



LEAGUE OF
WOMEN VOTERS®

Voter

Mesa County
Colorado

December 2011

Upcoming Meetings & Activities

A Look Inside

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LWVMC
Calendar

League of Women
Voters of Mesa County
P.O. Box 4252
Grand Jct, CO
81502

www.lwvmesa.org

54 Members

December 12th - MCLWV Annual Wine & Cheese Reception

5pm, Hampton Inn downtown Grand Junction

The Mesa County League of Women Voters Board has decided to make this year's Annual Wine & Cheese an event! We have reserved a meeting space in the Hampton Inn in downtown Grand Junction for our annual event. The Annual Wine & Cheese will be on Monday, December 12th from 5pm-8pm. All League members are asked to bring an appetizer to share that evening. The League will provide the wine and service.

January 9th - The Impact of Coming Home Benefit to Our Community

7pm Presentation, Community Hospital, Basement

Dr. Dave Hildebrand, Director of Veterans Center of Grand Junction

Join us as we learn of the difficulties our Veterans experience upon returning home to the Grand Valley and the support and resources offered to them through The Vet Center. Dr. Hildebrand will also provide an overview of Post-Traumatic Stress Syndrome and Traumatic Brain Injury.

Dr. Hildebrand is the Director of the Vet Center of Grand Junction. The Vet Center Program was established by Congress in 1979 out of the recognition that a significant number of Vietnam era vets were still experiencing readjustment problems. Vet Centers are community based and part of the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs. Additionally, family members of all veterans are eligible for Vet Center services as well. Nationwide there are 350 Centers, the Grand Junction office was established in 2008.

January 23th - Healthcare: Our Ongoing Conversation with Dr. Michael Pramenko

7pm Presentation, Mesa Mall Community Room

Dr. Michael Pramenko, Primary Care Partners Family Physician

We welcome back Dr. Michael Pramenko to update us on the myriad of changes, challenges and solutions within the Federal Affordable Care Act. We will learn about the status of the Act and federal implementation as it impacts state and local health care delivery and service. Michael Pramenko is a family practice physician with Primary Care Partners and is immediate past President of the Colorado Medical Society. He authors and speaks at the local and state level on the healthcare issues.

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All board meetings will be held on the fourth Monday of the month at 5:15 at the location of the scheduled unit meeting. All members are welcome to attend.

President's Note

I am excited about our Wine & Cheese Event December 12th at the downtown Hampton Inn. It is often difficult for me to motivate on a cold winter evening, but I will likely be the last one to leave because there are so many wonderful League members, community guests, legislators and officials that make the Annual Wine and Cheese festive and fun. If you find a local winemaker (or cheese maker) who wants to donate, we will reciprocate with some advertising.

Notice the League Board Meeting highlights in the Voter. We will summarize our board business as a way to communicate what is in the works for League. Especially as we move into a major election year, I expect that our board and our members will be re-energizing and organizing to meet our mission and goals. We are very lucky to have a board with diverse skills and the commitment to this mission. With each board meeting I continue to be pleasantly surprised at the willingness of each board member to take on more chores and strategize solutions to some of our challenges. In January we will be requesting help with nominating committee as well as our budget planning in preparation for our Annual meeting in April. There are still some inviting programs to come, and as usual I invite you to visit the website; www.lwvmesa.org to look ahead at our events and bring your attitude to the meetings.

I was astonished at the response to our membership fundraising requests. We have a very generous group of members. Thank you for going above and beyond to support LWVMesa. Happy holidays to you and your families & wishing you a peaceful and prosperous New Year.

Respectfully,

Tanya Travis
President
LWV Mesa County

Look What's New

Board Highlights from November 30th Meeting

- The annual fiscal review is complete thanks to Stephanie for organizing the material and Linda Rose and Mary Adams for their careful review and report to the Board.
- Membership list is updated and it looks like approximately \$1000.00 in extra contributions!
- We are now registered with the Secretary of State as a distinct non-profit entity doing business as a 501(c)4, perhaps giving us additional liability protection.
- Western Colorado Community Foundation has awarded our LWVCO Education Fund with \$1000.00 to be used for next year's Voter Guide.
- We will be updating the Civic Guide online for resourcing local elected officials in order to keep current with the steady stream of changes.
- The board will update signature on the Bank of Colorado and Bank of the West CDs. Additionally we will move them upon maturity to a money market account per the recommendations of the annual review.

Meetings and Activities Report

**Post-Election Potluck Celebration, Nov 14th
Federal and State Updates - Aging in Mesa County;
The Good, The Bad and The Ugly
Dave Norman, Director Area Agency on Aging**

Our guest speaker Dave Norman is the Director of our area agency on Aging. We are in region 10 as the Northwest Colorado Area and Dave is the newly appointed representative to Colorado Long Term Care Advisory Committee.

The Area Agencies on Aging were established under the Older Americans Act (OAA) in 1973 to respond to the needs of Americans 60 and over in every local community. AAA's make it possible for older adults to remain in their homes and communities as long as possible. They are a part of a national network of agencies that provide services to any person age 60 or older without regard to income, sex or ethnicity. We have 660+ AAA nationwide, 16 in Colorado. We have several handouts that we will keep on the membership table if you missed this presentation.

-Tanya Travis


**CMU- From College to University
Benefit to Our Community, Nov 28th
Tim Foster, President of CMU**

Tim Foster, the President of the Board of CMU gave us a history and description of the process by which Mesa State evolved into a university. He reported that surveys were used to make a decision about the perception of our school, the name by which we could brand Colorado as the State in which it is located, and how important critical mass is for cost savings to provide quality higher education.

The progress is not without growing pains, and to complicate this endeavor, state funding is expected to be zero by the year 2016. Colorado Mesa University draws from the same achieving students as CSU, CU, and other major Colorado Universities. By transitioning into one local board we gain autonomy with decisions that allow the university to adapt to the needs of our community, both from the quality of education to the cost saving measures that will be required to survive.

-Tanya Travis

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League Announcements

Meet ALEC

Elisabeth MacNamara, LWV President

ALEC isn't a guy. ALEC, the American Legislative Exchange Council, is a factory for anti-voter legislation, funded by power barons like Kraft Foods, McDonalds, Pfizer and the Koch brothers. They are the driving force behind the recent flood of discriminatory voter ID laws, like the one in Texas, where a state-issued concealed handgun permit is an acceptable form of identification...but a state-issued student ID from a university is not. The League is working tirelessly to fight back against these voter suppression schemes that could disenfranchise up to 5 million Americans in next year's elections. Voter impersonation is not the epidemic that these special interest groups would have you believe. Here are the facts:

5 Myths About Voter Impersonation

MYTH: Voter impersonation is a widespread problem.
FACT: Between 2002 and 2007, after undertaking a massive investigation into voting irregularities, the U.S. Justice Department did not prosecute a single individual for impersonating another voter at the polls.

MYTH: Third party registration drives contribute to voter impersonation.
FACT: Since 2008, only 31 cases of suspected voter impersonation have been reported to Florida authorities. But due to a restrictive new law there, the League has been forced to suspend its Florida voter registration activities for the first time in 72 years.


MYTH: Everyone either has an ID or can easily obtain one.
FACT: 11 percent of eligible voters or about 21 million people, don't have updated, state-issued photo IDs. Furthermore, most states require producing a passport or birth certificate to get one. This presents a tremendous burden for people who work multiple jobs, lack transportation, have disabilities, live outside the state they were born, are poor or elderly.

MYTH: Election Day registration invites voter impersonation.
FACT: An investigation by the Secretary of State in Maine – which was the first state to adopt Election Day registration – did not find evidence of voting irregularities due to same day registration.


MYTH: Early voting increases voter impersonation.
FACT: Incidents of impersonation in early voting are just as rare as they are in Election Day balloting. A CBS News report on 17 early voting states revealed no widespread signs of irregularities in the 2008 elections.

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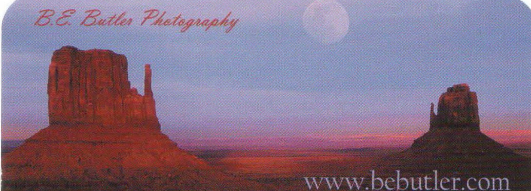


Peggy Cox
 Broker Associate



Community Hospital

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Annual Membership Dues, renewable October 1st

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___ Introductory First Time or Student\$35
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Please make check payable to LWVMC and mail to:
P.O. Box 4252, Grand Jct, CO 81502

LWVMC Calendar

Dec

12 Mon Wine & Cheese Reception, 5pm,
Hampton Inn – Downtown GJ

Jan


9 Mon The Impact of Coming Home
Benefit to Our Community, 7:00pm,
Community Hospital Basement

23 Mon Healthcare: Our Ongoing Conversation
with Dr. Michael Pramenko, 7:00 p.m.
Mesa Mall Community Room

Visit our NEW website for program and voter information and to access archived copies of the VOTER.

www.lwvmesa.org

Our website is hosted free of charge by ACS



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Suzie Reel, *Voter* Editor

**LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS®
OF MESA COUNTY**

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The League of Women Voters of Mesa County, a nonpartisan political organization, encourages informed and active participation in government, works to increase understanding of major public policy issues, and influences public policy through education and advocacy.