

LWV Jefferson County(lwvjeffco@gmail.com) &lt;mailer@mail2.clubexpress.com&gt;

12/28/2020 9:42 AM

## January 2021 Voter

To turboshop@comcast.net &lt;turboshop@comcast.net&gt;

[View in your browser](#)**LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS  
OF JEFFERSON COUNTY, CO**

JANUARY 2021

THE VOTER

[lwvjeffco.org](http://lwvjeffco.org)**HAPPY NEW YEAR 2021****OUR MISSION****Empowering Voters, Defending Democracy****OUR VISION****We envision a democracy where every person has the desire, the right, the  
knowledge, and the confidence to participate.****WHAT WE VALUE****We believe in the power of women to create a more perfect democracy****The League is non-partisan****FIND OUT ALL ABOUT THE LEAGUE AT [LWVJeffco.org](http://LWVJeffco.org)**

# Save the Date



## Leader of Democracy 2021

FOR THE LOVE OF DEMOCRACY. FOR THE LOVE OF THE LEAGUE.

**February 11, 2021**

## Save the Date

COLORADO LEAGUE WOMEN VOTERS LEADER  
OF DEMOCRACY VIRTUAL EVENT

**THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 11, 2021 AT 5 P.M.**

Honoring Three Barrier-Breaking Women in Colorado:

Polly Baca, Lauren Casteel, and Elizabeth Piper Ensley (posthumously)





### **FIRST JANUARY UNIT MEETINGS: NUTS AND BOLTS—HOW THE LEAGUE REALLY WORKS**

Have you ever wondered about the history of the League? How it is organized? Where the League's positions come from? What kind of action the League has taken over the years? How you can get involved?

If you would like answers to these questions and many others, join us for our first January unit meeting on January 12-14, 2021. We want to educate new members, share the insights of long time members, and encourage all members to get involved in some fashion with the League in the new year. If you have

questions, please bring them to this meeting for answers. If you have answers, come and share those as well. Start off 2021 by getting involved with the League, and being part of the FUN! See you at your January unit meeting, January 12-14.

Please look at your homework before this meeting. You will receive an Every Member Material document, the Positions in brief from all levels of League, and Links to the complete program books from every level and how to access them.

Start off the New Year with the League.

Patty Schoedler, [pshades@earthlink.net](mailto:pshades@earthlink.net).

Unit attendance is running at about 38 percent. We know that life gets in the way sometimes, events will conflict with unit meetings and it hard to remember to contact a different unit leader to go to a different unit meeting. In order to make it more convenient for you to attend a different unit meeting we will be sending you an email with the Zoom link for every unit except South Jeffco. To attend a South Jeffco meeting you will still need to contact Pat Mesec. Information on who to contact for a unit meeting is always available through the calendar on the website and the information on who to contact for every unit meeting is still listed below.

**South Jeffco (Chatfield)** unit will meet **Tuesday, January 12 at 9:30 a.m. on Zoom** You will get an email inviting you to the meeting if you are a member of that unit. If you would like to attend this meeting, contact Pat Mesec, [kenpatm@aol.com](mailto:kenpatm@aol.com) [303-979-5509](tel:303-979-5509) or Patty Schoedler [pshades@earthlink.net](mailto:pshades@earthlink.net) [303-979-4782](tel:303-979-4782) and they will send you a link.

**West Jeffco (Mt. Parks)** unit will meet via **Zoom meeting on, Tuesday January 12 at 9:15 a.m.** You will get an email inviting you to the Zoom meeting if you are a member of that unit. If you would like to attend this meeting, contact Karil Frohboese, [karil.f@comcast.net](mailto:karil.f@comcast.net), [720-557-9263](tel:720-557-9263) or Robin Wallace, [rawgew@gmail.com](mailto:rawgew@gmail.com) [303-913-0335](tel:303-913-0335) and they will send you a link.

**North Jeffco (Arvada)** unit will meet on Tuesday via **Zoom January 12 at 1:00 p.m.** You will get an email inviting you to the Zoom meeting if you are a member of that unit. If you would like to attend this meeting, contact Jill Armstrong [jarm444@gmail.com](mailto:jarm444@gmail.com) [303-420-5052](tel:303-420-5052) and she will send you a link.

**Central Jeffco (Applewood)** unit will be on Zoom **on Wednesday, January 13 at 9:15 a.m.**

You will get an email inviting you to the meeting if you are a member of that unit. If you would like to attend this meeting, contact Nancy von Burske, [nvonburske@gmail.com](mailto:nvonburske@gmail.com), [303-278-0260](tel:303-278-0260). She

will send you a link.

**JEFFCO PM (Evening)** unit meeting is on **Wednesday, January 13 at 6:00 p.m. on Zoom**. You will get an email inviting you to the Zoom meeting if you are a member of that unit. If you would like to attend this meeting, contact Lucinda Schneller, [lucindaschneller@gmail.com](mailto:lucindaschneller@gmail.com), [303-933-1378](tel:303-933-1378) or Lisa Decker, [lisa@alane17.com](mailto:lisa@alane17.com), [303-507-4317](tel:303-507-4317). They will send you a link.

**Lakewood/Golden** unit will meet **on Thursday, January 14 at 9:15 a.m. on Zoom**. Watch for your email inviting you to the meeting if you are a member of that unit. If you would like to attend this meeting, contact Nancy Warren, [nancymtns@gmail.com](mailto:nancymtns@gmail.com), [303-514-4402](tel:303-514-4402) or Deb Gard, [dgard@comcast.net](mailto:dgard@comcast.net) and they will send you a link.

#### A NOTE FROM OUR PRESIDENT

Christina Manthey, President LWV Jeffco

Happy New Year!!

The start of 2021 is going to look very much like the last nine months of 2020, but we can see a light in the distance. The first Legislative Action Committee (LAC) meeting of the year will be January 8, 2021. The LAC is looking for people to become involved. If there is something that you are passionate about, please consider joining the Committee.

It is my understanding that the LAC will be running a bit differently this year than it has in the past because the Legislature is not going to be running the way that it has in the past. According to the Denver Post the Legislature will meet on January 13 and adjourn at the end of that day for several weeks. It is quite possible that even the Legislative season will be further adjusted this year. Testifying in front of the Legislature will be different. Much of the meeting on January 8 will be devoted to the technical side of testifying. Linda Porter, the Jeffco LAC chair, and her team will be reporting to us on the happenings at the Legislature.

Last year the LAC changed the format of the LAC letter. This year the newsletter will come out more frequently but be shorter.

League Day this year is scheduled for January 16. Please go to [LWVColorado.org](http://LWVColorado.org) for more details and to register. I encourage you to visit both [LWVJeffco.org](http://LWVJeffco.org) and [LWVColorado.org](http://LWVColorado.org) frequently for events

happening in League. LWVColorado is having online events regularly and is also promoting online events for local leagues.

One of the great things that has happened this year is more opportunities to participate in a different League's event. For example, in January, LWV Chaffee County is having a Drinks and Dialogue event on Zoom where the keynote speaker is a doctor from John Hopkins University. This event will take place on the State League's Zoom account. Jeffco members are welcome to attend. State League has scheduled events regarding civility for late February.

We had 39 new members from September 2019 to November 2020. Given this funky year we have not had opportunities to introduce our new members to the areas where we can advocate. For program planning season, we want our new members to become acquainted with our policy and position books. Program planning is also a time when we review our existing positions to determine their adequacy for the 21<sup>st</sup> century. Our first meeting in January will be devoted to a discussion of our existing positions. Our second meeting in January will be devoted to program planning. In League, the *program* is the education and advocacy platform that we adopt to move our mission forward.

We will see you (on Zoom) the second and fourth weeks of January.

## **SECOND JANUARY MEETING: PROGRAM PLANNING**

We will have two-unit meetings in January. The first, Nuts and Bolts of League (see previous article) is designed to help review how League operates, its current positions and how we take action. Our second meeting is our program planning meeting. The program planning meetings will be held this year at the unit level on January 26, 27, 28. The units will appoint a representative to meet on February 3 with Christina Manthey and Karen Connor to consolidate the proposals that will be presented to the Board.

At the program planning meeting, members will discuss the topics that should be focused upon in the coming year. These topics will be items that LWVJEFFCO should be advocating and educating the public about. This is an odd year, so we will be submitting program proposals for both LWVCOLORADO and LWVJEFFCO. Guidance from LWVCOLORADO has not yet been received.

As members recommend topics to the Board, the following factors should be considered:

- Do we have a position that will allow us to act upon a topic? If we have a position, is it adequate? Is this a topic we can act upon at the local level? Is it a topic we should be acting upon at the local level?
- What governmental body are we trying to influence? Is the topic relevant? How will the topic



make us visible in the community? How does this topic make us relevant in the community? What message are we trying to convey to the public?

- Other considerations include: do we have a team of people willing come together to prepare the materials or research other states' materials on that topic? If we are proposing the preparation of videos etc, do we have a team of people with the skills to know how to prepare a video or learn? League is a grassroots organization. The teams that prepare materials for all presentations are League members.

As you consider your topics, please determine the appropriate League position that will support the topic. The unit representative should submit to Christina and Karen both the League position and a written mission statement about the topic by January 31 so that information can be aggregated and provided to all unit representatives in preparation for the February 3 meeting.

Please lobby other units if you have an idea that you feel strongly about.

Unit attendance is running at about 38 percent. We know that life gets in the way sometimes, events will conflict with unit meetings and it hard to remember to contact a different unit leader to go to a different unit meeting. In order to make it more convenient for you to attend a different unit meeting we will be sending you an email with the Zoom link for every unit except South Jeffco. To attend a South Jeffco meeting you will still need to contact Pat Mesec. Information on who to contact for a unit meeting is always available thru the calendar on the website and the information on who to contact for every unit meeting is still listed below.

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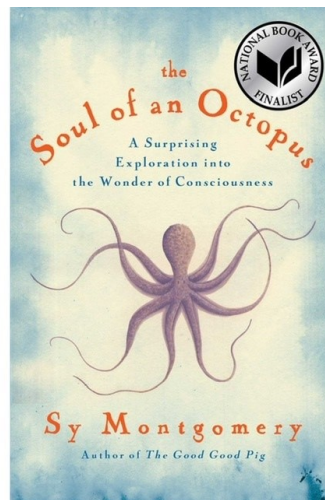
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**Lakewood/Golden** unit will meet **on Thursday, January 28 at 9:15 a.m. on Zoom**. Watch for your email inviting you to the meeting if you are a member of that unit. If you would like to attend this meeting, contact Nancy Warren, [nancymtns@gmail.com](mailto:nancymtns@gmail.com), [303-514-4402](tel:303-514-4402) or Deb Gard, [dgard@comcast.net](mailto:dgard@comcast.net) and they will send you a link.





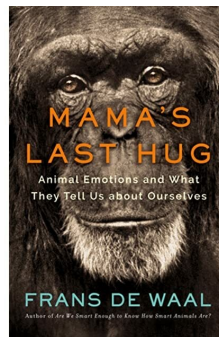


## LWV BOOK CLUB

### Two Books Investigating Emotions of Chimps and Octopuses for January!

Cold, dark January brings a pair of books for you to choose from: *Mama's Last Hug* and *Soul of an Octopus: A Surprising Exploration in the Wonder of Consciousness*, discussions of what most of us who have had dogs, cats, horses, fish, etc., already know, that animals have emotions and other aspects of intelligence. The books explore the idea and present credible evidence that animals have capabilities for consciousness that are real and may mimic the stages of evolutionary brain development leading to human intelligence.

The dates for our January Zoom discussions are Wednesday, January 13 and Saturday, January 16. The date of the Wednesday discussion, formerly scheduled on January 20, has been changed to January 13 to avoid Inauguration Day. Whether you are a LWV member or not, please register through our book club page on the League website [www.lwvjeffco.org](http://www.lwvjeffco.org) . Our page is under the Get Involved tab.



If you can't read both books, choose *Mama's Last Hug*. At 326 pages, it is the more substantive of the two. Mama, an elderly chimpanzee, has obvious emotion when an old (human) researcher and friend visits her on her deathbed after a significant period of time apart. At the time you may have seen the video clip of Mama's reaction on TV. Several scientific studies investigate chimps' display of emotion, debunking the brush-off of anthropomorphism employed in the past.

*Soul of an Octopus*, by Sy Montgomery, 261 pages, is an exploration of the emotions and personalities (and mischievousness) of several octopuses. If you have Netflix, watch "My Octopus Teacher", an empathetic long term study by a nature photographer of a friendly octopus in the wild.

Our choice for February is *Optimist's Telescope: Thinking Ahead in a Reckless Age*, by Bona Venkataraman. In 336 pages, the author uses studies, history, philosophy, and behavioral science to discuss how individuals, businesses, organizations, and societies can overcome shortsightedness and improve the ability to make better long-term decisions.

An e-copy of the full schedule of book choices for our 2020-2021 season is available to download on the League website. To be added to our mailing list, email Marilyn Brown at [marilbrown@aol.com](mailto:marilbrown@aol.com). Book club discussions on Zoom for 2021 through May have been reserved for the third Wednesday and the third Saturday of those months at the usual times.

Marilyn Brown

Book Club Co-coordinator

LWV Jeffco

970-946-6523

### COMING IN FEBRUARY: SPECIAL DISTRICTS

**You know more about where your money's going when you buy a used car than you do when you buy a house in a special district - John Henderson, Denver Post.**

Death and taxes - the two things you can't avoid, according to Ben Franklin. There are over 180 special districts in Jefferson County. Their taxes are listed on your yearly property tax bill from the county. But the special districts are actually independent from the county government and operate with little oversight. *Denver Post* and *Colorado Sun* articles in 2019 highlighted some of the questionable practices of some of the districts.

At our February Unit meetings, February 9 - 11, 2021, we will take a close look at special districts, how they operate and how you can take a more active role in their business.



LWV CLIMATE CHANGE TASK FORCE

### CLIMATE EMERGENCY TASK FORCE

The League of Women Voters of Colorado Climate Emergency Task Force is moving forward. We have been in contact with other Colorado Leagues and now have members from other Leagues in the state. We will be forming interest groups in the coming months. So if you have a particular interest in an area regarding the environment, now is the time to let us know so we can include you in our Zoom meetings over the next few months. Contact Sandy Vandehey <[sandyvandehey@gmail.com](mailto:sandyvandehey@gmail.com)> for more information or to join our meetings. Our next meeting is January 6th at 10a.m.

It is just in the idea stage at this point, but we are hoping to host a water webinar in the spring.

Meanwhile, here is a webinar you might enjoy: The League of Women Voters US Renewable Energy Team invites you to attend a presentation by Dr. Martin Keller, director of the National

Renewable Energy Laboratory and president of the Alliance for Sustainable Energy. Dr. Keller will speak on the state of renewable energy research and capacity in the United States, followed by a Q&A session on Tuesday, January 19, 10-11 a.m. Here is the link to the registration:

<https://register.gotowebinar.com/register/7483994530844944908>

Here are some news articles you may find interesting. The first two illustrate how the Air Quality Control Commission reversed itself in just a few days. If you weren't paying close attention you may have missed it.

<https://coloradonewsline.com/2020/12/18/colorado-finalizes-stricter-emissions-rules-to-battle-ozone-pollution/>

<https://coloradosun.com/2020/12/17/power-plant-closure-reversed-colorado/>

<https://www.washingtonpost.com/climate-environment/2020/12/17/biden-epa-regan/>

[https://www.ansa.it/english/news/2020/12/09/micro-plastic-found-in-human-placenta-for-1st-time\\_9534dc95-964b-40c1-8954-ab704703bd05.html](https://www.ansa.it/english/news/2020/12/09/micro-plastic-found-in-human-placenta-for-1st-time_9534dc95-964b-40c1-8954-ab704703bd05.html)

### LWVUS ACTION ON COVID

The League joined healthcare professionals and community-based organizations in pushing the COVID Community Care Act. The legislation appropriates grants for linguistically appropriate and culturally competent resource provision in medically underserved communities. By empowering local organizations, these provisions would reduce vaccine hesitancy and reduce the rate of infection, hospitalization, and death. [Read the letter](#). LWV also joined civil rights allies in calling for equity, transparency, and data collection in COVID-19 vaccine development and distribution. The set forth principles prioritize healthcare access for all and caution against a vaccine mandate. Read more [about these civil rights principles](#).

### DON'T LET YOUR LEAGUE MEMBERSHIP EXPIRE!

You know being a League member is a great way to get involved in your community and play an active role in our democracy. Whether your passion is to register and inform voters or to engage local and state governments on legislative priorities, the power of the League provides you the tools and access to make a difference!

Did you know that your local membership helps to bring change throughout the entire United States?

Continue to feed your passion by renewing your local League Membership. Go online to use the

secure charge at [www.lwvjeffco.org](http://www.lwvjeffco.org) or send a check payable to LWVJeffco to the League Office, 1425 Brentwood Suite 7, Lakewood CO 80214 (Individual Annual \$66 / Household Annual \$99).

Please consider adding a donation in support of your passion to your membership. All donations beyond membership dues are tax-deductible as allowed by the IRS.

1. Members authorized a rolling renewal system at the annual meeting.
2. Members with a renewal date of 10/31/20 have received invoices via e-mail for their membership renewal. Renewal is easy. Click on the renewal button in the e-mail and renew on-line. We encourage members renew on-line to expedite the accounting and data-base management processes.
3. Members who do not have a renewal date of 10/31/2020 will receive a renewal letter 30 days before their membership expires. So a member who joined 3/14/2020 will not receive a renewal letter until 2/14/2020.

## Hints for Club Express

### Want to know what's going on in League? Check the webpage!

**New:** On the front page of our website you find a tab entitled Meeting Materials. The Every Member Material for upcoming meetings will be found under that tab which is open to the public.

**New:** In order to find the Members tab you must be logged into ClubExpress. Under the members tab you will find the Members Directory and Documents.

**Documents Library:** We are gradually moving our electronic, historical documents into the documents folder. Click on the yellow folders to explore what has been put in the document libraries so far.

**Membership Directory:** Need to find a member? Only know the member's first name? Type the name into the directory and options will pop up. Need to know who is in your unit? Use the dropdown button next to metro area to select your unit. A map will pop up, but below the map will be all the members of your unit.

The membership directory is only available to members who have logged into the ClubExpress system. Please ensure that you elect to be included in the directory. The membership directory is how unit leaders get the information they need to communicate with members of their units.

Tell us about yourself. Every member has the option of creating a member profile. After you have logged into ClubExpress, select your name in the top right hand corner, then select profile. By selecting profile, you can update your email and your address, and you can tell us about yourself.

**Coming Soon:** We will soon start posting Volunteering opportunities under the Get Involved Tab (select: Do One Thing). League is a grassroots organization. If you don't volunteer, the job doesn't get done.

**Paying by Paypal:** When trying to pay by PayPal. click on the yellow PayPal logo. This should

direct you to PayPal's website. (Why does ClubExpress insist that you tell it twice that you want to pay by PayPal? System Quirk).

**Blast Emails:** Please do not opt out of the blast emails.

### NIGHT OUT WITH YOUR LEGISLATORS VIDEO IS AVAILABLE

Find out what your CO Legislators are planning for the upcoming session. Watch the YouTube video at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bSrZr8ncxOQ>

On Thursday, December 10, at the annual Jeffco League Night Out With Your Legislators seven legislators shared their plans with us. Forty-one members and a few guests attended the Zoom meeting. Now you can hear and see all the great questions and answers in this video.

Thank you to Linda Porter, LWVJeffco Legislative Director for hosting and the Legislators who participated. And a special thank you to all of our members who attended and those who will watch the video at their convenience.

Christina Manthey

President

League of Women Voters of Jefferson County

### COVID-19 Information from Jeffco Public Health

Jefferson County Public Health [continues managing the COVID-19 outbreak](#) in collaboration with other national, state and local partners. Our number one priority is protecting the health and safety of our community.

COVID-19 Resources and Information:

[Public Health Order w/ Jeffco Variances](#)

[COVID-19 Cases and Data Dashboard](#)

[Jeffco Variance Fact Sheet](#)

[Jeffco Coronavirus Information](#)

[Community Resources](#)

[Community Conversations](#)

[Safer-at-Home Order](#)

[Mask Guidance Mental](#)

[Health Resources](#)



**JEFFERSON**  
COUNTY COLORADO



### LWV DIVERSITY POLICY

The LWV Jeffco, in both its values and practices, affirms its belief and commitment to diversity and pluralism, which means there shall be no barriers to participation in any activity of the LWV Jeffco on the basis of gender, race, creed, age, sexual orientation, national origin or disability.

The LWV Jeffco recognizes that diverse perspectives are important and necessary for responsible and representative decision-making. The LWV Jeffco subscribes to the belief that diversity and pluralism are fundamental to the values it upholds and that this inclusiveness enhances the organization's ability to respond more effectively to changing conditions and needs.

The LWV Jeffco affirms its commitment to reflecting the diversity of the country in its board, staff and programs.

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You automatically receive this email as a **Member** of the League of Women Voters. Thank you for your support.

EMPOWERING VOTERS. DEFENDING DEMOCRACY.

#### Our mailing address is:

League of Women Voters of Jefferson County, CO

1425 Brentwood Suite 7, Lakewood, CO 80214

303-238-0032

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