



THE VOTER
Greeley-Weld League of Women Voters

Spring 2018

P.O. Box 336634, Greeley, CO 80633

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www.lwv.org www.lwvcolorado.org

Voter Editor: Kathleen Milligan
50 members



What's in this Voter?

- **Calendar**
- **Note: Greeley/Weld County LWV Annual Meeting, April 21, 11:30-1:30 pm, Kenny's Steak House**
- **Legislative Conference Report**
- **Feb. & March Member Meetings Summary (Elections & Oil and Gas)**
- **Annual Meeting Materials: Agenda, 2017 Minutes, Budget (attached in separate documents)**

Spring 2018 Calendar

Date	Event	Time	Place	Comments
April 6	UNC Student Government Gubernatorial Debate	6-8 pm	UNC University Center	Free but you must get a ticket to attend. Contact UNC University Center.

April 7	Colorado Rising: Volunteer Activation Workshop	12:30 pm	Farr Library, 1939 61 st Avenue	This organization is working to power grassroots efforts to pass a statewide ballot initiative providing common sense protections from the dangers of oil and gas development. Register at Facebook.com/events/2013372388927115
April 10	Leadership Council	10-noon	Blue Mug on 59 th Ave. & 20 th St.	All are welcome.
April 21	LWV GW Annual Meeting	11:30-1:30 pm	Kenny's Steak House, Bittersweet Plaza, 35 th and	Lunch will be served. \$15/person. Pay at the door. Call or email: Barb Whinery, Kathleen Milligan, or Hazel Gibson (blwhinery@comcast.net ; kemilligan08@comcast.net ; hrgibson55@msn.com) All are welcome!
June 1-2	LWVCO State Council	2 days	Holiday Inn, Stapleton East, Denver, CO	
June 28- July 1	LWVUS National Convention	2 days	Hilton Hotel, Chicago, Illinois	

The League Reforms Money in Politics



Kathleen Milligan, Bonnie Funk, Janine Reid, Ann Cummings at LWVCO Convention

2018 LWVCO Legislative Conference Report **January 29, 2018**

Each year the LWVCO holds a Legislative Conference in January to kick-off the state legislative season in Denver. During the meeting attendees are given an update on critical issues facing the state and the General Assembly. Special speakers and legislators are invited to give presentations and reports in various interest areas to the League and its members. Greeley-Weld LWV members attending this year included: Janine Reid, Barb Whinery, Kathleen Milligan, Hazel Gibson, Jane Paterson, Angie Kingsolver and Sandy Jackson. The attendees have contributed to this report.

Many of the topics were relevant to our “Making Democracy Works” agenda. Presentations were made on the National Popular Vote Campaign, campaign finance reform and redistricting. Our LWVCO Staff Lobbyist gave an overview of the legislature and upcoming issues it is expected to address. Local leagues shared information on advocacy and sustainability issues. Practical information was given on TRACER, Transparency in Contribution and Expenditure Reporting, and on using Tracer (a website reporting campaign contributions to candidates) and Twitter.

Jane Paterson said, “There was some good info presented at the conference and it was nice to make some new acquaintances. But the feel of the whole thing seemed disjointed. It felt like the presenters were jumping from topic to topic and a bit flustered. And yes, I think the tensions in the room were noticeable.” (Editor’s note: Possibly because there had been some disagreement among League members about League activities related to redistricting.)

Barb Whinery wrote, “There were many interesting topics, but I really learned a lot about what was happening with the National Popular Vote campaign. A bill will be introduced in the state legislature again this year to propose that Colorado become a member of the National Popular Vote compact. More information may be found at this website: info@coloradonpv.org.” (Editor’s note: The NPV is a plan for states to agree to award all of their electoral votes collectively to the candidate who wins the national popular vote. This would guarantee that the Presidency would go to the candidate who wins the most votes in the states and the District of Columbia.)

Others added, “Legislative Conference, attended by 125 statewide members, provided brief overviews of numerous topics of interest. Leaders explained what’s expected this year in legislation and how to advocate for matters that concern us. Time was given after the meeting for “going deep” with a Q and A about Colorado Redistricting.”

Janine Reid said, “My most illuminating moments came with the presentation by Staff Lobbyist Andrea Wilkins. Andrea described the priority legislation for the current legislative session, and highlighted those items of particular interest to the League. Over 300 bills had already been introduced, with many more expected. Supporting the slogan, “Make Democracy Work, “League advocacy efforts will concentrate on voter protection and mobilization, campaign finance and sustainability. We can all do advocacy work. Learn about the issues and legislation, contact your

elected officials to let them know what you think, testify at hearings, and connect with others to amplify your voice.”

At the conclusion of the formal agenda, there was a Q&A session held to discuss a statewide redistricting proposal under development by a coalition of groups called Fair Districts Colorado. The LWVCO is included. The idea is to bring a new structure for redistricting to the voters in November, to ensure democracy and fair representation in Colorado by establishing an independent commission to draw fair state legislature and congressional district lines. To learn more, visit the Fair Districts Colorado website at www.fairdistrictscolorado.org. The Boulder League presented some opposing views of Fair Districts Colorado and Toni Larson and others explained why the League has decided to support Fair Districts. More information will be forthcoming to League members.

LWV-GW Member Meetings Summary



February Meeting: What’s Up with Caucuses and the June Primary. Carly Koppes, Weld County Clerk and Recorder, spoke at the February 22 meeting. Her overriding message to us is that **unaffiliated voters will be able to vote in the June primary but they MUST understand that they can only send in ONE ballot**, even though they will receive two ballots, a Republican and a Democratic ballot and any third party ballots that are appropriate. She urged us to help voters understand this new process. There are 71,000 unaffiliated voters; thus, the importance of this message. In addition, she explained the process used in counting all mail-in ballots in the state. The entire process is bi-partisan with a registered Democrat and a registered Republican always present throughout each step in the process. Jeanne Lipman, one of our members, participates in this process. In summary the process works this way:

Ballot---Receiving Board---Signature Verification (Tier 1, Tier 2, accept or reject/letter)

Opening Board---Counting Board

Discrepancies and problems with ballots are dealt with in the process and sometimes must be adjudicated. Ms. Koppes also reported that there will be 13 twenty-four hour voting drop-off spots for the election. Of course, voters can also mail in ballots. Deadlines and important dates for November election are:

- October 29: last day to mail out ballots
- October 30: Last day to mail in ballot
- November 3: Voting centers available

- November 6: Election Day
- November 23: Certify results

March Meeting: Oil and Gas Development in Weld County--the Last 10 Years: This meeting was well attended with 60 attendees. Three speakers presented information on oil and gas and with particular emphasis on fracking activities in Weld County. The speakers were Shirley Smithson from Sierra Club, and Therese Gilbert, and Carol Erickson both from Weld Air and Water. Others from a variety of organizations, including governmental entities, were invited but none of these folks were able to attend. Some of the history of fracking in Weld County was reviewed as well as information on “orphaned wells.” When asked by an audience member, “What do you think is the most important or urgent issue or action that needs to be done in relation to fracking?” Therese Gilbert responded, “*Keep fracking away from vulnerable populations, such as the elderly and young children.*” Concerns about the drilling near Bella Romero School and the impending law suit were explained. Although the merits of the suit have not been resolved through the legal system, the speakers made it clear that in their view the planned wells are too close to the school playground and the company needs to move the drilling away from the school, at the very least.

MEMBERS ADD STRENGTH TO OUR VOICE IN THE COMMUNITY

LWV Greeley/Weld Steering Council 2016-17	
Chair/Spokesperson	Barbara Whinery
Treasurer	Bonnie Funk
Secretary	Unfilled
Finance Drive	Jean Hoffman
Membership	Hazel Gibson
Voter Editor	Kathleen Milligan
Website	Jean Daviet
Facebook	Jeanne Lipman
Observer Corps	Janine Reid



Many Thanks to all who have volunteered to help in whatever capacity.

DUES, DUES, DUES, DUES, DUES, DUES, DUES, DUES, DUES, DUES

If you haven't paid them! Join us, donate, or get a friend to join! AND
 THANK YOU! THANK YOU! THANK YOU! THANK YOU!

Annual Dues: \$60 for an individual or \$90 for family membership (two people who receive mail at the same address) Name of second household member _____.
Student Membership: \$25. Or.....if you want to make a donation to the League, you can make it **tax deductible by making it to** the LWV Education Fund. Send to:
League of Women Voters, P.O. Box 336634, Greeley, CO 80633.

Name_____
Address_____
City_____
State_____ Zip_____
E-mail address_____
Mail your check to: League of Women Voters, P.O. Box 336634, Greeley, CO 80633



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