



LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS®
OF DENVER

1980 Dahlia Street, Denver, Colorado 80220
phone 303-321-7571, fax 303-320-8557
www.LWVDenver.org info@LWVDenver.org

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF DENVER

ANNUAL MEETING

Saturday, May 15, 2021

9:00 - 11:30 a.m.

Video Conference

ANNUAL MEETING 2021

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GENERAL PROCEDURES

- Give your name and unit; speak briefly (2 minutes maximum).
- You will be recognized only once until everyone who wishes to speak has been recognized.

AMENDMENTS

- Amendments may be offered to any motions such as bylaws and budget.
- Amendments may be made by a motion to change, add, or omit words in the original main motion or by a motion to substitute an entire new wording (ex. "I move to amend ... by adding the words ..."). The motion must be seconded. It is debatable, and a majority vote is needed to pass.
- Only one amendment may be made to an amendment.
- Please write out your proposed amendments for the chair and the recorder.

CLOSING DEBATE

- To close debate which seems to drag on, a delegate may say, "I move the previous question."
- This motion, which must be seconded, is not debatable and will be put to an immediate vote. A 2/3 vote is necessary to adopt this motion. If adopted, the motion under debate is immediately voted on.

**League of Women Voters of Denver
ANNUAL MEETING
Saturday, May 15, 2021
9:00 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.**

AGENDA

Video Conference Meeting

9:00 a.m. **Welcome** Marge Fisch
Introduction of Keynote Speaker
Dr. Elizabeth Hinde, Dean of the School of Education
Metro State University of Denver

League Business

10:00 a.m. **Call to order, Acceptance of Minutes and Appointments** Marge Fisch
Recorder/Secretary: Elsie Haley
Readers: To be selected

10:05 a.m. **Roll Call of Units** Mary Ann Thompson

10:10 a.m. **Treasurer's Report** Bobbie Heisterkamp
Proposed Budget 2020-2021
Discussion and Vote

10:25 a.m. **Program Summary** Marty Sloven
Positions for Action Review
Police Study Group Barbara Allen Ford
Non-binary Toolkit Elsie Haley

10:45 a.m. **LWVD Structure/Communication Area** Pearlanne Zelarney

10:50 a.m. **Special Awards:** Joan Friend
Marty Sloven Mother Lode Awards
Shirley Weaver Suffragist Awards
Lifetime Members

11:10 a.m. **Election of Board Members** Carla Bennett
State of the League Marge Fisch
Direction to the Board/Member Concerns & Suggestions
Special Drawings

11:30 a.m. **Adjournment**

UNIT ROLL CALL

UNIT	Unit Leaders
Buffalo	Pending
Capitol Hill	Disbanded
Cheesman	Cindy Sestrich/Mary Ann Thompson
Cherrington	Peg Oldham/Andrea Mitchell
Highland/Woodbury	Anne Duncan/Mary Ann Feldman-Lang
Observatory	Jeanette Scotland/Marcia Helfant
Southwest	Pending

TREASURER'S REPORT

Introduction

The pandemic has radically changed our way of interacting with our members, and it has changed our budget planning to correspond. Since we had no in-person meetings, the money for the annual meeting, briefings, conventions, councils and other events has been pared back significantly for 2020 and also for 2021. Unfortunately, our fixed expenses such as rent, salary, supplies maintenance, insurance and per-member payments (assessments), etc. have remained the same or increased.

Most of our income comes from the bulb sale, the annual letter appeal, membership dues and monetary contributions. We are very fortunate that these sources have remained strong in 2020, and we hope they will remain so in 2021. We thank our loyal members and supporters for their continued belief that our organization must remain strong and viable.

One area of income has been transferring money from our savings, and that is of great concern to the board. This new budget is balanced only by taking \$7,251 from savings (see Income G.), and this is not sustainable over the years to come. We urge all of you to support the bulb sale (now in progress on our website: www.lwvdenver.org), continue to contribute what is comfortable for your own circumstances and to urge your friends and neighbors to join the League of Women Voters of Denver to stay informed on crucial issues facing our society.

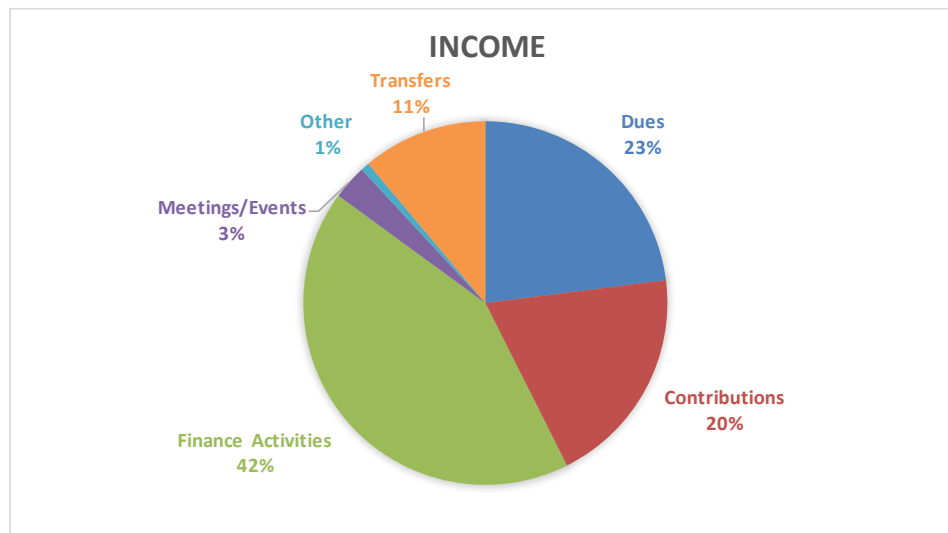
The pie charts on the following page give you a quick overview of my comments about income and expense for the next fiscal year (July 1, 2021 to June 30, 2022). The actual line-by-line budget is on the two pages after that.

Bobbie Heisterkamp, Treasurer

Sources of INCOME:

Dues	\$15,000	23%
Contributions	\$12,800	20%
Finance Activities	\$27,700	42%
Meetings/Events	\$2,000	3%
Other	\$500	1%
Transfers	\$7,251	11%

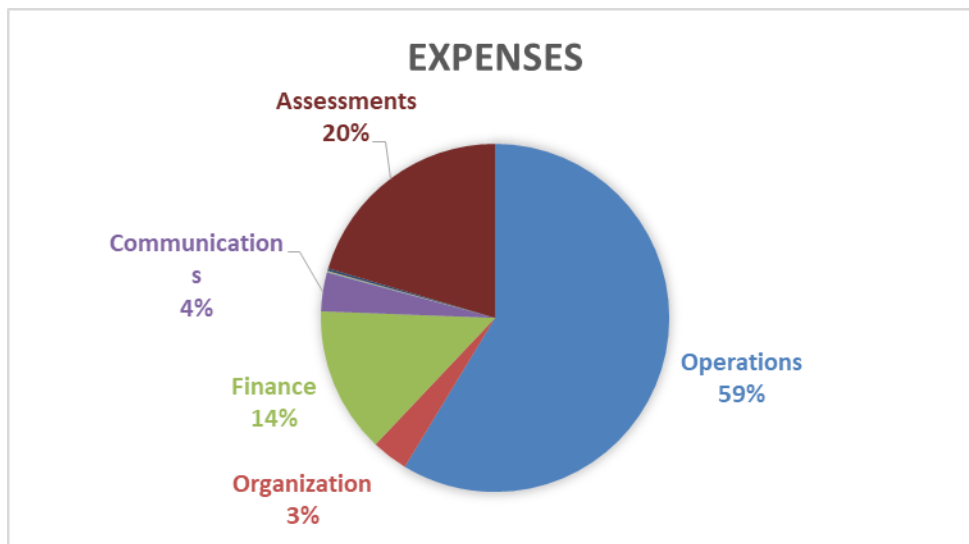
Total Income \$65,251



EXPENSES:

Operations	\$38,289	59%
Organization	\$2,200	3%
Finance	\$8,850	14%
Communications	\$2,350	4%
Program	\$50	0%
Conventions/Affil.	\$50	0%
Other	\$150	0%
Assessments	\$13,312	20%

Total Expenses \$65,251



PROPOSED BUDGET for 2020-2021

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF DENVER	Approved Budget							R.A.H.
	2018-2019	7/1/18-6/30/19	2019-2020	7/1/19-6/30/20	2020-2021	7/1/20-3/31/21	2021-2022	Comments
	BUDGET	ACTUAL	BUDGET	ACTUAL	BUDGET	ACTUAL	BUDGET	
INCOME:						[3/4 of year]		
A. Dues	\$15,000.00	\$12,800.20	\$16,000.00	\$14,330.00	\$14,000.00	\$10,431.00	\$15,000.00	
B. Contributions				+				
1. Members	1,500.00	\$5,038.50	\$8,000.00	\$9,958.45	\$11,000.00	\$3,949.00	\$11,000.00	(adding C6 to this)
Future Fund (Restricted)			\$15,000.00	\$25,944.26	\$0.00			
2. Dues Assistance	0.00	\$60.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	
3. Unit Pledges	1,000.00	\$1,331.20	\$1,500.00	\$1,236.60	\$1,300.00	\$105.00	\$1,200.00	
4. Non-members	150.00	\$75.00	\$500.00	\$105.00	\$150.00	\$542.00	\$600.00	Network for Good
5. Memorials	0.00	\$1,360.00	\$0.00	\$2,465.00	\$0.00	\$100.00	\$0.00	
SUBTOTAL B	2,650.00	7,864.70	\$25,000.00	\$39,709.31	\$12,450.00	\$4,696.00	\$12,800.00	
C. Finance Activities								
1. King Soopers Cards	2,500.00	\$1,341.32	\$2,000.00	\$1,197.61	\$1,500.00	\$515.44	\$1,000.00	
2. Safeway Cards	350.00	\$779.56	\$500.00	\$314.75	\$500.00	\$150.00	\$200.00	
3. Sprouts Cards	200.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	
4. Flower Bulb Sales	21,000.00	\$23,152.11	\$21,000.00	\$13,717.00	\$21,000.00	\$8,559.00	\$22,000.00	Add partial amounts
5. Office Upgrades	2,000.00	\$0.00	\$2,000.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	
6. Fundraising Events	2,500.00	\$0.00	\$2,000.00	\$2,275.00	\$2,500.00	\$7,534.30	\$2,500.00	Annual Letter
7. Grant Income		\$1,550.02	\$500.00	\$0.00	\$3,000.00	\$1,000.00	\$2,000.00	Alamo Draft house
SUBTOTAL C	28,550.00	26,823.01	\$28,000.00	\$17,504.36	\$28,500.00	\$17,758.74	\$27,700.00	
D. Special Meetings/Events								
1. Annual Meeting	1,700.00	\$1,750.00	\$2,625.00	\$0.00	\$2,000.00	\$0.00	\$2,000.00	
2. LWVCO Silent Auct.	100.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$393.50	\$400.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	
3. League Event		\$225.00		\$1,375.00	\$0.00	\$28.00	\$0.00	Spirituals Concert
SUBTOTAL D	1,800.00	1,975.00	\$2,625.00	\$1,768.50	\$2,400.00	\$28.00	\$2,000.00	
E. Other								
1. Interest	200.00	\$328.10	\$200.00	\$107.76	\$200.00	\$802.26	\$500.00	Future Fund CDs
2. Misc. Income		-\$8.01	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	
SUBTOTAL E	200.00	320.09	\$200.00	\$107.76	\$200.00	\$802.26	\$500.00	
F. Overhead Reimburse	11,500.00	\$15,734.72	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	Ed Fund gone
G. Additional Rev&Trans	2,165.00	\$0.00	-\$800.00	\$0.00	\$8,597.00		\$7,251.00	From savings
TOTAL INCOME	\$61,865.00	\$65,517.72	\$71,025.00	\$73,419.93	\$66,147.00	\$33,716.00	\$65,251.00	

EXPENSES:								
A. Operations								
1. Office Space								
a. Rent	\$6,000.00	\$6,774.81	\$6,000.00	\$5,542.00	\$6,264.00	\$4,698.00	\$6,264.00	
b. Custodial Gifts	200.00	\$200.00	\$200.00	\$300.00	\$300.00	\$300.00	\$300.00	
2. Staff Services								
a. Office Manager	13,500.00	\$15,035.32	\$16,500.00	\$16,452.00	\$16,500.00	\$14,247.28	\$17,500.00	Club Express work
b. Payroll Taxes	1,350.00	\$1,275.76	\$1,600.00	\$4,038.44	\$1,650.00	\$828.75	\$1,750.00	
c. Health Insurance	3,840.00	\$1,836.84	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	
d. Accountant Fee	500.00	\$0.00	\$1,500.00	\$1,750.00	\$1,200.00	\$1,300.00	\$500.00	Only one return
f. Office Assistant		\$430.00	\$500.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	
3. Equipment								
a. Equipment Lease	3,000.00	\$2,642.50	\$3,075.00	\$2,670.58	\$3,075.00	\$1,840.97	\$3,075.00	Canon copier
b. Office Upgrade	2,000.00	\$0.00	\$2,000.00		\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	
c. Maintenance/Repairs		\$236.47		\$536.25	\$300.00	\$288.03	\$200.00	Cleaning/ ComBkup
d. Property Tax Copier		\$74.94			\$75.00		\$0.00	
4. Supplies	500.00	\$951.46	\$900.00	\$2,665.40	\$900.00	\$1,643.95	\$1,500.00	Large inventory
5. Postage	250.00	\$308.65	\$300.00	\$103.05	\$150.00	\$181.50	\$200.00	
6. Telephone/Internet	2,200.00	\$2,772.65	\$1,100.00	\$3,069.81	\$2,700.00	\$2,146.82	\$2,700.00	
7. Insurance	1,900.00	\$1,494.71	\$1,900.00	\$1,549.00	\$1,500.00	\$1,796.00	\$1,500.00	
8. Sales Tax	1,800.00	\$2,555.31	\$2,500.00	\$2,049.65	\$2,000.00	\$1,030.12	\$2,000.00	Flower bulbs
9. Bank Charges	100.00	\$102.60	\$100.00	\$95.45	\$100.00	\$8.00	\$50.00	
10. Licenses/Registrations	75.00	\$696.00	\$75.00	\$354.56	\$300.00	\$138.95	\$200.00	Adobe license etc.
11. PayPal	125.00	\$68.73	\$125.00	\$48.18	\$75.00	\$202.35	\$250.00	
12. Credit Card Fees		\$0.00		\$174.57	\$150.00	\$218.03	\$300.00	
		\$2,950.00		\$0.00	\$0.00			Pros & cons 2018
SUBTOTAL A	37,340.00	40,406.75	\$38,375.00	\$41,398.94	\$37,239.00	\$30,868.75	\$38,289.00	
B. Organization Area								
1. Membership	100.00	\$0.00	\$250.00	\$0.00	\$100.00	\$0.00	\$100.00	
2. Unit Organization	50.00	\$0.00	\$50.00	\$0.00	\$50.00	\$0.00	\$50.00	
3. Annual Meeting	1,500.00	\$2,840.07	\$2,625.00	\$703.58	\$2,000.00	-\$411.09	\$2,000.00	Credit from 2020
4. Orientation/Planning	50.00	\$0.00	\$50.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	
5. Board Expense	50.00	\$100.00	\$50.00	\$50.00	\$50.00	\$0.00	\$50.00	
SUBTOTAL B	1,750.00	2,940.07	\$3,025.00	\$753.58	\$2,200.00	-\$411.09	\$2,200.00	
C. Finance Area								
1. Flower Bulbs	9,200.00	\$8,892.46	\$9,000.00	\$9,294.48	\$8,500.00	\$8,619.02	\$8,600.00	Includes ads
2. Fund Raising Events	500.00	\$0.00	\$500.00	\$0.00	\$500.00	\$132.00	\$200.00	
3. Merchandise						\$41.00	\$50.00	LWVMO Calendars
SUBTOTAL C	9,700.00	8,892.46	\$9,500.00	\$9,294.48	\$9,000.00	\$8,792.02	\$8,850.00	
D. Communications Area								
1. Voter Service		\$0.00	\$0.00	\$270.99	\$300.00	\$767.12	\$300.00	Now LWVD
2. Ballot Issues			\$3,000.00		\$3,000.00	\$2,663.95	\$1,000.00	Now LWVD
2. Public Relations	50.00	\$0.00	\$50.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$208.24	\$200.00	Yard signs
3. VOTER	400.00	\$213.95	\$400.00	\$0.00	\$300.00	\$0.00	\$100.00	
4. Roster	350.00	\$884.76	\$300.00	\$0.00	\$300.00	\$418.50	\$400.00	
5. Videos	50.00	\$0.00	\$50.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	
6. Club Express		\$1,180.00		\$716.64	\$1,000.00	\$300.51	\$350.00	10 cents/mem/mo.
Communications		\$1,125.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	Facebook intern
SUBTOTAL D	850.00	3,403.71	\$3,800.00	\$987.63	\$4,900.00	\$4,358.32	\$2,350.00	
E. Program Area								
1. Outside Workshops	50.00	\$0.00	\$50.00	\$0.00	\$50.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	
2. Program Books	75.00	\$43.32	\$75.00	\$0.00	\$50.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	
3. Meetings & Supplies	200.00	\$166.90	\$250.00	\$0.00	\$100.00	\$0.00	\$50.00	
SUBTOTAL E	325.00	210.22	\$375.00	\$0.00	\$200.00	\$0.00	\$50.00	
F. Conventions/Affiliations								
1. State Convent/Council	500.00	\$1,035.00	\$100.00	\$0.00	\$500.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	
2. National Council/Conve	0.00	-\$450.00	\$2,000.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$200.00	\$0.00	
3. Affiliations	100.00	\$0.00	\$100.00	\$0.00	\$50.00	\$50.00	\$50.00	CSLC
SUBTOTAL F	600.00	\$585.00	\$2,200.00	\$0.00	\$550.00	\$250.00	\$50.00	
G. Other	100.00	\$266.95	\$100.00	-\$110.02	\$150.00	\$155.15	\$150.00	
H. Assessments								
1. LWVCO \$20.00@	4,200.00	\$3,950.00	\$4,914.00	\$5,451.55	\$4,580.00	\$3,800.00	\$5,120.00	256 members (21)
2. LWVUS \$32.00@	7,000.00	\$6,320.00	\$8,736.00	\$7,776.00	\$7,328.00	\$9,040.00	\$8,192.00	256 members (21)
SUBTOTAL H	11,200.00	10,270.00	\$13,650.00	\$13,227.55	\$11,908.00	\$12,840.00	\$13,312.00	
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$61,865.00	\$66,975.16	\$71,025.00	\$65,552.16	\$66,147.00	\$56,853.15	\$63,251.00	
Net Income	\$0.00	-\$1,457.44	\$0.00	-\$18,076.49	\$0.00	-\$23,137.15	\$0.00	

ORGANIZATION AREA

2020-2021, A PIVOTAL YEAR! It is the second year that our lives have been changed by the pandemic which continues to control everything we do. Our unit meetings and briefings have remained vital and lively even as we have had to meet virtually. Thursday weekly Updates and the monthly *Voter* keep us in touch with our members. Those without computer access receive copies of the *Voter* through the mail.

Montview Church has been closed except for their staff. Our offices are available with strict rules; only one member at a time is allowed in the office. Fran Coleman has been going once a week, checking mail and performing other tasks that can only be done at the office. The church is going through a massive construction updating project and scaffolding is seen all over the building. One welcome change is the elevator that no longer squeaks and now gives one a smooth ride to the office. Presently, the only way to the office is through a maze (a confusing intricate network of passages). Hopefully, we will soon be back “home.”

We will see some changes on the Board. Marty Sloven steps down from her many years as Program Chair and Pearlanne Zelarney leaves as Director of Communications. Elsie Haley completes her term as Secretary, Marilyn Barrett as the Development/Fundraising Chair and Barbara Allen Ford as Member-at-Large. Thank you all for your service. However, all these members will remain on the board in other capacities.

My hope is that next year our Annual Meeting can be held at the newly refurbished Holiday Inn. It is now the DoubleTree by Hilton.

Marge Fisch, Director of Organization

Finance/Fundraising Development Committee

The Finance/Fundraising Committee had two major fundraising events this year. The Bulb Sale continues to be our major fundraiser and it met expectations last year despite COVID restrictions. Total gross revenues for the sale (which is reported financially in years 2020 and 2021) included \$19,377 in bulb sales and another \$2,133 in donations. The sale is on now and we hope for another successful year. The other major fundraising event was the end-of-year appeal which grossed \$7,534. In addition, members donated \$4,154 this year and non-members donated \$542.

Other important sources of donation income this year were King Soopers and Safeway award card earnings of \$665.44 and a voter service grant of \$1,000 from Alamo Drafthouse.

Andrea Mitchell and Marilyn Barrett

Membership Report

Many thanks to a great team: Patty Cordova, Chris Humphries, and Nancy Ulrich with outstanding support from Fran Coleman, Office Manager.

We did not have many Zoom membership meetings, but we did have several to welcome new members and many members of the board joined these meetings. We were able to follow up after these meetings because of the information provided through our IT coordinator, Andrea Mitchell.

We participated in Zoom meeting briefings every month. We have been able to contact new members, potential new members, and renewing members by email and telephone using the Club Express software. Voter Service is the primary area of interest for new members. Jeanette Scotland and Anne Duncan have welcomed their enthusiasm. We recently have updated our letters to both new members and renewing members to increase “personal contact.” Those new members who express interest in joining a unit have been referred and followed up with our team and Mary Ann Thompson, Unit Coordinator.

New this year is the “Weekly Update” to which we can contribute membership information. The 2020-2021 Membership Roster (Directory) was distributed successfully this past fall. Recruitment and retention continue to be goals for 2021-2022. Not only “What Does Democracy Look Like?” but “Who is the Face We See in the Mirror?” of LWVDenver.

Joan Friend, Membership Chair

Unit Organization

This has been a difficult year to figure out how to keep connected as a whole and as units. Some units have enough savvy people to get Zoom meetings organized. One tried an outdoor rooftop meeting last summer but hearing while distancing was difficult. All have missed the personal connection of the pre-meeting chats. Having materials to look at and reference is missed, although saving ink and paper is good.

I want to thank the units for hanging in there and creating ways to keep meeting when possible. There were 4 “active” units in this year. I use active in quotes since none are meeting in person during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Cheesman Unit is meeting via “Zoom” twice a month, the 2nd Tuesday on a topic picked by the members, and the 4th Tuesday is a discussion of the on-line briefing from the Denver League. The attendance for online meetings is usually about 12 to 15.

Cherrington Unit is meeting via “Zoom” on the 3rd Thursday usually to discuss the briefing topic if available.

Highland/Woodbury Unit is meeting the 4th Wednesday via Zoom, now at 7:00 p.m. The topic usually follows the on-line briefing.

Observatory Unit is meeting via Zoom the 2nd Tuesday on a topic picked by the members, and the 4th Tuesday is a discussion of the on-line briefing from the Denver League.

Buffalo Unit has suspended operations and is working on whether to disband, regroup or encourage the members to join other units.

Capitol Hill Unit never got enough members to stay viable and is not currently meeting.

Southwest Unit has not been meeting and is looking for someone to take over the leadership.

LWVD has not decided when briefings will resume in person because Montview Presbyterian has a lot to say about when that will happen. Units will decide how to get meetings going in the fall.

Mary Ann Thompson, Unit Organization Chair

PROGRAM AREA

How many times this year have we said, what a year? And yet, we must thank all those Leaguers who helped bring quality briefings and events to us in spite of the challenges. Program has to do with positions and advocacy, as well as the development of the calendar of events for the League year. In the area of advocacy, we have formed a committee to study policing, with the hope of adding to our position on law enforcement and doing some advocacy around that issue in the future. See Barbara Ford’s summary following this section. We are continuing to realize that no longer having resource or study committees leaves us without a place for members to become engaged. We may see some efforts to add more study committees in our future.

By having every event virtual, we were able to solve the problem of not having printed material to enhance the briefings. Every speaker supplied us with material we could put on our website or access through links in our weekly updates. We hope that has brought more information to our members. We switched from sometimes two briefings a month to only one. We may continue that in the future. Organizing two briefings a month is extremely challenging.

Calendar of Events 2020-21

Kick-Off, Tuesday, September 15, 2020, with State Representative Leslie Herod “Defunding the Police. What does that mean?”

Representative Herod championed Caring 4 Denver in 2018, raising at least \$35 million annually for mental health and substance abuse treatment. She worked to pass SB 20-217 last year: Enhanced Law Enforcement Integrity, a major step is changing the culture of policing in Colorado. Thanks to Barbara Allen Ford and Peg Oldham for organizing this briefing in which we learned more about what SB 20-217 accomplished and what might be done in the future to “reimagine” policing in our city, state, and country.

Virtual Ballot Issues Briefings: Colorado Issues - October 5, and Denver Issues - October 12

Much of the fall was dominated by Voter Service as you will see in another part of this booklet. Our Voter Service Co-Chairs Jeanette Scotland and Anne Duncan and their team did an exceptional job in these complicated times. Be sure to read their summary.

Healthy Food for Denver: Youth Food Access and Farm-to-Food Pantry, Monday, November 16

Lauren Howe, Program Administrator for the Healthy Food for Denver’s Kids initiative, brought us up to speed on how the 2018 Sales Tax Revenue is being used to help feed Denver’s kids, especially important in the pandemic. We also heard from Ashley Wheeland from Hunger Free Colorado about how the Farm-to-Pantry is helping feed Colorado, particularly in harder to reach areas. Both these women were inspiring in their concern for hungry Coloradoans. Thanks to Mary Giammari for organizing her first briefing.

Promoting Housing Stability, January 19, 2021

Jennifer Beiss from the Denver Department of Housing Stability, created in October 2019, explained how this department brought together existing investments and various housing and homelessness programs, development, and services. The pandemic forced them to abandon a five-year plan for a 2021 Action Plan involving a multitude of services to the homeless and those in risk of losing their homes. She also explained how they hoped to use the money from the Homelessness Resolution Fund, another Denver sales tax passed in 2020. Peg Oldham organized this briefing, one of many she has brought to us over the years.

Current Issues in Police Reform and Civil Rights, Monday, February 15

A woman of many accomplishments, Denise Maes, Director of Public Policy from the American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU) brought us back to many of the issues we heard from Colorado Representative Leslie Herod in September concerning the police, how SB 20-217 is being implemented or not, and the hope for further legislation this session. Susan Stark, another annual briefing organizer, brought Director Maes to us. Thank you, Sue.

Program Council Meetings, January 22 and February 12

As Director of Program, I can't imagine what I would do without a group of Denver Leaguers who are dedicated to Program and come up with the topics about which we become educated throughout the year. We met in January to plan the rest of the League Year ending in Annual Meeting, coming up on May 15. Then we met again in February to complete a "Positions for Action Review" (formerly called Program Planning) to assess our local and state positions. One plan which came out of that meeting was a request that we look at one local position each month in the *Denver Voter*. We started that last month with a section of our Position on Justice. We covered our local Government position in May and will continue in the coming months.

Racist Roots of our Tax Policies, March 16

We have unfortunately heard a great deal about racism during the past year, but learning about racist taxes was an eye opener. Carol Hedges, Executive Director and co-founder of the Colorado Fiscal Institute, is an expert on tax law. An exciting speaker, she has educated us many times over the years, often on TABOR, the Taxpayer's Bill of Rights. Thanks to Sally Augden for bringing her to us again.

Truth and Trade Offs in a Democratic Government, April 19

Cindy Sestrich, program planner extraordinaire, has been in long term communication with Chris Celaya, a postdoctoral researcher at the University of Denver Center on American Politics. We learned about his research on having more productive political conversations, a goal of League. Dr. Celaya has also provided the Denver League with an extensive document defining many terms we use in discussing government and politics. He defines six major terms but other terms as well in the explanation of those major points. Check this out under Resources/Documents on our website.

In addition to those who organized briefings, I want to thank Barbara Allen Ford who stepped up to be my assistant during this year. Her summary of the Policing Study Group follows. I also want to thank Sally Augden, who handled publicity for these Program events; Andrea Mitchell for getting us organized before each briefing, handling the Zoom links, and sharing documents during the briefings; and Pearlanne Zelarney, who welcomed us to the briefings and handled all those pesky Chat questions.

Marty Sloven, Director of Program

Police Study Group (PSG)

In response to the uprisings accompanying the murder of George Floyd in June 2020 in Minneapolis, LWV Denver members formed a Police Study Group (PSG) of Denver Police Department (DPD) justice, transparency and equality. We shortly learned that LWVD actually has a position on Justice, adopted in 1971. Little history remains of what incidents in Denver or nationally furnished the impetus for that position, but the position is as relevant today as it was then: **“Support for measures which will improve the selection and preparation of law enforcement officers and which will improve police-community relations ...”** Throughout the 90’s, the Denver League referred to this position to actively advocate and participate in the establishment of the Office of the Independent Monitor (OIM). Subsequently, Denver League has actively observed the workings of the OIM and its Advisory Board.

The death of George Floyd; the passage of Colorado SB 20-217; calls for “defunding” the police by Black Lives Matter activists; and the pending outcome of the OIM report on the DPD handling of the peaceful, turned chaotic and dangerous protests; commanded a more active Denver League response than that of “observer.” The presentations delivered by two esteemed and wise community leaders of color, Rep. Leslie Herod of Colorado District 8, and Denise Maes of the ACLU, have furnished further impetus of our police study group which has been meeting regularly since January 2021. The Study Group has been researching national studies, such as the NAACP Report in 2015, state law and policy, and local practice of the DPD.

I wish to thank Study Group members, Kathy Yates, Chris Humphries, Andrea Mitchell, Helen Tuttle, with input from Martha Hoff, for their excellent research to date. In 2021-2022, the PSG intends to continue studying best practices and recommendations for police practice with a racial justice lens, as applied to

1. Police culture, training and personnel management
2. Community Oversight and transparency
3. Performance standards and evaluation/data

Now we are preparing to begin interviewing informants in order to bring our membership up to date with the status of the DPD in the context of Colorado and National police reform. We understand far better now, than previously, that the DPD is unique to the City and County of Denver, as is every city’s police department. If we citizens of Denver understand how our police department should be; it is we, the citizens of Denver that must make it so. Every city’s police department is unique to that city, and it is incumbent on that city’s citizens to make their ideas and opinions known and understood. The PSG will also monitor DPD progress in implementing the recommendations of the 2020 Independent Monitor, the Colorado Attorney General Grand Jury Report on the killing of Elijah MacLean, the formation and deliberations of the Mayor’s Task Force on Police, fulfillment of Colorado Police Officer Service Training Guidelines and Curriculum, and the implementation and compliance with SB 20-217 in Denver.

Barbara Allen Ford, Facilitator, Police Study Group

COMMUNICATIONS AREA

The communications group works to keep the League visible in the community, especially when we have great briefings or need to advocate on an issue.

We continued to have virtual events this year and all outreach continued to be electronic. Jackie Denning has consistently ensured our presence in social media and significantly ramped up these efforts, particularly in Facebook. Sally Augden, Public Relations, successfully promoted all of our briefings in the local media, including monthly and weekly publications. This increased visibility brought new “faces” to our Zoom event.

We continue to use the ClubExpress platform for our website and most of our communication to members. This year Andrea Mitchell encouraged us to send weekly update emails through ClubExpress instead of the e-blasts sent by the office. These updates had a consistent look and were well received by membership.

Pearlanne Zelarney, Director of Communications

Denver VOTER

The Denver *VOTER* has a long tradition of providing articles of interest to our members. We rely on you, our members, to submit articles of interest and notifications of unit activities. Marty Sloven and I worked each month to ensure accuracy and readability. We also use the ClubExpress platform to create the email version of the *Voter* and sent it the 4th Thursday of the month instead of the normal Weekly Update. Marge Fisch mailed a few printed newsletters to the very few of us still without email.

Please send us any suggestions about new content, changes in format or article ideas. We produce the *VOTER* for you and want it to be the best it can be.

Pearlanne Zelarney, VOTER Editor

Technology Update

The Denver League has been “live” on the ClubExpress membership management software since January of 2020. ClubExpress software automated many previously paper-based functions including:

- Website management, including the home page announcements and news items
- Member signups and renewals, people lookup, and roster management
- Email Communication, including weekly updates and monthly *Voter*
- Calendar and event management
- Committee member tracking and mailing lists
- Document storage
- Reporting (membership, donations, website use, member use)
- Non-member contacts (donors, interested partners)

We were even able to host the Bulb Sale “on line” by making order sheets and bulb photos available on the website and allowing purchases by members using credit card or PayPal. While the implementation has been largely successful from the perspective of League management, we have had less than stellar results convincing members to use the system. Out of 260 total members, 101 (or 39%) have not logged in since we went live. Our monthly web number is approximately 300-350; only about a third of those are by members who have logged into the site. Our weekly emails and monthly *Voter* have been popular but are opened by only about 50% of the individuals to which they are sent.

Andrea Mitchell, Technology Coordinator

Voter Service

Our job this year was primarily coordination since so many Leaguers and community volunteers helped. Voter Service has 5 areas: Voter Registration, Pros and Cons, Denver Decides, Vote411, and Speakers’ Bureau. This year we created the Voter Registration Team to carry out duties. Voter Service Team members were Elizabeth Brown, Anne Duncan, Susan Dunn, Jeanette Scotland, and Alicia Smoot.

Voter Registration

We partnered with several key organizations:

- The Denver City and County Clerk and Recorder
- Denver Health
- Denver Sheriff’s Department
- Denver Elections Division
- Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority , Epsilon Nu Omega Sorority
- Denver Women’s Chorus
- Little Man Ice Cream
- Moms Demand Action
- Colorado Criminal Justice Reform Coalition
- Vision Farmers’ Market
- Ready Foods, Inc.
- Kavod Senior Living
- Olin Apartments
- Regis College
- Messiah Community Church
- House of Praise Church
- History Colorado

Outreach to several additional groups was thwarted due to the COVID restrictions including Lutheran Family Services, COLOR (Colorado Organization for Latina Opportunity and Reproductive Rights), CLLARO (Colorado Latino Leadership and Research Organization) and Mi Familia Vota.

We worked with these groups and many individual interested community members and

- Trained 90 circulators in 16 training sessions. Community members pledged to be non-partisan in registering voters.
- Held 59 voter service events in which we registered at least 472 first-time voters.
- In six events in the jails, we registered more than 392 people, including staff. Some registrations were not counted as our teams were busy registering and helping people to vote.

In-Person Voting at Jails - This year we worked with the Denver Sheriff's Department, Denver Elections Division and the Colorado Criminal Justice Reform Coalition to become one of three counties in the U.S. to conduct in-person voting in jails. On November 2 and November 3, Election Day, three Leaguers trained as election judges and dressed in Personal Protective Equipment, spent over 29 hours assisting incarcerated individuals to register and to vote in person.

The Nonettes: Susan Dunn, a Voter Service Team Member, organized a group of nine personal friends and coordinated with us on many voter registration events and

- Contacted **all** middle and high school principals, social studies teachers and counselors with links on voter registration materials. They also sent out the LWVUS *Time to Vote! Virtual Youth Voter Registration Lesson*.
- Contacted a major social service provider for each of the following marginalized groups: Native Americans, African Americans, Latinos, and homeless offering to do voter registration events and sent links for materials for registering.
- Provided a voter registration event for STRIVE Prep-Rise, a public charter high school.
- Set up voter registration events in Washington Park on volleyball league nights
- One Nonette delivered 250 forms to Ready Foods, Inc. at the request of the owner.
- Several Nonettes had the League co-sponsor voter registration events at Vision Farmers' Market for two days in early September.

Pros and Cons: In Denver we had 12 local Ballot Issues for which Steve Coddington guided the creation of the *Pros and Cons* of the ballot issues. This year we published a Spanish Edition as well. Under Fran Coleman's printing prowess, we printed and distributed over 1,500 copies to various locations including 14 Denver City Libraries, 5 Denver Health Clinics, both Denver County jails, two Denver Housing Authority units, and several Latina social service agencies. Additionally, League members helped by distributing several hundred to friends and church members. We also delivered 3,500 English State Ballot Issues pamphlets and 500 Spanish pamphlets to most of the same locations.

Denver Decides is a coalition of Denver Channel 8 (community television), Inter-Neighborhood Cooperation (INC), and the Denver League of Women Voters. This partnership, which is active throughout the year, produced 14 videotaped presentations of candidate and issue forums for all Denver Voters. The forums were made widely available via YouTube. Nancy Ulrich and other Leaguers contributed to the effort by helping to find pro and con voices for each issue and contributing the majority of questions asked of candidates. Two of the issues forums were presented by George Washington High School debate teams; the nicotine tax measure and the wolf reintroduction referendum.

VOTE411: All the candidates were contacted to provide their information for the VOTE411 website. Some needed several prompts from Harper Strickland to turn in information.

Speakers' Bureau: Sarah McCarthy facilitated a partnership with the Denver Public Library. Together the two produced and recorded six discussions on several of the many state and local ballot issues. These videos were made available to the public. Members also spoke to Cafecito Washington High School, John F Kennedy High School and AARP for discussions on the Pros and Cons of all the Ballot Issues.

Other Activities:

- We managed a grant of \$1,000 from Alamo Drafthouse, a pass-through grant from LWVUS. The funds financed our *Pros and Cons* brochure, the purchase of state *Ballot Issues*, and *Your Voice Your Vote*, and our new palm cards. We held four in-person outdoor voter registration events at Alamo Drafthouse in September and October.
- Palm Cards: Paula Atkinson created a new palm card to hand out to would-be voters with information about on-line voter registration and how to contact VOTE411 for needed election information. We distributed 4,000 cards at all voter registration events.
- One community activist supplied 600 cards to free meal distribution centers.
- Liaison with City and County Clerk and Records' Office: the co-chairs attended various meetings held by the clerk: The Election Modernization Committee, The Election Advisory Committee, and the Charter Review Committee.
- Attended Ranked Choice Voting Meetings with Colorado RCV via Zoom.
- Attended about 7 Zoom webinars to learn how other organizations around the country were handling cyber security and outdoor voter registrations.
- Our members purchased and distributed 200 "Use Your Power - VOTE" yard signs.
- Two major educational briefings were held virtually to discuss both the Denver and Colorado ballot issues and were viewed by over 150 participants including both members and non-members.

League Members who participated during the last year:

Voter Registration Circulators: Patricia Andrews*, Robin Blessner, Margaret Bobb*, Myrna Bottone, Kathleen Brennan, Elizabeth Brown*, Kirsten Decker, Jackie West-Denning*, Anne Duncan*, Susan Dunn*, Joan Friend*, Jennifer Garner*, Carolyn Georgeson, Marcia Helfant*, Peggy Howell*, Chris Humphries*, Andrea Jacobsen*, Carol Jansch, Marcia Lamb, Wanda Lenox, Maud Naroll, Peg Oldham, Carol Pace, Debra Persico*, Marquis Price, Jeanette Scotland, Lynn Sibbet, Alicia Smoot*, Susan Stark*, Harper Strickland*, Linda Werner*, Mary Werner*, Kathleen Yates* (*Circulators who were able to serve during the pandemic.)

Pros and Cons: Steven Coddington, Anne Duncan, Pearlanne Zelarney

Denver Decides: Nancy Ulrich, Anne Duncan, Pearlanne Zelarney, Fran Coleman

Speakers' Bureau: Sarah McCarthy, Fran Coleman, Carol Pace, Jeanette Scotland

Vote411: Anne Duncan, Harper Strickland

Other Activities: Paula Atkinson, Fran Coleman, Bobbie Heisterkamp, Marge Fisch, Sandra Shreve, Peg Oldham, Chris Humphries

Respectfully submitted: *Anne Duncan and Jeanette Scotland, Voter Service Co-Chairs*

BOARD NOMINATION REPORT 2021

The full membership will elect a new Board at the Annual Meeting. Here is the slate proposed by the Nominating Committee, but nominations can also be made from the floor at that meeting.

Nominated for a two-year term:

Co-Director of Organization: **Pam Hovik**
Co-Director of Program: **Barbara Allen Ford**
Co-Director of Program: **Kathy Yates**
Director of Communications: **Elsie Haley**
Secretary: **Marty Sloven**
Voter Editor: **Pearlanne Zelarney**
Co-Chair Voter Service: **Jeanette Scotland**
Member at Large: **Marilyn Barrett**
Member at Large: **Frank Bennett**

Nominated for a one-year term:

Co-Director of Organization: **Marge Fisch**

Members continuing second year of term:

Treasurer: **Bobbie Heisterkamp**
Membership: **Joan Friend**
Unit Organization: **Mary Ann Thompson**
Co-Chair Voter Service: **Anne Duncan**
Member at Large: **Nancy Ulrich**

At the first Board meeting, the Board will appoint **Andrea Mitchell** to serve as Technology Coordinator for another year.

The Board is still interested in finding someone to fill the position of Finance/Fundraising Chair (or Development, as it used to be called). If you are interested or want more information about this position, please contact a member of the Nominating Committee: Carla Bennett, Chair; Frank Bennett, Patty Cordova, Barbara Allen Ford, or Nancy Ulrich.

PAST AWARD WINNERS

Shirley Weaver Suffragist Award

A lifetime achievement award in recognition of outstanding work and contributions to the Denver League over a lengthy period of time.

1988 - Shirley Weaver	2005 - Arlene Hutchinson
1989 - Miriam Grant	2006 - Ruth Stark
1990 - May Clark	2007 - Lorie Young
1991 - Genny Weston	2008 - Phyllis Zumwinkel
1992 - Margaret Walther	2009 - Nancy Ulrich
1993 - Dot Sobol	2010 - Bev Bridges
1994 - Maxine Kurtz	2011 - Buzzy Hassrick
1995 - Helen McIntire, Janet Dworin	2012 - Marge Fisch
1996 - Jane Wasson	2013 - Patty Cordova & Bobbie Heisterkamp
1997 - Mary Hess	2014 - Catherine Decker
1998 - Marty Sloven	2015 - Mary Ann Feldman-Lang
1999 - Vivian Dodds	2016 - Mary Werner
2000 - Alice Kelly	2017 - Sally Augden
2001 - Margaret McNamara	2018 - Peg Oldham
2002 - Clare Freedman and Joan Sussman	2019 - Gordon Butz
2003 - Thelma Hutt	2020 - Carla and Frank Bennett
2004 - Mary Jo Spiro and Rose Tanaka	

The Marty Sloven Mother Lode Award

For special effort and contributions during the past year.

1988 - Sue Bollman	2005 - Nancy Ulrich and Theresa Jones
1989 - Nora Kimball	2006 - Marty Sloven
1990 - Jane Wasson	2007 - Sandra Shreve
1991 - Alice Kelly	2008 - Bonnie Clarke and Carol Tone
1992 - Fran Pizer	2009 - Katherine Marshall
1993 - Marty Sloven	2010 - Carol Lassen
1994 - Jacqui Lansing and Ruth Cambier	2011 - Cindy Sestrich
1995 - (none)	2012 - Marci Hladik
1996 - Amy Truby	2013 - Pearlanne Zelarney
1997 - Mary Thompson & Mary Ann Feldman-Lang	2014 - Glenda Prosser
1998 - Josephine Carpenter	2015 - Carol Andersen and Peggy Pitchford
1999 - Nancy Ulrich	2016 - Janet Burns
2000 - Pat Buchanan	2017 - Sue Stark
2001 - Lorie Young	2018 - Andrea Mitchell & Jeanette Scotland
2002 - Bobbie Heisterkamp	2019 - Joan Friend & Marge Fisch
2003 - Bev Bridges and Margaret Velarde	2020 - Anne Duncan & Andrea Mitchell
2004 - Marion Colliander and Jan Strauss	

HONORARY MEMBERS: *Fifty years of continuous membership in the League*

Mary Alyce Behrns, Bev Bridges, Minna Buck, Gordon Butz, Addie Cohen, Loretta Crippen, Vivian Dodds, Marge Fisch, Mary Hess, Norma Heinz, Alida Stein-Lustig, Toni Larson, Carol Lofft, Pat Pascoe, Elizabeth Richardson, Marcia K. Stevens, Rona Shor, Jane Wasson, Rhoda Weinstein, Diane Young, Lorie Young, Phyllis Zumwinkel.