



62 Members Making Democracy Work at www.lwvchaffeecounty.org

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CALENDAR 2014

- September 23** – National Voter Registration Day
- October 7** – LWVCC Board Meeting
- October 9** – LWVCC Candidate Forum, 6:30 p.m., Buena Vista
- 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 issues discussed

On Sept. 15 the League of Women Voters of Chaffee County (LWVCC) hosted a program on workforce housing. Brandy Reitter, Buena Vista town administrator and Autumn Dever, Central Colorado Housing director, Upper Arkansas Area Council of Governments (UAACOG) presented to the group of about 30.

Reitter began the program by defining affordable housing and the scope of the problem in Buena Vista. According to Reitter, affordable housing costs should equal no more than 30 percent of an individual’s or family’s income. Affordable housing is targeted to “essential” workers and is located in or near employment centers. In Buena Vista, 59 percent of the population spend more than the affordable 30 percent of income on rent. Rental vacancy is only 5 percent and the average monthly rental for a one-bedroom unit is \$824.

Reitter explained that there are many benefits to establishing affordable workforce housing including community stability, improved economic development, and the ability to attract and retain high quality employers and employees. She said the town of Buena Vista is currently working on the following solutions to address housing issues:

- Proposals for development of workforce housing downtown and/or at the rodeo grounds.
- Policy development by the board of trustees.
- Developer incentives including the potential for permit fee waivers, flexible regulatory compliance and property tax exemptions.

Reitter concluded by emphasizing the need for workforce housing in Buena Vista and that all options will require money and time and the utilization of public and private partnerships.

Autumn Dever spoke next and informed the crowd about programs offered by UAACOG’s Department of Central Colorado Housing including the Mutual Self-Help Housing Program that helps families build their own homes. She also mentioned the Housing Counseling Program that offers first-time homebuyer’s workshops along with budget and credit/debt counseling. Dever also discussed Section 8 housing and the Home Improvement Loan Program that provides low interest housing loans for low-income families to repair or replace existing owner-occupied homes. More information on UAACOG’s programs can be found at www.uaacog.com/programs/housing.html.

Several members of the community also attended the meeting and participated in the discussion and question and answer portion of the program. Many offered appreciation for the town’s work on housing and reiterated again the need for public and private partnerships.





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Committee Members

August Picnic

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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 Fay
Mary Helen Dunn
Scott Hartman
Jeanne Younghaus*
Jackie Sobczak

Great Decisions

Mary Helen Dunn
Scott Hartman
Carol Sanford
Linda Mulka*

Several candidates to attend forum

The LWVCC is planning a candidate forum for Thursday, Oct. 9 at the Buena Vista Community Center, Pinon Room, beginning at 6:30 p.m. The following candidates have confirmed their attendance:

Chaffee County Clerk and Recorder
Lori Mitchell (D)
Elaine Stewart (R)

Chaffee County Coroner
Randal Amettis (D)
David Slavish (R)

Colorado Senate District 5
Kerry Donovan (D)
Edward Mulcahy (L)
Donald Suppes (R)

Colorado House District 60
Curtis Imrie (Ind)
James Wilson (R)



Also invited are Chaffee County candidates who are running unopposed to come and be recognized in the audience and to participate in the “meet and greet” portion of the forum.

The forum is scheduled to begin at 6:30 p.m. with the local county candidates. After a brief recess, the forum will continue with Senate District 5 and House District 60 candidates at 7:30 p.m. This part of the forum will last about 45 minutes after which the “meet and greet” portion of the forum will commence.

As a reminder, questions can be directed to candidates for a specific office or to the group in general. The league will make sure there are an equitable number of questions for each candidate.

Colorado Election Resources

Colorado’s election season is in full swing and the LWVCC and the LWVCO offer ballot initiative and candidate resources for members to utilize. Ballots mail the week of Oct. 14 and the election is Nov. 4. Visit www.lwvchaffeecounty.org/elections/ for information on voting and a listing of state and local candidates. At <http://www.lwvcolorado.org/docs/ballot-issues-2014.pdf> members can access and read the LWVCO’s pamphlet on the ballot issues.



Membership

Ann Graham*
Melissa Smith*

Voter Service

Marjie Gray*
Tracy Craig
Rose Mirich
Libby Fay
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 and clicking on the *Join* button at the top of the page or by contacting Marilyn Box at marbox@mac.com.

Tuesday is National Voter Registration Day. Volunteers and organizations across the country will be activated to help spread the word on how and why to register to vote. Visit <http://www.nationalvoterregistrationday.org> for more information.

Missed a LWVCC program? Don't worry – watch it later at www.lwvchaffeecounty.org. Videos of previous programs will be posted to the Web site for members to view.

Follow us on Twitter! @lwvchaffeeo for the latest information.

The League of Women Voters of the United States (LWVUS) has had a long association with the United Nations (UN), being one of the nongovernmental organizations that served as consultants to the U.S. delegation at the UN Charter Conference in 1945. The League has official consultancy status with the UN Economic and Social Council.

Recently, Billie Day with the Arapahoe County League, attended the 65th conference of Non-Governmental Organizations hosted by the Department of Public Information at the UN. Leaders of the UN member countries will be setting goals in 2015 and this conference was the opportunity for civil society through its NGOs to voice their concerns at this critical time. For a copy of Billie's full report e-mail deborahlively@gmail.com.