



57 Members Making Democracy Work at www.lwvchaffeecounty.org

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CALENDAR 2015

January 12 – LWVCO
Legislative Day

January 12- County
Commissioners Update,
Salida

January 22 – Great
Decisions, BV Library

February 9 – Renewable
Energy Update, Buena
Vista

March 16 – Colorado Water
Plan, Salida

April 20 – LWVCC Annual
Dinner, Salida

Behavioral health report discussed

On Dec. 15th Barbara Mattison, Behavioral Health Task Force Chair and president-elect of the Colorado League of Women Voters, made a presentation on the May 2014 report “Overview of Colorado’s Behavioral Health System.” Critical points include:

- Mental health is a brain disorder.
- “The mentally ill” is a stigmatizing cliché; “persons in recovery” is preferred.
- Recovery is an individualized, multifaceted process.
- Although 50 percent of lifelong mental illnesses are present by age 14, Colorado has no comprehensive reporting about the behavioral health of, or services for, Colorado’s children.
- Colorado’s prison system is the largest in-patient provider of behavioral health services.
- Colorado is 48th in the nation in per capita funding for behavioral health services and 52nd (includes two territories) in the nation in the number of behavioral health beds available.
- People with mental illness are no more likely to be violent towards others than the general population.
- The combination of alcohol and gun ownership significantly increases the occurrence of violence, especially suicide.

The report describes new and promising practices and makes recommendations for change and action. Ms. Mattison also requested that LWVCC recommend to the LWVCO that the health care position be updated to include behavioral health.

The program was also the holiday potluck for the LWVCC. About 25 members attended and celebrated the holidays with home-cooked dishes.

County commissioners to speak

Chaffee County Commissioners Dennis Giese (District 1), Frank Holman (District 2) and Dave Potts (District 3) will provide an update on local issues at the LWVCC’s next program on Monday, Jan. 12.

The panel discussion will take place at the United Methodist Church in Salida. Set-up and social will begin at 11 a.m., followed by welcome and announcements at 11:30 a.m. The panel discussion will take place from noon to 1 p.m. and will be followed by half an hour of questions and comments.

The commissioners are expected to update the audience on current challenges and opportunities facing the county as well as provide a preview on upcoming agenda items for 2015 including the county’s fiscal status. Last year they covered topics from Brown’s Canyon to land use and highway improvements.

The program is open to the public and citizens are encouraged to attend and learn more about the commissioners and their work. For more information on the commissioners including meeting times, agendas and minutes visit www.chaffeecounty.org/commissioners.



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Harriet Patton*
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Libby Fay
Mary Helen Dunn
Scott Hartman
Jeanne Younghaus*
Jackie Sobczak

Great Decisions

Mary Helen Dunn
Scott Hartman
Carol Sanford
Linda Mulka*

Great Decisions begins January 22

Interested in foreign policy and world affairs? Then don't miss Great Decisions 2015. Great Decisions is a foreign policy discussion program sponsored jointly by the LWVCC and the Buena Vista Public Library. The discussions are based on a briefing book and a DVD published by the Foreign Policy Association (FPA). A copy of the briefing book is on reserve and available for reading at the library. Or members can order a book through Carol Sanford. Contact Carol at caroljean1945@gmail.com. Orders must be placed by Friday, Jan. 9. For members who pre-ordered the book last fall you should have picked up your copy at the library starting Jan. 5.

The meetings start Jan. 22 at 4:30 p.m. and will be held the 2nd and 4th Thursdays, and alternate between the library and the Congregational United Church of Christ located at 217 Crossman Ave. More information is on the LWVCC's Web site at <http://lwvchaffecounty.org/great-decisions/>.

The topics for 2015 are as follows:

- Russia and the Near Abroad
- Privacy in the Digital Age
- Sectarianism in the Middle East
- India Changes Course
- U.S. Policy Toward Africa
- Syria's Refugee Crisis
- Human Trafficking
- Brazil's Metamorphosis



Poinsettia sales thank you

Thank you to all the members who sold or bought plants for the LWVCC's annual fundraising event. The league appreciates your support. The money raised from the annual fundraiser is important to the league's budget and is used to send members to various events including the state legislative day.

This year the LWVCC made \$921, which is only slightly less than the budgeted amount of \$1,000.





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...

The LWVCO Legislative Conference is scheduled for Jan. 12, 2015 at the Old Supreme Court Chambers in the state capitol. The LWVCC is sending a small delegation to the program.

Subscribe now to the LWVCO's 2015 Legislative Letter and keep informed on the happenings of the Colorado General Assembly. The league's Legislative Action Committee and staff lobbyist, who follow proposed legislation and analyze pending bills based on league positions, create the biweekly letter. The cost of a subscription is \$20 and can be paid by check or Pay Pal. Visit www.lwvcolorado.org/news.html#legconf.

The LWVCC's annual dinner will be in Salida on April 20 this year. Members interested in serving on or chairing the organizing committee should contact deborahlively@gmail.com.

Missed the a LWVCC program? Don't worry – watch it at www.lwvchaffeecounty.org.

Follow us on Twitter! @lwvchaffeco for the latest information. On Facebook? So are we – like us!