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CALENDAR 2013 - 2014

September 9 – LWVCC
Local Agriculture, Salida

September 28 – LWVCO
League Day, Denver

October 2, 7 – 9 p.m.
Forum in Salida: City Council
Candidates and Ballot Issues

October 9, 7 – 9 p.m.
Forum in BV: School Board
Candidates and Ballot Issues

October – 14 LWVCC
Gail Schwartz on new Voter
Regulations, BV

November 11 – LWVCC
Affordable Health Care, Salida

December 9 – LWVCC
Agriculture/Food Issues, BV

January 13 – LWVCC
Mayors Update, Salida

February 10 – LWVCC
Consensus for Agricultural
Study; Legislative Action, BV

March 10 – LWVCC
Commissioners Update, Salida

April 14 – LWVCC
Annual Dinner, BV



Local Agriculture: How Does It Relate to National Policies?

The first of two programs for the LWVUS Agricultural Study

Speakers: Jennifer Visitacion, Executive Director of Guidestone
David Lynch, Colorado Land Link Director

The speakers will present the purpose and activities of their organizations, and answer questions such as the following:

- What role do they play in technology issues that are part of the study? [See below for scope of study]
- How do local farms and CSAs contribute to sustainable agriculture?
- What are the financial issues for small farms and ranches?
- What impact does the Land Link program have on reducing consolidated farms?
- What local, national or state agricultural policies could improve the viability of local farms and ranches?

Scope of LWVUS Agricultural Study

1. Current technology issues in agriculture including genetically modified organisms (GMOs), herbicides, pesticides, agriculture water pollution, aquifer depletion, antibiotics in livestock, and accurate food labeling

2. Current agriculture finance issues, including consolidation in agriculture industries, crop subsidies and the federal agricultural regulatory process.

Date: Monday, September 9

Time: 11:00 for social time, tea, bag lunch
11:20 for welcome to new members, reports, announcements
12:00 for the program, questions and informal discussion

Place: Mt. Shavano meeting room, Touber Building, 448 East First St., Salida

Directions: Enter the building through the main entrance on First Street. Go straight ahead to the elevator at the end of the hall. Go to the second floor. When you come out of the elevator turn right. Go past the restrooms, and then turn right again. The meeting room will be on the right. (It's also called Room #233A & B.)

Carpool: From Buena Vista, meet at 10:30 a.m., CUCC parking lot.



2013-2014 Board

Marjie Gray, Chair
gray2fish@gmail.com
Carol Sanford, Programs
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Jan Scar, Secretary
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Nancy Walters, Publicity
nejwalters285@gmail.com
Jeanne Younghaus, Finance
jlarkriver@rockymountains.net

Treasurer: Marilyn Box
marbox@mac.com

Committee Members

Voter Service for Sept-Oct
Scott Hartman, 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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League Day Highlights Programs at the State Level

On Saturday, September 28, 2013, from 8:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m., LWVCO brings Leaguers a full day of timely information on critical issues.

Colorado School Finance, Past, Present and Future

Presented by **Cary Kennedy**, Denver Deputy Mayor and Chief Financial Officer
A timely topic since voters in November will choose whether to raise taxes to support educations. This talk will undoubtedly provide background information to help with the ballot issue to raise taxes for education

Exchanges Under the Affordable Health Care Act

Presented by **Elisabeth Arenales**, Health Care Program Director of the Colorado Center on Law and Policy. Medicaid expansion is included in this hot topic as open enrollment begins on October 1, 2013.

Colorado's Ballot Issues for the Upcoming November Election and Changes in Voter Registration.

Presented by **Gerry Cummings**, LWVO 4th VP, Voter Services

Updates on the Mental Health Task Force and Hydraulic Fracturing

Presented by Leaguers **Barbara Mattison** and **Jeannette Hillery**, respectively.

Two local leagues will also give presentations about their projects.

If all this sounds good to you, LWVCC will pay for your \$32.00 registration, which covers the meeting room, lunch, audiovisual equipment, refreshments prior to the conference, and conference materials. Lunch is a choice of three salads plus dessert and coffee or tea.

You'll need to provide your own transportation to the Holiday Inn Select Denver, 455 South Colorado Blvd. Carpooling might be possible: Carol Sanford and Elizabeth Ritchie are already interested in going.

See the [LWVCO website](#) for more details. To register **and** be reimbursed, call Marilyn Box at 395-9325 or email her at marbox@mac.com **before** the LWVCO deadline of Sept 20. Reimbursement is limited to three attendees, but you can always register and pay on your own.

News in Brief

October Election Forums

The Voters Service committee is working hard to ensure we have two successful forums. The forum in Salida on Wed. Oct. 2 will have candidates for City Council. The forum in Buena Vista on Wed. Oct. 9 will have candidates for 3 positions on the school board. Both forums will include presentation of the two state ballot issues: sales tax on marijuana and an income tax for education. LWVCO pamphlets on the issues will be available.

Geothermal Regulations

The 1041 regulations for geothermal development are still not final. The Planning and Zoning Commission will be reviewing them (again), date TBD. The LWVCC geothermal committee is drafting a letter to the newspaper editors expressing the League's concern about the delay and the changes requested by developers who want to use their consultants in place of independent consultant.



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!

Welcome New Members!

Claudia Rodgers
Laura Bussing

There's Still Time to Renew YOUR LWV Membership

Individual: \$55.00

Household: \$82.50

Student: \$25.00

Write your check to
LWVCC and mail it to
Marilyn Box, 33890 Vista Verde,
Buena Vista, CO 81211

You can also renew your
membership online by using a
credit card to pay with PayPal,
a trusted, secure service.



Sen. Gail Schwartz to Brief the League on the New Colorado Voter Act

It's called the Colorado Voter Access and Modernized Elections Act and was signed by Governor John Hickenlooper last July.

It received mixed reviews:

"The elections overhaul allows same-day voter registration, and it allows registered voters to receive ballots by mail. But people can still vote in person, drop off their ballot or mail it in.

The law also eliminates the category of "inactive" voters, or those who skip even one election.

Another key component of the bill is that voters can now vote at any of the voting centers established in the measure, instead of following the current system that designates precinct polling places.

Democrats say the goal is to increase voter participation and make it easier for everyone to vote.

Alvina Vasquez with The Campaign for a Strong Colorado said it's a win for all Colorado voters. ...Vasquez said the law will impact many voters that have the right to vote, but not access to voting such as veterans, disabled people, and those from lower-income families.

However, not everyone agrees. While the bill passed with unanimous support from democrats, not a single republican voted for it.

Republicans have raised concerns about potential voter fraud, saying that same-day registration makes it too easy to cheat the system."

Source: Fox31, May 10, 2013 [See also [The Huffington Post](#)]

LWVCC Held Its Annual Picnic August 12



Jim Wilson spoke to a group of 30 or so members and guests about his experience as our new house representative to the Colorado Legislature. He discussed bills he's introduced and his position on the proposed income tax that would raise an additional \$590 million to fund education.



Wilson said that the state is expecting more revenue this year and he thought some of that should be earmarked for education rather than having taxes raised. He suggested that even if the tax increase passed, there's no guarantee that all the money would be reserved for education.