



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

Wednesday, March 3

LWVCO Board Meeting, Denver

Monday, March 8

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

Monday, March 8

General League Meeting for members only, Second part of Sustainability Study for "Concurrence" discussion. Brown Bag OK.

Monday, March 22

Great Decisions Discussion Group meeting, Mancos Library, 10:30 a. 2009 topics to be discussed.

Thursday, 25

Candidates Forum, Cortez City Council, Cortez City Council Chambers 7:00p

Saturday, March 27

Great Decisions Discussion Group meeting, Dolores Library, 10:30 a. 2010 topics to be discussed.

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

The days lengthen in light, but the snow doesn't seem to have diminished much. Our landscape has been pristine many days. Wish I could say the same for our political climate. Just like the climate change impacting Earth, our political climate is heating up and presents a challenge for Leagues who wear the mantle of non-partisan education of issues, hoping that the public will be think critically and divorce themselves from emotionality when supporting various, challenging political issues.

We have been collaborating with the LaPlata County League for many months to propose to the EPA the need for a Senior EPA position that reports to national EPA and who will be a strong advocate for the whole Four Corners area. The position will facilitate collaboration all three EPA regional offices who oversee the Four Corner Area on air quality issues, problems and system-wide mitigations/solutions. A giant thanks goes to Eric Janes who was instrumental to the success of this effort.

We have distributed all of the Census 2010 bright green bags and the many folks who received them will be advertizing the Census logo "It's in our Hands" and the messages - "It's Safe", "It's Easy" and "It's Important". Please use the bags often in the next weeks to generate increased awareness of the responsibility of the Count.

The 2009 and 2010 Great Decisions discussion groups that the League has initiated are a GO for Montezuma County! The Foreign Policy Association, a nonprofit, nonpartisan educational arm of the World Affairs Councils of America, produces the program. Each annual series consists of eight independent topics. The 2009 group meets the fourth Monday of the month 10:30 am and the 2010 group meets at the same time at the Dolores Library the fourth

Saturday of the month. The basis of the discussion are articles in a briefing books published by the Foreign Policy Association and the only cost to participating in the program. It is not too late to join a group - you are invited to participate in the lively discussions and learn more about 2009 or 2010 topics: *Special Envoys, Preventing Genocide, Global Crime, U.S.-China Security Relations, Global Financial Crisis, Russia and Its Neighbors, The Persian Gulf, and Peace building and Conflict Resolution*. For more information, call LouAnn Burkett 882-4666 or Kate Kearns at the Mancos Library.

Our February League meeting and its discussion of "Sustainability" was canceled due a snowstorm. However, Monday, March 8 at 11 a. we will discuss the definition of the word as it applies to League positions in general based upon papers issued by the LWVCO Sustainability Study Committee. We will determine by consensus whether our League concurs with the definition. All of the LWVCO 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!

Our "**Legislative Lowdown**" meeting with two of our state legislators: Senator Bruce Whitehead and Representative Ellen Roberts was a success. Lucy Hadley of Cortez in her Victorian dress helped us to 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. Leadership Retreat last year was a valuable experience for me. It's cheap, fun and provides a venue for networking with other Leaguers throughout the state The

drive from Cortez is beautiful, and we won't have to worry about snow on Wolf Creek Pass (maybe!).

Circle May 8, 9:30a on your calendar, the date of our Annual Business Meeting when we elect officers and approve an annual budget.

— *Jodi Foran*

Our Leagues' Proposal to EPA for a Four Corners Position

The quality of air in the Four Corners is one of our most valuable natural resources, and it is threatened by industrial emissions and climate change.

Decisions made by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to ensure air and water quality in Colorado and Utah are made by EPA Region 8 in Denver, for New Mexico by EPA Region 6 in Dallas, and for Arizona by EPA Region 9 in San Francisco. Additionally, each of the four states has their own air quality enforcement agencies and each of the four sovereign tribes in the Four Corners – the Southern Ute, Ute Mountain Ute, Navajo and Jicarilla Apache – has environmental programs. Consequently, jurisdiction over air quality in the Four Corners area is burdensome and complex.

The Leagues of Women Voters (LWV) of La Plata and Montezuma Counties have collaborate to propose an EPA Four Corners air quality liaison position be established that would report directly to the EPA in Washington, D.C. and be responsible for coordinating a single EPA viewpoint on Four Corners air and related water quality issues. Our Leagues have recommended that the liaison be located in the Four Corners region.

The existing EPA regional divisions of jurisdiction does not encourage coordination and fails 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 quality. To manage our air and related water quality issues, an overall assessment must be taken of the causes of air quality degradation in the entire region.

Pending decisions by the EPA for reducing pollution at the Four Corners Power Plant in NM and Navajo Generating Station in AZ and for reviewing the air permit issued for the proposed coal-fired Desert Rock Energy Project on the Navajo Nation will affect the quality of air in southwestern Colorado. Those decisions must reflect the needs of the whole Four Corners Area.

As we experience disproportionate adverse air quality and related water quality affects from natural and human causes, the Leagues of La Plata and Montezuma Counties believe that an EPA Four Corners air quality liaison is needed. The response to the proposal will determine if the EPA, four states, and four tribes can view the Four Corners as a unified region with a coherent air shed or will continue to focus on jurisdictional parts of the whole particularly when new projects are proposed and mitigation efforts are initiated.

You may access our letter to Lisa Jackson, head of EPA, along with a summary of the Leagues' proposal and a justification and description of the proposed senior level position that would report to EPA US. <http://www.lwvmontezuma.org/>

— *Deanna Collins, LWVLP*

— *Jodi Foran, LWVMZC*

The Supreme Court decision in Citizens United v. FEC

The Supreme Court decision in Citizens United v. FEC now allows corporations to spend unlimited amounts of money to support or oppose candidates at every level of government. The League of Women Voters believes that the Court's majority decision in Citizens United v. FEC was fundamentally wrong and a tragic mistake. The majority mistakenly equated corporate free speech rights with those of natural persons. The majority confused associations of individuals with corporations. But this is the decision of the US Supreme Court. Even though we believe it will be overturned eventually, both in the judgment of history and in the law, the League believes Congress needs to respond now, recognizing its own authority and responsibility to uphold the Constitution.

Fair and clean elections, determined by the votes of American citizens, should be at the center of our democracy. The League urges Congress to act quickly, but also deliberately, in addressing the Court's decision

During a recent hearing, Mary Wilson, President, LWVUS, spoke about the implications of the Court's decision. This unprecedented ruling upends campaign finance law that has been in place for a century. According to a recent ABC News/Washington Post poll, [80 percent of Americans oppose the ruling](#). It is the League position that we now need Congress to respond immediately and pass legislation that governs corporate and union spending. Waiting until after the 2010 elections is simply not a viable option.

LWVUS 2010 Legislative Priorities

After a review of congressional action in 2009 and a discussion of expected activity in 2010, the LWVUS Board of Directors has

adopted the following Legislative Priorities for 2010:

- Global Climate Change
- Health Care Reform
- Money in Elections

On the Legislative Watch List are:

- Arms Control
- DC Voting Rights
- Election Reform
- Ethics and Lobbying Reform
- UN Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW)

This Watch List includes issues, which need to be monitored for action opportunities in the 111th Congress. It is understood that the Board will have opportunities to review the priorities throughout the year to make changes if the situation requires it. It should also be noted that DC Voting Rights and CEDAW are perennial legislative priorities that the LWV has worked hard for in the past and is committed to working for successful passage. For a tally of the member recommended items for advocacy, see the [Report on Member Recommended LWV Priorities for Advocacy 2010](#).

Annual Meeting

Circle Saturday, May 8, 9:30 AM on your calendar as the date we will hold our League's annual business meeting at the Ponderosa Restaurant in Dolores. At the meeting, the membership will elect officers and vote to approve the annual budget, and proposed program, (strategic programs issues to study, to advocate). Materials specific to the meeting will be emailed later. Let's not make it all business, but a time to gather in friendship and celebration. Betty Janes is chairing the Nominating Committee with two non-Board members, LouAnn Burkett and Judy Schuenemeyer. In addition to names submitted by the Committee, nominations are welcomed from the floor.

Sustainability

“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.”

The LWVCO Sustainability Study is asking us to agree or disagree with the above statement:

The concept of Sustainability is implicit in the Principles of the League of Women Voters. League positions comply with fundamental principle of sustainability, recognizing the interdependency among issues of public policy, and the impact of current decisions on the global welfare of future generations. The papers written by the study committee members provide Leaguers a common basis for our March 8 discussion are on our website, www.lwvmontezuma.org

How as Leaguers do we reconcile People, Planet and Profit?

Election Forums

Get to know Cortez City Council Candidates
City Council Candidate Forum
Thursday, March 25, 7:00 P.M.
Cortez City Council Chambers

Get to know Cortez Fire District and understand why Montezuma County Hospital District is asking for a mil levy increase
Cortez Fire District Candidate Forum
Information on Montezuma County Hospital District mil levy Election
Thursday, April 8, 6:30 P.M.
Cortez City Council Chambers

The moderator, Judy Schuenemeyer followed by a question and answer period, will give introduction of candidates and

format for the evening. League protocol will be adhered to.

Precinct Caucuses

On March 16, at 7 p.m. voters throughout Colorado will attend their neighborhood precinct caucuses to determine their choice of delegates to their county conventions and assemblies. It is also the first step in deciding the candidates to run in the primary election for the Colorado House and Colorado Senate.

Anyone is welcome to attend his or her caucus, but an individual must have affiliated with the Democratic or Republican Party no later than January 19, 2010. In Colorado, unaffiliated voters may not participate in party caucuses. Every caucus has the same agenda: Elect a Chair and Secretary; Elect two precinct committee people to represent the precinct on the Party's Central Committee; Elect delegates to the County Assembly/County Convention, and introduce debate and approve or reject resolutions and platform issues. Participants can also indicate their preference for specific candidates.

To find the location of your precinct caucus call the Montezuma Democratic Party, 564-93362, www.montezumadems.org or the Montezuma Republican Party, 7492770, <http://montezumagop.org/>

Ninetieth Birthday Celebration

LWVCO is planning a 90th Birthday Celebration on March 15, 8am-10am at the Capitol to which Legislators and various Colorado government officials have received invitations. Legislators will present a resolution/proclamation on the floor that morning when the session convenes at 10am honoring the League. A photo of our celebration with Lucy Hadley, Sen. Bruce Whitehead and Rep. Ellen Roberts cutting the cake will be part of a photo collage.



When ratification of the 19th amendment was only six months away, the suffragists fortunately asked the question, "Now what?" Carrie Chapman Catt, the president of the National American Woman Suffrage Association, proposed a women's organization that would study political issues and provide information to make intelligent choices when they voted.

Initially, League members took on what could be labeled as "women's issues" and fought with success for the passage of laws that provided federal aid for maternal and child care programs. The first league in Colorado was formed nearly eighty ago, and its members worked with other national Leagues throughout the country for enactment of the Social Security, Food and Drug Acts as well as the TVA.

In the 1940's the League supported the creation of the World Bank, NATO and the Marshall Plan. The next decade League positions emphasized individual rights. In the 1960s, Leagues supported equal access to education, employment and housing.

In 1974, League bylaws were amended to include men as voting members recognizing that voting intelligently was a non-gender goal of the organization.

In 2006, LWVMZC obtained official status from national. We have a strong legacy helping us envision our future in the County as we continue a tradition of promoting citizen awareness through public discussion in Montezuma County! Happy Birthday League!

What League Means to Me

The League of Women Voters pros and cons on issues of all elections was always something I sought to obtain before voting. It was information I felt could be counted on to be factual and up to date. In my twenties my interest in the League was honed when my aunt, who was a charter member of the Durango League advised me that the League was one of two organizations she suggested one become involved. I regret that I was living in Austin at the time and didn't explore the opportunities afforded by that dynamic League. When we moved to a suburb of Dallas I read about an effort to begin a League in Plano. I was part of the process to begin that League – what a valuable experience! I understood the impact a League can have on a community. We moved to places that didn't have Leagues and my participation waned. How could I not become involved in the development of the Montezuma County League when retiring to Montezuma County? The Member at Large League that was established seemed ready to take the step to become a fully chartered League. The League by its nature encourages men and women not just in civic

opportunities, but also in all areas of their life's ambitions. The League helps a person to be a better citizen, and to encourage a community to be more informed regarding political issues in a way no other local organization can do. I've learned about the national and state organizations and the networking and value they provide to me personally and as an officer of our local League. I've learned to leverage and count on the support of nearly 900 other local Leagues. I am glad to be a small part of such a worthwhile group. Even so, I'm looking forward to becoming "past president".

— *Jodi Foran*

Teen Maze

Thursday and Friday, April 23 – 24 our League will be helping again with Teen Maze, a unique educational experience for middle school students who travel from as far as Silverton to attend the event held at the Montezuma County Fairgrounds. The League sets up and staffs a room in the maze where the teen participants use ballots to take pre- and post tests that will indicate changes in attitudes resulting from their participation in the Teen Maze experience. Teen Maze provides experiential learning regarding life decisions that will have major impact on a person. The Teen Maze journeys that participants can experience include smoking, pregnancy, law enforcement, nutrition counseling, etc. Participating in the League Teen Maze booth is a unique experience for adults, too, as anyone who has helped will tell you – ask Marcia Boon. ***Please consider volunteering a couple of hours of your time to help with the LWV booth. You can do so by phoning Judy Schuenemeyer at 565-0179.***

Leadership Retreat June 25-26

Plan to attend the Leadership Retreat June 25-26 in Frisco, Colorado. Learn how to increase your League's visibility in your community. 2010 will be a big election year, and Leagues usually gain members as the public hears from us about election issues and as we hold candidate forums.

We will learn proven tactics to ask people to join the League and to help us gain more visibility. In addition, we will focus on the "how-to" guidelines of Voters Service activities. This is a great opportunity for new League board members to learn about League processes and for returning Board members to increase their knowledge. Join the fun and networking. The Holiday Inn in Frisco, off I-70, will be the meeting place from Friday noon through Saturday until about 2:00 p.m. You will meet Leaguers from across the state, ask questions of LWVCO Board members, and learn from local Leaguers who have "been there, done that." Costs will be \$40 for the first member of a League attending the retreat, and \$75 for additional members. This price includes your shared room, three meals, all materials, and expert advice! What a bargain!

League Urges Representatives to Oppose Overturning EPA Finding

Value of LWWUS: The League sent a [letter](#) to the House of Representatives urging members to oppose legislation from Representatives Moran and Pomeroy, which would overturn the EPA's scientific finding that global warming pollutants endanger public health and welfare.

LeaguE-Voice Newsletter

Value of LWVUS: sign up for the *LeaguE-Voice*, the new electronic newsletter published by LWVUS. Sent monthly, the newsletter includes timely action alerts and press releases as well as program updates and upcoming events. To sign up www.lwv.org

Openness in Government: Sunshine Week 2010

Friday, March 19, from 12:00 to 2:00 PM (ET), the LWVEF will co-host the 5th Annual Sunshine Week National Dialogue. The event will be broadcast live via the web. State and local Leagues are encouraged to host “viewing parties” in their communities – perhaps in conjunction with a local, university or law library. This year’s program, “Building Transparency,” will focus on transparency in the Obama administration – what has changed and what remains to be done. High-level government officials including [Norm Eisen](#), Special Counsel to the President for Ethics and Government Reform, and [Miriam Nisbet](#), Director of the new Office of Government Information Services (OGIS), will discuss the Administration’s new initiatives and their effect on the public. Panelists will also take questions from the live and viewing audience. To learn more about the event, visit our partner organization, OpenTheGovernment.org.

Calendar

March	
Wednesday, 3	LWVCO Board Meeting, Denver
Monday, 8	LWVMZC 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.
Tuesday, 16	Montezuma County Democratic and Republican Party Caucuses, 7p
Monday, 22	Great Decisions Discussion Group, Mancos Library, 10:30 a. 2009 topics to be discussed. .
Thursday, 25	Candidates Forum, Cortez City Council, Cortez City Council Chambers 7:00p
Saturday, 27	Great Decisions Discussion Group, Dolores Library, 10:30 a. 2010 topics to be discussed.
April	
Thursday, 1	Census 2010
Tuesday, 6	Cortez City Council Election
Thursday, 15	Candidate Forum for Cortez Fire District and MCHD Elections, Cortez City Council Chamber 6:30 pm
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. View and discuss.
Saturday, 24	Great Decisions Discussion Group, Dolores Library, 10:30 a. 2010 topics to be discussed.
Monday, 26	Great Decisions Discussion Group, Mancos Library, 10:30 a. 2009 topics to be discussed.

May	
Tuesday, 4	Montezuma County Hospital and Cortez Fire District Election
Wednesday, 5	LWVCO Board Meeting
Saturday, 8	Annual Meeting, Ponderosa Restaurant, Dolores, 9:30 a
Monday, 10	Board Meeting, Colorado Visitor's Center 10:00 a.m.
Saturday, 22	Great Decisions Discussion Group, Dolores Library, 10:30 am. 2010 topics to be discussed. .
Monday, 24	Great Decisions Discussion Group, Mancos Library, 10:30 a. 2009 topics to be discussed.
Friday – Saturday, 21-22	LWVCO Council, LWV Estes Park
June	
Monday, 14	Board Meeting, Colorado Visitor's Center 10:00 a.m.
Monday, 14	General Public Meeting, Colorado Visitor's Center 11:00 a.m. View and discuss.
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, Dolores Library, 10:30 a. 2010 topics to be discussed.
Monday, 28	Great Decisions Discussion Group, 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