



League of Women Voters of Montezuma County

VOTER

Montezuma County, Colorado

www.lwvmontezuma.org Total Membership: 26

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 Calendar

Tuesday, May 4

Montezuma County Hospital, Cortez Fire, and Sanitation District elections

Wednesday, May 5

LWVCO Board Meeting

Saturday, 8

Annual Meeting, Ponderosa Restaurant, Dolores, 9:30 am Speaker – Ashton Harrison, County Administrator, Election of Officers

Monday, 10

LWVMZC Board Meeting, Colorado Visitor's Center 10:00 a.m.

Saturday, 22

Great Decisions Discussion Group, Dolores Library, 10:30 am. 2010 Topic: Kenya

Monday, 24

Great Decisions Discussion Group, Mancos Library, 10:30 am. 2009 Topic: Arctic

Join the League!

Anyone of voting age may join the League. Discounted household memberships are available. Call Betty Janes at 533-1051 for more information

President's Message

A couple of black-chinned hummingbirds arrived a week ago signally spring (?), and soon after the feeder went up. It's good that it's available since nearly every day since we've had a bit of snow and sleet and enjoyed one day of a high temperature of seventy. Spring renewal. Renewal for our local League, too, with new faces and leadership.

Come Saturday, May 8 at 9:15 am to the Ponderosa Restaurant in Dolores for our Annual business meeting and to hear our Speaker, Ashton Harrison, County Administrator.

We haven't heard from EPA regarding our proposal for a senior position to represent the whole Four Corners to the three EPA regions that oversee it. We soon will ask Rep. John Salazar to make a Congressional request for an answer. In the meantime, we have sent a comment to the BLM regarding an Environmental Assessment to allow Kinder Morgan to drill for CO2 in the Canyon of the Ancients. I encourage you to send your own comments, but hurry as the deadline in May 5. Read our comments on our website.

As the 2010 election cycle gets underway with primary elections across the country, consider the opportunities this season offers to help build our League. Remember that election season should not only be a time to make a difference in our communities, but to make a difference in the League as well. We can demonstrate that sustaining a democracy requires an informed voter.

We've set dates for Election Forums: Primary, General and Ballot Issues and the Voters Service Team is readily accepting volunteers to help with various tasks. We're anticipating a need for a major education effort on Ballot Issues. The potential for some of the initiatives is great confusion on the part of the voter.

Carol Tullis, Montezuma County Clerk and Recorder, will be our meeting speaker Monday June 14, 11:30 am and talk about the new voting regulations, the online voter registration program and other issues we'll need to know when conducting our voter service activities this year. Mark that date on your calendar.

The League of Women Voters of Colorado Council 2010 will meet May 21-22 in Estes Park at the Lake Shore Lodge. It will begin on Friday, May 21 at 1 p.m. and continue until noon, Saturday, May 22. The order of business will be Board elections, adoption of the 2010 budget, a Legislative Wrap-up, workshops and a special program speaker. Eleanor and I will attend, and we'll share a summary of activities in the June newsletter.

I encourage those interested in Air Quality to take advantage of the Colorado Air Toxics Stakeholder meeting and San Juan Basin Air Quality Forum to be held Thursday May 6, 2010, 8:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. at Fort Lewis College Student Union, ***There is No Fee to Register, but please do to help the sponsors anticipate attendance.*** (See elsewhere in the newsletter).

Thanks to the following that helped with Teen Maze, that again this year was very successful and served students from four SW Colorado counties: Judy and Jack Schuenemeyer, Jodi and Chris Foran, Marcia Boon, Lois Stein, Betty Janes and Rebecca Samulski.

— *Jodi Foran*

Annual Meeting, Saturday May 8, 9:15AM

We will hold our League's annual business meeting at the Ponderosa Restaurant in Dolores. Ashton Harrison, Montezuma County Administrator will be our featured speaker. During the business portion, the membership will elect officers, vote to approve the annual budget and proposed

program, (strategic programs/which issues to study, advocate). Please prepare for the meeting by reading the specific materials that are on the website and were emailed earlier. Let's not make it all business, but a time to gather in friendship and celebration.

Carbon Dioxide Drilling on Canyon of Ancients

The BLM is accepting comments on the Environmental Assessment of a proposal by Kinder Morgan to drill carbon dioxide (CO2) wells and install collection and transportation facilities on public lands within the boundaries of the BLM Canyons of the Ancients National Monument. The project would take place on Burro Point, near the eastern boundary of the Monument and about 15 miles west-northwest of Cortez in Montezuma County. The EA will be available on the [Canyons of the Ancients National Monument Web site](#).

Written public comments must be postmarked by Tuesday, May 4, 2010, and mailed to Manager, Canyons of the Ancients National Monument, 27501 Highway 184, Dolores, CO 81323. Electronic comments will also be accepted by the same deadline and can be sent to: trice@blm.gov. For more information, contact Tom Rice, BLM Natural Resource Specialist; 970 882 6845; trice@blm.gov

Hurry, hurry! Please consider commenting a few sentences by email soon as the deadline is Tuesday, May 4!

Thanks to Eric Janes, LWVMZC has commented on this proposal and you can read [our response](#) on our website (www.lwvmontezuma.org).

Contributions to LWVMZC and to

LWVCO Education Funds

League Education Funds exist at all levels of League – US, CO and Montezuma. Folks can contribute to the Education Fund, a non-profit 501(3c) organization, and can receive a tax-deductible statement. These funds are managed very separately from non-tax deductible contributions to a League's operational funds. Education Funds can be used to pay half of payment per member fees to the national and state organizations and are used to fund educational activities of a League such as costs associated with an educational forum.

Election Season 2010 is cranking up very quickly and Voter Service plans are underway. At the state level, committees are formed for several projects including website development, a candidate guide for the website, TV debates for US Senate and Governor, and efforts to track the progress or lack of progress regarding potential Ballot Issues for the November ballot.

You are encouraged to contribute to our League's Ed Fund and /or the LWVCO Ed Fund, as many of the state activities will support Leagues across the state with their election activities.

To contribute to our Local League Education Fund: make the check out to LWVCO ED and in the "For " line at the right bottom write "Montezuma County" making the check credited to our League.

For membership checks and to contribute to LWVMZC operating make your check out to "LVWMZC".

To contribute to the LWVCO ED write "LWVCO" in the "For" line.

Send the checks to LWVCO, 1410 Grant Street, Suite B-204, Denver, CO 80203.

Thanks in advance for your contribution.

Cleaning Up Colorado's Air

The House Bill: "Incentives for Utilities to Convert from Coal to Natural Gas" was a bipartisan effort that anticipates emission requirements of the federal Clean Air Act. The bill requires **Investor Owned Utilities** (IOUs) that own or operate coal-fired electric generating plants to submit an emissions reduction plan for those units. The plan to the Public Utilities Commission (PUC) will be due by August 15, 2010, and is required to cover 900 megawatts or 50% of the IOU's generating capacity whichever is less. The plan must consider the conversion of the unit to natural gas or other low-emission resources. The PUC will provide the Department of Public Health and Environment with an opportunity to comment on the plan and will evaluate the plan considering several factors including the emissions reductions achieved and any potential rate impacts. The PUC must complete its review of the plan by December 15, 2010. Plans must be fully implemented by December 31, 2017.

However, electric cooperatives are not required to make a similar reduction.

COLORADO AIR TOXICS STAKEHOLDER MEETING and SAN JUAN BASIN AIR QUALITY FORUM

Meeting May 6, 2010, 8:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. at FLC Student Union

There is No Fee to Register to attend this meeting by e-mailing: jo.matson@state.co.us, or by calling (303) 692-3101. Carpool by phoning Jodi Foran 882-2401

Meeting Topics and Presentations will include

- Criteria Pollutants and Air Toxics
- EPA's National Air Toxics Assessment for 2005
- Ozone Levels in Colorado; Changing Air Quality Standards for Ozone
- Anthropogenic and Biogenic Components of Volatile Organic Compounds
- Regional Haze: Issues and State Planning Efforts
- An Overview of Power Plants in the 4-Corners Region
- Mercury from Coal Combustion; Mercury in Colorado Aquatic Life and the Food Chain
- Sunnyside Elementary School Air Toxics Monitoring Results
- Railroad/Rail Yard (Durango-Silverton) Emissions and Mitigation Efforts
- Garfield County Oil & Gas-Related Air Quality Issues, Programs
- Oil & Gas vs Coal Bed Methane Development—Processes and Emissions
- Emission Reductions via Low-Bleed Pneumatics at Separator Units
- Diesel School Bus Emission Reduction Programs Statewide

Immigration Reform

Let's hope immigration reform rises to the top of President Obama's list now that health care reform has been passed. Take this opportunity to review the [national immigration position](#) we worked so hard on back in 2008:

And look over the University of Denver's 2009 report [Architecture for Immigration Reform: Fitting the Pieces of Public Policy](#). Richard Ballantine, publisher of The Cortez Journal, was one of 20 panel

members. The panel's recommendations are on pages 45-46. Then to get a picture of how things really are, in Denver at least, read Helen Thorpe's new book ***Just Like Us***, the story of four very bright Hispanic immigrant girls, two of whom are legal residents, two undocumented, and their trials and tribulations through advanced placement classes in high school and then college. You'd be surprised at the problems undocumented students have; one student could have received a full scholarship to Whittier College in California but she would have had to travel by ground transportation to the interview and back and forth if she were accepted because she did not have paperwork needed to board a commercial plane. Journalist Thorpe is Mayor Hickenlooper's wife and in that capacity was able to include in the book the girls' stories as well as a unique perspective on legislative and political thinking during the period.

— *Marilyn Brown,*
League of
Women Voters of
La Plata County

Online resources for information on health-care reform

The ink was hardly dry on the health-care overhaul law when foundations, industry groups and consumer advocates began putting together guides to the new rules. Here are some Web sites worth keeping an eye on:

Kff.org: The Kaiser Family Foundation Web site has a lot of thorough information. To get started, under "New & Noteworthy," click on "summary of the law" for a good synopsis, and on "timeline" to see when various provisions of the law are scheduled to kick in. Familiesusa.org: Families USA is a nonprofit advocacy organization for health-care consumers. Click on the link to "Health Reform Central" to see just about everything you need to know about the new law. To get

a [recap](#) of the major changes, click on the link that begins "Help is on the way" on the homepage.

Healthinsuranceproviders.com: Click on "Health Care Reform" to see a [timeline](#) that's less descriptive than Kaiser's, but easier to grasp visually. The site belongs to an online insurance broker; if you're looking for health insurance, be sure to shop around other sites and brokers.

Whitehouse.gov/health-insurance-consumer-protections: This is straight from the Obama administration. Keep in mind, it helped write the law. Tune out the superlatives and compare the information with the facts from advocacy groups such as Medicare Rights Center.

Consumerreports.org/health: From Consumer Reports, a [range](#) of useful information. Scroll to the bottom of the page, and click on "Health-care reform."

Bankrate.com: From a Web site where borrowers hunt for low mortgage rates and savers look for high-interest CDs, there's a [summary](#) with a good focus on costs. Type "reform" into the search box, and click on "What's in it for you."

Marchofdimes.com: The March of Dimes summarizes [key new provisions](#) for women and children. Click on "In the news."

Medicarerights.org: The Medicare Rights Center summarizes key new provisions for seniors; click on the big box that says "learn more about health reform and Medicare."

Stay tuned -- in the coming weeks, the Department of Health and Human Services plans to launch a Web site on health-care reform including links to health insurance options it deems affordable in each state.

Later this month, The Post, in partnership with PublicAffairs, will be publishing a book on the new legislation, including a consumer guide to its impact. "Landmark: The Inside Story of America's New Health-Care Law and What it Means for Us All" can be pre-ordered from Amazon.com and other book Web sites.

— *Francesca Lunzer Kritz,*
Member of LWV of Pikes Peak

New to League? Want to know more about how League functions?

Consider attending the Leadership Retreat, June 25-26 at the Holiday Inn in Frisco. You will meet Leaguers from across the state who have “been there, done that”. This year the retreat will focus on the “how-to” guidelines of Voters Service activities. This is the perfect opportunity for someone who would like to serve on the LWVMZC board, to learn about League processes.

There is room for two additional people to carpool with Jodi for a day of fun and networking from Saturday noon through Sunday until about 2:00 p.m. The only cost is \$75 as The LWVCO Education Fund sponsors most of the cost and our league covers the rest. **This price of \$75 includes your shared room, three meals, all materials, and expert advice! What a bargain for a change of scenery and a very fast paced and well-organized meeting!**

There are board positions open. We need a full board to take advantage of a diverse bank of ideas and to serve actively our community. It is also a fantastic opportunity to share in League camaraderie. Contact President Jodi Foran today to let her know about your interest in serving on the board and getting prepared in Frisco.

THE AMERICAN INDIAN HEALTH CARE SYSTEM

The American Indian health care system is a completely separate system and is largely unknown outside of Indian Country. To understand this system, we can learn about the historical relationship between Native Americans and the federal government, and why the United States has the responsibility to provide health care for 3.3 million

American Indians and Alaska Natives belonging to 564 federally recognized Tribes.

This white paper is one of the papers that LWVUS has written as part of its Health Care Study. I encourage you to read it as well as the other six in the series. [Link to web.](#)

Voter Registration Online

We will be hearing more about this from Carol Tullis when she speaks at our June 14 general meeting, but here’s some info on a paperless voter registration option. As of April 6th any Colorado resident with a Colorado driver’s license or state ID can register to vote through the Secretary of State’s web site, **GoVoteColorado.com**. The online form will require the same information as the current registration form, which also remains available to Colorado citizens. Staff at the county clerk’s offices will have final approval of the online voter registration application, providing an additional layer of scrutiny. Colorado is one of three states in the U.S. with this program.

The GoColorado site has been intermixed with another site that had nothing to do with voter registration so if you don’t get the right site, you might want to try the Secretary of State’s site, www.sos.state.co.us/, click on the elections section, then the register to vote line.

When EPA proposes stricter air standards it will put pressure on Four Corners

The Four Corners along with most of the western United States could fall out of attainment of federal ozone limits under new standards being considered by the EPA. The agency is proposing to tighten its “primary” ozone standard from 75 parts per billion to a level within the range of 60 ppb and 70 ppb. The stricter standard is based on findings

about the health effects of ozone, particularly on the elderly, children and people with respiratory problems.

The EPA is expected to announce its final decision about the standard in late summer. It will be the second time in about two years that the agency has imposed a more stringent limit. In March 2008, the limit was moved from 84 ppb to the current level of 75 ppb despite a recommendation from the EPA's independent scientific advisory panel that it be lower still.

"Most monitoring sites in the Four Corners Region currently would be in violation of the new ozone NAAQS (national ambient air quality standards" reports John Molenaar, an air-quality expert with Air Resource Specialists. He reports that the major share of ozone-producing emissions in the Four Corners region come from energy production, including natural-gas wells and two large-scale coal-fired power plants near Farmington. Vehicles and many other human activities also contribute to the presence of Ozone in the region.

Mike Silverstein, deputy director of the Air Pollution Control Division at the Colorado health department said being classified as out of attainment is a "big deal" because it requires affected areas to come up with detailed plans for reducing emissions related to ozone.

The cost of either producing cleaner power or curtailing O&G production will get passed on to consumers in the form of more expensive energy or fewer jobs. "The bottom line is, we're going to pay for it," Molenaar wrote. Moreover, the most effectual measures, such as shutting down the coal-fired power plants, may be economically untenable. Because of this, he said his personal opinion is that expectations for improvement must be reasonable.

Come check out the ozone state of the region by attending the Colorado Air Toxics Stakeholder Meeting and San Juan Basin Air Quality Forum, May 6 at FLC.

Call for Voter Services Volunteers

The LWVMZC Voter Services team invites members to help with Voter Services projects. Even if you are not able to make a longer-term commitment as a member of the team, you can make a valuable contribution just by helping out with a one-time task such as being a timer at a forum.

We've held three candidate forums this year and will be holding at least two more for primary and general elections. Additionally, we'll have a Ballot Issue Forum in late September and we'll be speaking to various groups about 2010 Ballot Issues in October.

The Ballot Issues will be challenging this year. Fortunately Gerry Cummins is working with the Secretary of State now to write the LWVCO Ballot Issue Pamphlet which will be used in our speaking engagements and is more informative than the SOS's Blue Booklet that is mailed to all registered voters.

Gerry will be coming to Cortez to train our League and La Plata County members September 18. Plan to meet Gerry who is a wealth of information and to become more informed of the Ballot Issue whether you speak to local groups or not.

Our League has been invited to participate with a La Plata County's Fiscal Responsibility Information Committee, which is creating a presentation for the community on fiscal initiatives that will appear on the general election ballot. Hopefully, we can help organize such an initiative in Montezuma. Local governments and taxing districts can be negatively impacted by these initiatives. We can leverage the efforts of La Plata County.

Voter Service activities are a keystone for the League and give us great visibility of activities that we do better than nearly any other organization.

Contact Jodi Foran at 882-2401.

Calendar

| | |
|-------------------------|---|
| May | |
| Tuesday, 4 | Montezuma County Hospital, Cortez Fire, and Sanitation District elections |
| Wednesday, 5 | LWVCO Board Meeting |
| Saturday, 8 | Annual Meeting, Ponderosa Restaurant, Dolores, 9:30 am Speaker – Ashton Harrison, County Administrator, Election of Officers |
| Monday, 10 | LWVMZC Board Meeting, Colorado Visitor's Center 10:00 a.m. |
| Friday, 21-22 | LWVCO Council, LWVCO Estes Park |
| Saturday, 22 | Great Decisions Discussion Group, Dolores Library, 10:30 am. 2010 Topic: Kenya |
| Monday, 24 | Great Decisions Discussion Group, Mancos Library, 10:30 am. 2009 Topic: Arctic |
| | |
| June | |
| Monday, 14 | LWVMZC Board Meeting, Colorado Visitor's Center 9:30 a.m. |
| Monday, 14 | General Public Meeting, Colorado Visitor's Center 11:030 a.m. Carol Tullis, County Clerk is speaker on elections & MRI discussion |
| Friday – Tuesday, 11-15 | LWVUS Convention in Atlanta |
| Friday 25 – 26 | LWVCO Leadership Retreat Frisco, CO 12:00 – 12:00 |
| | Raise funds for operational funds - \$600 goal |
| | Raise funds for Ballot Issue Pamphlet - \$700 goal |
| Saturday, 26 | Great Decisions Discussion Group, Dolores Library, 10:30 a. 2010 topics to be discussed.. |
| Monday, 28 | Great Decisions Discussion Group, Mancos Library, 10:30 a. 2009 topics to be discussed. |

Board

| | |
|----------------------|--|
| Membership..... | Betty Janes 533-1051 ejanes@frontier.net |
| 50 Year Member | Llois Stein 565-9565 llois@msn.com |
| Health Care..... | Eleanor Kuhl 564-0708 ekuhl@frontier.net |
| Voter Services..... | |
| 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 |
| Hospitality | Marcia Boon 565-7668 marciaboone@msn.com |

Have you sent in your membership renewal?

We need every one of you...

**Call Betty Janes, 533-1051
ejanes@frontier.net.**

Send the membership form to Denis Boon.

Our goal is 29 members for 2010



League of Women Voters of Montezuma County

2010 Membership Form

Name _____
 Date _____
 e-mail _____
 Phone [h] _____ [w] _____ [cell] _____
 Address _____ City _____ Zip _____

The \$50 membership fee supports the League of Women Voters of the United States and the League of Women Voters of Colorado for their studies, voter education and advocacy on your behalf.

Dues are payable in September and renewed each year.

| | |
|------------------------------------|-----------------|
| Dues Amounts: | |
| Regular dues..... | \$50 _____ |
| Additional household member(s)*... | \$30 _____ |
| TOTAL..... | \$ _____ |

Please give names and email addresses of the other members of your household who are joining:

Please make checks payable to “**LWVMZC**” and mail with this form to:

Denis Boon, Treasurer
 LWV of Cortez-Montezuma
 14030 Road 21
 Cortez, CO 81321