



THE VOTER

Greeley-Weld League of Women Voters

Summer 2019

P.O. Box 336634, Greeley, CO 80633

www.lwvgreeleyweldcounty.org

www.lwv.org

www.lwvcolorado.org

Voter Editor: Kathleen Milligan

64 members



What's in this Voter?

- Summer Calendar
- Reports on 2019 State League Annual Convention/Pre-Workshops
- League response to the Red Flag Law
- American Promise
- **Note: Greeley/Weld LWV will NOT be registering voters at Centennial Village July 3rd.** The Colorado Secretary of State's office will register voters. However, League members are encouraged to attend the Naturalization Ceremony, 9:30 am.

Summer 2019 Calendar

Date	Event	Time	Place	Comments
July 9 Tues.	Finance Drive Letter Mailing meeting	10 am	Bonnie Funk's home: 1950 26 th Ave. Ct.	Meeting to prepare 2019 Finance Drive for mailing.
July 13, Sat.	LWV-GW Annual Summer Picnic: Feature presentations	4-6 pm	Anne Masterson's home. Email Anne	Annual Summer Picnic at Anne Masterson's home. Please bring something to share. RSVP to Anne or Kathleen Milligan 970-

	from Young Chautauquans		(ajmasterson@yahoo.com) to get the address if you do not already have it.	353-7992 or kemilligan08@comcast.net Come enjoy informal socializing with League members and friends and hear presentations from 2 Young Chautauquans: Emily Griffith and Ruth Wakefield , creator of something all of you have made many times! (Hint: they are delicious.)
August 6, Tues.	LWV-GW Board Meeting	10 am-Noon	TBD	Come join the Board to get things reved up for Fall elections



Governor Polis speaks at Convention

**LWV Colorado Convention 2019
Denver, May 31-June 1, 2019
From Janine Reid**

Three Greeley-Weld League members attended the 2019 state League Convention, Barb Whinery, Janine Reid and Abigail Hutchings. 78 delegates and observers from 17 of the 19 Leagues in Colorado Leagues convened to conduct the business of the State League.

Highlights of the Convention:

- **Budget:** State League anticipates more contributions and corporate giving, which will help offset increased expenditures on salaries and administrative expenses.
- **Organizational Planning:** Several Vice-President and Directors positions have been left vacant, as the Board will be looking into a potential reorganization as part of the Strategic Plan implementation process.
- **New Officers:** Ruth Stemler (Boulder) was elected President. Jean Fredlund (Adams) is the Director of Census and Redistricting. We will keep in close touch with them.

- **Legislative Session:** Andrea Wilkins, the LWVCO Legislative Liaison, presented an overview of the 110 bills considered during this legislative session. The League supported 102, of which 90 passed. The 8 bills we opposed were either killed or postponed.
- **League Business:** Business reports included the financial statement for FY 2019, adoption of the FY 2020 budget, Bylaw revisions, and election of officers and directors for 2019-2020. The delegates passed the 2019-2020 Program which will retain all current positions in the areas of government, natural resources and social policy, with no new study or review of positions, in order to implement the LWVUS adopted program - a League-wide campaign for Making Democracy Work.

The convention was preceded by a number of pre-conference training sessions, open to all League members. Barb Whinery gives an overview of the sessions below.

AND, by the way, **Governor Jared Polis surprised the group giving the welcoming address.** He was warmly received! So many issues, so little time. Let's each do our part in whatever way we can to further along the important work of the League.

A new UNC student member was able to attend the convention. Here are Abigail's comments.

"Being able to attend the Denver LWV convention was such a great opportunity. I loved being surrounded by intelligent and driven women lifting each other up. I was able to learn about many of the initiatives and projects members are working on all over Colorado. Everyone was so welcoming and eager to help me find ways to become more involved as a member. Though I was unable to attend the workshops from the day before, I was able to collect plenty of incredibly helpful materials from those classes on fundraising tips, how to run a successful event, social media etiquette and more that will help me so much in my future endeavors. Cherry on top of it all was being able to hear Governor Polis speak. Thank you, Abigail Hutchings" And thank you, Abigail for being with us!

LWVCO 2019 Pre-Convention Workshops From Barb Whinery

This is the first year the LWVCO has held pre-convention workshops. In part this event was in lieu of the annual leadership conference held during the summer. There were 13 workshops that addressed a variety of information important to local Leagues. The topics included advocacy, leadership, diversity, partnerships, voter education, Club Express, 100th LWV Birthday. The workshops were held Thursday afternoon and Friday morning before the Convention started. They were well attended and had representatives from different Leagues in each of the sessions. Materials from the workshops will be made available on the LWVCO state website after July 1,



Attendees at a League Convention Workshop

On Thursday afternoon, I presented a leadership model in a session that was suggested by the Membership and Leadership Development Program we have participated in the last few years. The focus of the presentation was on making every member a leader. The session was well attended and attendees had good conversations related to leadership challenges in their Leagues. On Friday morning, I attended two sessions, one on the LWVCO Strategic Plan and the other on fundraising. The strategic plan presentation gave an update on what has been accomplished this year by LWVCO. Most of the accomplishments this year have been in the area of operations of the organization. They include hiring an executive director, creating a partnership Toolkit, developing plans for technology (Club Express), communications, fund development and local League support.

The fundraising sessions included a strategic plan approach for fundraising and development. Included in the discussion was information becoming a 501(c)(3) status. Even though I was not able to attend more workshops, I was able to collect handouts and meet speakers from the other workshops. All the materials, information, and expertise will be helpful to the Greeley-Weld LWV as we move forward on our strategic planning for the future.

Barb Whinery
Greeley-Weld LWV Delegate

LWVCO New President Shares Future Vision At the LWVCO Conference

On June 1, 2019, Ruth Stemler was elected president of the LWVCO. In her message to the convention she shared her vision about the future and the changes that will need to be made in the next two years to energize and sustain the LWV. The LWVCO is about the new mission and vision of LWV. It will continue to develop a strategic plan that will guide decision-making. In that process we will learn about and adopt best practices to be in the best position to move Forward, as our democracy is tested. The LWV will continue to step up to that challenge!

Change is challenging but she is committed to follow-through with the course set that LWVCO has laid out in the strategic plan. Along with the new executive director, a new part-time

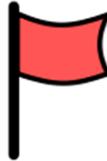
communications coordinator will be hired. We will have use of a new social media platform through Club Express and as President she intends to keep in touch with local League Presidents on monthly phone calls and a Local League support plan.

Her priorities for next two years include:

- Nurturing new leaders and members with an outreach to diverse audiences and youth. She would like to see an increase of 5% to 10% in membership. (Note that Greeley/Weld LWV has increased its membership by at least 35-40% in the past 5 years)
- Implementation of Club Express at the state and local League levels
- Develop a new direction for Advocacy, Action and Activism
- Develop and nurture partnerships
- Interact and take action with diverse communities
- Increase visibility through Voter Service
- Celebrate the 100th Anniversary of League
- Collect data to measure the impact of our work and raise public awareness of what we do so that we become a data driven organization.

In her summary comments she stated, “We need to continue to change because the very survival of League is at stake. The LWV needs to be a relevant influence in these changing times! We need to change our culture and challenge every assumption as we move forward.”

Barb Whinery
Greeley-Weld LWV Delegate



The Red Flag Law: At the May Greeley-Weld League Board meeting, Janine Reid reported that the Greeley City Council is considering becoming a 2nd Amendment sanctuary city. The LWVUS adopted a position in 1990 supporting measures to limit accessibility and ownership of handguns and semi-automatic weapons. Any advocacy efforts we take can be supported by that position. The Board agreed that a letter will be written on behalf of LWVGW and sent to our local representatives, Weld County, City of Greeley, Greeley Tribune, North Weld Herald, Johnstown Breeze and the Longmont Times expressing our opposition to the City and County’s refusal to uphold the law.



American Promise: At the April GW-LWV Annual Meeting the representative from American Promise, an organization devoted to getting big money out of politics, asked for our emails. We did not give them to Ben Gubits, but we said we would give the organization's information to our members. Ben Gubits is no longer with American Promise, but you can contact the organization.

American Promise, 33 Bradford St., Concord, MA 01742.

www.AmericanPromise.net

info@americanpromise.net

**MEMBERS ADD STRENGTH TO OUR VOICE IN THE COMMUNITY
"Greeley-Weld League is Growing"**

**LWV Greeley/Weld
Leadership Council 2019-2020**

Chair/Spokesperson	Janine Reid
Treasurer	Bonnie Funk
Secretary	Jessica Hoke
Barb Whinery	Voter Service
Finance Drive	Holly Darby
Membership	Hazel Gibson
Voter Editor	Kathleen Milligan
Website	Jeanne Lipman
Facebook	Jeanne Miller
Vote411.org	Julie Wittow & Jessica Hoke

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

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: \$0. 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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OF GREELEY/WELD COUNTY
1919 21st Avenue
GREELEY, CO 80631
www.lwvgreeleyweldcounty.org