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## CALENDAR 2014

- September 15** – LWVCC Workforce Housing Program, BV
- September 19** – LWVCO Membership and Leadership Day
- September 20** – LWVCO League Day
- October** – LWVCC Candidate Forums and Ballot Issues, TBA
- November 4** – Election Day
- November 17** – Behavioral Health Part 1, Methodist Church, Salida
- December 15** – Behavioral Health Part 2 and holiday potluck, Buena Vista Community Center, Pinon Room

## Workforce Housing Program Set

*by Linda Mulka*

On June 10, Brandy Reitter, Buena Vista town administrator presented a study and proposal for workforce housing in the town of Buena Vista. With 38 percent of the workforce consisting of low-wage earners with an average wage of \$29,050, 60 percent spend more than the affordable 30 percent of income on rent. Rental vacancy is only 5 percent. This creates a problem with local prison and school personnel in addition to low-wage and seasonal workers. She presented a proposal to build 77 housing units in several phases of river park land owned by the town and school board. She showed potential economic and stability benefits for the town investment in infrastructure, which would cost at least \$700,000.

On July 8, Planning Director, Dee Miller, presented two other town plans. Plan B was a similar development north of the rodeo grounds. It would have more parking available and be on less valuable land but would be farther from infrastructure so it would be more expensive to develop and it would be less accessible to amenities, such as a grocery store. Plan C was the use of incentives for dispersed housing for private developers, which seemed to have the most support from trustees and the public present. Developers and realtors present at the meeting expressed concerns about the lack of infrastructure in existing vacant lots and Mayor Joel Benson expressed concerns about insufficient water for the number of new taps that would be needed.

The LWVCC is planning to have a program on affordable housing at 12 p.m. on Sept. 15, 2014 in the Pinon Room of the Buena Vista Community Center. It will be preceded by a social hour with refreshments. The invited speakers are Brandy Reitter who will present her study on workforce housing and Autumn Dever, Central Colorado Housing director, Upper Arkansas Council of Governments.

## LWVCO League Day Sept. 20

On Sept. 20 members of the League of Women Voters of Colorado (LWVCO) will meet in Denver at the Holiday Inn Select-Cherry Creek to receive updates on the 2014 elections and ballot issues. Gerry Cummins, Voter Service VP, will address the Colorado ballot Issues and, if it can be arranged, there will be a League sponsored “Meet the Candidates Forum” for a statewide race. In addition, Barbara Mattison, President Elect of the LWVCO, will give a presentation entitled, “Behavioral Health Task Force – Where From Here?”

Other presentations in the works include:

- Informing us on methods for amending the U.S. Constitution in preparation for the League of Women Voters of the United States (LWVUS) new study and review on campaign finance.
- Understanding the new LWVUS position on human trafficking.
- Sharing innovative activities being conducted by several local Leagues.

For complete information, visit the League’s Web site at [www.lwvcolorado.org](http://www.lwvcolorado.org).

**Deadline for registering is Friday, Sept. 12.**



## 2014-2015 Board

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## Committee Members

### August Picnic

Larry Bussey  
Deborah Lively\*  
Carol Sanford

### Programs and Studies

Barb Brady  
Diane Lively  
Jackie Sobczak  
Linda Mulka\*  
Carol Sanford  
Harriet Patton\*  
Jeanne Younghaus  
Reed Dils

### Finance and Fund Raising

Libby Fey  
Mary Helen Dunn  
Scott Hartman  
Jeanne Younghaus\*  
Jackie Sobczak

### Great Decisions

Mary Helen Dunn  
Scott Hartman  
Carol Sanford  
Linda Mulka\*

## LWVCC annual picnic well attended

About 35 LWVCC members attended the annual picnic in Salida at the American Legion Hut on Aug. 11. Rep. Jim Wilson and his wife Kristi were at the event and Rep. Wilson provided an update on the upcoming issues for the Colorado General Assembly and the November elections.

Wilson is working on two education committees this summer – Higher Education and Early Childhood. For Wilson, his priorities include keeping tuition increases to a minimum and adequate funding of kindergarten programs across the state.

He commented that the governor’s race will be the one to watch in the fall. In response to a member’s question, he confirmed that Gov. John Hickenlooper had engineered a compromise on fracking issues. He said the compromise means that proposed November ballot measures will not be pursued and that a task force will be created to make recommendations to the state Legislature.

Thank you to all who attended and helped with the picnic.



## CO Ballot Issues: To sign or not to sign?

Every general election year Coloradans are asked to sign petitions to place a variety of initiatives on the ballot. According to a recent article posted on its Web site by the LWVCO, “just to let the people vote on it” is not a good enough reason to sign a petition for a ballot initiative. Signing a petition should be taken very seriously and considered just as important as one’s vote. In its posting, the LWVCO offers these questions for members to consider when asked to sign a petition: Is it complex? Whose idea is it? How will it be funded? Does it belong in the constitution? Visit the LWVCO Web site at [www.lwvcolorado.org](http://www.lwvcolorado.org) for advice on these questions and for more information on Colorado’s ballot initiative process.



**Membership**

Ann Graham\*  
Melissa Smith\*

**Voter Service**

Marjie Gray\*  
Tracy Craig  
Rose Mirich  
Libby Fey  
Mary Helen Dunn  
Scott Hartman  
Elizabeth Ritchie  
Eileen Rogers  
Karen Dils  
Carol Sanford

**Facility Coordinators**

Jeanne Younghaus\*  
Tracy Craig

**Publicity/Social Media**

Deborah Lively\*  
Nancy Walters\*

**Hospitality**

Betsey Downing  
Mary Helen Dunn  
Jan Scar\*

**Web Hosting/Design**

Gail Brooks  
Deborah Lively\*

**Video**

Gail Brooks  
Reed Dils  
Deborah Lively\*

**Bylaws**

Jan Scar\*  
Jenny Davis  
Marjie Gray

\*Indicates board contact

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

## Items of note...

**Don't forget** to renew your membership and pay your annual dues. Renewals can be made by visiting the league's Web site at [www.lwvchaffeecounty.org](http://www.lwvchaffeecounty.org) and clicking on the *Join* button at the top of the page or by contacting Marilyn Box at [marbox@mac.com](mailto:marbox@mac.com).

**Mark your calendars** for the LWVCC's upcoming 2014-2015 programs:

- **Sept. 15** - Workforce Housing, Pinon Room, Buena Vista Community Center. Linda Mulka and Diane Lively Co-Chairs
- **October** - Candidate Forums and Ballot Issues, TBA. Scott Hartman and Elizabeth Richie, Co-Chairs
- **Nov. 17** - Behavioral Health Part 1, Methodist Church, Salida. Marilyn Bouldin, Chair.
- **Dec. 15** - Behavioral Health Part 2 and holiday potluck, Pinon Room, Buena Vista Community Center. LWVCO Task Force Chairwomen, Barbara Mattison, speaker. Marilyn Bouldin, Chair.
- **Jan. 12, 2015** - County Commissioners Update, Methodist Church, Salida. Diane Lively, Chair.
- **Feb. 9, 2015** - Renewable Energy Update, Sangre De Cristo, Buena Vista. Linda Mullka, Chair.
- **March 16, 2015** - Colorado Water Plan, Methodist Church, Salida. Reed Dils, Chair.
- **April 20, 2015** - Annual Dinner, Salida, Location TBA. Committee Chair TBA.

All meetings will be held on the 3rd Monday, except for January and February, which will be on the 2nd Monday of the month. Programs will begin at 11 a.m. for set-up and socialization. Welcome and announcements will begin at 11:30, followed by speakers from noon to 1 p.m. and conclude at 1:30 p.m. after half an hour of discussion and questions. If a cancellation is necessary due to weather conditions or speaker problems, members will be contacted via e-mail by 9 a.m. the day of the meeting. If you have further questions please contact the chair for the program.

**Missed a program? Don't worry – watch it later at [www.lwvchaffeecounty.org](http://www.lwvchaffeecounty.org).**

Videos of previous programs will be posted to the Web site for members to view.

**Follow us on Twitter! @lwvchaffeco** for the latest information.

**Get the 4-1-1 on election information at [www.vote411.org](http://www.vote411.org).** Launched by the League of Women Voters Education Fund (LWVEF) in October of 2006, VOTE411.org is a "one-stop-shop" for election related information. Members can also find information on the Nov. 4 election at <http://www.chaffeecountyclerk.org/wp-content/uploads/2011/04/General-election-flyer.pdf>. Ballots mail the week of Oct. 14.