



League Lines

The Newsletter of the League of Women Voters of Larimer County



The Voter Service Team needs help.

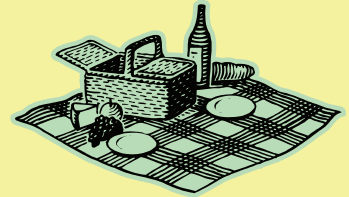
Please review these requests and reply to Wanda Mayberry (482-8742) (mayberry@cahs.colostate.edu) if you can help our Voter Service Team.

- ◆ The Team needs a “communicator”. This person would serve as a contact for State and National LWV; submit articles for the *LeagueLines*, the web site, and press releases,(posters, flyers rarely); and organize and distribute agendas. It would work best if you could attend the monthly (about 10 a year) team meetings, but could be done without that, if need be.
- ◆ The Team needs people to help give informational talks; the next two requests would be sometime over the summer and early Fall. : A) Rocky Mt High Students Reading group – 7 PM one Tuesday evening prior to August, B) Foothills Gateway group in early Fall. Both would be about citizenship, voting, etc.
- ◆ The Team needs Speakers to help with Ballot Issues Speeches this Fall. There will be quite a few issues and we anticipate a lot of requests for speakers. You will be trained, and have written information to go from. You don’t have to do the research- just present the information. The more people involved, the less work for everyone.

Also, who has our big banners that say League of Women Voters? We are trying to get things catalogued (and we would like to use them at 4th of July voter registration). If you have anything else in the basement that might be good for Voter Service to know about, please inform us.

Thanks! We’re a small team and can’t do all we would like to without some other help.

SUMMER PICNIC – JULY 18, 2008*



*The Administrative Team,
Membership Team, and
Legislative Action Team
cordially invite
you and your family
to join us for the
**Second Annual Ssummer
Potluck Picnic.***

WHERE:

Shelter #3 at North Lake Park,
29th and Taft in Loveland
(same place as last year)

WHEN:

Friday, July 18, 2008,
4-9 PM.

Members of the Loveland City Council, the Fort Collins City Council, and the Larimer County Commissioners will be invited as well.

Please bring either a main dish or salad or dessert to share and lawn chairs to lounge in.

Drinks, bread, plates, silverware, cups, and napkins will be furnished.

We hope to see you there.

*Please note that the date is July 18, not July 20 as was printed in the May *League Lines*.

In this issue.....

Voter Service	1
Summer Picnic	1
CrossCurrents	2
Civil Liberties	2
Growth	3
Instant Runoff Voting	4
International Relations	5
Local Convention, Council	6

CIVIL LIBERTIES

The Civil Liberties Team will meet on Fri, June 20, 1:30 p.m. at Sidna Rachid's house, 1002 Alexa Court, Fort Collins (377-9568). Members interested in civil liberties are welcome. This will be the last meeting of the CL Team until fall.

Civil Liberties Reading Group

The Civil Liberties Reading Group has picked their next book, *Takeover: The Return of the Imperial Presidency and the Subversion of American Democracy* by Charlie Savage. Savage is a writer for the *Boston Globe* and a Pulitzer Prize winner. *Takeover* covers constitutional issues as well as the political backgrounds of former White House attorneys like Alberto Gonzales and John Yoo.

The next meeting of the reading group will be on Tuesday, June 17 at 1:30 (at Marie Schaffner's, 900 Valley View Road in Fort Collins). Contact Linda Hutchinson for further information (667-9214 or lin-dahutchinon@frii.com).

Larimer County Courts Study Team

The Larimer County Courts Study Team will meet again on June 13 (Friday) at 1:30 p.m. at the home of Sidna Rachid, 1002 Alexa Court, Fort Collins (377-9568). League members interested in helping to gather information about the Larimer County courts (8th Judicial District) are welcome. If you have questions, please contact Florence Field, fnfield@comcast.net.

HEADS UP!!

The Civil Liberties Team would like to direct members' attention to a series of events that clearly relates to the issue of civil liberties.

From September through October, Read On! Fort Collins is sponsoring seven events on the Japanese internment camp experience. One such event is a discussion on Oct. 26, by Julie Otsuka about her book, "When the Emperor was Divine," which is about the internment camp in Utah.

For further information, go to readonfc.org.

CrossCurrents

On Thursday, May 22 from 7:00-8:30 p.m., the LWVLC CrossCurrents Team hosted "Can We Achieve Health Care for All?" at the Fort Collins City Council Chambers, 300 Laporte Avenue.

Panelists included Robert Benz, MD Orthopedics; Cory Carroll, MD Family Medicine; Steven Kaufmann, MD Surgery; and Steven Thorson, MD Family Medicine.

The program can be viewed on Fort Collins Cable Channel 14, Loveland Channel 16, or via broadband live streaming or video-on-demand at www.fcgov.com/cable14. It will be replayed periodically throughout the ensuing month on the city cable channels in Fort Collins and Loveland; check your local listing. Fort Collins Public Libraries will also carry copies.

GROWTH

The next Growth Team meeting will be Tuesday, June 17, at 1:15, at the home of Georgia Locker, 713 Duke Square, FC. All are welcome.

Opportunity to Provide Public Comment on Proposed Glade Reservoir

Fifty-five years after Horsetooth Reservoir was completed, it is possible that another large reservoir may be built in northern Colorado. Glade Reservoir, which would be located north of Ted's Place, would be slightly larger than Horsetooth and could become a reality as soon as 2012. The project is geared to meet the water needs of 14 water providers in northern Colorado. Although neither the City of Fort Collins nor Larimer County are partners in the project, they will be providing comments to the Army Corps of Engineers on the draft environmental impact statement.

League Members who wish to provide public comment on the proposed Glade Reservoir have several options for doing so.

1. The **Army Corps of Engineers** is taking comments on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement on **Tuesday, June 17**, at the Fort Collins Senior Center. Doors open at 4:00 PM and the hearing will be called to order at 6:00. You can also provide email comments to the Corps at chandler.j.peter@usace.army.mil.

2. **Fort Collins City Council** has Glade on its agenda for **July 1**; you will need to check the council agenda online to find out what time. Or you can speak during public comment at the beginning of the council meeting on June 3.

3. The **Larimer County Commissioners** have a public hearing scheduled for **Wednesday, July 9**, at 7:00 PM in the hearing room of the courthouse at 200 West Oak.

If you would like more information, please contact Linda Knowlton at 223-9328 or LLKNOWLTON@gmail.com.

Xeriscape comes alive at demonstration garden

Xeriscaping is a simple, beneficial alternative to traditional landscaping that is perfect for the dry Colorado climate. It really is the best of both worlds — a landscape that can survive the environment and look good at the same time.

Xeriscape Colorado promotes ways of creating a landscape while reducing maintenance and other resource use. According to Xeriscape Colorado, Xeriscaping can reduce landscape water use by as much as 60 percent or more.

Xeriscape Colorado offers seven simple fundamentals to Xeriscaping.

- Plan and design — First develop a base plan of what the yard currently looks like and make notes on modifications that can be done to certain areas. Second, develop a landscape plan and a planting scheme which will act as a blueprint for Xeriscaping.
- Create practical turf areas — Xeriscaping does not mean removing all grass, but rather thinking about where it is more sensible to have it.
- Select low-water plants and group appropriately — This will make irrigation more efficient.
- Add organic material to soil — By adding aged compost or manure, the soil will improve helping to ensure a more successful landscape.
- Use mulch — Both organic and inorganic mulch will help to minimize evaporation, cool plant root zones and reduce weed growth.
- Water wisely — Whether using a hose-end sprinkler or automatic sprinkler system, it's important to keep the water close to the ground and regulate the amount being used.
- Maintain — Although Xeriscaping requires less work, proper maintenance is still needed to keep up the look of the landscape.

More information can be obtained through Denver's Water Conservation Hotline, 303-628-6343.

Along with the rest of Colorado, the city of Loveland is an advocate for Xeriscaping — as is evident with the city's Xeriscape Demonstration Garden. The Jeff Peterson Xeriscape Garden, located on the corner of First Street and Washington Avenue, offers four acres to explore with interpretive literature as well as interpretive labels indicating types of plants, grass and materials used.

Instant Runoff Voting

Instant Runoff Voting (IRV) in the Colorado Legislature

The Instant Runoff Voting Team has had the opportunity during the past year to follow efforts in the State Legislature to introduce IRV to Colorado.

The Voter Choice Act of 2007 was introduced in the previous session of the legislature, but did not become law. However, it led to the formation of a Voter Choice Task Force under the leadership of Rep. John Kefalas of Fort Collins, which met once a month from June until December to study what actions it should recommend to the Legislature.

The final report of the Task Force recommended a multi-step program for the implementation of ranked voting methods in Colorado. The first step would be adoption of a pilot program in 2009 by 12 local governments, that would examine IRV for single seat elections, and proportional representation (PR) for multi-seat elections. The Task Force further recommended that the "Legislature require that all voting equipment used in the state be able to conduct Instant Runoff Voting and Proportional Representation elections." (This is important because once our voting equipment acquires state certification this year, no one is going to want to re-open the question of certification – ever!)

The proposed bill moved slowly through the Legislature, going first to the House State Affairs Committee and then to the full House, followed by the Senate State Affairs Committee and then the full Senate. Carol Tone, lobbyist for the LWVCO, sought permission from the LWV Legislative Action Committee (LAC) to speak in favor of the bill, but the LAC judged that they could not support the bill, "at this time."

On May 7, we received notice that "HB 1378, which will allow municipalities and special districts to use Instant Runoff Voting, has passed the last hurdle and is on the way to the Governor's desk."

The year-long process was one of repeated paring down. The Task Force voted not to recommend some of the alternative voting methods it examined, namely those that involved ratings (e.g., yes/no; or

rate on scale of 1-7) rather than rankings. One of the difficulties with the bill in the previous session had been that it called for a pilot program, but did not provide funding. Rep. Kefalas had worked to address this problem by securing pledges of support from private individuals. However, this was not enough; the pilot program was cut from the final bill. The support for proportional representation was dropped. Active support from the Legislature for voting reform was lost from the bill, which instead offers passive (and possibly unneeded) permission for municipalities not otherwise regulated to use IRV.

Is this a gain? Perhaps. It puts Colorado among the states that has looked favorably at IRV. However, it stops short of providing any real push/enablement for voting reform. If there is to be voting reform in Colorado, the push won't come from the Legislature; it must come from local communities.

Join Now!

**Join a Group of
Dedicated Leaguers!
Help get out the truth about
Affirmative Action Initiative #46.**

**Call Carol Rush, 667-5077, if you
want to be part of this Task Force.**

***The Loveland Daily Reporter-Herald*
has graciously donated their booth at
Loveland's SummerFest on July 12 and
13 to the League of Women Voters of
Larimer County, and we plan to use it!!**

The booth will be used to register voters and to raise much-needed funds for the Old-Fashioned Political Rally.

Booth hours will be from 10 am to 5 pm on July 12 and 13 (Saturday and Sunday)

If you would like to help the Voter Service Team register voters, please contact Wanda Mayberry at 482-8742. If you would like to help the Old-Fashioned Political Rally Steering Committee raise funds, please contact Linda Hutchinson at 667-9714.

Thanks!!

International Relations

Great Decisions

The U.S. military is adopting new policies and methods for defending the U.S. and its interests abroad. What should U.S. priorities be? How should its forces be structured and deployed to meet new security challenges?

Great Decisions will focus on *Defense and Security* on Monday June 2 before we take a summer break. All meetings are held at Plymouth Congregational Church in Fort Collins from 11:30 to 1:30, and guests always welcome. Contact Kay Easley for further information: 282-0135; easleykw@aol.com.

The International Relations Team has had a busy year!

For the past five years, the IR Team has been participating in the Great Decisions program of the Foreign Policy Association (FPA). In addition to educating participants on eight of the most pressing global issues and regions for a given year, FPA provides opinion ballots for each topic. These opinion ballots are tallied and the results are presented in the form of the National Opinion Ballot Report, which is published by the FPA at the end of each year. This enables those interested in foreign policy to make their views known to the U.S. public, policymakers and other Great Decisions participants. .

The IR Team now sponsors two Great Decisions programs. The League Great Decisions meetings are attended by approximately 25 people for two hours monthly, from January through June and again from September through November. The IR team has also completed three Great Decisions classes (6 weeks each) for Osher Lifelong Learning Institute (OLLI) at Colorado State University. OLLI has invited the IR Team to try another set of discussions this fall. OLLI supplies the books, pays for any other expenses incurred for these non-League classes, and has donated funds to the League for our participation and help. These generous contributions have netted the League over \$900 since we did the initial course last spring.

Our League also recently participated in a Poudre School District conference, where Great Decisions materials were available. The contact at Foreign Pol-

icy Association was delighted to send a 40# box of 2007 books, (40) teacher's guides, pamphlets and books from previous years to give away at NO cost! The IR Team is now discussing a plan to help implement Great Decisions in local classrooms as a way to engage and support educators and students who are committed to teaching and learning about international affairs.

As if all of that was not enough, The Immigration Study Team (consisting of IR Team members and non-IR Team members) helped educate our League on immigration-related matters so that we could participate in the LWVUS coming to a consensus on an immigration position. That position was announced this past spring and printed in the May *League Lines*, which can be accessed at our website, lwv-larimercounty.org (go to News and click May newsletter).



United Nations Association
"ON DAY ONE:"

If your favorite presidential candidate were elected, what would you like him/her to do in the field of foreign policy "On Day One" of his/her term, or soon thereafter?

The Northern Colorado Chapter of the United Nations Association-USA is planning a community-wide discussion of this topic. Our speaker is yet to be announced, but please

SAVE THE DATE: Sat., Sept. 6, 2:30 p.m., in the Coloradoan Community Room.

Advertise Your Business

Cost: \$15/ issue; \$75/10 issues (1 year)
Submit your business card with payment made out to the LWV-Larimer County to
Linda Hutchinson, 216 West Fourth Street,
Loveland, CO 80537.

Dr. Paul A. Smith

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Local Convention Honors Members

New LWVLC members were honored at the opening of the Local Convention on May 12 and then very special recognition was given to Betty Maloney, who was a new member 50 years ago! Later in the evening, Jodie Rankin was thanked for her work on the Admin Team. She is retiring from that team this year and her guidance concerning League procedures and policies will be sorely missed.

Before dinner, Linda Mahan described her experience volunteering in Bangalore for a non-profit group dedicated to raising citizen participation in governmental affairs. She likened it to the work that we do as members of the League of Women Voters. After dinner, Dixie Schmatz presided over the business part of the meeting, but many of our members reported from the budget committee, the audit committee, the reading committee, the by-laws committee, the nominating committee – and Margaret Smith as Parliamentarian made sure everyone tolled the line as far as the Robert's Rules of Order was concerned!

One change was voted in our bylaws. Article III2.b. will now read as follows:

Persons who are not US Citizens or who are under 18 years of age may join the League as associate members, paying regular membership dues. They shall not be eligible to vote at Local Convention on the budget, bylaws, program, or election of officers. They shall not be counted as part of a quorum at the Local Convention. At special general membership meetings for changes in the Program (Article VIII.Sec 1) associate members shall not be counted as part of the quorum, nor shall they vote on the program changes. They may participate fully in all other League activities.

A change in our position regarding public library funding was approved. The position now reads:

The LWV-LC supports funding of public libraries in Larimer County either through voter-approved property tax or a combination of dedicated property tax and public general fund revenue. Dedicated property tax provides a more stable and predictable source of funding for public libraries than one that depends solely on general fund revenues.

All other positions were kept as written.

Looking forward to program for the coming year, the group voted to keep all of our functioning teams and approved the establishment of a sub-team within the Civil Liberties Team that would study the Larimer County Court System. Members signed up to serve on the various teams, but there are plenty of spots open for those of you who were not present to join a

group for which you have a special interest. Please get in touch with the team chairman or any member of the Admin Team to let us know what you would like to do!

One of our final acts of the evening was to vote in four members of the Admin Team for a two year period. These were Rosemary Bergstrom, Judy Bushnell, Irene Fortune, and Linda Hutchinson. They will join Mary Jo Shafer, Judy Filusch, Barbara Smith, Charlotte Rehnberg, and Carol Rush who will be serving the second year of a two year term.

Special thanks go this year to Linda Grey-Wilson and her co-worker, Janet Fritz, who set up the Treasure Tables for us (we made \$121 on the sales), Dixie Schmatz who sold eco-friendly goods from the Green Web Shop, and Sidna Rachid and Emily Krause who arranged for and served the dinner.

Join over 150,000 members and supporters across the country who are doing the hands-on work to safeguard democracy!

These are the kinds of words and ideas that inspired the delegates to the LWVCO State Council Meeting held in Durango on May 16 and 17 this year.

An unusual aspect of the Council meeting this time was an invitation to two speakers to discuss conditions on the Southern Ute Indian Reservation, so close geographically to our meeting place, with a particular emphasis on the need for closer cooperation between federal and tribal law enforcement. We were privileged to hear Michelle Olguin, Member of the Southern Ute Tribal Council as well as Troy Eid, U.S. Attorney for the District of Colorado and son of LWVCO Executive Director Sandra Eid.

With the 2008 elections a hot topic, Chris Watson's Legislative Wrap-up, followed by Gerry Cummins' summary of proposed ballot issues, were of special interest. Caroline Jefferson-Jenkins, past LWVUS president, spoke at length about the League's need to educate people about Affirmative Action Initiative #46 and the importance of defeating this proposed Amendment to the Constitution. People in our LWVLC group who would like to head up this effort, please get in touch with Carol Rush so we can get started.

Linda Mahan and Carol Rush thank the League for sending us to Council and for making possible the beautiful drive we enjoyed down through Fairplay, Poncho Springs, Del Norte, Wolf Creek Pass – the views were outstanding!

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Calendar of Events June, 2008



Monday, June 2
11:30-1:30 Great Decisions: Defense and Security
Plymouth Congregational Church, 916 West Prospect Road, Fort Collins

Thursday, June 5
Noon-3 Admin Team meeting
Linda Hutchinson's (216 West Fourth Street, Loveland)

Friday, June 13
1:30 Larimer County Courts Study Team meeting
Sidna Rachid's (1002 Alexa Court, Fort Collins)

Tuesday, June 17
1:15 Growth Team Meeting
Georgia Locker's (713 Duke Square, Fort Collins)

Tuesday, June 17
1:30-3:00 Civil Liberties Reading Group
Marie Schaffner's (900 Valley View Road, Fort Collins)

Friday, June 20
1:30 Civil Liberties Team Meeting
Sidna Rachid's (1002 Alexa Court, Fort Collins)

Tuesday, June 24
1:45-3:00 Old-Fashioned Political Rally Steering Committee meeting
Loveland Daily Reporter-Herald (201 East Fifth Street)



July, 2008

Friday, July 18
4-9 pm Summer Picnic
North Lake Park, 29th & Taft, Loveland





**The League of Women Voters
of Larimer County**

League Lines editor:
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www.lwv-larimercounty.org



The League of Women Voters of Larimer County
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The League of Women Voters is *the* organization where hands-on work to safeguard democracy leads to civic improvement.

Our Mission

The League of Women Voters, a nonpartisan political organization, encourages informed and active participation in government, works to increase understanding of major public policy issues, and influences public policy through education and advocacy.

Our History

Established in 1920, the League is one of the nation's most respected grassroots organizations. We explore issues from many points of view and take action on issues affecting our families and communities.

The League of Women Voters is nonpartisan. We do not support or oppose candidates.