



LEAGUE OF
WOMEN VOTERS®

**THE VOTER
LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS
GREELEY/WELD COUNTY**

February 2011

P.O. Box 336634, Greeley, CO 80633
www.lwvgreeleyweldcounty.org
www.lwv.org www.lwvcolorado.org
32 members

Sat. Feb. 12th: Redistricting in Colorado. Panel Discussion.

A select committee of Democrats and Republicans is charged with holding at least one public hearing in each of Colorado's seven congressional districts to hear public testimony. Additionally, the committee will evaluate proposed maps, seek public feedback, and make recommendations to the General Assembly. The boundaries of Colorado's seven seats will change because of population shifts recorded in the 2010 census. Come find out what's happening with our Districts. Centennial Library, Noon-2pm Lunch will be provided.

Sat. March 12th: Health Care Updates Meeting, Centennial Library, Noon-2pm.

Sat. April 16th: Annual Meeting, TBA, 9-noon.

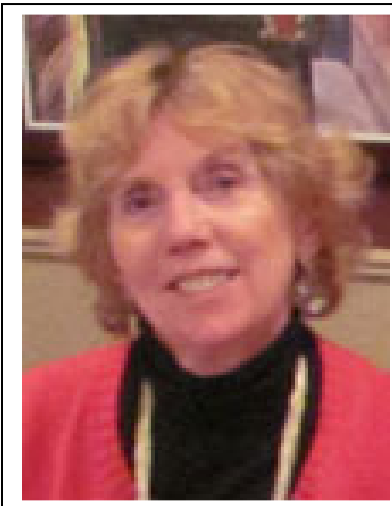
May Legislative Update, TBA.

Fri. May 20th & Sat. 21th: State Convention, Fort Collins.

Human progress is neither automatic nor inevitable... Every step toward the goal of justice requires sacrifice, suffering, and struggle; the tireless exertions and passionate concern of dedicated individuals. **Martin Luther King, Jr.**

What's inside this issue of the Voter:

News from our President Kathleen Milligan
Local League News and the Environment
State and National League News
U.N. Seminar in Denver



Letter from Kathleen Milligan, President

Do you have a voice?

How would you feel if all of a sudden we found ourselves in a state or nation in which there were no possibility of choosing people who represent us in our government? If there were only one choice in our elections? Or if elections were simply a process of rubber stamping the choice of a small group of leaders?

That is what people in Egypt are fighting to end. That is what we could have if don't pay close attention to how we draw the lines for our congressional districts. Redistricting doesn't sound very exciting but it could be if it isn't done fairly with concern for the

opportunity for all voices to be heard—major parties, third parties, minorities, and expanding and changing populations. On **Saturday, February 12** we will have a panel discussion about the redistricting process that is taking place throughout the country, including Colorado. League members will be giving their views about state and national perspectives on this topic using materials that we have gathered from state and national League.

To think about this another way, I'll tell you about a realization I had as I was researching some Civil War materials from my family. My great-great grandfather joined the Union Army when he was 15 years old. He kept a diary, which we still have in our family. In reading this diary I learned that as an 18 year old Union Army sergeant, he let the members of his battalion go back to their homes in Indiana to vote in the November 1864 election. I thought how responsible and civic minded of him. Then it dawned on me--his mother and sisters would not have been able to vote in that election. I would not have been able to vote in that election. There was no chance to have women's or black people's voices heard and represented in the very critical decisions that were being made at the time. Redrawing the lines for representative government is a very important task. Come to Centennial Library at noon on Saturday to learn how it works and how we, as voters, can have a voice in that process.

Is Our Drinking Water at Risk with Fracking?"

National as well as state and local agencies seem to think we have a problem. The clean water issue centers around "fracking" – using diesel fuel to get oil and gas out of the ground. Outdated regulations have left our water vulnerable. It's time we studied this concern and keep our clean Colorado water safe. The Greeley Tribune recently reported on this problem. In addition, investigations have found that no oil and gas service companies have sought - and no state and federal regulators have issued - permits for diesel fuel use in hydraulic fracturing, which appears to be a violation of the Safe Drinking Water Act. Leaguers need to continue reading, researching and finding ways to educate others about this matter. Together we can make a difference. **Hazel Gibson**



Time for Civility, Respect and Kindness

Recent events – across our country and in Greeley- have challenged us personally, spiritually, professionally and viscerally. Once again, members of our society have encountered aggression and vitriol in poignant, painful ways.

Of course we don't always agree, nor should we. From diverse ideas, beliefs, and perspectives our collective wisdom can emerge. Only after diverse viewpoints are expressed clearly and with integrity, heard with intentionality and discussed with respect can our collective wisdom emerge. Could this begin in Greeley? (with permission, reprinted in part from Jan. 20th Tribune, editorial by Ken Norem and Sandy Magnuson).

Recent National League News from Elisabeth MacNamara, President

RE: Oppose Repeal of the Presidential Public Financing System
(portion of a letter written to House of Representatives)

The League of Women Voters urges you to oppose the move ...to eliminate the public financing system for presidential elections. While the system is in need of repair, it is not acceptable to abolish it without one minute of hearings or a single committee meeting.

Presidential public financing for both primary and general election campaigns has served America well since 1976. It has not only allowed candidates to raise the funds needed to wage competitive campaigns, it has substantially reduced corruption and the appearance of corruption in the executive branch over that time period. It has given average citizens and small donors a critically important role to play in funding presidential campaigns and provided more meaningful choices to voters. And it has done so at remarkably small cost; certainly the elimination of the system cannot be seen as a meaningful reduction in federal spending or the debt.

The League of Women Voters strongly urges you to oppose the repeal of the presidential public financing system. The health and integrity of our democracy demand more responsible action.

Current Agenda

2010-2011 Greeley/Weld County LWV

Local Government: Continuing study and support of local government that is accountable, transparent, and representative of Greeley and Weld County, responsive, flexible, efficient, effective, and able to raise sufficient revenues to perform the duties necessary to maintain a health, safe and prosperous community for all citizens.

Transportation: A study of transportation in northern Colorado to update the previous study.

Oil and Gas Drilling (to include uranium mining) Update the previous study and expand to include uranium mining.

Greeley/Weld County League of Women Voters February 2011

IT'S NOT TOO LATE!—Join us, donate, or get a friend to join!

Name _____
Address _____
City _____
State _____ Zip _____
E-mail address _____

Annual Dues: \$50 for an individual or \$75 for family membership (two people who receive mail at the same address) Name of second household member _____.
Student Membership: \$20. If you want to make your **contribution tax deductible**, let us know and we will put the contribution into the LWV Education Fund.

\$ ____ **Annual Dues**

\$ ____ **Donation for LWV Greeley/Weld County**

Mail your check to: League of Women Voters, P.O. Box 336634, Greeley, CO 80633

2011 United Nations 8th Annual Seminar **Sat. February 26, 2011**
Denver Center International Studies, 574 W. 6th Ave., Denver

8:30-9:00 Registration and Coffee **9:00a.m.** Opening Session Welcome, Principal of Denver Center for International Studies Presentation by DCIS Model United Nations Students Keynote Address by Edward Elmendorf, executive director of the United Nations Association- USA **10:45a.m.** Morning Workshops **11:45a.m.** Digital Video Conference with special guest straight from the United Nations **12:30p.m.** Lunch and posters on the Millennium Development Goals by DCIS students **1:45p.m.** Afternoon Workshops **2:45p.m.** Closing Session Edward Elmendorf and how citizens can support the UN and the MDGs Registration Form Registration Deadline is February 20th, 2011 Make checks payable to UNA-USA Denver Mail Registration form and payment to Louise Haggerty 3333 E. Florida Ave #103 Denver, CO 80210 Name(s)

_____ Address _____
_____ City/State/Zip _____

E-mail _____ Phone _____

Cost (including lunch) # of Adults ____ @\$40.00 \$ ____ # of Students ____ @\$5.00

\$ ____ Teachers who bring 3 or more students will have their fee waived Total Payment
Enclosed \$ ____ Information



Christmas Dinner at Santeramo's—Italian Food and League Conversations



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OF GREELEY/WELD COUNTY**
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The LWV, a nonpartisan political organization, encourages the informed and active participation in government and influences public policy through education and advocacy.