

# The Boulder County Voter

League of Women Voters of Boulder County \* March 2019



## League of Women Voters and 19th Amendment Anniversaries

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### Monthly Events Calendar

March 5: National Popular Vote Workshop  
March 8: International Women's Day Celebration  
March 13-14: Doing Democracy Day  
March 16: Member Coffee

### LWVBC Social Media



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From The Smithsonian's National Portrait Gallery "Votes for Women: A Portrait of Persistence."

2020 is the 100th anniversary of both the 19th amendment and The League of Women Voters. Jean McGuire (Estes Park) is the lead for the LWVCO 100th Anniversary Committee, and she is looking for a liaison from the LWVBC, so please get in touch with **Peggy Leech** at [pegleech@aol.com](mailto:pegleech@aol.com) if you can assist. Jean writes:

We have a unique opportunity to reflect on our history and accomplishments as we celebrate these milestone anniversaries as well as look to the future to lay the groundwork for the next 100 years, nationally, regionally and locally.

I have been asked to head up the LWVCO 100th Anniversary Committee for the state League and am reaching out to all of you to begin to make connections across all of our Leagues in Colorado as we begin to plan for these historic events. We have begun plans for celebrations at the state level, but are hopeful that local Leagues will also plan events locally and potentially regionally particularly through collaborations with other organizations.

*(continued on page 6)*

## President's Letter

By Peggy Leech, LWVBC President

February has turned out to be a very busy, and mostly successful, month. **Susan Saunders** and **Jeanine Pow** organized a very interesting gathering, which they called: "Marching Is Not Enough—A Call to Action". Approximately 25 people attended on a very cold evening, and many signed up to help with various League activities. We then had a Coffee in Longmont, which drew 14 people, many of whom signed up to help. And, of course, the Colorado Legislature has passed the National Popular Vote bill, which involved some hard work from many LWVBC members.

The Nominating Committee continues its work, and I would encourage anyone who is interested in helping with the Events Team to contact **Carolyn Elliott**, Nominating Committee Chair. She can be contacted at [carolynelliott1515@gmail.com](mailto:carolynelliott1515@gmail.com).

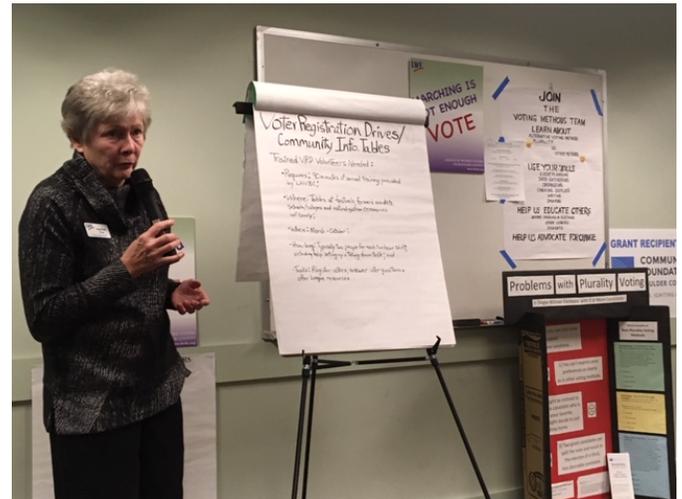
The Women's Collaborative of Boulder County (WoCoBoCo) will be hosting its annual International Women's Day Celebration on the evening of March 8. This event is not open to the public, but it is open to members, including LWVBC members, and invited guests. Feel free to attend and bring a friend. This year's theme is "Climate Change: A Woman's Issue", and the guests of honor are Christine Berg and Lesley Smith.

Several months ago, we were asked to participate in a survey from LWVCO, and I was given the results from Boulder County members. Here are our answers to a couple of the questions. 64 members participated in the survey, which is outstanding!

Age: 10 members were 45-54; 7 were 55-64; 23 were 65-74; 16 were 75-84; and 3 were 85 or older. 5 didn't answer the question.



Longmont Planning Meeting



Jeanine Pow at the Marching is Not Enough event

Is participation meeting expectations? Exceeding: 9 members. Completely meeting expectations: 27 members. Somewhat: 18 members. Not meeting expectations at all: 1 member. 9 members didn't answer the question.

Explanations about why participation was not quite meeting expectations mostly centered around members not having enough time, but there were a couple of comments about lack of diversity or being too liberal.

Thank you to the members who participated in the survey.

## Member News and Announcements

### Grocery Cards

You can reload your gift card when you check out. Before your order is rung up, tell your checker you want to reload your card. The League of Women Voters Boulder County gets a percentage of the reload and you get the full value!

To get your card call or email **Louisa Young** (303-444-6428) [Louisa.Young@Colorado.EDU](mailto:Louisa.Young@Colorado.EDU).

### Watch for LWVCO Communications Task Force survey next week

The LWVCO Communications Task Force will be sending out a brief, 10-question online member survey asking how we can better communicate with you. The survey will ask you about the various LWVCO communication channels and their content, distribution, and use. Please watch for this survey in your email and take a few minutes to give us your thoughts. Thank you.

### We are updating our database

We are updating our database on the website. Please go into your member profile and give us the following information if we don't have it.

- Race/ethnicity
- Gender
- Birth year
- Experience and interests
- Upload a picture of you

This information is very important to manage our organization, to be sure that we are better addressing diversity and for grant applications. Take a look at your profile! **Debby Vink** is always welcome to help, [debvink@gmail.com](mailto:debvink@gmail.com).

### Member Coffees

Our upcoming member coffees are (note different times):

- Sat. Mar 16th, 10:30 am - 12 noon, Lafayette Brewing Market
- Sat. Apr 13th, 9:30 am - 11am, Boulder, Panera Bread at 29th Street Mall

Come along for coffee to meet new members and catch-up with longer-time Leaguers. We'll give you an update on current action and advocacy!

### Public meetings notice

All board meetings are PUBLIC meetings. Please join us if you wish to learn more about our work. We want to be open and transparent!

## 2019 Annual Awards

It is time for you to help us nominate community leaders and LWVBC members for the awards presented at Annual Meeting. Nominations deadline is April 1st. Please send to **Ruth Stemler** at [rjstemler@gmail.com](mailto:rjstemler@gmail.com). Annual Meeting is May 11<sup>th</sup> where we will celebrate these accomplishments! (Last year's recipients are listed in parentheses, as we usually do not give the same award two years in a row).

- Community Partner (2018 Elvira Ramos)
- Elected Official (2018 Stan Garnett)
- Emerging Leader (2018 Pat Long and Elizabeth Crowe)
- Board Member (2018 Louisa Young)
- Member (2018 Diana Haskell)
- Issue Team Leader (2018 Denice Walker and Annie Lessem)
- Team Member of an Issue Team or Operational Team (2018 Deborah Hayes and Debby Vink)

If you have questions, let me know! We can always discuss your suggestion.

**Debby Vink, Pat Long** and **Ruth Stemler**, Awards Committee

## National Popular Vote passes in Colorado

The Colorado House and Senate have passed the National Popular Vote (NPV) Interstate Compact, and Governor Polis intends to sign the measure. The measure will only take effect once states having a total of 270 electoral votes have joined the Compact. 12 states (including Colorado, which has 9 electoral votes) have now joined, resulting in 181 electoral votes so far. Once the Compact is in force, all of the states in the Compact will award their electoral votes to the presidential candidate who receives the most votes nationwide.

The League of Women Voters has long supported NPV because electing presidents by direct popular vote is essential to a representative government. The candidate with the most votes should win, and every vote should count equally. The Compact achieves this without needing a constitutional amendment.

A description of the Compact as well as status of states in the Compact or considering bills to join is found at the [National Popular Vote website](#). [The NPV page on our website](#) includes many other useful links.



## League Endowment Fund

In late 2018 the Board of LWVBC approved creation of an endowment fund to help insure the long-term effectiveness of the League and its programs.

We are delighted to announce that two gifts have recently been received, directed to the new endowment. These gifts, and others directed to the endowment, will be held in a separate account until the amount is sufficient for us to establish a fund at a local community foundation – approximately \$10,000. There, the funds will be carefully managed for secure growth and the League will use a percentage each year to support its projects.

If you would like to direct a gift to this fund, contact **Anne Bryan** at [anneabryan@gmail.com](mailto:anneabryan@gmail.com), or send your check to the League with a notation that it is restricted to the endowment. Our thanks to the first donors to this exciting new fund!

## Voting Methods Team Recent Investigation and Outreach

**Investigation of Multi-Winner Approval Voting Methods** – Our January meeting featured our findings and an interactive tabulation exercise with special guests traveling from the Denver metro area to attend -- a representative of the Colorado Secretary of State's office and some activists who promote better voting methods. We particularly focused on voting methods that promote proportional representation (PR). [More on PR in the Outreach section below.]

- Approval voting permits a voter to vote for as many candidates as she approves of (regardless of the number to be elected), thereby allowing for better voter expressiveness and eliminating the problem of two or more candidates "splitting the vote."
- In 2018 Fargo, ND, voters adopted single-winner and multi-winner approval block voting for its municipal elections.

**Outreach to the Broomfield City Council** – As we heard at the LWVCO Legislative Conference in January, Broomfield is considering instant-runoff voting for its city council elections. Meanwhile, the Broomfield ward populations have become quite skewed, so district boundaries should be redrawn soon. LWVBC sent a letter to the Broomfield City Council suggesting that the confluence of these two situations presents an opportune time to consider electing city council members using a voting method that promotes proportional representation (PR). LWVBC offered to present a study session on PR.

Instant-runoff voting (IRV) is also known as single-winner ranked choice voting (RCV). IRV does not promote PR; however, the multi-winner form of RCV does promote PR, has been used in Cambridge, MA, since 1941 and was used in the city of Boulder from 1917-1947.

Wards guarantee geographic representation, but geography is only one characteristic that the voters may value. With proportional representation, the **electorate determines with their votes which characteristics are most important to have on city council** and elects a council whose composition reflects those values in proportion to the electorate's values.

## **In Memoriam - Hedy Page and Jane Volckhausen**

Two members of The Boulder County League of Women Voters Have recently passed away.

**Jane Braucher Volckhausen** passed on January 26, 2019 at the age of 100. She was born on July 9, 1918, before women had the right to vote throughout the United States. She graduated from Bryn Mawr College and worked for the International Labor Organization in Geneva before WWII. She and her husband Bob were Quakers and actively supported civil rights, The ERA, environmental issues, the UN, and of course the LWV. She was a lifetime member of the LWV, having been a member over 50 years. She moved to Boulder in 2003 at the age of 85 to be close to her grandchildren and continued her activities in support of social justice values. A video of Jane and several other LWV life members is [here](#). Donations may be made to [American Friends Service Committee Development](#).



Jane's full obituary is found [here](#).



**Hedy Anne Merten Page** was born in Königsberg, Germany and lived in Berlin until she fled Nazi Germany with her family in 1939. She graduated from Oberlin College in 1949 and earned a masters degree in social science, and later a masters degree in library science. Hedy worked as a social worker and, after moving to Boulder in 1993, she worked at the Boulder Public Library. Hedy was devoted to issues like education, peace, and volunteered for and donated to numerous educational, cultural, and public interest organizations, including Rocky Mountain PBS, LWVBC, Center of the American West, University Women's Club, etc. Donations may be made to [Hand in Hand: Center for Jewish-Arab Education in Israel](#) or [New Israel Fund](#).

Hedy's full obituary is found [here](#).

### *(Anniversaries continued from page 1)*

I am reaching out to you to ask for a local League contact from each League to work with the LWVCO 100th Anniversary committee as we prepare for these significant milestone.

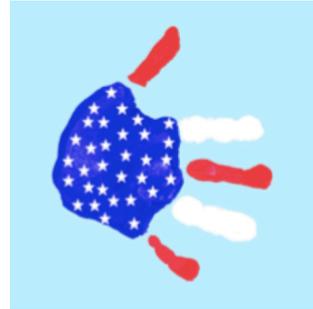
While we are in the early stages of planning, we envision this contact could help with such things as:

- Provide additional ideas for celebration/event ideas to share with all local Leagues (the 100th Anniversary Committee has an initial list as a starting point)
- Help organize any local League events you may be planning
- Communicate local League planned events to LWVCO so that they can be included on a planned 100th anniversary page/calendar on the State League website
- Attend calls as needed with other local League contacts to share/plan events
- Assist with regional and states events if needed and possible

Thanks so much for your partnership, **Jean McGuire**

10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Doing Democracy Day (DDD): Expands to 2 days!

**Volunteers Needed**  
**2019 Doing Democracy X**  
**Wednesday March 13 - High School**  
**Thursday March 14 - Middle School**  
**St. Vrain Innovation Center**  
**33 Quail Road**



LWVBC is again participating in and co-sponsoring Doing Democracy Day. Volunteers are welcome to attend one or both days. Please contact Peggy Leech ([pegleech@aol.com](mailto:pegleech@aol.com)) if you plan to volunteer for either day. DDD needs an approximate headcount by March 7.

Most volunteers are needed in the mornings (anytime between 9:30-11:30) to serve as live resources for student interviews. (See the issue list below.) Free coffee and treats will be provided by The Colorado Municipal League. See the agenda below.

8:00am - 9:30am Students arrive, welcome, keynote and begin committee issue research.

• **9:30 - 11:30am Leader Interviews** - We need your help the most in the morning session to serve as live resources as our students investigate local issues.

11:30am - 12:30pm Lunch with Kids - **Sponsored by SVVEA**

• **1:00pm - 2:30pm Presentation Judges** - Several leaders are need in the **afternoon** to serve as American Idol style judges of the presentations.

2:30pm - 3:00pm Awards

• **Leaders Needed** - Of course, you can stay for the whole day if you wish.

This year's issues:

- School Safety
- Banning Plastic Bags and Straws
- Teen Homelessness
- Vaping
- Driverless Cars
- Screen Addiction

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