

League of Women Voters of Benton-Franklin Counties

THE VOTER

Ginger Vetrano, President // Judy Golberg, Editor

P. O. Box 765, Richland, WA 99352

March 2010

Calendar of Events

March 4	5:30 PM	TABLE TALK, Thursday evening at Alice Bryant's home, 2408 Alexander, Richland, 375-0189 – All members welcome!
March 18	5:30 PM	BOARD MEETING, Lampson Building, Kennewick – Open to all members.

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#### PRESIDENT'S REMARKS

There are several important issues coming up in the next few months—decisions about the 2011 State Convention, arrangements for the August 26th Women's Equality Day celebration, how much to get involved with moving the County Seat, and what should our League focus on in the next year. If you have ideas for any of these topics, please contact me. We welcome input from ALL our members.

Now, looking to what we have accomplished—a big thanks to Marilyn Perkins and helpers who made corrections in the TRYs and distributed the new ones. That is a big job that has to be done after every election. When I delivered one packet to the Juvenile Justice Center, a woman was passing by, saw what I had and commented that they are an excellent source of information. Exaggerating, she said that everyone who was important had their phone number in there—even God!

Although many of our members live in Richland, many do not, so the topic of Richland's new recycling program may seem to be of local interest. However, we all can use this information to look at our own city's recycling program to see what improvements are needed, how best to pay for this service, etc. Please join us March 4 at Alice Bryant's to hear Gail Everett speak. We will also ask for ideas for our local program for next year, and possibly have a speaker to discuss the upcoming national census.

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

#### LOCAL LEAGUE

**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
- Census

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

Report from February 4 Birthday Celebration: Ellyn Murphy summarized her trip to the Copenhagen Conference on Climate Change as one of the National League's representatives. Thanks for sharing your experiences Ellyn. Great job explaining what the conference involved.

#### TRYs (They Represent You)

Distribution of the TRYs has just begun. They are delivered or mailed throughout Benton and Franklin Counties. This year they are lavender. We will have them available at the next Table Talk and after that we will mail them to any member who has not received a copy. Please contact me if you need more.

Several members helped in researching, proofreading and distributing the TRYs, but the key member these many years has been Judy Golberg who contacts the local jurisdictions, does all the computer work for us and coordinates with Kadlec Regional Medical Center which contributes the cost of printing. If you see Judy or know anyone in administration at Kadlec you might express our League's appreciation for its sponsorship.

[Marilyn Perkins](#)

### LOCAL PROGRAM PLANNING

It is time to start planning what our League might want to adopt for a local program for next year. The final decision will be made at the Annual Meeting in May. Before that can happen, member input on issues that would be timely and of interest in our local community are requested.

These last two years our League has concentrated on learning more about energy/climate change and health care. While these are national issues and no changes in League's position can be made locally, there was much to learn and become more informed about those two issues in our community.

The most recent study where our League did develop a new position was the research on the location of the county seat and whether it was meeting the legal and practical needs of the county. If you look at the most recent Handbook, all our local positions are included.

Time will be spent discussing local issues at the March 4 Table Talk. To have a formal program adoption that would lead to a new local position or revision of a current local position it must be included in the Annual Meeting packet and adopted at the Annual Meeting.

Suggestions for study that do not lead to a new position can be included, but would be of educational value to our members. All suggestions will be considered by the Board and the Board will vote on a recommendation at the April board meeting. All other suggestions will be listed in the packet and can be considered at the same meeting.

If you have any suggestions or questions about the process contact Marilyn Perkins – 783-8610 or [perkinsjohn@msn.com](mailto:perkinsjohn@msn.com).

### TREASURER'S REPORT

As of January 15, 2010, LWVB-F has \$3,785.20 in checking and \$1,599.87 in savings.

### 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](#).

### OBSERVER CORPS

**Richland City Council:** Janet Nail reported the main topic at the Richland City Council had been curbside recycling.

**Kennewick Planning Commission:** Ginger Vetrano stated the Kennewick Planning Commission continues to solicit opinions on the Bridge-to-Bridge, River-to-Railroad plans and that those desiring development on Thompson Hill were still proposing other options.

### ANNUAL MEETING

In preparation of the Annual Meeting, the Nominating Committee will meet soon to discuss possible candidates for the Board. The Budget Committee is also meeting. Local Program Planning will be discussed at the March Table Talk with final recommendations approved by the Board at its April meeting. If you have questions, please contact [Ginger](#).

### THINKING AHEAD

**LWVBF Annual Meeting – May 20, 2010**

**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

**Legislation:** Thanks to our members who read and responded to actions requested in the LWVWA Legislative Newsletter and the WashClean Newsletter in regard to the Supreme Court Fair Elections bill.

Our Supreme Court Fair Elections bill ([SB 5912](#)) was called for a floor vote in the state Senate well before the 5 PM cutoff—but was set aside prior to voting due to a procedural challenge (so it did not pass).

After consultations, Senate President Brad Owen ruled that the \$3 surcharge which would fund the bill must be considered a tax –and therefore the bill would require a two-thirds vote in the Senate to pass.

In fact there were 27 confirmed "Yes" votes (of 49) in the Senate—enough for majority passage, but not enough for two-thirds. Therefore, Senate leaders set

the bill aside—for today. Our two Senators (Delvin and Hewitt) are against the bill.

By pledging support for the bill, these senators agree that voters want judges on the court—not politicians or fund raisers. We want to see public financing of state Supreme Court races!

All of this action lays a strong foundation for progress.

The bill is not dead yet—so don't sit back!

Continue to write / phone our legislators as directed in the LWVWA Legislative Newsletter and **the WashClean Newsletter**.  
[Leona Hassing](#)

**State Convention:** The Committee will decide which Tri-Cities hotel will fit the needs of LWVWA convention and proceed with planning. The facilities, location, availability and costs are all being considered. Each hotel visited would be more than willing to work with us to meet our needs. The date for convention has been determined to be May 19-22, 2011.

**State Council:** State Council is scheduled to be held in Bellingham May 22-23, 2010. If members are interest in attending, please inform [Ginger](#).

**LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS US  
NATIONAL CONVENTION JUNE 11-15, 2010**  
The LWVUS invites all members to join fellow Leaguers in Atlanta to celebrate 90 remarkable years of League achievements and chart the course for the next biennium of League programs.

### **[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.

**"Change of Subject."** "Change of Subject" by Chicago Tribune op-ed columnist Eric Zorn contains observations, reports, tips, referrals and tirades, though not necessarily in that order. Links will tend to expire, so seize the day. For an archive of Zorn's latest Tribune columns [click here](#). An explanation of the title of this blog is [here](#). If you have other questions, suggestions or comments, send to [ericzorn@gmail.com](mailto:ericzorn@gmail.com).

Find out how well readers of the “Change of Subject: column did on a recent health quiz:  
[http://blogs.chicagotribune.com/news\\_columnists\\_ezorn/2010/02/healthquizfolo.html](http://blogs.chicagotribune.com/news_columnists_ezorn/2010/02/healthquizfolo.html)