



In This Issue

- ✓ May Program
- ✓ Program Planning in June
- ✓ Campaign Finance Reform
- ✓ Results of Ed Study
- ✓ Annual Membership Dues
- ✓ Leadership Retreat, Frisco
- ✓ Great Decisions: Energy
- ✓ League Transparency
- ✓ Voter Forum Thanks

CALENDAR

May 3 – Initial Meeting of Leadership Team, 2-5 p.m. at BV Library, 131 Linderman

May 11 – Pick up geraniums from 2 to 5 at BV Library

May 14 – Employment at Department of Corrections; at Sangre de Cristo in BV

June 11 – Annual Program Planning Meeting, Salida. Place TBD

June 22-23 – LWVCO Leadership Retreat in Frisco

Leadership Team 2012-2013

Marjie Gray, Voters Service
 Jan Scar, Secretary
 Carol Sanford, Treasurer
 Nita Stevens, Membership
 Myra Barrett, Membership
 Jeanne Younghaus, Finance
 Nancy Walters, Publicity
 Tracy Craig, At-Large
 Karen Robinson, At-Large
 Jackie Sobczak, At-Large
 Susan Bristol, At-Large
 Nancy Sutherland, At-Large
 Spokesperson TBD
 Convener TBD

Update from Dept. of Corrections

Our May program focuses on a major employer in Chaffee County, “the prison,” which comprises two facilities:



- The Buena Vista Correctional Facility (**BVCF**) - housing medium custody offenders
- The Buena Vista Minimum Center (**BVMC**) - housing minimum restrictive custody offenders.

Warden John Davis from the Correctional Complex, will explain how our local correctional complex operates and update us on recent events. In case Davis is called away, Dave Cotten, Administrative Services Director, will speak in his stead.

Date: Monday, May 14

Time: 11:30 Arrival and socializing; coffee & tea by Betsey Downing
12:00 Program, open to the public

Place: Sangre de Cristo Community Room
29780 N Hwy 24, Buena Vista
Carpool from Salida: Meet at Safeway to depart by 11:00.

Planning LWVCC Programs for 2012-2013

What’s on our agenda for the coming year: County Government? Employment? Fracking? Transparency? Voter Registration? You get to decide when you attend this lively annual meeting.

All members contribute and discuss ideas for topics or studies that the League will pursue at its meetings, September through May. It’s your opportunity to determine our direction and set our focus!

Date: Monday, June 11

Time: 10:00 Leadership Team Meeting
11:30 Arrival and salad lunch; coffee & tea by Betsey Downing
12:00 Discussion, for members only

Place: Salida, United Methodist Church, 228 E. 4th Street
Carpool from Buena Vista: Meet in CUCC parking lot, 217 Crossman, to depart by 11:00.

Focus on Campaign Finance Reform

The LWVUS has made Campaign Finance Reforms one of its legislative priorities for 2012.

Given that emphasis, you might want to subscribe to an e-newsletter that advocates overturning the U.S. Supreme Court decision in *Citizens United v. Federal Election Commission*, which allows for-profit corporations to spend unlimited amounts of money to support or attack political candidates.

You might not agree with the opinions expressed, but the weekly e-newsletter often includes figures about campaign finances. For example, after the Super Tuesday primaries, it noted that Romney's campaign and super pac supporters had spent \$36,380 per delegate.

To subscribe, go to <https://secure.citizen.org/t/10694/signUp.jsp?key=5059> You can choose from a list of initiatives you want to follow.

"Money in Elections: What the League Can Do" is the title of a memo sent by Elizabeth MacNamara, LWVUS President. If you want a copy, email nejwalters@q.com.

Other LWVUS 2012 priorities are Voter Protection, Environmental Defense, and Health Care Defense.



2012 Annual Dinner

Our view of Ed Quillen as he entertains us with his wit and his knowledge of media history in south central Colorado, starting with journals kept by explorers during the 1800s.

Ed's view of us. [Photos by Lenny Brooks]



LWVUS Releases Study Results: The Federal Role in Public Education

The LWVUS Board approved a new Education position at the March 2012 Board meeting. The position is based on responses received from the 377 Leagues across the country who participated in the Education Study.

The position states that "the League of Women Voters believes that the federal government shares with other levels of government the responsibility to provide an equitable, quality public education for all children pre-K through grade 12. A quality public education is essential for a strong, viable and sustainable democratic society and is a civil right."

The League "also recognize[s] that primary responsibility for public education resides with the states."

Details about each part of the study—equity, standards, curricula, assessment, and funding—are available at

<http://www.lwv.org/content/federal-role-public-education-position>



Membership Renewals, as of May 1

Jo Boatwright, Marilyn Bouldin, Susan Bristol, Jennifer Davis, Karen and Reed Dils, Mary Helen Dunn and Scott Hartman, Linda and Michael Forman, Bob and Marjie Gray, Toni Hoffman, KM Joffee, Katherine and Mike McCoy, Rose Mirich, Nikol Noll, Wendell and Janine Pryor, Karen and Alan Robinson, Elizabeth Ritchie, Dick and Jan Scar, Barbara Seeling, Beth Smith, Jackie Sobczak, Gene and Nita Stevens, and Nancy Walters.

It's not too late to renew!

Nita will be at the geranium pick up on May 11 to accept your check ☺

By renewing, you will continue to receive this newsletter and other information about LWVCC events.

Individual: \$55.00

Household: \$82.50

Student: \$25.00

You can also write your check to LWVCC and mail it to Carol Sanford
31300 CR 384a
Buena Vista, CO 81211

Or use the [Membership Form](#) on our website.

Attention New and Renewing Members:

Are you sometimes confused by all the activities and terminology that LWV offers? What exactly is Program with a capital "P"? And what's a MAL? And what are these "positions" the League is advocating?

You can answer these questions and more with an all-expenses paid trip* to Frisco!

The LWVCO **21st Annual Leadership Retreat, June 22-23**, is a wonderful way to educate yourself about the League and to meet leaguers from across Colorado.

It's not for leaders only, it's far more interesting than it sounds, and even more fun if you go with another member of our League.

For complete information, download the [21st Annual Leadership Retreat Brochure](#).

*Includes registration, meals and lodging.

Great Decisions Group to Discuss Energy Geopolitics

On Thursday, May 10, the Great Decisions group will hold its final 2012 foreign policy discussion.

Time: 4:30 p.m. for DVD presentation;
5:00 p.m. for discussion and balloting.

Place: CUCC, 217 Crossman, Buena Vista.

Topic: *Energy Geopolitics: Quandaries Intensify*

The energy markets have been shaken by instability of Middle East oil and vulnerability of nuclear power. Moreover, developing countries like China are becoming bigger energy consumers, while energy producers like Russia see the opportunity to widen their influence. In this changed landscape, how will energy needs in the U.S. affect our relations with other nations?



Transparent League

Since LWV advocates transparency in government, it's only fitting that we make local league governance transparent as well.

Here is the link to LWVchaffeecounty.org where you can find the following:

Under "League Information"

- Newsletters

Under "For Members"

- Minutes of board meetings
- Agendas of board meetings
- Financial reports
- Bylaws

Thanks to Helpers for Hospital Forum

April 24 we held the last of four forums for this spring. Whew, it's been a busy one. I appreciate all the help you pitched in and did. The League's reputation is growing and people are seeing that we do forums very well. This is one of your biggest missions in the LWVCC. You each helped make that true. I was told several times how people really appreciated we were doing this forum. Thanks bunches to each of you for your help at the HRRMC forum.

Jacki, you did a great job moderating the forum last night and I'm glad you'll do it again. Thanks too for sending out the invitation emails and having the candidates RSVP to you.

Larry, thanks so much for the leg work you did in making the room arrangements, chairs, getting ballot applications, doing the introduction and closing remarks, etc. It was fun working with you.

Karen, I do so appreciate all the name cards you make, giving the forum a professional look. Thanks, too, for serving as a reader once again.

Eileen, thanks for your help in discussing the feasibility of using this room and giving the contacts to make. Thanks too for serving as a reader.

Mary Helen, I'm so glad you jumped in as a new member and offered to help. You are now an experience reader. Thanks. And thanks, too, Scott for helping out with the boxes, etc.

Elizabeth, you are the best greeter and all around helper. Thanks.

Tracy, thank you for being a good timer and all the other jobs you saw that needed to be done and for sending out the press releases to the various media and letting us know the dead lines.

Gail, thanks for manning the LWV and Candidates table. It is always good to have someone there to be sure the whole forum goes smoothly. A big thank you, too, for working on these streaming forum videos for our LWVChaffeeCounty.org website. I appreciate all the hours you've put it.

Betsey, thanks for picking up the HRRMC information and returning the ones left over.

Carol, thanks so much for writing the press releases and the followup.

Again, A BIG THANK YOU EVERYONE!!

— Marjie Gray