



League of Women Voters of Montezuma County

VOTER

Montezuma County, Colorado

www.lwvmontezuma.org Total Membership: 27

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

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Mark Your Calendars

General Meetings

- Thur Oct 9, LWV Candidate Forum in the Calvin Denton Room, EEA, 7 pm
- Wed Oct 22, LWV General meeting "Climate Change Update" Dr. Kristen Averyt, Calvin Denton Room, EEA, 7 pm

Board Meetings

- Mon Oct 13, Visitor's Center 9:30am

Other Events

- Sat Oct 18, Patrick Cummins, "Air Quality, Energy and Climate Change", EEA, 7pm sponsored by M-CAN
- Sat Oct 18, Pumpkin Festival Booth: Cortez Cultural Center. Distribute literature.
- Wed Oct 29, Søren Hermanson speaking at a San Juan Citizen Association sponsored meeting at FLC. 7 pm.

Join the League!

Anyone of voting age may join the League. Discounted household memberships are available. Call Llois Stein at 564-9565 or Marcia Boon at 565-7668 for more information.

**Early voting begins
October 20**

President's Message

There is much happening in regards to elections these days!! That's an understatement.

Eleanor Kuhl and I attended League Day in Denver Saturday, September 27 and learned more about the politics and issues of the various Colorado Referendums and Initiatives that will appear on the statewide ballot. Judy Schuenemeyer and I are speaking at several venues this month to present the LWV Ballot Issue pamphlets and to help folks understand the magnitude of the need to be an informed voter regarding the Ballot Issues. Thanks to Llois Stein, Terri Helm, Rani Williams, Nina Hogue, Eleanor Kuhl, and Marcia Boon for helping Dick Hoover and me distribute the pamphlets.

Dick Hoover has been busy for several months organizing our League's Candidate Forum that will take place Thursday, October 9 at 7 PM in Empire Electric's Calvin Denton Room. Please plan to attend early and help us set up.

Our League received a grant from LWVUS to sponsor a presentation by Dr. Kristen Averyt on Climate Change. I met with Dr. Averyt in Boulder when I attended the August LWVCO Board meeting. She is an enthusiastic, knowledgeable, busy young scientist. Don't miss her talk!! As she is giving the same presentation the next evening at FLC it is a coup for us to have her in Cortez the evening before!

I encourage you to attend the presentation at FLC, Durango, Wednesday October 29, 7 pm, to be given by Søren Hermanson who will speak about how the Danish Island, Samsø, that has become energy independent and is selling power to mainland Europe. Understanding such innovations help us to envision how we in

Montezuma County can help our nation to become energy independent and in a relatively short period of time!

Review the calendar carefully. There are scheduled meetings given by other groups that will inform us on issues that are on our critical agenda. Please consider the meetings as valuable important opportunities to gather information on League issues.

— *Jodi Foran*

Talks on Ballot Issues

While voter registration may have ended, the talks on ballot issues are in full gear. Judy Schuenemeyer and Jodi Foran have full schedules and more requests are coming in. Scripts are available, as are notes and Power Point file provided by the LWVCO. It's fun and the talks go faster if there are two of us. You only have to explain 14 issues now. Call Jodi if you are remotely interested in participating and tag-teaming with Jodi or Judy.

Blue Books

By the time you read this newsletter, you should have your Blue Book. Many assume LWVCO sends out this booklet. Actually it comes from Legislative Council. Read the recommendations on retention of judges in the back of this publication. This will give you ideas about judges before you go to the polls. If you don't receive a Blue Book, check with County Clerk and Recorder's website to make sure you are still listed as a registered voter. You can read this document online at www.leg.state.co.us.

Calendar

October	
Thur 9	LWVMZC Candidate Forum in the Calvin Denton Room, EEA. Open to the public, 7 pm. Come early to help with set up.
Mon 13	Board meeting, Visitor's Center 9:30a
Wed 15	Chamber of Commerce presentation on Ballot Issues by Speaker's Bureau, Shiloh's. Open to public. Noon
Sat 18	Patrick Cummins will speak at a Montezuma Climate Action Network (M-CAN) meeting on " Air Quality, Energy and Climate Change " in the Calvin Denton Room, EEA. 7 pm. http://www.m-can.org/
Mon 20 – 31	Early Voting for General Election
Wed 22	LWV General meeting "Climate Change Update" Dr. Kristen Averyt, Calvin Denton Room, EEA, 7 pm
Thur 23	"Climate Change Update" Dr. Kristen Averyt, FLC, 7 pm
Wed 29	Søren Hermanson speaking at a San Juan Citizen Association sponsored meeting at FLC. 7 pm. Presentation on a Danish Island, Samsø, that made itself energy independent and is selling power to mainland Europe. http://ecology.com/ecology-today/2008/09/23/carbon-free-and-proud-of-it/ http://www.msnbc.msn.com/id/3071932/ http://www.m-can.org/
Fri 31	Last day to apply for mail-in ballot in person
November	
Tues 4	ELECTION DAY!
Mon 10	Board meeting, Visitor's Center 9:30am
Sat 22	General Meeting, "Oxfam Sisters of the Planet Climate Change", JoDee Powers, a new LWVMZC member will present. Ponderosa Restaurant, Dolores 8:30 am

Candidates Address the Issues on LWVCO Website

Looking for a quick and easy place to learn about the candidates?

The League of Women Voters of Colorado (LWVCO) has produced a website posting candidate's responses to some of the key issues facing all Coloradans. At the LWVCO website, you can view, side by side, all US Senate, US Congress, Board of Education, University of Colorado Regents, State Senate and House candidates at www.lwvcolorado.org.

To access their responses, click on the candidate office posted on the webpage and then choose a candidate. If the candidate's name is highlighted, they have responded to our survey. All others have not responded. The US Senate, US Congress, State Senate and House candidates that have responded answered questions on energy solutions, changes to the healthcare system and what, in their opinion, is the most important issue facing Coloradans right now.

Just Vote Colorado

Just Vote Colorado is a non-partisan election protection program to monitor, document and assist voters with election activities in Colorado. They need election judges, and poll monitors to observe and assist voters on Election Day. They also provide advice to new voters including: If you're in line at 7 p.m. on Election Day you have the right to vote. If you are a registered voter but cannot provide identification or do not appear on the rolls for any reason, you have the right to cast a provisional ballot.

For more information, to volunteer or report a voting violation, call 1-866-687-8683 or go to www.JustVoteColorado.org.

**Number of Ballot Issues
Reduced By Four**

As of Wednesday evening, October 2, Colorado labor and business leaders announced they had reached an agreement to remove four initiatives from the November ballot. The initiatives removed are:

- Amendment 53 – Criminal Accountability for Business Executives
- Amendment 55 – Allowable Reasons for Employee Discharge or Suspension
- Amendment 56 – Employer Responsibility for Health Insurance
- Amendment 57 – Additional remedies for Injured Employees

Note that since the ballots have already been printed, the initiatives will still be listed. If voters vote on them, the votes will not be tabulated.

This action ends weeks of negotiations between labor and business interests who were at odds concerning the business initiated amendments 47 (Right to Work), 49 (Employee Paycheck Deductions) and 54 (Campaign Contributions from Certain Government Contractors). As labor interests viewed these initiatives as potentially damaging to labor and labor organizations, they, in turn, proposed initiatives 53, 55, 56, and 57. The negotiations resulted in a pledge from businesses to help defeat 47, 49 and 54 if labor removed 53, 55, 56 and 57.

**Where Does League Stand on
Ballot Issues?**

The League of Women Voters of Colorado has taken positions on some of the upcoming ballot issues. All Ballot Issues

are listed for your reference although four have now been withdrawn and votes will not be counted.

The League only takes positions on issues that we have studied and reached a consensus or concurrence by members. Referendums are initiated by the Legislature.

(C)=Constitution (S)=Statutory
(W)=Withdrawn, Won't count.

Ref L (C)	No position
Ref M (C)	Support
Ref N (C)	Support
Ref O (C)	Support

Amend 46 (C)	Oppose
Amend 47 (C)	No Position
Amend 54 (C)	Oppose
Amend 48 (C)	Oppose
Amend 49 (C)	No Position
Amend 50 (C)	No Position
Amend 51 (C)	No Position
Amend 58 (S)	No Position
Amend 52 (C)	Oppose
Amend 59 (C)	Support

Amend 53 (S)	No Position (W)
Amend 55 (C)	No Position (W)
Amend 56 (C)	No Position (W)
Amend 57 (S)	No Position (W)

Join Us!

Join the League of Women Voters to help make your community a strong, safe and vibrant place to live. Help shape the important issues that affect you and your family. Membership renewal begins this month with reminders to renew your LWVMZC membership and enjoy the information and activities we provide.

Memberships are \$50 per individual; \$80

for households. For more information call Marcia Boon or LLois Stein, our co-membership chairpersons or go to our website and print the membership form. <http://www.lwvmontezuma.org/Join.html>

Please remember to send your renewal this month to ensure we “grow” our membership base and enlarge our volunteer opportunities. **Send your membership renewal to Denis Boon, 14030 Raod 21, Cortez, CO, 81321.**

The League is extremely grateful to all of its members whatever their participation!

New National Voter

The October 2008 issue of “National Voter” is worthy of reading and sharing with folks outside the League. The lead article “An Open Letter to the Next President, Agenda for a New Administration” emphasizes the following issues: Climate Change, Health Care, Immigration and Tax Policy. This issue is on the LWV.org web site. [http://www.lwv.org/AM/Template.cfm?Section=Current Issue](http://www.lwv.org/AM/Template.cfm?Section=Current+Issue)

Support the League’s Moratorium on the Construction of Coal Fired Power Plants

The Montezuma Climate Action Network (Montezuma-CAN) has initiated an effort to increase the number of folks served by Empire Electric Co-op buying blocks of renewable energy. To do so is essentially to vote for more of your electric power to be generated by renewable energy. The goal is to increase the number of participants significantly. It is an easy phone call to Empire Electric, 565-4444 to

have yourself included in the group supporting renewable energy, and it is relatively cheap – about a couple of dollars each month extra to VOTE for renewable Energy. Let’s postpone as long as possible the need to build new coal fired power plants and allow time for coal generating technology to decrease its impact on GHG.

League Day in Denver

Eleanor Kuhl and Jodi Foran carpoled with LaPlata Leaguers to attend League Day, Saturday, September 27, and participated in a variety of informative discussions and programs. Lisa Esgar, Deputy Director of the Colorado Office of State Planning and Budget, gave an insightful, interesting presentation on Colorado’s Budget and Revenue Picture for Fiscal Year 2008-2009 and a future look at 2009-2010. It was not encouraging. According to Esgar, economic slowdown will result in less General Fund being available for transportation and capital construction. It may even affect the state’s basic operation and has resulted in a present state hiring freeze.

Patricia Barela Rivers, former Director of the Colorado District of Small Business Administration explained how the passage of Amendment 46 will affect Women and Hispanic Business Owners, and Andrew Romanoff, speaker of the Colorado House of Representatives, explained the elements of amendment 59 (Rebates and Educational Funding). The remaining time was spent learning the details of each ballot issue.

We planned to bring back with us boxes of ballot issues for LaPlata and Montezuma Leagues. We didn’t give much consideration to the volume required for the boxes in addition to the volume of four

adults and their paraphernalia! After all, how much space can a ballot issue pamphlet take up? How much space can 2000 for Montezuma and 4500 for LaPlata Leagues take? Ha! The ride back in Jill Patton's Prius was cozy. We later learned that 1500 pamphlets had been left in Denver!

See photo of the car. Notice that Deanna Collins sat in the front seat with her luggage underfoot, Jodi and Eleanor shared the back seat with their luggage – not exactly an easy feat for two physically ample women!



Patrick Cummins Speaks on “Air Quality, Energy and Climate Change” at M-CAN Meeting

**Public Presentation: Oct. 18 at 7 pm,
Empire Electric Calvin Denton Room,
Cortez**

Patrick is the Director of Air Quality and Climate Programs for the Western Governors' Association (WGA). He currently serves as Project Manager for the Western Climate Initiative, an effort by 7 Western states and 4 Canadian provinces to develop a regional cap-and-trade

program to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. For the last 9 years, Patrick has served as the Director of the Western Regional Air Partnership, a state-tribal-federal collaborative to protect and improve visibility at national parks and wilderness areas (i.e., regional haze). He was also instrumental in establishing The Climate Registry, a voluntary greenhouse gas reporting organization that now has 39 US state members along with a number of Canadian and Mexican members.

Prior to joining WGA, Patrick was Deputy Director of Denver's Regional Air Quality Council where he developed air quality plans for the Denver metro area to meet federal health standards. He has also worked for the US EPA in Denver and Washington, DC and spent two years in the natural gas industry. Patrick has a B.S. in Chemistry from Ft. Lewis College, an MPA in Environmental Policy from Indiana University and 22 years of experience working on environmental policy at the federal, state, and local level.

Patrick will speak Saturday, October 18 in the Calvin Denton Room of Empire Electric Association at a general meeting of Montezuma Climate Action Network.

Climate Change Expert at LWVMZC Meeting October 23

Kristen Averyt, PhD, a research scientist with the Cooperative Institute for Research in Environmental Sciences (CIRES) and formerly a staff scientist with the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) will speak at a general meeting of the LWVMZC in Cortez Wednesday, October 22, 7 p.m. in Calvin Denton Room, Empire Electric Association, 801 N. Broadway, Cortez. Invite your friends! Especially those who don't think

Climate Change is a fact with which to be concerned.

Earlier in the day, she will also be visiting county schools and speaking to students about science as a vocation and the education required to be a scientist. Her visit to Southwest CO will include a day in Durango, where she will speak also on October 23 at Fort Lewis College.

Dr. Averyt is currently associated with the Western Water Assessment, CIRES, a cooperative institute of National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) and University of Colorado-Boulder, and is analyzing climate change data to determine the probably effect of climate change on Colorado's water resources. The report is due to Governor Ritter October 8.

Dr. Averyt's previous position was as staff scientist for Working Group I of the IPCC, the international organization that shared the 2007 Nobel Peace Prize with former vice-president Al Gore. Working Group I focused on the physical science behind climate change.

In addition to her doctoral work at Stanford University in geological and environmental science, she has an M.S. in chemistry from University of Otago, New Zealand, and a B.S. in chemistry and marine science from the University of Miami, FL. She has a number of publications, awards, honors and grants.

Sponsors of Dr. Averyt's visit include LWVMZC, LWVLPC with a grant from LWV of United States and Oxfam America, the Cortez Journal, and Montezuma Climate Action Network.

Sören Hermansen and the Samsø clean energy success story

**Public Presentation: Oct. 29 at 7 pm,
Fort Lewis College**

This is was originally released by San Juan Citizens Alliance October 7, 2008

Sören Hermansen, leader of the successful 10-year venture to wean his home island of Samsø, Denmark, off fossil fuels and become carbon-neutral, will be speaking in Durango on Wednesday, October 29 and meeting with interested businesses on Thursday, October 30.

Samsø is believed to be the first island in the industrialized world to become energy independent. The island's pioneering work, led by Hermansen, has been featured in *The New Yorker* and *Outside* magazines, and *Time* magazine named Hermansen one of its 2008 "Heroes of the Environment."

"This is a pilot project to show the world what can be done," Hermansen told *The Guardian* of London last month. "We are not suggesting everyone makes the sweeping changes that we have. The crucial point is that we have shown that if you want to change how we generate energy, you have to start at the community level. We are a nation of farmers. We believe in self-sufficiency."

Ingvar Jorgensen, a Samsø farmer who now heats his house with solar hot water and a straw-burning furnace, said, "Once we started thinking about energy, it became a kind of sport."

In 1997, the Danish government offered a challenge to five populated islands to cut their carbon footprint and increase production of renewable energy. Samsø, an island of 4,100 people west of Copenhagen, won the contest.

The effort started with Hermansen, a former high school environmental studies teacher, going round to community meetings talking up the benefits of clean energy. He set up investment plans for island residents to buy shares in giant wind turbines, large solar panels and straw-fired central furnaces for homes and buildings in heating districts.

Today, the island exports wind-powered electricity to the Danish mainland and has cut its carbon footprint by 140 percent. Even though most Samsingers still use gasoline for their cars, wind power exports more than make up for the carbon in Samsø's tailpipe emissions.

The island's energy revolution now draws thousands of visitors from around the world eager to learn how this was accomplished. They visit the Samsø Energi Akademi, where Sören Hermansen serves as the director for a staff of five people offering courses and tours.

Last month, when TIME magazine published its 2008 "Heroes of the Environment" list, Hermansen passed the credit to his fellow islanders.

"I think this is fine," Hermansen wrote in an e-mail to his Samsø colleagues, "but still, I want you to know that my effort is nothing compared to the strength of the Samsø community and a lot of individuals who have done their bit for the energy project."

Earlier this year, the Island Institute invited Hermansen to help the residents of Maine coastal islands achieve similar energy independence. As an extension of his trip to Maine, Hermansen is coming to Colorado for a series of speaking engagements in Aspen, Glenwood Springs, Durango and Denver.

"Everyone is talking about clean energy. The people of Samsø are living it," said Randy Udall of Carbondale, an energy

expert and longtime friend of Hermansen's. "This is a great opportunity for everyone in the valley to hear a thrilling presentation about how one island community turned its energy picture upside-down."

Everyone is invited to attend and learn about the Samsø success story. The events are hosted by San Juan Citizens Alliance, Montezuma Climate Action Network, and Fort Lewis College Environmental Center.

Samsø articles

Outside magazine, February 2007 - A Mighty Wind, by Florence Williams

<http://outside.away.com/outside/destinations/200702/samso-denmark-1.html>

CBS Evening News, March 8, 2007 - Danish Island Is Energy Self-Sufficient, by Mark Phillips

http://www.cbsnews.com/stories/2007/03/08/eveningnews/main2549273.shtml?source=search_story

New Yorker magazine, July 7, 2008 -The Island In The Wind, by Elizabeth Kolbert

http://www.newyorker.com/reporting/2008/07/07/080707fa_fact_kolbert

TIME magazine, Heros of the Environment 2008

http://www.time.com/time/specials/package/article/0,28804,1841778_1841782_1841789,00.html

The Guardian, Sept. 21, 2008 - Isle of Plenty, by Robin McKie

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/environment/2008/sep/21/renewableenergy.alternativeenergy>

Samsø Energi Akademi

http://www.energiakademiet.dk/default_uk.asp

Altitude TV support

For cable and satellite TV subscribers, Altitude TV has filmed a discussion by LWVCO of 2008 Ballot Issues and expanded the demographics of League visibility – younger males.

Here is the schedule for Ballot Issues 2008 discussion to be aired on Altitude cable TV.

- Wednesday, October 8 – 7:00 pm
- Wednesday, October 15 – 3:00 pm
- Thursday, October 16 - 6:00 am

Board

Membership.....	Marcia Boon 565-7668 marciaboon@msn.com
Membership.....	Llois Stein 565-9565 llois@msn.com
Health Care.....	Eleanor Kuhl 564-0708 ekuhl@frontier.net
Voter Services.....	Dick Hoover 565-7367 johnhoover@beyondbb.com
Environment.....	Eric Janes 533-1051 ejanes@frontier.net
President.....	Jodi Foran 882-2401 jodi@foran.net
President Elect.....	Eleanor Kuhl 564-0708 ekuhl@frontier.net
Secretary.....	Eric Janes 533-1051 ejanes@frontier.net
Treasurer.....	Denis Boon 560-0404 denisboon@msn.com
Newsletter Ed.....	Chris Foran 882-2401 chris@foran.net