



# *League Lines*

The Newsletter of the League of Women Voters of Larimer County

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## December Calendar of Events

Mon, 12/1 11:30-1:30	Great Decisions, U.S.-China Trade Plymouth Congregational Church 916 West Prospect Road, Ft. Collins
Thurs, 12/4 Noon—2	Admin Team meeting Judy Filusch's, Ft. Collins
Fri, 12/5 6-8 p.m.	Legislative Party Bonnie Baird's, 1107 Pheasant Drive, Fort Collins
Mon, 12/15	Bill of Rights Day 218 <sup>th</sup> anniversary of the signing of the Bill of Rights
Thurs, 12/18	<b>Deadline</b> to register for Day at the Legislature (refer to your <i>Colorado Voter</i> )
<i>Coming in January</i>	
Mon, 1/5 8:30-2	Day at the Legislature (refer to your <i>Colorado Voter</i> ) <b>(Registration deadline is December 18)</b>
Mon, 1/12 pm	Program Planning Meeting, Plymouth Congregational Church, Ft. Collins

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## International Relations

### Great Decisions

*Recent product safety scares have thrown the spotlight on the enormous role China plays in supplying products to the U.S. Could the large and growing trade imbalance with China have an adverse effect on the U.S. economy? What role does the undervalued Chinese currency play?*

Great Decisions will focus on *U.S.-China Trade* on Monday **December 1**. 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](mailto:easleykw@aol.com).

### What are the topics for Great Decisions 2009?

The topics listed below will be featured in the *Great Decisions 2009* briefing book. The focus of the articles and the order of the topics may change.

- ◆ The U.S. and rising powers
- ◆ Afghanistan and Pakistan
- ◆ Energy and the global economy
- ◆ The Arctic age
- ◆ Egypt in the 21st Century
- ◆ Global food supply
- ◆ Cuba after Castro
- ◆ Universal human rights?

2009 *Great Decisions* books can be preordered by contacting Kay Easley (282-0135; [easleykw@aol.com](mailto:easleykw@aol.com).) The cost is \$18.00, payable when the books arrive in January. (The books should be available at our Program Planning meeting in January, and the next season's discussions will begin in February.)

### OSHER and Great Decisions

The International Relations Team has had such a good response to its Great Decisions partnership with OSHER that it is planning on expanding the program to an eight-week session beginning March 10.

### PLEASE JOIN US FOR THE ANNUAL LEGISLATIVE PARTY DECEMBER 5, 2008, 6-8 PM

How would you like to meet your newly elected state legislators? Here is your chance to eat, drink, and talk politics with your elected officials. The League's Annual Legislative Party will be on Friday, December 5, 2008, 6-8 PM at the home of Bonnie Baird. League members and their spouses and friends are invited to join us for wine, hors d'oeuvres, coffee and dessert. Social hour will be from 6-6:45 PM. The legislators will discuss issues they expect to be prominent in the 2009 Legislative Session, and respond to prepared questions.

If you can bring wine or hors d'oeuvres please call Jean Blaylock at 970 282-0201 or e-mail at [lynnjean@comcast.net](mailto:lynnjean@comcast.net).

**DIRECTIONS TO BONNIE'S HOUSE - 1107 Pheasant Drive, Fort Collins, CO.**

**FROM FORT COLLINS** - take Harmony Road to Lemay, go south on Lemay to The Paragon entrance sign and turn left followed by an immediate left onto Pheasant Drive. 1107 is the first house on the right. There is a traffic light on Lemay at this intersection. The Paragon sign will be on the left side of Lemay.

**FROM LOVELAND** - take Highway 287 to Trilby Road, turn right and go to Lemay. Turn left and go north to The Paragon sign on the right. Turn right and take an immediate left onto Pheasant Drive.

### Day at the Legislature

Monday, January 5, 2009, 8:30-2:00 pm  
Old Supreme Court Chambers, State Capitol,  
200 East Colfax Avenue, Denver

Seating in the Chambers is limited to 150 spaces  
Please register as soon as possible.

**Registration deadline: December 18, 2008**

(see your *Colorado Voter*  
for the registration form and more details)

Registration fee and lunch = \$24.00

## PROGRAM PLANNING MEETING

Our program planning meeting will be January 12th at Plymouth Church. This year we will be considering State and Local programs. You may want to take a look at our current state and local positions in your binder from LWVLC. When a new study is undertaken, it takes time, personnel (at least five members) and effort. Keep this in mind when thinking about proposing new study either for the State or Local League. Our League is able to recommend a review of no more than two existing LWVCO positions. We can recommend one new State study and one item for concurrence.

It is time to start thinking about any changes you want to propose in Local Programs such as a new study. The planning committee for the Program Planning Meeting consists of Irene Fortune, Judy Filusch, Rosemary Bergstrom, and Charlotte Rehnberg.

## Community Fund Drive Underway

Mailings went out to 76 community members on November 6, a date chosen to strategically follow the election of November 4, asking community members to donate to the operational expenses of the League of Women Voters of Larimer County. Some donations have started to come in, and we hope to have more in the next few weeks. If you have additional names to suggest of people we can contact, please forward them along with the appropriate address to Carol Rush at [crush@frii.com](mailto:crush@frii.com).

The Financial Development Committee organizes this fund drive every fall. Every two years, the Committee solicits businesses in the area for funds to help pay for the Ballot Issues Pamphlets and for the Facts for Citizen Action booklets. Donations during this drive are tax deductible since they are dedicated to the educational work of the League.

Just a reminder, current members of LWVLC are always welcome to make a donation to the organization. Just write the check and send it off to Judy Bushnell!

These members worked on the Community Fund Drive: Deb Bobowski, Joyce DeVaney, Jane Thompson, Linda Mahan, Jodie Rankin and Carol Rush. Thank you for your help.

## National Popular Vote Study Taking Shape

Several League Members met in November to begin a study of the proposed National Popular Vote Compact, part of a study taking place in League chapters all over the United States. This seems like just the right time to examine just how the present system using the Electoral College serves the interests of a democratic society and just where it might be letting us down. In February it will be our job to discuss the issue and come to consensus about what we might recommend to LWVUS.

The group that has begun researching this topic is glad to welcome new members. Please let us know if you are interested by calling Carol Rush at 667-5077 or emailing her at [crush@frii.com](mailto:crush@frii.com).

Save the date - Saturday, February 21, 2009, for the 6th annual United Nations Seminar: "Rebuilding US Credibility through International Cooperation". The all-day seminar is sponsored by the League of Women Voters of Colorado, the Colorado United Nations Association, and the Center for Teaching International Relations and the Josef Krobek School of International Studies, both at the University of Denver. It will be held at the DU School of Hotel, Restaurant and Tourism Management. Plan to come for stimulating speakers and provocative discussion!

## Membership Corner

### Roster Additions/Changes

Sarah Asmus Yackey	Change e-mail to smilinglab
Nora Dixon	Change Zip to 80525
Jeanne Eisenstadt	Change e-mail to <a href="mailto:djweisen@frii.com">djweisen@frii.com</a>
Ann Harroun	Change Zip to 80538
Marsha Mussehl	Change Zip to 80512
Sharon Winfree	Change address to Co Rd 5, 80524
Bev Schmitt-Bacon	Change e-mail to <a href="mailto:bjw614@comcast.net">bjw614@comcast.net</a>
Jodie Rankin	Change e-mail to <a href="mailto:rankin812@q.com">rankin812@q.com</a>
Carmen Herrick	Change address to P.O. Box 1722, FC 80522-1722

### New Members:

Devi Goetz, Collea 417 E. Thunderbird Dr., FC 80525-2122 402-5908  
[firemoon47@yahoo.com](mailto:firemoon47@yahoo.com)

Wahle, Bruce FC (prefers to be contacted by e-mail) [earthgeo@frii.com](mailto:earthgeo@frii.com)

### If you have a roster addition/change.....

Please contact Nora Dixon at [nora1704@comcast.net](mailto:nora1704@comcast.net) or 631-8896.



## Community Separators

The Growth Team of the LWVLC held a public meeting on Monday evening, November 17. The topic was community separators, on which the local League took a positive position in the early part of this century. We invited one person each from Johnstown, Berthoud Windsor, Loveland, Fort Collins, Timnath, Wellington, and Larimer County to be part of the panel ( mayors, heads of natural resources or open space, town managers, planners, and city council members/trustees for their respective communities). Following presentations by the panelists, the audience asked questions of the participants. Our main objective was to get these people together to discuss the topic, as most of the communities have verbally supported community separators in the past but there has been little action. Our impression from the growth that has gone on in northern Colorado since the 1990's is that time is limited to actively pursue setting aside land or we will lose our ability to do so and become like the Denver area. Our hope is that the dialogue between communities will continue in the near future and that positive action will follow. A comment by one of the participants is that a state survey a few years ago showed that 82 % of persons polled in Colorado favor community separators, so that each town can maintain its uniqueness and identity.

Karen Wagner did a wonderful job of moderating the meeting. There were 40-45 persons in attendance (both Leaguers and the general public).





## Election 2008

*The following reports have been submitted from the various groups who conducted different events during the 2008 election season. As you can see, we were busy!*

### CrossCurrents

CrossCurrents programs in September and October focused on ballot issues. The topic of the September program was Ballot Issue 1A, which proposed a County tax for construction and operation of a treatment facility for mental health and detoxification, primarily associated with the Larimer County Detention Center. The October program was 1-1/2 hours in length instead of the usual one hour. It covered Amendments 58 and 59, both of which promised increased funds for education and other underfunded areas.

CrossCurrents primarily uses the combined powerful modalities of television and internet to reach its audience, thanks to the City of Fort Collins, which provides the services and facilities, and to the City of Loveland, which also telecasts the programs. CrossCurrents programs are rebroadcast often in both locales and are available on the Fort Collins City website. The election-related programs were available until election day. "The potential television-viewing audience for the CrossCurrents programs currently exceeds 100,000," according to the City of Fort Collins Cable 14 staff. Internet access expands this access to a worldwide scale. The availability of DVDs for loan at the Fort Collins Public Libraries further expands the outreach avenues, as does the attendance of a live studio audience.

## Voter Service

The Voter Services Team has had a busy couple of months. Beginning last spring, volunteers for the team have registered voters at 20 events, about 500 registrants in all. Of these new and re-registering voters, about 200 are 18-year-olds voting in their first election.

In October the team held a candidate forum at the City Council chambers. All Larimer County commissioner candidates and state legislature candidates participated; and the forum was re-broadcast numerous times on public access television. Copies of the forum were also available at libraries in Fort Collins, Loveland, and Berthoud.

With four referenda, fourteen complex citizen initiatives, and some local issues on the ballot in Colorado, many people were confused about how to vote. The Voter Services Team gave 24 ballot issues presentations, utilizing 10 volunteer speakers at a variety of venues in Fort Collins, Loveland, and Berthoud. The presentations were universally well received and were attended by approximately 630 people, and they netted contributions of \$275 to the Education Fund. The team also distributed about 5000 ballot issues pamphlets prepared by the state League at the presentations and at libraries and other venues throughout the communities we serve.

The team also co-sponsored a showing of the film "Iron Jawed Angels," a remarkable film about the women's suffrage movement, at Foothills Unitarian Universalist Church in Fort Collins. About 40 people attended the showing, and a lively discussion followed.

All of this activity and an influx of new members has stimulated interest in the team. The roster of team members now includes Rosemary Bergstrom (chair), Deb Bobowski, Susan Bonsall, Sally Broste, Judy Bushnell (Admin Team rep), Gerry Lake, Mary Lou Linton, Wanda Mayberry (secretary), Nancy McDonald, Frances Moore (on leave), Terri Sullivan, and Jane Thompson. The team wishes to thank all the many volunteers who helped to make this election season a successful effort at public education.

*(Election 2008 continues on the following page)*

## Report from Ad Hoc Committee on Affirmative Action

Over the course of five months, our League's Ad Hoc Committee on Affirmative Action organized an educational campaign to publicize the programs at work in Colorado to support affirmative action and to outline how the passage of proposed Amendment 46, the "Civil Rights Amendment," would negatively impact these programs. We were helped by a \$500 grant from the LWVCO. In the process, we contacted numerous groups and organizations to distribute written materials on this subject and asked the AAUW to join us in the campaign. We distributed 322 cards to League and AAUW members to send to friends and handed out 25 more, for a total distribution of 347 cards. These cards alerted people to the confusing language of proposed Amendment 46 and invited them to the forums we had scheduled on the subject.

The two educational forums we sponsored, one in Fort Collins and one in Loveland, featured speakers from the University of Colorado, Colorado State University, Aims Community College, 9 to 5 National Organization of Working Women, and administrators from Thompson School District. Although attendance was not high, we arranged for the panel in Fort Collins to be videotaped and the program was shown on the public access network in Fort Collins.

Through our League newspaper, "League Lines," we were able to advocate against Amendment 46 and ask our members to write letters to the editor to express their opposition to it. At our first League meeting in September, we emphasized this again, and were able to give those agreeing to write an editorial a packet that would help them with background facts. A number of these editorials appeared in the local papers, and one was reprinted in the Sunday Denver "Post" on October 5. The spokesperson for the LWVLC also wrote an editorial opposing Amendment 46 which ran in local papers.

Literature pertaining to Amendment 46 was made available at CrossCurrent programs, programs produced by the LWVLC in conjunction with the City of Fort Collins on matters of civic interest, at ballot issue meetings, and at the Old-Fashioned Political Rally at the Larimer County Fairgrounds.

It was a tough fight, but Amendment 46 was defeated. Thanks to all of you who worked on this campaign and to all of you who read the materials relating to it and made a thoughtful and educated choice when you went to the polls.

## 19th Old-Fashioned Political Rally

The 19th Old Fashioned Political Rally (OFPR) was held at The Ranch on Monday, October 6, 2008. Approximately 25 candidates from five political parties and 15 ballot issue supporters or opponents participated in the Rally either by renting information booths and/or speaking before the attendees.

The rally is sponsored by the Loveland Daily Reporter-Herald, the Loveland Chamber of Commerce, and the Larimer County League of Women Voters. We would like to thank the following members for helping with this year's rally:

Deb Bobowski

Susan Bonsall

Carolyn Boyum

Irene Fortune

Marilyn Heller

Linda Hutchinson

Carol Kirkstadt

Carol and John LaBorde

Linda Mahan

Wanda Mayberry

Vicky McLane

Carol Rush

Dixie and Dan Schmatz

Beverly Schmitt-Bacon

Judy Siple

Joan T. Shaffer



The League of Women Voters of Larimer County has sent the following article to the *North Forty News*, and plans to send the same article to other newspapers throughout the county.

### LEAGUE MARKS BILL OF RIGHTS DAY

The League of Women Voters of Larimer County (LWVLC) announces that December 15 is Bill of Rights Day, marking the 218<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the signing of the Bill of Rights. We want to celebrate the Bill of Rights, “a living reminder of our fundamental civil and human rights such as the freedom of speech, press, assembly, and religion; protections against unreasonable searches; and the right to counsel and a jury trial,” announced Mary Wilson, President of the League of Women Voters of the US.

The protection of the individual liberties laid out in the Bill of Rights has been central to the League’s work throughout its history. During World War II, the League worked to balance the preservation of civil liberties with the importance of national security. During the Communist “witch hunt” period of the early 1950s, the League conducted a community education program known as the Freedom Agenda, providing Americans with the opportunity to discuss and learn about the Bill of Rights. More recently, the League has urged lawmakers to protect civil liberties, promoted an independent judiciary, and sponsored numerous education projects aimed at informing citizens of their rights.

The Bill of Rights is not only an important part of our nation’s history, but also a living document that will guide us into the future. Join us in making democracy work. Visit [www.lwv-larimercounty.org](http://www.lwv-larimercounty.org) or call 970 416-5873 for more information about the League.

Signed Carol Rush  
Spokesperson , LWV Larimer County



### UNITED NATIONS ASSOCIATION OF NORTHERN COLORADO invites

League members and friends to the chapter's fifth Annual Meeting on Saturday, December 6 at 10:30 a.m. at Plymouth Congregational Church, 916 West Prospect.

Speaker will be Dr. Don Bossart, President of the Colorado Division of the UNA. His topic is "What Hope is Ahead for the UN's Future?" He taught Conflict Management and International Peacemaking for 23 years at Iliff School of Theology.

10:30, sign in, visit.  
11:00, business meeting  
12:00, buffet lunch (quiche etc.)  
12:30, speaker  
1:30, adjourn.

Cost is \$10 per person, pay at the door. RSVP to Eleanor Dwight at 377-0863

***You don't have to be a yak herder to have a positive impact on the environment.***

Visit the LWV-Larimer County web store at [www.lwv-larimercounty.org](http://www.lwv-larimercounty.org).  
Click Support LWV and then  
Visit our Green Web Shop by clicking here.

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

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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.