



League Lines

The Newsletter of the League of Women Voters of Larimer County

Administrative Team

Rosemary Bergstrom
206-0442
rosemary.bergstrom@gmail.com

Judy Bushnell
493-9674
jabms@frii.com

Nancy Crow
797-2819
nancyccrow@comcast.net

Florence Field
495-1896
fnfield@comcast.net

Janet Fritz
221-0073
jjfritz@q.com

Irene Fortune
613-0966
vladimir1992@hotmail.com

Linda Hutchinson
667-9214
lindahutchinson@frii.com

Carol Rush
667-5077
crush@frii.com

Mary Jo Shafer
482-4399
mjshafe@msn.com

November Calendar of Events

Monday, November 2 11:30 to 1:30	Great Decisions: Cuba Plymouth Congregational Church, 916 West Prospect Road, Fort Collins
Tuesday, November 3 7 am to 7 pm	ELECTION DAY 
Thursday, November 5 Noon—2	Admin Team Meeting Nancy Crow's, 1707 Lakeshore Drive, Fort Collins
Monday, November 9 9:30 to 11:30	Affordable Housing Team Serving Populations at Risk Sister Mary Alice Murphy Center for Hope 242 Conifer Street, Fort Collins
Wednesday, November 18 11:30 to 1:30	Health Care Team Meeting Nancy Crow's (797-2819) 1707 Lakeshore Drive, Fort Collins Bring lunch, drinks provided

Coming in December

Friday, December 4 6 to 8 pm	Annual Holiday Legislative Party Sidna Rachid's 1002 Alexa Court, Fort Collins
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AFFORDABLE HOUSING TEAM

Monday, November 9, 9:30 - 11:30 AM
Sister Mary Alice Murphy Center for Hope
242 Conifer Street, Fort Collins

“SERVING POPULATIONS AT RISK”

Sister Mary Alice Murphy Center for Hope (www.murphycenter.org) is a “one-stop” resource center for individuals and families who are homeless or are on the brink of homelessness. Services are provided at the Center by a variety of local human service agencies to help people at risk achieve and maintain long-term self-sufficiency and permanent housing.

The program features representatives from some of the agencies which provide services at the Murphy Center. On the panel are: Zach Penland, Program Supervisor at the Murphy Center, who will make introductory remarks about the Center and also talk about the Larimer Center for Mental Health; Lindsay Nichols, Neighbor-to-Neighbor; John Tuchscherer, Housing Program Manager, Fort Collins Housing Authority; Alison Dawson, Disabled Resources; and Helen Somersall, Program Supervisor, Catholic Charities Northern.

There will be an opportunity to tour the Murphy Center after the panel presentation. The program is sponsored by the Affordable Housing Team. For more information, contact Marilyn Heller, 663-0599.



*You Are Cordially Invited
to the
Annual Holiday Legislative
Party*

When:

December 4, 2009, 6 to 8 p.m.

Where:

The Home of Sidna and Sam Rachid

Please join us for our Annual Holiday Legislative Party on Friday, December 4, 2009. The party will be from 6-8 PM at the home of Sidna and Sam Rachid. This is your chance to meet with our state legislators and hear about their plans for the 2010 Legislative Session. Rep. Randy Fischer HD53, Rep. John Kefalas HD52, Rep. B. J. Nikkel HD 49, Rep. Brian Del Grosso HD 51, Sen. Bob Bacon SD 14, and Sen. Kevin Lundberg SD 15 have been invited. 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 2010 Legislative Session, and answer questions from League members.

Please contact Jean Blaylock at 970 282-0201 or e-mail her at lynnjean@comcast.net to let her know if you are coming, and if you are bringing wine or hors d'oeuvres.

DIRECTIONS TO SIDNA'S HOUSE - 1002 Alexa Court, Fort Collins, CO 80526 970 377-9568
FROM FORT COLLINS - take Harmony Road west to Shields, turn left (south) on Shields. The first left turn is the entrance to Front Range Community College. The second left is Clarendon. Turn left on Clarendon and go to the stop sign. Go straight at the stop sign for two blocks. The second street after the stop sign is Alexa. Sidna's house is on the north west corner of Clarendon and Alexa.
FROM LOVELAND - Go north on Taft (which turns into Shields in Fort Collins) to Trilby. Continue north on Shields 1 5/8 miles after Trilby. Turn right on Clarendon which will be the 4th right after Trilby. Follow Clarendon to the stop sign. Go straight at the stop sign for two blocks. The second street after the stop sign is Alexa. Sidna's house is on the northwest corner of Clarendon and Alexa.

Membership Corner

Welcome to our new members!

Marilyn Greene

Marilyn Greene moved to Fort Collins in August of 2004 from the Chicago area. She and her husband had explored the area during vacations and decided this was where they wanted to retire. They love the mountains and think this a spectacular area.

Marilyn worked in the retail and financial areas for over 30 years and now enjoys interests of hiking, dining, theater and reading.

Leslie Jabaily

Leslie Jabaily has respected the activities of the League of Women Voters since she made Loveland home in 1983. As a recovering political junkie, she is excited about the opportunity to interact with this interested, engaged, and informed community. Currently "retired," she is an avid outdoor enthusiast, participates in a variety of volunteer efforts, and enjoys travel, especially to visit her four far-flung adult children.

Jennifer Jones

After years of admiring the League for its election information, **Jennifer Jones** joined the League last year. She is a CSU graduate in social work and loves her position as grants and special events coordinator for Crossroads Safe House. The Civil Liberties and Affordable Housing Teams have captured her interest and she is looking forward to getting to know other members. She is the mother of a 6 year old son and enjoys rock climbing in her spare time.

Bernice K. Pollock

Bernice K. Pollock moved to Ft. Collins about 3 years ago from New Jersey where she retired as the librarian for the U.S. Third Circuit Court of Appeals and the N.J. Federal District Judges that sit in Trenton. Previously she was the information specialist for corporations and businesses. She was a member of the LVW in N.J. and is pleased to be picking up this worthwhile endeavor again. She is interested in our Legislative and Health Care teams. Free time is occupied with quilting and embroidery projects, cooking, exercising at the Sr. Center, being an active member at Temple Or Hadash, and meeting new friends.

Lynn Young

After a hiatus of 17 years from the Larimer League, while she lived in Estes Park **Lynn Young** has returned to our Larimer League. We know the experience she gained in that local league, as well as during her long tenure on the LWVCO Board as VP for Membership, will be an asset for us in Larimer and we look forward to seeing her. Like many other members she enjoys the wonders of the outdoors and her growing grandchildren.

Sue Slavec

A Denver native, **Sue Slavec** retired from a globe-trotting, 28-year career in the Air Force and then served as a Peace Corps volunteer in Jordan before settling in Windsor. She now considers herself to be a professional student - studying languages and traveling, whenever possible. She looks forward to participating in the League's many opportunities, especially the International Relations Team. Sue's hobbies include hiking, biking and reading.

Member Rosters made their debut at the October meeting. Fort Collins members may pick theirs up at Wanda Mayberry's (482-8742) and Loveland members can find theirs at the home of Linda Hutchinson (667-9214). Please call ahead if you need directions and to make sure your roster is left out for for you. If there are **corrections** to roster entries, please contact Nora Dixon <nora1704@comcast.net> or 631-8896. Changes will be published monthly in the League Lines.

Please Add the Following Names to Your Roster

Laurel Benson, 1650 Animas Place,
Loveland, CO 80538 667-
2485 Dbenson720@skybeam.com

CIVIL LIBERTIES TEAM

Juvenile Justice in the Community -- A Review

One should never prejudge a program. In fact, these educational programs which the League presents are valuable just because we learn so much more from them than we previously knew.

I knew very little about the what services are available to vulnerable juveniles in various degrees of trouble. Moreover, I thought it would be sort of a ho-hum presentation by the panelists. I could not have been more wrong about what I learned from the panel presentation, "Juvenile Justice in the Community," on Monday, October 12, sponsored by the Civil Rights Team. The one thing that stands out, at least for me, is the absolute passion which the panelists showed in talking about working with "their" kids. They really CARED, especially Dawn Johnsen (from the Police Department, assigned to schools) and Laurie Klith, Executive Director of Center for Family Outreach, both of whom have been working with at-risk juvenile for years and, as a result, have gotten to know not only the kids themselves but their entire families. Bobby Young, Assistant Principal at Lincoln Middle School, works closely with these women, giving support to their efforts in the school and promotes ways in which teachers at Lincoln can deal with disruptive students in a constructive way.

As they all said, their purpose in working with at-risk juveniles is to help them grow and become responsible adolescents by providing alternatives to getting involved in the juvenile court system. It was heartening to find that there are these kinds of people who have committed themselves almost 24/7 to helping youngsters who most need help at critical moments in their lives.

I learned a lot, not only about available services but about professionals like these three panelists who are out there in the community taking care of "our" children.

Florence Field

GUANTANAMO ATTORNEY TO SPEAK

Saturday, November 7, 2:30 pm

Drake Center (Columbine Restaurant and Bakery)
802 W. Drake (NE corner of Drake and Shields), Fort
Collins

The LWVLC Civil Liberties Team would like to call your attention to a talk by Mari Newman, a Denver attorney who represents a Yemeni detainee being held at Guantanamo. She will be returning from Guantanamo at the end of October and will discuss the current and future status of the detainees. Her talk will cover the many complex legal and human rights issues involved in the continuing detention of these men.

Ms. Newman has been recipient of many awards, among which are: the 2009 Richard Marden Davis Award, a joint award by the Denver Bar Foundation, the Davis Family and the law firm of Davis, Graham and Stubbs; and selection in 2008 as the Outstanding Young Trial Lawyer of the Year by the Colorado Trial Lawyers Association.

The talk is part of the Annual Meeting of the American Civil Liberties Union of Northern Colorado, which will be held on Saturday afternoon at 2:30 pm on November 7, at the Drake Center (Columbine Restaurant and Bakery), 802 West Drake (northeast corner of Drake and Shields) in Fort Collins.

For attorneys planning to attend, there is a 1 CLE credit available (pending) for \$10, free for members of ACLU. Admission is free and the public is welcome.

For more information about the program, please contact Sidna Rachid, 377-9568 or sidnarachid@hotmail.com.



International Relations Team



Great Decisions

Our topic for Great Decisions, November 2 is “Cuba on the Verge.”

Since Fidel Castro handed over the presidency of Cuba to his brother, Raul in early 2008, signs of greater economic openness have led to much speculation. Will Raul seek to reopen ties with the U.S.? What role will Cuba's American exiles play in shaping a post-Castro Cuba?

Meetings are at Plymouth Congregational Church, 916 West Prospect Road in Fort Collins. We meet between 11:30 a.m.- 1:30 p.m. Feel free to bring a brown bag lunch. Guests are welcome.

The topic on December 7 will be “The Arctic.” *Rising global temperatures have created new opportunities in the Arctic for resource extraction and inter-continental transport. How will sovereignty disputes among the five countries that border the Arctic affect its potential development? What impact will this race for the Arctic have on an environment already in serious flux?*

LOOKING AHEAD.....Great Decisions have announced the 2010 topics. The price remains the same as last year - \$18.00. Sign up to reserve your book at the fall meeting or contact Linda Grey-Wilson (linda.greywilson@comcast.net) or Kay Easley, IR Chair (easleykw@aol.com ; phone: 282-0135).

2010 Topics

- ◆ Special envoys
- ◆ Kenya & R2P
- ◆ Global crime
- ◆ U.S.–China security relations
- ◆ Global financial crisis
- ◆ Russia and its neighbors
- ◆ The Persian Gulf
- ◆ Peacebuilding and conflict resolution



OSHER has asked the International Relations Team to spearhead their Great Decisions series both in the spring and fall of 2010.

United Nations Association Programs

League members and friends are always welcome at meetings of the Northern Colorado Chapter of the United Nations Association-USA. Here's what's coming up:

Human Rights Book Discussions:

There are two more left in this series of four. They are on Tuesday evenings at 7:00 p.m. at Harmony Library. Jeff Borg, of Front Range Community College's political science department, is the Facilitator. Books are available at local bookstores. You don't have to sign up or come to every session. Remaining sessions are:

November 10: Tracy Kidder's *Mountains Beyond Mountains: The Quest of Dr. Paul Farmer, A Man Who Would Cure the World*. (The action takes place in Haiti.)

December 1: Dave Eggers' *What Is the What: the Autobiography of Valentino Achak Deng*.

A Trip to Iran is the topic of the regular monthly program of the UNA. Members Jeanne and Heidi Nash will share their PowerPoint presentation and many wonderful stories about the two weeks in May they spent in Iran as part of a UNA-sponsored tour, organized and guided by Iranian-American film producer and James Maynard, president of the Seattle UNA-USA. You may have seen Jeanne's article and photos about this trip in the *Coloradoan* this summer. This program will be at the Downtown Library, 207 Peterson Street, Fort Collins, at 2:30 p.m. on Saturday, November 14. Come and enjoy this fascinating "trip." For more information, call Margaret Smith at 493-3857.



Sustainability Team

LWVCO SUSTAINABILITY STUDY

The 2009 LWVCO state convention adopted “sustainability” as a study item for the next two years. This summer a Sustainability Team, made up of League members from around the state and chaired by Alice Ramsey, met regularly. The team worked on a definition for sustainability and studied the background of this concept. They also looked at the national and state positions held by the League of Women Voters and determined which ones are consistent with sustainability. The team found examples of businesses, governments, hospitals, etc. that were practicing sustainability.

The team is defining sustainability broadly and the definition includes environmental issues as well as economic and human needs. Local Leagues in Colorado are encouraged to gather information in their communities to find out what businesses and governmental entities are doing with regards to sustainability. The Sustainability Team for Larimer County LWV has already begun to interview businesses in our area. If you would like to help in these interviews, please call Georgia Locker (482-4875).

DEFINITION

“Sustainability has many definitions, all having a common theme: meeting the needs of today without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their needs. Recognizing the nature and complexity of the interdependence of the earth’s systems and its inhabitants is fundamental to understanding the concept and evaluating what is and what is not sustainable behavior. Sustainability is understood to refer to conditions that promote a healthy, safe, and economically secure environment for people and all living things, and that do not exceed the limits of the earth to renew itself.”

USING LEAGUE POSITIONS

“For purposes of clarity and depth, League studies have traditionally focused on specific and deliberately narrowed topics. The resulting positions often omit consideration of interrelationships or, at least,

leave them unstated.” “The goals and aims embodied in LWV positions are not ends in themselves. Rather League studies have been guided by the overarching principles of the national organization which are strongly consistent with those of sustainability: fairness, justice, equity, and flexibility.”

Local Leagues may look for sustainable development in their cities and counties, for example, by (1) monitoring general plans and ordinances for integration of environment, economy, and social needs, or by (2) promoting equitable community planning, or (3) by advocating broad-based participation in determining indicators. (Progress toward achieving sustainability can be measured by monitoring changes in selected characteristics, or indicators. These should be quantifiable, readily available, and easily understood, such as levels of air pollution, crowding of schools, etc. Indicators are necessarily oriented to the needs of the community in question. Broad-based community involvement in identifying the important indicators is a crucial step in achieving social equity. It is a way of recognizing that different issues may be important to different segments of the population.

UPCOMING MEETINGS ON SUSTAINABILITY

In February, the LWV of Larimer County plans to hold two meetings on Sustainability. One will be for League members and the general public to discuss the background and history of sustainability and to share what the community is doing with regards to sustainability. The other one will be for League members; during this meeting, we plan to give information that pertains more to the League and work for concurrence on a state position with regards to Sustainability. Look for the survey in the January *League Lines*. Please fill it out and return to us at that time.



Sustainability Team

Town Board of Nunn Passes Resolution Against Uranium Mining

On Thursday, September 3, 2009, the Town Board of Nunn, Colorado, passed a resolution opposing Powertech Uranium Corporation's proposed "Centennial" Uranium Project.

Two Weld County residents presented the resolution to the Town Board. One of these county residents gets his water from a domestic well that is the closest well to the area Powertech seeks to mine first. The other resident presented a report from the U.S. Geological Survey of 2008 saying that "To date, no remediation of an in situ leach uranium mining project has successfully returned the aquifer to baseline conditions." With this vote Nunn joined numerous other municipalities, including Fort Collins, Greeley, Wellington, Ault, and Timnath, in opposing the in situ mining on up to 10,000 acres of land in Weld County.

The Town of Nunn has no permitting authority with respect to the Centennial Project. It is, however, the closest municipality to the proposed mine; a portion of the proposed mining area is located within the town's 3-mile growth area. The opposition to the project by the Town of Nunn and other municipalities will be an important consideration when the federal, state, and county permitting agencies weigh the environmental and socioeconomic impacts from the proposed project.

Our League of Women Voters of Larimer County took a position against the "Centennial Project" in July, 2009. For details, see the Mid-month Update, July, 2009. Powertech does not have the permits it needs to begin mining yet. The permitting process will involve numerous opportunities for public comment. We urge you to participate in the public comment process. You can keep informed by watching closely for articles on this subject that appear in the local papers. And we will continue to provide current information in League Lines and the Mid-Month Update.

Nora Dixon. Sustainability Team

OBSERVER CORPS "Needs a few good Leaguers"

Background: Since 9/11 increasing amounts of information once available to citizens has been taken out of public access. This makes the active efforts by LWV to make information available to the larger community even more central the Leagues' priority to "protect the citizen's right to know...and promote government transparency and accountability"

Benefits of being an Observer Corps Volunteer:

- ◆ Observer Corps volunteers, who are responsible for watching the agendas of a chosen agency/government entity and making a brief report on relevant actions, are key to identifying areas where League action is needed.
- ◆ Observer Corps volunteers help enhance the LWV's visibility with the community and the governmental agencies.
- ◆ Observers benefit directly by a) the satisfaction of helping the League and the community become aware of issues of importance that are being decided and b) the possibility of finding new personal areas of interest that lead to becoming more involved in the direct work of the agency or group.

Time: Time is always an issue. Choosing a group to observe that fits your interests and time is key to enjoying the experience. Also, consider "teaming" with another League member to be responsible for one agency. For example...Two members might observe City Council meetings. They could both access the agendas, alternate months they would be "on", identify if any issues of League interest are being addressed (particularly issues related to sustainability this year) and attend the section of the meeting of interest or choose to observe at home with the televised coverage which can be taped ahead to watch at your convenience .

If interested and want to learn more about what is involved contact:

Janet Fritz

221-0073





ABC's of Program Planning

It's that time of year when we want to start thinking about League programs, both at the National and the Local level. It is our right and also our responsibility to suggest issues to study that matter to us and to propose positions to review or to take that further the mission of the League of Women Voters. We have an important role to play as this process moves forward.

Our local positions are reviewed and can be expanded annually. On a National Level, this happens on the even numbered years, so 2010 is our year. For a listing of the local and National positions, please refer to the LWVLC Notebook, lavender colored pages, and then do some thinking about what areas you would like our League to pursue in the coming year.

"League Lines" will publish any proposals you would like to suggest, along with your reasoning behind them, in its December and January issues. (Submission deadlines are November 15 and December 15.) This gives other chapter members a chance to think about your ideas before our Program Planning meeting scheduled for January 11, 2010 at Foothills Unitarian Church. Please send your proposals to lindahutchinson@frii.com. Then plan on presenting your ideas at that meeting.

Whether or not you have a specific proposal in mind, please save January 11, 2010, for our Program Planning meeting. The discussion we have that night will help determine the course of our studies, our advocacy, and our educational programs in the year/years to come.

League Publications

Both the League of Women Voters US and the League of Women Voters of Colorado put out publications detailing the positions taken at the respective League level. If you would like to order either of these publications, please contact Linda Hutchinson at 667-9214 or lindahutchinson@frii.com by November 6 so that she can place a group order. Payment is due when you receive the book.

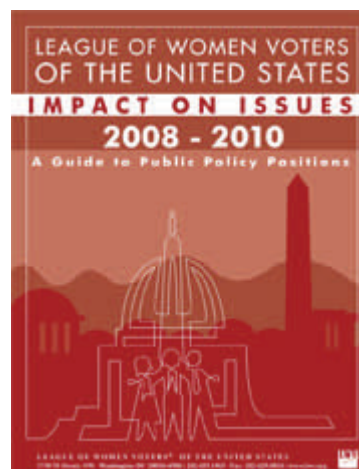
Impact On Issues 2008-2010

Includes the official statements of position for each program area, briefly traces significant past actions and achievements, and indicates links among positions. The LWVUS public policy positions reflect the 2008-2010 program adopted by the 2008 convention of the League of Women Voters of the United States; the "positions in brief" listed there summarize the official statements of position included in this guide. Updated following biennial convention. \$7.00 plus postage

(This is also available for download at http://www.lwv.org/Content/ContentGroups/ImpactIssues/ImOnIss08_printsecurefinal.pdf)

Positions for action 2007-2009

League position statements and background information for action on State issues. Price: \$4.50 plus postage



Four Larimer County Members Traveled to League Day

Sally Broste, Linda Mahan, Carol Rush, and Dixie Schmatz joined over one hundred other Colorado League members at League Day on September 26 in Denver to discuss matters of importance to the League, connect with other members from across the state, and hear presentations from leaders in various fields about topics of interest to members. Many of the topics discussed will be part of programs presented this next year at our local chapter meetings.

Marge Fisch, Public Relations Director for LWVCO, summarized the League's role in the Census Project, an effort to encourage everyone to be counted in 2010. The ramifications of the Census are many, including the determination of representation in the U.S. House of Representatives and the allocation of billions of dollars to states and communities based, in part, on census data.

"A View from the Bench," by Allison H. Eid, Associate Justice of the Colorado Supreme Court, was both an inspiration to women in the audience to reach high to achieve their goals, and a humorous accounting of the confusion that surrounded her first days as Associate Justice. For example, she started with no secretary or assistant, and would answer her own phone. No one believed it was her on the line! Justice Eid went on to describe the role of the State Supreme Court and the dedication the members of the Court feel to do the best job possible for the citizens of Colorado.

Mark Cavanaugh, Director of the Economic Recovery Team for Colorado, spoke on the topic of "Federal Stimulus Monies in Colorado." It was encouraging to hear him say that he thought that the Federal government got it right in the way these programs have been established. He emphasized that the funds are being used, primarily, to strengthen and support programs already in place but short on money.

Following lunch we heard from Alicia Archibald, President of BETTR Recycling, Inc., about how communities can work towards sustainability, which she described as a process which involves meeting the needs of the present generation without compromising the needs of future generations. The move towards sustainability is the goal of our own team by that name, and we have several League meetings planned around this topic coming up in 2010!

The final presentation of the day focused on health care and was given by Irene Aguilar, MD, and

President of Healthcare for All Colorado. She gave a brief history of health care in the United States and then in Colorado, a very depressing story. However, with the health care reform bills now before Congress, something better might be in the wings. She ended by quoting Winston Churchill, "The Americans will always do the right thing – after they've exhausted all of the alternatives." Let's hope that applies to health care reform.

The four of us who attended League Day certainly benefited from the experience and hope some of what we learned will be of help to our own chapter of the League. Thank you for subsidizing our expenses for attending.

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.

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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.