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CALENDAR 2013

April 8 – LWVCC Annual Dinner: Update on proposed Browns Canyon National Monument by Keith Baker, Salida Community Center

April 11 – Great Decisions at CUCC in BV: Topic is Iran

April 25 – Great Decisions at BV Library: Topic China in Africa

May 9 – Great Decisions at BV CUCC in BV: Topic is Threat Assessment

May 10-11 – LWVCO: Convention, Colorado Springs

May 13 – LWVCC: Meeting in BV to plan next year's programs

June 28-29 – LWVCO: Leadership Retreat, Frisco



Baker to Review Udall's Proposal For Browns Canyon

What's next for Brown's Canyon? That's the question Keith Baker, Executive Director of Friends of Browns Canyon, will address us in a public presentation at 7:15 p.m., immediately following the Annual Dinner, Monday, April 8, at the Salida Community Center, 305 F St.

Baker will discuss the implications of the draft proposal from U.S. Senator Mark Udall for designating areas in Browns Canyon as a National Monument and a Wilderness Area. Udall based his proposal on a year's worth of public meetings, outreach and input from local residents and stakeholders.

Udall states on his website that the area will continue to be "jointly managed by the BLM and U.S. Forest Service, in cooperation with the Colorado Division of Parks and Wildlife through the Arkansas Headwaters Recreation Area."

After the canyon receives the new designation, the BLM and U.S. Forest Service will seek "additional public input to guide the area's management and determine what, if any, additional recreation and visitor facilities might be appropriate." Read more at "[Friends of](#)"

Baker and his wife Evelyn own The Trailhead and Trailhead Cycle & Ski in Buena Vista where he also serves as a town trustee. He is a lifelong outdoors and nature enthusiast and is a retired United States Navy commander.

[For dinner details, see page 2.]



At our Annual Business Meeting, We will approve the 2013-2014 board and budget.

Proposed Board:

- Cheryl Brown-Kovacic
- Marjie Gray
- Carol Sanford
- Jan Scar
- Nancy Walters
- Jeanne Younghaus

Proposed Budget:

See [Financial Reports](#) on our web site.

Committee Sign-Up

There will also be time to sign up for next year's committees.

Outgoing Leadership Team 2012-2013

- Carol Sanford**, Liaison to LWVCO & LWVUS, and Treasurer
- Jan Scar**, Secretary
- Marjie Gray**, Voters Service
- Nita Stevens**, Membership
- Jeanne Younghaus**, Finance
- Nancy Walters**, Publicity
- Karen Robinson**, Meetings
- Tracy Craig**, At-Large
- Jacqueline Sobczak**, At-Large

Thank You for Your Service!



LWVCC Annual Dinner

Reservations now accepted through Thursday, April 4!

It's a festive occasion for socializing, celebrating the year past, and for approving the budget and board members for the year to come. Many thanks to Betsey Downing and her committee members, Mary Helen Dunn and Nancy Sutherland, for making all the arrangements.

When: Monday, April 8 at 5:00 p.m.

Where: Salida Community Center, 305 F Street

Who: LWVCC members and their guests

What: A catered dinner with choice of roast beef, chicken, or vegetarian; salad, dessert, tea, and coffee included. BYOB, glasses provided.

Cost: \$20 per person. **Reservations required** by Thursday April 4. No cancellations after that date. Contact Betsey Downing at 539-6454 or betsey@my.amigo.net Remember to specify your entrée!

Annual Meeting: About 5:30 we'll meet to approve the new Board Members and Budget for 2013-2014.

Program: Presentation by Keith Baker, Executive Director of Friends of Brown Canyon. This portion of the evening begins at 7:15 p.m. and will be open to the public at no charge.

April is the Month to Renew Your LWV Membership

Write one check for two purposes: your dinner and your dues!

You can also renew your membership online by using a credit card to pay with PayPal, a trusted, secure service. However, you will save the League money if you pay by check or cash at our Annual Meeting, April 8.

Individual: \$55.00

Household: \$82.50

Student: \$25.00

Make your check out to **LWVCC**. If you're not coming to the dinner, mail it to Carol Sanford, 31300 CR 384a, Buena Vista, CO 81211

To pay online, use the [Membership Form](#) at our website.

Where do your dues go?

A portion of your dues goes to LWVColorado and LWVUS. The balance goes to our chapter to support local activities.



2012-2013 Committee Members

Finance

Jackie Sobczak

Meetings

Tracy Craig

Jeanne Younghaus

Voter Service

Myra Barrett

Marilyn Box

Karen Dils

Betsy Neas

Elizabeth Ritchie

Karen Robinson

Barbara Seeling

Melissa Smith

Jackie Sobczak

Nancy Walters

Fund Raising

Marilyn Box

Publicity

Tracy Craig

Gail Brooks (website hosting)

August Picnic

Marilyn Bouldin

Barbara Seeling

Hospitality

Betsy Downing

Mary Helen Dunn

Great Decisions

Marilyn Bouldin

Mary Helen Dunn

Scott Hartman

Carol Sanford

Nancy Walters

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

**(And remember to sign up
for committees at the
Annual Dinner.)**

Hospital District to Vote on Term Limits for Directors

HRRMC will be conducting an election on May 7 for voters to decide on the proposal by the Hospital Board of Directors to eliminate term limits for the members of the Board. To give voters in the Hospital District a chance to hear both sides and to ask questions, LWVCC is presenting an **Issues Forum**.

When: Wednesday, April 17, 2013, 5:30 p.m. - 6:30 p.m.

Where: Salida Community Center, 305 F Street

Who: **Dan Downing**, President, Hospital Board of Directors, will be speaking in support of eliminating term limits.

Merrell Bergin, Healthcare Software Applications Consultant, will speak on the merits of maintaining term limits.

The Issues Forum will be taped and made available on the LWVCC website: www.LWVchaffeecounty.org. DVDs will be available at local libraries and printed information will be distributed locally soon after the Forum.

Elizabeth Ritchie, who is organizing the forum, encourages everyone to become more informed about our local hospital management and the future of health care in our area.



Geraniums are Here!

They're a colorful way to celebrate Mother's Day AND support the LWV activities that keep our community informed about elections and local government issues.

Photo from www.soil-sisters.com

Geraniums will be on display and ready for purchase at the Annual Dinner. You can begin taking orders April 8. Marilyn Box, fundraising chair, has requested 125 plants from Mt. Princeton Greenhouse: 72 red, 23 pink, and 30 coral. We will again sell them for \$12 each. Marilyn will email the order form to members on April 8, bring hard copies of the form to the Annual Dinner in Salida, and also put the form on our web site.

Members can pick up their plants at the BV Library community room on Wednesday afternoon, May 8. To help with distribution, let Marilyn know at marbox@mac.com or 395-9325.



Great Decisions Finish on May 9, 2013

This was our 5th Year!

The [Great Decisions](#) briefing book features impartial, thought-provoking analyses on eight issues of concern to U.S. foreign policy makers today.

Topics for 2013

- **Future of the Euro**
- **NATO**
- **Myanmar and Southeast Asia**
- **Egypt**
- **Intervention**
- **Iran**
- **China in Africa**
- **Threat Assessment**

For more details
[see our website.](#)

Reported by Cheryl Brown-Kovacic...

Commissioners Meet Regarding 1041 Regulations for Geothermal

On behalf of LWVCC, I made a statement regarding geothermal at the Board of County Commissioners meeting, Tuesday, April 2. I stated our support for geothermal energy development and our support of a 1041 regulation to assure the recommendations in our letter, to have clarity in the process, and to protect the quality of life of residents and the viability of tourism.

I mentioned that our recommendations could be found in our June letter [posted at [Geothermal Letter to County Commissioners](#)]. I also stated our support for openness in the process and citizen education around the issue.

The commissioners did adopt geothermal as a state area of interest, so now they can move forward with the actual guidelines. The draft has still not been released, but we hope to see it at the beginning of the 30-day legal notification period.

There, of course, is a group that wants minimal regulation. The Planning Commission has made some recommendations, one of which is to omit geothermal regulations from socioeconomic impact analysis so that impacts on recreation, tourism, agriculture, etc., are not required or considered. Clarification is needed on their recommendations, but I am not sure how to learn more other than attending their next workshop session.

On [April 25](#) there will be a Planning Commission session, to which Barbara Green, the author of the draft regulation, has been invited. This session has tentatively been set as the venue to explain the draft to the public as well. I am assuming the public can also ask questions at this session. This date will be finalized once the county staff has confirmed the availability of Barbara Green for this date. I will keep you posted once I have further information.

— Cheryl Brown-Kovacic
Chair of Geothermal Study Group

Summarized by Jan Scar, Secretary...

LWV Meeting with Commissioners Giese Holman, and Potts: March 11, 2013

The following questions were addressed:

- 1. Geothermal energy** in Chaffee County and development of the county 1041 Regulations. Dennis passed out a copy of the development timeline put together by Don Reimer, the Chaffee County Development Director. They reiterated that Barbara Greene, who is working to develop the 1041 rRegulations, is a known expert in this field. Four entities—Chaffee County, San Miguel County, Archuleta County and the City of Pagosa Springs—are jointly funding her work.
[Summary continued on page 5.]

Summary of LWV Meeting with Commissioners Giese Holman, and Potts: March 11, 2013; continued from page 4

2. Planning and Zoning Commission and new code development: The commissioners want the P&Z commission to present them with a code that can be approved with minimal changes. They are hoping to have this in their hands by late March or early April and approved by June. They want a code that can be accepted by everyone—not a cookie-cutter approach. Commissioner Holman emphasized they wanted a quality product and is willing to take as much time as needed to produce that. Commissioner Potts said they had spent most of the past two years on the Nestle project and hadn't had as much time to develop new P&Z codes.

Kathy McCoy requested an information meeting for the citizen volunteers who had spent so much time developing input for the new codes.

3. The Cleora RR crossing and other RR issues: There is a county transportation plan. Part of this plan is a circular route around Salida that includes the Cleora crossing. This is an alternative, safety route for emergency vehicles, busses, etc. The commissioners are trying to find a representative from the RR who will help them with right of way and crossing issues. There is also an alternative route through the south part of Buena Vista which includes a railroad crossing. No one knows when, or if, the railroad will be abandoned in Chaffee County.

4. Hill Ranch—re-vegetation and water: The commissioners are working with Pueblo West to develop a workable re-vegetation plan. They think the county will do a better job than the city has done. If Pueblo West will pay costs, the county will take over the responsibility for doing it.

The Hill Ranch is an example of what could happen if other major water rights are sold. Conservation easements are important for keeping water on the land. If water is sold, it shouldn't be moved until re-vegetation has been accomplished.

5. Drought and wild fire suppression: The county provides support to the Forest Service and state agencies. Commissioners are not responsible for actual firefighting decisions.

The biggest drought concern is the effect on the recreation industry if there is a lack of water in the river, lakes, streams, etc. This cannot be predicted ahead of time but the county is interested in promoting alternatives to rafting and other water-dependent recreation.

6. Nestle: The original contract has Nestle leasing water from Aurora. If there are stage II restrictions, Nestle has to find another source.

7. Sustainability in county government: The county has researched using alternative energy sources (esp. solar panels) for county buildings. The commissioners feel the pay-off is too long for this to be financially feasible.

8. Building Department personnel openings: There are currently two openings in the department. Commissioners prefer to hire one replacement who will be in charge of the department and who will be able to bring the county up to date with new technology, streamline the permit process, etc.

9. County airports as drone bases: The state of Colorado is applying to be one of six states chosen where drone test flights are done to study the integration of unmanned flight vehicles into commercial air space. These vehicles will have commercial uses such as viewing wildfires, etc. The FAA will choose these six states by the end of December. If Colorado is picked then the state will choose which counties to include in the test project. Chaffee County has applied to be one of these counties.

10. Cell Phone Service: There should be improved cell phone service in the north end of the county during the next few years.