



LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF ESTES PARK

JANUARY 2011

42 member strong

www.lwv.org

www.lwv-estespark.org

www.lwvcolorado.org

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF ESTES PARK BOARD MEMBERS 2010-2011

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President	Diane Burkepile
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League Lines Editor & Publicity	Sue Pinkham
Natural Resources	Jim Burkepile
Legislative	Jim Cope
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	Helen Hondius
RMNP	Bob Peters

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.



The Meet and Greet Session with the newly elected officials or their representatives ,in December, was huge success! The Good Samaritan Village meeting room was spacious and worked well. Many thanks to Sharry White & Helen Hondius for coordinating the event. Everyone agreed that the question and answer session was excellent. Many thanks to Donna Shavlik for organizing that portion of the event. About 35 people attended the reception.

Lets do it again!! Several people thought that this was such a good idea, the we should meet informally with our County Commissioners and other elected officials.

Did anyone take any photos? We'd love to include them in our next League Lines.

PRESIDENT'S NOTES

As I sit down to write this letter to the membership I am thinking about President Obama's speech in Arizona. I do hope we can become the country that the young girl who was killed by the shooter believed in. We all have to do our part to make sure that happens.

The League of Women Voters, as a group of citizens, has many interests. Whether it is the voters service, participating in studies, lobbying for bills (pro or con), working on projects for local communities....we are trying to make things better for all citizens.

Membership in LWVEP is important to me. I hope it is important to you. Our numbers are down somewhat from past years. I would like to see the numbers go up. When I first joined a League it was because someone took the time to ask me. I believe they even saw to it that I got to the first meeting. After that I was hooked!!! So, please take the time to talk to a friend or two and invite them to a LWVEP meeting. Go to the meeting yourself.....with them....and I believe they will also find it worth their time. We can always use their talents!

Diane Burkepile

How many family members and friends collect cook books?
Here's the perfect solution for a gift they do not have!!!!

The LWV's 90th Anniversary Cookbook is now available for only \$15.00 This is a very special cookbook as it has notes about the history of some of the recipes.
There are only 5 cookbooks available. Get yours!
Contact Sue Pinkham at 586-0992



Great Decisions: Chair Sue Magnuson

"Critical thinking by voters is key to the life of a vibrant democracy. Without critical thinking, voting is a largely symbolic act. Critical thinking is dependent upon factual information. Without the facts, unvarnished by this or that ideological filter, how can citizens evaluate their government's actions."

The Foreign Policy Association takes pride in their nonpartisan presentation of complex, sometimes controversial issues. The LWVEP is proud to offer this stimulating program of discussions the third Tuesday of each month beginning with a DVD presentation of experts discussing the topic of the month. There are questions at the end of each chapter to begin discussion or the facilitator for the topic can create his/her own.

Topics that will be covered this year are: rebuilding Haiti, National security, Horn of Africa, Financial Crisis, Germany Ascendant, Nonproliferation, The Caucasus and Multilateralism. Pick your topic. Join us. Whether you've read the material, or read other articles about the topic, you are welcome.

The library has purchased the DVDs for the group to use and to check out. The book is available at the library or for purchase from Sue Magnuson for \$21.00.

**Who Are We? What Do we Stand for?
What positions should we change?
Are there issues we need to study so we can take a position?
We do advocate but we can't advocate if we don't have a position on an issue.**

COME, PLEASE!!!

**Planning meeting
Wednesday, January 26
Hondius Room of the Estes Valley Public Library
11:30 –1:30
Brown bag lunch**

We will be reviewing State and Local positions and reaching consensus on any new local ones that you, the members, have brought forward to be discussed and reach consensus on.

Local Positions Agreed upon in January 2010

1. Land use – we agreed that members needed to be updated and that we should do more in educating the community. We also need to have more community involvement in changing the master plan and building designations *using smart growth policies.*
2. Rocky Mountain National Park – continue to support efforts to keep RMNP a place where people can obtain “dynamic interaction of human values based on the perpetuation of natural features in as near to pristine conditions as possible. The major emphasis is on the perpetuation of natural processes.” (RMNP master plan) add. *Re-visit: the concealed weapons law.*
3. Senior Citizens – *update the position as a result of a study of local senior issues since our senior population is growing. As the number of people move into the area, the number of senior citizens increases. Adequate, adequate, affordable housing will become more of an issue as will the need for various types of services grow to assist that population.*
4. Water Protection - Determined that we need to re-study this position and continue an educational campaign to alert residents and visitors alike *about* household choices affecting water quality.
5. New statement of our Sustainability position - *Sustainability is a way of life which seeks a balance in meeting current environment, economic and human needs without compromising the ability of future generations to meet the same goal. The concept of Sustainability is implicit in the Principles of the League of Women Voters. League positions are in compliance with the fundamental principle of sustainability, recognizing the interdependency among issues of public policy, and the impact of current decisions on the global welfare of future generations. – LWVCO 2010*
6. Living Green – *Encourage using alternative energy sources throughout the Este Valley. Use alternatives* in construction so that buildings are more energy efficient and less dependent on fossil fuels.
7. *The LWV is committed to improving the recycling opportunities for residents and businesses in the Estes Valley. The opportunities should include a safe, clean recycling area at the Transfer Station and at a minimum include cardboard recycling for everyone in the Estes Valley.*

New wording is in bold and italics.

League of Women Voters of Colorado (state positions that all local Leagues can use when determining whether a local issue comes under a state position and need not be studied as in depth before taking action.)

LWVCO and local Colorado Leagues can take action on an issue only after they have studied and reached consensus or concurrence on a position. The League of Women Voters of Colorado's program positions are in three areas: Government, Natural Resources, and Social Policy. Some of the positions are identified here.

All of the position statements are available at www.lwvcolorado.org

Government:

Apportionment—Support an independent commission to reapportion the Colorado state legislature. Support apportionment of both houses of state legislature and Colorado U.S. congressional districts based on specific criteria.

Campaign Finance (National Position) - financing political campaigns should ensure the public's right to know, combat corruption and undue influence...

Fiscal Policy - Support adequate and funding of state government programs through an equitable tax system that is progressive—incorporates social, environmental and economic goals. Oppose earmarks of funds and sales tax on food.

Gun Control -(National Position)

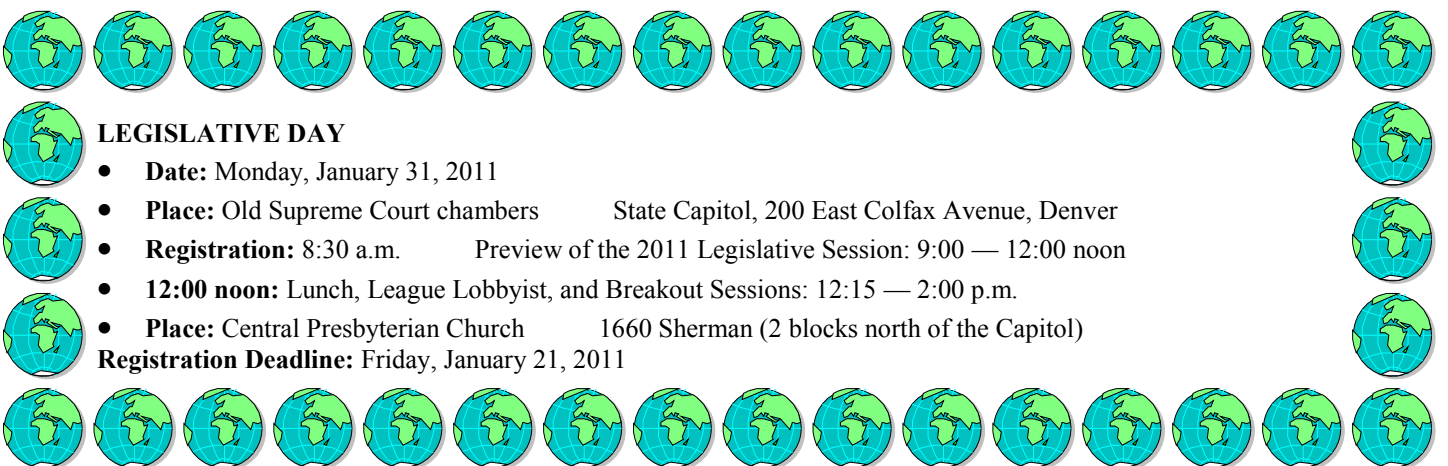
Justice System—Support of non-partisan selection of judges on an appointive-retentive basis....

Juvenile Justice—Support a juvenile justice system that has as its primary purpose the rehabilitation, safety and well being of the offender.....

Other Governmental concerns include: local government, Precinct Caucus/Assembly System, Reproductive Choice, School Finance (K-12) , Transportation, Voting Rights.

Natural Resources—should be managed as interrelated parts of life supporting ecosystems. Resources should be conserved and protected to assure future availability. Pollution should be controlled to preserve the physical, chemical & biological integrity of ecosystems and to protect public health. Areas of specific positions include: Air quality, Energy, environmental planning and management, land use, solid waste management and disposal and water.

Social Policy—promote social and economic justice, equal rights for all, universal health care coverage at reasonable cost, well being of children, and to combat discrimination, poverty and violence. Specific positions include: child care, children's support systems, education, equality of opportunity, health care, higher education (several positions), housing and income assistance.



LEGISLATIVE DAY

- **Date:** Monday, January 31, 2011
- **Place:** Old Supreme Court chambers State Capitol, 200 East Colfax Avenue, Denver
- **Registration:** 8:30 a.m. Preview of the 2011 Legislative Session: 9:00 — 12:00 noon
- **12:00 noon:** Lunch, League Lobbyist, and Breakout Sessions: 12:15 — 2:00 p.m.
- **Place:** Central Presbyterian Church 1660 Sherman (2 blocks north of the Capitol)
- **Registration Deadline:** Friday, January 21, 2011

Brief statements of LWVUS Concerns in 2010

The League of Women Voter of the United States has many positions covering governmental issues, natural resources concerns and social concerns. You can find a complete listing and wording of all national positions on the League's website at: lwwus/issues

Supreme Court Ruling Undermines Basic Pillar of Democracy in U.S.

League calls decision to allow unlimited corporate funds in campaigns 'constitutionally irresponsible' and a 'tragic mistake.'

League Urges House to Complete Work on Health Care Reform

League President Mary G. Wilson sent a letter to the House of Representatives urging them to do what is necessary to finish work on health care reform in order to send a bill quickly to the President for his signature.

ACTION ALERT: Stand Up Against Weakening the Clean Air Act

Tell us what you think: Take the League's 2010 Survey on Democracy

2010 will shape the political landscape for the next decade. Make your voice heard by taking our survey today.

League Opposes Amendment Attacking Clean Air Act

The League and coalition partners sent a letter to Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid urging opposition to Senator Murkowski's amendment attacking the Clean Air Act.

ACTION ALERT: Health Care Passage Imminent

Take action now to urge Congress and the President to support comprehensive health care reform!

League Issues Report on Obama Administration Ethics Reforms

League and other groups commend strong rules on lobbying, ethics and transparency; urge Administration to take on public financing and FEC reforms.

Happy Holidays from the League!

Read about the League's latest work in this month's LeaguE-Voice Newsletter.

League Recognizes Senate For Passing Historic Health Care Reform

Hopeful that Final Bill will Include Public Insurance Option

League Urges Senate to Pass Comprehensive Health Care Reform

League of Women Voters President Mary G. Wilson sent a letter urging Senators to pass comprehensive health care reform legislation.

Programs, Programs

We are having just one meeting a month so mark your calendars and be there! The Fourth Wednesday of each month in the Hondius Room of the Estes Valley Public Library.

January 26 - Hondius Room, Estes Valley Public Library
11:30 a.m. -- Brown Bag
Subject: EPLWV Annual Planning Meeting

February 23 - Hondius Room, Estes Valley Public Library
11:30 a.m. -- Brown Bag
Speaker: Jim Cope Presentation on How Laws Are Made and the Lobbying Process

March 23 - Hondius Room, Estes Valley Public Library
11:30 a.m. -- Brown Bag
Subject: EPLWV Plans and Projects for 2011-12

April 27 - Hondius Room, Estes Valley Public Library
11:30 a.m. -- Brown Bag
Speaker: Carol Hedges, Colorado Fiscal Policy Institute

May -- Annual Luncheon/Meeting, date, time and location TBA
Speaker (pending): Christine Watson, Lobbyist, CO League of Women Voters



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