



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.

Volume 4, Issue 2

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Mark Your Calendar

Feb 8, Monday

10:00 a.m. Board Meeting, Colorado Visitor's Center.
11:00 a.m. General Public Meeting, Colorado Visitor's Center. First part of Sustainability Study. Brown Bag OK.

Feb 14, Sunday Happy 90th Birthday League!!

Feb 20, Saturday

Legislative Lowdown with Senator Bruce Whitehead and Representative Ellen Roberts. Cake cutting to celebrate League 90th Birthday! Calvin Denton Room, EEA, 2pm.

Feb 22 Monday

Great Decisions Discussion Group meeting, Mancos Library, 10:30 a. 2009 topics to be discussed. See www.lwvmontezuma.org for more information. Kate Kearns, Assistant Librarian will facilitate

Feb 27 Saturday

Great Decisions Discussion Group organizational meeting, Dolores Library, 10:30 a. 2010 topics to be discussed. See www.lwvmontezuma.org for more information. LouAnn Burkett and Janet Chaney will facilitate

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

January's dark and colder days many snowstorms this year are helping to usher in a February that promises to be politically hot at the national and state levels. I hope each of you took time to reflect and to renew yourself, as it appears all available energy will be needed in the remaining months of 2010. Too much to do! It's so easy to bite off a larger amount of activities when doing League work. Opportunities for our League seem to be boundless. A resolution for 2010 is to pace our activities. The CO Legislative's efforts to create a balanced budget seem impossible and some of the initiatives being discussed could impact county funding enormously.

The Census 2010 effort is ramping up. Many folks have received the LWVMZC large bright green shopping bags with the Census logos "It's Safe", "It's Easy" and "It's Important". Thanks to each of you for helping to spread the message and distribute the bags. I still have some bags so contact me soon. I was recently informed that because several areas of the western slope had low compliance for Census 2000, so that in 2010 all households will be canvassed by a census worker in Montezuma and Dolores counties. I assume that questionnaires will not be mailed to households in Montezuma and Dolores Counties.

Two Great Decision discussion groups are meeting regularly! The first organizational meeting of those discussion 2010 issues at the Dolores Library that organizational meeting will held Saturday, February 27 at 10:00 am due weather conditions that forced the cancellation of the January 23 meeting. Phone Lou Burkett, facilitator, at 882-4666 if

you want to participate in the Dolores Library discussions on the 4th Saturday of each month.

February offers two interesting League meetings. Early in the month, Monday, February 8 at 11 a. we begin a discussion of sustainability based upon papers issued by the LWVCO Sustainability Study Committee. March 8 we will complete the discussion and determine whether our League concurs with the study. All the Committee generated papers are on our website www.lwvmontezuma.org. Please read the Committee papers and come for a lively discussion facilitated by new member Rebecca Samulski (Whitehead). The more attendees the better discussion we'll have!

"Legislative Lowdown" is a general, public meeting with two of our state legislators: Senator Bruce Whitehead and Representative Ellen Roberts. Representative Scott Tipton will be attending a commitment elsewhere. Please come and learn about the legislative issues in addition to MONEY! We'll celebrate the 90th birthday of League with a cake cutting at that meeting, too.

Check out the calendar for national and state events scheduled for in May and June: LWVCO bi-annual Council meeting in Estes Park in May, and in June LWVCO Leadership Retreat, which last year was an exceptional training session, to be held in Frisco, and LWVUS convention to be held in Atlanta.

Chris has put an interesting article regarding Health Care Reform on our website that first appeared in the New England Journal of Medicine: "American Values and Health Care Reform".

Also on the website is a poster regarding

Census 2010 scams that are already appearing. Please be aware of these and continue to be informed regarding the Census 2010 effort. It's important to be aware of such scams and to educate folks appropriately as to what is official Census 2010 information coming from the federal government!

The EPA Project is in its final communication phase. An action plan has been developed and in the next few weeks the Committee will notify various states' agencies and organizations about the need for a Senior US EPA manager who will be a strong advocate for the whole Four Corners area. Eric Janes has been instrumental to the success of this effort. Thanks, BUNCHES, Eric.

Pennsylvania and New York have Leagues studying O&G drilling in shale (fracing). You can network with these leagues via the natural resource list servers available via the national website.

— *Jodi Foran*

LWVUS President's Corner

From Mary Wilson

"Dear League Members:

This week, I returned to Washington, DC at the invitation of the [Committee on House Administration](#) to [testify](#) at their congressional hearing entitled, "Defining the Future of Campaign Finance in an age of Supreme Court Activism." The hearing was scheduled to take place following the U.S. Supreme Court's tragic decision in the [Citizens United v. FEC](#) case late last month. My message to lawmakers was that they must pass legislation governing corporate and union spending quickly, in order for it to

take effect for the 2010 elections. The League supports numerous concepts moving forward in this post-Citizens United context; however, on Capitol Hill I stressed the need for enhanced disclosure. As part of my remarks, I also warned the Committee to do no further harm. It is the League's opinion that Citizens United will evoke a number of proposals that, we believe, could make our election system and government processes even worse. In my [full testimony](#) I pointed to a number of other proposals – from new controls on foreign corporations to public financing – that Congress should consider in seeking to block corruption of American democracy. Click [here](#) to read my oral testimony and [here](#) to see the longer testimony submitted for the record and [here](#) to view the entire Congressional hearing. It was a lively hearing with a great many opinions expressed from the panel and lawmakers. We will keep the heat on to be sure some of these solutions are enacted! Please see the Advocacy section below for the League's 2010 legislative priorities.

Also, I am already getting excited about Convention in Atlanta June 11-15. I hope you are too!

In League,
Mary Wilson"

Legislative Lowdown – See you at the meeting!

Saturday, February 20, LWVMZC will hold a **Legislative Lowdown Meeting**. State Senator Bruce Whitehead and State Representative Ellen Roberts will talk about what is occurring in Denver during the 2010 Legislative Session and will answer

questions from the public. The event will be held in Calvin Denton Room of Empire Electric Association, 801 N. Broadway, Cortez, at 2 p. We will also celebrate the 90th birthday of the League with a cake cutting.

LWVCO Sustainability Study

The LWVCO sustainability committee has compiled already nearly twenty articles and papers for late 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.

Questions to think about are:

1. Should we take into account the principle of sustainability when studying and reaching a position on governmental policy and legislation?
2. Is representative democracy sustainable given the enormous funding of lobbyists at all levels?

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. "

We will begin our local study at February 8 meeting (11am at the Colorado Visitor's Center) by a discussion of the LWVCO Sustainability Committee white papers. Please plan to devote time to reading them so we all have the same foundation of understanding and verbiage from which to begin discussion. The documents are available at www.lwvmontezuma.org

League Democracy Survey

You are encouraged to click the link to the LWVUS website and to help the national LWV prioritize issues and their advocacy. Make your voice heard as a member.

<http://www.lwv.org/AM/Template.cfm?Template=/CM/ContentDisplay.cfm&ContentID=14694>

Welcome new members

We are grateful for the new League members below! Please introduce yourself to them and help them to learn League lingo and its unique organizational levels.

- Ann Brown
 - Tonia Gurnea
 - Denise Reib
 - Joe Samulski
 - Rebecca Samulski (Whitehead)
 - Retha Williams
-

League of Women Voters 90th Anniversary - Our Legacy

The League of Women Voters (LWV) is celebrating its 90th anniversary in 2010. Not coincidentally, the 19th amendment to the United States Constitution that gave women the right to vote celebrates its 90th anniversary in 2010, as well.

“The women who started the movement to give women the right to vote really didn’t know where it would end, how it would end, or when it would end,” said League of Women Voters president, Mary G. Wilson. “And yet they persevered. They persevered in a time when it wasn’t fashionable for women to speak out on any issue – let alone try to get some rights for themselves. They worked against all odds – and succeeded.”

From the spirit of the suffrage movement and the shock of the First World War came a great idea - that a nonpartisan civic organization could provide the education and experience the public needed to assure the success of democracy. The League of Women Voters was founded on that idea. In her address to the National American Woman Suffrage Association’s (NAWSA) 50th convention in St. Louis, Missouri, in 1919, President Carrie Chapman Catt proposed the creation of a league of women voters to “finish the fight” and aid in the reconstruction of the nation. And so a League of Women Voters was formed within NAWSA, composed of the organizations in the states where woman suffrage had already been attained. The next year, on February 14, 1920, six months before the 19th amendment to the Constitution was ratified; the League was formally organized in Chicago as the National League of Women Voters.

Many men supported the suffragists in the early days of the fight to pass the 19th Amendment, and men continued to be supportive of the LWV over the years. In 1973, the LWV invited men to join the organization, and their numbers continue to increase. Thirty percent of local members are men.

Our League will start the celebration with cake and coffee at our Legislative Lowdown. This annual event, open to the public, will take place on Saturday, February 20th from 2:00-3:30 p.m. in The Calvin Denton room at Empire Electric Association, 801 N. Broadway, Cortez. Join our State Representative Ellen Roberts and State Senator Bruce Whitehead for a review of what is happening in the Legislature during this difficult budget year.

LWVUS 49TH National Convention JUNE 11-15, 2010

MAKING DEMOCRACY WORK: A HISTORY OF CHANGE. A FUTURE OF HOPE.

Join Jodi in attending the LWVUS Convention 2010. The Marriott Atlanta Marquis is the site and is located in the downtown area known as Atlanta's heartbeat. It's where you can experience the world's largest aquarium, relax in Centennial Olympic Park, tour CNN Worldwide, and enjoy myriad dining, cultural and shopping experiences. Nearby are the President Jimmy Carter Library and Museum and the Martin Luther King Jr. National Historic Site and Visitors Center.

All League members are invited to attend Convention and to be part of the excitement

as the Convention delegate body debates and adopts the 2010-2012 National Program, the LWVUS Budget for the next fiscal year, and amendments to the LWVUS Bylaws. Delegates will also be choosing the LWVUS Board officers, directors and nominating committee for the next biennium.

2010 Renewing Members

If you do not see your name on the list below, please take out your check book today, and write a check to LWVMZC mailing the check to Denis Boon. It's as simple as that. Thanks for all of your continuing support of promoting a thriving League in Montezuma County!

Denis Boon

Marcia Boon

LouAnn Burkett

Chris Foran

Jodi Foran

Terri Helm

Eric Janes

Betty Janes

Eleanor Kuhl

JoDee Powers

Judy Schuenemeyer

Jack Schuenemeyer

LLois Stein

Kathy Berg

Laura Rice

Dr. Marcus Higi

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 with rational discussion.

Memberships are \$50 per individual and \$80 for households. For more information call Betty Janes at 533-1051, our membership chairperson, or go to our website and print the membership form. <http://www.lwvmontezuma.org/Join.html>

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

HOW MUCH TIME DOES IT TAKE TO BE ACTIVE IN LEAGUE?

Do you have an extra 5 minutes once a year?

- In 5 minutes you can pay your dues
- In 5 minutes you can join, click a button to make your voice be heard
- In 5 minutes you can check on the national website www.lwv.org
- In 5 minutes you can check on the national website www.lwvcolorado.org
- In 5 minutes you can check on the state website www.lwvmontezuma.org
- Talk to another person about a League effort you admire

Do you have an extra 20 minutes a month? In 20 minutes, you can read what your dues pay for:

- The Colorado and Montezuma County new sletter
- The National e-news
- LWVCO Legislative Letter
- All three if you are a speed reader

- League activity at three levels:
national, state and local

Do you have an extra hour or two here and there? Look at the things you can do at that time:

- Distribute Ballot Issue pamphlets around town
- Observe a public meeting in your community
- Plan a League meeting
- Participate as a League project member
- Attend a League meeting
- Welcome guests at a candidate forum or other meeting
- Join a study committee

**THAT IS BEING ACTIVE IN THE LEAGUE OF
WOMEN VOTERS**

JOIN US!

Calendar

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.
Sunday , 14	Happy 90th Birthday League!!
Saturday , 20	Legislative Lowdown with Senator Bruce Whitehead, Representative Scott Tipton and Representative Ellen Roberts. Cake cutting to celebrate League 90 th Birthday! Calvin Denton Room, EEA, 2pm
Monday , 22	Great Decisions Discussion Group meeting, Mancos Library, 10:30 a. 2009 topics to be discussed. See www.lwvmontezuma for more information. Kate Kearns, Assistant Librarian will facilitate.
Saturday , 27	Great Decisions Discussion Group organizational meeting, Dolores Library, 10:00 a. 2010 topics to be discussed. See www.lwvmontezuma for more information. LouAnn Burkett and Janet Chaney will facilitate.
March	
Wednesday , 3	LWVCO Board Meeting, Denver
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 for "Concurrence" discussion. Brown Bag OK.
Monday , 22	Great Decisions Discussion Group meeting, Mancos Library, 10:30 a. 2009 topics to be discussed.
Saturday , 27	Great Decisions Discussion Group meeting, Dolores Library, 10:30 a. 2010 topics to be discussed.

April	
Thursday , 1	Census 2010
Monday , 12	Board Meeting, Colorado Visitor's Center 10:00 a.m.
Monday , 12	General Public Meeting, Colorado Visitor's Center 11:00 a.m.
Monday , 26	Great Decisions Discussion Group meeting, Mancos Library, 10:30 a. 2009 topics to be discussed.
Saturday , 24	Great Decisions Discussion Group meeting, Dolores Library, 10:00 a. 2010 topics to be discussed.
May	
Saturday , 1	Annual Meeting,
Wednesday , 5	LWVCO Board Meeting
Monday , 12	Board Meeting, Colorado Visitor's Center 10:00 a.m.
Friday – Saturday , 21-22	LWVCO Council, LWW Estes Park
Saturday , 22	Great Decisions Discussion Group, Dolores Library, 10:30 a. 2010 topics to be discussed.
Monday , 24	Great Decisions Discussion Group, Mancos Library, 10:30 a. 2009 topics to be discussed.
June	
Friday – Tuesday , 11-15	LWVUS Convention in Atlanta
Friday 25 – Saturday 26	LWVCO Leadership Retreat Frisco, CO 12:00 – 12:00
Saturday , 26	Great Decisions Discussion Group meeting, Dolores Library, 10:30 a. 2010 topics to be discussed.
Monday , 28	Great Decisions Discussion Group meeting, Mancos Library, 10:30 a. 2009 topics to be discussed.

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

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 23 members for 2010



League of Women Voters of Montezuma County

2010 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