

League of Women Voters of Benton-Franklin Counties

THE VOTER

Ginger Vetrano, President // Judy Golberg, Editor

P. O. Box 765, Richland, WA 99352

May 2010

Calendar of Events

May 6	5:30 PM	TABLE TALK, Thursday evening at Alice Bryant's home, 2408 Alexander, Richland, 375-0189 – All members welcome!
May 20	5:30 PM	ANNUAL BUSINESS MEETING – All Saints Episcopal Church, 1322 Kimball, Richland
June 3	TBD	TABLE TALK – See article below

PRESIDENT'S REMARKS

Happy Mother's Day to all of you who are mothers or have mothers or know mothers.

This month is our Annual Meeting. We elect officers for the next year and choose our local program. This year the Board is recommending that we start on a new study, but instead continue focus on health care, climate change and sustainable communities. We will also be hosting the state Convention next May, which is a big job. Judy Golberg is chairing this event and will be calling for lots of volunteers to help with the myriad details conventions entail. But, as Leaguers, we don't forget to feed the body as well as the mind, and we will have a pot luck dinner preceding the meeting.

Looking ahead to June, we usually have a special tour or program (along with dinner-we are well fed), so we hope everyone will be able to participate in this social event. Details will come later.

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

LOCAL LEAGUE

MAY TABLE TALK – Thursday, May 6 - Table Talk is scheduled at Alice Bryant's home in Richland.

- Patient Safety - Susan Kreid, League member who has served on the Kadlec Regional Medical Center's Board for several years will lead a discussion on ways to improve patient safety in hospitals.

Just last Friday on "Science Friday" (PBS's Talk of the Nation) an hour was devoted to the subject and it is very complicated, interesting and something that will impact us all or our friends and family sometime in the future.

It is also an important part of trying to save money in health care treatment. It is estimated that 100,000 people die each year due to mistakes made or from conditions found while in a hospital.

As it is May, our normal soup menu will be replaced by a green salad bar with bread and dessert. \$3 is a suggested contribution toward the meal.

Report from April 1 Table Talk:

- Commissioner Leo Bowman asked League what we see as the impact of moving the County Seat. A response was prepared and sent.
- Senator Jerome Delvin provided an update on this year's Legislative session. The budget was still under consideration at the time of the Table Talk meeting.

JUNE TABLE TALK

Plans for a League outing in June are still being decided. In addition to touring WSU, a tour of Port of Benton facilities, a tour of Clover Island and the surrounding area, Sacajawea Park, and a visit to Benton City involving the city or school officials have also been suggested.

If you have additional ideas or a preference you would like to share, contact Marilyn Perkins. That is the nice thing about being a League member, what may sound boring to an "average" person sounds like fun to us.

[Marilyn Perkins](#), 783-8610

ANNUAL MEETING

Thursday, May 20 the annual business meeting will take place at All Saints Episcopal Church, 1322 Kimball Street in Richland, between Williams

and Symons. This is the same locations as in previous years. The social gathering will begin at 5:30, dinner at 5:45 and meeting at 6:15. We plan to be finished by 8 PM.

The official meeting packet will be handed out at the May Table Talk or mailed to those of you unable to attend. The packet includes the proposed budget, nominated slate of officers, reports, and all other business that will be discussed.

If you can only make one meeting a year, this is a good one to attend. It gives us a chance to see long-time members and meet with our newer members; to renew old friendships and start building new ones. It is also the time to look back over the accomplishments of this year and start planning for the next. And last but not least, there is always good food. This is a pot luck event – main dishes, salads and desserts, but if you are having a busy day come without food, there is always plenty. If you would rather make a donation to cover some of the basics, contact [Marilyn Perkins](#).

In years past we have also had donations of flowers from people's gardens, so if you have anything blooming and would be willing to bring a small bouquet, that would be much appreciated.

MEMBERSHIP

We welcome Ginny McIntyre, Carol Moser, Susan Leckband, Christine Grantham and Bob Parazin as our newest members. It is through the efforts of the present members that we increase our membership. Word of mouth, friends inviting friends, and the reputation of League generate the want to join.

Several memberships are pending at this time. Next month we hope to report in the positive. [Leona Hassing](#), Chair

TREASURER'S REPORT

As of March 31, 2010, LWV BF has \$4,171.45 in checking and \$1,600.13 in savings for a total of \$5,771.58.

BENTON COUNTY SEAT MOVE

No word has been received on League's input to the Board of Commissioners regarding the County Seat move. An Op Ed, or Letter to Editor is being sent to help provide voter education on this subject. If you have any question, please contact either [Kathy Utz](#), 375-1852 or [Judy Golberg](#), 627-5347.

OBSERVER CORPS

Port of Kennewick — Now that the decision has been made that Vista Field will remain open, the Port is aggressively working on updates. They include the following:

1. The empty hangars have been rented.
 2. Bids to move the fence to align with the airport property have been received.
 3. J-U-B Engineering has begun to update the Master Plan.
 4. The Port will likely apply for FAA funding after the Master Plan is complete because it is expected that the Plan will confirm that Vista Field doesn't comply with Federal regulations.
 5. The Port is investigating the purchase of a courtesy car.
 6. It is actively soliciting bids for an FBO operator.
 7. Marketing is being considered.
 8. New zoning allowing mixed property use outside the fence is sought.
 9. Building guidelines are being established.
- [Helen LaDouceur](#), 627-3218

One of the most interesting **Richland City Council** issues at this time is a south Badger Mountain development. The proposal includes 78 homes on 70 acres included in Richland's urban growth area. It would be a higher density, pedestrian friendly neighborhood with a golf course and wine village to draw tourism. The area is part of an urban growth area on track to be annexed by the city.

In the next twenty years, the area could be populated by 12,000 people in houses valued from \$200,000 to \$500,000. One hundred fifty acres would be set aside for commercial use.

It will be a complex endeavor. The land is in both the Kennewick School District and the Richland School District; it includes land in the Kennewick Hospital District and the Port of Kennewick. Traffic flow, cost of extending water, sewer, and electricity will have to be considered. The subarea will be considered by the Planning Commission this spring

and could be approved by the City Council this summer.

[Janet Nail](#), 628-3114

- Leona Hassing reported on the **City of Pasco**. With the departure of Mayor Joyce Olson, candidates are being interviewed for her vacant position.
- Ginger Vetrano reported on the **Kennewick Planning Commission's** plan to hold a public meeting on Bridge-to-Bridge / River-to-Railroad on Wednesday, April 21, at 6:00 PM.

THINKING AHEAD

LWVBF Annual Meeting – May 20, 2010

LWVWA Council – May 22-23, 2010

Women's Equality Day - August 26, 2010

LWVWA Eastside Action Workshop – October 23, 2010 in Kennewick

STATE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS

LWVWA

State Convention: Where do your talents fall? Are you artistic? Do you like to organize? Direct? Coordinate? Count? Sort? Greet people? We can use those talents when planning next year's convention May 19-22, 2011. Contact [Judy Golberg](#) . Thanks.

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.

Did you read about the two winners for the Pulitzer for political commentary? One is Kathleen Parker for commentary that the Tri-City Herald carries sometime and the other is Mark Fiore for the San Francisco Chronicle for editorial commentary. His political cartoons are short videos that are only carried on their web site, a first.