



2020 Annual Manual

Prepared for the Annual Meeting on
August 24th, 2020

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LWV Mesa County Annual Meeting

Hello LWV Members! We invite you to attend the Annual Meeting of the League of Women Voters of Mesa County on **Monday, August 24th at 7:00PM – 8:00PM**. This year, due to the COVID-19 pandemic and Colorado's Safer-At-Home recommendations, we will be holding our annual meeting online via a Zoom webinar. Instructions for how to access Zoom will be sent to all members no later than August 21st.

To ensure you receive all of the latest and greatest updates regarding the annual meeting, please RSVP (aka register) on our **Events** page at lwvmesa.org. Please email any questions to info@lwvmesa.org.

Host a "Watch" Party

If you are interested in hosting an Annual Meeting "Watch" Party with fellow Leaguers, please let us know at info@lwvmesa.org. We will help spread the word.

Welcome New Members!

Welcome to our newest members: Ann Brach, Kathryn Bedell, Jan Moorman, Marjorie Asturias, Tammy Reynolds, Theresa Pytell, and Nazia Taylor! We are so happy you have joined our fight to create a more perfect democracy and we look forward to working with you all.

Local Program for 2020-2021

For the upcoming season, the LWV Mesa County leadership team puts forth a motion to continue with the **Making Democracy Work** platform.

Through the Making Democracy Work® campaign, the League will fundamentally reshape our democracy by engaging millions more voters in the election process and strengthening the laws that govern money in politics, redistricting, and voting rights so that is free, fair, and accessible to all. – League of Women Voters of the U.S.

Please Take Our Survey

We want to know what issues and causes matter the most to you! To better align our 2020-2021 events with our members' interests, we have put together a quick online survey of current issues.

Please take a moment to fill out the survey and help us Make Democracy Work in 2020-2021!
(Link to survey in email and on our website at lwvmesa.org.)

Leadership Team Report

The League of Women Voters of Mesa County (LWVMC) Leadership Team was very active throughout the 2019-2020 session. The Team continues to meet the first Wednesday of each month and frequently breaks out into smaller workgroups between meetings to get the work done.

The Leadership Team (LT) recognizes the value of social media to communicate our mission, positions and events to members and the general public. It became evident that a new *Technology & Communication Committee* was needed as the LT approved implementing Club Express to better organize communication. Toni Brammeier enthusiastically embraced the chairperson position and has done an excellent job of directing the monthly meetings and expanding the LWVMC online presence. With the move to Club Express, the LT approved several new policies and procedures which included "Social Media Guidelines" and the "New Project Proposal". The LT has also reviewed our By-Laws and Policies/ Procedures for needed updates around online presence and to align with recently revised LWVColorado and LWVUS By-Laws Articles I- III. See the annual committee report from Technology & Communication to learn more about this active group and consider volunteering your time to work with them!

We have reached out to our Colorado regional and state LWV partners this past year and formed solid partnerships. In November, the Colorado LWV and LWVMC funded and hosted a well-attended public debate on the National Popular Vote. Our relationship with regional Leagues has also grown as we hosted a breakfast for LWV regional and State officers following the National Popular Vote presentation to meet and talk about projects. Future partnerships around common regional candidates and issues are actively being planned. You can find out more about our LWV volunteers who are building community partnerships throughout Mesa County from the Voter Services Coordinator's annual report!

Until the Covid-19 virus arrived, the State and LWVMC were planning to hold the Colorado 2020 Council in Grand Junction. The Council meeting was instead conducted via a webinar on Zoom, which the LWVMC has also adapted for our meetings this coming year. The Colorado LWV has vowed to hold future State events on the Western Slope, once recovery from Covid-19 is secured. The LWVMC wishes to maintain the health and safety of its members and for the coming year will continue to coordinate our programs and activities through Club Express and Zoom. Watch for event announcements on our Facebook page.

The Leadership Team is appreciative of the time and energy that members have devoted to the success of our activities. Our volunteer's contributions are greatly valued and provide

community recognition of the LWVMC as a reliable resource to the citizens of Mesa County. The Leadership Team encourages all members to contribute your talents to the League by volunteering for one event and/or committee this year. The continued success of the LWVMC depends on the creativity, energy and support of our members.

The following is an end of year summary of the LWVMC accomplishments for 2019-2020:

- Topics, Events and Forums presented:
 - Participant at Women's March, Martin Luther King Day, Caesar Chavez Day, Poor Peoples Campaign
 - Farmer's Market downtown booth
 - Public Health update for Mesa County
 - Forum: Colorado ballot issues and School District 51 Board candidates
 - National Popular Vote debate
 - Ozone 101: Air Quality
 - Hosted Breakfast with LWV state and regional officers
 - Tour of WCCC
 - Book Club reviewed 4 books
 - Christmas party for members
- LWV radio shows on KWSI-LP 100.3 Radio:
 - Produced 7 episodes of *Civics and Action*, featuring interviews with candidates and proponents and opponents of ballot issues and live broadcasts of LWV voter forums
 - Candidates, elected officials, ballot issue representatives interviewed
- *Voter* newsletters published monthly; moved to quarterly in 2020
- Built and implemented web-based *Club Express*, improving LWVMC communication
- Initiated virtual meetings on Zoom during Covid-19
- Partnerships with other regional LWV: 4
- Partnerships with other community organizations: 6
- Voter registration activities at public events: 4
- Grants received: 1
- Family memberships: 12
- Lifetime members: 2
- New members: 7
- Student members: 2
- Members: 29
- Total members: 52
- New Leadership Team members: 2
- Total Leadership Team members: 5 (4 more needed)

- Paid staff: 0

Respectfully submitted by Deb Tittle, Chairperson and Leadership Development

Leadership Team Members

A big thank you to our 2019-2020 leadership team for their year of service:

Chair: Deb Tittle

Spokesperson: Robyn Parker

Secretary: Anita Pisciotte

Treasurer: Henry Snyder

Leadership Development: Deb Tittle

Voter Services Coordinator: Robyn
Parker

Advisor(s): Peggy Rawlins, Cynthia
Edwards, Toni Brammeier

We are sad to announce that our long-time treasurer and technology coordinator, Henry Snyder has decided to step down. Henry has played a vital role over the years in the daily administration of our chapter. We will miss his humor, his know-how, ...and the beer. Congratulations on your "retirement", Henry!

Cynthia Edwards is also stepping down from her role on the leadership team; happily, she has agreed to stay active and involved in League events and activities. A big thank you to Cynthia for her warmth and hospitality over the years.

Deb Tittle, Robyn Parker, Peggy Rawlins, Anita Pisciotte, and Toni Brammeier have agreed to stay on for another year. Peggy and Anita are both seeking re-election as their elected two-year terms have expired. Deb, Robyn, and Toni each have one more year in their elected terms. Toni has agreed to replace Henry in the role of Treasurer.

The proposed 2020-2021 Leadership Team is as follows:

Chair: Deb Tittle

Spokesperson: Robyn Parker

Secretary: Anita Pisciotte*

Treasurer: Toni Brammeier

Leadership Development: Deb Tittle

Voter Services Coordinator: Robyn
Parker

Advisor(s): Peggy Rawlins*

**These members are up for re-election at the 2020 Annual Meeting*

Nominations

As no members volunteered for the Nominating Committee at the 2019 annual meeting, the leadership team submits the following names for re-election to the LT:

- Peggy Rawlins

- Anita Pisciotte

Nominating Committee

The Leadership Team puts forth a motion to accept nominations from the floor for three members (including one Leadership Team member) to form a nominating committee for the 2021-2022 LT, with nominees selected by February 28th, 2021 in order for the names to be included in the 2021 Annual Manual. Nominations will be for a 2-year team to the LT team.

Members who would like to be considered for nomination should notify the nominating committee via email at info@lwvmesa.org.

Committee Reports

Membership Committee Annual Report

With the introduction of Club Express, we adopted a rolling membership model - memberships now expire after one full year, instead of on October 31st. Club Express makes this easy as it allows us to automatically track membership expirations and send a reminder email to the member 2 weeks before a membership is due to expire. Also, members are now able to renew their memberships entirely online without having to go through PayPal.

This year we established the Member Support Fund to assist members with membership dues and other League related expenses. We encourage members who receive this assistance to join a committee, volunteer at an event, or contribute their time in some other way throughout the year. Members and non-members are invited to donate specifically to this fund via the Donate page on our website at lwvmesa.org.

Overall, membership is declining. We started the 2019-2020 season with 70 members but dropped to 43 in January. Membership numbers have improved a bit since and we currently have just over 50 members.

Respectfully submitted by Toni Brammeier, Treasurer and Chair CommTech Committee

Communications & Technology Committee Annual Report

Our new website and club management platform (Club Express) went live on February 14th. Designing and building the website and setting up the database was an ALL VOLUNTEER effort and took countless hours. If you have not done so already, please take a moment to visit lwvmesa.org.

This year, we also upped our social media game and now boast 450+ followers on Facebook, 80% of whom are women. We regularly reach 1000s of users each month with our posts and have even had a few posts go viral. To ensure quality and consistency of messaging, we adopted a social media policy this past fall, which is available to members-only on our website.

Finally, we redesigned our newsletter, moving to an all-digital format and a quarterly distribution. Like everything we do, our newsletter is an ALL VOLUNTEER effort. We welcome any and all contributions – please send your contributions to tech@lwvmesa.org.

Respectfully submitted by Toni Brammeier, Treasurer and Chair CommTech Committee

Program & Event Planning Committee Annual Report

Between September 2019 and June 2020, LWV-Mesa hosted a diversity of well-attended community events, including voter forums, issues presentations, and social gatherings.

In the fall of 2019, we hosted two voter forums, which featured three ballot issues and candidates for two school board positions, and in June 2020, we co-sponsored an online forum with LWV-La Plata County. Please see LWV-Mesa 2019-2020 Voter Services Report for specifics about these forums.

Community presentations also included “Building a Sense of Community” by Mesa County Health Department Executive Director, Jeff Kuhr; “A Discussion About a New High School” by Kathy Story, a director of Hilltop Services; “Ozone 101” presented by Karen Sjoberg and Citizens for Clean Air; and “Introduction to Club Express for LWV Members” presented by Toni Brammeier.

A dozen or more LWV members attended each of our social outings, which included a field trip to Western Colorado Community College, breakfast with LWV-Colorado leaders, a December holiday party, group participation in Grand Junction’s 2020 Women’s March and Martin Luther King, Jr. activities, and a book club.

Respectfully submitted by Robyn Parker, Spokesperson and Voter Services Coordinator

Voter Services Annual Report

Voter education and voter registration are the primary activities of the LWV-Mesa Voter Services Committee and included voter forums, production of a radio and podcast series, an electronic voting guide, and voter registration support at community events such as farmers’ markets and Martin Luther King, Jr. Day.

In the fall of 2019, we hosted two voter forums, one of which featured school board candidates and ballot issues and the other the pros and cons of National Popular Vote. Both forums were moderated by CMU Professor Justin Gollob, PhD and broadcast live on KWSI-LP Radio and replayed dozens of times on-air and online.

The Candidates and Ballot Issues Forum was attended by 60 guests and featured two unopposed candidates running for two school board seats as well as proponents and opponents of three ballot issues addressing School District 51 funding, funds for education and



transportation, and gambling funds for water projects. Volunteers from Grand Valley Students United assisted with the forum.

The National Popular Vote Forum featured Mesa County Commissioner Rose Pugliese in opposition to NPV and former California congressman, senator and ALEC chair Ray Haynes in favor and was attended by more than 100 guests.

In June 2020, we expanded our repertoire to include internet-based voter forums when we co-sponsored a CD-3 candidates forum organized by LWV-La Plata County, which was broadcast live on Zoom and Facebook with candidates debating from their homes.

LWV-Mesa has partnered with KWSI-LP 100.3 Radio to broadcast our voter forums and to produce *Civics & Action*, a series of nonpartisan voter information radio shows and podcasts. For the November 2019 election, the two school board candidates, as well as proponents and opponents of three ballot issues were interviewed to create seven episodes of "Civics & Action," which were broadcast dozens of times before the election and available 24/7 online.

Vote 411 provided voters with information about the Colorado candidates and issues on their November 2019 ballots. The Vote 411 platform allows local leagues to input information about county and city candidates and ballot issues and ideally includes information about all candidates and issues on each voter's individual ballot. LWV-Mesa did not have the volunteer resources to input local information in 2019.

Voter registration, a popular activity among LWV volunteers, has become so simple in Colorado that our voter registration services are generally no longer needed. Citizens can register to vote online and when they renew their drivers' licenses. Plus, advance registration is no longer necessary, so voters can even register on election day! In Mesa County, Grand Valley Students United volunteers have been registering high school voters. We continue to offer voter registration services when we engage in farmers' markets and special events such as MLK Day but have reduced outreach activities since our community's voter registration needs are being met by other organizations.

Volunteers remain fundamental to the success of LWV-Mesa's voter service activities. The experience and expertise of our voter services team continues to develop as we find new ways to engage the community and to inspire voter participation. State and national LWV provide an impressive array of resources such as Vote 411, which our group has not had adequate volunteer resources to fully utilize. So that we may continue to provide the high quality voter services upon which our community relies, we encourage more of our members to volunteer for our Voter Services Committee.

Respectfully submitted by Robyn Parker, Spokesperson and Voter Services Coordinator

Fundraising Committee Annual Report

Due to a shortage of resources and volunteers, our fundraising committee was not active during the 2019-2020 season. We look forward to changing that in the upcoming 2020-2021 season with an ambitious goal to raise \$8500!

We are actively recruiting volunteers to help us reach our goal. We have some ideas already and need the energy and creativity of our dedicated members to bring our fund-raising committee back to life.

You can join our fundraising committee (and other committees) by logging into our website lwvmesa.org and following the prompts on our Join a Committee webpage. Or email us at info@lwvmesa.org.

Respectfully submitted by Toni Brammeier, Treasurer and Chair CommTech Committee

Volunteer Opportunities

This season we would like to encourage every member to **#DoOneThing** to support and promote LWV's mission throughout Mesa County. Whether you have lots of time to give or just a little bit, there are lots of ways to get involved. Here are just a few suggestions to get your creative juices flowing:

1. Volunteer to help with an LWV event or activity. Check out the 'Volunteer' page on our website lwvmesa.org for upcoming opportunities.
2. Donate your old tablet to LWV Mesa County for use during voter education drives. Email us at tech@lwvmesa.org for more information.
3. Join the leadership team or a committee. Express your interest in any committee by signing up on our 'Join A Committee' page at lwvmesa.org or email us at info@lwvmesa.org. All committees, including the leadership team, are actively seeking new volunteers.
4. Submit questions for upcoming election forums by emailing us at media@lwvmesa.org.
5. Submit articles and stories for an upcoming edition of The Voter (our quarterly newsletter) by emailing us at tech@lwvmesa.org.
6. Join an online discussion with other members via our new discussion forums at lwvmesa.org.
7. Donate to LWV Mesa County's general fund at lwvmesa.org and help us reach our ambitious fund-raising goal for 2020-2021.

Financial Report

2020-2021 Proposed Budget

	2018-2019	2019-2020		2020-2021
	Actual	Budget	Actual	Budget
Income				
Contributions				
Contributions - In-Kind	\$529.03*	\$800.00*	\$160.00*	\$400.00*
Contributions - Members	\$ 2,911.57	\$ 2,000.00	\$ 1,751.00	\$ 2,000.00
Contributions - Member Support Fund	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 10.00	\$ -
Contributions - Non-Members	\$ 101.59	\$ 300.00	\$ 272.08	\$ 300.00
Contributions Total	\$ 3,013.16	\$ 2,300.00	\$ 2,033.08	\$ 2,300.00
Grants				
Grants - Ed Fund	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 1,000.00
Grants - Other	\$ 2,500.00	\$ 2,500.00	\$ 1,248.00	\$ 500.00
Grants Total	\$ 2,500.00	\$ 2,500.00	\$ 1,248.00	\$ 1,500.00
Membership Dues				
Membership Dues (gross)	\$ 3,115.00	\$ 3,000.00	\$ 2,275.00	\$ 3,000.00
Membership Dues Total	\$ 3,115.00	\$ 3,000.00	\$ 2,275.00	\$ 3,000.00
Other Income				
Bulletin / Newsletter / Web Ads	\$ 200.00	\$ 300.00	\$ -	\$ 300.00
Civic Directory	\$ -	\$ 100.00	\$ -	\$ -
Fund Balance Surplus	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 1,300.00
Fund Drive	\$ -	\$ 250.00	\$ -	\$ 100.00
Misc. Income	\$ 300.00	\$ -	\$ 225.50	\$ -
Voter services	\$ -	\$ 1,000.00	\$ -	\$ -
Other Income Total	\$ 500.00	\$ 1,650.00	\$ 225.50	\$ 1,700.00
Total Income	\$ 9,128.16	\$ 9,450.00	\$ 5,781.58	\$ 8,500.00
Expenses				
Events				
Annual Meeting	\$ -	\$ 150.00	\$ -	\$ 100.00
Food & Beverage	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 100.00
Fundraising	\$ -	\$ 200.00	\$ -	\$ 200.00
Meeting Facility Fees	\$ 477.00	\$ 300.00	\$ 225.00	\$ 500.00
Special Functions	\$ 280.34	\$ 500.00	\$ -	\$ 500.00
State & National Meetings	\$ 149.32	\$ 200.00	\$ -	\$ 200.00
Voter Services	\$ 520.48	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 800.00	\$ 1,000.00
Events Total	\$ 1,427.14	\$ 2,350.00	\$ 1,025.00	\$ 2,600.00
Insurance				
Directors & Officers Liability	\$ 369.00	\$ 900.00	\$ 385.00	\$ 400.00
General Liability	\$ 120.00	\$ -	\$ 120.00	\$ 120.00
Insurance Total	\$ 489.00	\$ 900.00	\$ 505.00	\$ 520.00
Membership Dues				
LWVCO	\$ 615.00	\$ 1,500.00	\$ 455.00	\$ 710.00
LWVUS	\$ 984.00	\$ 1,200.00	\$ 728.00	\$ 1,136.00
Membership Dues Total	\$ 1,599.00	\$ 2,700.00	\$ 1,183.00	\$ 1,846.00
Other Expenses				
Leadership Team	\$ -	\$ 100.00	\$ 64.47	\$ 100.00
Marketing & Promotions	\$ 99.38	\$ 100.00	\$ -	\$ 200.00
Membership Development & PR	\$ 123.63	\$ 250.00	\$ -	\$ 250.00
Office Supplies	\$ 184.17	\$ 150.00	\$ -	\$ 150.00
PO Box Rental	\$ 102.00	\$ 102.00	\$ 118.00	\$ 118.00
Other Expenses Total	\$ 509.18	\$ 702.00	\$ 182.47	\$ 818.00
Technology				
Accounting	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 300.00
ClubExpress	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 1,107.64	\$ 300.00
Other Technology Expenses	\$ 224.57	\$ 223.57	\$ 241.87	\$ 25.00
Payment Processing Fees	\$ 18.40	\$ 40.00	\$ 44.48	\$ 50.00
Technology Total	\$ 242.97	\$ 263.57	\$ 1,393.99	\$ 675.00
Ed Fund				
Transfer to Ed Fund	\$ 2,045.00	\$ 2,000.00	\$ -	\$ 2,000.00
Ed Fund Total	\$ 2,045.00	\$ 2,000.00	\$ -	\$ 2,000.00
Total Expenses	\$ 6,312.29	\$ 8,915.57	\$ 4,289.46	\$ 8,459.00
Income - Expenses				
Income - Expenses	\$ 2,815.87	\$ 534.43	\$ 1,492.12	\$ 41.00

2019-2020 Financial Summary

In fiscal year 2019-2020, our primary source of income was membership dues (\$2275) followed closely by contributions (\$2033). We received a grant from LWVCO for \$1248 that offset our first year of costs associated with our new club management platform, ClubExpress. Although we fell far short of our income goals for the year, our net income remained positive (+\$1492).

Membership remains a concern. Our membership numbers have fallen by 25% in the past year. Our membership dues (\$55 = \$32 LWVUS + \$20 LWVCO + \$3 LWVMC) do not fully cover the cost of membership, which increased by \$4.80/year per member with the introduction of Club Express. Currently, we can offset the deficit by allocating a portion of our total balance surplus to cover membership costs. However, this is not a long-term solution and in the coming years, LWVMC will need to explore raising membership dues.

Also, as mentioned in the Membership Committee report, this year we established the Member Support Fund to assist members with membership dues and other League related expenses. We hope that this fund opens membership to interested parties who may not have the resources to fully participate otherwise. Members and non-members are invited to donate specifically to this fund via our website at lwvmesa.org.

Finally, and as always, we need volunteers to help with fund-raising, grant-writing, and membership recruitment. Specifically, if you know of any businesses that would like to sponsor LWV Mesa County (and see their business prominently displayed on our webpage and in our quarterly newsletter), please let us know at treasurer@lwvmesa.org.

Thank you for helping us meet our fund-raising goals for this year!