

THE LEAGUE IN THE 1970s

Dominant issues in Colorado during the 1970s included the environment and the status of women. The typical legislator was "a white, Protestant male in his forties, college-educated as a businessman or lawyer, a newcomer to politics, and a town or city dweller."³⁰ Elections had been fairly evenly divided between the political parties, with the only solid Democratic areas in Pueblo, Adams County, and the Hispanic counties of southern Colorado. In the 1970s, Democrats were elected to major offices.

Richard Lamm, who as a freshman legislator had introduced a successful abortion rights bill in 1967, was elected governor in 1974 as a strong advocate of environmental conservation. His twelve-year term produced many changes. Colorado voters elected Democrats to Congress. The Republican incumbent U.S. senators, Peter Dominick and Gordon Allott, were defeated in 1972 and 1974 by Gary Hart and Floyd Haskell. Patricia Schroeder was elected in 1972, the first woman elected to Congress from Colorado. Congressman Tim Wirth was elected in 1974. However, in the Colorado General Assembly during the 1974–76 sessions, there was a Republican majority in the Senate and the House of Representatives was controlled by the Democrats.

Colorado politics began to open up for women and minorities. Rachel Noel was the first African-American woman elected to statewide office when she won a position on the University of Colorado Board of Regents. Mary Estill Buchanan was elected Secretary of State in 1974, and Nancy Dick was elected Lieutenant Governor in 1978. Betty Benavidez was elected to the House of Representatives in 1974, the first Hispanic woman in the General Assembly. In 1978 Polly Baca became the first Hispanic woman to serve in the Senate. In 1972, Arie Taylor was the first African-American woman elected to serve in the General Assembly.

Land Use became a popular issue, but lobbying by the League of Women Voters and the Colorado Open Space Council did not succeed, and control of development was left to local government regulation. Periodic drought was a constant concern as more and more agricultural land was irrigated by center pivot systems that used subsurface water.³¹ League studies focused on water resources, air pollution, solid waste disposal, and responsibility for land use planning and management.

The Equal Rights Amendment was first introduced in Congress in 1923 as drafted by Alice Paul. It was opposed by the League of Women Voters which favored a gradual, step-by-step approach to equality. (See Appendix D, LWVUS Memo, March 4, 1927.) It may be that some of the opposition was the aftermath of the disagreement between Alice Paul and Carrie Chapman Catt about the conduct of the work for women's rights. This position continued through the years, but was dropped from League records in 1954. Minutes of meetings of the Women Citizens League of Colorado and the League of Women Voters of Colorado do not mention any active opposition to the Amendment, Delegates to the 1972 National Convention of the League of Women Voters made passage of the ERA a first priority of League program.³² The Equal Rights Amendment introduced in Congress in 1970 was worded as follows:

*Equality of rights under the law shall not be denied or abridged
by the United States or by any state on account of sex.*

³⁰ Abbott, et. al., **Op. cit.**, p. 286. [Notes 30–32 are numbered 31–33 in print ed.]

³¹ **Ibid.**, pp 308–318.

³² Mary E. Brooks and Susan Tenebaum, **In pursuit of equal rights: women in the seventies**, 1976. Roberta Francis, **Changed Forever**, LWVEF, 1988.

The proposal passed in the House of Representatives on October 12, 1971, and in the Senate on March 22, 1972. Then the campaign for ratification by the states began. The Colorado General Assembly ratified the ERA on April 21, 1972, the thirteenth state to do so. Colorado's ERA was approved by a vote of 531,415 to 295,254 in the following November election, and it became a part of the state Constitution.³³ In 1976, the League led successful opposition to an initiative that would have repealed the state ERA.

Support of ERA ratification and resistance of state repeal efforts was a major occupation of the League in Colorado and in other states throughout the 1970s and into the 1980s. National attention focused on the concerns of women. A national Commission on the Status of Women, which the League had recommended in 1947, had been appointed in the early 1970s. Governor John Love appointed a Colorado Commission on the Status of Women, but it was "sunsetting" by the legislature in 1979. These commissions, and those of other states, were instrumental in producing workshops and publications on women's civil rights. They were violently opposed by the same people who also opposed the Equal Rights Amendment, and with the some of the same arguments that had been used against woman suffrage.

The break-in at Watergate which led to the historic first resignation of a President of the United States in 1974 brought resurgence of interest in the presidency. The LWVUS added evaluation of the Executive Branch of national government to the study of the relationship between the Executive and Legislative branches that had been adopted in 1970.³⁴

By the time the Bicentennial of the United States was celebrated in 1976, women were speaking out and writing about their experiences. The Decade for Women (1975-1985) was proclaimed. Many League members were delegates to a state conference and to the National Women's Conference held in Houston, Texas, in November, 1977.

In 1976, in recognition of 200 years of constitutional government, national and state bicentennial celebration commissions made funding available to Leagues for publications to inform about the governmental process. The LWVCO published **A Citizen's Guide to Colorado**, which explained the processes of Colorado state government.³⁵ The League adopted a study of the state constitution,

Council 1970.

The first Council of the 1970s met in Greeley on May 19-20, convened by President Sue Joshel, with a welcome from Greeley President Mrs. Marion Pearce to 27 delegates, 18 state board members, 4 observers, and 25 visitors.

State Board: Sue Joshel, Roberta Bradbury, Edith Evans, Dorothy Lewis, Fannie Pilz, Virginia Stone, Ann Hallock, Beverly Hiza, Nonie Ragsdale, Gladys Foster, Rosalie Schiff, Jo Garrett, Jeanne Jickling, Greta Brown, Lucile Miller, Leona Stoecker, Jeannette MacKenzie, Doris Rothenberg.

Arrangements Committees: Mmes. Charles Jones, Jr., Alvin Steinmark, John Gapter, Gerald Schmidt, Dale Lundeen, Lester Ewegen.

Budget Adjustments Committee: Mmes. Eugene Evans, Eugene Pilz, Frank Campana, Fred Kyer, George F. Menkick.

Reading Committee: Mmes. John Ragsdale, Sanford Thayer, Gordon Witt.

As was usual at Council meetings, when the budget proposal was presented by Edith Evans, it was thoroughly discussed. Suggestions for cutting the budget included canceling one issue of the VOTER, but this was abandoned because it was recognized as an important contact with every member. Workshops

³³ Secretary of State, **Colorado Constitution**, Article II, Section 29.

³⁴ LWVUS, **Impact on Issues** 1990-92, pp. 7-9.

³⁵ LWVCO, **A Citizen's Guide to Colorado**, 1977. [Notes 33-35 are numbered 34-36 in print ed.]

were deemed too important to cut. The president's expense item was increased, although not as much as proposed. An item for twelve months of additional telephone service was reduced to eight months, with a second phone to be installed in June or August. Comment was made that it was not good to "forever be taking from Reserves," and that it was up to the local Leagues to work hard on finance drives and increase their pledges. Mrs. Evans suggested an increase of \$1.50 per member in local League pledges to offset the need to be "more active, more visible, because we spend more for local services."

Membership was reported as 2,236 in seventeen local Leagues, one provisional League, and 10 Members-at-Large. An increased budget totaling \$20,463 was adopted. For the first time, the "hidden" contributions of the work of those members who served on committees and boards was recognized in the budget in the itemization of non-cash member contributions (NCMC) that amounted to \$2,317.06. Treasurer Fannie Pilz reported total liabilities and capital of \$9,439.10, with income of \$19,882.16 and expenditures of \$17,175.20.

Delegates heard reports on the progress of studies on Finance of Education and on the Interrelationships of Functions of Government. In addition, the League was lobbying on bills concerned with representative government, home rule for the District of Columbia, reapportionment of state legislatures, and electoral reform.

Convention 1971.

Roberta Bradbury became State President at the close of Council when Sue Joshel resigned to accept nomination to the LWVUS board. She convened the Thirteenth Biennial Convention on May 24-25, 1971, at Temple Buell College (formerly Colorado Women's College) in Denver. Denver President Kay Schomp welcomed 105 delegates and 14 State Board members.

Parliamentarian: Mrs. Amos Wilson. **Reading Committee:** Mrs. Ted Reeds (Aspen), Joanne Jefferies (Sterling), Phyllis Horney (State Board). **Elections:** Mrs. Fred Kyer, Pikes Peak, and Mrs. Bernard Stoecker, State Board. Budget Adjustment: Mmes. John Harrison (Greeley), John Reesy (Arapahoe), Asher Brown (Craig), John Bockenthier (Pikes Peak), Eugene Pilz (State Board), Jerry Blanz (State Board), Chester Cromwell.

State Board 1971-73: President Roberta Bradbury (Pikes Peak), 1st VP Jeanette MacKenzie (Boulder), 2nd VP Gladys Foster (Arapahoe), Secretary Dorothy Lewis (Boulder), Treasurer Bobbie Cromwell (Jeffco). Directors: Peggy Albers (Denver), Helen Blanz (Loveland), Beverly Hiza (Boulder), Phyllis Horney (Denver), Shirley Matthews (Denver), Mary Lou Parmelee (Denver), Leona Stoecker (Longmont).

Nominating Committee: Lucile Miller, Chair (Denver), Ann Hallock (Pikes Peak), Mary Van Camp (Grand Junction).

At this convention, a motion made by Mrs. Frank Beer "*that members of the League of Women Voters of Colorado be identified both in introductions and written communications by their own names*" was passed, but the secretaries of this convention and others to follow were inconsistent in how they identified speakers in the Minutes.

Helen Blanz discussed a statewide finance drive planned to be very selective, looking for additional sources of income from companies and foundations, for both tax-deductible and non-deductible monies. It was proposed to research and contact twenty sources to raise \$5,000 to \$10,000 annually, and that the State Board initiate solicitations in cooperation with local Leagues. Leagues pledged a total of \$17,378.50 for the 1971 budget.

Membership reported by local League presidents at Convention totaled 2,398, although the Convention Workbook showed a total of 2,213, as follows: Adams 37, Arapahoe 276, Aspen-Pitkin (no report), Aurora 35, Boulder 279, Craig-Moffatt (Northwest) 41, Denver 608, Durango 80, Fort Collins 120, Grand

Junction 53, Greeley 64, Jefferson 220, Longmont 47, Loveland 55, Pikes Peak 194, Pueblo 57, Sterling 37, and 10 Members-at-Large.

In 1971, the country had adopted the 26th Amendment, which extended the right to vote to "citizens who are 18 years of age or older." The League's bylaws were changed to limit voting membership in the League to "citizens at least 18 years of age. The program adopted for the biennium consisted of four topics:

- I. Financial responsibility for government services.
- II. Interrelationships of Functions of Government.
- III. Judicial selection and administration.
- IV. Children's laws.

Council 1972.

State Council met next on May 17-18, 1972, at the Strater Hotel in Durango. There were 28 delegates, 16 state board members, 2 observers, 25 coordinators, and several visitors present. President Roberta Bradbury convened the meeting.

Local League presidents reported 2,316 members and \$11,072 pledged to the support the LWVCO. The Treasurer's report showed a balance on hand of \$1,669.78, with savings of \$7,247.53. The proposed budget was adjusted downward to \$19,753, which included the state's pledge of \$4.00 per member to the national organization.

Faye Weinberg described two major changes endorsed at the National League Convention: (1) inclusion of "women" in the Human Resources position, with support for the Equal Rights Amendment, and (2) addition of "special needs of Indians" to the Human Resources item.

Co-chairs for Arrangements: Mmes. Mahlon White, John Hale.

Reading Committee: Mmes. Joseph Markey (Boulder), Fred Nussbaumer, (Fort Collins), Irvin Christner (Sterling). **Budget Adjustments Committee:** Mmes. Jerry Blanz, Chair (State Board), John Harrison (Greeley), Raymond Wiske (Adams). Clement J. Todd (Jeffco), Robert DeVries (Northwest), Tom McLaughlin (Pikes Peak), Robert Perry (Exec. Sec.), substituting for the Treasurer).

Delegates: ADAMS - Marlene Wiske, Marie Fraley. ARAPAHOE - Virginia Kaechele, Kay Polsby. ASPEN - Dottie Fox. AURORA - Mary Webster. BOULDER - Margaret Markey, May Gilman. DENVER - Katherine Schomp, Lori Young. DURANGO - Peggy Winkler, Dorothy Bird. FORT COLLINS - Martelle Nussbaumer, Emily Wilmarth. GRAND JUNCTION - Susan Orloff, Geraldine Lewis. GREELEY - Joan Harrison, Andra Schmidt. JEFFCO - Betty Lou Fockler, Lee Todd. LONGMONT - Ginny Berry, Kay Sandmeier. LOVELAND - Nancy Lubinski, M.B. McAfee. NORTHWESTERN - Barbara DeVries. PIKES PEAK - Anne McLaughlin. PUEBLO - Judy Witt, Dee Clary. STERLING - Delores Christner. GARFIELD-EAGLE Provisional - Carel Craven, Janet Mulhall.

Observers: Mary Lou Fisk, Mary Bishop (Farmington, NM).

Coordinators: Ann Herbert, Doris Rothenberg, Isabel Boyle, Laboyta Garnand, Charlotte Hoops, May Clark, Lucile Miller.

Visitors: Jerry Abbott, Kay Chase, Carol Karlin, Judy Lyke, Nonie Ragsdale, Pat Perry, Carrol Timpte.

State Board 1972-73: Roberta Bradbury, Jeanette MacKenzie, Gladys Foster, Dorothy Lewis, Ruth Wells, Cynthia Jessel, Beverly Hiza, Faye Weinberg, Peggy Albers, Jean Evans, Hellen Blanz, Leona Stoecker, Shirley Matthews, Phyllis Horney, Lillian Spongberg, Mary Lou Parmalee.

Another issue brought up concerned the problems state and local Leagues were having with the Political Accountability Rating. The percentage rating was based on the votes by Members of Congress on legislation of interest to the League and was prepared by the national office. Some lawmakers charged that it was unfair in that it did not include votes on all legislation, but indicated only their level of agreement with

League positions. Some of them interpreted this as a way of opposing office holders who did not agree with the League — a violation of the League's nonpartisan stand.

President Bradbury spoke on "New Perspectives for the League," saying that regional workshops had reached more individual League members and were more satisfactory because they were structured to accommodate presentations and discussions of the concerns of local Leagues. A Post Board Communication was sent to local board members to keep them informed of activities on the state level. Publications included "Programmed for Action," "Using Your Vote in Colorado," and "Children's Laws." Channel 6 had produced a television series called "Look at the Legislature."

The President's report concluded with the comment that the "League is an absolutely essential organization, whose members are inheritors of fifty years of political savvy . . . who guard the reputation and respect which has accrued to us because for five successive decades a 'certain kind of woman' has dared to THINK BIG and has succeeded!"

Convention 1973.

"Challenge — Choice — Commitment" was the theme of the Fourteenth Biennial Convention, meeting at the Harvest House in Boulder on May 22-23, 1973. State President Roberta Bradbury and Boulder President Mrs. Edwin McConkey welcomed 121 delegates and 44 visitors to the Convention.

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| <p>Guests: Nan Waterman, LWVUS; Sue Joshel, LWVCO president 1967–1970.</p> <p>State Board: Roberta Bradbury, Peggy Albers, Helen Blanz, Gladys Foster, Doris Friend, Beverly Hiza, Phyllis Horney, Dorothy Lewis, Jeannette McKenzie, Shirley Matthews, Hester McNulty, Betty Myers, Lillian Spongberg, Leona Stoecker, Faye Weinberg, Ruth Wells, Lorna Zobel.</p> <p>State Board 1974-1976: President Beverly Hiza (Boulder), Ist VP Laboyta Garnand (Arapahoe), 2nd VP Phyllis Horney (Denver), Secretary Edna Hill (Arapahoe), Treasurer Lorna Zobel (Pikes Peak) and Directors – Peggy Albers (Denver), Joan Harrison (Greeley), Geri Lewis (Grand Junction), Maggie Markey (Boulder), Hester McNulty (Boulder), Betty Myers (Denver), and Ruth Wells (Jeffco). Jeanette MacKenzie (Boulder) was elected to chair the Nominating Committee made up of Peggy Winkler (Durango) and Fran Yehle (Jeffco).</p> <p>Reading Committee: Mmes. Charles McAfee, Robert Rasor, Gary Barnard. Election Committee: Mmes. W.R. Carstens and Les Duncan. Budget Adjustment Committee: Mmes. William Kaechele, Robert Hayes, Frank Beer, Gary Webster, Dale Anderson, Robert deVries, Jerry Blanz, and Fred Zobel.</p> <p>Delegates: ADAMS – Faye Barnard, Audrey Healey, Liz Paul. ARAPAHOE – Harriett Allen, Marlee Bignell, Barbara Dunn, Virginia Kaechele, Jane Kelliher, Marilyn Kern, Noreen Ogden, Madeline Shields. ASPEN-PITKIN – Marilyn Beer, Mary Jo Gregg, Eleanor Hubbard, Josephine Mann, Norma Shellman, Lynne Wille. AURORA – Marie Baxter, Mary Webster. BOULDER – Nannette Anderson, Barbara Anuta, Judy Clark, Carolyn Gard, Rita Grans, Jan Kalthoff, Caroline Livingstone, Maggi Markey, Joan McConkey, Ilyne Patterson, Karen Richardson, Harriet Newton. DENVER – Mary Banman, Sue Bollman, Ginny Carey, Janet Dworin, Carol Fortin, Lenore Goodenow, Beth Hennessey, Cynthia Hayes, Thelma Hutt, Alice Kelly, Louise Kominek, Kendrick King, Pam Lingle, Mary Lou Parmalee, Doris Reed, Hellen Rogers, Jacque Smith, Dot Sobol, Lynn Webster, Helen Wickman, Ruth Woods, Toni Worcester, Lorie Young. DURANGO – Jessica Anderson, Dorothy Bird, Gale Hale. FORT COLLINS – Ann Azari, Barb Dyer, Ednah Illsley, Mary Klophenstein, Anne Manvel, Molly Nortier, Carol Osborne. GRAND JUNCTION – Maxine Albers, Chandler Duncan, Geri Lewis, Sue Orloff. GREELEY – Nancy Clark, Joan Harrison, Martha Koch, Andra Schmidt. JEFFCO – Joyce Anderson, Judith Carstens, Barbara Duey, Bev Ebens, Ann Herbert, Clara Lou Humphrey, Dona Ketner, Karen Litz, Pat Mesec, Sandy Ragle, Mary Schlet, Anne Slaughter, Lee Todd. LONGMONT – Ann Beckvold, Sharon Cary. LOVELAND – Judy Chilson, M.B. McAfee, Mary Ella Peterson, Barbara Scholl, Sylvia Sherpenou. NORTHWESTERN – Barbara DeVries, Pat Staaghan. PIKES PEAK – Harriet Brooks, Lineah Davey, Margaret Davis, Jean Frazier, Vicky Gow, Kathy Green, Jean Kocel, Beth Phillips, Celia Rasor. PUEBLO – Jerry Abbott, Linda Beaty, Virginia Bradfield, Beverly Moore. STERLING – Irvin Christner, Shirley Inskeep, Joanne Jefferies.</p> |
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The Convention opened with the keynote speaker, former State President Sue Joshel, who urged that the League move from volunteerism to professionalism by paying adequately those women willing to do research, writing, and other service for the League; that women who want to move on to paid jobs or further education free themselves of guilt by supporting the League financially. Nan Waterman, of the LWVUS Board, described the Twenty-First Century Project which involved the League in a creative and effective way in plans for the future of the government.

The Treasurer reported current assets of \$8,614.70. A budget of \$25,828 was proposed, but was increased and approved at \$25,901. Local League pledges totaled \$15,606.

Three program items were adopted by the delegates for study and action in the next biennium:

- I. Continuing assessment of services, facilities, and institutions for dependent, delinquent, and handicapped children and children in trouble.
- II. A study of the financing of higher education in Colorado.
- III. A study of land use in Colorado with consideration of the role of each level of government.

Membership in the LWVCO was 2,377, including 52 members in the new Garfield- Eagle Provisional League and 10 new Members-at-Large. The LWV of Aspen-Pitkin County reported a spectacular gain of 45 new members. Jeffco increased its membership by 33. Seven Leagues increased membership, 10 reported a decrease in the number of members. Turnover in membership was computed at 25%.

The Convention closed with Mary Estill Buchanan speaking on "The Feminine Side of Leadership," Dr. Bertha Campbell on "But What Does It Mean?" and Dr. Shirley Hill Witt on "What Do Indians Want?"

Council 1974.

State President Beverly Hiza opened the LWVCO Council at the Pomegranate Inn in Aspen on May 16-17, 1974. The registration fee was \$4.50 with a charge of \$12 for lunch each of the two days and dinner one night. The Council theme was "Putting Our House in Order." Shirley Weaver gave the credentials report of 36 delegates from local Leagues, 1 delegate from the Metro ILO, 11 state board members, and 28 visitors. State membership was reported to be 2,398. Although the cash balance was low at \$1,905.95, with savings of \$6,095.33, a budget of \$27,291 was adopted. Local Leagues pledged \$15,297.65 for support of the state organization. \$1,293.99 had been raised to fund the petition drive or the redistricting initiative, and \$742.31 already had been spent. Some of that fund was to be used for voter information.

Reading Committee: Mmes. Ben Marvel (Fort Collins), W.R. Carstens (Jeffco), and Dale Anderson (Durango). **Budget Adjustment Committee:** Mmes. Warren Lewis (State Board), G.J. Webster (Aurora), Robert Rasor (Pikes Peak), P.O. Abbott (Pueblo), Karl Anuta (Boulder), William Kaechle (Arapahoe), Richard Young (Denver), Les Duncan (Grand Junction), and Fred Zobel, Treasurer.

State Board 1974-75: President Beverly Hiza, 1st VP Laboyta Garnand, 2nd VP Phyllis Horney, Secretary Edna Hill, Treasurer Lorna Zobel. Directors – Ruth Wells, Hester McNulty, Maggi Markey, Peggy Albers, Karen Litz, Dorothy Lewis, Faye Weinberg, Nonie Ragsdale, Betty Myers, Shirley Matthews, Sandy Ragle, Geri Lewis, Marlene Wiske, Judy Lyke, Joan Harrison.

Off-board directors: Ann Herbert, Virginia Bradfield, Louise Kominek, Barb Duey, Carol Karlin, Nancy Urquhart, Beverly Warburton, Lillian Spongberg, Pauline Utter, Kate Stonington, Jeanne Peterson, Jeanette MacKenzie.

Reapportionment of Colorado's legislative districts had been erratic even though the state constitution mandated reapportionment every five years. From 1961 on, each session had brought the matter up but rejected all proposals. In 1972, legislators worked on the problems of reapportionment in the longest session in Colorado history. It was estimated that at least 90 of the 150 days were filled with consideration

of reapportionment plans. There were few public hearings and decisions were made in closed caucuses of the majority party. The resulting plan was challenged by the minority party and sent to the Supreme Court for review. The restructured plan approved by the Court still contained several districts that were not considered to be compact enough.

The League's first study of legislative apportionment began in 1956. In 1972, League consensus favored the idea of an independent nonpartisan commission which the legislators had rejected. An initiative to force reapportionment was considered, but it was postponed until 1974 because the ballot November 1972 election was already very long.³⁶

The push by the LWVCO for the establishment of a Reapportionment Commission began the next year when League members gathered most of the approximately 60,000 signatures required to get the issue on the November ballot. When Council 1974 convened, over 24,000 valid petition signatures already had been obtained by League members. *The success of this campaign earned the League a reputation for success in petition-gathering that continued through the years.*

Even with massive effort diverted to sponsoring the reapportionment initiative, delegates to Council supported an emergency program item to evaluate the state local government position: "All school districts should operate under the same law, and education should not be included in RSA legislation, but should be reserved for the local level."

Oil shale exploration was a concern to Leaguers who were studying land use and management of natural resources in Colorado on a committee chaired by Hester McNulty. Gordon French, of Garrett Research, described the "in situ" process of mining oil shale and showed a movie "Why Move the Mountain?" which Leaguers found both informative and interesting. League members discussed the effects of oil shale projects would have on the economy and on the environment.

Convention 1975.

"New Directions" was the theme of the Fifteenth Biennial Convention, held in Colorado Springs, May 21– 22, 1975. Beverly Hiza convened the Convention and with Mary Walta, Vice President of the Pikes Peak League, welcomed 120 delegates from local Leagues, 17 State Board members, and 21 visitors. Kay Morgan chaired the convention arrangements committee.

State President Beverly Hiza reported that a high point of the year were the publication of the first edition of **Colorado Water**. Hester McNulty and other board members worked on the publication which was edited by Helen Hollister, former president of the Wyoming League.³⁷ The League was proud of the resounding success of the reapportionment initiative it had sponsored. With new positions on apportionment and considering the problems of the 1972 session of the General Assembly in arriving at an equitable plan. The LWVCO-initiated amendment to the state constitution passed by a wide margin, and made redistricting the job of an independent, nonpartisan Commission of four legislators, three citizens appointed by the Governor, and four citizens named by the Chief Justice of the Colorado Supreme Court.³⁸

The budget of \$25,178 was approved. A proposal by the Denver League that the Budget Committee use a "graduated PMP in determining local League assessments for the 1976-1977 budget" was approved. League membership in the state was reported to be 2,449. In March, the LWVCO office was moved from 2200 West Alameda to 1375 Delaware, just three blocks from the Capitol. A special rent-fund was established with a goal of \$1320. Board members staffed the office two days each week.

³⁶ LWVCO, **Advocacy Agenda**, pp. 1–2. [Notes 36–38 are numbered 37–39 in print ed.]

³⁷ Hester McNulty, **Colorado Water** (LWVCO, 1975).

³⁸ LWVCO, **Advocacy Agenda**, op. cit.

Credentials: Lineah Davey (Pikes Peak) Election Committee: Annette Anderson (Boulder), Cynthia Hayes (Denver). Reading Committee: Phyllis Horney (State Board), Ann Marvel (Fort Collins), Shirley Matthews (State Board).

Budget Adjustment Committee: Jerry Abbott (Pueblo), Dorothy Bird (Durango), Betty Coble (Loveland), Barbara deVries (Northwest), Jill Granger (Garfield-Eagle), Nancy Miller (Jeffco), Joan Novy (Adams), Lorie Young (Denver), and Geri Lewis, Chair. **Parliamentarian:** Loretta Simonson (Pikes Peak). **State Administrative Secretary:** Jeanne Fee.

State Board 1975–1977: President Marlene Wiske (Adams), Ist VP Ruth Wells (Jeffco), 2nd VP Andra Schmidt (Greeley), Secretary Mary Webster (Aurora), Treasurer Ellen Reesy (Arapahoe). Directors – Virginia Bradfield (Pueblo), Muriel Chidsey (Denver), Joan Harrison (Greeley), Hester McNulty (Boulder), Geri Lewis (Grand Junction), Hellen Rogers (Denver). Nominating Committee: Charlotte Hoops (Jeffco), M.B. McAfee (Loveland), Fran Wright (Longmont).

Once again, an ambitious program agenda was adopted by the Convention delegates. It included Colorado's Justice System; Children's Laws; Education; Quality Environment — Water, Land, and Man; Local Government; and State Government.

In planning "new directions," delegates suggested that there be no smoking in the next Convention room, that baby-sitting service be provided, and that biographical information on State Board nominees include education, community work, and League experience. They felt those matters were of greater importance than the husband's employment and the number of children in the family!

Council 1976.

President Marlene Wiske convened the 1976 Council at the Holiday Inn in Sterling with a welcome from Sterling LWV President Pat Newlin for 34 delegates from local Leagues, one delegate from the Metro ILO, 15 state board members, 3 observers, and 18 visitors.

Delegates: Marlene Wiske, Mary Webster, Andra Schmidt, Virginia Gossert, Ellen Reesy, Pat Mesec, Gail Doxtader, Jecca Kozloff, Ann Herbert, Hellen Rogers, Judy Lyke, Lillian Spongberg, Donna Lucero, Beverly Poor, Lee Todd, Rita Grams, Nonie Ragsdale, Carol Karlin, Barbara Rutstein, Tess McNulty, Nancy Urquhart, Virginia Brandfield, Clara Lou Humphrey, Jeanne Erickson, Toni Worcester, Nancy Clark, Muriel Chidsey, Phyllis Horney, Charlotte Hoops, Judy Ewegen, Joan Harrison, Lynn Webster, Jeanne Peterson, Jean Fee.

Parliamentarian: Loretta Simonson. **Executive Secretary:** Mary Banman. **Reading Committee:** Annette Anderson (Boulder), Mardell Burkholder (Aspen), Joyce Tavrow (Arapahoe). **Budget Adjustment Committee:** Betty Culp (Adams), Jean Carlberg (Arapahoe), Nancy Emerson (Denver), Dot Gayton (Grand Junction) Beverly Moore (Pueblo), Pat Straughn (Northwest).

Local Leagues pledged \$19,916 for support of the LWVCO, and the delegates approved an increase in the proposed budget from \$43,465 to \$47,100. Council delegates approved assessment of \$1.00 for each member to cover a contribution of \$2,500 to the budget of ERA-Colorado to finance the defeat of an initiative to repeal the Colorado ERA. These budgetary decisions were explained in an article in the COLORADO VOTER which was headlined: "State League Budget Nearly Doubles." The Colorado League had come a long way toward funding its activities in the years since it was organized.

The Equal Rights Amendment campaign was a principal topic at Council in 1976. Colorado had approved the state ERA by a 2-1 vote for the initiative in the November 1972 election. Efforts to repeal this popular vote began in interim study committees of the General Assembly in the summer of 1975. League members monitored the hearings and testified before the committee to protest repeal. The interim committee adjourned without a voting, but recommended that a citizen initiative be on the next general election to determine whether citizens of Colorado really approved of Equal Rights.

Rita Grams, state coordinator for ERA, organized an ERA workshop in September and a strategy meeting in the fall of 1975. Another workshop was held in February 1976 with Sue Bollman, Joan Novy, and Betty Law in charge. The League's priority was to preserve the Colorado ERA and secure ratification of the ERA nationally. The Council leaders called for full commitment of the time and money of Colorado's League members to raise \$40,000 for ERA-Colorado's campaign that defeated of the repeal initiative. Colorado's citizens agreed that women deserved equality under the law, and the constitutional amendment was left in place.

Some financial reforms were introduced at Council when new policies were established for League publications. The expense item for Publications was removed from the budget, and the State Board agreed to produce promotional material for League publications that would be sold by local Leagues at a profit to them. Pre-printing orders, with a minimum equal to the membership figure that was reported on January 1, were expected from each local League. LWVCO's legislative briefings were eliminated, expenses of the LEGISLATIVE LETTER were included in the budget, and better communication between local Leagues and lobbyists regarding contacts with legislators were suggested.

Faye Weinberg displayed a new LWVCO publication, "*Celebrate With A Vote*," which was described as "a cartoon type publication with an identifying character." Each local League was responsible for distributing this flyer to the graduating seniors of high schools in their areas. The Bicentennial Commission had provided funding of only \$3,750 for the pamphlet and community sources had contributed an additional \$3,200. Sally Swartz was in charge of distribution.

Membership had increased by 1976, according to the report in the Council Workbook which showed a total of 2,519 members: Adams 67, Arapahoe 240, Aspen-Pitkin 105, Aurora 48, Boulder 248, Denver 613, Durango 79, Fort Collins 127, Garfield-Eagle 60, Grand Junction 57, Greeley 88, Jeffco 295, Longmont 61, Loveland 64, Northwestern 39, Pikes Peak 211, Pueblo 59, Sterling 39, and 19 members-at-large.

Convention 1977.

The League of Women Voters of Arapahoe County hosted the Sixteenth Biennial Convention at the Holiday Inn on May 11-12, 1977. State President Marlene Wiske and LWVAC President Emily Bocko greeted 120 delegates from local Leagues, one from the Metro ILO, 12 State Board members, 30 observers, and 13 Convention workers — a total of 133 voting delegates.

The Colorado League's membership had grown to 2,621, and the budget had increased to \$48,843 with a grant of \$3,100 from the Bicentennial Commission included. Pledges from local Leagues totaled \$21,874.80. Treasurer Ellen Reesy reported a balance on hand of \$8,328.83 cash and \$15,429.35 in savings.

By general consent of the delegates, President Marlene Wiske directed that the LWVCO Bylaws would be edited to eliminate sexist language and correct errors in grammar. Added to the Bylaws was Section 4 of Article VI which provided for recognition of State League Units composed of members-at-large and having the same relationship to the state board as units to the local League board. Three items were adopted as State Program:

- I. Colorado Justice System, focusing on state corrections;
- II. Financing Services, to include economical tax system and support for severance tax on all non-renewable resources; and
- III. Children's Laws, to continue assessment of services, facilities, and institutions.

Parliamentarian: Loretta Simonson. **Reading Committee:** Nancy Emerson (Denver), Donna Mandina (Loveland), Eleanor Walsh (Adams). **Budget Adjustment Committee:** Nancy Clark (Greeley), Audrey Enever (Northwest), Dot Gayton (Grand Junction), Martha Hansen (Denver), De Ann Hanson (Gunnison), Pat Heine (Pueblo), Carolyn Holmberg (Boulder), Sandy Hurt (Durango), Marge Innes (Adams), Lois Klamann (Jeffco), Jeannie Krise (Loveland), Fran Hedwig (Pikes Peak), Linda Morris (Longmont), Barbara Schulmeister (Arapahoe), Sally Swartz (Aurora), Kerrine Thomson (Fort Collins), Charlotte Walls (Aspen).

State Board 1977–1979: President Judy Lyke, 1st VP Joyce Tavrow, 2nd VP Jean Carlberg, Secretary Barbara deVries, Treasurer Mary Webster. Directors – Carol Andrews, Dorothy Bird, Betty Coble, Doris Hayden, Clara Lou Humphrey, M.B. McAfee, Sally Swartz. **Nominating Committee** – Hester McNulty (Chair), Dot Gayton, Marlene Wiske.

Delegates & Observers: ADAMS – Karen Hewlett, Marge Innes, Joan Novy, Eleanor Walsh. ARAPAHOE – Emily Bocko, Jean Vail, Kathy Busch, Gerry Cummins, Mary Alice Felt, Renita Greenberg, Marigene Hedges, Eleanor Hubbard, Sonya Pennock, Barbara Schulmeister, Joyce Tavrow. ASPEN – Jane Dobrovolny, Evelyn Childs, Mimi Langenkamp, Marguerite Scheid, Charlotte Walls. AURORA – Carol Charubin, Elizabeth Pray, Sally Swartz, Jan Williams. BOULDER – Barbara Cristol, Sandy Cord, June Defore, Nancy Herzog, Carolyn Holmberg, Lois Linsky, Shelly Murphy, Harriet Newton, Reiko Raese, Martha Riddoch, Gail Rowe, Martha Scheer. DENVER – Margaret Blakley, Polly Bullard, Loretta Crippen, Nancy Dorn, Beverly Ely, Nancy Emerson, Vonna Gregory, Martha Hansen, Carol Haring, Beth Hennessey, Catherine Decker, Becky Holman, Polly Hoskins, Dorothy Hudson, Emily James, Jean Jones, Judith Kennelly, Marianne Knott, Lonnie Addison, Linda Lance, Donna Lucero, Charleen Prather, Marjorie Priester, Pat Thorsberg, Judi Barr, Lynn Blair, Shirley Weaver, Diane Young, Lorie Young, Barbara Dean, Lana Bauer. METRO DENVER ILO – Toni Worcester. DURANGO – Marilyn Barnhart, Dorothy Bird, Carol Blatnick, Sandy Hurt. FORT COLLINS – Mary Jones, Mary Lyons, Charlotte Rehnberg, Barbara Rutstein, Melanie Smith, Judy Sorbic, Kerrine Thorson. GARFIELD-EAGLE – Aloha Grant, Adele House, Ruth Pickard. GRAND JUNCTION – Dorothy Gayton, Joyce Jenkins, Julie Thomas, Nancy Weaver. GREELEY – Juanita Allen, Anne Eveny, Jackie Johnson, Judy Kron, Jan Trapp, Jane Adams, Nancy Clark, Sue Gapter. JEFFERSON – Karen Glickman, Pete Gudim, Emily Howell, Lois Klamann, Betty Law, Madeline McAnally, Nancy Miller, Deloris Olsen, Joyce Anderson, Ann Slaughter, Judi Steele, Carol Wilson. LONGMONT – Dale Bernard, Mary Bukszar, Caren Cobb, Linda Morris. LOVELAND – Jo Ann Austin, Jeanne Krise, Donna Mandina, Cathy Mikkleson, Joy Lemley, Manley Bost, Doris Uken, Sally Woods. NORTHWESTERN – Audrey Enevar, Barbara deVries, Catherine Lykken, Jan Nielson. PUEBLO – Alice Eikenberry, Jan Garcia, Pat Heine, Addie Raich. PIKES PEAK – Barbara Bamberger, Elaine Covert, Elaine Fox, Ann James, Fran Ledwig, Lynn Peterson. Mary Walta, Lee Ziegler. STERLING – Shirley Inskeep, Jo Anne Jeffries, Dorothy Snyder, Margaret Garner, Shirley Graham, Jean Williamson. GUNNISON – Dee Blacklock, DeAnn Hanson. DELTA – Judy Briscoe, Gretchen Nicholoff.

State Board: Anne Carlson, Virginia Gossert, Doris Hayden, Cynthia Hayes, Kay Ledyard, Judy Lyke, M.B. McAfee, Tess McNulty, Pat Mesec, Ellen Reesy, Hellen Rogers, Mary Webster, Marlene Wiske.

Off-board, Coordinators, and State Board Nominees: Carol Andrews, Pat Arnold, Roberta Bradbury, Edie Bryan, Jean Carlberg, May Clark, Betty Coble, Darleen Ekland, Laboyta Garnand, Elizabeth Hawkins, Edna Hill, Bev Hiza, Charlotte Hoops, Phyllis Horney, Clara Lou Humphrey, Cynthia Jessel, Mary Kryer, Dorothy Lewis, Jeanette MacKenzie, Mary Lou Parmalee, Nonie Ragsdale, Loretta Simonson, Lee Todd, Mary Banman, Helen Bourrie.

Special Guests: Ruth Clusen, LWVUS President; Former LWVCO Presidents – Elizabeth Blanc, Sue Joshel, Ruth Luby.

Convention Workers: Lynn Barton, Laboyta Garnand, Joan Grabau, Jean Carlberg, Peggy Houser, Mary Banman, Gladys Foster, Evelyn Morris, Kathy Fisher, Margie Hal, Ruth Tromly, Dori Littell, Ann Beazley, Mary Lohre, Gretchen Aultman, Chesney Allen, Fay Plummer, Barbara Troxler, Karen Ringsby, Sandi Knudsen, Darlene Keefe, Mary McQuery, Pat Land, Ellen DeMuth, Pat Gunckel, Mattie Thomas, Vonnie Hill, Evelyn Jansen.

Joan Novy introduced the national ERA proposal to assess League members to raise a sum equivalent to \$10 per member, and it was approved by the delegates. Pat Arnold, Individual Rights Chair, announced that the National Women's Conference would meet in Houston in November and that the League might be

represented. Ruth Clusen, LWVUS President, addressed the Convention at dinner, with an enthusiastic report on national League activities, including the progress of the efforts toward ratification of the Equal Rights Amendment in the states that had not yet approved the ERA.

Council 1978.

When State Council met at the Ramada Inn in Grand Junction on May 19-20, State President Judy Lyke and Grand Junction President Joyce Jenkins welcomed observers from two new State League Units from Delta County and Douglas County, delegates from newly-recognized LWV of Gunnison, local League coordinators, convention committee members, and 52 voting delegates. Travel to Council had been less expensive with the implementation of a travel equalization plan to compensate delegates who came from distant areas of the state. Some of the League delegates had traveled from Denver by a chartered bus.

Parliamentarian: Loretta Simonson. **Reading Committee:** Beverly Struble (Boulder), Betty Cummings (Fort Collins), Carol Wilson (Jeffco). **Budget Adjustment Committee:** Emily Bocko (Arapahoe), Cecilia Douglas (Boulder), Donna Lucero (Denver), Gretchen Bering (Grand Junction), Lois Kulakowski (Longmont), Audrey Enevar (Routt).

The budget had continued to increase throughout the years as the League was expanding and taking more action. Delegates approved a total of \$51,094, just slightly less than the proposal. The Treasurer reported \$2,370.94 in cash on deposit and savings of \$16,173.18.

The big news was the move of the LWVCO office to the Carriage House at 1600 Race Street, Denver. President Judy Lyke announced that 25 volunteer lobbyists had monitored legislative action, which included the defeat of a bill to abolish the Reapportionment Commission. Loretta Simonson conducted a workshop in parliamentary procedure for members who were to be delegates to the National Convention.

Convention 1979.

The LWVCO met in its Seventeenth Biennial Convention on May 10-11, 1979, at the Ramada Inn in Greeley. Convention hosts were the local Leagues of Greeley, Fort Collins, and Loveland. State President Judy Lyke and Greeley President Kathy Law greeted 172 delegates. Toni Worcester read Governor Lamm's proclamation commending the 50th Anniversary of the League of Women Voters of Colorado.

Judy Lyke reviewed the accomplishments of the Colorado League in half a century of education and action, stating that although membership had decreased by 10% during the previous two years, Gunnison was the new League that had been recognized, Delta County was a new provisional League, and Douglas County and Fremont County were State League Units.

Reading Committee: Charlotte Walls (Aspen-Pitkin), Hildred Garrison (Arapahoe), Jan Garcia (Pueblo). **Parliamentarian:** Loretta Simonson. **Budget Adjustment Committee:** Doris Hayden and Emily Bocko (State Board), Cecilia Douglas (Boulder), Marge Innes (Adams), Virginia Morstein (Garfield-Eagle), Mary Lou Cutler (Aspen-Pitkin), Joe Mickelsen (Douglas), Jackie Johnson (Greeley), Carolyn Gard (Metro ILO), Beverly Moore (Pueblo), June Ney (Aurora), Fran Ledwig (Pikes Peak), Dale Bernard (Longmont), Shirley Adams (Fort Collins), Lana Bauer (Denver), Marilyn Peyton (Loveland), Carol Blatnick (Durango), Ann Slaughter (Jeffco), Barbara Schulmeister (Arapahoe), Sally Swain (Delta).
State Board 1979-1981: President Joyce Tavrow, 1st VP Toni Worcester, 2nd VP Carol Wilson, Secretary Barbara deVries, Treasurer Emily Bocko. Directors – Shirley Brod, Jan Garcia, Renita Greenberg, Pete Gudim, Joyce Jenkins, Jackie Johnson, Joyce Mellon. Nominating Committee – Kay Ledyard (Chair), Sally Swartz, Adele Hause.

Several non-recommended topics had been suggested and eliminated in the selection of State Program. The LWV Arapahoe delegates, led by Hildred Garrison, lobbied for a study of illegal aliens in Colorado. It was rejected by the convention, but was adopted by the League in Arapahoe County as a local study at the Arapahoe annual meeting. The delegates approved two ambitious issues for the biennial program:

- I. A study of Colorado revenue structure-expenditures, to include services, budgeting, and spending.
- II. A study of the production, storage, transportation, use, and disposal of hazardous materials in Colorado, with special emphasis on nuclear materials and the impact of radiation.

Andra Schmidt, a former State Board member serving as the Chairman of the Colorado Highway Commission, addressed delegates on the subject of problems handled by the Commission as it worked for improvement of the state's roads.



Four LWV presidents in 1979 —

Left to right: Betty Culp (Adams County), Joyce Tavrow (LWVCO), Ruth Hinerfeld (LWVUS), Deborah Hayes (Boulder) at reception for Ruth Hinerfeld at Hester (Tess) McNulty's home, Boulder, August 17, 1979. Photo by LWVB member Caroline Livingstone



MRS. RALPH SCHOMP
She feels complimented by request.



MRS. J. W. BRADBURY
But it won't get to Supreme Court.



MRS. J. LYNN WILLIAMS
She's reminded of a funny story.

Denver Post Photos

EEK! Man Amid Women Voters?

By **ARLYNN NELLHAUS**
Denver Post Staff Writer

Kay Schomp laughed, Roberta Bradbury exclaimed, "Heavens," and Mary Williams offered a lengthy silence.

The three are League of Women Voters residents, and the above was their initial reaction to being told that a Michigan man had applied for membership in his local League of Women Voters (LWV).

The man, James C. Mitchell, a Democratic candidate for the Michigan House of Representatives, stated:

"In view of decisions by the Supreme Court of the United States, I think limitations because of sex are no longer valid. I don't think the league could legally deprive anyone who is a registered voter of membership. To do so would be discriminatory."

"It's the reverse side of the Women's Lib movement," commented Mrs. (J. W.) Bradbury of Colorado Springs, president of the Colorado LWV.

She explained that men are welcome to join the league as associate members, and there have been male associate members in the past. But associate members aren't eligible to vote.

LWV by-laws state that membership is

open "to any person" who subscribes to league policies. Then the rules go on to state the voting members are "those women citizens 18 and over." All others may become associate members.

Men Take Over

Mrs. (Ralph) Schomp, Denver LWV president, said she felt complimented Mitchell thought enough of the league's work to want to join.

Then she noted, "In every organization in which men and women participate together, what happens is that men take the leadership, and the women do the dirty work." She added, "Women do the work and men do power maneuvers."

"I'm afraid that at this point in our society, this would be the outcome (of opening voting membership to men)."

Mrs. Schomp pointed out that the all-female organization offers women a chance to develop leadership and "the courage to go ahead," which in a mixed organization — she cited specifically political parties — doesn't happen.

Mrs. (J. Lynn) Williams, president of the Metropolitan Area league, referred to a short story she'd read some years ago about a man who was going to picket the

national league office in Washington, D.C., to demand membership.

"It was a delightful story. It was a joke," she said. "And I think of it (Mitchell's application) in the same way. I think he's trying to get attention."

Mrs. Bradbury said, "We'd like to keep the league all women. It's a matter of tradition. But men are welcome as associate members."

Later in the telephone interview, however, Mrs. Bradbury said, "We'd be happy to open it to men if they'd be willing to work as hard as we do. We could use some help." She listed the research chores league members perform before the organization arrives at a policy position.

As for Mitchell's claim that the league couldn't legally deprive anyone of membership, Mrs. Schomp retorted, listing, "The Elks, the Chamber of Commerce, the Masons, the Denver Club—heck, I can think of a lot of clubs that don't allow women."

"If we're really going to pursue this to its possible end, there are going to be many other organizations in the country that will have to open their doors to both sexes."

And Mrs. Bradbury, the state president, observed mock seriously, "I don't think this would be taken to the Supreme Court."

She said the earliest LWV could give the question of opening voting memberships to men would be at its next national convention in 1972.