



*Making Democracy Work at [www.lwvchaffeecounty.org](http://www.lwvchaffeecounty.org)*

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## CALENDAR 2014

**February 13** – LWVCC, Guests Great Decisions, CUCC

**February 24** – LWVCC Agricultural/Food Issues, BV

**February 27** – LWVCC, Guests Great Decisions, BV Library

**March 10** – LWVCC Consensus for Agricultural Study; Salida

**April 14** – LWVCC Annual Dinner, BV

**May 12** – LWVCC Meeting in Salida

**May 16-17** – LWVCO Council in Grand Junction

**June 20-21** – LWVCO Leadership Retreat, Frisco

**July 4** – LWVCC, BV & Salida Marching in Parade

**August 11** – LWVCC Picnic



## Deputy Commissioner Carleton to Discuss Agricultural Policy at February 24 Meeting

Ron Carleton, Deputy Commissioner of Agriculture for Colorado, worked in the US Congress for over thirty years. He comes to the Colorado Department of Agriculture with considerable experience in agricultural policy. As a legislative assistant and legislative director, he covered not only agricultural issues, but also energy, environment, water, and land management issues.

Most recently, as Chief of Staff to then Colorado Congressman John Salazar, Carleton helped develop and guide agriculture policy, assisting with work on the House Agriculture Committee and the 2008 Farm Bill. Carleton will be a key resource in helping our League reach consensus for the LWVUS agricultural study.

**Date:** Monday, February 24, 2014

**Time:** **11:00** for social gathering; coffee and tea provided; bring a bag lunch  
**11:30** for welcome to new members & guests, reports, announcements  
**12:00** for Carleton's talk, questions and informal discussion  
**1:00** for Board Meeting

**Place:** Pinon Room, BV Community Center, 715 E. Main St.

**Carpool:** From Salida, meet at 10:30 a.m., public parking lot by Safeway

### Background reading

[\*\*The Healthy Farm: A Vision for U.S. Agriculture.\*\*](#) It's a policy brief from the Union of Concerned Scientists, a very readable 8-page document that provides an alternative view ("agro-ecological agriculture") to "industrial" agriculture introduced after World War II.

**NOTE:** The PDF may take a while to load. Alternatively, you could bookmark the page shown in your browser and then open the doc from your bookmarks.

See also the link to "Official Materials" under [League Studies](#) on our web site.



## 2013-2014 Board

Marjie Gray, Chair  
marjieggray2000@yahoo.com  
Carol Sanford, Programs  
caroljean1945@gmail.com

Jan Scar, Secretary  
scars@RockyMountains.net

Nancy Walters, Publicity  
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Jeanne Younghaus, Finance  
jlarkriver@rockymountains.net

**Treasurer:** Marilyn Box  
marbox@mac.com

## Committee Members

### Voter Service for Sept-Oct

Scott Hartman, Chair  
Elizabeth Ritchie, Chair  
Marilyn Box  
Karen Dils  
Mary Helen Dunn  
Libby Fay  
Linda Mulka  
Dave Mustoe  
Karen Robinson  
Eileen Rogers  
Bob Sander  
Carol Sanford  
Melissa Smith  
Jackie Sobczak  
Nita Stevens  
Jeanne Younghaus

### Finance

Libby Fay  
Scott Hartman  
Carol Sanford  
Jeanne Younghaus

### Fund Raising

Marilyn Box

### Meeting Venues

Tracy Craig: Salida  
Jeanne Younghaus: BV

### Publicity

Gail Brooks (web hosting)  
Nancy Walters (web & print)

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## Ag Study Group Plans Ahead

The Study Group is scheduling an intensive League meeting, with discussion and consensus, for March 10

- We'll start to gather at 10:30 a.m. at the United Methodist Church.
- At 11:00 a.m., **Dr. Daniel R. Bush, a plant geneticist from CSU**, will talk with us about gene modification in crops.
- At noon we'll have a pot luck lunch and continue discussion.
- Following lunch, members of the study group (Nita Stevens, Linda Mulka, Cheryl Brown-Kovacic, and Nancy Walters) will brief us on the topics we've chosen for consensus.

After each topic, we'll enter our responses to the consensus question we're focusing on.

## Joe Cogan to Speak at Annual Dinner

Joe is pictured here overlooking the 507-acre Chubb Park Ranch. To avoid development, he placed it into a conservation easement with the Land Trust of the Upper Arkansas.



### Save the Date: April 14

To round out our focus on agriculture this year, Marjie Gray invited Joe Cogan to tell us about his ranching experience. The Cogan family has been ranching in Chaffee County since 1889. In 1898 his great grandfather bought 160 acres south of Buena Vista. That land is one of 50 ranches featured by photographer John Fielder in his book *Ranches of Colorado*. Joe, as a third generation rancher in the valley, has also become one of our most knowledgeable historians.

## Nominees Sought for MDWA

LWVCC is accepting letters of recommendation for the 2014 Making Democracy Work Award.

Think about someone who might deserve the award, someone who leads in civic, political or community activities and has improved or inspired lives of county residents.

Submit your recommendation to [KarenRobinson@chaffee.net](mailto:KarenRobinson@chaffee.net)

The League will honor the selected recipient at our annual dinner in April.



## Committee Members, Cont'd.

### Membership

Ann Graham  
Nita Stevens

### August Picnic 2013

Carol Sanford

### Annual Dinner

Barb Brady

### Hospitality

Betsy Downing  
Mary Helen Dunn

### Great Decisions

Barb Brady  
Mary Helen Dunn  
Carol Sanford  
Nancy Walters

**A BIG THANK YOU**  
to everyone who volunteers!

## Deborah Lively Reports on Speakers at LWVCO Legislative Conference

**David Archer, Governor Hickenlooper's deputy director of legislative affairs,** outlined the governor's priorities for the 2014 legislative session: Increase the state's budget reserve, reduce wait times at the Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV), provide an additional \$250 million for public schools and \$100 million for higher education, and request more resources to support Coloradans with developmental disabilities and their caregivers.

**Jeannette Hillery** with the league **and environmental law attorney Matthew Sura** discussed recent regulations proposed by the Air Quality Control Commission (AQCC) to reduce methane and ozone pollution.

**Claire Levy**, executive director with the [Colorado Center on Law & Policy](#), explained how her organization is helping Coloradoan's achieve economic self-sufficiency and breaking the cycle of poverty, thereby freeing families from reliance on public assistance. She discussed legislation that can help.

On this same topic, **Sen. John Kefalas (D-Fort Collins), chair of the Economic Opportunity Poverty Reduction Task Force**, discussed his sponsorship of four bills out of seven that came out of the deliberations of the task force.

**Sam Mamef, executive director with the Colorado Municipal League,** offered information on the issues facing local governments and talked about the importance of citizen participation in local issues.

At the luncheon, **LWVCO Legislative Action Committee Chair Sally Augden and lobbyist Chris Watson** outlined the league's advocacy agenda for 2014: Elections and voting, preserving access to the ballot box for all Coloradans, fiscal balance and prioritization, and quality of life for the state's citizens including social justice issues and a healthy environment.

See Deborah's [full report](#) detailing the legislation involved.

## LWVCO 2014 Legislative Issues: Advocacy Agenda

- Elections and Voting
- Fiscal Balance and Prioritization
- Preserving Quality of Life

The Advocacy Agenda reflects the priority issues that will be addressed by League in both legislative and citizen-education activities across Colorado.

For a full list of priority legislation and the League's position (Support, Oppose, Watch) see [Advocacy Agenda](#).

For **all** bills before the legislature see the LWVCO [Legislative Letter](#).



## GREAT DECISIONS

Through  
Thursday, May 8,  
2014

### Topics

- Defense Technology
- Israel and the U.S.
- Turkey's Challenges
- Islamic Awakening
- Energy Independence
- Food and Climate
- China's Foreign Policy
- U.S. Trade Policy

See [schedule](#) and  
topic descriptions.

Note: Opinion balloting is  
now online at  
[Great Decisions.](#)

## Kudos for League Member Karen Dils



Karen is shown here at Buena Vista Business After Hours, where in February she received a \$10,000 check from the El Pomar Foundation for the Boys and Girls Club. At left is Merle Baranczyk (editor and publisher of The Mountain Mail). Photo by Casey Kelly

Heart of the Rockies Chamber of Commerce recently named Karen Dils "Woman of the Year" at its annual Community Awards Banquet.

The award is presented to a woman who makes a substantial contribution to communities in the Salida area.

Dils has led the charge for more than a dozen community, county and statewide causes. "As board president of the Boys & Girls Clubs of Chaffee County, she is an inspiration to her colleagues, business owners, neighbors, volunteers, parents and hundreds of children in the community," said emcee Dave Potts in presenting the award.

"She's a former educator, former president of the Buena Vista Education Association, an ambassador for the Public Employees' Retirement Association, member of the Buena Vista Recreation Board, Trout Unlimited, League of Women Voters and more."

## Food for Thought...

"Dietary guidelines say to eat more fruits and vegetables, and cut down on sodas. But the indexed cost of fruits and vegetables has increased by about 40 percent since the early 1980s, whereas that of soda has decreased by 20 percent." — Marion Nestle, Professor in the Department of Nutrition, Food Studies and Public Health at New York University. Check out her blog: [www.foodpolitics.com](http://www.foodpolitics.com) (a bit of a rant)

"Let's at last recognize that there are two food systems, one industrial and one of small landholders, or peasants if you prefer. The peasant system is not only here for good, it's arguably more efficient than the industrial model.

According to the ETC Group, a research and advocacy organization based in Ottawa, the industrial food chain uses 70 percent of the agricultural resources to produce 30 percent of the food. Whereas what ETC calls the "peasant food web" produces the remaining 70 percent, using only 30 percent of resources." — Mark Bittman, *New York Times*, Oct. 20, 2013