



LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF ESTES PARK

DECEMBER 2011

40 member strong

www.lwv.org

www.lwv-estespark.org

www.lwvcolorado.org

Happy Holidays!!

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

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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.

IRENE LITTLE TO BE HONORED

Irene Little has won an award : Larimer County Environmental Stewardship Award! This award will be made on December 12 at 3 p.m. in the County Courthouse in Fort Collins. A group is planning to have lunch at 1 p.m. in Fort Collins. The Larimer County LWV is also planning to have some members with us. If you would like to join us, (we will car pool) please call me at 577-1685 or Irene at 215-9636.

PRESIDENT'S NOTES

Weather has played havoc with many of our plans....as you know schools and many events got changed by the snowstorm on October 26th! Then we could not have a speaker for the Education Consensus meeting planned for November 9th, so we moved that meeting to November 16th. We worked two meetings into one. Our speaker was Patrick Hickey, the future Superintendent of Schools, who will replace Linda Chapman. He gave us some insights into the consensus questions. Sue Pinkham was able to write up our results and send them off to LWVUS. The Education Committee will continue to meet. We have 5 members and will welcome more at any time.

Being "Green" was to topic of the December 7th meeting. We had four great speakers: John Guffy from Eagle Rock School; John Bleem from Platte River Power Authority; Kieran Rowser from the Public Library; and Paul Newendorp, a local environmentalist. Thank you, members, for coming to the meeting, and it was great to have many guests also attending. Irene Little did a great job of leading the discussion as usual. I took many notes which I am writing in another article for this League Lines. The ideas shared by the group will be part of other actions the LWVEP will use in the future.

At the January 25th meeting we will be doing Program Planning. We plan to make it a special event, so be watching for details after the holidays!

Great Decisions has had a very good year. New books will be ordered in January. Please watch for news about the 2012 series. Sue Magnuson has done a great job of keeping the interest of league members and local citizens who attend the meetings. The meetings are always the third Tuesday's of the month in the Hondius Room at 11:30 a.m. - 1 p.m.

I hope you will have a wonderful holiday season!

League Meeting -11-16-11

Patrick Hickey gave us an insight on education today. Here are some of his comments. I only wish that more of our members and friends could have heard him.

The U.S. Constitution gives certain responsibilities and powers to the federal government. What isn't specifically stated is left to the states. Education is one of those not specified in the Constitution.

Common Core – nationally it is difficult to make all those results similar, because of local variances, immigration, languages, and other considerations. Not all school districts have the same persona, some are in cities, some are in farming communities, and some on islands where no traffic lights or sidewalks exist. How can one set of criteria work for such diverse populations?

In Hootch vs. the State of Alaska: student bodies of more than ten should have their own school and a highly qualified teacher.

Colorado Standards – basis of what students need to know. The difficulty here is that the 178 school districts have a variety of students who don't speak English. Some have 33-35 different languages. What is needed is a viable curriculum that is aligned – adjust the core to meet local needs.

Because the students of today have a totally different approach to learning thanks computers, Iphones, Ipads, Internet, FaceBook etc, teaching needs to use these tools to help students succeed in the international area.

The world of tomorrow is really global and our students need to compete successfully with students from China, Japan as well as the European nations.

Compiled by Sue Pinkham

Great Decisions

Since the fall of 2009 monthly Great Decisions sessions have been held at the Estes Valley Library. These discussions explore important international and political topics impacting our future.

The next session will be held in the Hondius Room on December 20 starting at 11:30 am. This discussion, a supplement to the regular series, will continue the examination started at the group's November meeting regarding Thomas Friedman and Michael Mandelbaum's new best seller "That Used to be Us: how America fell behind in the world it invented and how we can come back". We will continue examining five critical challenges our country and Estes Park are facing along with ways we can constructively respond to these looming crises. The discussions is open to all and newcomers are always welcome.

Books for the 2012 year will be ordered shortly. Please call Sue Magnuson (970-214-0319) to get in on the bulk order and save \$\$! For those of you who have already told me you want a book, thank you and see you next year!



League Meeting December 7

SOME NOTES FROM “WHAT IT MEANS TO BE ‘GREEN’”

It is difficult to cover a meeting with four speakers and much discussion in just a few sentences, but here goes:

John Guffy said that Eagle Rock was built to be an eco-friendly facility. They put up reminders in the buildings saying such things as, “Turn off the lights when no one is in the room”. They keep a chart of different things people can do to live “green”. Their kitchen recycles most things, and does compost waste. They are planning to build a composting facility.

Paul Newendorp said to be “green” to him means to be environmentally conscious. He said he has a quote from Darwin from 1859 in which he says, “Everything is connected to everything else.” We have to all live together in harmony. He said we need to curb our egocentric ways of living. He used a quote (Navajo?) to the effect that Mother Earth and Father Sky take care of us and we need to respect them and be thankful.

John Bleem from the Platte River Power Authority said that his organization works to be reliable, to be environmental stewards, to be efficient, and to be cost competitive. They use coal, but because of upgrades, they are among the cleanest producers in the country. He would welcome us on any tours we would like to take to any of their systems; wind turbines, natural gas, or coal.

Kieran Rowser said the library has worked hard to be as “green” as possible. They have converted to CFLs in fixtures, water usage has been reduced by changing to low flow toilets, they recycle office paper and cardboard, (volunteers take these to Transfer Station), employees walk to work or ride bikes. Heating is programmed to turn off when the library is not open. They are always looking for new ideas.

There was discussion following the talks about many other ways we could be “green”, or as Paul Newendorp said



“environmentally conscious“.

Many thanks to all the members for putting this enlightening program together.

We had asked the panel to answer 4 questions.

Here are the answers from John Bleem, Platte River Power Authority.

Platte River Power Authority is a not-for-profit utility that generates and delivers reliable, low-cost and environmentally responsible electricity to its owner communities of Estes Park, Fort Collins, Longmont and Loveland, Colorado, where it is distributed by each municipal utility to residents and businesses

1. How is your business reducing the amount of energy you use?

Platte River Facilities

Replaced Rawhide steam turbine with higher efficiency unit – increased output by approximately 10% with no increase in fuel use or air emissions.

Replacing motors for large equipment at Rawhide with high efficiency motors.

Completed energy efficient lighting retrofits at Rawhide and Headquarters (HQ) complex.

Upgraded insulation and sealing at office building to reduce heating and cooling loads.

Replaced heating, ventilation and air conditioning (HVAC) system at HQ offices to improve efficiency.

Upgraded controls on HVAC at HQ to reduce energy and cut peak demand.

Upgraded irrigation system to reduce energy and water usage.

Helping Customers - We're not just focused on our own electrical use, but also on the energy used by electric customers.

Platte River funds programs aimed at helping customers in member communities save energy by replacing inefficient lighting and other equipment.

Investing \$2 million annually.

Savings equal to energy used by about 9,000 homes.

2. What steps is your business following to reduce air pollution and carbon emissions?

a. The energy savings projects described above reduce CO2 emissions by about 11,500 tons per year.

b. A new mercury control system was installed with captures most of the mercury for coal burning at Rawhide.

c. Platte River will spend about \$40 million over the next five years to reduce NOx emissions at the Craig station.

d. Rawhide uses low sulfur bio-diesel for startup fuel.

Platte River's fleet includes hybrid and natural gas vehicles.

3. What steps are you taking to recycle materials used in production?

a. We're on pace to recycle about 15% of the fly ash produced at Rawhide this year- ash will be used in building construction materials to replace cement, as well as other beneficial uses.

b. Rawhide uses recycled water from the Fort Collins wastewater treatment plant for cooling – rather than using fresh water from the region.

c. All paper is now channeled separately for the other co-mingled recycling and 100% recycled.

d. All waste metals are recycled from all departments,

e. Special oil filters are used in HQ fleet vehicles to reduce oil filter waste.

Batteries, florescent lamps, oil metal and electronic equipment are all recycled.

4. What suggestions do you have for individuals and families to reduce energy consumption?

a. Deduce use of automobiles for commuting – ride bicycles or other low emission vehicles (motorcycles, hybrid cars etc.) walk (especially kids to school) and use mass transit where available.

b. Install compact fluorescent lighting

c. Install programmable thermostats to reduce energy in winter and summer

d. Buy ENERGY STAR rated products whenever possible instead of less efficient products.

e. Reduce purchases of materials that require long distance transport _ buy local

f. Purchased recycled and reusable consumer products.

Check with Estes park Light & Power for more information at: <http://www.estes.org/LightPower/Conservation.aspx>

See other sources of information from local, state and federal government sources.

MEMBERSHIP NEWS

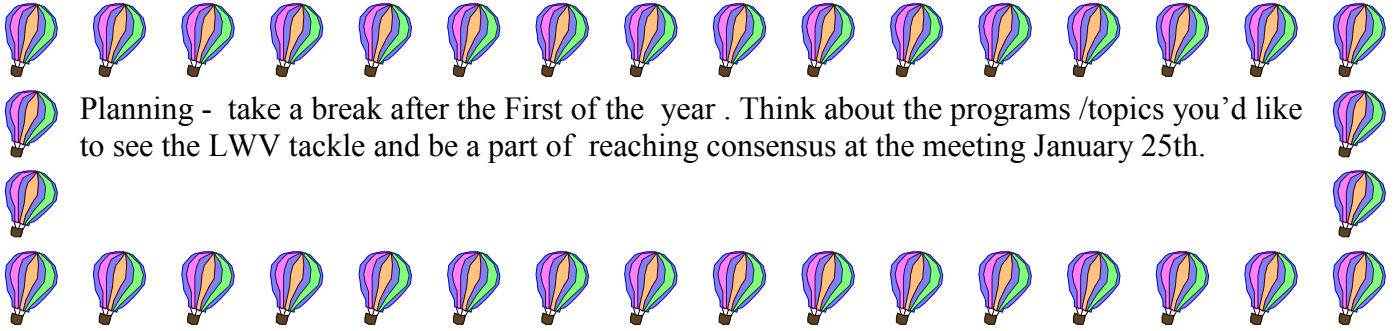
We welcome back Barbara Williams as a member!

Reminder: We still need to have dues from several members. Please check to see if you have paid your dues. Notices will be sent to those who have not paid. Checks can be sent to P. O. Box 564.

Thank you to all who have paid dues.



ENJOY THE SEASON



Planning - take a break after the First of the year . Think about the programs /topics you'd like to see the LWV tackle and be a part of reaching consensus at the meeting January 25th.

**PROGRAMS FOR YEAR 2011-2012
LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF ESTES PARK**

January 25Program Planning

**Hondius Room, Library
11:30 a.m. - 1 p.m.**

February 21.....Great Decisions..(Topic from new book)

**11:30 a.m. - 1 p.m.
Hondius Room, Library**

February 22.....Economic Growth and Sustainability: K. Reynolds

**Hondius Room, Library
11:30 a.m. - 1 p.m.**

March 20.....Great Decisions..(Topic from new book)

**Hondius Room, Library
11:30 a.m. - 1 p.m.**

March 28.....Water and Colorado's Future: Ellen Wohl, PhD

**Hondius Room, Library
11:30 - 1 p.m.**

April 20.....Great Decisions...(Topic from new book)

**Hondius Room, Library
11:30 - 1 p.m.**

April 25.....Rocky Mountain National Park

**Hondius Room, Library
11:30 a.m. - 1 p.m.**

May 15.....Great Decisions...(Topic from new book)

**Hondius Room, Library
11:30 a.m. - 1 p.m.**

May 25.....Annual Meeting

To Be Announced



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