



THE VOTER

Greeley-Weld League of Women Voters
Winter 2017

P.O. Box 336634, Greeley, CO 80633

www.lwvgreeleyweldcounty.org

www.lwv.org www.lwvcolorado.org

Voter Editor: Kathleen Milligan
42 members



Keyhole at Devils' Backbone, Loveland, CO

Important Coming Events

- **LWVCO Legislative Conference, Monday, Jan. 30, 8:30-3 pm, Scottish Rite Temple, Denver. (Deadline to Register: Jan. 20)**
- **Weld County Election Update: New Election Laws & Changes, Voting Patterns, and more, Carly Koppes, Weld County Clerk and Recorder, Thursday, Feb.16, 6-7:30, pm. Place: TBA.**
- **Weld County Home Rule Charter: History, Provisions & Issues, Weld County Attorney, Bob Barker, 6:00 p.m.-7:30 p.m. Place: TBA**
- **Annual Meeting, Saturday, April 22.**

(More about calendar events below!)

What's in this Voter?



ZingerBug.com

Winter Calendar

Details of upcoming LWVCO Legislative Conference

Review of Fall 2016 Election Activities/Election 2016 Experience

Notes from Chair Barb Whinery (Making Democracy Work/Affordable Housing)

Be a League Observer from Janine Reid

Police Practices in Greeley

Member News: Holiday Party and Tribute to Willard Jones

Winter/Spring 2017 Calendar

Date	Event	Time	Place	Comments
January 30	LWVCO Legislative Conference	8:30-3 pm	Scottish Rite Temple, 1370 Grant St., Denver	Program below. Continental Breakfast, Buffet Lunch, Registration Deadline: Jan. 20. Cost: \$40: Contact Barb Whinery if you want to go; carpooling available!
February 16	Member Meeting: Weld County Election Update: New Election Laws & Changes, Voting Patterns and More, Carly Koppes, Weld Clerk and Recorder.	6-7:30 pm	Place: TBA	Ms. Koppes will provide information about the 2016 election, election laws, and patterns from election 2016. We will let you know as soon as we get a location confirmed.
March 16	Member Meeting: Weld County Home Rule Charter: History, Provisions & Issues, Weld County Attorney, Bob Barker.	6-7:30 pm	Place: TBA	Current discussions about Weld County's Home Rule Charter and Commissioner and Council discussions, make for an informative meeting.
April 22	LWV GW Annual Meeting	9-12 noon	TBA	Program and Place TBA.
May 21-22	LWVCO State Convention	2 days	Fort Collins, Hilton Hotel	

June	LWV GW – New Leadership Council Planning & Organization 2017-18	BA	TBA	This will be an opportunity for the new Leadership Council to prepare for 2017-18.
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LWVCO Legislative Conference, Monday, January 30, 2017 will include the following in its program:

- **Behavioral Health Public Policy Issues** an Initiative for 2017, Andrew Romanoff, Mental Health Colorado
- **Sustainability**, Polly Peetz, Audobon Society of Greater Denver
- **Re-Entry Voting Rights**, Justin Cooper, Colorado Criminal Justice Reform Coalition
- **Career-Wise Colorado**, Lieutenant Governor Donna Lynne

This is always a great introduction to the Legislative year in Colorado. All are welcome. Invite a friend who might be interested in these issues. It is a great introduction to League. Cost is \$40/person that includes continental breakfast, buffet lunch with 2 entrees, salad and dessert. To register, you can send in the following information to LWVCO or call Barb Whinery (970-353-6731 or Hazel Gibson (352-4903), and we will get your registration in.

LWVCO Legislative Conference Registration Form, Monday, January 30, 2017

Deadline: Friday, January 20, 2017

Name: _____

Local League _____

Email Address/Phone: _____

Dietary Restrictions: _____

Payment Options:

Check payable to LWVCO or online charge card at www.lwvcolorado.org (Events)

Send this form/information regardless of payment type to LWVCO, 1410 Grant St., Ste B204, Denver, CO 80203-1855

Email: info@lwvcolorado.org FAX: 303-837-9917



Review of Greeley/Weld LWV Fall 2016 Election Activities

2016 Summer/Fall Voter Service

Greeley/Weld LWV had a very active fall with 18 Voter Service events, 35 contact hours, and contact with 850 people. The information we provided included: voter registration for high

school and college students, as well as other citizens, election information and ballot issue pros and cons. These figures are as accurate as we could make them and are probably underestimates. If you know of another activity or event to add to the list, please let us know. Congratulations and thanks to all League members and friends for supporting all of these activities!

Greeley-Weld County LWV Summer/Fall 2016 Election Activities

Date/Time	Event/What	Where	#Contacts	Who
July 19 6-7:30 p.m.	Pro/Con Forum: Amendment #69	Farr Library	70	LWV GW/HPLD Co- Sponsor
July 21 6-7:30 p.m.	Voter Service Workshop	FMS Bank Conference Rm	10	Barb Whinery & Hazel Gibson
August 26 8 a.m.-Noon	Volunteer Fair- LWV Info.	Adamson Funeral Home	40	Jean & Dick Hoffman
Sept. 19 2:30 p-3:30 p	GRASP- SD#6 MLO Ballot Issues	Senior Center	25	Dr. Pilch & Kathleen Milligan
Sept. 26 5:30 p -7:30 p.	Greeley CC Meet & Greet	UNC Panorama Room, Student Center	65	Table at Event: 8 LWV GW Members
Sept. 26-27 10:00 a.-1:00p.	AIMS CC Voter Registration	AIMS CC Student Center	100	Hazel, Jean D., Jeanne L. Aims CC Counselor
Sept. 27 Noon-1 p.	Exchange Club	Unified Title, 1275 58 th Ave	18	Barb Whinery & Bonnie Funk
Sept. 27 3:00 p.-6:00 p	National Voter Registration Day	Clearview Library Windsor	40	Hazel Gibson & Velma Simpson
Oct. 5 2 p.m-3 p.m.	Senor Residents Ballot Issues	Columbine Commons Windsor	16	Barb Whinery& Bonnie Funk
Oct. 6 8 a.-9a.	Breakfast n' Business Networking	The Pines on 11 th St. Road	20	Bonnie Funk & Janine Reid
October 8 Morning	2 DKG Chapters Ballot Issues	TBA	26	Barb Whinery
October 12 6:30 p.-8:00 p.	Wednesday Night Live Ballot Issues	1 st Congregational Church	70	Kathleen Milligan& Janine Reid
October 13 12:15 -1:00 p	Guaranty 50 Club	Two Rivers Lounge – UCCC	40	Jean Daviet & Holly Darby

October 6, 13, 20, 27) 11:10 a. – 12:10 p.	High School Voter Registration	University Schools	300	Jeanne Lipman & Kaylin Brooks
October 17 (2 hrs.)	Meeker Commons-Multigenerational Home		12	Bonnie Funk
October 18 1:00 p.m-2:00 p.m	Garden Square Asst. Living	3151 W. @ 20 th St.	10	Bonnie Funk
October 20 (2 hrs.)	Connections for Independent Living	1331 8 th Ave.	10	Bonnie Funk
October 25 (2 hrs.)	Americorps Group		10	Bonnie Funk & Kathleen Milligan
Total Hours/Contacts: 35 hours/18 events			870	

Updated 12/02/16

Final totals in bold



Message from Barb Whinery, Chair Leadership Council

You, League & Making Connections

Two of our longtime members were volunteering at an event this summer promoting the League and sharing the possibilities of membership with attendees and other organizations present. They reported back to me that many of the people that attended the event said that they had not heard of League nor did they know what we do. Wow, that was a real wake-up call to me as I have taken it for granted that everyone must know about our organization! And what we do! We have some work to do!!!

While many leagues go into hibernation and take the summer off, that has not been the case with the Greeley/Weld League. Our summer events included several events and League programs:

- **A Pro/Con Forum on Amendment # 69 (Single Payer Healthcare for Colorado)** was a huge success and was a model of what League does when presenting arguments for and against a ballot issue.

- **Two League programs** were presented at member meetings. The first discussed **League Election activities** during the election season that includes voter registration, ballot issue education and candidate forums. The second outlined and presented materials on the **League Observer Corps** that keeps an eye on local boards, committees and commissions. Each provided training for members to participate in things League does.
- Your Greeley/Weld League had five members who participated in the **LWVCO Leadership Retreat** in Frisco this summer. Our local Finance Drive Committee was hard at work updating a contributors mailing list and designing an outstanding letter to solicit contributions to help us in our endeavors. Three members were trained to support our involvement in putting our local county commissioner election on Vote411.org. Lastly, we had a great time at our Fall-Kick-off picnic at the home of Shirley Prom & family!

As you can see we are preparing for an active role election season where the League can have high visibility to better educate our community on voting and ballot issues in addition to who we are and what we do. Upcoming voter education events will include voter registration at Aims CC and participation in National Voter Registration Day at a Windsor Library, ballot issue presentations and education programs about issues in Greeley.

Member meetings are on third Thursdays of each month from 6:00 p.m. – 7:30 p.m. I am challenging our members to attend member meetings, events, and to volunteer where and when you are able. Also it time to take the opportunity to be ambassadors by talking to friends, family and members of the community about the League.

We are off to a great start! This is our time to shine! We have work to do!!!!

Barbara Whinery, Chair

What is Your Passion? Hot Topics

Barbara Whinery

This spring there will be an opportunity to get involved in a special interest study group. There will be several study groups available to delve more deeply into an area of interest to you. The LWVUS has selected a **major topic to focus on. Reforming money in politics** is at the top of the list. **Locally our League has selected law enforcement, affordable housing and behavioral health.**

We have had programs on all these topics in the past couple of years. If you are interested in finding out more about the issues associated with each topic, reading articles and materials, learning more about the LWVUS and LWVCO positions for each of these areas, please let me know if you are interested in joining one of the study groups.

Look for announcements on meeting times, days and places.

Explore Money in Politics: Suggested Readings

Nancy Crow, Third Vice President, LWV Colorado has suggested the following instructive resources:

- Give Us the Ballot: The Modern Struggle for Voting Rights in America, by Air Berman, 2015.
- Dark Money: by Jane Mayer, 2016.
- The Measure of a Nation: How to Regain America's Competitive Edge and Boost our Global Standing, by Howard Steven Friedman, 2012 (Especially Chapter 4. We the People: Democracy for an explanation of alternative voting methods)



Affordable Housing Summary

Barbara Whinery

The topic of the LWV Greeley/Weld October meeting was affordable housing in the Greeley area. We had a panel of four speakers who introduced us to the issues, projects and future plans to deal with homelessness and more affordable housing in our community. This is not just a Greeley issue, but also one that is prevalent across the state.

Melanie Falvo, Director of Community Impact from the United Way, provided an overview of what her organization is doing to facilitate conversations in Greeley and the county to meet affordable housing needs. She presented statistics on who experiences homelessness. There are 100+ homeless veterans on the Weld County Veterans Administration wait list. Of the individuals who are homeless, 25% have been homeless for 12 months and have a disabling condition. According to the State Department of Education there were 1,013 homeless students in Weld County during the 2014-15 school year. And the number of families in Weld County who need more affordable housing is 3,800+. To address these needs United Way is developing a countywide plan for maximizing resources dedicating to serving those who are homeless, involving neighbors to help each other during hardship, and uniting community members for lasting change. The plan is called Weld's Way Home. The plan includes eight study areas to examine the issues and making recommendations for action.

Cheri Witt-Brown, Executive Director, Greeley Area Habitat for Humanity, spoke to us about what they do, projects completed and plans for the future. They work in partnership with the whole community and are able to build seven homes per year. One of the latest projects was to build a home for a veteran and his family in Hudson. In the next 30 years they hope to build 120 homes. She also talked about collaborations they have with the Jefferson High School and the School District #6 Pathways Program.

Enita Kearns-Hout, Regional Director of Catholic Charities in Weld County, from the Guadalupe Community Center, shared the need for the services, an overview of the services the center provides and plans for future. According to recent data, more than 250 people are in need of permanent housing in Weld County, half of which are under age 25. The Center provides overnight emergency shelter, transitional housing shelter, daily meals, case management and referrals, medical support and a computer resource room. She was most excited about the 47

unit Guadalupe Apartments the Center is building. The apartments will provide 10 two-bedroom units, 19 one-bedroom units and 18 studio apartments. This facility will serve homeless families and people, providing them supportive services such as employment resources, case management and mental health referral.

Tony Gregor a local resident with an interest in providing affordable housing in the community spoke to us about his ideas using tiny house/cottages project. He felt that we had to change the way we think about building less costly housing perhaps as low as \$50,000.

There will be future opportunities for the League to participate in a study group, be part of local committees and to advocate for state legislation on affordable housing. The Larimer LWV has a team who is studying the issue in their county, too. Please let Barb Whinery know if you would like to participate in looking for strategies to improving our homelessness and affordable housing concerns.

A Further Note from Barb: All current members should be receiving **emails from LWVUS and LWVCO** periodically. If you are not receiving email newsletters and announcements you may need to add these addresses to your address book and to any safe list or white list that your email offers: info@lwvcolorado.org and League_of_Women_Voters_of_Colora@mail.vresp.com.

Please let me know if you are not receiving informational newsletters or bulletins. I will check to see that state and national have the right contact information for you

Observer Corps – be the Eyes and Ears of our League

From Janine Reid

Join us as we reinvigorate our Observer Corps – a consistent presence at local government meetings, learning how government works and about issues that are or may become local study and action, and assuring that our local officials are adhering to Open Meeting laws. The general requirement of the law is that "all meetings of public bodies shall be open to the public at all times." As an observer, you are exercising that recognized right to be present at any public meeting.



League
items for

Responsibilities for Observers :

- Attend assigned meetings, wearing a large LWV pin. (You don't have to attend every meeting—4-6 a year would be terrific.)
- Complete an observer form and advise the board of opportunities for action on League positions.

Being an observer can be interesting and fun. It puts the League on the inside, hearing decisions that will affect the community/state and the League.

Currently, we have League members that regularly attend the Greeley City Council meetings and the High Plains Library District Board meetings. We are especially interested in having a presence at Weld County Commissioner and Weld School District 6 Board meetings, but if you have interest in other local government meetings--town councils, Planning Commission, water districts, etc.-- please come forward.

The County Commissioners generally meet on Mondays and Wednesdays starting at 9:00 a.m. at the Administration building, 1150 O Street in Greeley.

The District 6 Board meets the second and fourth Mondays of the month, usually at the District 6 Administration Building, 1025 Ninth Avenue, in Greeley. Work sessions begin at 4:00 and the regular board meetings begin at 7:00 p.m. The regular meetings are streamed and can be viewed online live or at a later date at <http://www.greeleyschools.org/Page/14907>.

Please let Janine Reid (janinereid@comcast.net) know of your interest and availability to attend any of our local government meetings. She will provide you with the Observer Corps report form, some guidelines for observing and a nice big button.

POLICE PRACTICES IN GREELEY

On November 17, 2016, Greeley Police Chief Jerry Garner spoke to the Greeley/Weld League members and community members. The mission of the



Greeley Police Department is ***to maintain, improve, and protect the quality of life in Greeley. He listed four goals for the Department:***

1. To take career criminals out of circulation;
2. To decrease traffic accidents (the judicious use of traffic tickets helps reduce accidents);
3. To provide exceptional professional service to the public;
4. To provide police officers that are role models on and off duty.

The transient population has increased in Greeley, Chief Garner stated, and as a result the Greeley Police Department needs to work even more closely with mental health resources in our city and county, particularly North Range Behavioral Health. A representative from North Range present at the meeting agreed. There were about 25 League members and interested community members at the meeting.

Greeley-Weld County Annual Holiday Party 2016

About 20 people attended the League's Holiday party on December 2. Pizza, lasagna and beer. We enjoyed catching up with long-time League members, new friends, and community supporters.



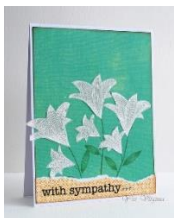
Kathleen Milligan and Marge Curtiss discuss important political events with Julie Haworth and Julie Wittow organizing food in the background.



Karen Klugston garners big smiles from Julian, Holly, and Brad Darby.

We look to Julian as a future League member. He seems very excited about it.

Thanks to Hazel Gibson, Julia Haworth, and Julie Wittow for organizing a great get-together!



Sad Member News: Will Jones

We have lost a longtime, loyal, and strong League member: Will Jones. We are saddened and send our sympathies to his wife Betty and others in his family. We will miss his friendly and intelligent observations, prods, and often hard research and data. At a roast and toast for Willard when he retired, this poem was read. Although the author wished to remain anonymous, some of us have suspicions that a certain League member who has poetic tendencies may have been the author. (Hint: she lives at Greeley Place).

Toast/Roast for Sir Willard Jones

The dames of the League
Grandmothers most all,

Would toast the avuncular!
Jones has us in thrall.

A man on our board
O'er us did not lord.
He enriched our perspectives
But no stringent directives.

Fount of much wisdom
Yea master of many
Abundance of cheer
And tight with the penny.

**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.

MEMBERS ADD STRENGTH TO OUR VOICE IN THE COMMUNITY

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



LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS
OF GREELEY/WELD COUNTY
1919 21st Avenue
GREELEY, CO 80631
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The LWV, a nonpartisan political organization,
encourages the informed and active participation
in government and influences public policy
through education and advocacy.