



# League of Women Voters of Montezuma County

# VOTER

Montezuma County, Colorado

[www.lwvmontezuma.org](http://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, 4**

LWVCO Board Meeting

**Friday, 6**

Last day for early voting & last day to apply for mail-in ballot that must be picked up in person

**Monday, 9**

LWVMZC Board Meeting, Co. Visitor's Center 9:30 am.

**Tuesday, 10**

Primary Election (polls open 7a-7p)

**Saturday, 21**

Verde Fest

**Monday, 23**

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

**Saturday, 28**

Great Decisions Discussion Group, Dolores Library, 10:30 am. International Finance

### Join Us!

Join the League of Women Voters of Montezuma County 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 whatever their participation!

## ***President's Message***

I have just returned home from a stimulating discussion at the Dolores Public Library about China. It was a session in the Great Decision Discussion Series sponsored by the League of Women Voters of Montezuma County and facilitated by Louann Burkett. The discussion was greatly enhanced by the experience of some who have been to China. Not all members of the group are League members but we have seen that the discussion series in Mancos and Dolores have added members to the League.

So....we have two Great Decision Discussion groups going, and we have already had two well attended primary candidate forums, and we have helped to promote two sessions (in Mancos and in Cortez) with Colorado Fiscal Policy Institute's Carol Hedges and Ali Mickelson.

Things are happening and I appreciate the work involved in these activities. Thanks to Jodi, Judy, LouAnn, and Rebecca for the work they are doing.

We just need to reach more people. All of us need to be in an attitude of membership recruitment. Think about people you know who would be interested in the League and

just ask! At our July 12<sup>th</sup> Board Meeting, we heard more from Jodi and Jane about the

Membership Recruitment Initiative. We have a goal of 5% increased membership. What we do in the community is our value statement. What remains? "Just ask!"

Looking ahead, please SAVE THE DATE of September 17. The State Board Voters Service Chairperson and Vice-Chairperson (Gerry Cummins and Patty Schroedler) will be in Cortez for a training session on the Ballot Issues. The training will be Friday, September 17, at the Colorado Visitor's Center in the upstairs conference room from 2 pm until 5 pm.

I have to be in another meeting on that day in Steamboat Springs, but I am making plans to attend the training session in Montrose or Gunnison on my way to my meeting in Steamboat Springs.

— *Eleanor Kuhl*

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## ***Informing the Public on Three Fiscal Ballot Initiatives***

The coalition in Montezuma County to inform the public about the three ballot initiatives that will affect the fiscal situations of many agencies met in July. Rebecca Samulski of our League is chairing the coalition effort. There are several statewide organizations, as well as a similar organization in LaPlata County, providing information as to what the impact of the measures will be if passed by the voters in November, 2010.

The League will be hosting a Forum of special districts for them to identify to the public the specific affect of the measures within Montezuma and Dolores counties on September 30. The League will also be holding a Forum at which two League members will represent the "pros and cons". Check the calendar for dates.

Don't forget the Ballet Issues Training coming to Cortez, September 17, 2010, from 2 to 5 pm at the Colorado Visitor's Center Conference Room. LWVCO Voters Service Chair Gerry Cummins and Vice-Chair Patty Schoedler who have been working with the Secretary of State since February will give the training. Attendance at the training is necessary for Leaguers who want to be informed and able to answer the questions of friends and neighbors accurately. Attendance at the training does not commit you to being part of our League's speaker's bureau and to giving presentations to various groups. We welcome your participation in that activity if you are comfortable with speaking before groups.

— *Jodi Foran*  
*Voters Service Chairperson*

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## ***Understanding Better the Health Risks of Oil and Gas Fracing***

The LaPlata and Montezuma Leagues along with LWVCO testified in July at one of four EPA hearings in the US on the need to better understand the health risks of oil and gas fracing. You can link to the two minute testimony given by LWVCO Legislative Action Chair Jeannette Hillary as well as the document written jointly by the LaPlata and Montezuma County Leagues on our website.

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## ***Health Care Reform Information Update***

There is a website with information about Health Care Reform. Check this out for reliable information. There is too much other information in cyberspace that is not accurate.

[A new federal website was launched on July 1, 2010.](#) The website is designed to provide individuals with information on the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act and how it will impact consumers.

### **HHS Launches New Consumer Focused Health Care Website, [www.HealthCare.gov](http://www.HealthCare.gov)**

This is a powerful new information tool that will give consumers more control over their own health care and allow them to compare their coverage option.

The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services unveiled an innovative new on-line tool that will help consumers take control of their health care by connecting them to new information and resources that will help them access quality, affordable health care coverage. Called for by the Affordable Care Act, [HealthCare.gov](http://HealthCare.gov) is the first website to provide consumers with both public and private health coverage options tailored specifically for their needs in a single, easy-to-use tool.

“[HealthCare.gov](http://HealthCare.gov) helps consumers take

control of their health care and make the choices that are right for them, by putting the power of information at their fingertips,” said HHS Secretary Kathleen Sebelius. “For too long, the insurance market has been confusing and hard to navigate. [HealthCare.gov](http://HealthCare.gov) makes it easy for consumers and small businesses to compare health insurance plans in both the public and the private sector and find other important health care information.”

[HealthCare.gov](http://HealthCare.gov) is the first central database of health coverage options, combining information about public programs, from Medicare to the new Pre-Existing Conditions Insurance Plan, with information from more than 1,000 private insurance plans. Consumers can receive information about options specific to their life situation and local community.

In addition, the website will be a one-stop-shop for information about the implementation of the Affordable Care Act as well as other health care resources. The website will connect consumers to quality rankings for local health care providers as well as preventive services.

“This website is unlike any government website you have ever seen or used before,” said HHS Chief Technology Officer Todd Park. “It was developed with significant consumer input and is remarkably easy to navigate. This is despite the sheer volume of content it offers consumers: billions of health care choices through the insurance finder and more than 500 pages of new content, all of which is designed to grow with ongoing consumer feedback and as our health care system improves.”

As the health care market transforms, so will [HealthCare.gov](http://HealthCare.gov). In October, 2010, price estimates for health insurance plans will be available online. In the weeks and months ahead, new information on preventing disease and illness and improving the quality of health care for all Americans will also be posted. The website also includes a series

of opportunities where users can indicate whether pages were helpful to them and we will continue to seek user feedback to grow and strengthen the site.

"People need to see what choices are offered, what options cost, and how coverage works in practice," said Karen Pollitz, Deputy Director for Consumer Support, Office of Consumer Information and Insurance Oversight. "Today [HealthCare.gov](http://HealthCare.gov) takes an important first step in that direction. In the coming months and years, we will add pricing and plan performance information so that consumers can see and understand and make meaningful choices about their health coverage."

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## ***Proposition 101 - Did You Know ...***

### ***Proposition 101 Unfairly Targets Rural Colorado***

The quality and reliability of telephone service - landline and cellular - in rural Colorado will face serious challenges if Proposition 101 passes this November. Proposition 101 would eliminate the modest fees that go to the High Cost Fund, which subsidizes phone service in Colorado's rural areas. Think of rural phone service as being similar to rural highways. With its sparse population, rural Colorado cannot afford to build and maintain a network of rural roads all on its own. Some of the gas tax from urban areas goes toward maintaining rural roads.

The same is true with the rural telephone system.

As the Denver Business Journal (DBJ) reported in a recent article, "The 2.2 percent charge added to most residential bills raised \$58.6 million in 2009 and is meant to reimburse telcoms for the cost of providing basic phone service in rural areas in order to keep rates affordable."

While there are some requirements in place

regarding landline, increased cell service in rural areas could be in jeopardy. Again quoting from the DBJ, "The spread of wireless phone service in small towns on the northeastern plains and in the state's San Luis Valley could be crippled if the ballot initiative passes." That's according to a representative of Fort Morgan-based Viaero Wireless.

Rural Colorado depends on a vital, expanding communications system. The High Cost Fund is a reasonable method of allocating those costs among all users.

For this reason, and many others, Proposition 101 unfairly targets rural Colorado.

**SOURCE: Coloradans for Responsible Reform**

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## ***JOIN US NOW !!!***

To join the League of Women Voters of Montezuma County, complete the form at the end of the newsletter. and mail with your check, made payable to LWVMZC to:

LWVMZC, Denis Boon, Treasurer  
LWV of Montezuma County  
P.O Box 1753  
Cortez CO 81301

Dues are for the calendar year and include membership in our local League as well as the Colorado State LWV and the National LWV. Dues do not cover our costs, so please add a contribution if you can.

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## ***July 27, 2010 – DISCLOSE ACT***

A few hours ago, the Senate fell just short of the votes needed to begin debate on the [DISCLOSE Act](#) -- the most important campaign finance bill since McCain-Feingold.

Without this critical legislation, corporations, unions and other organizations can make secret, unlimited political expenditures for campaign ads. That's why, with your support, the League launched an all-out effort to ensure the DISCLOSE Act went into effect before the November mid-term elections. Special interests got in the way again though, and action on the legislation is delayed in the Senate for now.

But this fight is not over, and the Senate now has two choices: more obstructionism and partisanship, or a compromise that moves us forward on common ground.

Next week, your Senators will return home for a month-long recess. It's essential they hear from you -- their constituents -- on this issue. [Schedule a meeting or make a quick phone call](#), whatever works best for you. Tell your Senators why you're disappointed the DISCLOSE Act didn't pass, and what actions you'd like to see them take on campaign finance reform this fall.

Our democracy belongs to people -- not special interests. For more than 90 years, the League of Women Voters has helped citizens make informed decisions through nonpartisan outreach and education. We have endured setbacks before, and will continue to work toward enhanced disclosure to ensure voters remain the cornerstone of our democracy.

Thanks for all you do,  
Elisabeth MacNamara  
President, LWVUS

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## ***Notes from Elisabeth MacNamara, National President***

### **ADVOCACY**

#### **League Thanks Senator Leahy for Work on Climate Change**

The League and coalition partners [sent a letter to Senator Patrick Leahy](#) of Vermont thanking him for his support in addressing the effects of climate change.

#### **Work on DISCLOSE Act Will Continue This Fall**

The DISCLOSE Act was blocked in the Senate this week, but the League will continue to put pressure on the Senate to do the right thing after recess. See President [MacNamara's statement](#) and a recent [League email](#) on the setback. The League will continue to target Senator Brown of Massachusetts, and Senators Snowe and Collins of Maine. The latter two are past supporters of transparency and co-sponsors of the 2003 Bipartisan Campaign Reform Act. All three could turn the tide on the much-needed legislation.

#### **Leagues Run Powerful Climate Ads in Maine, Nevada**

The League of Women Voters of Nevada and the League of Women Voters of Maine are speaking out on climate change, running large print newspaper ads thanking their Senators for their past leadership -- and encouraging them to continue to work toward a bill that adequately addresses the crises emerging around the world due to volatile changes in climate.

### **COMMUNICATIONS**

#### **LWVUS Facebook Page Exceeds 6,000 Fans**

Thanks to all our supporters on Facebook! With more than 6,000 "Likes," we're on track to reach our goal of 9,000 followers for our 90th anniversary.

## **EDUCATION FUND (Elections)**

### **Elections: Include Young People In Your Election Year Plans**

As your League plans Voters Service activities for the fall, be sure to include your community's youth! Hold voter registration drives, issue forums, and other events at locations frequented by young people and other potential first-time voters, especially traditionally underrepresented groups like young people of color, low-income individuals, or new citizens. Such activities will increase your community impact AND introduce the League to a whole new audience. Need help getting started? Try reaching out to local community colleges, technical/vocational schools, transit agencies, concert venues, or county/town fair & festival organizers.

## **MEMBERSHIP and LEADERSHIP**

### **Women's Equality Day: One Month Left to Plan Your Event**

August 26 will mark the 90th anniversary of the ratification of the 19th Amendment. There is still one month to plan an activity, put out a media release, or get a proclamation signed by your local government to mark Women's Equality Day, a day that is so important to our history and so strongly associated with the League.

## **OTHER**

### **"Excellence in Education" Webcast Seminar Available to League Members**

League members who are interested in the issue of public education can register for a two-hour webcast seminar presented by the Chautauqua Institution on August 4, 2010 as part of their series on Excellence in Education. This is a timely issue since the LWVUS will undertake a study of the "Federal Role in Public Education" during the 2010-2012 biennium. The study will focus on the role of the federal government in education policymaking, with possible

consideration of funding, common standards and/or governance relationships among all levels of the government. Instructions for registering for the Chautauqua webcast seminar and additional information can be found at <http://chqinddepth.org>.

### **Update Your Will**

Have you recently moved to a new state? Had a child? Did you get married last year? Or maybe there's a new grandchild or step-child in your life? Any one of these major life events is reason enough to update your will. It is always important to stay in touch with your attorney regarding any changes in estate and probate law. While you're updating your plans, don't forget to include a gift for your favorite charities, like the League of Women Voters Education Fund : to strengthen the pillars of our democracy for years to come. If you have already included a gift for the LWV in your will or trust, but have not previously informed us, or if you have been thinking about setting up a gift that provides income, such as a charitable gift annuity, please contact Lauren Frank, at 202-263-1355 or [lfrank@lww.org](mailto:lfrank@lww.org).

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## ***Regional Sustainability Roundtable***

The Alliance for Sustainable Colorado is conducting a series of eight Roundtables around Colorado in 2010 to bring together local leaders across all sectors to share challenges and solutions to achieving long-term economic, social and environmental sustainability.

Information and ideas shared at these meetings will be made available to all participants, and will be compiled in a statewide report to be presented to government agencies, elected officials, non-profit organizations, business associations and university classes.

Below is information regarding the

Roundtable.

***Membership Recruitment******Regional  
Sustainability  
Roundtable***

August 19, 2010, Thursday

12:30-4:00pm

Durango Public Library, 1900 East 3rd  
Avenue, Durango, CO 81301**Snacks and refreshments provided.**

\$10 donation requested

**To RSVP for the Roundtable, go [here](#).**  
(Registration free)**You are encouraged to attend this  
roundtable to:**

- Identify what's working in the community;
- Receive an overview of local and statewide sustainability efforts (plans or programs already on the ground and working to benefit the economy, society, and the environment over the long term);
- Review local priorities in need of long-term attention identified in the pre-meeting survey;
- Identify promising community development, sustainability practices, and local owners that can solve those problems;
- Make contacts and build relationships to foster regional and statewide networks.

— *Jodi Foran*

Jodi Foran and Betty Janes attended several webinar training sessions on membership recruitment this spring. One of the main points of the training is that all members are responsible for recruitment, not just the membership committee. When you find yourself in a conversation with someone who seems to be interested in some of the topics our League is involved in, ASK them if they're interested in attending a meeting or joining the League.

Another point made during the training is that the League needs to be visible in the community, creating opportunities for people to see the League at work. Our League needs to continue to hold candidate forums and general meetings with interesting speakers and discussions to attract new participants. Partnering with other groups with similar interests has potential for obtaining new members. Having good publicity for these events is key to bringing in new participants.

— *Betty Janes*  
*Membership Chairperson*

## Calendar

<b>August</b>	
Wednesday, 4	LWVCO Board Meeting
Friday, 6	Last day for early voting & last day to apply for mail-in ballot that must be picked up in person
Monday, 9	LWVMZC Board Meeting, Colorado Visitor's Center 9:30 am.
Tuesday, 10	Primary Election (polls open 7a-7p)
Saturday, 21	Verde Fest
Monday, 23	Great Decisions Discussion Group, Mancos Library, 10:30 am. 2009 topics to be discussed
Saturday, 28	Great Decisions Discussion Group, Dolores Library, 10:30 am. International Finance
<b>September</b>	
Saturday, 11	Great Decisions Discussion Group, Dolores Library, 10:30 am. Chapter #6
Friday, 17	Training by State Board Members on Ballot Issues 2-5 pm – Visitor's Center Conf. Rm
Monday, 20	LWVMZC Board Meeting, Colorado Visitor's Center 9:30 am.
Monday, 20	LWVMZC General Meeting, Colorado Visitor's Center 11:30 am. – Ballot Issues
Thursday, 23	Governor's Mansion Fund Raiser 90 <sup>th</sup> Birthday Party for League
Monday, 27	Great Decisions Discussion Group, Mancos Library, 10:30 am. 2009 topics to be discussed
Saturday, 25	League Day in Denver
Monday, 27	Begin Ballot Issue Speaker Presentations
Thursday, 30	Ballot Issue Forum, City Council Chamber 7 pm
<b>October</b>	
Monday, 4	Last day to register for General Election
Monday, 4	Candidate Forum for General Election, City Council Chamber, 7 pm
Wednesday, 6	LWVCO Board Meeting
Monday, 11	LWVMZC Board Meeting, Colorado Visitor's Center 9:30 am.
Monday, 11	LWVMZC General Meeting, Colorado Visitor's Center 11:00 am.– 2011 dues are due
Throughout	Ballot Issue Speaker Presentations throughout the month
Monday, 18	Early voting begins
Saturday, 23	Great Decisions Discussion Group, Dolores Library, 10:30 am. 2010 topics TBD
Monday, 25	Great Decisions Discussion Group, Mancos Library, 10:30 am. 2009 topics to be discussed
Tuesday, 26	Last day to apply for mail- in if mailed
Friday, 29	Early voting ends
Friday, 29	Last day to apply for mail-in ballot if picked up in person

Board

Membership.....	Betty Janes 533-1051 ejanes@frontier.net
50 Year Member .....	Llois Stein 565-9565 llois@msn.com
Health Care.....	
Voters Service.....	Jodi Foran 882-2401 jofi@foran.net
Environment.....	Eric Janes 533-1051 ejanes@frontier.net
President.....	Eleanor Kuhl 564-0708 ekuhl@frontier.net
President Elect.....	
Secretary.....	Lou Ann Burkett, Betty Janes
Treasurer.....	Denis Boon 560-0404 denisboon@msn.com
Newsletter Ed.....	Chris Foran 882-2401 chris@foran.net
Hospitality .....	Marcia Boon 565-7668 marciaboon@msn.com

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

**We need every one of you...**

**Call Betty Janes, 533-1051  
[ejanes@frontier.net](mailto:ejanes@frontier.net).**

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

Our goal is 29 members for 2010

**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.

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<http://www.lwvmontezuma.org/Join.html>

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

Sign up to receive the Colorado Voter newsletter electronically. Send an email to the state office to verify your email address: [info@lwvcolorado.org](mailto:info@lwvcolorado.org)



# League of Women Voters of Montezuma County

## 2010 Membership Form

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

email \_\_\_\_\_

Phone [h] \_\_\_\_\_ [w] \_\_\_\_\_ [cell] \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Of the \$50 regular membership fee, \$28.60 supports the League of Women Voters of the United States and \$18.00 supports the League of Women Voters of Colorado for their studies, voter education and advocacy on your behalf.

**If you could add an additional contribution to your dues, it would come directly to our local League and support our activities in Montezuma County.**

Dues are payable in September and renewed each year. Should you join midyear dues will be prorated: After April 1: they are \$25, and you will be asked to renew in September for the full amount.

<b>Dues Amounts:</b>	
Regular dues.....	\$50 _____
Additional household member(s)*... at \$30 ea.	\$ _____
<b>Additional Contribution (thank you**)</b>	\$ _____
<b>TOTAL.....</b>	<b>\$ _____</b>

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

Please make checks payable to “**LWV of Montezuma County**” and mail with this form to:

Denis Boon, Treasurer  
LWV of Cortez-Montezuma  
P.O Box 1753  
Cortez CO 81301

\*\*100% of all donations and contributions come directly to your local League.

If you would like to make a **Tax Deductible** donation to the League of Women Voters of Montezuma County apart from membership dues and contributions, please make out and mail to the above address a separate check payable to our 501 (c) (3) Education Fund as follows: “**LWV of Colorado Ed Fund**”, with “**Montezuma**” on the check memo line.

Note that Tax Deductible donations may only be used by our local League for voter education activities such as candidate forums and voter outreach. We may use standard contributions for all purposes, including advocacy and action.