim Temte, Air Quality Program Manager, Southern Ute Indian Tribe Environmental Programs Division in Ignacio and with Mark Jones, New Mexico Environmental Department Air Quality Bureau, Environmental Analyst, in Farmington. All have encouraged us to pursue the proposal that EPA provide a senior level person to represent the Four Corner Regions to Washington, DC and to the three EPA Regional offices that oversee one or two states in the Four Corner Region.

The Air Quality Health Forum held by the

LaPlata League had three speakers whose bios were in the last newsletter. Mike Silverstein gave a good overview of air quality monitoring in SW Colorado. The Board will consider sponsoring with other county groups a viewing of copies of the presentation.

I attended the Western Water Assessment Workshop held in Durango. I found a full day of presentations by NOAA and University of Colorado scientists on "Dealing with Drought – Adapting to Climate Change" very interesting. Links to summaries and many more Internet links are on the League's website.

Saturday, October 17, our state Senator Bruce Whitehead, who replaced Jim Isgar, spoke to our League outlining his legislative goals and initiative for the next session, which officially begins in January. However, our representatives are busy in the fall preparing for the session. Circle Saturday, February 20 when our League will hold the annual "Legislative Lowdown".

I also wrote a letter from our League to the San Francisco Regional EPA that oversees the Four Corners Power Plant and Navajo Generating Station.

We're trying a new time for a general meeting – 11:00 am – 12:30 pm Monday, November 9. We'll view and discuss the PBS Frontline documentary produced by T.R. Reid that illustrates how five capitalist democracies – Japan, Germany, the United Kingdom, Taiwan, and Switzerland – deliver health care services and what the United States might learn from their successes and failures. Come and bring a guest.

Our Board voted to be a partner with Census

2010. LWVUS and LWVCO are also partners. We are not committed to accompanying Census 2010 workers who visit those who don't complete the short form. We'll be helping to spread the message that it "It's Important", "It's Safe", and "It's Easy", and why these three phrases are so important. We'll be working with other county agencies and groups. As a partner, I've applied for cloth bags for us to distribute in Montezuma County with our League's logo along with that of Census 2010 that have the message prominently displayed on the bags.

Plan to attend our holiday potluck luncheon hosted by LLois Stein, Sunday, December 13, when good food and lively conversation will abound. Bring a friend or spouse! Don't miss!!!

This the time to renew League membership, and attached this month is a renewal form. We need you more than ever!

— *Jodi Foran*

Congratulations, Jack!

League member Jack Schuenemeyer was elected to the RE-1 School Board, District B. Thanks Jack for volunteering for the adventure of serving as a school board member. Being a League member does not preclude anyone from running for office. In fact, most often it prepares them well to serve effectively. Only the President and Voter Service chair cannot become actively involved in individually supporting a candidate.

Senator Bruce Whitehead



Newly appointed District Six Senator Bruce Whitehead spoke at the Saturday, October 17, breakfast meeting of the League held at the Ponderosa Restaurant in Dolores. Bruce has extensive knowledge and experience with Colorado water issues that includes employment as the Executive Director of the Southwestern Water Conservation District and Animas-La Plata Water Conservancy District, as well as 25 years with the Colorado Division of Water Resources. We learned that he has been a Director on the Colorado Water Conservation Board representing southwestern Colorado, and is continuing to serve as an Engineer Advisor for the Upper Colorado River Commission. He has lived water issues as a licensed professional engineer.

Senator Whitehead shared his legislative priorities, anticipating issues such as Colorado's fiscal crunch affecting the ability to achieve legislative goals.

He and his wife Becca live south of Hesperus near Breen and enjoy the arts and the outdoor activities. They are raising two daughters 8 and 10 years old.

LWVCO Sustainability Study

The 2009 LWVCO state convention adopted “Sustainability” as a study item for the next two years. Since summer a Sustainability Team, made up of League members from around the state and chaired by Alice Ramsey, LWVCO VP Program Chairman met regularly. The team worked to define “sustainability” and studied the background of the concept. They also looked at the national and state League positions and determined which ones are consistent with sustainability. The team found examples of businesses, governments, hospitals, etc. that were practicing sustainability. The team is defining sustainability broadly and the definition includes environmental issues as well as economic and human needs. Colorado local Leagues are encouraged to gather information in their communities to find out what businesses and governmental entities are doing concerning sustainability.

Definition

“Sustainability has many definitions, all having a common theme: meeting the needs of today without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their needs. Recognizing the nature and complexity of the interdependence of the earth’s systems and its inhabitants is fundamental to understanding the concept of sustainability, evaluating what is, and what is not sustainable behavior. Sustainability is understood to refer to conditions that promote a healthy, safe, and economically secure environment for people and all living things, and that do not exceed the limits of the earth to renew itself.”

Using League Positions

“For purposes of clarity and depth, League studies have traditionally focused on specific and deliberately narrowed topics. The resulting positions often omit consideration of interrelationships or, at least, leave them unstated.” “The goals and aims embodied in LWV positions are not ends in themselves. Rather League studies have been guided by the overarching principles of the national organization which are strongly consistent with those of sustainability: fairness, justice, equity, and flexibility.”

Local Leagues may look for sustainable development in their cities and counties, for example, by (1) monitoring general plans and ordinances for integration of environment, economy, and social needs, or by (2) promoting equitable community planning, or (3) by advocating broad-based participation in determining indicators. (Progress toward achieving sustainability can be measured by monitoring changes in selected characteristics, or indicators. These should be quantifiable, readily available, and easily understood, such as levels of air pollution, crowding of schools, etc.

Indicators are necessarily oriented to the needs of the community in question. Broad-based community involvement in identifying the important indicators is a crucial step in achieving social equity. It is a way of recognizing that different issues may be important to different segments of the population.

February and March Meetings on Sustainability

In February and March, our League plans to hold two meetings on Sustainability. One will be for League members and the public to

discuss the background and history of sustainability and to share what the community is doing concerning sustainability. The other one will be for League members; during this meeting, we plan to give information that pertains more to the League and work for concurrence on a state position concerning Sustainability.

The LWVCO sustainability committee has compiled already nearly twenty articles and papers for the state's study on sustainability. Summary goals of the study include:

1. Review sustainability definitions and what sustainability means to us
2. Examine sustainability examples in communities, business, government and social and environmental policies
3. Determine how League positions use sustainability, and how we can fit the definition of sustainability into League's action program.

Should we take into account the principle of sustainability when studying and reaching a position on governmental policy and legislation?

The proposed League definition is "Sustainability is a way of life which seeks a balance in meeting current environment, economic and human needs without compromising the ability of future generations to meet the same goal. "

Census 2010 and Redistricting

Why the Constitution requires a decennial census and how do the numbers impact reapportionment, redistricting and federal funding? You know that the reason to send in your census form is to enable the county, tribe, state, etc., to get as much money as possible back from the federal government. As a Census 2010 Partner are efforts will be primarily to educate and to advocate citizens to participate by completing the short form.

Every year, more than \$300 billion in federal funds are awarded to states and communities based on census data. That's more than \$3 trillion distributed over a 10-year period. Census data guides local decision-makers in important community planning efforts, including where to build new roads, hospitals and schools.

The census determines how many seats each state will have in the U.S. House of Representatives as well as the redistricting of state legislatures, county and city councils, and voting districts.

The Census Bureau will provide promotional materials, regular updates and data assistance to us to assist in this effort. Together, through this partnership, efforts can ensure the 2010 Census message is delivered to every corner of the nation. **The Goal is to achieve a complete and accurate 2010 Census.**

There are many ways our League can get involved and support the 2010 Census:

- Use 2010 Census drop-in articles, messages and logos in newsletters, mailings, and other in-house communications (e-mail, Web site, etc.).

- Encourage residents to complete and mail their questionnaire.
 - Display and/or distribute 2010 Census promotional materials.
 - Provide volunteers for census promotional events
 - Put the 2010 Census on the agenda at meetings of your group(s)
 - Sponsor community events to promote participation in the 2010 Census.
 - Allow the Census Bureau to post your League” name on the 2010 Census Web site.
 - Link to the 2010 Census Web site from our Leagues’ Web site.
 - Use and distribute Census 2010 educational materials.
 - Participate in a speakers bureau for the 2010 .Census.
 - Issue a public endorsement for the 2010 Census.
 - Place 2010 Census articles in your newspapers.
 - Write census editorials.
 - Highlight key 2010 Census operational events in newsletters or other publications.
-

Comments to EPA Regarding Our Local Power Plants

In regards to The Four Corners Power Plant and Navajo Generating Station, which are two of the largest pollution sources in the United States, and as LWVMZC President, I wrote a letter to EPA officials in October to stating the following.

The League of Women Voters of Montezuma County:

1. Request that EPA require Four Corners Power Plant and Navajo Generating Station to implement the most stringent air pollution control measures in order to reduce emissions and improve visibility at Class I Federal Areas in the region.
 - Selective Catalytic Reduction (SCR) should be the EPA’s chosen option as Best Available Retrofit Technology for Four Corners Power Plant and Navajo Generating Station.
 - The cost of complying with the most stringent pollution control measures should recognize Four Corners Power Plant and Navajo Generating Station’s historic electricity generation costs that have failed to account for pollution, adverse human health impacts, and visibility impairment.

2. Request EPA to improve visibility at the Class I Federal Areas to the greatest extent possible.
 - o Class I Federal Areas represent vital air sheds to the region that impact economic, environmental and public health factors and need to be cleaned up.
3. Ask that EPA assert maximum responsibility to oversee the Tribal Authority Rule for promulgating oversight of these two facilities on the Navajo Nation.
4. Recognition that Four Corners Power Plant and Navajo Generating Station are the two biggest sources of NOx on the Colorado Plateau and should not be allowed to be permitted polluters and impair visibility throughout the region.
5. Request EPA to consider the economic costs on impacted communities and Class I Federal Areas associated with not cleaning up Four Corners Power Plant and Navajo Generating Station.
6. Request that EPA needs consider a shorter period than 20 years in assessing the two plants' Remaining Useful Life of Facility.
 - o Both Four Corners Power Plant and Navajo Generating Station are over 40 years old and represent facilities that should have been decommissioned under the Clean Air Act.
 - o Both are antiquated facilities that represent vast pollution sources to the region.
7. Ask the EPA to prioritize their responsibilities under Executive Order 12898, Federal Actions to Address Environmental Justice in Minority Populations and Low-Income Populations and Executive Order 13045, Protection of Children from Environmental Health Risks and Safety Risks.

Education & Advocacy

There's been a lot of discussion about the League and its advocacy role in the national health care reform debate.

There are significant differences in how we perform the League's (two) most important functions.

We educate when we:

- Invite a fiscal analyst to discuss the size of Colorado's budget or government
- Organize a forum to understand an issue and what the public can do about it
- Introduce voters to candidates at a forum.

We advocate when:

- Our U.S. Senator holds a town hall and we comment about health care as representing the position of the League

- We call our local House representative in response to an action alert that has been sent by the League
- We write the governor in opposition to an energy policy as a position of the League

The League only advocates after we as an organization have reached consensus on issues we have studied extensively. It's important to note that you don't have to agree with everything the League does. We can choose to remain silent, or concentrate on education. The League has many purposes."

When explaining to the public why the League is so strongly advocating health care reform mention that LWVUS has had a position on health care since 1993, and has a 90-year history of advocating various social issues. When people challenge our non-partisan stance, take the opportunity to educate them on the League's dual nature and how we carefully study and issue before taking action and advocating a stance.

— *Stephanie Huss, President, LWV of LaPlata County and Jodi Foran*

Independent Lens "Power Paths" on RMPBS 11/14/2009 at 11 pm.

On Saturday, November 14 at 11pm (Rocky Mountain PBS) plans to televise "**Power Paths**" which follows the efforts of American Indian tribes as they explore ways to bring renewable energy projects into their communities. From the Sioux tribes of Great Plains in the Midwest to the Navajo and Hopi of the Southwest, tribes are fighting to protect their land, air and water from the harmful impacts of mining and burning coal

on their lands. This program documents how young Native leaders formed the Just Transition Coalition and succeeded in a legal battle to close a large dirty coal plant not far from Las Vegas, which sends electricity to California. "Power Paths" follows their efforts to bring training and new jobs in renewable energy, installing solar energy and large wind turbines on their lands. Now for the first time in 60 years, Native Americans may receive some economic justice for the harm caused to their natural resources.

This should be a good program. Unfortunately, it's at 11 pm.

Saturday, November 14 at 11pm (Rocky Mountain PBS)

LWVMZC to present PBS Frontline's "Sick Around the World" by T.R. Reid

A General Public Educational Meeting of the League of Women Voters is scheduled for Monday, November 9, 11:00 AM in the Conference Room of the Colorado Visitor Center on Main Street, Cortez to view and discuss the powerful film "**Sick Around the World**".

The film, a documentary produced by T. R. Reid with the PBS FRONTLINE series, illustrates how five capitalist democracies – Japan, Germany, the United Kingdom, Taiwan, and Switzerland – deliver health care services and what the United States might learn from their successes and failures.

Mr. Reid is a nationally known author of 10 books, a former veteran foreign

correspondent for the *Washington Post* and a commentator featured on TV and radio for his insightful analysis of our current health care problems and his travels to other countries seeking possible solutions. He and his family live in Denver.

Members of LWV of Montezuma and the public are welcome.

***Have you sent in your
membership renewal?***

We need every one of you...

**Call Betty Janes, 533-1051
ejanes@frontier.net.**

**Send the membership form to Denis
Boon.**

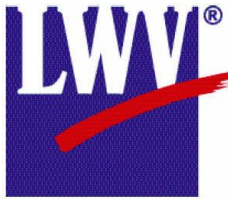
**Our goal is 27 members for the
LWVUS's 90th year!**

Calendar

November	
Monday, 9	Board Meeting, Colorado Visitor's Center 10:00 a.m.
Monday, 9	General Public Meeting, Colorado Visitor's Center 11:00 a.m. View and discuss T.R. Reed's PBS Frontline's "Sick Around the World. Brown Bag OK.
December	
Wednesday, 2	LWVCO Board Meeting
Sunday, 13	Holiday Potluck at home of LLois Stein, 12:00 pm. Bring spouse / guest
January	
Monday, 13	Board Meeting, Colorado Visitor's Center 10:00 a.m.
Monday, 13	General Public Meeting, Census 2010 distribution of material and discussion of League "Concurrence" for Sustainability Study. Brown Bag OK. 11:00 am.
February	
Monday, 8	Board Meeting, Colorado Visitor's Center 10:00 a.m.
Monday, 8	General Public Meeting, First part of Sustainability Study. Brown Bag OK. 11:00 am.
Saturday 20	Legislative Lowdown with Senator Bruce Whitehead, Representative Scott Tipton and Representative Ellen Roberts. 2 pm.
March	
Monday, 8	Board Meeting, Colorado Visitor's Center 10:00 a.m.
Monday, 8	General League Meeting for members only, Second part of Sustainability Study when "Concurrence" is voted upon. Brown Bag OK. 11:00 am.

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



League of Women Voters of Montezuma County 2009 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.

Dues Amounts:	
Regular dues.....	\$50 _____
Additional household member(s)* ...	\$30 _____
TOTAL.....	\$ _____

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

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