



*Northeastern Colorado*

## Progressive 15 E Update April 11, 2008

### In This Issue

**Progressive 15 Policy Updates**

**Spring Membership Meeting Recap**

**Membership**

**News From Around the State**

**Calendar**

**Progressive 15 At The Table**

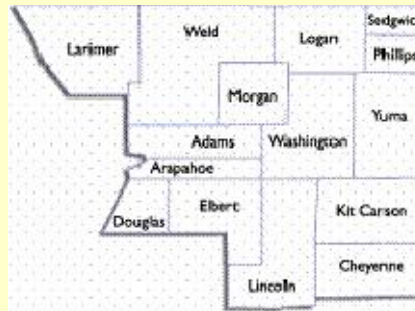
**Changes in Dues Structure**

**Fall Meeting Agenda Set**

**Why Progressive 15?**

**Summer Standing Committee Summits**

**2008 Ballot**



Yuma County Members Caucus was held on February 13th. Relected to the Board was Carol Boden with Don Rutledge as the alternate.

Member Caucus Meetings pending for these counties:

Douglas  
Elbert  
Adams  
Arapahoe  
Lincoln

All other counties will have their Member Caucus meetings in 2009.

## Progressive 15 Policy Updates

1. Resolution of support of the for the Blue Ribbon Transportation Panel recommendations on funding levels needed. *(no bills introduced yet)*
2. Support of SB 34 changes in Transportation Commission makeup *(signed by Governor)*
3. Support of SB 12 on ability for county to request transportation for special needs facilities *(Signed by Governor)*
4. Support of HB 1026 funding for Colorado Water Institute *(Signed by Governor)*
5. Support of HB 1073 which allows some exemptions for small wastewater facilities *(Sent to Governor)*
6. Oppose HB 1330 which changed election procedures in water conservancy districts *(Postponed indefinitely)*
7. Support of HB 1225 on reduction of Business Personal Property tax
8. Oppose HB 1312 on transportation funding being tied to land use plans *(Postponed indefinitely)*
9. Support SB 28 on Bony Reservoir *(laid over until 5/10/08 by Senator Brophy)*
10. Support of HB 1257 on overweight divisible loads
11. Support of Constitutional Reform Joint Committee recommendations *(now SCR08-003)*

Full language available at [www.progressive15.org/positions.htm](http://www.progressive15.org/positions.htm)

Decision are made on policy in standing committees (members only) and then referred to the board. If you are a member be sure your input is heard by participating in the conference calls or e mail discussions for standing committees of interest to you. Notify [cathy@progressive15.org](mailto:cathy@progressive15.org) if you want to be involved.

Remember you can listen to live audio broadcasts of committee hearings and you can watch the House in session by video by going to [www.leg.state.co.us](http://www.leg.state.co.us) and clicking on Video/audio broadcasts

## Spring Meeting Update

As always we had some great presentations at our Spring Meeting. Two of the presentations on Ports-to-Plains on economic benefits and the Rail Relocation to the Eastern Plains plan are both on our website at [www.progressive15.org/news.htm](http://www.progressive15.org/news.htm). Additionally, Trent Bushner gave an update on the Eastern TPR and its regional plan.



State Treasurer Cary Kennedy talked about the transportation funding deficit. In 1917 the State of Colorado added 1 penny as gas tax to help pay for roads. Each year or two as costs rose and needs increased they added another penny or two. This went on for almost 80 years until Tabor was voted in. There has not been an increase to this tax since then or about 15 years. She also talked about the problem of the amount of money needed being a mind boggling amount in a time when everything is tight and they are many needs. Treasurer Kennedy also informed us of new information on the State Treasurer's website that shows you where your tax dollars are being spent. She wants to have as much transparency as possible. Presently they are also working on a program that you will be able to specifically see how the taxes you pay are allocated.

Bob Mailander, Governor's Energy Office; Randall Ferguson, Colorado Commission on Oil & Gas and Tom Ashburn of Xcel Energy brought us up to date on area energy. The one constant factor is it will continue to take a combination of energy components to meet the needs of the State and the nation.

Recruitment of employees to NE Colorado was the topic of discussion by Betty Summers of Sterling School District (teachers) and Chris Packer of Washington County (health care).

Finally we concluded our day with presentation by three area economic development people - Kari Linker, Morgan County talking about retention and recruitment; Pat Vice, Lincoln County, and their global plan tied to Heartland and Ports-to-Plains and Deni Coryell of City of Burlington on the importance of diversity in your economic plan.

A big thank you to Northeastern Junior College for being our hosts and for the outstanding food and service.

## Membership

New Members 2008

Jim Whitmore  
Colorado Mining Association  
Perry Buck  
Don Ament

## Powertech USA

Frontier Airlines has again given us two roundtrip airline tickets good anywhere in the lower 48 where they fly. Each new member that joins in 2008 and each person who got them to join will be put into a drawing to win the tickets. The winner will be drawn at the Fall Meeting in Brighton. In addition to the 5 new members above current members in the drawing are Chuck Rech (2).

## Renewals- March / April 2008

- Allen Mitchek Feed and Grain
- CHFA
- Denise Denton
- Rural Solutions
- Carol Boden
- Dean Wingfield
- Colorado Rural Health

You can now join Progressive 15 with a credit card by going to [www.progressive15.org/membership.htm](http://www.progressive15.org/membership.htm)

## News From Around the State & Country

1. Senator Salazar introduces amendment to Housing Bill to Bolster existing foreclosure prevention hotlines
2. US Senate passes Platte River Legislation (S.2739)
3. Governor's Energy Office is seeking applicants for \$100,000 in incentives for bio-heating projects that use community woody biomass. [www.colorado.gov/energy](http://www.colorado.gov/energy)
4. Small Business Development Center director position at Morgan Community College is open. To apply [www.morgancc.edu/welcome/employment.html](http://www.morgancc.edu/welcome/employment.html)
5. Colorado West Nile Virus Interactive Update - May 9th 8:30 am - 12:00 pm [www.centralcoahec.org/west\\_nile\\_registration.asp](http://www.centralcoahec.org/west_nile_registration.asp)
6. Governor's Energy Office is seeking applicants for \$350,000 in incentives for solar innovation projects. [www.colorado.gov/energy](http://www.colorado.gov/energy)

## Calendar

	DATE	EVENT	DETAILS	FOR MORE INFORMATION
2008				
<b>April</b>				
	16-18	Colorado Chamber of Commerce Executive 2008 Spring Conference	Aspen, CO	<a href="mailto:ccce@themeetingedge.com">ccce@themeetingedge.com</a>
	23-25	EDCC Spring Conference in Burlington		
	28-30	Multi-Family Housing Conference in Colorado Springs		
<b>May</b>				
	3	Burlington Home & Garden Show	Burlington, CO	<a href="http://www.burlingtoncolo.com/homeandgarden">www.burlingtoncolo.com/homeandgarden</a>
	12-16	CASTA Spring Conference		<a href="http://www.coloradotransit.com">www.coloradotransit.com</a>
<b>June</b>				
	4-6	Rural Philanthropy Days	Burlington	Information: <a href="http://www.northeastrpd.org">www.northeastrpd.org</a> or 719.346.7689
	9-11	CCI Summer Conference		
	17-21	CML Summer Conference		
<b>P 15 Event</b>	27	Board Meeting in Cheyenne Wells		
<b>July</b>				
<b>P 15 Event</b>	16	Committee Summit in Limon	Telecom, Trans, Health, ED & Tourism, Education / Workforce	
<b>P 15 Event</b>	22	Committee Summit in Wray	Water, Energy & Ag	
<b>August</b>				
	25-28	Democratic National Convention		
<b>September</b>				
	1-4	Republican National Convention		

	5-6	Club 20 Fall Meeting		
<b>P 15 Event</b>	17-18-19	Progressive 15 Fall Meeting with candidates forum and board meeting in Brighton	Brighton	
	22-26	CASTA Fall Conference & Expo		<a href="http://www.coloradotransit.com">www.coloradotransit.com</a>
	26-27	Action 22 Fall Conference		
<b>October</b>				
<b>November</b>				
<b>December</b>				
<b>P 15 Event</b>	8	Board & Committee chair Retreat in Fort Morgan		

### Progressive 15 At The Table:

- Judy Giacomini, Northeastern Junioir College and Mike Thilmony, Bank of Colorado named to Governor's Jobs Cabinet to represent the Progressive 15 region. They join nearly three dozen economic development, education and civic leaders from around the state to meet current and future workforce needs of Colorado companies and industries.
- David Foy, Cathy Shull and Ron Swehla meeting with Ag Commissioner John Stulp on the Future of Agriculture. Also at the table will be Action 22 and Club 20
- Progressive 15 has again been asked to present a regional view at the Denver Metro Chamber's State of the State on May 6th

### Changes In Dues Structure

At the Board of Directors meeting for Progressive 15 a small dues increase was approved. This is the first dues increase in approximately 4 years. The major changes are the combining of non profits & associations into the business category and reducing the number of categories. Additionally, we increased our maximum limit by \$250

Progressive 15's Board is well aware that budgets are short and have tried to make this

increase minimal. FYI - Progressive 15 operates on a budget of \$52,000 and then seeks sponsor for events. Should you have any questions, please feel free to contact any of the board members or your board representative.

Dues Structure	Current	New	Difference
Individual	\$100.00	\$100.00	\$0.00
Associations, Non Profits, Schools	\$150.00	n/a	
Schools	n/a	\$200.00	\$50.00
Business 1-10	\$200.00	\$200.00	\$0.00
Business 11-25	\$300.00	n/a	
Business 26-50	\$400.00	n/a	
Business 11-50		\$350.00	\$350.00
Business 51-100	\$500.00	\$500.00	\$0.00
Business 101-200	\$1,000.00	\$1,000.00	\$0.00
Business 200+	\$1,750.00	\$2,000.00	\$250.00
			\$0.00
Minimum	\$100.00	\$100.00	\$0.00
Maximum	\$1,750.00	\$2,000.00	\$250.00

## Fall Meeting Agenda Set

**Wednesday, September 17th**

Pro/Con Panels on Ballot Issues \*\*

**Thursday, September 18th**

Morning: Membership Meeting discussion & decision on support or opposition of ballot issues

Noon: Board Meeting

Afternoon: Start of Candidate Forums\*

Evening: TBA

**Friday, September 19th**

Morning: Conclusion of Candidate Forums\*

Closing Luncheon: Alumni of the Plains & Keynote Speaker

Registration for the event will be available soon. The location will be somewhere around the Brighton area.

We are also in need of Sponsors and a special e mail will be sent to each member to see what level they might be able to help with. First opportunity will be given to members before we open it up to non-members. Qwest has already signed on at the Platinum Level.

\*Candidate forums will be handled as follows. Each candidate can pick their time to address the group based on availability and their schedules. Each candidate will be given a certain amount of time to introduce themselves and talk about their issues. They will then be asked some questions specific to our region (every candidate for the same office will get same questions here) and then it will be open to Q & A from the audience in written form. The time limits will be set based on the number of candidates appearing before Progressive 15 and time slots will be assigned on a 1st come basis and can be reserved now. Candidates invited include all State Representative and Senators and US Senator and Representative candidates that would be representing the Progressive 15 region.

\*\*Ballot issues discussion will be in a panel form with each side having a certain amount of time to give their views. Q & A will then follow. Panel members will not be able to question each other. Questions must come in written form from the audience. Ballot issues to be reviewed will be determined by time available. Every effort will be made to secure a speaker from each side of the issue.

### **Why Progressive 15?**

Every once in a while I will have someone ask me or hear about a discussion on why should anyone join Progressive 15? They preface it with the view that it might be a



duplication of other groups also working on public policy and advocacy.

They are right - there are a lot of groups in our area working on public policy and advocacy. All are important and we often partner with other groups to help advance our viewpoint.

How we are different is that we work on a variety of issues that affect the region rather than just one topic. So rather than just agriculture or just education or just local government, etc. all are at the table in Progressive 15 to work together on any issue to topic that will support the future of Northeastern Colorado.

Hope that helps if you are asked the same question I often get.

## Summer Standing Committee Summits

The summer meetings give our members the chance to gather an look at issues rather than specific bills. It is always interesting discussion as they work through the "hot" topics. We have set aside two days for these meetings. Because so many of committee issues actually overlap the issues will discussed by the entire council.

July 16th in Limon            Business Affairs Council which includes: Telecommunications, Transportation, Health Care, Education/Workforce and Economic Development/Tourism

July 22nd in Wray            Natural Resources Council which includes: Water, Energy and Agriculture/Public Lands

Watch for more information as the time gets closer.

## 2008 Ballot

The following is a list of potential ballot topics for this fall's election. Currently there are more than 80 potentials on the Secretary of State website but we have only listed the ones that most affect us-mainly by subject matter. This list will be narrowed down over the

summer as groups drop out.

1. Higher Education funding fee on new construction
2. New state department and elected board for public resource conservation
3. Fees on Energy Emissions
4. Employee Discharge
5. Criminal conduct by businesses - liability
6. Water Use Classification, prioritization and conservation
7. Liability for business entities and their executive officials - criminal liability
8. Severance Tax - several
9. Employer responsibility for health insurance
10. Farm animal confinement
11. Restrictions on campaign contributions from government sole source contractors
12. Colorado Water Conservation Act
13. Health care choice
14. Judicial term limits
15. Create US Department of Peace
16. Prohibition on certain conditions of employment
17. Repeal of Colorado Water Resources and Power Development Authority
18. Amendment 41 Modifications / Lobbyist Tax
19. Authority of local government to regulate oil and gas activities

## Contact Information

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## Board of Directors

County	Representative	Alternates
Adams	Barry Gore	
Arapahoe	Chuck Rech	Mitch Albert
Cheyenne	Debbie Knudsen	Dannie McMillan
Douglas	Melanie Worley, Past Chair	
Elbert	John Metli	

Kit Carson	Danyel Brenner, Secretary	Bob Churchwell
Larimer		
Lincoln	Del Beattie	Maye Gene Lee
Logan	Judy Giacomini, Vice Chair	Gary Nichols
Morgan	Jon Becker, Treasurer	Kari Linker
Phillips	Nancy Berges	Vince Kropp
Sedgwick	Randy Renquist	Darris Cumming
Washington	David Foy, Chairman	Merle Vigil
Weld	Perry Buck	
Yuma	Carol Boden	Don Rutledge