

THE LEAGUE IN THE 1980s

The 1980s have been called the decade of personal greed and political corruption. With the election of a conservative administration in 1980, many of the entitlement programs that were promoted by the League of Women Voters to help women, children, and minorities were either under-funded or discontinued. A "New Federalism" from which good things would "trickle down" to local political entities was predicted. States were expected to fund programs that formerly had been federal programs, but there was little or no money for human resource programs. Political leaders focused their attention on the growth of the defense budget. League leaders urged arms control. Money for human services and environmental issues supported by the League was reduced and programs were eliminated.

The United States was accused of military aggression and interference in small countries — Grenada, Panama, Nicaragua, Guatemala. The administration promoted a build-up of nuclear weapons with a Strategic Defense Initiative program dubbed "Star Wars" by its detractors. A governmental scandal called "Iran-gate" or "Iran-Contra" resulted when armaments were sold secretly to bargain for the release of hostages held in near-East countries and to support a revolution in Nicaragua being waged by "Contras." The revolution failed, and the hostages remained in captivity in the Near East until 1990 and 1991. Changes in the economy and government of the Soviet Union did bring the end of the "Cold War" which had existed since the 1950s. The budget deficit reached \$220 billion in the fiscal year 1985-86, and the nation went from being the largest world creditor to being the largest debtor nation.³⁹

The issues of equal rights, abortion rights, and dissatisfaction with the way the government was being run were credited with increasing the number of citizens who voted, but they were not coordinated enough to change things. The presidential election year of 1984 witnessed an unprecedented level of activity directed toward expanding the American electorate. Registration and voter turnout rates had been declining steadily since the 1964 presidential election, and in 1980, only an estimated 53.3% of the voting-age population went to the polls.⁴⁰ The LWVUS had pushed efforts to remove obstacles to voter registration that existed in many states. On the national scene, political scientists talked about a "gender gap." In the 1980 presidential election, the number of women voting was equal to that of men. What made the news was that women made voting choices that were distinctly different from those made by men, and that they generally expressed a preference for Democratic candidates. Women expressed an awareness that participation in political activities was the only way to address their own interests in defense spending, social welfare, and the economy — as well as the issues of the feminist agenda. Women gave greater emphasis to the importance of protecting the environment than did men.⁴¹ However, in the 1984 presidential election, when more than thirteen million Americans (including over 60% of eligible women) voted, an overwhelming number of voters reelected a president who did not support the issues that most women said they favored.

Although the National Decade of Women (1975–85) brought some advances in the status of women in this country and some of the Third World countries, many issues were opposed by conservative organizations of both women and men. Neither the Reagan nor Bush administrations supported the objectives of the Decade. In 1979, the United Nations General Assembly had adopted a comprehensive international treaty on women's rights that required governments to enact appropriate legislation. President Carter had signed the Convention in 1980, but it was not ratified by Congress.⁴² Supreme Court decisions that threatened the right of a woman to choose to terminate unwanted pregnancy brought attention to the issue. President Reagan issued an order that prevented family planning counseling in any facility that received federal funding. This move was designed to preclude clinics, such as Planned Parenthood, from

³⁹ LWVUSEF, **Understanding the Budget Deficit**. [Notes 39–42 are numbered 40–43 in print ed.]

⁴⁰ LWVUS, **Electoral Participation Gateway to Democracy**, p. 1.

⁴¹ LWVUS, **The Women's Vote: Beyond the Nineteenth Amendment**.

⁴² Margaret E. Galey, "Women's Rights Treaty Still Unratified by U.S.," **Pennsylvania Voter** (LWVPA, March 1992).

giving women information about abortion. The opposition of women to these concerns was as hard to understand as the opposition to woman suffrage had been, because those same women were quick to take advantage of new opportunities won by feminists. The increasing number of women who ran for and were elected to office represented both points of view. The League continued to work for ratification of the ERA, but efforts to meet the 1982 deadline failed just three states short. At the League's national convention in 1982, a concurrence on the *Right to Privacy to Make Reproductive Choices* was approved, contingent on concurrence by local Leagues.

The rights of women faced additional threats with the appointment of conservative justices to the U.S. Supreme Court. President Reagan named William Rehnquist as Chief Justice and appointed new Justices Sandra Day O'Connor, Antonin Scalia, Anthony Kennedy, and David Souter. Each of these appointments was opposed by organizations that were working for women's rights. While the first appointment of a woman to the Court was applauded, there was some uncertainty as to whether Justice O'Connor would support women's rights. However, it was encouraging that she did not join with the justices who threatened to rule against the right to privacy in making reproductive choices.

In Colorado, there was conflict between a Democratic governor and the Republican majority in the legislature. Issues of the feminization of poverty and meeting basic human needs were concerns for the League. Members lobbied for laws that would improve or maintain environmental quality, including clean drinking water, unpolluted air, and controlled land use. The League worked with coalition that initiated and supported legislation to continue of the Colorado Woman's Commission which had been "sunsetted" by the 1979 session of the General Assembly. Their efforts were unsuccessful. It was not a good time for women, although legislation to help displaced homemakers and victims of domestic abuse did pass in the General Assembly in 1980 and 1982. A bill that established a income tax refund check-off to support programs for victims was passed in 1983 and extended in 1986, Pay equity and family leave legislation were defeated mainly by business interests each time they were brought up.⁴³

After the 1980 census, reasonably satisfactory district lines were drawn by the Reapportionment Commission created by the League-sponsored initiative. The most severe critics of the plan agreed that the Commission handled redistricting better than the legislature had in the past.

Action at the General Assembly may not have been always successful, but the LWVCO was having some success with initiatives. In 1982, the LWVCO supported a referred initiative that discontinued the "Governor's Call" of the legislative sessions during even-numbered years. In the election of 1984, a large majority of voters approved the "Motor Voter" issue that was sponsored by the League and other organizations. This Act permits eligible citizens to register to vote at any motor vehicle registration site.⁴⁴ However, a 1984 initiative to restore state funding for abortions for poor women, supported by the League, was not successful. In 1988, the success story for the League and citizen initiatives was called GAVEL — "Give a Vote to Every Legislator." The immediate effect of the passage of this initiative was the reform of legislative procedures to prohibit "pocket veto" of legislation by a committee chair, discontinuance of the House Rules Committee that sometimes would not schedule legislation for hearing, and binding votes in party caucus.

Toward the end of the decade, League lobbying activities achieved greater success. The LWVCO employed Noreen Ogden as its first part-time lobbyist whose efforts focused on issues selected by the Action Committee and cooperation with formal and informal coalitions. Toni Worcester served as League Lobbyist in 1984, after Noreen left the state. The LWVCO was without a general lobbyist during the 1985 session, but volunteer lobbyists worked hard in spite of the "veto proof" legislature that had been elected. Mary Hess became the next Lobbyist, and continued successful representation of the League.

⁴³ Wilma R. Davidson (with Mary Hess), **Colorado's Legislation on the Status of Women, 1979–1989** (LWVCO, 1990). [Notes 43–44 are numbered 44–45 in print ed.]

⁴⁴ **Advocacy Agenda** (LWVCO, 1992), pp. 10–11.

The LWVCO produced several important publications during the 1980s, that included: **Colorado Fiscal Structure**; the 1982 and 1988 revisions of **Colorado Water**, and **Colorado: The State We're In**, which gave a background of Colorado political history and described the way state government worked in Colorado. Continued biennial publication of the **Ballot Issues** pamphlet brought the League increased credibility for its factual, nonpartisan citizen information. The pamphlet was produced and printed by the State Board and sold to local Leagues slightly above cost. Some local Leagues obtained underwriting by local businesses and were able to distribute the **Ballot Issues** pamphlet without charge. The State League office sold thousands to individuals and other organization or businesses. League publications have been an excellent source of revenue.

Council 1980.

For LWVCO's 1980 Council, delegates traveled to Steamboat Springs and met at the Ptarmigan Inn on April 25–26. LWVCO President Joyce Tavrow and LWV Routt County President Candy Wither welcomed the Leaguers to Council even though it was "mud season," shops were closed, and skiers had gone home.

President Joyce Tavrow introduced special guests, Hope Donovan, LWV New York's chair for Environmental Quality, and Hester McNulty (Boulder), the Natural Resources chair on the LWVUS Board.

Parliamentarian: Loretta Simonson.

State Board and Off-board chairs: Joyce Tavrow, Toni Worcester, Carol Wilson, Barbara deVries, Emily Bocko, Shirley Brod, Jan Garcia, Renita Greenberg, Vonna Gregory, Pete Gudim, Joyce Jenkins, Jackie Johnson, Joyce Mellon, Noreen Ogden, Margaret McNamara, Martha Jo Sani, Louisa Underwood, Barbara Cristol, Wilma Davidson, Aloha Grant, Edna Hill, Kay Ledyard, Sally Swartz, Adele Haus, and Phyllis Horney.

Special Guests: Hope Donovan, LWV New York; Hester McNulty, LWVUS Board.

Coordinators: Polly Bullard, May Clark, Charlotte Hoops, Ann James. **Reading Committee:** Sharon Brown (Fort Collins), Debbie Hayes (Boulder), Betty Lou Ankenman (Gunnison). **Budget Adjustment Committee:** Barbara Schulmeister (Arapahoe), Ellen Gille (Boulder), Kay Dailey (Adams), Rene Cowman (Routt).

Delegates and Observers: ADAMS – Betty Culp, Kaye Dailey. ARAPAHOE – Gerry Cummins, Barbara Schulmeister. AURORA – Kay Bengston, Anita Krumenacker. BOULDER – Ellen Gille, Deborah Hayes. DENVER – Pam Lingle, Opal White. FORT COLLINS – Sharon Brown, Betty Cummings. GARFIELD-EAGLE – Virginia Morstein-Marx. GRAND JUNCTION – Kitty Brian, Dottie Lauritzen. GREELEY-WELD – Michelle Craig, Kathy Ley. GUNNISON – Betty Lou Ankenman, Evadna Knowles. JEFFCO – Judi Steele, Ruth Wells. LONGMONT – Diane Peterson, Nancy Wright. LOVELAND – Susan Gorin, Kate McGinley, Pat Hahn, Irene Stuart. PIKES PEAK -- Louise Cook, Elaine Covert. PUEBLO -- Theresa Cain, Alice Eikenberry. STERLING -- Joanne Jefferies, Beth Miller. METRO DENVER ILO -- Jane Wasson. DELTA (Provisional) -- Gretchen Nicholoff, Dee Jacobson, Janet Wilson.

Although program usually is not selected at Council, the delegates approved an emergency program item, as presented by Noreen Ogden.⁴⁵

The power of the executive should be exercised within the constitutional framework of a dynamic balance between the executive and legislative branches of government.

The rationale for submitting an emergency program item was that positions on the structure and administration of state government had become out-dated and the national positions on the Executive Branch and Congress did not suffice. There was no stated support of constitutional government, the separation of powers, or a system of checks and balances. Controversial legislation in the 1980 session of

⁴⁵ **Advocacy Agenda** (LWVCO, 1992), p. 5. [Print ed. n. 46.]

the General Assembly concerned the constitutional issue of the separation of powers, an argument that had its basis in a state government where there was a popular, strong Democratic governor pitted against a General Assembly controlled by Republican legislators. The situation brought questions of the League's nonpartisanship when the kind of environmental and social stands of the League were endorsed chiefly by Democratic lawmakers. In addition, legislators tended to vote strictly on party lines.

The Colorado League's membership was reported to be 2,162. State League Units had been organized for Fremont, Douglas, and Chaffee counties. Delta County's League was still a provisional. Getting and keeping members was still the first priority of local Leagues.

Jan Garcia's plans for debates among the candidates for U.S. Senate included solicitation of funds from corporations, foundations, and unions. A change in the Federal Election Commission regulations made this legal and possible. Plans were made to provide a voter information message on the answering machine at the LWVCO office. Edna Hill was in charge of writing and publishing the **Ballot Issues** pamphlet before the November election.

Charlotte Hoops and Judy Lyke announced plans for another Touring Seminar to be offered to leadership in business, government, and education communities. The purpose of the Tours was to provide background information about the state and to earn money for the League. On the 1979 Tour, 19 participants spent three days in Northwestern Colorado, traveling by bus to visit energy sites and water projects, and to attend seminars highlighting those issues. The League netted \$3,000. The second Tour was planned for May 14-16, 1980, to visit Northeastern Colorado and emphasize issues of land use, water, and energy.

An Energy Puppet Show was a great success with Vickie Kendrick (LWV Aurora) as Project Manager. "Take That, You Monster" was shown in schools to teach children about energy conservation and waste. The production included a stage, sound system, and puppets, all purchased from the LWV of Montana with money from a grant from the Colorado Office of Energy Conservation and a contribution of \$3,300 from Colorado Public Service Company. Members of local Leagues were recruited to present the show to pupils in the schools in their communities.

Grant-funded projects based on solid waste management and water pollution control, managed by Clara Lou Humphrey and Carolyn Holmberg, were well-received but proved to be less than successful in generating real public participation.

Convention 1981.

The LWV of Pueblo hosted the Eighteenth Biennial Convention of the LWVCO on May 8-9, 1981. President Joyce Tavrow greeted 115 delegates and explained that Toni Worcester, the nominee for president, was not present because she was attending a conference in Washington, DC, and would remain there for the LWVUS Council the next week. Delegates were welcomed to Pueblo by Theresa Cain, LWV Pueblo president, and Al Hayden, Pueblo County Commissioner, who also was a member of the Pueblo League.

In her remarks, President Joyce Tavrow cautioned local Leagues to find ways to help new members understand how the League and the government both work. She quoted an article in Jefferson County's bulletin in which Anita Ging wrote: "People will make time for what they consider important, where League is a vital and visible force and its members feel that they are important to the success of its mission. The League should not lack volunteers to carry its work forward."

Barbara Schulmeister explained the balance sheet which showed the LWVCO's total net worth to be \$30,984.63. She then presented the proposed budget for \$58,281. It was revised by the Adjustment Committee and approved for \$59,070, including NCMC of \$6,235.

Parliamentarian: Loretta Simonson. **Arrangements:** Betty Halbig, Lorraine Carley, Katy Doyle, Pat Hamman, Karen Wiedemann, Bev Moore, and Jean Carlberg (State Board). **Reading Committee:** Marg Ann Barton (Jeffco), Marjorie Null (Arapahoe), Berna Deane Briggs (Durango). **Budget Adjustments Committee:** Margaret Innes (Adams), Gerry Cummins (Arapahoe), Prina Stanley (Aspen-Pitkin), Vickie Kendrick (Aurora), Ellen Gille (Boulder), Gretchen Nicholoff (Delta), Lis Brown (Denver), Rita Sims (Pueblo), Candy Wither (Routt), Allyson Gottsman (Jeffco), Jan Linch (Longmont), Louise Cook (Pikes Peak), Ruth Van Der Maas (Greeley-Weld), Susan Gorin (Loveland), Betty Cummings (Fort Collins).

State Board 1981–83: President Toni Worcester, 1st VP Carol Blatnick, 2nd VP Wilma Davidson, Secretary Mardell Burkholder, Treasurer Barbara Schulmeister, Directors – Kathy Busch, Margaret McNamara, Bernadette Ossola, Jean Williamson, Jane Adams, Rose Lovell, Joe Anne Mickelsen, Sonya Pennock. Nominating Committee – Dorothy Sobol (Chair), Barbara deVries, Jane Dobrovolsky.

Special Committee Chairs: Budget – Barbara Schulmeister, Aloha Grant. Nominating – Kay Ledyard.

Special Projects Managers: Susan Organ (Election Reporting), Edna Hill (Ballot Issues), Charlotte Hoops (Bus Tour), Vickie Kendrick (Energy Puppet Show), Jan Garcia (Senatorial Debates), Carolyn Holmberg (Water Quality), Vickie Gow (Women in Government)

Program Chairs: Phyllis Horney (Voting Rights), Emily Howell (Justice System), Joan McConkey (D.C. Representation), Doris Hayden (Local Government), Millie Carlo and Judy Lyke (Reapportionment), Nancy Dorn (Children's Laws), Bev Hiza and Marcile Wood (Employment), Barbara Cristol (Education), Nonie Ragsdale (Housing), Wilma Davidson (Individual Rights), Carol Karlin (Migrant & Legal Services), Gordon Butz (Urban Policy), Edna Tourtelot (International Relations), Hester McNulty and Karen Knutson (Clean Air), Joyce Jenkins (Energy Conservation), Hester McNulty (Energy Development and Water Quality), Clara Lou Humphrey (Solid Waste), Toni Worcester (Water Resources).

Program items adopted by delegates:

- I. Study of the Colorado Constitution,
- II. Study of Support Systems for Optimal Child Development.

The rationale for studying the state constitution included the fact that Colorado's constitution is one of the longest in the U.S., it was over 100 years old and had been amended almost 100 times.

Delegates had an opportunity to give direction to the State Board. Amy Truby (Arapahoe) asked for training for lobbying local government entities. Joanne Jefferies (Sterling) suggested the use of concurrence to avoid duplication of effort. Genny Weston (Denver) urged an update on land use. Noreen Ogden (Arapahoe) requested that the League develop criteria for evaluating proposed constitutional amendments.

According to Membership Director Jackie Johnson, LWVCO's membership had declined slightly to 2,151 during the past year. Although there were many new members, others had left the state or left the League. More women were taking jobs and finding they did not have the time for meetings. The number of members-at-large had increased from 49 to 68 in the past year.

Annual Reports in the Convention Workbook presented the outlook for League activities. The first Reapportionment Commission was monitored by the LWVCO and an evaluation was planned that would analyze the procedures and determine if it worked as well as the League had hoped when it supported the initiative that created the Commission.

The League's lobbyists monitored legislation selected by the Action Committee as it was introduced in the General Assembly. In Colorado education, the school finance specialist Barbara Cristol watched and reported on the progress of the "*Lujan Case*" in which a parent charged that her child did not receive the quality of education that was available to children in school districts with better funding. The League committee planned to assess that decision on funding uniform education for Colorado children as it related to the LWVCO Education position. Lack of state funding had curtailed programs in public schools.

At the time of the Republican party's national convention, League members were encouraged to protest opposition to ERA as expressed in the Party Platform and by the Ronald Reagan, the presidential candidate. The LWVCO environmental lobbyists planned to continue monitoring legislation on clean water and air, energy conservation, land use, conservation of natural resources, environmental management, and disposal of waste materials.

Council 1982.

A chartered bus left Denver early the morning of April 30, with delegates to the LWVCO Council meeting at Western State College in Gunnison. Along with the members who boarded the bus at the Southeast Marriott Hotel in Denver and the Four Seasons Motel in Colorado Springs was LWVUS President Ruth Hinerfeld. A professor from Colorado College made the bus ride enjoyable by describing the interesting vegetation, wild life, and geology of the areas along the road.

LWVCO President Toni Worcester and Gunnison President Ann Gery welcomed 55 voting delegates and 13 observers. Polly Bedle, of the Gunnison Chamber of Commerce, extended the welcome of the city. Delegates were introduced as they responded to the roll call by Secretary Mardell Burkholder. Representatives of State League Units in Summit County, Douglas County, and Fremont County were recognized.

Arrangements Chair: Jean Geralda. **Parliamentarian:** Loretta Simonson. **Reading Committee:** Joan Phillips (Delta), Deby Williamson (Sterling), Kathy Gierasch (Pueblo), and Mardell Burkholder (LWVCO Secretary).

Budget Adjustment Committee: Kim Jones (Arapahoe, Chair), Pat Fallin (Aspen-Pitkin), Vickie Kendrick (Aurora), Martha Scheer (Boulder), Mary Hess (Denver),, Marilee Rippey (Garfield-Eagle), Barbara Crnkovich (Greeley), DeAnn Hamson (Gunnison), Anita Ging (Jeffco), Marie Greenhalgh (Loveland), Elizabeth Spencer (Pikes Peak), Judith Howard (Pueblo), Barbara Schulmeister (Arapahoe, LWVCO Treasurer).

Special Guest: Ruth Hinerfeld. LWVUS President

A state membership of 2,110 was reported, which was a slight decline from the previous year. Fiscal changes had occurred within the LWVCO over the years.

The registration fee for this Council was \$20. The proposed budget of \$81,698 was amended, and a budget (including NCMC) of \$90,982 was adopted.

In her report, President Toni Worcester mentioned the special projects that the State Board had sponsored during the past year. Dee Netzel had directed a project on "Federal Changes," which addressed the budgetary cuts in federal programs. To meet the problem of duplication of effort, a statewide Coalition for Human Resources was formed to monitor legislative decisions on budget cuts to determine if they were "fair and open to public input." A "Waste Alert" project designed to educate citizens was successfully managed by Clara Lou Humphrey. Conferences had been sponsored in Denver, Fort Collins, and Grand Junction, with plans for presenting the topic in Pueblo and Durango. "The River and the Desert" was the title of a project directed by Hester McNulty. The LWVCO had received a grant from the Colorado Endowment for the Humanities and the Gates Foundation to show a film with that title to community groups and discuss the questions raised by film-maker Len Aitken. Each of the nineteen local Leagues that participated in this project received \$50 plus expenses.

Other projects included "Accountability in American Education," directed by Barbara Cristol, "Energy Conservation Puppet Show," by Vickie Kendrick; "Sex Equity in Vocational Education," conducted by the LWVUS Education Fund and the State Board of Occupational Education, with project managers Amy Truby and Wilma Davidson. The projects attracted good participation by local Leagues.

The Legislative Update given by Sonya Pennock endorsed the employment of a paid lobbyist working for the LWVCO. Noreen Ogden had supervised 26 registered League lobbyists, helped seven local Leagues sponsor Legislative Days, conducted a Legislative Workshop and a lobbyist training workshop, and made a difference with her professional lobbying at the General Assembly. Joyce Tavrow, Betty Myers, Phyllis Horney, Betty Law, and other Leaguers continued to monitor the Reapportionment Commission, whose report was not final until May 1982, at which time it was determined that the Commission had essentially worked the way it was supposed to work.⁴⁶

Council delegates were entertained at a reception in the home of Joyce Mellon, whose husband was President of Western State College. A history professor spoke on "Women in Colorado History."

Cable television was first used by the League in the spring of 1982, when the Arapahoe League produced a series of 28-minute programs on topics of interest to the League and the public. Coordinated by Amy Truby and Marjorie Null and staffed by League members, candidates meetings and a presentation on the ballot issues were produced and made available to cable television channels.

Convention 1983.

The Nineteenth Biennial Convention of the League of Women Voters of Colorado was called to order by President Toni Worcester on May 6, 1983, at the Executive Tower Inn in Denver. More than 125 delegates and visitors were welcomed by Denver Mayor William McNichols and LWV Denver President Diane Young.

Parliamentarian: Loretta Simonson. **Host League Arrangements:** Peggy Lehman, Mary Hess, Mirian Grant. **Reading Committee:** Marti Harmon (Pikes Peak), Catherine Lykken (Routt), Elaine Reeves (Sterling).
Budget Adjustments: Dot Gayton, Gerry Cummins, Melba George, Carol McDivitt, Lis Brown, Gwen Ball, Betty Cummings, Anita Ging, Elaine Reeves, Peggy Erjavec
State Board 1993–1995: President Wilma Davidson, 1st VP Mary Hess, 2nd VP Gerry Cummins, Secretary Judy Briscoe, Treasurer Barbara Schulmeister. Directors – Sharon Brown, Jan Garcia, Margaret McNamara, Joe Ann Mickelsen, Gretchen Nicholoff, Marcile Wood, Judy Rocciano. **Nominating Committee:** Anita Ging, Mardell Burkholder, Jean Williamson. **Honored Guests:** Nancy Neuman, LWVUS 1st VP; Nancy Robberson, LWVUS; Joan Novy, Printer for the LWVCO; Eleanor Welshon, Cover artist.

Beginning with a proposed budget of \$75,485, the Budget Adjustment Committee met to discuss possible revisions which were presented the next day for decision by the delegates who approved the final amount of \$78,535.00.

Membership of the LWVCO was reported to be 2,090, which included 18 members-at-large, 4 State League Units, and 20 local Leagues. That was a net loss of 20 members from the preceding year. It was estimated that 850 members were women employed outside the home either full-time or part-time. When oil companies and other industries moved their operations from Colorado, they also took League members whose family employment had moved or disappeared.

Spirited discussion of program agenda ended with the selection of one of the board-recommended items and a non-recommended item:

- I. A continuing study of the Colorado Constitution which would examine specifically the areas of the Constitution dealing with legislative and executive powers as they related to managing and meeting the State's current and evolving needs.

⁴⁶ Phyllis Horney, **Report on the 1981–82 Reapportionment Committee** (LWVCO, 1991). [Print n. 47.]

- II. Support of a state finance system that would provide sufficient funds for public schools to equalize educational opportunity and to relieve the property tax.

Sue Organ, LWV Jeffco, coordinated the election night reporting project for ABC and Channel 9. League members reported election results from 15 courthouses and 64 precincts, earning approximately \$3,000 for the LWVCO and their local Leagues. The Waste Alert Project, directed by Clara Lou Humphrey, included adaption of a slide show which was used by eight local Leagues in unit or public meetings. Funding was available for each local League to send at least one representative to a statewide meeting to be held in Denver in September 1983.

Debates by the candidates for Governor had been sponsored by the LWVCO and coordinated by Jan Garcia, LWV Pueblo. Television, radio, and print media coverage was extensive and brought added visibility to the League.

The Convention honored Joan Novy, Adams County member and former State Board member, who had supervised many of the printing projects of the LWVCO as an owner of the Rocky Mountain Press. Eleanor Welshon was honored for her drawings which had been used on the covers of convention and council workbooks for several years. On the day after the Convention closed, a Leadership Training workshop for the new State Board was conducted by national leaders Nancy Neuman and Nancy Robberson. Membership, long-range planning, and program were included topics.

New Ideas for the League.

In 1983 big changes began to be made in the administration of the LWVCO. Members responded generously to an appeal for contributions to add more modern equipment in the state office. When a copier replaced the old mimeograph machine, communication with local Leagues improved. Long-Range Planning for the Colorado League, as suggested by the national Board and delegates to the LWVUS Convention in 1982, was discussed but not implemented until 1985. The system of assigning former board members as coordinators for local Leagues had become ineffective and was replaced by the assignment of each State Board member as a "contact" for at least one local League. This gave each local League a consultant who represented them at state board meetings.

Concurrence was implemented for the first time at the national level. At the LWVUS Convention in 1982, delegates had approved the concurrence process for deciding a position on Reproductive Choice. The League's support of Individual Liberties, adopted in the 1950s, and support of funding for abortions for poor women in its Social Policy positions were the basis for the proposed position. In January of 1983, local League members in their unit discussions concurred with the position which reads: *"Public policy in a pluralistic society must affirm the constitutional right of privacy of the individual to make reproductive choices."*⁴⁷ This position had been sought by many of the members of the League since the Supreme Court approval of *Roe v. Wade*.

Council 1984.

Recreational time for delegates to the 1984 Council in Glenwood Springs was spent in the hot springs pool, with official meetings held at the Inn at Glenwood on May 4–5. President Wilma Davidson and Garfield-Eagle President Stephanie Beerman greeted 51 delegates and 36 observers to Council.

The 1984–85 budget was approved in the amount of \$72,775. It was important that representatives of local Leagues served on the Budget Adjustment Committee with power to determine how the money of the LWVCO would be spent. Jan Garcia had chaired a fundraising raffle committee which netted \$5,335.88 for the LWVCO. Winner of the personal computer was Ann James of Colorado Springs.

⁴⁷ **Advocacy Agenda**, p. 9. [Print ed. n. 48.]

At this State Council, three workshops were held. Parliamentarian Loretta Simonson presented a "Town Meeting" to give delegates an understanding of how parliamentary procedure works in meetings and to prepare members who were to be delegates to the National Convention to be held a short time later. A workshop on Membership was presented by State Board Membership Chair Yvonne Olson. State League President Wilma Davidson spoke on the history of the League of Women Voters from suffrage days to the present time, including the challenging future of a restatement of the League's mission:

The League of Women Voters is a nonpartisan political organization that influences public policy through education and advocacy.

The citizen initiative known as "Motor Voter" had just been approved for a place on the November ballot. Jane Wasson's session at Council explained the process and the implications of the issue that was sponsored by the LWVCO, Colorado Public Interest Group, Common Cause, and others. The LWVCO had agreed to circulate petitions and to bring in at least 15,000 signatures. The final report showed that League members had collected 16,500 of the 68,249 signatures on the Motor Voter petitions submitted to the Secretary of State on July 30, 1984. This issue was overwhelmingly approved by the voters in the November general election, and Colorado voters joined those in a few other states who could now register to vote at the same location where they obtained their drivers licenses. Motor Voter was another success for the LWVCO in the citizen initiative process.⁴⁸

Parliamentarian: Loretta Simonson. **Credentials:** Megan Lyle. **Reading Committee:** Judy Briscoe (LWVCO Secretary), Joan Crouch (Adams), Reba Renner (Durango), Judy Stientjes (Greeley-Weld). **Budget Adjustment Committee:** Joan Crouch (Adams), Amy Truby (Arapahoe), Gwen Ball (Boulder), Lis Brown (Denver), Kay Rogers (Durango), Jean Rhodes (Grand Junction), Lesley Harriss (Gunnison), Bette Seeland (Jeffco), Karen Weideman (Pikes Peak), Audrey Enever (Routt). **Board of Directors:** President Wilma Davidson, 1st VP Mary Hess, 2nd VP Gerry Cummins, Secretary Judy Briscoe, Treasurer Barbara Schulmeister. **Directors:** Sharon Brown, Betty Cummings, Jan Garcia, Karen Knutson, Yvonne Olson, Joe Ann Mickelsen, Gordon Butz, Elaine Reeves, Margaret McNamara, Gretchen Nicholoff, Roberta Ginley, Dorothy Hudson. **Special Personnel:** Eleanor Dwight (National Security Chair), Susan Organ Chichester (ABC Reporting), Toni Worcester (Lobbyist), Anne Tauriello (Office Manager), Bonnie Mascolo (International Relations), Marge Innes (Arrangements). **Budget Committee:** Martha Scheer (Chair), Barbara Schulmeister, Jan Garcia, Gerry Cummins, Mary Hess, Betty Spenser. **Nominating Committee:** Anita Ging (Chair), Mardell Burkholder, Jean Williamson. **Program Committees:** GOVERNMENT – Phyllis Horney, LaBoyta Garnand, Betty Myers, Polly Bullard, Emily Howell, Mary Moore, Doris Hayden, Joyce Tavrow. NATURAL RESOURCES – Hester McNulty, Purnee McCourt, Karen Knutson, Debbie Hayes, Cynthia Jessel, Cardine Hildt, Judy Moffatt, Clara Lou Humphrey. SOCIAL POLICY – Jeani Jeffrey, Norma Heinz.

Not so successful in the fall of 1984 was the LWVCO plan for a senatorial debate between incumbent Senator William Armstrong and challenger Nancy Dick. Jan Garcia had contacted both candidates early in the campaign and had made the arrangements for media coverage and TV sponsorship, only to have Senator Armstrong decline to debate a few days before the scheduled debate.

Participation in coalitions is one of the most effective ways the League works. Delegates to the 1983 LWVCO Convention had approved a study to consider revision of the League's School Finance position. Kay Schomp, former president of LWV Denver and former Denver school board member, chaired the LWVCO committee. Kay and with Sandy Berkowitz (LWV Denver) were instrumental in forming the Coalition to Improve School Finance which was made up of the Colorado Board of Realtors, American Association of University Women, Colorado Education Association, Colorado Association of Commerce and Industry, Junior League of Denver, Colorado Association of School Executives, Colorado Association

⁴⁸ *Ibid.*, p. 10. [Print ed. n. 49.]

of School Boards, Colorado Farm Bureau, Rocky Mountain Farmers Union, the Colorado Parent-Teacher-Student Association, and the League of Women Voters of Colorado.

With the research assistance of the firm of Augenblick & Van de Water Associates, the Coalition conducted sessions at which presentations were made by experts in the field of school finance. The Coalition published an excellent report with recommendations on how public education can be financed. This publication was the basis for League unit presentations. It was also presented to legislators for their information and use in planning legislation for state school finance.⁴⁹

Long Range Planning.

Meeting the challenge of the LWVUS Long Range Planning Committee, presented at the 1982 Convention in Houston, local League presidents and the LWVCO Board met at Montview Church on January 25 and 26, 1985. The goal of the workshop was to reach a consensus and recommend ideas for the implementation of the League of Women Voters' mission as it applied to local League organizations and the State Board. The proposed mission statement was: *The League of Women Voters is a nonpartisan political organization that influences public policy through education and advocacy.*

The workshop, facilitated by Marcille Wood, addressed these questions: How can membership growth be attained and sustained? How do League members represent the organization in the community? How can adequate financing be achieved? How much is a realistic amount for dues? How can communication be more effective? Can we get along without paper? Is the national level organized effectively to meet the future needs of the League? Is the State Board organized effectively to meet the future needs of the League in Colorado?

After discussing these issues in small groups moderated by Leaguers who had been delegates to the national convention, the 37 League leaders suggested that activities be adjusted to meet the needs of the League and the community, that there be flexibility of meeting times, and that the high priority of voters service be recognized. Financing the League's activities was a major topic, with innovative suggestions for fundraising to include revenue-sharing between the LWVCO and local Leagues., solicitation of large grants, hiring a professional fundraiser, and setting the Per Member Payment and local dues at levels to finance the real costs of running the League. They talked about improving communication by greater use of the telephone, and members asked the State Board to provide "unit-ready" materials for state program issues. The consensus of the group was that even though attendance had decreased, *the Unit is still the place for meeting with friends to discuss important matters — it is the "League" to most members.* These Colorado League members said that the local League, with its grassroots heritage, is the asset that made League different from other organizations, and it is the local League that makes a difference in communities and in the nation.⁵⁰

Participants in the Long-Range Planning Workshop:

State Board – Barbara Schulmeister, Gordon Butz, Elaine Reeves, Gerry Cummins, Gretchen Nicholoff, Betty Cummings, Mary Hess, Judy Briscoe, Margaret McNamara, Mary Ann McCoy, Wilma Davidson, Roberta Ginley, and Marcille Wood.

Local League Leaders – Marge Innes (Adams), Jane Snyder (Aurora), Lesley Harriss (Gunnison), Deby Williamson (Sterling), Nancy Barbee (Delta), Sally Maguire (Douglas), Jean Selch (Routt), Stephanie Beerman (Garfield-Eagle), Cynthia Hayes (Greeley-Weld), Dorothy Newell (Durango), Jody Hott (Morgan), Helen Seifert (Fremont), Susan McLean (Grand Junction), Bev Moore (Pueblo), Sandi Dewey (Aspen-Pitkin), Kate Brandes (Larimer), Amy Truby (Arapahoe), Lois Linsky (Boulder), Mary Robinette (Pikes Peak), Deloris Olson (Jeffco), Diane Young (Denver), Barbara Krebs (Montrose).

⁴⁹ Coalition to Improve School Finance. **Report**, Denver, Augenblick & Van deWater, 1985).

⁵⁰ LWVCO. **Long Range Planning Report**, February 1985. [Print ed. numbers these n. 50–51.]

Convention 1985.

The Convention met on May 10-11, 1985, with the LWV of Jefferson County in charge. The 1985 Convention Workbook was distinctive with the Annual Reports illustrated by political cartoons to "add a touch of humor to these serious subjects."

President Wilma Davidson convened the meeting, and the delegates were welcomed by Jeffco President Deloris Olsen and Jefferson County Commissioner Marjorie (Bunny) Clement. The president introduced a special guest, LWVUS President Dorothy Ridings, who told more than forty delegates and guests at the Convention dinner: "Not one person in Congress today was there 65 years ago, but the League was there. And not one of them will still be there 65 years from now, but the League will still be there!"

Credentials Chair Jo Rock reported 88 voting delegates from 20 local Leagues, 15 State Board delegates, and one ILO delegate.

<p>Parliamentarian: Rhea Woltman (Pikes Peak). Arrangements Committee: Jo Rock, Ruth Cran, Patty Schoedler, Marcia Schaefer, Helen Baldwin, Barbara Robinson. Reading Committee: Pat Johnson (Boulder), Kathy Winder (Larimer), Susan McLean (Grand Junction). Budget Adjustments Committee: Carol Pielstick (Aspen-Pitkin), Anne Tauriello (Aurora), Liz Nick (Boulder), Lis Brown (Denver), Gladys McBee (Durango), Pat Mesec (Jeffco), Frances Moore (Larimer), Helen West (Pikes Peak), Deby Williamson (Sterling).</p> <p>Delegates and Observers: ADAMS – J. Jeffery, C. Thompson, T. Lees. ARAPAHOE – B. Deeter, S. Foster, J. Grogan, V. Harimon, S. Kirk, S. Smith, J. Wagner. ASPEN-PITKIN – S. Dewey, C. Pielstick, P. Fallin. AURORA – A. Tauriello. BOULDER – P. Johnson, A. Fenerty, J. Steuben, A. Hooker, L. Nick, R. Stinson, B. Greenlee, L. Linsky. DELTA – L. Roberts, N. Barbee. DENVER – L. Brown, D. Kaplan, T. Appell, B. Spindler, P. Dole, J. Freeman, J. Holzmeister, N. Cutler, H. McIntire, G. Weston, F. Weinberg, D. Sobol, N. Kimball, M.L. Parmalee, M. Clark, M. Blakeley, D. Young, S. Weaver, K. Theisen, P. Lehmann, P. Bullard, E. Brown, M. Grant, C. Hertzman, S. Farley, N. Swank. DURANGO – J. Lent, K. Rogers, G. McBee. GARFIELD-EAGLE – S. Beerman. GRAND JUNCTION – P. Carney, S. Kaleszewski, S. McLean. GREELEY-WELD – C. Riggs, M. Holland, C. Meyers. GUNNISON – E. Baker, L. Harriss. JEFFCO – S. Eid, D. Johnson, S. Auer, J. Rock, S. Clarke, P. Mesec, C.L. Humphreys, E. Richards, D. Olsen. LARIMER – L. Mahan, K. Winder, H. Kaye, F. Moore, M. Wood. LONGMONT – C. Sunderland, J. Gerber. PIKES PEAK – K. Wiedemann, S. Horenovsky, C. Edwards, E. Chleboun, E. Fortenbaugh, L. Davey, N. Cantrell, M. Rochette. PUEBLO – R. Sims. ROUTT – J. Selch, B. DeVries. STERLING – D. Williamson, P. Brown. MORGAN – M.A. Nelson, J. Hott. DOUGLAS – J. Evans. METRO ILO – M.A. McCoy.</p> <p>State Board: Wilma Davidson, Mary Hess, Gerry Cummins, Judy Briscoe, Barbara Schulmeister, Sharon Brown, Betty Cummings, Jan Garcia, Karen Knutson, Yvonne Olson, Joe Ann Mickelsen, Gordon Butz, Marcille Wood, Elaine Reeves, Dorothy Hudson, Gretchen Nicholoff, Margaret McNamara, Roberta Ginley.</p> <p>Special Personnel: Marge Innes, Martha Scheer, Loretta Simonson, Joan Novy, Anne Tauriello, Toni Worcester, Phyllis Horney, Betty Myers, Laboyta Garnand. Polly Bullard, Emily Howell, Mary Moore, Doris Hayden, Joyce Tavrow, Pat Johnson, Norma Heinz, Jane Grogan, Kay Schomp, Sandy Berkowitz, Hester McNulty, Bonnie Mascolo, Eleanor Dwight.</p> <p>Nominating Committee: Anita Ging,, Mardell Burkholder, Jean Williamson, Joe Mickelsen, Gerry Cummins.</p> <p>State Board Nominees 1985-1987: President Gerry Cummins, 2nd VP Lois Linsky, Secretary Susan McLean, Treasurer Karen Knutson. Directors – Jane Grogan, Elaine Reeves, Roberta ginley, Anita Gind, Pat Fallin, Marjorie Null, Polly Bullard. Nominating Committee: Wilma Davidson (Chair), Judy Briscoe, Bernadette Ossola.</p>

A first step toward reorganization of the administration of the LWVCO was taken when the delegates approved the addition of a 3rd Vice President to the Board of Directors. This change allowed for the

distribution of work among the three officers, separating the tasks into smaller, more specific, more achievable units of Administration, Communication, and Program.

The total statewide membership was reported to be 2,035, which included the members of 19 recognized Leagues, 1 provisional League, 4 State League units, and 17 unaffiliated members-at-large. There were 59 male members reported, and it was estimated that as many as 675 members held paid jobs. The SLU in Rio Blanco County had been dissolved during the year, according to Yvonne Olson, Membership Chair, leaving the far northwest corner of the state without a League. There were still no Leagues in the large east-southeast area or in the San Luis Valley.

A biennial budget of \$137,965, with a per member payment of \$14.80, was proposed by the Committee. Increasing costs of administering a non-profit organization of the size of the LWVCO was reflected.

The Board did not recommend a new study for the biennium, but the delegates voted to adopt a nonrecommended item:

Study of Higher Education in Colorado, with emphasis on structure, finance, and governance.

The issue was presented by Lesley Harriss of the Gunnison League. Nona Zaradahka of Gunnison, agreed to chair the committee. The review and update of positions on school finance approved by delegates to the 1983 Convention had been completed by a League committee with special information based on the findings of the Coalition to Improve School Finance that was chaired by Kay Schomp in 1984–85.

"Motor Voter" had passed with 61.5% of the vote and in 44 of the 63 counties in the November 1984 election. It failed in only one county where there was a local League. At the Convention, the process was reported on by Phyllis Horney, Sonya Pennock, and Jane Wasson — the League members who had organized the petition-gathering that contributed greatly to the success of the initiative. They had started work on the issue early in 1983, and with election laws reform as a League priority. wrote an every-member publication and prepared a briefing to keep League members informed.

VOTE COLORADO, the coalition of organizations working for the initiative, supported legislation during the 1984 session of the General Assembly, but that failed to pass and made an initiative necessary. League members collected over 16,500 of the 68,000 signatures on the petitions submitted to the Secretary of State. The vote of the people did not end the efforts. Immediately after the election, the Secretary of State issued a memo to county clerks to proceed with purging under the old law, because the new law would not go into effect until the Governor had signed it. The conflict was to be solved in the courts. The purge section of the Motor Voter Law was somewhat modified by future legislation, and was considered to be the most important step taken to improve citizen access to voting.

Funding was received from the W. Alton Jones Foundation to cover a training conference for League member-directors of the 1984 Congressional debates on National Security. State Voters Service Chair Jan Garcia (Pueblo), Mary Ann McCoy (ILO President and Arapahoe member), Joyce Freeman (Denver), and Kim Jones (Arapahoe) attended the training sessions conducted in Washington by the LWVUS Education Fund, and planned the debates of candidates in Congressional Districts 1, 2, 3, and 5.

Council 1986.

Historic Durango's Fort Lewis College was the location for the LWVCO's 1986 State Council on May 16–17. State President Gerry Cummins convened the meeting, and delegates were welcomed by LWV Durango President Jean Walter and Durango Mayor Lionel Silva, who praised the League for its outreach to citizens with unbiased information. For the Credentials Committee, Carol Blatnick reported the presence of 34 delegates and 17 observers.

In a keynote address, Dr. Don Wayland, Vice President for Student Affairs at the College, stated that the best thing to happen to higher education was the state legislation that created the Commission on Higher Education which set the academic standards of Colorado's colleges and universities, and determined their priorities of programs and requirements.

Treasurer Karen Knutson reported the LWVCO's total net worth of \$31,352.16. Since the LWVCO had adopted a biennial budgeting system, no budget was proposed for the Council meeting. Changes in League membership indicated a total of 1,777 members in Colorado, which was a decrease of 225 from the previous year. There were 73 male members and 59 "household" members. It was estimated that 368 members were employed full time and 195 worked part-time.

Parliamentarian: Mike O'Learnick. **Reading Committee:** Marilyn Zipser (Boulder), Rita Sims (Pueblo), and Barbara Storter (Grand Junction).

Delegates & Observers: ADAMS – Muriel Reichardt. ARAPAHOE – Betsy McBride, Barbara Schulmeister. ASPEN-PITKIN – Sandra Dewey. BOULDER – Pat Johnson, Marilyn Zipser, Liz Hawkins. DENVER – Gordon Butz, Nora Kimball. DURANGO – Jean Walter, Beulah Murray. GRAND JUNCTION – Barbara Storter, Dot Gayton. GREELEY – Carol Riggs. GUNNISON – Phyllis Guerrieri, Marilyn Cope, Laura Harper, Lesley Harriss. JEFFCO – Jo Rock, Ruth Cran. LONGMONT – Carolyn Sunderland. PIKES PEAK – Lineah Davey, Edna Chleboun. PUEBLO – Bev Poor, Rita Sims. ROUTT – Jean Selch, Ralph Selch. STERLING – Shirley Yoder. MONTROSE – Barbara Krebs, Janis Bulkdey, Jack Nelson, Katherine Nelson. DOUGLAS – Joe Ann Mickelsen, Mary Ann LaBrash. METRO DENVER ILO – Mary Ann McCoy.

State Board: Gerry Cummins, Lois Linsky, Anita Ging, Susan McLean, Karen Knutson, Elaine Reeves, Roberta Ginley, Sandra Eid, Jo Evans, Jane Grogan. **Special Personnel:** Sue Bollman, Joyce Tavrow, Mary Hess, Diane Young, Marge Innes, Margaret McNamara.

Durango/Host League Committee: Kay Rogers, Carol Blatnick, Gladys McBee, Florence Russell.

The unusual move of adopting program at a Council occurred at this meeting, as it had in 1980. An emergency program item, introduced by Margaret McNamara, amended the Local Government position to allow lobbyists to address specific measures to relieve local governments from anti-trust litigation. Delegates approved this wording:

Local governments should be accountable, responsive, flexible, efficient, effective, able to raise sufficient revenues to perform their duties, and have adequate constitutional and statutory powers to cope effectively with providing services and exercising controls.⁵¹

Lois Linsky, 2nd VP, announced that a direct-mail fundraising campaign would be instituted, that a computer had been installed in the state office, and that the office staff would be learning to use the data base during the summer. The LWVCO office had come a long way since it consisted of a room with a bookcase at the YWCA!

Workshop discussions included the issues of Pay Equity, the Parental and Medical Leave Act, using League communications, and parliamentary procedure as demonstrated in a mini-convention that was designed to give the Colorado League's delegates to national convention practice in discussion techniques.

Convention 1987.

The LWVCO's 1987 Convention met at the Raintree Plaza Conference Center, in Longmont, on May 8–9, hosted by the LWVs of Longmont and Boulder Valley. Longmont President Maritza Sneddon, Boulder Valley President Pat Johnson, and Boulder County Commissioner Ron Stewart welcomed the League to

⁵¹ **Advocacy Agenda**, pp. 7–9. [Print ed. n. 52.]

Longmont. President Gerry Cummins recognized provisional Leagues of Morgan and Douglas counties and the local League of Montrose County. State President Gerry Cummins convened the meeting of 76 delegates representing 18 local Leagues and 12 State Board delegates on the first day. On Saturday, there were 102 voting delegates, consisting of 90 representing local Leagues, SLUs, provisional Leagues, and ILO with 12 State Board members.

The membership report contained some new categories. There were 1,708 LWV members in Colorado, including 80 who had been nationally recruited, 91 men, and 127 who were new to the League. There were 23 members-at-large. Others were affiliated with one of the 19 recognized Leagues, 2 provisional Leagues, or the one State League Unit. This was an indication of the gradual decline in the membership that was happening in almost all organizations

<p>Parliamentarian: Loretta Simonson. Credentials: Louisa Holmberg. Minutes Approval Committee: Barbara Storter, Inge Popke, Dottie Harmon.</p> <p>Delegates & Observers: ADAMS – Bea Reichardt, Eleanor Richards, Jane Gnojek. ARAPAHOE — Marjorie Null, Inge Popke, Kathy Busch, Susan Bucher, Wilma Davidson, Anne Tauriello. BOULDER — Pat Johnson, Follie Robbie, Elizabeth Hawkins, Elizabeth Nick, Ann Fenerty, Joyce Tavrow, Marilyn Zipser, Jan Buchanan, Tess McNulty. DELTA – Judy Briscoe, Gretchen Nicholoff. DOUGLAS – Joe Mickelsen, Mary Ann LaBrash, Sally Maguire. DURANGO – Jean Walter. GREELEY-WELD – Jean Hoffmann, Kristy Musser, Carol Riggs. GUNNISON – Phyllis Guerrieri, Ann Gery. GRAND JUNCTION – Barbara Storter, Jan McDaniel. JEFFCO – Purnee McCourt, Kay Marsh, Flodie Anderson, Tricia Kocherer, Marcia Schafer, Olga Miercort, Judith Pearl, Edie Davis. LARIMER – Linda Mahan, Jean Cole, Marilyn Pedri, Anne Marvel, Jo Ann Stanford, Joan Boes, Joyce Weber, Louise Lindsey. LONGMONT – Maritza Sneddon, Billie Ruth Harrel, Sylvia Pennock. METRO ILO – Mary Ann McCoy. DENVER – Emily James, Gordon Butz, Miriam Grant, Genny Weston, Bonnie Mascolo, Willie Stemmer, Margaret Blakley, Polly Dole, Peggy Lehmann, Clare Freedman, Shirley Weaver, Ann Halloran, Barbara Maxie, Myrna Bottone, Lis Brown, Teri Appell, Nora Kimball, Jane Selles, Louise Curfman, Joan Johnson. MONTROSE – Gayle Clarke, Barbara Krebs. MORGAN – Susan Lehmann, Gail Steger. PIKES PEAK – Carolyn Edwards, Karen Wiedemann, Edna Cleboun, Jean Swartzendruber, Esther Fortenbaugh, Dottie Harman, Ann James. PUEBLO – Peggy Erjavec, Beverly Poor, Virginia Nordyke. ROUTT – Sue Reed, Jean Selch, Becky Hammons, Cindy Maddox, Charla Palmer. STERLING – Deby Williamson, Jean Williamson.</p> <p>State Board: Gerry Cummins, Lois Linsky, Anita Ging, Susan Maclean, Karen Knutson, Elaine Reeves, Sandra Eid, Roberta Ginley, Pat Fallin, Jane Grogan, Marjorie Null, Maggi Markey, Polly Bullard, Jo Evans, Marcile Wood.</p> <p>Special Personnel: Marge Innes, Flodie Anderson, Loretta Simonson, Joan Novy, Diane Young, Mary Hess, Margaret McNamara, Laboyta Garnand, Barbara Maxie, Deloris Olsen, Betty Myers, Phyllis Horney, Maritza Sneddon, Wilma Davidson, Jan Buchanan, Marge Burgess, Edith Davis, Norma Heinz, Olga Miercort, Eva Richards, Lis Brown, Peggy Lehmann, Anne Marvel, Nona Zahradka, Elizabeth Nick, Terril Young, Betsy McBride, Nancy Hale, Jane Gnojek, Tess McNulty, Bonnie Mascolo, Eleanor Dwight, Sue Bollman, Joyce Tavrow. Nominating Committee: Wilma Davidson (Chair), Judy Briscoe, Bernadette Ossola, Anita Ging, Roberta Ginley.</p> <p>Nominees State Board 1987-89: President Gerry Cummins, Ist VP Pat Johnson, 2nd VP Lois Linsky, 3rd VP Anne Tauriello, Secretary Jo Rock, Treasurer Jean Selch. Directors – Marcia Shafer, Roberta Ginley, Polly Bullard, Jan Buchanan, Pat Fallin, Maggi Markey, Elizabeth Nick, Jane Gnojek, Clara Lou Humphrey. Nominating Committee: Elaine Reeves (Chair), Karen Knutson, Susan Maclean.</p> <p>Special Guests: Grant Thompson, Executive Director LWVUS, Judy Knight (Wyoming), LWVUS Board, Professor Dennis Knight, University of Wyoming. Former State Presidents: Beverly Hiza, Marlene Wiske, Judy Lyke, Joyce Tavrow, Toni Worcester, Wilma Davidson.</p>
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Although the State Board had recommended that the Higher Education study be continued, it was not supported by Convention delegates who replaced it with two non-recommended studies:

- I. An Evaluation of Child Care Facilities in Colorado — a study of child care facilities to evaluate the adequacy of State regulations and requirements.
- II. The Financing and Delivery of Health Care in Colorado — to define government's obligation to provide access to health care, to survey health care availability, to review financing of health care in Colorado, and to investigate methods of cost containment.

Grant Thompson, LWVUS Executive Director, was the speaker at the banquet where he talked about how the national office is administered and some of the problems encountered by a non-profit organization, including the need to increase membership.

Former state presidents of the LWVCO were recognized, and awards were made to several members for special contribution to the work of the League. At the luncheon on Friday, Jean Selch, LWV Routt County, and Nora Kimball, LWV Denver, were recognized for their achievements in development. Others recognized were Pat Johnson, LWV Boulder Valley, and Jo Mickelsen, Douglas County SLU.

Council 1988.

The LWVCO Council, at a Holiday Inn in Grand Junction on May 13-14, 1988, was convened by President Gerry Cummins. Delegates were welcomed by Grand Junction President Barbara Storter and John Bennett, City Council President. Credentials Chair Shirley Matthews reported 33 delegates and 4 observers present.

Parliamentarian: Loretta Simonson. **Reading Committee:** Faye Weinberg (Metro Denver ILO), Judith Pearl (Jeffco), Christy Musser (Greeley-Weld). | **Council Arrangements Committee:** Lois Linsky, Barbara Storter, Pat Johnson, Elaine Reeves. Roberta Ginley, Berit Leonard (LWV Grand Junction)

State Board Delegates & Observers: Gerry Cummins, Patricia Johnson, Lois Linsky, Anne Tauriello, Jo Rock, Jean Selch, Marcia Schafer, Roberta Ginley, Clara Lou Humphrey, Elizabeth Nick, Jane Gnojek, Jan Buchanan, Mary Hess, Sandy Eid, Tess McNulty, Amy Truby, Marscha Winterfield, Loretta Simonson.

Local League Delegates & Observers: ADAMS – Bea Reichardt, Mildred Hargis. ARAPAHOE – Elaine Reeves. ASPEN-PITKIN – Farley Sheldon. BOULDER VALLEY – Marelynn Zipser, Lynne Wegley. DENVER – Peggy Lehmann, Jane Selles) GRAND JUNCTION – Cindy Rhodes, Linda Rose. GREELEY-WELD – Kristy Musser, Bobbie Miller. GUNNISON – Phyllis Guerrieri, Ann Gery. JEFFCO – Purnee McCourt, Judith Pearl. LARIMER – Linda Mahan, Cheryl Baker. PIKES PEAK – Mary Rochette. PUEBLO – Bev Poor. ROUTT – Ralph Selch. METRO DENVER ILO – Faye Weinberg. DURANGO – Jean Walter.

State Board 1987-89: Gerry Cummins, Pat Johnson, Lois Linsky, Anne Tauriello, Jo Rock, Jean Selch, Marcia Schafer, Elizabeth Nick, Roberta Ginley, Pat Fallin, Don Thompson, Polly Bullard, Jane Gnojek, Jan Buchanan, Clara Lou Humphrey. **Nominating Committee:** Elaine Reeves (Chair), Karen Knutson, Susan MacLean, Pat Johnson, Roberta Ginley.

Special Personnel: Karen Knutson, Diane Young, Mary Hess, CeCe Hertzman, Marscha Winterfield, Peggy Erjavec, Barbara Schulmeister.

Program Committee Chairs: Wilma Davidson, LaBoyta Garnand, Phyllis Horney, Connie Sadler, Barbara Maxie, Deloris Olsen, Margaret McNamara, Betty Myers, Terril Young, Hester McNulty, Marge Burgess, Edie Davis, Barbara Cristol, Eva Richards, Norma Heinz.

Study Chairs & Project Managers: AGRICULTURE – Phyllis Guerrieri, Jean Williamson. CHILD CARE – Kay Marsh, Olga Miercort. HEALTH CARE – Anne Fenerty, Joyce Weber. MEETING BASIC HUMAN NEEDS - Marcile Wood. REPRODUCTIVE CHOICE - Amy Truby. GAVEL PETITION – Sandra Eid, Margaret McNamara.

The League supported two major citizen initiatives in 1988. Sandra Eid explained the GAVEL initiative and commended League members for their efforts in circulating petitions. GAVEL — Give a Vote to Every Legislator — was a legislative reform measure that the LWVCO had promoted for several years. Amy Truby discussed the proposal for the repeal of the 1984 initiative that prohibited the use of state funds to pay for abortions for women who received Medicaid assistance. The LWVUS positions on income assistance (that poor women should have equal access to health care) and the right to privacy in making reproductive choices provided the rationale for supporting this measure. League members were urged to show their support of the abortion funding repeal initiative by circulating petitions. Both issues were on the November election ballot. GAVEL passed, but the repeal of the law that prevented Medicaid funding of abortions did not pass.

Council delegates discussed legislation to change the Colorado primary/caucus system, but deferred it to some future time when more information would be available. Child Care and Health Care Delivery and Financing studies had been presented in local League units, and both issues would be ready for consensus in the fall. The local Leagues had maintained literature racks in their communities for a project funded by the Colorado Office of Energy Conservation. The LWVCO provided facilitators for 20 community meetings sponsored by the Governor's Job Training Office project "YOUTH 2000." The International Relations Committee secured a grant of \$1,000 from LWVUS to participate in the "Campaign for a Safer World."

Membership in the LWVCO declined to 1,657, including 59 household members, 48 men, and 26 members-at-large. Some loss of members was attributed to better reporting by the local Leagues. A "first" for the LWVCO was the appointment of Don Thompson, the first man, to the State Board where his experience as a journalist gave League Public Relations a needed professional touch.

Publications produced during 1988 included the fourth edition of the LWVCO's best-seller, **Colorado Water**, prepared by Hester McNulty. This publication has been used by many individuals and groups interested in the use and conservation of the state's water resources. Hester McNulty received recognition for her expertise on the subject. **Colorado: The State We're In**, the LWVCO's handbook that explained the process of state government was written by Wilma Davidson and published in March 1988. Complimentary copies of this publication were presented to libraries and government teachers in the high schools, middle schools, and colleges of Colorado. It also was displayed and sold at the annual conference of the Social Science Education Consortium each December from 1988 through 1992. More than half of the public school districts purchased the book in classroom quantities, and it was used in at least two college classes.

The Celebration of the Bicentennial of the United States Constitution in 1987 was the impetus for activities by local Leagues in Arapahoe County, Denver, Greeley, and Larimer County. Gin Lundeen represented the League on the local committee in Greeley where they set up a "speaker's soapbox" at the Arts Picnic on July 25. The emphasis on freedom of speech encouraged many people to speak out on different issues. League members dressed in costumes representing James Madison, Abigail Adams, Uncle Sam, Abraham Lincoln, Stephen Douglas, and Carrie Catt. Each talked about their connection with the federal Constitution. Boulder Valley and Jeffco Leagues sponsored successful "Jefferson Meeting" forums to discuss constitutional issues. Arapahoe produced Cable TV programs that discussed issues of government and the bicentennial.

National Convention in Denver.

Nora Kimball, LWV Denver, was selected to chair the Colorado committee for the LWVUS Convention, held at the Denver Hilton on June 15-18, 1988. Although the Denver League was the official host, more than 300 League volunteers from local Leagues throughout the state (and some from Wyoming) staffed Convention. Previous national conventions had been held in Denver in 1954 and 1966.

Convention 1989.

Closing the decade, the LWVCO Convention was convened at the Radisson Hotel in Arapahoe County on May 12–13, 1989, by President Gerry Cummins. LWV Arapahoe President Sherry Luhman and Arapahoe County Commissioner Tom Eggert welcomed 59 delegates representing 13 local and provisional Leagues and the ILO, and 11 State Board delegates.

The statewide membership count was 1,697 (an increase of 40), which included 58 household members, 94 nationally recruited members, and 6 life-time associates. There was no indication of the number of men who now belonged to the LWVCO, but Don Thompson was elected to a full term on the State Board to continue dealing with public relations. Growth in membership was happening with the Pikes Peak Region gaining by 16%, Greeley-Weld by 17%, and Aspen-Pitkin by 30%. However, all four corners of the state, the San Luis Valley, counties along the Continental Divide, and much of the east and southeast areas were without Leagues.

Parliamentarian: May Clark. **Host League Committee:** Inge Popke, Henrietta Smith. **Reading Committee:** Lynn Young (Larimer), C.J. Cullinan (Pueblo), and Miriam Grant (Denver)

Budget Adjustment Committee: Karen Knutson, Barbara Schulmeister, Lois Linsky, Pat Johnson, Gerry Cummins, local League representatives.

Guest speakers: Diane Sheridan, LWVTX, LWVUS Board; Judy Knight, LWVWY, LWVUS Board; and former Governor Richard D. Lamm.

Delegates & Observers: ADAMS – Cathy O'Grady, Pat Raffelson, Eleanor Richards. ARAPAHOE – Nancy Allen, Betsy McBride, Kathy Busch, Jean Carlberg, Susan Bucher, Sherry Luhman, Diane Moscatello, Rosemary Kessler. BOULDER – Louise Holmberg, Barbara Cristol, Margaret Markey, Nancy McCurdy, Mary Jean McMorran, Jane McNamara, Hester McNulty, Anne Norwood, Barbara Taylor, Lynne Wegley. DELTA – Gretchen Nicholoff. DOUGLAS – Josie Pike, Joe Mickelsen, Jane Ferguson, Mary Ann LaBrash. DENVER – Sue Bollman, Eleanor Brown, Lisa Duchon, CeCe Hertzman, Alice Kelly, Peggy Lehmann, Max Marler, Polly Bullard, Marge Johnson, Lois Grindle-Bell, Louise Curfman, Miriam Grant, Margaret McNamara, Helen McIntire, Geneva Owens, Kim Ray, Betty Spurlock, Joan Sussman, Katie Theisen, Margaret Walther, Shirley Weaver, Genny Weston, Amy Truby. GRAND JUNCTION – Shirley Matthews. GREELEY-WELD – Gini McGirr. JEFFCO – Marg Ann Barton, Edie Bryan, Alicita Hamilton, Eleanor Leonard, Kay Marsh, Amy Pryor, Ruth Wells. LARIMER – Joan Boes, Debby Browne, Jackie Boss, Kathleen Everett, Linda Preston, Pat Venable, Lynn Young. LONGMONT – Mike Smith, Carolyn Sunderland. PIKES PEAK – Karen Laden, Rose Lovell, Lynn Peterson. PUEBLO – Rita Simms, C.J. Cullinan, Alice Eikenberry, Beverly Poor. STERLING – Jean Williamson. METRO DENVER ILO – Kayleen Herzog.

LWVCO Board 1989-91: President Pat Johnson, Ist VP Sandra Eid, 2nd VP Betsy McBride, Secretary Gretchen Nicholoff, Treasurer Barbara Schulmeister, Directors – Roberta Ginley, Maritza Sneddon, Olga Miercort, Jo Rock, Patti Schoedler, Gerry Cummins, Don Thompson, Marge Johnson, Sharon Clark, Barbara Deeter, Lois Linsky. **Nominating Committee:** Sue Bollman (Chair), Elaine Reeves.

Money was still the subject of much discussion, but the proposed budget of \$95,765 was approved with amendments. The LWVCO's financial responsibilities and resources continued to grow. State program discussion centered on Transportation, an issue new to the League, but not new to the state. Trails, passes, roads, bridges, and railroads played an important part in the development of the state. Transportation was called "the most pressing problem of Colorado's first decade."⁵² There had been considerable publicity about the condition of highways and the lack of adequate systems of transpiration, so this program item was adopted with much enthusiasm by the delegates:

TRANSPORTATION: To focus on coordination and governmental structure, and prioritizing and funding for transportation needs in Colorado.

⁵² Richard N. Ellis & Duane A. Smith, **Colorado: A History in Photographs** (Niwot: University Press of Colorado, 1991), p. 10. [Print ed. n. 53.]

A major achievement during the previous year was the successful passage of the citizen initiative called GAVEL (Give a Vote to Every Legislator). Adopted as a top priority of the LWVUS, the initiative succeeded largely because of the involvement of League members throughout the state who explained the issue and passed petitions, reported Sandra Eid who had coordinated the campaign. League members collected 22,000 of 68,000 petition signatures required to get the initiative on the ballot for approval by 72% of the voters. This measure was designed to eliminate three legislative abuses — the "pocket veto," the killing of bills by the House Rules Committee, and the "binding" party caucus. GAVEL, implemented in the 1989 session of the General Assembly, was violated initially, but then began to function acceptably. The LWVCO's lobbyists continued to monitor legislative procedures.



"Not one person in Congress today was there 65 years ago, but the League was there. And not one of them will still be there 65 years from now, but the League will still be there."

Dorothy S. Ridings
President 1982-86
League of Women Voters
of the United States
May 10, 1985



Karen Knutson



Jan Buchanan.



Kudos to LWV/Durango
Voting Rights Rally.



Marcia Shafer,



Jean Williamson



Arapahoe Leaguers – LWVCO Convention 1989
 Sherry Luhman, Marjorie Ledell, Susan Bucher, Jackie Zermuehlen
 1991



Colorado Delegation to LWVUS CONVENTION '80



The Denver Post / Duane Howell

Noreen Ogden, legislative lobbyist for the League of Women voters, said Colorado has not seen any expansion of voting rights in the last decade.



LEFT: Clara Lou Humphrey and Anne Tauriello.



Joe Ann Mickelson from Douglas County

Sandy Eid



Former Denver League President, Mary Hess, has been selected to head the State League's lobbying efforts for 1986. She will head the Legislative Action Committee and supervise League volunteers during the 1986 Legislative Session.



Gerry Cummins, LVWCO President, displays the advantages of technology to the State Office with the addition of the computer in the capable hands of Diane Young, State League Office Manager.



Adams County Leaguers, Joan Crouch, and President Terry Lees, discuss issues at Fall Workshops in September.



State Board members Elaine Reeves (LWV/Arapahoe), 2nd V.P. Lois Linsky (LWV/Boulder), and Roberta Ginley (LWV/Denver) join Denver League President Nora Kimball, Arapahoe Vice President Betsy McBride, and Arapahoe President Barbara Schulmeister to hear a speaker at Fall Workshops.



Mary Rochette (Pikes Peak) &
Gerry Cummins (Arapahoe)



Child Care Study Committee 1988



Left to right: LWVUS President Ruth Hinerfeld, LWV Tennessee President, LWV Colorado President Joyce at LWVUS Convention 1980, President's Luncheon, discussing League-sponsored Presidential Debates.