

# League of Women Voters of Benton-Franklin Counties

## THE VOTER

Ginger Vetrano, President // Judy Golberg, Editor

P. O. Box 765, Richland, WA 99352

February 2010

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### Calendar of Events

February 4	5:30 PM	LWV BIRTHDAY DINNER, Thursday evening at Tony Roma's on Gage Blvd. near Costco. All members and guests welcome! Speaker: Ellyn Murphy will report on her experience in Copenhagen with the Climate Change Conference
February 18	5:30 PM	BOARD MEETING – All members welcome to attend and participate will provide meal.
March 4	5:30 PM	TABLE TALK, Thursday evening at Alice Bryant's home, 2408 Alexander, Richland, 375-0189 – All members welcome!



### PRESIDENT'S REMARKS

The Legislature is halfway through its short session and the budget is the biggest item. The League is also interested in many of the bills that are going through the system—look at the LWVWA website for a list. As the session progresses, we will be asked to send a message to our Legislators asking them to vote according to our principles. The first one I am going to advocate for is the safe baby bottle bill (SB 6248, HB 1180). That is on the League's support list.

Guests are welcome to come with you to our birthday dinner on Thursday, February 4th at Tony Roma's. We are so fortunate to have a person who attended the Copenhagen conference on climate change and it should be a good program. I look forward to it and hope to see you there.

The Supreme Court recently ruled that corporations will no longer have limits on what they can contribute to campaign coffers. Mary Wilson, our LWVUS President, wrote a message very concerned with what the results of this ruling will lead to. I'm sure the League will be watching what companies do with this change.

**President, [Ginger Vetrano](#)**, 783-9205 (new)

### LOCAL LEAGUE

**90<sup>TH</sup> BIRTHDAY CELEBRATION** – The League of Women Voters will be 90-years old on February 14<sup>th</sup>. Anticipating the passage of the 19<sup>th</sup> Amendment which would give women the right to vote, the League was founded to make sure women would be well informed voters when the time came. Our League will celebrate our birthday a little early, on **February 4<sup>th</sup>** with a dinner at Tony Roma's. We are fortunate to have one of our own members who attended the Climate Change Conference in Copenhagen in December. Ellyn Murphy spent a week in Copenhagen and will share her experience with us.

All members and guests are welcome. We will be ordering off the regular menu. As members arrive the staff will start taking orders to speed the process along. We will begin gathering at 5:30 PM. Hope you can make it to share in this special event. If you have any questions, contact Marilyn Perkins at 783-8610.

**FEBRUARY TABLE TALK** – No Table Talk will be held in February. The Birthday Dinner has been scheduled at that time (February 4).

**MARCH TABLE TALK** – Thursday, March 4: Table Talk is held at Alice Bryant's home in Richland. The topics to be discussed are:

- Local Program Planning
- Recycling

A light meal will be provided. \$3 is a suggested contribution toward the meal.

Report from December Table Talk: National Program Planning was discussed. No strong support was given to any of the topics.

### **OBSERVER'S CORPS**

#### **Port of Kennewick – [Helen LaDouceur](#)**

If you're interested in hearing the public discussion and observing and hearing the Commissioners' comments and final votes as to whether or not to close Vista Field in Kennewick, mark March 8 on your calendar. The public meeting will begin at 6:00 p.m. - the location has not been announced yet.

#### **City of Richland – [Janet Nail](#)**

The City heard compelling testimony from citizens about the issue of adopting breed-specific dog laws. The Centennial Celebration Committee gave its report about the celebrations planned this spring and summer. The committee wants the City to consider reconstructing an arch at Howard Amon Park. The arch was demolished when the U.S. Government took over the city. It was announced the Council will have a workshop at the end of the month to discuss the Solid Waste Program Rates and Recycle Program. The original proposal included a non-mandatory recycle bin and would cost each homeowner \$2.00+ more a month to participate

### **ENERGY AND CLIMATE CHANGE STUDY GROUP**

[Ellyn Murphy](#) reports that the Senate is working on a climate bill. The House passed a bill last summer. Industries that emit carbon dioxide, especially power companies, are pushing for passage. These industries acknowledge that carbon dioxide will be regulated and want certainty so they can plan for the future.

One of the seminars that Ellyn attended at the Copenhagen Conference on Climate Change was sponsored by an International organization, ICLEI, Local Governments for Sustainability. A panel of mayors from all over the world talked about the programs their cities have instituted to lower their carbon footprint and reduce their infrastructure costs. Greg Nickels, former Seattle mayor, was on the panel, as well as Sir Nicolas Stern, an internationally respected economist in climate change. Stern has written seminal reports on the cost of climate change. He is currently studying the best practices that Local Governments for Sustainability have instituted in transportation, recycling, delivery of utilities, etc., and will be publishing a report on the economic

benefits of these best practices. Ellyn believes that the Energy and Climate Study Group may want to look closer at the Local Governments for Sustainability and make recommendations of best practices that could be instituted in the Tri-Cities.

### **HEALTH CARE STUDY GROUP**

Susan Kayser will continue to speak to community groups when invited, to share the League's findings on health care reform.

### **TRYs (They Represent You)**

2010 TRYs are going to the Printer this week and will be ready for distribution soon. If you can assist [Marilyn](#) with distribution, please let her know via email or by calling her at 783-8510. Thanks.

### **WOMEN'S EQUALITY DAY**

A committee is working on the August 26 celebration that will honor women who have served our communities in elected positions. If you are interested in helping with this committee, contact [Ginger](#), [Susan Kayser](#), [Marilyn Perkins](#) or [Leona Hassing](#).

**Report on Meetings with Legislators:** Several League members met with the Legislators from the 8<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup> Districts the last week of December. Each Legislator stated what his or her focus will be for the Legislative session. This is an excellent way for the Legislators to become familiar with our League members and League positions.

### **THINKING AHEAD**

**LWVWA Council – May 22-23, 2010**

**Women's Equality Day - August 26, 2010**

**LWVWA Convention – May 19-22, 2011**

## **STATE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS**

### **LWVWA**

**State Convention:** The next Committee meeting for the 2011 State Convention planning is scheduled for Thursday, February 11 at 10 AM at Judy Golberg's home (1914 Meadows Drive North, Richland). Once a firm commitment has been made with an area hotel, the dates will be shared with others. Ideas for a theme and speakers are needed. Please participate any time if you are interested.

**State Council:** State Council is scheduled to be held in Bellingham May 22-23. If members are interest in attending, please inform [Ginger](#).

## LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS US

**LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF THE UNITED STATES  
49TH NATIONAL CONVENTION JUNE 11-15, 2010**

**MAKING DEMOCRACY WORK: A HISTORY OF CHANGE A FUTURE OF HOPE.**

The LWVUS invites all members to join fellow Leaguers from 50 states, the Virgin Islands, Puerto Rico and Hong Kong to celebrate 90 remarkable years of League achievements and chart the course for the next biennium of League programs.

All League members are invited to attend Convention, but Presidents of local and state Leagues appoint their allotted delegates. Non-

voting members can be part of the excitement as the Convention delegate body debates and adopts the 2010-2012 National Program, the LWVUS Budget for the next fiscal year, and amendments to the LWVUS Bylaws. Delegates will also be choosing the LWVUS Board officers, directors and nominating committee for the next biennium.

Convention 2010 site, the Marriott Atlanta Marquis, is located in the downtown area known as Atlanta's heartbeat. It's where you can experience the world's largest aquarium, relax in Centennial Olympic Park, tour CNN Worldwide, and enjoy myriad dining, cultural and shopping experiences. Nearby are the President Jimmy Carter Library and Museum and the Martin Luther King Jr. National Historic Site and Visitors Center. For detailed information on this fabulous metropolis, visit the website [www.Atlanta.net](http://www.Atlanta.net) and click on 50 Things to do in Atlanta. Do plan to arrive early or stay a few extra days to explore the many attractions the Atlanta area has to offer.

### **In Case You Missed It!**

The following links to articles, Editorials and interesting "stuff" are provided for the benefits of those who can access the Internet and missed seeing these tidbits. For those of you without computer access and the article sounds interesting, please contact me (627-5347) or the person listed and we will try to print it and mail it.

Cities to air TV programs on regional facilities projects" by Tri-City Herald Staff: "Kennewick, Pasco and Richland are televising a half-hour program about their cooperative efforts to identify potential regional facilities and find funding for such projects. The program, *Putting Together the Pieces: Choosing and Finding Funding for Regional Community Facilities*, airs on Richland CityView, on cable channel 13 in Richland and cable channel 12 in Kennewick. The show will run at 9:30 a.m. Monday, 10 p.m. Tuesday, 8:30 p.m. Wednesday, 8:30 a.m. and 8:30 p.m. Thursday, 6:30 p.m. and 9 p.m. Friday, and 9 p.m. Saturday. Beginning Friday, January 22, Pasco's PSC-TV, cable channel 12, will show the program at noon and 6:30 p.m. daily. The program features Pasco City Councilman Matt Watkins, chairman of the Tri-Cities Regional Facilities Oversight Committee, and Richland City Councilwoman Sheila Sullivan discussing the formation, accomplishments and 2010 expectations of the community effort."

If you missed Laurel's article on the Constitution in the Tri-City Herald you can read it by clicking on the address below. Read some of the comments included. As Laurel says, "What alarms me most is the assumption that a legal right to say or write any erroneous opinion whatsoever means it is valid!" [Welcome to the world of the Internet. Ed.]

[http://www.tri-cityherald.com/letters/story/867230.html?mi\\_pluck\\_action=comment\\_submitted&qwxq=7685859#Comments\\_Container](http://www.tri-cityherald.com/letters/story/867230.html?mi_pluck_action=comment_submitted&qwxq=7685859#Comments_Container)