

**THE GRASSROOTS OF
COLORADO LEAGUES
1929 – 1995**

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THE GRASSROOTS OF COLORADO LEAGUES

In the beginning, the Colorado Women Citizens League was a state club or board. Many of the women attracted to the organization at first were teachers, faculty wives, or business women. Some were socially prominent through the status or positions of their husbands. They were women who knew how to organize clubs and how to make them work effectively.

The first local League was Boulder, recognized on March 26, 1931. At the same meeting, a petition for a League in Greeley also was approved. The Denver Women Citizens League was recognized as separate from the State Board on February 16, 1932. Local Leagues were organized in several cities. Some faded away, but were reorganized when interest and leadership surfaced again. Records were not always complete, so there is some confusion about actual organization dates for some local Leagues. The most important and basic information comes from the histories of the Leagues as reconstructed from their own records.

LOCAL LEAGUE	ORGANIZATION DATE	LOCAL LEAGUE	ORGANIZATION DATE
Boulder	1930	Broomfield	1962[?]
Greeley	1931, 1946**	Longmont	1966
Denver	1932	Aspen-Pitkin	1970
Colorado Springs	1938	Garfield-Eagle	1973[90]
Pueblo	1938, 1949**	Delta	1978
Durango	1946	Douglas	1978
Grand Junction	1947, 1955**	Northwestern	1976[80]
Sterling	1953	*Routt	1980[94]
Westminster	1956[60]	Gunnison	1978
*Adams	1960	Fremont SLU	1980[?]
Cherry Hills	1951[69]	Chaffee SLU	1980[?]
Englewood	1954[69]	Summit SLU	1982[91]
Littleton	1956[69]	Morgan	1984
*Arapahoe	1969	Montrose	1984
Fort Collins	1952[84]	Georgetown	1990
Loveland	1968[84]	Estes Park	1991
*Larimer	1984	Archuleta SLU	1994
Aurora	1954[85]		
Jefferson	1954		
Monte Vista	1955[?]		
Rio Blanco	1961, 84**[85]		

*Merged or changed name **Reorganized [date disbanded]

Some of these dates of recognition (and/or reorganization) of local Leagues were found in minutes of State Board, Conventions, or Councils. There were mergers of local Leagues into county-wide organizations. State League Units were formed -- some gained recognition as local Leagues. Some SLUs and local Leagues disbanded. Some just seemed to "fade away," and were not heard from again. When some Leagues disbanded, their members became members-at-large, as Routt County did when they could no longer continue to function as a League. Its most active members became MALs and continued to represent the League with Voters Service activities. Colorado's state organization has always been strong.

ADAMS COUNTY — Carolyn Thompson (1991)

It seemed appropriate to me to write a brief history of the Adams County League as I remember it. I asked for help from Kay Veldorale, who was the first president, and she gave me some things from her files. I invited reminiscences from others to add to this history, because I think we should not forget these stories.

What is now the League of Women Voters of Adams County was first organized as the Westminster League of Women Voters. It began with a group of women who were acquainted by membership in the Westminster Presbyterian church, but all women from the fast-growing town of Westminster were welcomed. The town began as a sleepy little railroad stop called deSpain Junction. Later it was called Harris Park, and finally was named Westminster for Westminster College which was located on the hill. Established by the Presbyterian church, the college had belonged to the Pillar of Fire Church since 1920.

Late in 1946 and early 1947, the first subdivisions of GI homes were built in the city and the explosive post-war growth began. By 1956, the city was ready to write its first home rule charter, and with the increased interest in local government, the Westminster League was formed. Kay Veldorale accepted the position as president of the provisional League, and began work on the "Know Your City" study which was required before the League would be granted full status. A "Know Your City" booklet was published in January 1957 when Denamae Fox was president.

The first meetings were held in the red brick home of Til (Matilda) Campbell which crowned the hill at 81st and Lowell, its Dutch gable roof still a distinguished landmark in the city. By 1960, the Westminster League had attracted members from the suburbs of Northglenn, Thornton, and other areas of Adams County. We realized that we needed to be more than the Westminster League, and began the process of becoming the League of Women Voters of Adams County. This meant that we had to undertake a "Know Your County" study, with a booklet published in November 1961. Relva Wilsom was the president who oversaw the transition into the Adams County League.

In 1975, under president Joan Novy, a study of six Adams County communities was compiled, and in 1976 the "Know Your County" book was updated. The League conducted studies of school districts in Adams County, local Land use, planning and zoning, and the Tri-County Health Department. In 1987, we published "Adams County, Today and Tomorrow."

ARAPAHOE COUNTY -- (from file material)

Arapahoe County was the first of seventeen counties organized when the first Legislature of the Territory of Colorado met on September 9, 1861. Almost half of what is now the State of Colorado was called Arapahoe County when it was part of Kansas Territory. The census taken at that time found the population of the Territory to be 25,331, with about 3,000 of those people living in Denver, which was the Arapahoe County Seat.¹ The population of the county was 13,766 in 1920, had increased to 162,142 by 1970, and to 293,621 in 1980. Aurora was the third largest city in the state with a population of 158,588.² The boundaries of Arapahoe County have changed many times. In 1902, the county was divided into four parts with the eastern part designated as Washington and Yuma counties and the western part making up Adams, Denver, and the present Arapahoe County.

On March 25, 1969, a combined annual meeting was held by the Leagues of Women Voters of Cherry Hills, Englewood, and Littleton. The purpose of the meeting was the formation of the League of Women Voters of Arapahoe County, to include members of those three Leagues and any other members in the county. Nonie Ragsdale was president of the Littleton League with 140 members; Englewood's president

¹ Robert S. Lorch, **Colorado's Government**, p. 16.

² Rand McNally, **Road Atlas 1990**, p. 119.

was Doris Wells with 35 members; and the Cherry Hills League had 86 members with Ellen Reesy as president.

The Cherry Hills League had been formed on May 17, 1950, by 25 charter members, with Mrs. E.D. Gumm was the first president. Anita Ausfahl was president when the Englewood League was approved with 18 charter members on October 8, 1953. The first president of the Littleton League, Mrs. Walter Lowrie, had taken office when that group of 34 charter members was approved on September 20, 1956.

An early history of the League quotes Tom Gavin of the *Denver Post*: "The League is one of a very few which actually are what they profess to be -- political nonpartisans acting as no front for any commercial interests." District Judge Donald Smith is quoted: "League's zeal in presenting the case on behalf of children in the metro area has been perhaps the greatest contributing factor to the creation of juvenile detention facilities."

Columnist Garrett Ray wrote of the leaders of the League in Littleton: "Someday I'm going to take a year off and write a book about a group of Littleton women who have influenced my life significantly.³ It is no coincidence that all have been active in the League of Women Voters." He went on to name Libby Bortz, Carolyn Francisco, Sally Parsons, Rosalie Schiff, and Gretchen Peacock. Ray concluded by saying: "They not only have been a model for men and women whose personal priorities include community service, they also have played an enormous part in making their community a place where people still count." These are only a few of the outstanding women who have contributed to the League's recognition as a force in the community.

BOULDER VALLEY — Elizabeth Nick (April 1991)⁴

In the fall of 1930, the Colorado State president, Mabel Costigan, asked Helen Fischer to organize a Boulder branch of the League. Helen declined, as she had just been elected President of the Colorado Federation of Women's Clubs. However, she worked with others to form a League in Boulder.

The Women Citizens League of Boulder became a reality on March 25, 1931, at the home of Mrs. W.E. Henderson. Twenty members met to elect their first officers: President, Mrs. Colin Goodykoontz; First Vice-President, Mrs. Arthur Cross; Second Vice-President, Miss Antoinette Bigelow; Secretary, Mrs. Mack Claflin; and Treasurer, Mrs. Melvin Goss.

The Boulder League became the first local chapter of the League of Women Voters to organize in the state of Colorado. Two of its officers, Mrs. Goodykoontz and Miss Bigelow, were members of the Colorado State League Board. They were part of the original group of women from Boulder, Colorado Springs, and Denver to organize the first State League of Colorado. When the State Board signed incorporation papers on May 4, 1929, they had to use the name of Women Citizen's League of Colorado, as another suffrage group in Colorado had the name of Colorado League of Women Voters. Although that group had no affiliation with the League of Women Voters of the United States, it was unwilling to give up the name. Nineteen years later, in 1940, when they did release their right to the name, the Women Citizens League of Colorado, Inc. changed its name to Colorado State League of Women Voters. The Boulder League became the Boulder League of Women Voters at the same time.

The Boulder members met at least once a month during the first League year. Topics of study included the Lane Duck Amendment, World Court, taxation, rural schools, disarmament, child welfare,

³ Garrett Ray, *"Scratch Pad: Remarkable People," Littleton Independent*, May 22, 1979.

⁴ Board Minutes of the Boulder LWV; Glennis McPhilly, *"League of Women Voters Marking 50th Year in City," Boulder Camera*, February 20, 1981; *"Personal correspondence, Voices From the Past — or Early History of the Boulder League,"* March 19, 1969.

unemployment, maternity and infants' legislation, and the YWCA work in China. The first annual meeting took place on March 16, 1932, at a Lutheran church. Thirty-two members attended. In the next few years, members studied welfare legislation, municipal power problems, the local juvenile court, traffic problems, child delinquency, and public health in Boulder County.

One of the major accomplishments of the Boulder League was the adoption of a city ordinance that required the pasteurization of milk. The League worked for passage of an ordinance that would insure the proper handling of raw milk from the cow to the bottle, including pasteurization. In 1969, Colleen Garnsey reported: "This meant that milk had to be conveyed to the dairy in a sanitary way which eliminated its transportation in family cars, manure spreaders, and other farm conveyances. We were attacked as enemies of the free enterprise system, and Theresa Murphy (president in 1940) received numerous anonymous phone calls and letters attacking her personal conduct. Mrs. Murphy was pregnant at the time, an occupational hazard of League presidents in those days, but managed to keep her cool and persevere until the ordinance was passed."

The war years also had an effect on the League. Membership declined as members followed their husbands and moved from Boulder. According to League members, Dorothy Thompson and Theresa Murphy held the League together. During one of those years, both were pregnant, but they carried on the work of the League. Dorothy Lewis wrote in 1969: "In the War years, we carried out a truth in labeling consumer study, with visual canned goods displayed in downtown stores." After the War, League membership grew. Members began to meet in neighborhood discussion groups. This was the beginning of the small study groups.

Local League members not only served on the local League Board but on the State Board as well. In 1948, Dorothy Thompson represented the League of Women Voters on a five-member Children's Code Commission appointed by Governor Knous to consider the revision of Colorado laws affecting children. The Commission was sued and members were subpoenaed. The day Dorothy received a subpoena, she injured her back while cleaning house and had collapsed on the bed upstairs. She heard someone calling from the front door, and told them to come upstairs as she could not move. Her subpoena was served to her in bed by a deputy sheriff.

League members continued to study and take action on various issues. They studied the garbage and trash collection system, published "City Parklands -- Their Acquisition and Operation, Including Greenbelts," and studied various aspects of the physical growth of Boulder. The League spent many years on the study of trash and garbage, gathering data. One member went down alleys to take pictures of uncovered barrels and trucks, and the League was instrumental in getting the garbage trucks and trash barrels covered.

Membership growth and influence in the community led to the establishment of an office in 1969. It was located at St. John's Episcopal Church, 2212 14th Street. In 1972-73, the office was in the County Health Building at 3450 Broadway. In 1973, office space was found in a building at the foot of the Canyon at 220 Pearl, but in 1975, the files once again were stored in the homes of Board members.

The League continues to provide opportunities for education, political activity, and public service. Kay Dugan (1981) recalls E.B. White's description of the League of Women Voters as "those high-minded, low-heeled women."

DENVER -- file material.⁵

The Denver Woman Citizens League was the first name of the LWV/Denver, and it was accepted under that name by National in 1932. The name was not changed until 1941 when the name of the state

⁵ Ruth Sherbok, *"50th Anniversary History of the League of Women Voters of Denver"* (undated).

organization was changed to the Colorado League of Women Voters at the time the incorporation of a previous (but inactive) group called the League of Women Voters had expired. It is interesting to note that Mildred Biddick was part of the original founders of our organization, and her first job was to be in charge of the Education study. In 1982, Miss Biddick was still a member of the Denver League and had played an active role for fifty years. The founding members served the League in several capacities as officers and Board members. The original group which put the League on its feet was made up of university faculty women, the wives of university faculty men, several were teachers in the Denver Public Schools, a few were wives of senators and congressmen, and some were women of wealth and social position.

Denver League meetings in 1939 and 1940 were held at the YWCA rather than in private homes. During these years there were no unit meetings. There were general membership meetings with outside speakers. Later an evening group was formed. In 1942, membership was 156. By 1943, there were 143 members. At the Annual Meeting in 1947, it was announced that discussion units had been formed in Lakewood (14 members), Capitol Hill (23 members), and Mayfair (27 members). By 1949, eight neighborhood units had been formed. In 1966, all units were reorganized, the city was divided into seven areas, and the result was 21 units.

In April 1954, the National League of Women Voters held its convention in Denver at the Shirley-Savoy. One thousand delegates attended . . . The LWVUS convention was again held in Denver on May 2-6, 1966. Sue Joshel was overall chair with 300 Denver League members helping . . . In June 1988, the national convention met in Denver for the third time, with Nora Kimball chairing the arrangements committee.

Because the League of Women Voters of Denver was the first local League organized in Colorado, it is appropriate to list those women who have been its leaders throughout its history:

1932	Mary Ruffner	1957	Ellen Pinto
1933	Edith Cherrington	1959	Sue Joshel
	Mrs. Farrington Carpenter	1961	Carolyn Starbuck
	Mildred Biddick	1963	Kate Stonington
1938	Mrs. Robert Beasley	1966	Isobel Boyle
1939	Florence Harper	1967	Mary Williams
1941	Helen Cool	1969	Kay Schomp
1942	Ziggy Woolbert	1972	Cynthia Hayes
1944	Edith Cherrington	1973	Lorie Young
1947	Edith Fidler	1977	Donna Lucero
1948	May Clark	1981	Mary Hess
1949	Elizabeth Scripture	1983	Diane Young
1950	Katherine Bowman	1985	Peggy Lehmann
1951	Betty Robinson	1987	Alice Kelly
1954	Betty Ehrhart	1991	Joan Sussman
1955	Ruth Ewing	1992	Marty Sloven

DOUGLAS COUNTY -- Patricia DeForest (1992)

Memories of founding members of the Douglas County League of Women Voters provide a rich source of information regarding early activities to replace unavailable official records. In 1976, William Noe, then the county planner, was urged by the League in Arapahoe County to encourage the formation of a League in Douglas County. When he contacted Carol Andrews, a transplanted Leaguer from Boulder, she arranged a meeting at the Pinery with Sally Swartz, a state League board member. Informal meetings were held with interested people on September 27 and October 13, 1977. Sally Swartz and Carol Andrews reported to the State Board on October 3, 1977, and approval was given to form a county-wide State League Unit made up of Members-at-Large in Douglas County.

Sonya Blackstock was elected the first chairperson at an organizational meeting held on October 26, 1977, and the group met in the homes of members. Citizen information on issues was presented at meetings in the Episcopal Church of Castle Rock. Organizing members included: Carol Andrews, Sonya Blackstock, Betty Miller, William Noe, Ruth Ranson, Lorene Shade, and Melba Sherwood. By November 1, there were 22 members, and a survey of county government had been started.

When Colorado Springs Leaguer Joe Ann Mickelsen moved to Douglas County in 1973, she recognized the need for a League. However, she was advised that the county's population of 8,000 was not large enough to sustain such a group. There also was concern that the League's nonpartisan policy would be questioned because the County's population was largely Republican. After the State League Unit was organized, she became a member and was elected vice president. Joe became president in 1978, when Sonya Blackstock resigned to be a candidate for the County Commission. Joe was elected to the State Board, as Organization Director for the terms 1981 to 1985.

The environment has been of great concern to Douglas County Leaguers from the very beginning. During the early 1980s, the SLU participated in land use and water studies under direction of the State Board and sponsored a large informational meeting on "Water Quality in Douglas County," held in Castle Rock in 1979.

A membership list for the Douglas County State League Unit in September 1983 included these names: Sonya Blackstock, Georgia Dietrick, Kathi Fortmann, Evelyn Heagney, Mary Ann LaBrash, Sally Maguire, Joe Ann Mickelsen, Josie Pike, Sharon Robbins, Claudia Scheckter, Linda Schenkein, Helen Seifert, Peggy Servass, Lorene Shade, Marian Simonsen, Lisa Spencer, and Kathie Zahorik.

In requesting a change of status from the national League office, Helen McMaster Colson prepared an excellent report, and President Joe Ann Mickelsen wrote of the Douglas County SLU:

We have been active in Douglas County since 1978 and now have members. . . Douglas County is located on the Front Range, midway between Denver and Colorado Springs. We are bordered on the north by Arapahoe County and on the south by El Paso County. Douglas is the fastest growing county in Colorado. It encompasses more than 800 square miles, part of which is in Pike National Forest, with the county seat located in Castle Rock.

Provisional League status was approved by the State Board on March 17, 1987, with May Clark and Wilma Davidson appointed as advisors. A month later, the national League board welcomed Douglas County Provisional League.

During the years when the SLU was not able to sustain steady and increasing membership, it was still a successful community organization. It had published and distributed two editions of 3,000 copies each of a "Citizens Guide to Douglas County." Corporate underwriting had funded the publications. Voter information forums and candidates meetings had been sponsored by the League before every election in several parts of the county. Douglas County also had circulated petitions to get the Motor Voter initiative on the ballot in November 1984. Members attended the meetings presented by the state League. It also was a financially secure group which reported a bank balance of \$2,554.22 on December 11, 1986.

After several years of uncertain status, recognition was granted by the national board to the League of Women Voters of Douglas County on February 27, 1990. LWVUS President Nancy Neuman wrote:

"You have taken a leadership role in introducing your community to the services provided by the League of Women Voters. We are proud to have you join the ranks of local Leagues across the nation. It is this network that is the true hallmark of the League, and, on behalf of the national board, I'm delighted to welcome the League of Women Voters of Douglas County to full-fledged League status."

At that time, the Board of Directors consisted of President Josie Pike, Program VP Sharon Van Ramshorst, Membership VP Jane Ferguson, Secretary Mary Martin, Treasurer Julie Lester, Voters Service Chair Mary Ann LaBrash, VOTER Editor Jennifer Drybread, and Chair of Transportation Study Committee Sally Maguire. Presidents of the State League Unit and the League of Women Voters of Douglas County have included: Sonya Blackstock, Joe Ann Mickelsen, Sally Maguire, Helen Seifert, Kathy Zahorik, Kathy Fortman, Josie Pike, Sharon Van Ramshorst, and Alice Ramsey.

With a population of 62,000 in 1992, Douglas County is now the fastest growing county in the state, possibly in the nation. Land use remains a primary issue. A unique contribution toward informing residents about the use of the land was made by Johanna Hardin, League member and archivist at the Philip S. Miller Public Library in Castle Rock. She compiled booklets of historical, political, and geographical information about Douglas County, then conducted a series of hiking or driving tours throughout the County. Members and their families benefited from these enjoyable tours during the summers of both 1991 and 1992.

The League of Women Voters of Douglas County has earned an exemplary reputation with the citizens of the County for the efficiency with which they have sponsored candidates meetings and issue forums for the public. Joining the media expansion of the LWVUS in 1994, the League in Douglas County co-sponsored two teleconferences, one on Groundwater and one on Health Care Reform.

GREELEY-WELD COUNTY -- Gini McGirr (1992)

In 1928, Greeley joined with Boulder, Colorado Springs, and Denver to form a 27-member Board to organize a State League. The Greeley Woman Citizens League was organized in March, 1931, with Mrs. A.L. Mumper as President. There were 28 charter members; dues were \$2.00; and the portfolios were: Child Welfare, Education, Living Costs, International Cooperation to Prevent War, Publicity, and Librarian. The Board met regularly at Miss Angell's Tea Room for its business meeting and luncheon. In 1934, the Greeley League disbanded. It seems that Greeley was over-organized, there being 60 to 70 different clubs for women, and the leadership corps was too busy to keep up with League demands. There was also a lack of interest in government.

The Greeley League was reorganized in 1945, with Mrs. Oliver Troxel as President, dues were \$3.00, and there were 21 members. It became an area League, the League of Women Voters of Greeley-Weld County in 1974, and incorporated in 1981.

JEFFERSON COUNTY -- Margaret Ann Barton (1992)

Women in Jefferson County who wanted to join the League of Women Voters in 1952 joined the Denver League because so much of Jefferson County was unincorporated open land. This worked for a time, but it soon became apparent that what these members really wanted was to study the problems of government closest to them in Jefferson County.

In 1953, ignoring the predictions that a county League would never work, some sixty Jefferson County women, members of the LWV Denver, organized the Provisional League of Women Voters of Jefferson County. In attendance at the first meeting were two three-week old babies in baskets. The board meetings were held in a milk house office on an old farm. In 1954, after completing a "Know Your County" study, they were granted full status by the national League. Jefferson County was the first county League in the country, and all subsequent county Leagues were patterned after it.

The first studies included "Jefferson County Schools" and "Sewerage: Your Problem and Mine." One of the results of the studies was the support of the bond issue for R-1 School District after it was consolidated.

The League participated in a rally and parade, parts of which were seen on Edward R. Morrow's "See It Now" television program.

Over the years, Jeffco League has studied nearly every aspect of local government, sometimes more than once. By 1963, the League found it necessary to consider that members who lived in cities and other defined areas of the County wanted to look at problems which related directly to them. And so was born the "Know Your Area of City" studies. Members living in these areas studied and published booklets on those subjects.

In the early 1960s, a state League study of "Local Government in Colorado" was adopted. As a result of this study, they found that something more was needed in the metropolitan area. Jefferson County Leaguers were the major activists, with Kay Ledyard spearheading, behind the formation of the Denver Metropolitan Area LWV. The first president was Cynthia Daniels, then a Jeffco Leaguer, and the first major action was support of the formation of the Metropolitan Sewer and Sanitation District #1.

Jeffco League also participated in a coalition to preserve open space in Jefferson County, and it was supported by a sales tax adopted by the voters. Another first! In addition to study and action on the local level, Jeffco League has been an active participant and leader in such state and metro issues as reapportionment and the formation of the Regional Transportation District.

PIKES PEAK REGION -- Celia K. Rasor (September 12, 1973)

The League of Women Voters of Colorado Springs was finally launched on February 14, 1938. Prior to this date, many efforts were made to start a League, but the major obstacle seemed to be lack of woman power to form the nucleus necessary to do the provisional work. The League's activities started with a "Know Your County" study in which the total membership of 28 participated.

In 1941, the "Bulletin" was born, recognizing that an internal communication link was needed. By this time, the League could be considered to be in full swing. The first local study -- Juvenile Protection -- was undertaken. It was called to the League's attention that juveniles were being placed in the jails without parental knowledge and in many instances without proof of guilt. The membership studied the state laws for deficits and overlapping and worked on the Children's Code. As a result of local effort, when the state convention was held in Colorado Springs in 1941, Children's Laws was adopted as a state item. The convention was held in the Antler's Hotel where lunch cost 75 cents and all-day parking in the covered garage was 25 cents!

The second study done at the local level, in 1941, was entitled "Know Your School System." The study originated because the school superintendent would not allow teachers to use the word "communism" nor use textbooks in which the word appeared. To gather facts, the League attended every school board meeting. This might well be considered the first impact of an Observers' Corps at the local level. The local budget was set at \$600.00 and \$616.00 was raised. The dues at this time were \$2.00. The membership rose from 110 to 161, making Colorado Springs the largest League in the state. Boulder had a membership of 60 and Denver, 160. In 1942, the board placed emphasis on strengthening membership and finance. The first major effort in Voters Service was undertaken in a candidate's questionnaire.

At state convention in 1943, the decision was made that Boulder and Denver should put their efforts toward building up their Leagues and the president should come from Colorado Springs. Mrs. Helen Abbott assumed the enormous task of work at the state level. The primary emphasis in the post-war 40s was on the United Nations, foreign policy, and trade. The League activated the concept of Town Meetings, and five were held to explain the role of the United Nations. January 31, 1949, was reported as one of the coldest nights that winter and there was a big turnout in "the high school" to give support on the U.N. Charter. A speakers bureau was developed to explain the amendments to the state constitution. At that time, a

distribution of 2,000 pro/con pamphlets was considered good voters service work. At the state level, support was given to legislation regarding Aid for Dependent Children, adoption laws, and improved civil service.

During Mrs. Griswold's term (1944-45), the League gave its initial support to the council-manager form of government, which had been adopted May 11, 1909. City Council declined to bring to a vote of the people a bond issue for the improvement of parks. A joint effort with the Jaycees resulted in the necessary signatures on a petition to place the item on the ballot and established the League's reputation for working in and around government. When the council-manager form of government was threatened in 1948, it was Mrs. J. Donahue and her board who suggested that a charter review commission be established. Consideration of a study of local services resulted in the merging of the city and county health departments. Activities by this time had reached such proportions that a major decision was made by the board: namely, to purchase the first mimeograph machine!

The decade of the 50s could well be called "the governmental years." Within the League, workshops held on "Know Your Town and county," resulted in the first publication of TICS-EPC or "This is Colorado Springs and El Paso County." This major publication was a five-year effort on the part of the League in collecting and coordinating governmental information at the city and county levels. The council-manager form of government was being questioned again, and on August 13, 1951, Mrs. Mills held a press conference on the importance of selecting a city manager and retaining the form of government we had. On January 20, 1955, Ruth Shaw again had to take a League stand and defend the council-manager form of government.

The community had an opportunity to understand the League's nonpartisanship. On July 1, 1952, Mrs. Shaw issued a press release explaining this role since someone in the "name of the League" had been soliciting funds for a presidential candidate. In 1954, the president's report indicated a concern that the financial drive was not doing well. The goal was \$1880 and, because it was not realized, Voters Service activities, which had become the "label" of the League, had to be curtailed.

During the 1950s, the big focus was on local government, the role of the planning commission, alerting citizens to the need for regional planning, and reminding the city that a capital improvements program should be part of the budget-making process. The concept of regional planning germinated during Betty Krouse's term of office (1955-59). The League played a major role in emphasizing comprehensive planning around issues and advocated that there be a halt to fragmentation and compartmentalization of services.

In March 1958, a conference was held at the Antler's Hotel, where about 200 persons heard the League's views on regional planning. Betty Krouse commented that the manager called her in horror that no one had showed up for the dinner meeting and the American flag they had done in red and blue jello with white marshmallows -- in honor of the occasion -- was melting rapidly. It turned out that the hotel had made an error in the date! However, the idea did not jell until 1967, when the Pikes Peak Area Council of Governments was formed. Even though its role was advisory, and still is, it was felt this was the essential step in formulating regional solutions to mutual problems.

The decade of the 60s continued with a strong emphasis on local issues. The League authored the "vacancy amendment" to the City Charter. It spelled out the procedure to dismiss a member of Council if convicted for a felony or crime. The amendment was placed on the ballot and passed. However, a code of ethics for elected and appointed officials was placed on the ballot and it failed. The League's interpretation was that it was defeated by powerful politics.

Reapportionment of the state legislature was a big issue and many public meetings were held. At the national level, the League fought the "liberty amendment," which would have abolished the income tax and allowed sale of federal properties. The work on Children's Laws had been a continuum with a special emphasis on promoting the need for the Zebulon Pike Detention Center. Julia Adams spent enormous amounts of time and energy serving on the committee designing the Center. Mrs. Huffman wrote: "I feel

the League became much better known because of this and its image as a concerned group of women strengthened." Her reference was studying the City Charter and several ordinances. It appears the "power structure of Colorado Springs" preferred a status quo. There were many debates on television and radio programs which projected the League's image in the community. It was during this era that a Leaguer launched into politics for the first time. Betty Krouse was a successful candidate for City Council in 1963, and went on to be vice-mayor by 1973.

The League's study of parks and recreation was adopted in 1949. During Shirley Kircher's term, in May 1964, an attempt to extend four lanes of Airport Road through Memorial Park was thwarted. Shirley did the illustrations for the first revision of TICS in 1964. The League was the winner with a prize-winning float in the Pikes Peak or Bust Rodeo Parade that year. The float had the theme, "Ballots, Not Bullets, Won the West." In September of 1964, the League undertook the first network election reporting service. Ninety precincts were covered at \$1.25 each. In September of 1965, the League played a large role in presentations given at the Governor's forum on regional planning, parks, urban county plan, etc. In November 1965, a new unit was formed in Pleasant Valley.

Heretofore, presidents made it a practice to attend governmental meetings, but in April of 1966, the Observers' Corps was formed and had been an integral part of League activity. In May 1966, a petition drive was conducted by the state League to get a "merit plan for judicial selection and tenure on the ballot. The efforts were successful. Carol Grimes writes that "many of the 'way-out' positions of the 60s of the LWV have become the 'in thing' of the 70s." City Council supported measures to change the City Charter, specifically with the ability to levy a 2% sales tax. The League was chastised for not supporting such a "fine, noble plan." When brought before the electorate, it fail by three to one. After the election, the League was considered prophetic! However, to support capital improvements, the League did support a 1% sales tax, exclusive of food items. After the 1966 national convention, held in Denver, the local League undertook its first study in the area of human resources.

It was during Ann Hallock's term (1967-69) that the name of the League was changed to the League of Women Voters of the Pikes Peak Region. The reason was that the League had been criticized because the president lived in the county, not in the city. Locally, we sent the first member to state board in a long time -- Roberta Bradbury, who went on to be State President.

The League took the leadership in explaining three amendments to the City Charter. These were "package deals" involving some eleven issues like utility rates, property taxes, terms of office, compensation of councilmen, etc. The amendments were defeated on July 2, 1968. League's concern for environmental quality was realized with an ordinance passed in April 1968, which banned the backyard burning of trash and leaves. The League pushed for, and succeeded in having the county farm land dedicated for park use. A successful 50th anniversary campaign was conducted and major community education projects were devoted to China, air quality, and financing government. Here again, the League can be considered "ahead of the times."

The 70s will perhaps best be remembered for the litigation effort to determine General Palmer's intent when he deeded park lands to the residents of Colorado Springs. The League, along with Springs Area Beautiful Association, collected almost 6,000 names on petitions to fight attempts by the City Council to sell or reuse park lands. Three hours of protest in city hall resulted in a nine to zero vote. However, on September 21, 1971, the League of Women Voters and SPABA sued the city to clarify the terms of General Palmer's deed. The suit (Kyer vs. the City of Colorado Springs) is pending and in final stages of resolution. In April 1972, the League stopped the city from stringing power lines over county farm property. In August 1972, the county farm land finally was deeded to the El Paso County Park and Recreation District.

Local studies concerned themselves with health needs. We worked for a housing code and a housing authority. Both passed on the ballot. Beth El School of Nursing came up for a vote again. The League lost that one; the electorate voted to continue supporting the school. A Voters Service pro/con sheet was

prepared regarding the \$15,000,000 bond issue on Memorial Hospital, and it was passed. In January 1973, League reached a consensus to fund a health planning council on a regional basis.

In 1970, the membership elected to study public transportation or the lack thereof. We opposed parts of the 1990 transportation plan and convinced ENPACS, Environmental Protection Association of Colorado Springs, that public transportation was essential to a viable downtown. A town meeting was held on September 11, 1973, which focused on the 1991 consensus of a "balanced transportation system." The second revision of TICS was done in 1970, and it was during that year's Parade of the Rockies that the League had a float, the theme being our 50th anniversary, and received an award for being runner-up.

In summation, there are many special credits due the Pikes Peak League. The state study item -- Children's Laws -- was initiated by Colorado Springs in 1941. Total League effort has resulted in a massive revision of state laws in 1966 and a continuing scrutiny in all aspects of welfare of children and youth. The Zebulon Pike Detention Center was seen as a need in the community and -- with League's leadership -- was finally established. Effectiveness in government through merging of services has always been a League guideline. The merging of both health departments was a step in the right direction. Regional planning and solutions to problems was advocated by this League in 1958, and even though Pikes Peak Area Council of Governments was not formed until 1967, the objective was accomplished. Taking unprecedented action in a litigation effort, the League, along with SPABA, deserves credit for settling once and for all the dilemma of General Palmer's park deed. Current efforts to improve public transportation for the community again placed the League in the forefront of the times. The major achievements in Voters Service have been outlined in the text.

League experience and reputation follows in public service. In 1973, the Pikes Peak Region League announced a proud roster of League members elected or appointed to public office: vice-mayor of City Council, member of the school board of Manitou Springs, chairman of City Park and Recreation Advisory Council (plus one member), vice-chairman of the Housing Authority, one member of Charter Review Commission of Manitou Springs, three members of Charter review Commission of Colorado Springs, and two members on the City Planning Commission. League members have made many other contributions and have served on a multitude of advisory committees. For an organization that started with 28 members in 1938, the record is indeed a good one!

PRESIDENTS OF THE PIKES PEAK REGION LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS:

Miss Alice Van Diest	1938-1940	Mrs. Charley Adams	1959-1962
Mrs. W. L. Abbott	1940-1944	Mrs. Max Huffman	1962-1964
Mrs. Lester Griswold	1944-1945	Mrs. L.T. Kircher	1964-1966
Mrs. J. Donahue	1945-1946	Mrs. Robert Grimes	1966-1967
Mrs. Tor Hylbom	1946-1948	Mrs. Ann Hallock	1967-1969
Mrs. H. Mills	1948-1950	Mrs. Fred E. Kyer	1969-1973
Mrs. Oren Shaw	1950-1955	Mrs. Robert Rasor	1973-
Mrs. Robert T. Krouse	1955-1959		

PUEBLO -- Alice Eikenberry (1991-1993)

Although the State League records report that a League was organized in Pueblo in 1938, the earliest existing minutes of the Pueblo League of Women Voters are dated March 7, 1947. They report that Irene Sweeney, a national LWV organizer, attended the meeting at the home of Mrs. Phil Hudspath at which Elizabeth Hudspath was elected president and Margaret Davis was elected secretary. A standing order was place for League publications, a committee appointed to work on a proposed budget, and the United Nations was selected as a discussion topic for the next meeting.

At the next regular meeting, held on March 22, 1947, State President Helen Abbott was present. The Treasurer reported 27 paid memberships and a balance of \$126.72. A committee was appointed to revise the bylaws. Miss Sweeney again visited the Pueblo League on December 17, 1947, and explained League organization and policies to a special meeting of the board.

Pueblo city government has been a most important study for the League from the beginning in 1947. The Charter and changes that had been adopted in 1911 but not enforced were studied. In 1951, the League turned its attention to the city manager form of government, and in 1953 published a "Know Your Town" booklet which sold for 20 cents. Eleanor McGinnis wrote a pamphlet on the need for a charter convention. On January 5, 1954, the city held an election to select twenty-one delegates to a charter convention. Elizabeth Hudspath was one of three women elected and served as vice-president of the convention. The new charter which provided for a true council-manager form of city government was approved in a close vote on April 6, 1954. The work of the League and other organizations were cited in the success of this measure, which brought Pueblo recognition as an All-American City by the National Municipal League.

The Pueblo League's concern for local government has resulted in continued study and action throughout the years. On March 29, 1956, Sally Snelling, who chaired the Pueblo League's local resources committee, reported that 2,600 copies of "Know Your County" had been published and were being distributed. This also was the year the League took part in a get-out-the-vote campaign chaired by Barbara Cravens. The result was that 85 percent of eligible voters in Pueblo County cast their votes in the 1956 election -- a state record. League observers attended meetings of the school board, city council, and water board.

Attention focused on the school board election in 1957, with the publication of 20,000 copies of a fact sheet prepared by the Voters Service committee: "Did you know that School District No. 60 spends 47.34 cents of your property tax dollar?" A public meeting was sponsored by the League and candidate questionnaires were sent home with school children. Voter participation increased to 3,503 from the 2,940 ballots cast in the previous school election.

The steel industry in Pueblo attracted visitors from both Germany and Japan to study manufacturing methods. League president Kay Challela reported that these foreign visitors were entertained in the homes of League members in 1953 and 1955.

Reorganization and membership increase were promoted in 1957 by President Lola Geier. Assistance had been given by State League President Elizabeth Hylbom in 1952. State President Judy Dixon now suggested that a long-range plan of programming early be adopted, so that committees would have time to prepare material for study and discussion that would hold the interest of members. The membership numbers reported at different time varied greatly. On April 29, 1958, the treasurer reported 46 members (30 participating), but on November 30, 1959, the records showed only 29 members. This was at a time when newspapers contained such comments as: "When 1200 public-spirited girls get together, you know the toast is going to burn, the roast will get overdone, and the cake will fall." A newspaper article was headlined: "Careers combine diapers, dishes, and politics."

In the 1960s, efforts were made to make the League more visible and increase membership. A League television program called DECISION was launched with a panel discussion of problems facing citizens and the water board. League president Trudie Edwards introduced the program moderated by Frank Evans. The City of Pueblo recognized the League with a proclamation of LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS WEEK, November 12 through 18, 1961. A revised edition of "Know Your County" was prepared by Myrna Berlin in 1967 and 3,000 copies were distributed.

The library system was studied by the Pueblo League in 1963, with Virginia Siegfried chairing the committee. The recommendations by the League were then used in evaluating the school libraries in the city and county. Other issues of League concern in the 1960s included: juvenile delinquency, the Head Start program, urban renewal, migrant workers, merger of city and county, fiscal structure, election laws, water, judicial reform, foreign aid, the electoral college, and voting rights in the District of Columbia.

Membership continued to be a concern for the League, and various projects were initiated. September 1966 was designated "Membership Month," with a tea held at the Republic National Bank that brought 23 new members. The League was a grand prize winner in a table decorating contest at the Pueblo County Club with a blue and white United Nations table that included candles and a centerpiece topped by a white dove. This earned \$125 for the League and gave it good publicity. By the end of the decade, the membership had reached a record of 81 paid members.

During the 1980s, the Pueblo League studied and sponsored forums on hazardous waste disposal, health care, school libraries, city charter, Colorado revenue, the Colorado constitution, transportation (both city and state), child care, national security, feminization of poverty, meeting basic needs, and agriculture. Leaders who represented the League on community boards included Karen Weideman, Jean Porter, Peggy Ergavec, Milly Carlo, SR Joan Hentges, Judy Howard, Eloise Phelps, Patricia Perez-Sweeney, Gwen Speaks, and Jan Garcia. Jan also was Voters Service Director on the LWVCO Board in 1978 and again in 1981-85, where she coordinated debates of candidates for U.S. Senate and Colorado Governor.

Betty Gordon was recognized in a newspaper article, "Senior Activist," in 1978 and in a 1983 article, "Age: Asset for Use by Community." At 72, Betty was commended for participation on the Human Resources Commission, Pueblo Regional Council on Aging, Sangre de Cristo Arts and Conference Center, League of Women Voters, and the social action committee of her church.

Networking by the Pueblo League produced a series of six weekly programs on health care in 1982, entitled "Citizen Leadership in Health Care: A Woman's Perspective." Eloise Phelps planned this series and worked with cosponsors YWCA, AAUW, Republic Bank, and the Southeast Colorado Area Health Education Center. A Legislative Day in 1987 and a workshop on Individual Liberties in 1988 were cosponsored by the Pueblo League. Jean Williams planned the workshop.

Ready to tackle controversy, the Pueblo League supported a proposed increase in city sale and use taxes in 1984, because it promoted sound economic growth and development in the community. In 1983, there was an attempt to return Pueblo to the mayoral form of city government. The League prepared a fact sheet which compared the pros and cons of the proposed city charter amendment, and made them available at libraries, the Chamber of Commerce, and banks. A League-sponsored televised forum presented the candidates and the issue which was defeated.

Again in 1986 and 87, the League was involved in study of the city charter when negotiations broke down between the city and the labor unions, and a special election had to be held. Margaret Pullum, League observer at Council meetings, suggested changes that would improve methods. Pat Hamann prepared a news release for the Pueblo Chieftain on November 1, 1987, "Study urges city to add mediation." The city did follow the recommendations of the League to get training in mediation.

Publication of a Voter's Guide began in 1982. It was distributed each year throughout the community and was considered the most appreciated contribution by the League. In 1989, the Voter's Guide was published in the U.S. West telephone directory. For several years, the Pueblo League worked with the County Clerk's office to get high school seniors registered to vote. In 1989, the Holiday Inn presented a trophy to each high school that registered fifty percent of its senior class. At the League's school board candidates forum on April 28, every high school in Pueblo received a trophy!

Beverly Poor was one of the League members who toured the Soviet Union with LWVUS President Nancy Neuman in 1989, and was successful in bringing to the Sangre de Cristo Art Center a display of art pieces by Soviet children.

Fundraising, always a concern, was successful in Pueblo when Leaguers sold Gold C books, accepted advertising in the bulletin, Rachel Slobodnik and Jean Williams did exit polling in the 1988 election, sales of

League visors, collected grocery receipts for refunds, precinct reporting for the Denver Post, and with the help of seven teenagers, directed parking for July 4 fireworks.

Pueblo Leaguers were praised by the State Board when they circulated petitions for the extension of the Sunshine Law, and exceeded their quota of signatures. The issue failed to gain a place on the ballot, but Pueblo tried!

An important issue in the 1990s was Domestic Violence. At the unit, several suggestions for action included: assist victims after a crime, accompany them to court and refer them to supportive agencies, help with a monetary donation, and print a victim's information section in the newspaper every month. The League issued a Position Statement on Domestic Violence in September 1993. Among twenty-two organizations that participated, the League's one-page advertisement was printed in the Pueblo Chieftain on November 20, 1993, under the heading NO! TO DOMESTIC VIOLENCE, and read as follows:

THE PUEBLO LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS believes action is necessary to address the domestic violence problem in Pueblo. Support for victims includes shelter, safehouses, and counseling. Programs are needed to both train and utilize victim advocates. The effectiveness of domestic violence treatment both the victim and perpetrator needs to be studied.

In the spring of 1991, the Pueblo League could not find anyone to accept the presidency as so many members were employed and did not feel they had the time. At the Annual Meeting, President Rita Sims reported that State President Pat Johnson had suggested that the League try a shared-board responsibility plan. Board members present agreed that the First Vice President would prepare the agenda, conduct meetings, and act as spokesperson. Bev Moore accepted these responsibilities for 1991-93. At the 1992 Annual Meeting she reported that the plan had worked well, and was "exciting and never dull!" Pat Hamann took over those responsibilities for 1993-1995.

As of November 1993, the Pueblo League of Women Voters had 45 members -- mostly middle-aged and older, with no need for baby sitters! The unit meets twice a month at a restaurant between 11:30 AM and 1:00 PM to accommodate the many working members. There are two male members.

Presidents of the Pueblo League:

1945-1947	Margaret Davis	1971-1973	Judy Witt; Dee Clary
1947-1948	Elizabeth Hudspeth	1973-1975	Jerry Abbott
1948-1949	Mrs. Van Camp	1975-1979	Jan Garcia
1949-1951	Elizabeth Hudspeth	1979-1981	Beverly Moore
1951-1952	Marie Fraley	1981-1983	Theresa Cain
1952-1953	Eleanor Evans	1983-1985	Karen Wiedemann; Margaret Leonard and Beverly Poor;
1953-1955	Kay Chellela		Jan Garcia
1955-1956	Meredith Davis		Jan Garcia; Beverly Moore
1956-1957	Adeline LKeonard; Mrs. W.H. Lee	1985-1987	Beverly Poor and Virginia Nordyke
1957-1959	Sally Snelling	1987-1989	Rita Sims
1959-1961	Mrs. Thomas R. Edwards, Jr.	1989-1991	Shared board responsibility;
1961-1963	Addie Raich; Peggy Fogel	1991-1993	Beverly Moore, 1st VP
1963-1965	Eleanor Heath		Shared board responsibility;
1965-1967	Harriet McCalpin	1993-1995	Pat Hamann, 1st VP;
1967-1969	Virginia Siegfried and Virginia Bradfield		Betty Alt, 1st VP
1969-1971	Virginia Bradfield; Judy Witt		

STERLING -- Margaret Garner (1993)

When the League of Women Voters of Sterling had its organization meeting on March 30, 1953, Miss Katherine Gurnett, organizational secretary of the LWVUS, and Mrs. Robert Dixon, state organizer, were present. The steering committee of Mmes. Vance Austin, Lester Garner, J.P. Ellis, Henry Martin, and Jack Bagby met at the Junior High (now the abandoned Sexon School). They appointed a nominating committee made up of Miss Eloise Mallo and Mmes. Dave Hamil, Janet Grauberger, Ervin Carlin, Jack Bagby. The elected officers:

President -- Janet Arnold	Secretary -- Mrs. Brad Carrington
1st VP -- Margaret Garner	Treasurer -- Barbara Speltz
2nd VP -- Mrs. John Elliott	

Janet Arnold and Margaret Garner are still members of the Sterling League. One month later, April 30, 1953, the sixteen members became a provisional League.

This was at the height of Sen. Joe McCarthy's (R-WI) "witch hunt" through the Unamerican Activities Committee, of which he was the chairman. Although he failed in his effort to make the League suspect, he did inspire Sterling's DAR and the VFW Auxilliary to send a few people to our organization meeting to discover who in this town might be "pinkos." McCarthy's accusation made front-page headlines, but the belated withdrawal of the charge -- a scant couple of sentences -- was relegated to the last page of the newspaper.

These 45 women were members of the Sterling League when it was officially recognized on August 20, 1953: Mmes. Janet Arnold, Margaret Garner, Irene Lipson, Beth McElwain, Mabel Schlatter, Anna Petteys, Margaret Martin, Hazel Osborn, Lucille Beery, Gen Hamil, Mary June Myers, Brad Carrington, Eloise Mallo, Ethel Friess, Jack Bagby, W.C. Myers, J.J. Thompson, Don Sharp, Haywood Harrison, Ray Johnson, Forrest Belthus, Gene Curlee, Graydon Dowis, Charles Lehrer, Bert Howe, W.C. Kruger, Ruth Tarbox, Virginia Thorson, Henry Montgomery, Frank Joskiewiez, W.L. Rasmussen, M.J. Peterson, J.A. Harris, Vera Graham, Don Hagameier, Otto Unfug, J.A. Parham, _____ McWhirter, _____ DeJarnette, Barbara Spelts, John Elliott, Janet Grauberger, Ray Towne, Vance Austin, T.M. Rogers.

Sterling's League members took part in the United Nations Week celebration in October of 1953, as we have most years since. We had a float in the Fair Parade, urging citizens to vote. It consisted of the Arnold's standard poodle sporting a sign that read: "I'm registered -- Are you?"

The mandated studies -- Know Your City, County, and State Governments -- were rigorously pursued. The state and national topics were always a part of the program of the Sterling League. We even tackled the federal budget in 1954! But Voters Service has received our most consistent effort throughout the years, no matter how lean the membership has been at times. We learned that our most faithful donors from the business community make their contributions in appreciation of our Voters Service activities --candidates' night, amendment talks, stuffing thousands of Public Service bills with voter registration information. For many years, we have distributed the most ballot issue pamphlets of any League in the state through our friendly banks including them in statements to their customers for a very effective coverage of the area.

Since 1954, the Sterling League has been represented at almost all state and national League conventions. We've missed not more than three or four in all! Of Sterling Leaguers who have been members of the State Board, the first was Margaret Garner, in 1956. She chaired committees that published studies of Colorado's Water Resources, Juvenile Delinquency, Children's Laws, and the Colorado Children's Code. Margaret was the first State Board chair of the national and state water resources studies. Edith Evans and Jean Williamson also have served on State Board.



Mary June Myers, Margaret Garner and Beth McElwain review the Sterling Area League of Women Voters' history book as the organization celebrates its 40th anniversary. (SPS Photo Courtesy of LVW.)

League celebrates 40th anniversary

Many from our ranks have served on Colorado state committees, boards, and commissions. These include the State Child Welfare Advisory Board, the first Governor's Committee on Licensing Child Care in Colorado, and the Colorado Health Facilities Review Council. Melba Hastings, a Sterling LWV member, was elected to the General Assembly in 1978 and served in the House for two terms. Other Sterling LWV members have been elected to the county commission, city council, mayor, school board, and various other local and regional boards and committees.

High priority of the Sterling LWV has been making a difference in our own community, and most new members have been attracted by our local study items -- recreation, city charter, our education dollar, women's resources, etc. In 1991, we published our third (an update) of "Know Your Community." It was a comprehensive study of the region, its history, resources, and infrastructure -- with emphasis on citizen responsibility for participation and voting.

Presidents of the Sterling League:

1953-54	Janet Arnold	1971-73	Joanne Jefferies
1954-55	Mrs. Brad Carrington	1973-75	Shirley Inskip
1955-56	Beth McElwain	1975-77	Pat Newlin
1956-58	Sara Sheriff	1977-79	Dorothy Snyder
1958-60	Mabel Schlatter	1979-81	Jean Williamson
1960-62	Margaret Garner	1981-83	Mary Jane Neimann
1962-64	Mary June Myers	1983-84	Elaine Reeves
1964-66	Edith Evans	1984-86	Deby Williamson
1966-68	Joanna Fechter	1986-87	Dr. Alta Price
1968-71	_____	1987-88	Mary Jane Niemann (Acting)

Co-presidents:

1988-89	Mary Jane Niemann and Joanne Jefferies
1989-90	Joanne Jefferies and Jean Williamson
1990-91	Jean Williamson and Mary June Myers
1991-92	Mary June Myers and Diana Brungardt
1992-93	Joanne Jefferies and Jean Williamson (Acting)
1993-95	Pat Hostbjor and Cathy Heckel

At the anniversary celebration, certificates of recognition were presented by President Pat Hostbjor to Margaret Garner, Janet Arnold, Mary June Myers, and Beth McElwain for their membership and numerous contributions to the League since 1953. The Sterling League of Women Voters has made a difference in this community.⁶

ARCHULETA COUNTY -- Jenny Schoenborn

The League of Women Voters State Unit of Archuleta County is the LWVCO's newest League. The first meeting of the League, held on October 5, 1994, was attended by 15 members-at-large.

The League's first Voter Service activity, a Candidate's Night/ Ballot Issues Forum was held on October 26. It was a resounding success. Eleven candidates, 5 non-candidate local officials, and six proponents and opponents of ballot issues participated in the Forum. There were over 200 people in the audience.

A Parliamentary Procedures Workshop was hosted by the League. The current 30 members are planning several exciting events for 1995.

⁶ *"League Celebrates 40th Anniversary," South Platte Sentinel* (Sterling, August 1993)