



**December 12 Program: Exploring Geothermal Energy at Poncha Hot Springs**

Paul Morgan of Colorado Geological Survey and Jay Moore from Salida City Council will present the pros and cons of Salida’s developing geothermal energy from Poncha Hot Springs.

**Time:** Monday, December 12, noon to 1 p.m. League discussion at 1, board meeting at 1:30.

**Place:** Salida, Bank of the West conference room, 146 G St.

**Car Pool:** BV members who want to carpool should meet at the Alco/Dollar Store parking lot by 11:15.

**Background**

Using a grant from the Governor’s Energy Office, the City of Salida completed exploratory drilling to determine whether the hot springs are substantial enough to provide energy. The speakers will report on findings and next steps.

Morgan will present the issues involved in setting up the site for geothermal production. Moore will discuss the environmental, financial, and political impacts on the city and county.

**Our position**

Cheryl Brown-Kovacic and Jeanne Younghaus organized the program and will lead a League discussion following the presentations. Our goal



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is to arrive at a statement that sums up our position on geothermal energy in our county.

We began studying local geothermal energy a year ago and continue to be concerned about cost-effective use of energy sources and, in particular, sustainability and the impact of geothermal development on water quality. Cheryl and Jeanne will also distribute information about additional ways to achieve energy sustainability.

The League of Women Voters of Colorado has taken a position on the use of water within the state. In brief, it supports “measures that promote the wise and balanced use of water in Colorado.” For a more detailed description see <http://www.lwvcolorado.org/program-positions/natural-resources/water.html>



***In Memory of Hugh Neas***

Longtime active LWVCC member who brought

civility and a sense of humor to any discussion. As Carlos Boyd said about Hugh’s participation, “He was a workhorse!”

**2012 MEETING CALENDAR**

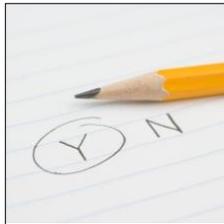
- January 16** – Hospital Update in Salida
- February 12** – County Government Review with Dennis Giese in Buena Vista
- March 12** – Making Democracy Work Award at Salida SteamPlant
- April 9** – Annual dinner with Ed Quillen in Buena Vista
- May 14** – Employment at Department of Corrections; in Buena Vista



### *Poinsettia Sales: Success / Donations*

Our poinsettias were sold out days before the deadline! Together we sold or donated 186 plants and earned a profit of \$932. A hearty thanks to Marilyn Box and Jeanne Younghaus who headed the committee and to everyone who helped sell and distribute the plants. Good work!

The board approved donating poinsettias to BV library, Salida Methodist Church, BV Town Hall, and Salida City Hall in appreciation for letting the League use their meeting rooms. In the same motion, the board approved a \$25 Eddyline gift certificate to Tim Jaster for his video taping services and two pounds of coffee to Sangre de Cristo for use of their room.



### *State and National League Studies*

**Education.** The board approved our consensus for 15 questions in our local study of The Role of the Federal Government in Public Education. President Nancy Walters submitted the results LWVUS.org prior to the November 30 deadline.

**Fracking.** At present there is no initiative for our local league to participate in the LWVCO study on fracking and its environmental impact. When we receive study information from the state League in January, we could reconsider our involvement. If you are interested in this topic, let the board know by sending an email to nejwalters@q.com.

**Privatization.** The League has chosen not to participate in the LWVUS study on Privatization—the turning over to private entities the management of public projects such as education, railroads, prisons, and wastewater treatment. However, if this is a topic that interests you, you can find information at <http://www.lwv.org/member-resources/privatization>.



### *Learn More at Legislature Day*

The 2012 LWVCO Legislative Conference will be held January 23 at the State Capitol in Denver. It's an opportunity to hear a preview of the 2012 state Legislative Session. The cost is \$25, which includes a box lunch.

Registration begins at 8:30, the preview is from 9:00 – 12:00, and lunch with the League lobbyist (always informative!) is from 12:15 to 2:00. You must pre-register by January 13. For forms and more information, call Nancy at 395-6531 (I'm planning to go) or see your November Colorado Voter.

### *Great Decisions Begin January 26*

Great Decisions—a stimulating foreign policy discussion group co-sponsored by the League and Buena Vista Library—begins its fourth year on January 26, 2012. The following topics are up for discussion:

- Middle East Realignment
- Promoting Democracy
- Mexico
- Cybersecurity
- Exit from Afghanistan & Iraq
- State of the Oceans
- Indonesia
- Energy geopolitics

GREAT DECISIONS 2012  
PRE-ORDER ONLINE TODAY



Meetings alternate between the library (fourth Thursdays) and Congregational United Church of Christ (second Thursdays), from 4:30 to 6:30 p.m.

Materials used for discussions—a briefing book and DVD—are supplied by the Foreign Policy Association. See <http://www.fpa.org/>.

To learn more or to order your briefing book (\$20), contact Carol Sanford at [caroljean1945@gmail.com](mailto:caroljean1945@gmail.com) or 395-2417.

Check out the revamped [www.LWV.org](http://www.LWV.org) web site!

