



Denver

VOTER

League of Women Voters of Denver

March 2010

www.LWVDenver.org
info@LWVDenver.org

1980 Dahlia Street
Denver, CO 80220

Phone: 303-321-7571
Fax: 303-320-8557

Co-President's Column



Nancy Ulrich and Buzzy Hassrick

This column usually looks forward, a way of alerting our members about upcoming events. But February was a busy month, and a bit of review is, in my view, in order.

Did you understand everything at the sustainability briefing? What I thought was going to be an "easy" briefing wasn't. There's much more to sustainability than I ever thought about ... light bulbs are just the beginning.

The upcoming national census is a major focus for state and local Leagues. With leadership from board member Peg Oldham, we're distributing blue reusable shopping bags to groups we feel can use them and for whom they will be reminders of the importance of the census. Our Speaker's Bureau is ready and willing to speak to groups about the importance of the census and help answer questions that occur, such as, "Do I count my college-age son/daughter?" I hope you attended the February 16 briefing to find out more information. Martha Rodriguez, Denver's Census Outreach Specialist, is doing a wonderful job of reaching out to groups in Denver to spread the word. In case you haven't heard, your "worth" in federal dollars is over \$800 per year for ten years.

March Meetings

Federal Court System Briefing

Monday, March 1

5:30 p.m.

McCollum Room

Premier Film Event

Thursday, March 18

6:00 p.m.

Starz FilmCenter, Studio A

900 Auraria Parkway

League had a birthday in February—90 years young. National League is planning a year-long celebration. If you have an idea of how Denver can celebrate, please call me to pass it along.

Mayor Hickenlooper has committed to speaking at our summer Education Fund fundraising event! The planning committee met in late February to discuss what type of event to hold. We have only one fundraising event for the Education Fund, and that means a positive financial outcome is important for our future financial planning.

The Nominating Committee is at work. If you are asked to serve on the board, or would like to serve on the board, please call Thelma Hutt who is heading the committee. We need every helping hand as we go forward with our programs. There are always ways you can help, be it a major commitment or a minor one.

Nancy

Volume 2010, Issue #3
Periodicals postage paid
at Denver, Colorado

Denver VOTER
(USPS 019817)

Published twice in
 September and monthly
 October through June by:

**LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS
 OF DENVER**

1980 Dahlia Street
 Denver, CO 80220
 303-321-7571

Fax: 303-320-8557

www.LWVDenver.org
info@LWVDenver.org

A one-year subscription is included
 in annual membership dues.

Co-Presidents
 Buzzy Hassrick
 Nancy Ulrich

Organization Vice President
 Marty Sloven

Program Vice Presidents
 Barbara Allen Ford
 Carol Lassen

Communications Vice President
 Peg Oldham

Secretary
 Mary Ann Thompson

Treasurer
 Catherine Decker

Denver VOTER Editor
 Pearlanne Zelarney

Denver VOTER Assistant Editor
 Marty Sloven

Postmaster, please send address
 changes to:

Denver VOTER
 LWV Denver
 1980 Dahlia Street
 Denver, CO 80220

Federal Court System Briefing

Monday, March 1
 5:30 p.m.

McCollum Room
 Montview Presbyterian Church

Many of us know a lot more about state and city courts than we do about the federal courts. Here is a great opportunity to learn about how our Federal Court system operates and meet some learned people who are in the middle of making those courts function. Here are short biographies of our speakers:

Judge Marcia S. Krieger has served on the United States District Court for the District of Colorado since 2002. Prior to that, she served on the United States Bankruptcy Court for the District of Colorado and as Chief Judge from 2000-2002. She has served on multiple judicial committees. Her committee positions and areas of expertise have ranged from Administration of the Bankruptcy System, Court Technology and Automation, Court Reform, Ethics, to Coordination of the Colorado Judicial System, as well as teaching law students at the University of Colorado School of Law.

Michelle Merz-Hutchinson works for the federal courts as law clerk to the Hon. Wiley Y. Daniel, Chief Judge of the United States District Court for the District of Colorado. She is licensed to practice law in both Colorado State and Federal Courts. She has practiced in the private sector and also as an Assistant Attorney General representing Colorado's universities and community colleges.

Note date change

Premier Film Event: *Swift Justice*

Co-sponsored by LWVD and Denver Film Society

Thursday, March 18

6:00 p.m. Reception

7:00 p.m. Film, 8:00 p.m. Discussion

Starz FilmCenter

Studio A

900 Auraria Parkway

Denver League is hoping you're ready for a premier film event! The evening of March 18 will feature a social hour and then a documentary about an important, contemporary issue, with a discussion afterward. The reception will begin at 6:00 p.m. with appetizers and a cash bar. The movie will start at 7:00 p.m. and be immediately followed by a discussion led by two prominent attorneys who are members of The American Immigration Lawyers Association, Christina Fiflis and Ann Allott.

The documentary *Swift Justice* concerns the raids by U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement agents on the Greeley Swift facility and other company plants in six states. The raids resulted in the arrest of more than 1,200 people on charges of illegal immigration and identity theft. In Greeley, 262 people were arrested. The film was a highlight of the Denver Film Festival last year.

Bring friends who are new to League. Plenty of free parking is available, but theater seating is limited to 160. Let's try to fill every seat! The tickets will be \$12 for League and Film Society members and \$15 for the general public. Tickets will be available at the door. Wear your LWV button to this premier film event.

Reporting in, LWVD City Observer Corps

Below are reports on just a few of the meetings City Observer Corps members have attended:

General Government Committee

The committee heard a state budget briefing. The shortfall in the state education budget will be partially offset by a stimulus grant of \$1.5 billion. Whereas there had been a need to build more prison and jail cells, the Department of Corrections now estimates that the prison population will decrease due to more liberal parole policies plus education and mental health efforts.

There was discussion of the possible impact on economic development of budget cuts and elimination of enterprise tax credits and exemptions. The budget office emphasized shared solutions and shared sacrifices to support commerce.

Jackie Long

Blueprint Denver Committee

On January 27, the committee delayed action on a request to reduce parking requirements for developments near transportation hubs and then tackled the contentious issue of billboards. Community Planning and Development staff proposed changes to clarify what may and may not be done to existing billboards and to set a flat fee for permits. Of 550 billboards, 150 are non-conforming. If the owner of a non-conforming one removes it, s/he gets credit toward building another in an approved area. The code allows lighting that doesn't flash, blink or fluctuate and must be dimmed at dusk; staff has interpreted LEDs to fit the code. The committee recommended a moratorium on LEDs, with plans to revisit the issue, and approved the proposed changes. Billboard representatives supported the clarifications, noting that interpretations of the code vary with staff changes. The city faces 11 lawsuits about billboards.

Buzzy Hassrick

Denver Police Accountability Coalition

Citizens and representatives of a variety of organizations met to discuss possible action as to perceived civil rights violations by the Denver Police Department. It was said that over time a number of persons have been mistakenly arrested and held, sometimes for long periods, on warrants for a completely different person. Complaints to police are reviewed by a board consisting of police and police-appointed officials. Just 5% of such complaints are investigated, while 95% are deemed unfounded. Options were considered, includ-

ing a ballot initiative to require an independent citizen to serve on the Police Review Board. No action was taken.

Jackie Long

Clerk & Records Public Forum

The Elections Division will be conducting public hearings in April regarding the potential of having an all-mail primary election. This is the result of a bill signed last year that allows county clerks that option.

In the November election, of the 347,000 ballots that were sent out in Denver, only 84,000 ballots were returned, 56,000 by mail and 28,000 in person.

Ballot Trace, which was tested in the November election, is the first such service to be offered in the United States. Voters were able to track their mail ballots by checking the website, receiving email messages, or receiving text messages informing them of the status of their ballots.

Carol Tone

Denver Water

The Moffat Project highlights the focus for Denver Water (DW) in 2010. This proposed enlargement of Gross Reservoir to resolve long-term water needs is detailed at www.denverwater.org/moffat, and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers is receiving public comment, extended through March 17, at moffat.eis@usace.army.mil. LWVD member Carol Pace is an appointed Denver Customer Representative for the DW Citizens Advisory Committee (CAC), regularly attends CAC and DW Board meetings and would be happy to provide additional information about the major Moffat Project or other Denver water issues.

Denver Board of Ethics

The Denver Ethics Board meets monthly and provides advisory opinions on city employee and appointee questions. In December the board hosted an all-employee forum to raise awareness of its function. In addition to addressing regular questions around conflict of interest and other ethics issues, the board has just sent through City Council a revision of the Ethics Code, for which LWVD provided a supporting statement. A few minor points remain under discussion by the Council. The Ethics Board always welcomes observers from LWVD.

Carol Pace

Precinct Caucuses March 16

A caucus is a neighborhood (precinct) meeting where people in the same political party begin that party's nominating process. Caucuses take place the third Tuesday in March in even-numbered years. This year the caucuses will be held March 16 at 7:00 p.m. Participants are advised to arrive early because their names must be matched against registration lists.

In order to participate in a precinct caucus, an individual must have affiliated with either the Democratic Party or the Republican Party no later than January 19, 2010, and been registered in that precinct no later than February 16, 2010. In Colorado, unaffiliated voters may not participate in party caucuses.

If you live in Denver you can identify your precinct number by calling 311, or by looking it up at www.sos.state.co.us. The link "Verify Your Voter Registration Information" can be accessed from the Election Center homepage under "Voter Information." To access your voter information you will have to enter your name (exactly as registered), date of

birth, and zip code. The last three digits of your 10 digit ID number indicate your precinct number. Find out where your precinct caucus is being held by contacting your political party:

Democrats: 303-830-8242,
www.denverdemocrats.net or
www.coloradodems.org

Republicans: 303-782-9555,
www.coloradogop.org

The general agenda at all caucuses is:

- ◆ Elect a chair and secretary of the caucus
- ◆ Elect two precinct committee people to represent the precinct on the party's county central committee
- ◆ Elect delegates to the county assembly/county convention
- ◆ Introduce, debate, and approve or reject resolutions and platform issues

Peg Oldham

LWVUS 2010 Legislative Priorities

Each January, the LWVUS Board of Directors adopts Priorities for Advocacy for the calendar year. Priorities are established in order to assure the best use of LWV resources. Consideration must be given to issues that are likely to be addressed by Congress. Among these considerations are: member interest; the political climate for action on a specific issue; the resources that are available; opportunities for successful advocacy; and whether the LWVUS is the organization that can make a difference. Suggestions were received from individual members, the LWVUS Board, and committees who held meetings to discuss advocacy priorities.

The LWVUS Board of Directors has adopted the following **Legislative Priorities for 2010**:

- ◆ Global Climate Change
- ◆ Health Care Reform
- ◆ Money in Elections (campaign finance reform)

On the **Legislative Watch List** are:

- ◆ Arms Control
- ◆ DC Voting Rights
- ◆ Election Reform
- ◆ Ethics and Lobbying Reform
- ◆ UN Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW)

This Watch List includes issues that need to be monitored for action opportunities in the 111th Congress. It is understood that the board will have opportunities to review the priorities throughout the year to make changes if the situation requires it. It should also be noted that DC Voting Rights and CEDAW are perennial legislative priorities that the LWV has worked hard for in the past and is committed to working for their successful passage.

Savvy Leaguers spread the word about the importance of the census!

Denver Results of National Programming Study

Based on the responses of our units, the Denver League Board voted on February 9 to send the following recommendation to the National League:

Denver League recommends a **Review** of our position on **Military Policy and Defense Spending**, a sub-category of **International Relations** for the following reasons:

- The policy has not been reviewed since 1984/1986.
- The structure and mission of the military have changed dramatically since then.
- The policy is based on Cold War policies and issues, and not on the current status.
- The policy is based on wars between recognized nation-states and not between tribes, regional, political and/or religiously motivated groups with no official international status.
- There is no consideration of the role of terrorism.
- The military today is not just a combat organization. In fact, members of the armed forces today are often required to “win the hearts and minds of the people,” rebuild communities, establish schools, analyze the political landscape, and make hard choices about shooting or not shooting when their lives are at risk.
- The military today utilizes privatization of tasks (food supplies, housing, ammunition supplies, security, prisons) never conceived of in the old military, often without a clear line of command, which is the source of considerable controversy.
- Today’s wars have resulted in thousands of casualties involving brain damage, PTSD, and disabilities never dealt with before, which have implications for the duties of our nation and the costs associated with our responsibilities.

(There is, of course, no guarantee that this topic will become a study item. It will depend on whether enough Leagues around the country make a similar recommendation.)

Briefing Update – New Zoning Code

Draft 4 of the New Zoning Code was posted on January 22. For residential areas the changes included were significant. Some mapping changes occurred, and new districts were created for residential areas with imbedded commercial districts with greater restrictions for noise and operations. A major concern about nonconforming existing structures was solved by making them all “compliant.” This means that the new code accepts all structures, but if any changes are to be made, the changes must comply with the new standards.

Existing neighborhood characteristics were taken to a greater level of inclusion by making the block-sensitive setbacks to include the multifamily dwellings up to three stories high, in the General Urban Context. Heights of buildings have a more consistent, yet more flexible, design approach to keep from shadowing their neighbor’s property, allowing for a better chance of solar access and conformity from ground height to total height. The existing grade level of properties is better preserved in this draft.

Good improvements were made to the organization of the draft to include more drawings to typify construction standards and explain the details. Also bicycle and parking requirements, along with uses allowed, are now in a table in each Context section.

Parking standards have been a source of controversy between neighborhood groups and businesses/developers. The minimum standards for Main

Street Corridors and ¼ mile radius around major transportation centers have been changed to reflect more pedestrian and alternative transportations modes, other than cars. Also this new code will allow shared parking with businesses and other structures with parking lots, such as churches, that have varying hours. Now denser areas will have the opportunity to utilize surface parking for more hours of the day and night. Businesses and developers are finally engaging in the process, so more issues are being raised in the details with these sections.

The first public hearing with the Planning Board Review was February 17, but the final adoption by City Council may not occur now until June. The revised schedule will be posted shortly. This will allow more time to finalize the proposals that will be submitted to the City Council Blueprint Committee for their adoption. The final new code will be written after City Council adopts the proposals, along with Draft 4, after all of the public hearings. Then there will be a six month period where both the old code and the new code will be in place to allow for the existing, planned projects to begin. The process for changing the new code once it is in place is being discussed currently. City Council will handle any major issues that need more study in its traditional process. The project is on its last few months with only minor revisions to be completed.

Cindy Sestrich
City Observer Corps

Unit Meetings

Buffalo

No meetings in March
For info call Joan Friend

Cheesman

Tues., Mar. 9, 9:15 a.m.
Sue Dichter
Tues., Mar. 23, 9:15 a.m.
Josephine Carpenter

Cherrington

Thu., Mar. 11, 1:00 p.m.
Martha Rangell

Heritage

Thu., Mar. 25, 1:00 p.m.
Regular meeting place:
Heritage Club
2020 S. Monroe St.
For info call Joan Sussman

Highland/Woodbury

Wed., Mar. 3, 5:45 p.m.
Regular meeting place:
Sabor Latino Restaurant
35th Ave & Tennyson St.
Heather Colliander

Matchless

Tues., Mar. 23, 7:00 p.m.
Bess Turner

Observatory

Tue., Mar. 9, 7:00 p.m.
Beth Keift
Tue., Mar. 23, 7:00 p.m.
Rose Tanaka

St. Vrain

Wed., Mar. 10, 9:15 a.m.
Joanne Gendreau
Wed., Mar. 24, 9:15 a.m.
TBA

Thomas Jefferson

Fri., Mar. 12, 9:15 a.m.
Arlene Hutchinson
Fri., Mar. 26, 9:15 a.m.
Marcia Verba

Whiteman

Tue., Mar. 9, 9:15 a.m.
Jane Johnston
Tues. Mar. 23, 9:15 a.m.
TBA

March Calendar

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31			

- 1 Court System Briefing, 5:30 p.m.
- 9 Board Meeting, 3:30 p.m.
- 15 90th Birthday Celebration, 8:00 a.m., State Capitol
- 16 Precinct Caucuses, 7:00 p.m.
- 18 Hot Button Film Event, 6:00 p.m., Starz FilmCenter

90th Birthday Celebration

On March 15 from 8:00 a.m.—10:00 a.m., we will be celebrating the 90th birthday of League with a coffee at the State Capitol. All members are welcome to attend. Legislators will receive invitations for coffee and muffins. The State League will celebrate local Leagues by highlighting some of your events or community recognitions.

Marge Fisch

Denver League Member and State PR Director

Community Event

Monday, March 22, 8:00 p.m.

Author Gail Collins

Student Center, Regis University (50th & Lowell campus)

Gail Collins, columnist of the New York Times and first female editor of its editorial page, will discuss her latest book, *When Everything Changed: The Amazing Journey of American Women From 1960 to the Present*. With her characteristic humor, insight, and depth of research, she explores the economic and social changes that gave rise to the movement for women's equality and transformed American social, political, and economic life. The event is free and open to the public.

Census 2010 Speakers

LWVD members offering to provide additional outreach and information on the 2010 Census Speakers Bureau include: Sally Augden, Ed Augden, Pat Buchanan, Bobbie Heisterkamp and Carol Pace. If you or your unit would like additional information, or know of a group that would like a brief Census 2010 presentation, please contact one of the speakers.

Don't forget our new **Reloadable King Soopers Fundraising Cards**—available in the office and at most League events. Support your League as you do your regular shopping.

Members, offer this application to friends and neighbors.

League of Women Voters of Denver

1980 Dahlia Street

Denver, CO 80220-1239

JOIN LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS

NOT FOR WOMEN ONLY!

Name(s) _____ E-mail _____

Address _____ City _____ Zip _____

Phone (H) _____ (W) _____ (C) _____

ANNUAL DUES: Regular member..... \$60.00
 (for Denver, State & Two residing at same address \$90.00
 National) Sustaining member \$125.00
 Two sustaining members at same address \$185.00
 Student \$25.00

CONTRIBUTIONS: To LWV Denver \$ _____
 To Dues Assistance Fund \$ _____

Make check payable to LWV Denver. (Dues are not tax-deductible. Tax-deductible contributions may be made by separate check to LWV/D Education Fund.)

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT!

TOTAL ENCLOSED \$ _____

INC Presidents and Delegates Awards Dinner Report

Each year LWV Denver is invited to the Inter-Neighborhood Cooperation (INC) Presidents and Delegates Award Dinner. The Mayor generally is the keynote speaker, as was the case this year. Mayor Hickenlooper made special note of the fact that the dinner is sponsored by VISIT DENVER of the Convention and Visitors Bureau, as a testament to how important our neighborhoods are to residents and to visitors.

The awards portion of the event recognizes Denver neighbors who have given tirelessly of their time to improve the quality of life in their neighborhood. In addition to four individual awards, there are ten Neighborhood Stars Awards. This year, the East Washington Park and Overland Park Neighbors nominated our own Board Member Casey Davenhill, who accepted a "Star" for her work on the restoration of the Overland Pond in southwest Denver.

You may remember Casey from our River North (RiNo) Tour last fall. Our April Natural Resources Committee briefing will be on the topic of the River South (RiSo) master planning process which was just completed. Can another tour be in our future?

Our partnership with INC is one of our longest and strongest associations. Congratulations to INC for its dedication to public safety, education, parks, recreation, transportation and community service and to Casey for being a "Star."

City Government Committee

The City Government Committee is currently addressing topics such as zoning, ethics, transportation, parks, and the 2010 Census. Our meetings are 1:00–2:30 p.m., on Tuesdays prior to the regularly scheduled board meetings. Meetings on the LWVD calendar for the remainder of the year are March 9, April 13 and May 11. Meetings will be re-confirmed in advance in the event of changes. The committee is soliciting interest in a possible alternating evening meeting time to accommodate those unable to attend during the day. If you have input or interest on any subject, please contact committee chair Carol Pace,

Welcome New Members!

Viola Garlington

Curt Freed

Joyce Saunders



League of Women Voters of Denver
1980 Dahlia Street
Denver, CO 80220-1239

Periodical Postage
Paid in Denver



Make a Nomination for Annual Meeting Awards

Nominations are being accepted from all members for the Shirley Weaver Suffragist and Mother Lode awards given out each year at the Annual Meeting. Use the enclosed form or e-mail your nomination by April 8. We are also looking for names of any 50-year members to honor at the Annual Meeting. If you are aware of any members who meet this qualification, please forward their names to the League office.



Did you miss the Denver Public Schools Briefing on January 26?

You can find the full briefing, including what Superintendent Tom Boasberg at left shared, at Denver 8 Online:

http://denver.granicus.com/MediaPlayer.php?publish_id=1189