



League Lines

The Newsletter of the League of Women Voters of Larimer County

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September Calendar of Events

Thurs, Sept. 4 Noon-3	Admin Team meeting Barbara Smith's, 1949 Wallenberg Drive, Ft Collins
Tues, Sept. 9 1 pm	Growth Team meeting Georgia Locker's, 713 Duke Square, Ft Collins
Wed, Sept. 10 Noon	Health Care Team meeting Linda Mahan's, 708 Birky Place, Ft Collins
Thurs, Sept. 11 7 to 8:30 pm	CrossCurrentss "SAFE and SMART" - are they? A discussion of two 2008 ballot initiatives Fort Collins City Council Chambers 300 LaPorte Avenue
Mon, Sept. 15 5:30 to 9 pm	Back-to-League Night featuring Our Courts: The Nomination, Evaluation, and Re- tentation of Colorado Judges Plymouth Congregational Church, 916 West Pros- pect Road, Ft Collins
Tues, Sept. 16 1:30 to 3 pm	Civil Liberties Reading Group, Location TBA
Wed, Sept. 24 7 to 9 pm	Amendment 46 and Initiative 82 (certification pend- ing) Informational Meeting "Coloradoan," Community Room 1300 Riverside Avenue, Fort Collins
Fri, Sept 26	Membership renewal deadline for inclusion in roster
Fri., Sept 26 6 to 8 pm	League Turns 80 Byers-Evans House, Denver
Sat, Sept. 27 9 to 3	League Day Colorado Room, Holiday Inn Select Denver, 455 South Colorado Boulevard

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CrossCurrents

On Thursday, September 11, from 7:00-8:30 p.m., the LWVLC CrossCurrents Team will host “*SAFE and SMART*” - *are they?...A discussion of two 2008 ballot initiatives* at the Fort Collins City Council Chambers, 300 Laporte Avenue. The public is invited to attend and to submit questions to the panelists. The audience is respectfully requested to arrive and be seated 10-15 minutes before the broadcast begins at 7:00 p.m. sharp.

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.

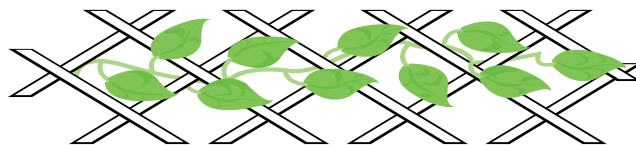
Forums Scheduled in Fort Collins & Loveland

Two informational public meetings are planned to address and clarify some of the confusion surrounding Amendment 46 and Initiative 82 (certification pending). Panelists will clarify the ballot language of these proposals and define their impact on programs dealing with education, women’s issues, and employment in Colorado. These forums are scheduled for:

- ◆ 7 to 9 p.m, September 24, 2008, in the Community Room of the Fort Collins “Coloradoan,” 1300 Riverside Avenue in Fort Collins
- ◆ 7 to 9 p.m., October 16, 2008, at the Loveland Public Library, 300 North Adams Avenue in Loveland

In addition, postcards announcing these forums will be available at “Back to League Night” on September 15. We encourage League members to take at least four of five of them and send them to relatives and friends. If you are a member of any other groups which may be willing to inform their members about the forums by email, newsletter or by mailing these postcards, please let us know. Remember, the forums are informational, and will not advocate a position, but are designed instead to educate citizens about these amendments.

Please contact Carol Rush at 667-5077 or crush@frii.com with suggestions or for more information.

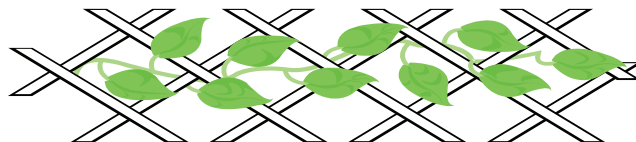


League Ready to Roll in 2008

Back to League Night scheduled for September 15 will launch us into our new League activities for this fall. We hope all of you can come and will bring potential new members as well. The event beginning at 5:45 p.m. at Plymouth Congregational Church, includes a potluck dinner, time to catch up on summer news with other League members, and a short report from the Ad Hoc Committee on Affirmative Action. There will be a timely program presented by the Larimer County Court Study Team entitled “Our Courts: The Nomination, Evaluation, and Retention of Colorado Judges.” Two guests will also attend and be available to answer questions. Randy Williams is a Loveland attorney and chairman of the 8th Judicial District Commission. Beverly Newton is a non-attorney member and Public Information Liaison for the 8th Judicial District Commission.

Here are some details. Call in reservations to Sally Broste, 223-6047, by Thursday, September 11, and let her know if you would prefer to bring either a quiche, a salad, a dessert, or pay \$6. If you are bringing a potential new member, they are our guests, but let Sally know they will be with you. If you haven’t paid this year’s dues and sent in the survey sheet yet, you can do it that evening. We will circulate sign-up sheets for those of you who are ready to take on a role on one of our vital, hard working teams. Be sure to pick up the new pages for your notebook, and materials put out by the Ad Hoc Committee on Affirmative Action as well.

Hope to See You on the 15th!



AMENDMENT 46: DOES IT MEAN WHAT IT SAYS?

Amendment 46, which will appear on the ballot in November, is part of a nation-wide effort to eliminate affirmative action programs in all the states. The drive was started by a group in California and has already been successful in California, Washington and Michigan, and this year it will appear on the ballot in Arizona and Nebraska, in addition to Colorado.

LWV of Colorado and other organizations, including the Colorado Council of Churches, are opposing this amendment and are working to inform voters about its true intent and its impact if it passes. The wording of Amendment 46 was deliberately crafted in a way to confuse voters into thinking that the amendment levels the playing field for all Coloradoans in public education, employment, small business contracting and other important related programs. Nothing could be further from the truth.

If Amendment 46 is passed, any public program that aims to increase opportunities for women and minorities in education or business, including recruitment, training and outreach, would probably be eliminated. Passage would put in jeopardy current state and local public programs that target women and minorities,

such as: •fair housing and lending programs, •programs that increase diversity in higher education, •exposing girls and minorities to math, science and technology in public schools, •minority and women-owned business contracting opportunities, •pay equity for women, and •apprenticeship and training programs.



Because of the confusing language of the amendment and the far-reaching consequences its passage could have, we are asking for your help. We need four or five members to write letters to the editor about Amendment 46 and send these to all newspapers in Larimer County. Of course, the same letter can be used repeatedly. The letter will come from you as an individual and not as representing LWV. The letter does not need to be long or complicated; it is simply another way of letting the public know about our concerns about Amendment 46.

If you are interested, please contact Carol Rush, 667-5077, crush@frii.com or Florence Field, 495-1896, fnfield@comcast.net. We will provide with you background information, talking points and any other help you may need.

Voter Service

It is time to update our "Facts" booklet. We need volunteers to take on a "hunk" of the booklet, contact the appropriate source, and get accurate updated information. It would be good if you can do it on the computer (on-line) so we have less chance of errors in transcription. If this is something you might be able to help with, please contact Gerry Lake (472-9771) (glakegerry@aol.com) Thanks. Wanda Mayberry (482-8742)

LWVCO League Day

This year's League Day is scheduled for Saturday, September 27. The event will be held in the Colorado Room of the Holiday Inn Select Denver, 455 South Colorado Boulevard.

The registration fee is \$36.00 and covers coffee, rolls and fresh fruit before the conference, the plated lunch, use of all rooms, microphone, podium, and speaker charges.

The featured speakers are Lisa Esgar, Deputy Director, Governor's Office of State Planning and Budget, speaking on Colorado's Financial Situation; Patricia Barela Rivera, former District Small Business Administration Director, speaking on How Affirmative Action Affects Women and Hispanic Business Owners; and Andrew Romanoff, Speaker of the Colorado House of Representatives. Lunch will be followed by Pros and Cons of 19 State Ballot Issues.

Team News

Civil Liberties

Civil Liberties Reading Group

The next meeting of the Civil Liberties Reading Group will be on Tuesday, September 16. We will finish discussing *Takeover: The Return of the Imperial Presidency and the Subversion of American Democracy* by Charlie Savage. Anyone interested please contact Linda at lindahutchinson@frii.com or 667-9214.

Health Care

SUCCESS is the Story Title for Health Care Action at LWVUS Convention

A group of 10 Leaguers from across the country - most of whom met for the first time in Portland - led the way to the unanimous vote for adoption of the recommended program item on health care education and advocacy.

During the five days we successfully led three caucuses on Saturday (standing room only with 75-100 folks each), staffed a resource table of materials for delegates and responded to inquiries and appeals for help, distributed 500 promotional fliers to delegates and assembled fifteen speaker/advocates to address the delegate body. On Monday morning the vote was simply over in a few moments; only one delegate questioned the timing and one advocate gave her speech. NO further debate was needed (no con speakers were standing) and President Mary Wilson called for the vote. The vote means we can go full steam ahead - on a fast track- with education and advocacy for affordable, quality, comprehensive health care for all. The adoption of the item means the national Board will be behind us with educational materials and lobbying for bills in Congress will be a top priority. Stay tuned for the next step.

We were pleased to hear one keynote speech focus on health care. Former two term Oregon Governor John A. Kitzhaber, MD outlined his prescription and challenge to us in "The Unfinished Business of the Baby Boom Generation: Health Care for the 21st

Century". Following his time in office he is directing the Archimedes Movement, a vehicle through which the growing concern over the U.S. health care system can be channeled into effective action – not only in creating the vision for a more equitable and sustainable system – but also in building the tension necessary for the realization of that vision.

Our Larimer Team will continue to lead in Colorado and welcomes new members to join us on September 10 at noon for our first meeting of the year. Contact: Linda Mahan 484-2259

International Relations

Great Decisions

How the U.S. deals with international challenges often depends on how it engages with allies, as well as enemies. How should the U.S. deal with countries like Cuba, North Korea and Iran? What approach should the U.S. take with groups like Hamas and Hezbollah?

Great Decisions will focus on *Diplomacy* on Monday **October 13 (please note the change in date)**. All meetings are held at Plymouth Congregational Church in Fort Collins from 11:30 to 1:30, and guests are always welcome. Contact Kay Easley for further information: 282-0135; easleykw@aol.com.

OSHER

OSHER will kick off another season with "Shaping U.S. Foreign Policy." Topics will include Iraq; U.S.-China Trade Policy and European Union and how they relate to both foreign policy and foreign aid." The meetings will be on Tuesdays, beginning in Oct. Interested members can find more details at www.learn.colostate.edu/osher. Official title Osher Lifelong Learning Institute (OLLI) sponsored by CSU Continuing Education.

Immigration

The Immigration Team is still operative and waiting for direction from National. Stay tuned to future League Lines for more information.

Membership Corner

Membership News and Notes

Members are encouraged to return Member Surveys and dues checks at the September 15 meeting. September 26 is the deadline for renewal in order to be listed in the Membership Roster. Individual dues are \$52 and rounding off the number with a contribution will put you in good graces with the treasurer!

We have a membership challenge before us as a part of the national membership recruitment initiative. Locally we'll be offering a special gift to any new member who joins on September 15 at our kick-off meeting. AND the sponsoring member will also receive a gift for recruiting a new member. Election years bring heightened interest in civic involvement so it should not be difficult to find a prospect.

Member Orientation - October 4

Recently joined members who have not attended a member orientation are invited to save Saturday, October 4 from 10 am - noon for a get -acquainted coffee. We will share the history, structure and activity of the LWV and offer an opportunity to ask all the burning questions you've been wondering about. Prospective members are also welcome to attend. Further details to follow.

"Opportunities to get involved"

So you joined the League recently but aren't sure how to get involved? Here is your chance! LWV of Larimer County is looking for members to...

* Update postings on the League website (training available)

or

* Facilitate the Voter Service Team. The team's experienced members have already split up the team duties but there is still a need for someone to call and run the team meetings.

or

* Facilitate the Financial Development Team. This team convenes once a year to do very valuable work! Like Voter Service, a team already exists with ample experience. They are just looking for a leader.

Anyone interested in volunteering to help with these important jobs should contact a member of the Admin Team. And you don't have to do a job alone...you can also ask a friend to co-help!!



19th Old-Fashioned Political Rally—October 6

It's time for **the 19th Old-Fashioned Political Rally!!** The rally will be held from **5:30 to 9:00 p.m. on Monday, October 6 at The Ranch.** Admission and parking will be free.

Since 1972, this biennial event has provided an opportunity for citizens to talk one-on-one with their state and local candidates, to share their own ideas and concerns instead of just listening to prepared speeches. People from both sides of the ballot issues will be there, too, handing out printed materials but also available to explain the details and try to answer your hard questions.

The Rally is also a fun-filled event. There are balloons, speeches, music, flags and bunting, colorful signs and political demonstrations, not to mention free popcorn, lemonade, and coffee.

One of the most old-fashioned aspects of this rally is that it is a truly community event, attended by people of all ages. Be sure to save the date, Monday, October 6, and bring your whole family. You will meet friends there, have a great time, and learn what you need to know to vote wisely.

We can always use extra help during the day and/or evening of the rally. Please contact Linda at 667-9214 or lindahutchinson@frii.com if you would like to help.

Summer Picnic

The League picnic on Friday, July 18, at the park in Loveland at 29th and Taft was a most successful activity. Several local legislators attended this well-organized gathering, including Glenn Gibson and Randy Eubanks from the Larimer County Board of Commissioners as well as Loveland City Council members Kent Solt, Cecil Gutierrez, and Walt Skowron.

Food was really plentiful and delicious; people enjoyed visiting and sharing with each other. Weather was just about perfect, no rain, no great heat, not much wind. A delightful time was had by all.

This cooperative effort was organized by the Membership Team, Legislative Action Team, and Admin Team – Jodie Rankin, Mary Jo Shafer, and Emily Krause. Thanks to all of them for all their fine efforts as well as to many who pitched in to help, as Leaguers do so wonderfully do.

-Judy Bushnell

Convention 2008 Tidbits

To capture the excitement and proceedings of a LWVUS Convention in a short article is impossible because the richness and intensity goes on nonstop for 4 days and nights! However I can report that Judy Bushnell and I made the most of the hours between 7 am and 11 pm, selecting caucuses, city walking tours, dine-around evenings, panel discussions and topical forums in addition to attending the plenary sessions for roughly 6 hours a day. Here are a few tidbits of the business and the special speakers of the Convention in Portland. More detail can be found on the LWVUS website in the members section.

Between 675-700 voting delegates were present for the Convention along with several hundred observers and over 800 volunteers. An exciting program was adopted for the next two years. In addition to the Board recommended item on health care education and advocacy, two additional items were proposed from the floor and adopted. The first was a multi-level education and advocacy campaign to fight global climate change. A League task force on global climate change has been working for the past year to assemble materials on this topic.

The second item is a study on the advisability of us-

ing the national popular vote compact among the states as a method for electing the President. The LWV of Saratoga County, NY proposed the item and collected resource materials from their study of the compact.

Several by-laws were adopted as well as resolutions and the budget. Motions to raise the PMP payment in 2008-2009 to \$28 and for the following year to \$29.20 were passed. The rising costs of renting office space in DC and keeping our top-notch national staff were explained.

Special addresses were delivered by the Honorable Barbara Roberts, Governor of Oregon 1991-1994 (and the first woman), and the Honorable John Kitzhaber, Governor of Oregon (1995-2002). The banquet speaker was Justice Rebecca Kourlis, former Colorado Supreme Court Justice.

Judy and I were honored to represent our Larimer League and proud to join the other 22 Colorado delegates. We will gladly share our enthusiasm and more stories if asked!

~Linda Mahan

League Turns 80 – And You Are Invited!

The League of Women Voters turns 80 this year and at least some of us are invited to a very special celebration of this event – those of us who were born in 1928 (along with the League!) and anyone born before that time who deserves a little recognition, too. This '08 party will be held the evening before League Day, on September 26 at the Byers-Evans House in Denver from 6 to 8 p.m.

Please contact Carol Rush at 667-5077 or crush@frii.com if you are one of these persons to be recognized, and she will see that you get an invitation.

News From Outside Groups

American Civil Liberties Union

The 2008 Annual Meeting of American Civil Liberties Union of Colorado, Northern Colorado Chapter, presents "Due Process & DNA: Constitutional Rights in the Tim Masters Case," with guest speakers **David Wymore** and **Maria Liu**, attorneys whose tireless efforts resulted in freeing Timothy Masters, wrongfully convicted of murder and serving nearly nine years in prison. They will talk about the denials of due process and fair play in the Masters case and about the importance of our constitutionally protected civil liberties and civil rights.

Also, **Cathy Hazouri**, Executive Director of ACLU Colorado, will discuss ACLU's lobbying efforts over two DNA evidence bills passed in this year's legislative session as well as upcoming ballot measures, **Amendments 46 and 48**, both opposed by ACLU.

The meeting will be on **Thursday, September 25, 7:00-10:00 p.m.**, Fort Collins Senior Center, 1200 Raintree Dr. (turn west on Shields at Centre). The event is free and the public is welcome.

For more information, ACLU/Northern Colorado Chapter, c/o Barry McCann, mccannclan@mac.com.

United Nations Association“ ON DAY ONE:”

UNA/USA Northern Colorado invites you to express your thoughts about what you'd like to see happen "on/day/1" of our new elected officials' terms.

Please come on Saturday, September 6th at 2:30 p.m. to the Coloradoan community room to share your ideas with us for creating a better world. What are the global challenges we face? We will gather and share our ideas about what the next president and congress person can do on the first day in office to help address the world's most pressing problems.

The format will be a little different than most meetings. We will be seated at tables with a facilitator and will discuss your suggestions for how can we be more effective than going it alone in the world? You will be part of a global conversation about international cooperation. Our suggestions will become a part of the Global World Campaign's "on/day/1" project and should lead to our voices being heard in Washington. Here is your time to "rant!"

For more information call Eleanor Dwight at 377-0863.

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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Retired College Professor
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Imagine YOUR card here.

League of Women Voters of Larimer County 2008-2009 Calendar

Day	Time	Event	Location
<i>September 2008</i>			
15	5:30-9 pm	Back-to-League Night	Plymouth Congregational Church (PCC)
11	7-8:30 pm	CrossCurrents	FC City Hall
27		LWVCO League Day	Denver
<i>October</i>			
1	pm	Candidate/Issue forum by Voter Service Team	FC City Hall
2	pm	Candidate/Issue forum by Voter Service Team	FC City Hall
6	5:30-9 pm	Old-Fashioned Political Rally	The Ranch
9	pm	CrossCurrents event	FC City Hall
13	11:30	Great Decisions	PCC
<i>November</i>			
10	11:30	Great Decisions	PCC
17	pm	Growth Team program on Community Separators	Harmony Library
<i>December</i>			
1	11:30	Great Decisions	PCC
5	pm	Legislative Action Team Holiday Reception	
<i>January 2009</i>			
5	Day	LWVCO Legislative Conference –	Denver
12	pm	Program Planning	PCC
	pm	CrossCurrents	FC City Hall

Day	Time	Event	Location
<i>February</i>			
2	11:30	Great Decisions	PCC
9	7-9 pm	National Popular Vote program	PCC
	pm	CrossCurrents	FC City Hall
<i>March</i>			
2	11:30	Great Decision	PCC
9	7-9pm	Civil Liberties “Inequality of Opportunity”	PCC
	pm	Fundraiser at Open Stage	Lincoln Center
	pm	CrossCurrents	FC City Hall
<i>April</i>			
6	11:30	Great Decisions	PCC
13	pm	General meeting [open]	
	pm	CrossCurrents	FC City Hall
<i>May</i>			
4	11:30	Great Decisions	PCC
12	5:30-9 pm	LWV-LC Local Convention	PCC
16-17		LWVCO Convention	Jeffco
	pm	CrossCurrents	FC City Hall
	pm	Legislative Wrap-Up Party	
<i>June</i>			
1	11:30	Great Decisions	PCC
19-20		LWVCO Leadership Retreat	Frisco
<i>July</i>			
		Summer Picnic	



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

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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.