



Making Democracy Work™

Denver VOTER

League of Women Voters of Denver

November 2019

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Emily Griffith Technical College An Amazing Place

A group of Denver Leaguers had an inspiring tour of the two main campuses of the Emily Griffith Technical College on October 3. Originally named the Opportunity School, Emily Griffith Technical College was started in 1916 by Emily Griffith, a beloved teacher and community leader. She believed that education was the key to improving society and that everyone deserved an education regardless of age, race, gender or background. At the opening, Emily expected 200 students and 2,000 showed up. In 1933, when she retired, the school was renamed the Emily Griffith Opportunity School in her honor. Later the school name was changed to the Emily Griffith Technical College (EGTC). The school is part of Denver Public Schools (DPS).

We viewed an informative PowerPoint with Zach Hermesen, Vice President of Finance & Operation, who left a lucrative career to work at the college. Currently the school serves 8,700 students annually. It is open to all regardless of age, race or education level. It is the largest technical school in Colorado, offering 26 career and technical education programs including health, trades and creative arts. It also offers English language and GED classes. About 84% of students complete their Career and Technical Education (CTE) program, 81% of students are placed in a job in their field, and 100% of students pass license requirements where applicable. There are 1,400 immigrants in the school with 66 languages from 85 countries. About 15% of the student population are high school students (concurrent enrollment). The school is so in demand that many programs have waitlists--phlebotomy being the



November Briefings

Happy Hour with New and Prospective Members

Thursday, November 7, 5:30-6:30 p.m.
Irish Snug, 1201 E. Colfax

Meet and Greet the New City Council Members

Wednesday, November 13, 5:00-7:00 p.m.
The Pinnacle-Main Floor Club Room
2990 E. 17th Ave.
Food and drinks provided

Census 2020: Its Ten-year Impact and How You Can Get Involved

Tuesday, November 19, 5:30 p.m.
McCollum Room
Montview Presbyterian Church

longest. The auto service program is very popular due to the high pay received by mechanics (\$70,000-\$100,000). Students can also transfer up to 45 credit hours to a Colorado Community College. Some students gain real work experience at the student-run businesses that are open to the public. These businesses are Emily's Salon & Barbershop, Emily's Café, Emily's Massage and Emily's Spa.

None of the students graduate with student loan debt from the school. The average program cost is \$6,590, with the average student out-of-pocket cost at \$1,500. The school has one of the lowest tuition rates in Colorado with the highest completion and job placement rates for post-secondary education. The school

(Continued on page 3)

Volume 2019, Issue #9
Periodicals postage paid
at Denver, Colorado

Denver VOTER
(USPS 019817)

Published twice in
 September and monthly
 January through June by:

**LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS
 OF DENVER**

1980 Dahlia Street
 Denver, CO 80220
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A one-year subscription is included
 in annual membership dues.

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Meet and Greet the New City Council Members

Thursday, November 13
 5:00-7:00 p.m.
 Food and drinks provided

The Pinnacle-Main Floor Club Room
 2990 E. 17th Ave.

Here is your opportunity to meet our five new City Council Members: Jamie Torres, Amanda Sandoval, Candi CdeBaca, Amanda Sawyer and Chris Hinds. Council members will have five minutes to tell us what motivated them to run for the office and what goals they envision for their districts. All have accepted our invitation, along with their aides. The smaller number of Council members will allow each of us to talk with the members, sharing ideas and asking questions. Earlier calendars indicated attendance would be limited, but all League members are welcome.

Marge Fisch and Cindy Sestrich

Census 2020: Its Ten-year Impact and How You Can Get Involved

Tuesday, November 19
 5:30 p.m. Social Time/Announcements
 6:00 p.m. Program Begins

McCollum Room
 Montview Presbyterian Church

The decennial US Census impacts our State's representation in Congress and distribution of federal funding (an estimated \$13 billion of your tax dollars) to many local social assistance programs. You may have volunteered in 2010 to support participation in the Census count, but 2020 is different. It will be the first time census forms are provided online that may make access more difficult for some demographic groups, and there has been an organized effort to discourage participation by specific US residents. Historically in Colorado, there have been pockets of undercounted people related to age, socio-economic class, ethnicity, immigrant status and geographic location. An undercount would have serious ramifications for our residents. Although Census Day is not until April 1, 2020, there are many opportunities for Leaguers to get involved in outreach and education in the upcoming months.

Our presenters are Kaye Kavanaugh, the Coordinator of Census 2020 for the Human Rights and Community Partnerships division of the City and County of Denver; and Jayla Sanchez-Warren, the Director of the Area Agency on Aging, a program of the Denver Regional Council of Governments (DRCOG). Kaye will provide an overview of the challenges and ongoing plans to achieve a Complete Count as well as volunteer and paid census worker positions. Jayla will address the particular concerns in reaching our much larger older adult population and the Hispanic community. Handouts will be provided to answer many of your questions and for use in educating our communities.

We are pleased that the Latina Legacy Circle, who recognize Latina pioneers in hopes of inspiring the younger generation, is co-sponsoring this presentation with the League.

Sue Stark

(Continued from page 1)

receives funding from tuition and the State General Fund. But the major source of funding is the Emily Griffith Foundation. Independent of DPS, the Foundation was started in 1991 when DPS cut its subsidy to the school. This year, the Foundation raised over \$1 million and aspires to raise \$4 million. The Foundation hopes to raise money for innovation programs for the changing job market. At both the morning and afternoon tours, we were accompanied by Tatiana Hernandez, in her first year as President of the Emily Griffith Foundation. She is an impressive leader, warm but determined to raise the bar for the Foundation. If anyone is interested in donating to the foundation, please visit this website: www.egfoundation.org/donate.

After touring the 1860 Lincoln campus that includes programs such as nursing, dental assisting, culinary and cosmetology, we Leaguers toured the 1205 Osage campus that houses the technical, industries and professional studies programs. Programs in this facility include among others welding, HVACR and auto service and collision. There are 400-500 students per day at this campus. Two goals of these programs are to train students in the trades and make them



good employees. Another goal is to get the students in and out and into jobs in a short time. The longest programs are nine months. The instructors come from their trade fields. The college has difficulty attracting instructors because of the high salaries in the trade areas. For auto service, HVACR and welding, a portion of tuition is allocated for tool kits, which are the students' to keep.

We were led on this portion of the tour by Vivian Jeffcoat, Dean of Trades & Industry. Vivian is a dynamo of a woman who loves her often untypical students. Currently 5-10% of the trade students are women. The school is encouraging women to enter the trade fields. Vivian shared the opinion that women work better with their hands than men as mechanics and welders, and women listen to orders! November 8, EGTC is hosting an event to recruit women to their programs.

One of the organizers of the tour was Pam Hovik, a Denver Leaguer, who has been on the Emily Griffith Foundation Board for 10 years. At the end of our tour, Pam was honored for her years of service with a lovely hat in honor of the years Emily Griffith taught millinery classes.

Pat Horoschak and Marty Sloven

King Soopers/Kroger Rewards Program

It is now easier than ever to support the League of Women Voters of Denver with every King Soopers purchase including prescriptions, gas, and groceries!

Instead of the reloadable gift cards, now, every time you use your loyalty card (points card) or enter your Alt ID (usually your phone number) you will support the League. But....you must take the steps below to link your card or Alt ID to League of Women Voters of Denver.

1. Go to www.kingsoopers.com/communityrewards; click on "enroll Now"
2. Check "create an account" (near the bottom) — If you don't want to receive emails from King Soopers or have your shopping habits tracked, uncheck the boxes
3. Complete the rewards form and select League of Women Voters of Denver to receive the contribution

If you have any trouble, talk to a real person at 800-677-KING and ask for their help to connect your card or alt-ID to League of Women Voters of Denver.

Looking for a way to be involved in League and Understand the City Better?

Consider becoming the LWV of Denver presence at the monthly meetings of the Denver Board of Ethics. We would like this person to observe the meetings and get to know how this part of city government works. The next meeting of the Board of Ethics will be on November 13, 2019 at 8:00 a.m. in Conference Room 2 D 4 of the Webb Municipal Office Building. The Board normally meets at the same location on the second Wednesday of each month at 8:00 a.m. Let us know by calling the office if you would like to represent League at the meetings.

Membership

HAPPY HOUR WITH DENVER LEAGUERS

WHERE: Irish Snug, Dublin Room, 1201 E. Colfax

WHO: New and Prospective Members, LWV Denver Leaders

WHAT: A Social and Informational Gathering

WHEN: Thursday, November 7, 5:30-6:30 p.m.

5:30 p.m.—Gather, Order food and drink

5:50 p.m.—Presentations

6:10 p.m.—Q & A

More socializing will probably continue after the Q&A.

Patty Cordova, Membership Chair

Welcome New Member

Jeanette Abelman, 224 Adams, 80206, theabelmans@aol.com, 303-349-2023

Consider Contributing to the League!

We will be sharing stories from Leaguers in this and upcoming VOTERs to give ideas on and examples of giving. This one is was contributed by Kay Shaw. Please contact me with any questions.

Marilyn Barrett, Development Chair

*The **bad news/good news** of turning 70 ½ years young!! First the **bad news**: when you reach this age, you must take money from your 401K whether you want to or not - the “required minimum distribution” or “RMD” you have likely heard of. But the **good news** is you have the opportunity to share your funds with charities in a way that helps both you and them. Since I normally give money to various charitable organizations, my financial adviser suggested that the RMD money, which I would otherwise have to transfer to myself from my 401K and pay taxes on, can instead be used to make donations to a charity, including the State and Local Leagues. By donating my RMD, I reduce the net income I have to report for taxes and my total taxes are less. A **win** for myself, the League of Women Voters, and our community that benefits so much from the great work of the League of Women Voters.*

League Returns to Jail

In September, the Voter Service co-chairs went back to Denver City and County jails to register more voters. We were accompanied by Stuart Club of the Denver County Elections Division. By law, the Elections Division of the county is required to conduct voter registration and they have selected the League to be the volunteer agency to help.

What happens when we go? We are escorted by a corrections officer to the pods in the facility after the safety of each pod is assessed. After the purpose of the visitors is announced the County and the League are introduced. Stuart announces who is eligible to register and hands out forms. Then League members describe the reasons to vote. This fall we emphasized the School Board

election and its importance to potential voters as the Board makes decisions on funding programs for career training. We pointed out how they may want to participate in such programs upon their discharge. We also noted that we vote to retain or remove judges and how their vote is their voice about judges they know.

We are able to help inmates complete the forms. There is a little bit of time to hear their points of view and many express gratitude for the League's presence in making registration possible. The women show more interest and ask more questions than the men. When compared with our winter drive we noticed that the jail population was smaller in September. So our day was shorter but the distance covered was not.

Voter Service Calls YOU to Serve in 2020 Jail Registration Drives

Any League member who is willing to walk for up to four or five hours, with breaks, is encouraged to join the team who register the voters in the City Downtown Detention Center and/or the County Jail. It is an appreciated civic service. Carrie Stanley, the Director of Programs, has instituted several different rehabilitative programs, so we meet corrections staff and see people in programs intended to provide a GED and to deal with substance behavioral health issues. There is even a program for nursing mothers.

To serve at the jail, a member needs to (1) complete Circulator Training through the local League, (2) complete a background check done by the County, and (3) attend a two-hour Jail Safety Training program conducted by Jail staff at the Downtown Detention Center. Since these tasks take several weeks to complete, interested members are encouraged to initiate the process by January 10th.

We encourage members to participate in this special voter registration drive as well as in other drives we set up during 2020. There will be a Voter Registration Drive Training on Tuesday, January 7, from 6:00-7:30 p.m. at the League Office. To sign up please call the League Office at 303-321-7571 or email the office at Info@lwvdenver.org or Jeanette Scotland at jscotland@gmail.com.



“Sabrina & Corina” is a Finalist in the National Book Awards

Kali Fajardo-Anstine, our former office manager, has been nominated as a finalist for a National Book Award for her book *Sabrina & Corina: Stories*. As we've mentioned before, the collection of short stories are about Chicanas living in the American West. The characters deal with gentrification, inequality, violence and migration.

We send our best wishes to Kali and will be watching for the final selection of one fiction book in November!

Unit Meetings: *A place for lively conversation!*

Buffalo

Will attend the 11/19 briefing

Contact: Joan Friend
303-596-1022

Capitol Hill

Sat., Nov. 23, 10:00 a.m.

LWVC Office
1410 Grant St.
(Note new location)

Cheesman

Nov. 12, 9:30 a.m.

Marge Fisch
2700 Cherry Creek Dr. S.
303-322-4235

Nov. 26, 9:30 a.m.

Sue Stark
310 Bellaire St.
303 333-4094

Cherrington

Thu., Nov. 21, 1:00 p.m.

Marcia Verba
910 S. Clayton Way
303-629-0614

Highland/Woodbury

TBD

Contact Anne Duncan
773-852-3197

Observatory

Tue., Oct. 29, 6:30 p.m.

Brookdale University Party Room
2020 S. Monroe St.

Tue., Nov. 12, 6:30 p.m.

Beth Kieft
2565 S. Cherry
303-478-6310

Southwest Denver

TBD

Contact Peggy Pitchford
303-638-5534

The Whiteman Unit of LWVD is changing its name to the Southwest Denver Unit. The unit was named for Denver-born Paul Whiteman, the great American bandleader who was active from the 1920s through the 1960s.

Over time, familiarity with Paul Whiteman has waned, and the name "Whiteman" has taken on a new meaning in today's climate of political correctness. Therefore, the Unit voted to change the name to represent the specific geographical region of Denver where the Unit meets. They are hopeful that this will raise people's awareness that there is a Denver League of Women Voters unit in southwest Denver, which is open to all who are interested.

If you know of anyone in the southwest Denver area, let them know about the unit.

Peggy Pitchford

November Calendar

| Sun | Mon | Tue | Wed | Thu | Fri | Sat |
|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| | | | | | 1 | 2 |
| 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 |
| 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 | 16 |
| 17 | 18 | 19 | 20 | 21 | 22 | 23 |
| 24 | 25 | 26 | 27 | 28 | 29 | 30 |
| | | | | | | |

- 7** Happy Hour with New and Prospective Members, 5:30-6:30 p.m., Irish Snug, 1201 E. Colfax
- 13** City Council Meet & Greet, 5:00-7:00 p.m. The Pinnacle, Main Floor Club Room 2990 E. 17th Ave. All members welcome.
- 19** Census 2020 Briefing, 5:30 p.m. McCollum Room
- 21** Board Meeting, 4:30 p.m., League Office

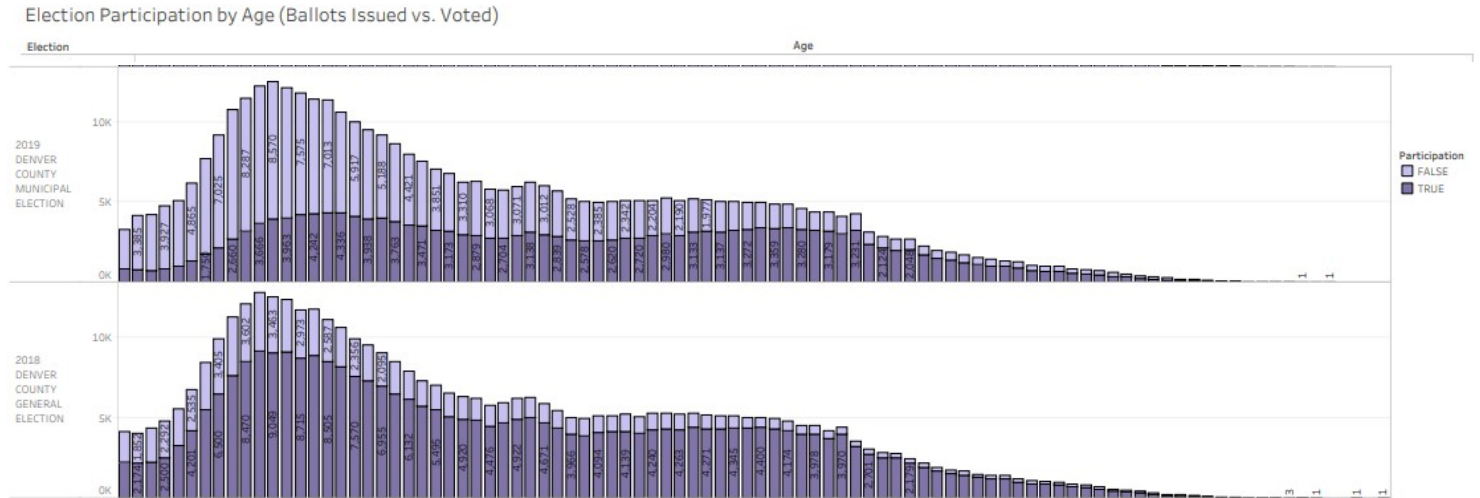
In Memoriam

Our sympathies to the family and friends of **Gloria Grossman** who died earlier this month. Her daughter, Laurie Segall, also an active member, said her mother always felt welcome at LWVD, and that the League had been important to her throughout her life at various places they had lived.

A Look at Voter Participation

Any Duclos of INC (Inter-neighborhood Cooperation), one of our partners in the Denver Decides candidate forums this year, sent us these interesting histograms of the past two Denver elections showing voter participation by age from the Elections Division. It is fascinating to see the difference in participation of voters by age between a general election and a municipal election.

Dark purple/gray + light purple/gray = ballots issued; Dark purple/gray = voted; Light purple/gray = active voters who received a ballot but didn't return it or sign it or it wasn't counted.



Members, offer this application to friends and neighbors!

League of Women Voters of Denver
1980 Dahlia Street
Denver, CO 80220-1239

JOIN LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS NOT FOR WOMEN ONLY!

Name(s) _____ Email _____
Address _____ City _____ Zip _____
Phone (H) _____ (W) _____ (C) _____

ANNUAL DUES:
(for Denver, State & National)

☐ Regular member \$60.00
☐ Two residing at same address \$90.00
☐ Sustaining member \$125.00
☐ Two sustaining members at same address \$185.00
☐ Student \$25.00

CONTRIBUTIONS:

☐ To LWV Denver \$ _____
☐ To Dues Assistance Fund \$ _____

Make check payable to LWV Denver. (Dues are not tax-deductible. Tax-deductible contributions may be made by separate check to LWVD Education Fund.)

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT!

TOTAL ENCLOSED \$ _____



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Board Highlights

October 17 Meeting

- Discussed plans by LWVD's Centennial Committee for celebrations in 2020. The Board approved a collaboration with LWVCO and the Denver Women's Chorus on a concert in January. The Committee is also working on a second potential concert in March with the Spirituals Project.
- The Board also approved a 2019/2020 fundraising calendar that includes our already-in-place fundraisers (grocery cards, Amazon Smiles, etc.) and a No-Party event. Look for more in future Voters.



Denver Clerk and Recorder **Paul Lopez** at another successful **Drinks and Dialogue** in September. Plan to attend them in the future!