

# The Voter

Newsletter of the League of Women Voters of Pueblo, Colorado

Published Monthly: September, October, November, December-January, February, March, April, May, & June

June 2019

## Board Retreat is Saturday June 29.

If you are a member of LWVPueblo, you are welcome to attend. See calendar.

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## Get Ready LWVP Board Annual Retreat

June 29, 2019, 9-2.  
Unitarian Church  
110 Calla Ave  
near City Park  
Open to all members



Please note. The next issue of *The Voter* for Pueblo LWV will be in September 2019. Stay involved via our website and our social media. Page 4

## Raise funds for LWVP while you shop

See how to do it on page 4.

## Ruth's Reflections Members



LWVPueblo President's monthly message.

Page 2

Looking for ways to get actively involved? Check out LWVCO president Toni Larsen's letter on the Back Page. Learn about the Suffrage sculpture, page 3. Join us at the Juneteenth celebration, see pages 2 and 7.

## Community Conversations

Community Conversations are what we call our meetings where we engage the community in discussing issues important to an informed electorate. All Community Conversations are open to the public. We welcome all ages and especially encourage new voters to be involved. We welcome those who wish to share facts and opinions, listen to others, and are respectful of the process and each other.

**Sept. 19. Community Conversation.** Our meetings will return in September. That's the third Thursday at NeighborWorks, 1241 E. Routt (at Northern) 5:30-7 p.m. ∞



## Commemorate Summer Holidays ... and days that Should be Holidays

June 4 Congress passed 19th Amendment  
June 14 Flag Day  
June 16 Father's Day  
July 4 Declaration of Independence  
July 15 Birth of Carrie Clyde Holly  
July 19-20 Declaration of Sentiments  
August 26 Woman Suffrage  
September 2 Labor Day

Raise the flag, have a picnic, spend time with friends, cool off at the res, plant a garden, stroll the Riverwalk, ..., whatever you do, have a good summer. Hope to see you at an event in June, July, or August, but if not, see you in September. ∞

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# Ruth's

## Reflections

*Ruth Nerenberg, President*

The summer ahead will be a busy one for the League, working in our own way to empower voters and defend democracy. It needs some defense. It needs a good offense, too, against the Russians and their mindless minions who believe every six-word meme, every 240 character Tweet, every doctored video, and don't use any critical thinking skills before passing along fake information.

We are a small organization, and volunteer power is in short supply. But if ever there was a time to buckle up and buckle down, this is it. So although we won't have community conversations or board meetings during the summer, we will be participating in every thing we can to get accurate voting information to Pueblo County Voters. Please help, and attend, whenever you can.

The good people at the Rawlings Library have asked for our attendance and assistance at a presentation by Chris Stiffler of the Colorado Fiscal Institute on June 4 at 4 pm at Rawlings. He will speak on the Gallagher and TABOR amendments, and their effect on the Colorado budgeting

process. It is a nonpartisan, just-the-facts style presentation, in plain English, that Leaguers should see before they vote on any TABOR-related measure next fall. We are co-sponsoring this important presentation.

On June 22, we will be at *Juneteenth* at Bessemer (Minnequa) park, distributing directories of government officials and providing access to voter information. If you can help, please let me know. There's a carrot—if you would like to distribute information about another non-partisan organization you are associated with, we can share a booth.

The Southern Colorado Harm Reduction Association is having it's first fundraiser, a bazaar style event with magicians and musicians and a Renaissance Fair style act. We will be there, too, providing information to those who have been disenfranchised from the health care system. Again—if you can help, and bring information about other organizations, please do so. That is August 9 at the Union Depot.

Also in August is PrideFest, and the gay pride parade. We've done this one before and it is so much fun! We haven't signed up formally yet, but will likely do so.

We'll also be continuing our work with the Women's Suffrage Centennial-Southern Colorado throughout the summer. If you are

interested in getting involved with WSCSC, see the calendar.

Anything else that comes up—as long as it's non-partisan and we can find a way to fit in, we will. And we will be calling on you, and our partners and allies, to Make Democracy Work in Pueblo County.

Strategy planning for this summer, the elections season, and all of the next League year, will be held at the summer retreat starting at 9 am June 29 at the Unitarian Church on Calla Street, just behind Park East Restaurant near the east entrance to City Park. If you have ideas, please plan to attend. Just let me know you are coming so we can figure out a lunch plan.

Enjoy your family and our beautiful state this summer! ∞



*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.*



### Fighting Voter Suppression

We challenge all efforts and tactics that threaten our democracy and limit the ability of voters to exercise their right to vote.—[Statement from LWV's home page.](#)



*The right of citizens of the United States, to vote shall not be denied or abridged by the United States or by any State on account of sex.*

— the Nineteenth Amendment to the U.S. Constitution.

## LWVCO Annual Convention

### 2019 LWVP Annual Meeting



*Pam Parks, MDW honorees Roz & Manny De Lizarriturri, Jenn Dingman, Suzanne Ethredge, Dawn Di Prince's daughter accepting for her mother, and president Ruth Nerenberg (back to camera).*



*Kate Booth and Patricia O'Brien, about to look over the Silent Auction bid items.*



Meeting attendees get ready to greet MDW honorees.



*At LWVCO annual convention, LWVP President Ruth Nerenberg, left, received her award for her work with the League and other community organizations. Congratulations. Photo by Lois Adams.*



*Doris Kester received a 2019 Eva Fifkova lifetime achievement award for service to League and the community. The certificate, signed by LWVCO president Toni Larsen, says Doris Kester 2019 Eva Fifkova Lifetime Achievement Award, an active volunteer giving tirelessly to humankind. File photo.*



*After the pre-Convention workshops. L to r, Ruth Nerenberg, Leslie Cates, Sheila D'Amico, Lois Adams. Photo courtesy of a considerate bystander.*



### Communications Pre-convention workshop

*Photo, above, Nancy Ball, front row in blue, Peggy Leech, standing, and Marlu Burkamp, back row, third from left, led this workshop that shared ideas about a new way of communicating. Based on the model of a Newsroom, LWVCO hopes to increase two-way contact between the local Leagues and state. If you enjoy writing or taking photos and are interested in being on a LWVPueblo communications team, be sure to let us know. Photo by Jess Vocaturro.*

### Get Your Sash On. 100th Anniversary of the 19th Amendment and the LWVUS Pre-convention workshop

*Participants in this workshop were urged to learn more about Loveland sculptor Jane DeDecker's statue "Every Word we Utter." This sculpture honors suffragists and features Elizabeth Cady Stanton, Susan B. Anthony, Sojourner Truth, Ida Tarbell, Alice Paul, and Harriet Stanton Blatch. An act of Congress is required to place this sculpture in D.C. and the bill has bipartisan support. <http://everywordweutter.com/the-women/> Plans for the year leading up to the anniversary of Woman Suffrage were also discussed including participation in the Colorado State Fair Parade in August 2020. Want to be actively involved with LWVPueblo Suffrage celebrations? Email [WSCSCO@gmail.com](mailto:WSCSCO@gmail.com).*



*The right of citizens of the United States to vote shall not be denied or abridged by the United States or by any State on account of race, color, or previous condition of servitude.*

— the Fifteenth Amendment to the U.S. Constitution.

## National Youth Summit



*Diane Johnson and Carole Partin at the National Youth Summit. All photos by Ruth Nerenberg.*

The LWV-Pueblo along with several other local organizations participated in the National Youth Summit last month. This event featuring Suffrage and sponsored by the Smithsonian had several local venues around the country including one at El Pueblo Museum.



*Above, County Clerk & Recorder staff; Roxana Mack, President NAACP-Pueblo, Bri Buentello, State Rep. D. 47, Mary Beth Corsentino, Dem. Party Chair; Debbie Mulay, Bd. Pres. Pueblo Heritage Museum, Judy Gaughan, WSCSC; Sheila D'Amico, Tory Marquesen, WSCSC.*

## Voting, Women's Rights, Local, & League-Related Websites



*Sign at the Brown v. Board of Education Historic Site, Monroe School in Topeka, Kansas*

If you haven't watched it yet, you're in for a treat. Lady Gaga's Bad Romance morphs into Now We Have Suffrage. Check out the video.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=co6qKVBciAw>

Find out about **Juneteenth history here** <https://www.juneteenth.com/history.htm> ∞

**Members and other readers of *The Voter*. Do you shop at King Soopers?** You can raise funds for LWV-Pueblo every time you shop. Register your King Soopers affinity card in the Community Rewards program at the store or online. When you shop and swipe your card or enter your alt. ID (usually a phone number) you will be making a contribution to LWV-Pueblo. You'll need our King Sooper nonprofit number for the program: YN911. Here's the link:

<https://www.kingsoopers.com/topic/king-soopers-community-rewards>



## Calendar

**June 4.** Tabor and Gallagher amendments. 4 p.m., Rawlings Library. See page 5.

**June 9.** Women's Suffrage Centennial-Southern Colorado planning meeting. 2-3:30 p.m. CSU-Pueblo, Buell Communications Building. From Bonforte, on campus right turn into first parking lot (you'll see the satellite dish) Enter building at door near picnic table. All welcome. Info: [WSCSCO@gmail.com](mailto:WSCSCO@gmail.com).

WSCSC will meet on the second Sunday of the month in July and August, too. Same time, same place.

**June 22.** Juneteenth. Booths, activities, music, and more. 11 a.m to (about) 5 p.m. Bessemer Park, 843 W. Northern Ave., Pueblo. See flyer, page 5.

**June 29.** Annual Retreat. 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. First Unitarian Society, 110 Calla Ave. (near City Park). Open to all LWVP members. See Ruth's column, page 2.

**Aug. 9.** Harm Reduction Fundraiser. Union Depot. See Ruth's column, page 2.

***The Voter* will return on September 3.** During the summer, follow LWVP on social media or go to our website for information. Have something we should know about? Email or call. Contact info is on Back Page (page 8). Also stay abreast with what the state [LWVCO.org](http://LWVCO.org) and national [LWV.org](http://LWV.org) Leagues are doing by checking their websites or following them on social media. ∞



*The right of citizens of the United States, who are eighteen years of age or older, to vote shall not be denied or abridged by the United States or by any State on account of age.*

— the Twenty-sixth Amendment to the U.S. Constitution.

**June 4 at Rawlings: How  
Gallagher and TABOR  
Amendments affect Colorado's  
Budget**  
*by Ruth Nerenberg*

The League of Women Voters of Pueblo and the Pueblo Library District will co-sponsor a presentation on the Gallagher and TABOR amendments, and how they affect Colorado's budget. The presentation will be 4 pm June 4 at Rawlings Library. Guest speaker will be Chris Stiffler, senior economist at the Colorado Fiscal Institute (CFI).

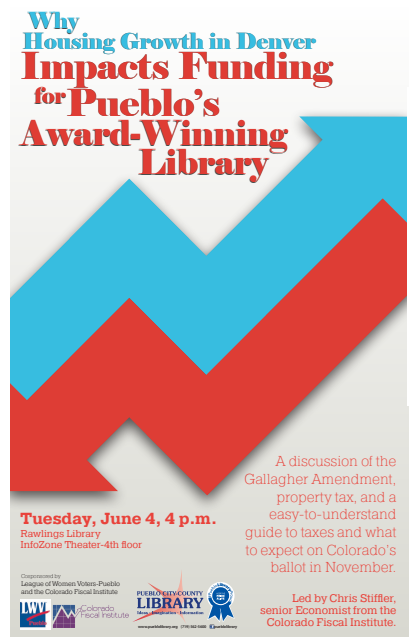
According to the CFI website. *“Chris has been working in the public policy and economic research business since 2012. He obtained his undergraduate degree from the University of Richmond in 2009, after which he spent a year teaching high school Latin before moving to Colorado. He received his masters in economics from the University of Denver. Chris got his start explaining economics in 2009, writing an explanatory economics column for his small hometown newspaper in western Pennsylvania. The column was geared at explaining complicated economic concepts in simple metaphorical terms that everyone could understand and showing how those economic concepts relate to policy discussions.*

*“Chris has spent the past six years researching a number of topics including: affordability of public transit around Denver, better ways to*

*measure economic growth in Colorado, Colorado school finance, the Colorado state budget, TABOR, wage theft, immigration, paid family leave, minimum wage, and income inequality.*

*“He has appeared on National Public Radio, Colorado Public Radio's “Colorado Matters” and KGNU's 'It's the Economy.' His research has been cited in various publications like The Denver Post, The Colorado Independent, The Denver Business Journal, and by the Associated Press. Chris is also a part-time adjunct professor of economics at the University of Denver. Chris is frequently invited to make public presentations on TABOR and Gallagher, the state budget, school finance and taxes.”*

Americans for Prosperity, a political action committee largely funded by the Koch brothers, has been putting money into the defeat of Colorado Proposition CC, which is a measure referred by the General Assembly and which would, if passed, allocate any revenue above TABOR limits to K-12 education, higher education and transportation, in equal shares. LWV-Colorado has long supported TABOR reform. This presentation, which Chris recently gave at CSU-Pueblo, does not recommend whether or not CC should be passed, but explains the the two amendments and their impact on the budgeting process.∞



**Why  
Housing Growth in Denver  
Impacts Funding  
for Pueblo's  
Award-Winning  
Library**

**Tuesday, June 4, 4 p.m.**  
Rawlings Library  
InfoZone Theater-4th floor

A discussion of the Gallagher Amendment, property tax, and an easy-to-understand guide to taxes and what to expect on Colorado's ballot in November.

Co-sponsored by:  
League of Women Voters-Pueblo and the Colorado Fiscal Institute  
PUEBLO COMMUNITY LIBRARY  
Led by Chris Stiffler, senior Economist from the Colorado Fiscal Institute.



## What Do You Mean You Want to Do That?

—AN EDITORIAL

### THE DISAPPEARING HARRIET TUBMAN AND THE COINS

*If it hadn't been for Harriet Tubman, I likely would have missed the significance of the project to honor the 19th Amendment with a series of quarters. LWVCO president Toni Larsen alerted us about the project. Her message is on the Back Page (page 8).*

*The coins seem like a fun project, as Toni says, bi-partisan or even neutral. Not controversial.*

*Not likely.*

*Projects involving women, efforts to bring women fully into equality, efforts to honor and celebrate the accomplishments of women bring with them their opposite, negativity and attempts to denigrate the accomplishments and the women themselves. There's always a reason why women should be pushed back, relegated to second-class citizenship, why a woman's accomplishments are not worth as much as a man's.*

*So we see very few statues of women around the country, we figure out reasons why we can't vote for even the most qualified of women, we decide it just isn't the right time or the right denomination to put a woman's likeness on our money. Not quite worth it is the message.*

*When we learned last month of the final decision by Treasury to postpone (or is it to forego completely?) the Harriet Tubman \$20 bill, the project to create a series of quarters took on added importance.*

*Let us not be conned out of protesting this decision because we are being told it is not as important as other issues. Of course getting separated children back with their families, assuring food security and health care, guaranteeing voter access, and the like are critical. But this is hugely important, too, and women have always been good at multi-tasking.*

*The failure to honor Harriet Tubman symbolizes the push to delegitimize all the long-fought-for gains women have made since 1848, and has the double effect of condoning racism. This is ridiculous that we should have to revisit putting Tubman on the \$20 and even more ridiculous that we should still be fighting the battle for equality in the 21st Century.*

*What seems like a little, nonpartisan, noncontroversial project isn't that at all. If it were benign we'd be getting ready to spend our Harriet Tubman twenties next year and we'd be looking forward to the shiny quarters as well.*

*Aren't we worth it?*

— Sheila D'Amico, Ed.

a poem

by

Bob Spears

*No, I really don't understand.  
Women's sense of disenfranchisement.  
Even though I try to do so.*

*I read  
I listen  
I ponder  
Hoping to get a bit closer.*

*I have some inkling.  
There have been  
Times in my history  
When I felt discounted.  
Not appreciated .  
So a little of the pain gets through.*

*But I am male  
And am therefore privileged.  
I have two legs up.  
As my wife puts it:  
I have a penis.*

*I am embarrassed  
When I consider  
The centuries of discrimination,  
Even oppression and abuse,  
The long history of how the church,  
My spiritual ancestors,  
Misused women.  
And much of that hasn't changed.*

*We still are having to celebrate  
The first woman to do this or that,  
Be elected or appointed to a certain office,  
Be recognized for some accomplishment.*

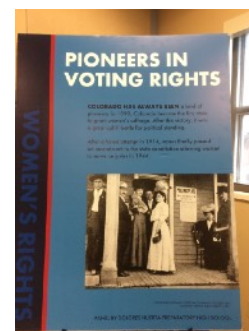
*There are millions of women around the  
world*

*Who will not get an education  
Or work for a decent wage,*

*Or will have the opportunity  
Of coming close to any of those goals.*

*We men have long worried  
That given the chance,  
The women will rise up and take our jobs,  
Have positions of authority over us,  
Take away our sense of power:  
Our very manhood.*

*How fragile we men are.  
How easily frightened.  
How like helpless little boys.  
Who are only willing to play  
If they get to make the rules.  
And are likely to win.∞*



A poster on display at the National Youth Summit.  
See page 3 for more photos.



**National Day of Action to Stop the Bans  
on Hwy 50 and Elizabeth.**

About a dozen Pro-Choice demonstrators showed up at Hwy 50 and Elizabeth St. on May 21 to show their support for a woman’s right to choose.

Much of the conversation and comments centered around these questions: Who would have thought that 99 years after the 19th Amendment guaranteed women the right to suffrage, that we would still be trying to deny women equal rights?



Who would have thought that almost 50 years after women won the right to control their bodies, at least partially, we would be engaged in a war on those rights?

Who would have thought we would still be fighting the same battles?

Many drivers chose to drive by without indicating any reaction. Several chose to honk their horns or wave in support. Some chose to show their opinion by the raising of a certain finger. That latter action led to this question: If you are using that gesture to mean that you do not agree, what is it you are not agreeing to?

One demonstrator (pictured) held a sign saying “That’s my Uterus..” Were those raising their finger in protest meaning to say, it isn’t her uterus? Or what about a protestor (not pictured) holding a sign that read “Stop the war on women”? Did the middle finger raised mean those drivers want a war on women? It’s a puzzlement.

*Above photo, Katherine Horton, left, came from Beulah to assert her rights. Nicole Emerson, right, said it was her first demonstration.∞*



**Juneteenth Celebration at Bessemer Park**



Juneteenth celebration is Saturday June 22. Program begins at 11am, at Bessemer Park Pueblo, Colorado. Both Soul Rhythm and Blues by LC Houston and Gospel Music by Pueblo’s own Sankey Sisters are part of the celebration.

The LWV-Pueblo will be sharing a table with Women’s Suffrage Centennial-Southern Colorado. Come find us and other community tables at the event and join the celebration. See Calendar, page 4. For a link to learn more about the history of Juneteenth go to page 4, *Voting, Women’s Rights, Local, & League-Related Websites.∞*



**This NOMINATING COMMITTEE REPORT presented at the annual meeting was approved by the members.**

2019 ANNUAL MEETING

**First Vice President:**

2019-21 Eva Muniz Valdez

**Secretary:**2019-2021 Lois Adams

**Board Members:**

2019-2021 Jenn Dingman

2019-2021 Ruella Anderson

2019-2021 Kiera Hatton Sena

**Nominating Committee:** 2019-2020 John Valdez, Chairperson, Sandra Cunningham and Anne Courtright

**Submitted by 2018-2019 Nominating Committee:** Ruella Anderson, Chairperson, John Valdez, Anne Courtright, Sharon Bonner and Rita Sims

**FYI: Continuing Officers/Board Members**

elected for two year terms: (2018-2020):

President: Ruth Nerenberg;

Second Vice President: Sandy Stutters; Treasurer: Doris Kester; Board Members: Pam Parks, Sheila D’Amico and Rita Sims ∞

## Honor the 19th Amendment. CONTACT YOUR REPRESENTATIVE TODAY by Toni Larsen

100 Years ago on June 4, 1919, Congress passed the 19th Amendment and sent it to the states for ratification. Passage and ratification of the 19th Amendment meant that women across America would have the right to vote and make their voices heard on key policy development over the next hundred years.

After Congress passed the 19th Amendment in 1919, but before it was ratified in August of 1920, the same suffragists—who had fought for nearly a century to gain the right to vote for women—formed the League of Women Voters (LWV).

2020 is not only the 100th anniversary of the 19th Amendment, it is also the 100th anniversary of the League of Women Voters. For that reason, the League has a keen interest in seeing the 19th Amendment honored with a coin, featuring women who have been influencers in our great country. Please ask your Representative to cosponsor and support H.R. 1923, the Women's History and Nineteenth Amendment Centennial Quarter Dollar Coin Program Act.

This legislation is a bipartisan measure to honor women in every state across the country by proposing a series of quarters, beginning in 2021, that would feature a 19th Amendment icon on one side. On the other side, a noteworthy woman, now deceased, would be highlighted. Each state and all U.S. territories would select one of its outstanding women to be honored in this series.

The legislation is sponsored by Representatives Barbara Lee (CA-13) and Anthony Gonzalez (OH-16). This proposed program parallels the State Quarters Program that was so well received two decades ago and the current National Parks Quarters Program. For our young children and teens, this is an effective, exciting way to acquaint them with the 19th Amendment and more than 50 famous women who have made vital contributions to our country.

Ask your Representative to cosponsor this legislation and support it when it comes to the floor for a vote.

Thank you for your support to move this partisan-neutral legislation forward. Together we can honor the women who fought so hard to ensure the right to vote and celebrate the work that others continue to do to increase the inclusion of women and improve the quality of life for women in states across the country. [http://participate.lwv.org/c/10065/p/dia/action4/common/public?action\\_KEY=13688&utm\\_source=ActionAlert&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_campaign=052119](http://participate.lwv.org/c/10065/p/dia/action4/common/public?action_KEY=13688&utm_source=ActionAlert&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=052119)

## Support LWV-Pueblo

### Join the League of Women Voters of Pueblo



Not for Women Only!

Dues are \$60 for one member, \$90 for two members of the same household. Clip and mail this or just send a check. Students, contact us for information on work-study type membership.

Name(s)

Address

City Zip Code

Phone E-Mail

Please make checks payable to LWV-Pueblo.

Already a member or prefer not to join right now? Or a member and you want to make an additional donation? Add the amount to your membership or you can write a separate check for "donation."

Mail checks to LWV-Pueblo, P.O. Box 521, Pueblo CO 81002

We can now process electronic payments. See above.

Be sure to be part of our increasing social media presence. Follow us now on Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram.

### LWV-Pueblo

P.O. Box 521  
Pueblo, CO 81002  
719.470-0723

## Board

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**Bonnie Bowman — 1st Vice President**  
**Rita Sims — 2nd Vice President**  
**Doris Kester — Treasurer**  
**Lois Adams — Secretary**

Sharon Bonner, Leslie Cates, Sheila D'Amico, Pam Parks, Sandra Stutters, Eva Muniz Valdez

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**League of Women Voters of Pueblo is on Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram.**