



LEAGUE OF  
WOMEN VOTERS®

League of Women Voters  
of  
Estes Park

## March 2010

[www.lwv.org](http://www.lwv.org)

[www.lwv-estespark.org](http://www.lwv-estespark.org)

[www.lwvcolorado.org](http://www.lwvcolorado.org)

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### Pass the Word

The people of Colorado sure love to vote! We will sponsor two Voter Forums for the elections this spring, one for the Town Trustees on March 18, and one for the Special District elections on April 26.

## March Events

### Wednesday, March 10th

9 am in the Hondius Room

### Colorado's Funding Crisis

Linda Chapman, Superintendent of Schools

### Thursday, March 18th

7 to 9 pm in the Town Board Room

### Voters Forum

### Candidates for Town Trustee

### Wednesday, March 24th

9 am in the Hondius Room

### State of the Town

Bill Pinkham, Mayor



## President's Letter March 2010

Dear Members,

Another month, another snowstorm or two. Think positively!!! We need the cold weather to kill the Mountain Pine Bark Beetles, and the snow to improve our snowpack and the resulting water supply.

The League is now officially 90 years old!! We celebrated by viewing "Iron Jawed Angels". What an appropriate title for a terrific movie. The gory details of physical struggles, beatings, and prison treatment were done by sound, thank heavens, or I could not have eaten any lunch. We think the civil rights movement of the 60's was violent. The suffragettes encountered the same type of treatment. The movie (on DVD) is available at the library. Get the movie and spend an evening watching it. It made me appreciate all the more what efforts were taken to give us the right to vote and to remember that we should never take that responsibility lightly.

Our February programs, Lowell Richardson, Acting Executive Director of EPURA, giving an overview on the disillusionment process of EPURA, and Mike Crabbs, Restorative Justice Case Manager, discussing the Restorative Justices two programs (more information elsewhere in this League Lines), were really interesting and very informative. In fact, Bill Van Horn mentioned the League meeting on EPURA in his statement during the public comments section of the last Town Board Meeting (although he didn't attend our meeting we did get some unexpected press coverage). Hopefully, our attendance at the meetings will improve as the weather improves. 10 people attended the meeting February 10 and only 4 attended Feb. 24.

If you have a chance, when you are downtown, please take 10 minutes to go to the Library's circulation desk and take the Common Cents counts survey and quiz. Since we meet in their room at no cost, we should support their efforts to use the grant to improve financial literacy in this community. Marsha Yelick, one of our members, is coordinating this effort.

I love to cook and I'm sure many of you do too. If you have any family recipes or crowd pleasers, from appetizers, brunch casseroles, dinner specials, to desserts and anything else I've not included, the LWVDC is putting together a cookbook in honor of the League's 90<sup>th</sup> birthday. They are hoping for recipes from all local leagues around the country. So put your thinking cap on, dig out those recipes and send them in. Goody Braun, the coordinator of the LWVDC cookbook. She has requested that all recipes be sent to her at [goody.solomon@verizon.net](mailto:goody.solomon@verizon.net) by the end of March if possible. You can send them to her in April but she would really like them sooner. She would prefer e-mail but here's her regular address: Goody Braun, 1712 Taylor St. NW, Washington DC 20011

Spring is coming! The birds are singing their spring songs. Take a moment and listen!

Sue Pinkham  
President

## Mark Your Calendar

March 8	8 am	Board Meeting Pinkham's
March 10	9 am	Colorado's Funding Crisis, Linda Chapman Hondius Room
March 14	TBA	Mid-Winter social Pinkham's
March 16	11:30	Great Decisions Discussion Group Hondius Room
March 18	7 pm	Voters Forum Town Board Room
March 24	9 am	State of the Town, Bill Pinkham Hondius Room
March 26	5 pm	Deadline for April League Lines
April 14	9 am	Colorado's Budget Mess Hondius Room
April 28	9 am	World-Changing Women –Donna Shavlik Hondius Room
April 26	7 pm	Voter Forum Town Board Room
May 12	9 am	Annual Meeting & Luncheon Peak to Peak Grill
May 21-22		State Council Meeting in Este Park



## Membership Update

*Diane Burkepile*

We have a total of 49 members, including 2 honorary members.

Here is the current address for Janet Maharry, who is recuperating from surgery.

PO Box 27088

West Des Moines, IA 50265



## Program Highlights

We have two upcoming programs scheduled that deal with the current state budget crisis.

At the next regular meeting Superintendent of Schools Linda Chapman will explain the effect that the funding shortfall will have on our local schools. As always, she will be happy to answer all questions and give timely information about the challenges in program and staffing.

On April 14, Carol Hedges from the Colorado Fiscal Policy Institute will provide a state perspective. Several of our League members heard her speak at the spring conference and were very impressed with her ability to explain a complex topic and make you laugh at the same time. She has been speaking all over the state and we are fortunate to have her in Estes Park, so please spread the word.

# Election Season Never Ends in Estes Park

## Town Election

On April 6th the Town of Estes Park will elect three members of the Board of Trustees by a mail ballot only election. Ballots will be mailed the week of March 15th and must be returned by 7 pm on April 6th to Town Hall, or County elections offices on Brodie Avenue or in Fort Collins.

Two incumbent trustees, Dorla Eisenlauer and Eric Blackhurst, are seeking re-election. The deadline for all candidate petitions is March 5th.

We will hold a Voters Forum on Thursday, March 18th from 7 to 9 pm. Please let Donna Shavlik or Karen Ericson know if you can help.

## Special Districts

The Special Districts will hold their elections on May 4th. We will provide more information next month and have tentatively scheduled a Forum for Monday, April 26.

## Precinct Caucuses

On Tuesday, March 16, at 7 pm voters throughout Colorado will attend their neighborhood precinct caucuses to determine their choice of delegates to their county conventions and assemblies. It is also the first step in choosing candidates to run in the primary election for the Colorado House and Colorado Senate.

Anyone is welcome to attend their caucus, but to vote an individual must have affiliated with the Democratic or Republican Party no later than January 19, 2010. Unaffiliated voters may not participate in party caucuses.

In the Estes Valley, the Republicans will be meeting at the High School, and the Democrats at the YMCA in the Assembly Hall.

Every caucus has the same agenda: Elect a Chair and Secretary; elect two precinct committee people to represent the precinct on the Party's Central Committee; elect delegates to the County Assembly/County Convention; and introduce, debate and approve or reject resolutions and platform issues.

Participants can also indicate their preference for specific candidates.

For more information, go to:  
[larimergop.org](http://larimergop.org) or [larimerdems.org](http://larimerdems.org)

## Items of League Interest

### Birthday Party

The LWVCO is planning to celebrate League's 90<sup>th</sup> birthday on Monday, March 15, at the State Capitol from 8 to 10 am, on the 1<sup>st</sup> floor north end (Colfax entrance). They have issued invitations to all the legislators and the Governor, Lt. Governor, Treasurer, Attorney General and Secretary of State. Refreshments will be served and several legislators who are League members are sponsoring a resolution for League that day on the floor of the legislature. LWV of Estes Park will have Rodeo Parade pictures on display in the Capitol Building in March.

### Supreme Court Decision on Campaign Finance

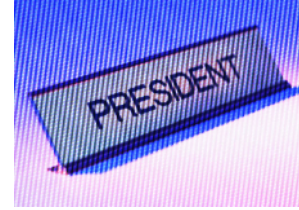
LWVUS President, Mary Wilson, sent a strongly worded letter to the pay for their own political campaigns a "tragic mistake." She urged Congress to update campaign finance laws, with particular attention to requirements governing corporate and union spending. League members are also visiting key Senate offices this month to discuss such legislation. Mary also testified before Congress in February to share League's perspective about the decision and pointed out that, according to a nationwide *ABC News-Washington Post* poll, 80% of Americans of both parties oppose the Court's decision.

### LWVUS 2010 Legislative Priorities

After reviewing congressional action in 2009, and a discussion of expected activity in 2010, the LWVUS Board of Directors has adopted the following Legislative Priorities for 2010: Global Climate Change, Health Care Reform, and Money in Elections (campaign finance reform). On the watch list are Arms Control, DC Voting Rights, Election Reform, Ethics and Lobbying Reform, and UN Convention on the Elimination of all forms of discrimination Against Women. The watch list includes issues which need to be monitored for action opportunities in the 111<sup>th</sup> Congress.



## Restorative Justice Program



Mike Crabbs, Case Manager, spoke to us at our meeting on February 24. Since we had such a small turnout I thought I'd include information about both of the programs offered. Mike is looking for community volunteers to help with both the community group conference and the community circles. After reading the following article, please call Mike at 577-3829 with any questions about the program or if you'd like to volunteer.. If you are a member of another organization that would be interested in having him speak about the program, please let him know.

**Estes Valley Restorative Justice Partnership exists to reduce crime and disorder by applying the principles of Restorative Justice.**

**There are two programs available. Community Group conferences: a way to help offenders avoid going to prison. The second is Community Circles: help offenders transition from life behind bars to being responsible citizens.**

**Repair                  Reconciliation                  Reintegration**  
**Responsibility                  Restitution                  Respect**

- Repair of harm to victim and community, allowing partnerships to form between schools, law enforcement, parents, and the community.
- Enhanced empathy and understanding among participants and increased capacity of the community solve problems
- Victim given full voice
- Contract that offers offender creative opportunities for growth, increased self-worth, and reintegration into the community
- Empowerment of offender to repair the harm and to make better choices for the future.

### **Community Group Conference**

**Basis of the Program:** It is a circle process designed to bring together victim, offender, and community after a crime occurs in order to identify the harm that has resulted and to create a system for repair. Offenders begin by sharing their story, then victims and community members identify the ways they have been affected. Assets of the offender are gathered and shared. All contribute to the formation of a contract with items that will help the offender repair the harm that he/she caused.

**Target Population:** Juveniles are considered for petty, misdemeanor, and felony offences. Exceptions are felony offenses of a violent nature or any level of sex crime. Adults are considered for petty and misdemeanor offences only. The program may be utilized as an alternative to court, a condition of court sentencing, or as an element of probation. Offenders must take responsibility for their crimes in order to be considered-meaning they must admit guilt.

**Process:** Initially, volunteer facilitators meet separately with victims and offenders for a few hours each. The conference, with all participants, takes place at one time and usually lasts 2-4 hours. A contract is created with up to five “to do” items for the offender and is monitored by staff. Upon completion or termination, the group re-convenes for a post-conference to celebrate the successes or question failures to complete contract items.

**Outcomes:** The goal is for the offender to avoid further involvement in the criminal justice system. Victim’s voices are heard and they are given input in the contract. The offender is held accountable and must take direct responsibility. A contract is produced with a maximum of five items. If all are completed, there is no criminal entry on the record of the offender.

### **Community Circles**

**Basis of Program:** It is a circle process designed to provide support and accountability for persons reentering the community for a criminal detention facility. Participants provide insight and options in six life areas: Employment, Family/Marital, Associates/Social Interaction, Substance Abuse, Community Functioning, and Personal/Emotional with weekly contract items in at least one of these areas.

**Target Population:** Any age person coming to the community from prison or a youth detention facility will be considered. They must be willing to participate by signing a contract and must give permission to have this requirement added to their parole plan (if on parole). Priority is given to those who show desire and motivation to change behavior and their lifestyle in order to stay out of prison. Participants must take responsibility for the crimes committed and those affected by them.

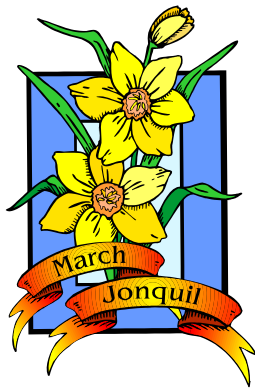
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**Outcomes:** The goal is for the core member (offender) to lead a crime free and healthy lifestyle. A contract is produced each week with a maximum of three items to be completed and a circle member assigned to each for the purpose of assisting the offender. These items are designed to be steps toward the accomplished long-term goals in each of the six life areas outlined above.

## Mission Statement

The League of Women Voters is a nonpartisan political organization that promotes informed and active participation in government and influences public policy through education and advocacy.

Membership is open to both men and women of voting age.



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