



The League of Women Voters is where hands-on work to safeguard democracy leads to civic improvement.

The Voter The Voter

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Annual Meeting Slated for May 21st

This year's Annual Meeting will be held May 21st at All Saint's Episcopal Church in Richland. 322 Kimball Avenue, Richland - a little west of Williams Blvd. It is the one time of the year we hope to get as many members together as possible.

It is an excellent opportunity for long-time and newer members to get acquainted and come together to appreciate what we have accomplished in the year and to help set the direction for the upcoming year.

We will start gathering at 5:30 and hope to begin eating at 5:45, with the meeting beginning at 6:15. We have traditionally had a potluck with the emphasis on salads with some desserts, but any contribution is welcomed.

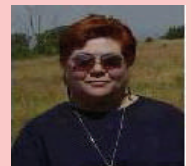
If time or energy is a concern for you donations can be given to Marilyn Perkins (783-8610 or perkinsjohn@msn.com) to help cover beverages, rolls, etc. We always have plenty, so don't worry if the day arrives and you aren't "prepared" - come anyway.

If anyone has a vase of flowers they can share from their garden that would be much appreciated. Anyone who can come early (5:00) to help set up would be appreciated a lot. Contact Marilyn if you can help or have questions.

Member Spotlight : Veda Guynes, Board Member



I am proud of being a member of the League of Women Voters, and am continually grateful to Leona Hassing for encouraging me to join. I have been limited in my involvement with the League due to previous commitments and health related issues, but hope to be able to contribute more of my time and energy in the future.



I was raised in the Columbia Basin on a ranch 12 miles north of Pasco, and have had the opportunity of watching our Tri-City area develop from the 3 small towns to the large somewhat metropolitan area it is becoming. Although, I often moved away from here, I always seemed to come back. I graduated from Columbia Basin College, in 1992, and then moved on to a Bachelor's of Science in Organizational Management from Central Washington University, and began work on a master's degree in psychology which I am still working on in an 'as-I-can' basis.

I raised two sons both here and in Mukilteo, WA. They are and have been a great joy in my life. My husband and I have been married for 18 years, and my mother, brother, and sisters all live in the Tri-City area.

I have, for the most part of my life, had careers in two areas simultaneously. I have had an extensive career in the business and corporate worlds, but have also been a counselor, teacher, motivational speaker, and workshop facilitator on a part-time basis for over 25 years. In addition, I have gained many years of experience in producing expos and community events. I have recently opened an office in Richland, and am doing counseling and personal and professional development coaching.

I love learning and have interests in many areas ranging from cutting edge technology to rock hounding. I also love to travel, spend time with friends, and am a voracious reader. I consider being a member of the League of Women Voters one of my life's blessings and opportunities.

LWV of Benton Franklin County

Working for a Better Future

Climate Change/Energy Study Group Plans Field Trip

Ellyn Murphy, the Chair of the Climate Change/ Energy Study Group, has made initial contacts to arrange some interesting tours related to our study. Currently we are engaged in trying to come up with a workable day to tour one of FPL's wind based power generating plants that you see high above some of our roadways. We are tentatively looking at the weekend of May 16th and 17th. We are thinking a weekend would be best, but if you have other, ideas please let us know.

Also do you have a preference for a Saturday or Sunday? Ellyn will be away until May 4th, but please let her know your interest by email ellyn.murphy@pnl.gov or call after the 4th at 375-2390. We would really like to get a sense of your interest in this committee. You are of course still invited to participate in the tours even if it is not your intent to work on the committee.

Not surprisingly, the tour guides have a busy schedule. There are two locations one near Burbank, the other near Touchet. Please let us know if you have a preference and maybe let us know why. If you cannot make these dates, please let us know if you would attend on some other day with examples of a better time for you.

We also plan to visit the Electricity Infrastructure Operations Center (EIOC) at Pacific Northwest National Laboratory (PNNL) to learn about the importance of "Smart Grid" for renewables and energy efficiency. A tentative date of Tuesday, May 12th, from 1 to 2:30 pm is scheduled. Space is limited to 20. If you are interested, please contact Ellyn Murphy at ellyn.murphy@pnl.gov or leave a message at 375-5914. We will need to get visitor badges, so people should plan to meet at PNNL at 12:30 pm on May 12th. (Article submitted by Kathy Utz co chair of Study Group)

Newest Citizens –

Last month Madeleine Brown noticed an announcement in the paper about a citizenship ceremony being held in Richland and the Federal Building Court Chambers. She attended and registered voters and handed out TRYs in the name of League.

On April 24th Marilyn Perkins and Madeleine attended another ceremony and again registered our newest citizens. It is a nice ceremony to experience and registering voters is a priority of the League

The plan is to attend these ceremonies about once a month depending on need. If you would like to help contact Marilyn Perkins. (783-8610 or perkinsjohn@msn.com) The first two started at 11:00 am and last about 30 minutes and registering took about 15 minutes. We do not know the date for May.

A Message from our President: Ginger Vetrano

Don't forget this year's Annual Meeting on May 21st. I look forward to seeing all of you there.

We are allowed 3 delegates to the state convention. At this time we have 2, so one more is very welcome. Let me know if you are interested. The meeting is in Tacoma on May 29th to the 31st..

On June 4th we will have an opportunity to visit the Benton/Franklin Public Health Facility and listen to Dr. Jecha. I'm so glad as Dr. Jecha understands the needs of public health in our area and what we have to do to keep our Counties healthy.

Finally, we will need a new editor for The Voter. Dea is doing this issue and one more. If you are interested, please contact me. My telephone number is 735-4248 or talk to me at the Annual Meeting.

Health Care Overhaul Study Group to Meet 4/30/09

The Healthcare Overhaul Study Group will meet on Thursday April 30th, 6:30 P. M. at All Saints Episcopal Church, 1322 Kimball Ave. Richland.

Susan Kayser will have an analysis resulting from our collected personal healthcare costs .

Hope to see you there. If you can't attend, but would still like to be on the committee, please let Susan know via email (hskayser@verizon.net) or call 375-0641 so she can inform you about future meetings.

Calendar

May 7th Table Talk: The Climate Change/Energy Study Group is in charge of the discussion. The meeting will be held at Alice Bryant's. (2408 Alexander Richland 375-0188) at 5:30. If you can help with the dinner contact Marilyn Perkins.

May 8th: Reports for inclusion in the packet for the annual meeting are due to Marilyn Perkins.

May 21: Annual Meeting: All Saints Episcopal Church Richland The meeting includes: ***Election of Officers, Budget Adoption, Bylaw Changes, Adoption of Local Program.***

Garage Sale: Due to scheduling problems, we have postponed the garage sale until June. Hopefully a date will be set by the Annual Meeting. Keep thinking of this as a great opportunity to rid your home of those items you just don't need or use any longer, have a little fun and earn some money for League to help send someone to next year's National Convention. If you can help contact Marilyn Perkins. (783-8610 or perkinsjohn@msn.com)