



# *League Lines*

**The Newsletter of the League of Women Voters of Larimer County**

## Administrative Team

Rosemary Bergstrom  
206-0442  
rosemary.bergstrom@gmail.com

Judy Bushnell  
493-9674  
jabms@frii.com

Nancy Crow  
797-2819  
nancyccrow@comcast.net

Florence Field  
495-1896  
fnfield@comcast.net

Janet Fritz  
221-0073  
jjfritz@q.com

Irene Fortune  
613-0966  
vladimir1992@hotmail.com

Linda Hutchinson  
667-9214  
lindahutchinson@frii.com

Carol Rush  
667-5077  
crush@frii.com

Mary Jo Shafer  
482-4399  
mjshafe@msn.com

## September Calendar of Events

Thursday, September 3 Noon—2	Admin Team Meeting Judy Bushnell's, 812 East Lake St., Fort Collins
Tuesday, September 8 10 AM	Sustainability Team Meeting Carol Rush's, 2651 North County Road 29, Loveland
Sunday, September 13 4:30—6:30	Mad as Hell Doctors' Tour Rally Oak Street Plaza, Fort Collins (followed on Monday by a carpool to rally in Denver at noon)
Monday, September 14 5:45—8:50 p.m.	Back-to-League Night Loveland All Saints Episcopal Church, 3448 North Taft
Wednesday, September 16 Noon	Health Care Team Meeting, 708 Birky Place, Fort Collins
Thursday, September 24 7:00 p.m.	CrossCurrents Fort Collins City Council Chambers, 300 LaPorte Avenue
Saturday, September 26	League Day Holiday Inn Select, Denver

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## Mad As Hell Doctor's Tour - September 13 in Fort Collins

Furious with the health care 'options' coming out of Washington, D.C., seven "Mad as Hell" Oregon physicians are taking an unprecedented road trip across America to lobby Congress for a single-payer health care system.

Called a "Care-A-Van," these road-tripping Oregon physicians will leave in a used motorhome from Portland, Oregon on September 8th, inviting doctors and ordinary citizens from other states to join them on their twenty-city tour across the country. Their journey will culminate in a D.C.-based protest event on September 30th, scheduled to take place on the steps of Congress.

"We're doing this because we care," declares Dr. Gene Uphoff, a retired family physician from Portland.

During their stopover in Fort Collins Health Care for All Colorado has planned a rally at the **Oak Street Plaza in Fort Collins from 4:30-6:30 pm on Sunday, September 13.** (In case of inclement weather it will be moved to Community of Christ Church, 220 E. Oak St.) Local singer/songwriter Kathryn Mostow, the Myth-Busters street theatre troupe and the physicians are on the program.

On Monday morning at 10 AM the caravan will head to Denver where a noon rally on the west steps of the Capitol will be held. Local activists are encouraged to join in; carpools will be formed. For details contact Nancy Crow <[nancycrow@comcast.net](mailto:nancycrow@comcast.net)> For more information log on

<<http://www.MadAsHellDoctors.com>>

## Fall Round Up Underway!

We'll be rounding up all League members at our official Back-to-League Night on September 14, from 5:45 to 8:50 this year at All Saints Episcopal Church, 3448 North Taft, in Loveland. This is the same site that we have met at for the past two fall meetings, just a few blocks south of the signal at 37<sup>th</sup> and Taft. (Remember that Taft is called Shields in Fort Collins.)

This will be a good chance to meet up with fellow League members, share dinner and conversations, and take part in an interesting program. Kay Easley, as our Mistress of Ceremonies for the evening, will lead off with some introductions. We have some brainstorming to do on the topic, "What I still need to know about the League of Women Voters." (Maybe between now and the 14<sup>th</sup> you might be thinking about that topic.) Our speaker for the evening is Gary Wochner who will speak on "How is climate change affecting our water supply? What can groups like ours, and what can individuals do, to make a difference?"

We hope to see many of our members, and potential members, too, on the 14<sup>th</sup>. Please contact Nancy Crow 797-2819 or [nancycrow@comcast.net](mailto:nancycrow@comcast.net) not later than September 10 to make your reservation. Let her know if you would like to bring a salad, bread, or dessert/fruit --- or pay \$6 instead of bringing something.

**It's time** to renew your membership in the League! Please bring your dues (\$55) and member survey to the September 14 meeting OR mail them by September 21 to the League at 305 W. Magnolia St. #106; Fort Collins, CO 80521.

**Thank you!**

## Member Orientation - September 18

Following on the well- received League Birthday party last February we will host a "get acquainted with League" tea party on Friday, September 18 from 3:30- 5:30 pm at the home of Sidna Rachid, 1002 Alexa Court in Fort Collins. It's an informal time of refreshments and conversation about the League's history, mission, structure and activity designed to orient new and prospective members to our organization. And, there will time for questions and meeting other new members. If you know of a prospective member please invite them to attend! RSVP to Linda Mahan 484-2259 or <[Lmahan@alum.bu.edu](mailto:Lmahan@alum.bu.edu)>

## League Day Set for September 26

A full day of League activities is scheduled for League Day, Saturday, September 26, at the Holiday Inn Select in Denver. This is always a good time to meet LWVCO leaders and network with other League members from around Colorado. In addition, an impressive group of speakers will address some of the pressing problems facing us today:

- Allison Eid, Colorado State Supreme Court Justice : Judicial Issues and Diversity in the Judicial System
- Maranda Pleau: Federal Stimulus money in Colorado
- Alicia Archibald, Pueblo Sustainability Planner: Real Community—Real Sustainability
- Irene Aguilar, M.D., President of Healthcare for all Colorado: Understanding Colorado Healthcare Financing and Reform

Registration forms are on the front page of this month's "Colorado Voter" and will be available at our own Back-to-League Night on September 14 as well. The \$32 registration fee, covering conference materials, morning snack, and lunch, is due at the LWVCO office no later than September 18. Because we feel this conference offers League members a great chance to meet Leaguers from throughout the state and become better informed about important topics, we hope to have a strong delegation from Larimer County. The Admin Team has voted to reimburse any attendee \$15 of the registration fee to help defray the cost of the event.

Please contact Carol Rush at 667-5077 or [crush@frii.com](mailto:crush@frii.com) if you have any questions and to arrange for car pools for the conference.

## Making a Difference?

*Jeanne Watson Eisenstadt*

Reading the following led me to wonder whether the League, also, might benefit by reviewing the extent to which our activities are directed toward making a difference, whether it be in terms of sustainability or one of the many others fields in which the League is involved.

In August, 2008, Alan E. Kazdin delivered his presidential address, "Psychological Science's Contributions to a Sustainable Environment", to the American Psychological Association (APA), the professional organization of American psychologists. Towards the end of his talk he commented,

:"...APA and other organizations at state, national, and international levels, as well as government agencies, routinely commission task forces or panels to take stands, craft position statements and make resolutions or trainloads of recommendations that never leave the station. Information and clarified positions are useful, but not as ends in themselves in relation to a degrading environment. Our contributions in fostering environmentally sustainable behaviors should be judged by whether they make a difference on metrics that reflect their impact on the environment."

## Notice

Our website ([lww-larimercounty.org](http://lww-larimercounty.org)) has been undergoing repairs due to hacking. We are happy to report that the website is now fixed and up and running once again .

Although we don't believe the problem actually harmed anyone's computer, if you visited our website recently (since MID-JULY) we recommend that you run an in-depth scan of your computer with your computer security program.

If you don't have a computer security program, Del Hunter, owner of CMIT Solutions, a computer consulting company, has suggested the free program at [www.malwarebytes.org](http://www.malwarebytes.org).

We are sorry for the inconvenience.

## Affordable Housing Team

The Affordable Housing Team prepared a chart of affordable housing available in Loveland for the Loveland Affordable Housing Commission in July. The overview listed sponsoring agency, location, number of units, unit type, occupancy qualifications, monthly cost, funding sources and related services provided, such as counseling. We also talked about how the agencies work together, offer other programs (for example housing related classes) and the importance of housing in developing economic stability for the families. The presentation was well received and the Commission appreciated having all the information compiled in one place, making it easy to compare projects. The chart was distributed to Loveland City Council members. Copies will be available at Back to League Night September 14.

As we're going about our League work this year, we all need to keep in mind the amount budgeted for our various activities. Also, it is really important to either submit expense receipts for reimbursement or keep track of expenses where reimbursement is not desired and making an in kind contribution of them. The treasurer thanks you very much for your cooperation!

## Sustainability

The Sustainability Team has been active this summer. Two of our members, Bonnie Adamson and Georgia Locker, are meeting with a new state Sustainability Team, to write a definition of sustainability and determine positions the League already has at the state and national level that deal with sustainability. We have found businesses, energy companies, and manufacturers who are leading the way in their practices to become sustainable. We will be presenting a program this coming year, dealing with the subject, and come to concurrence which will then lead to action. We have also been dealing with Northern Colorado's future as far as transportation options are concerned. And, several persons have been involved with the uranium mining possibility in northern Colorado.

## Update on Loveland's Affordable Housing Commission

After many years of study and work, the Loveland Affordable Housing Commission is having a measurable impact on Loveland policy. This summer, the City Council adopted the Commission's recommendation for Predictable Fee Waivers to be used in providing incentives for developers of affordable housing. The Council will use the matrix developed by the Commission in granting the fee waivers for those requesting them. Heading into a project, the developer would know what kind of encouragement to expect from the City for low income housing, although the Council retains the right to grant or refuse to grant the waivers depending on the type of development and the amount of money the City has available in its budget. At the very next Council meeting after this policy was adopted, an applicant applied for a fee waiver under the new system!

Next on the docket for the Commission is the writing, along with City staff, of a new Density Bonus policy. This would allow for relaxation of density requirements in the case of an applicant who guarantees to build a percentage of affordable units in new proposed development.

Observing for the LWVLC at the Affordable Housing Commission has been an interesting activity and has broadened my understanding of how local government meets the needs of the community. Elsewhere in this "League Lines," Marilyn Heller has written about how some of us on the League's Affordable Housing Team came before this group to do our bit to help them with their job by presenting a chart of housing choices in Loveland for low income people and families. If you are interested in the Observer Corps, contact Janet Fritz, the Coordinator of this group. *Carol Rush*

### Roster Changes

Please make the following changes to your roster.

Jeanne Eisenstadt's e-mail address is now [jeisen@q.com](mailto:jeisen@q.com).

## International Relations Great Decisions

Our first meeting this fall will be on **Monday, October 5** when Great Decisions will focus on “Universal Human Rights.”

*As the Universal Declaration of Human Rights celebrates its 60th anniversary, events in the Balkans, Sudan and Myanmar continue to challenge its idealism, while raising new questions about the prospects for humanitarian interventions. Do human rights transcend national borders and customs? Is the definition of human rights changing?*

Meetings are at Plymouth Congregational Church, 916 West Prospect Road in Fort Collins. We meet between 11:30 a.m.- 1:30 p.m. Feel free to bring a brown bag lunch. Guests are welcome.

The topics on November 2 and December 7 will be “Cuba After Castro” and “The Arctic,” respectively.

Orders for the 2010 books will be taken in October.

### DVD's Available for Free Loan

From January through May of this year, the Faith and Film consortium of Fort Collins sponsored monthly programs about the UN Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). Some of the DVDS shown at these programs are now available for free loan to groups who would like to show them at programs of their own (shipping would be extra). It is recommended that you make your request at least two weeks in advance. Unless otherwise noted, the films run about 30 minutes in length.

To borrow a DVD, e-mail or call:  
Margaret Smith (United Nations Association,  
Northern Colorado Chapter)  
MacSmith36@aol.com (970)493-3857

Available titles:

MDGs: Myth or Reality (an overview)  
I Want to Go to School (girls struggle with tradition, poverty, education)  
Building Peace...Once School at a Time (Central Asia Institute...“Three Cups of Tea” group) (10 minutes)  
Water First (how clean water is necessary to all MDGs)  
Breaking Through: Year of Microcredit  
The EU and UN: The Natural Partnership

## The Osher Lifelong Learning Institute Offers Fall Courses of Interest to League Members

The Osher Lifelong Learning Institute at Colorado State University is a unique learning community for adults “age 50 and better” (though creative minds of ALL ages are welcome!) Osher offers the very best in continuing education with no prerequisites, no tests, no stress. Designed to challenge and inform, three of the Fall classes should be of particular interests to LWV members. These are listed below.

If you become an Osher member, you can sign up to take our short courses (each with a separate tuition base) and also take part in various lectures, tours, or book club at no cost above and beyond the \$ 35 membership fee. Course offerings, as well as membership information, can be found on: <http://www.learn.colostate.edu/osher/> or call 491-7753 to request that a hard copy be mailed to you.

### *Composing American Democracy: The Values and Ideas of the U. S. Founding Documents*

Many of the debates (sometimes polarizing) that were part of our recent presidential election are certainly not new. This course explores the values and ideas that formed American democracy as expressed in the key documents of the political founding .

**Time:** 6 - 8 p.m.

**Dates:** Tuesdays: September 15, 22, 29, October 6, 13, 20 (6 weeks)

### *The Future of the U. S. Supreme Court*

This course will focus on the court’s significant role in our democracy, how cases get to the Supreme Court, constitutional interpretation, and interaction with other branches of government. Participants will gain insight into how its decision-making is affected by the personalities and judicial temperament of its nine members.

**Time:** 6 - 8 p.m.

**Dates:** Tuesdays: October 27, November 3, 10, 17, 24, December 1 (6 weeks)

### *Shaping U.S. Foreign Policy*

Topics will include Egypt: Key Ally in the Middle East, Cuba on the Verge, Human Rights in a New Era: Wars for Peace?, and Global Food Crisis

**Note:** Participants should bring their own lunches.

**Time:** 10:30 a.m. - 1 p.m.

**Dates:** Tuesdays: September 22, 29, October 6, 13, 20, 27, November 3, 10 (8 weeks)

## ***HEALTH CARE***

**The following series on health care continues at Council Tree Library, Harmony and Ziegler Roads in Fort Collins. All programs are free and open to the public. For further information contact 224-6122.**

**Wednesday, September 2 7:00 - 8:45 pm Council Tree Library**

### **A Physician's Perspective and Proposal for Reform with Steven Thorson, MD**

What are the elements of our current system which need reform? Which proposals are most likely to create positive change? What advantages does a single payer system offer?

Presenter: Steven Thorson is a family physician and co-founder of the Family Clinic of Fort Collins. He has served as the President of the Colorado Academy of Family Physicians and President of the Larimer County Medical Society and currently is a member of the Board for the Health District of N. Larimer County.

**Thursday, September 10 7:00 - 8:45 pm Council Tree Library**

### **Why Does Health Care Cost So Much? What Solutions Reflect American Values?**

#### **"Health, Money and Fear" film and discussion with Bernard Birnbaum, MD**

The producer of the film is Dr. Paul Hochfeld, a physician certified in emergency medicine who currently practices in Oregon. He interviews doctors and other health care providers for an insiders' look at reasons for the rising costs of health care. Suggestions of solutions for corralling costs, an essential element of successful health care reform, are outlined.

Presenter: Bernard Birnbaum, M.D. is a family physician and faculty member at the Fort Collins Family Medicine Residency Program. Previously he worked on the Navajo Reservation in Chinle, AZ, for the Indian Health Service. Currently he is a member of the Board for the Health District of N. Larimer County.

**Wednesday, September 23 7:00 - 8:45 pm Council Tree Library**

### **An Insider's Look at the Insurance Industry**

Film and discussion sponsored by Health Care for All Colorado

With almost 20 years inside the health insurance industry, Wendell Potter saw for-profit insurers hijack our health care system and put profits before patients. In June 2009 he testified before Congressional Committees and in July Bill Moyers interviewed him about how those companies are standing in the way of health care reform. Presenter: TBA

## **Save the date!**

**Monday, October 5 7:00 - 8:45 pm Council Tree Library**

### **Where Are We Now on the Path to Health Care Reform? with Earl Baumgartel, MD**

#### **Sponsored by the League of Women Voters of Larimer County**

As comprehensive health reform legislation makes its way through Congress what will it mean for Americans in terms of cost? What will be the impact on racial disparities? Will reform mitigate barriers to access? How can citizens engage with legislators in the decision making process?

Earl Baumgartel, M.D. practiced as a Board Certified General Surgeon in Loveland for 27 years until his retirement in 2004. He's served as a member of the Board of Hospice in Larimer County, a member of the Larimer County Medical Society and as a Chief of Staff at McKee Medical Center.

### *In Memorium*

*It is with deep sadness that we acknowledge the passing of two long-time League members.*

#### **Sherry Koch**

Sherry was a member of the League of Women Voters of Larimer County and served on the Admin Team, worked for the CU Foundation, was the volunteer coordinator for the Loveland Colorado Sculpture Show 1999 to 2007, served on the City of Loveland Golf Advisory Board, and was a part of the City of Loveland Long Range Planning Task Force.

Memorial contributions may be made to King of Glory Lutheran Church "Sherry Koch Memorial Fund" at 2919 N. Wilson Ave., Loveland, CO 80538. Funds will be directed to Music, Worship and the Puppet Ministry at King of Glory.

#### **Dorothy Dee Hamilton**

Dee was a very active community member. Among many others, she was a lifetime member of the League of Women Voters and belonged to our local league.

Memorial donations can be sent to the Dorothy Dee Hamilton Scholarship in care of Community Foundation of Northern Colorado, 4745 Wheaton Drive, Suite 100, Fort Collins, CO, 80525. The scholarship will support women who have dependent children and are experiencing career or personal transitions. Friends may also honor her memory by donating time to their favorite charities.

## League of Women Voters of Larimer County 2009-10 Calendar

Day	Time	Event	Location
Monday, September 14	5:45—8:50 p.m.	Back-to-League Night	Loveland All Saints Episcopal Church, 3448 North Taft
Thursday, September 24	7 p.m.	CrossCurrents	Fort Collins City Council Chambers 300 LaPorte
Saturday, September 26		LWVCO League Day	Holiday Inn Select, Denver
Thursday, October 1	Noon—2	Admin Team Meeting	
Monday, October 5	11:30—1:30	Great Decisions	Plymouth Congregational Church, 916 West Prospect Road, Fort Collins
Monday, October 12	AM/PM	Civil Liberties Team	
Thursday, October 22	7 p.m.	CrossCurrents	Fort Collins City Council Chambers 300 LaPorte
Monday, November 2	11:30—1:30	Great Decisions	Plymouth Congregational Church, 916 West Prospect Road, Fort Collins
Thursday, November 5	Noon—2	Admin Team Meeting	
Monday, November 9	AM/PM	Affordable Housing Team	Sister Alice Murphy Center of Hope, Fort Collins
Thursday, November _	7:00 p.m.	CrossCurrents	
Thursday, December 3	Noon—2	Admin Team Meeting	
Friday, December 4	PM	Legislative Action Team Holiday Reception	
Monday, December 7	11:30—1:30	Great Decisions	Plymouth Congregational Church, 916 West Prospect Road, Fort Collins
Thursday, January 7	Noon—2	Admin Team Meeting	
Monday, January 11	5:30—9	Program Planning	Foothills Unitarian Church, 1815 Yorktown Avenue, Fort Collins
Monday, January 25		LWVCO Legislative Conference	Denver Capital Building
Thursday, January 28	7:00 PM	CrossCurrents	Fort Collins City Council Chambers 300 LaPorte

Monday, February 1	11:30—1:30	Great Decisions	Plymouth Congregational Church, 916 West Prospect Road, Fort Collins
Thursday, February 4	Noon—2	Admin Team Meeting	
Monday, February 8	AM/PM	General meeting	Plymouth Congregational Church, 916 West Prospect Road, Fort Collins
Monday, March 1	11:30—1:30	Great Decisions	Plymouth Congregational Church, 916 West Prospect Road, Fort Collins
Thursday, March 4	Noon—2	Admin Team Meeting	
Monday, April 5	11:30—1:30	Great Decisions	Plymouth Congregational Church, 916 West Prospect Road, Fort Collins
Monday, April 8	Noon—2	Admin Team Meeting	
Monday, April 12	AM/PM	General meeting	Plymouth Congregational Church, 916 West Prospect Road, Fort Collins
Thursday, April 26	7:00 pm	CrossCurrents	Fort Collins City Council Chambers 300 LaPorte
Monday, May 3	11:30—1:30	Great Decisions	Plymouth Congregational Church, 916 West Prospect Road, Fort Collins
Thursday, May 6	Noon—2	Admin Team Meeting	
Monday, May 10	5:30—9	LWV-Larimer County Local Convention	Foothills Unitarian Church, 1815 Yorktown Avenue, Fort Collins
Friday/Saturday, May 21-22		LWVCO Council	Estes Park
May _	PM	Legislative Wrap-Up Party	
May _		National Convention	
Monday, June 7	11:30—1:30	Great Decisions	Plymouth Congregational Church, 916 West Prospect Road, Fort Collins
Friday/Saturday June 25-26		LWVCO Leadership Re- treat	Frisco

### Advertise Your Business

Cost: \$15/ issue; \$75/10 issues (1 year)  
Submit your business card with payment  
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Linda Hutchinson, 216 West Fourth Street,  
Loveland, CO 80537.

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*League Lines* editor:  
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Loveland, CO 80537

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The League of Women Voters of Larimer County  
[www.lwv-larimercounty.org](http://www.lwv-larimercounty.org)

The League of Women Voters is *the* organization where hands-on work to safeguard democracy leads to civic improvement.

*Our Mission*

The League of Women Voters, 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.

*Our History*

Established in 1920, the League is one of the nation's most respected grassroots organizations. We explore issues from many points of view and take action on issues affecting our families and communities.

The League of Women Voters is nonpartisan. We do not support or oppose candidates.