



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 Held, Action Taken

The following items were approved as recommended.

Newly Elected Officers are 1st VP: Kathy Utz; Treasurer: Helen LaDouceur. **Newly Elected Directors** are Janet Nail, Leona Hassing, Shirley Sonnichsen, and Ellyn Murphy. **Continuing Officers** include President, Ginger Vetrano and Secretary: Kay Ottem. **Continuing Elected Directors** are JoAnne McLaughlin, and Judy Golberg. **Local Program Items : Health Care** – In addition to study of state and national reform proposals, the focus will be on local costs, efficiency, scope, and coordination along with issues of the local Public Health District. **Energy/Climate Change** – the focus will be on determining the current mix of energy in our local area now and in 20 to 30 years. We will look at the potential of our area as a leader in energy research and production. **Benton County Seat Location** – work for a vote in 2010 and update our local position (adopted 2007 as a result of the County Seat Study), if appropriate. **Non Recommended Programs:** Jail Reform, Teen Challenge Program, Future of Vista Field, Mental Health.

Garage Sale Date Set

Need some space in your attic or garage? Our garage sale is set for Saturday June 20th. The sale will be held at Paula Garland's. You are welcome to start taking items to her home between now and the 20th Please call Paula at 375-0127 first to make sure she will be there. Paula's address in Richland is 2305 Hood Avenue. Please mark the suggested cost of items; we can always make adjustments if necessary. Please tie any towel or sheets sets together. We also need card tables, benches, racks etc. for display. If you have some you can share let Marilyn know. We will also need workers on Friday and Saturday. If you can work part of either day contact Marilyn Perkins 783-8610 or perkinsjohn@msn.com.

Profits from the sale defray local League expenses. All leftover items (unless arrangements are made) will be donated to a charitable group.

LWV of Benton Franklin County

Working for a Better Future

Member Spotlight : Ellyn Murphy Board Member



My mother-in-law, Rosemary Hostetler, first encouraged me to join the League of Women Voters. Rosemary has always been a great role model – her retirement has translated into years of service to the Bellingham community. I enjoy the league, because of the energetic and interesting members and the important social and governmental issues we tackle.



I was born and raised in Clinton, Iowa on the Mississippi River. With three older brothers I naturally evolved into a “tom-boy” enjoying outdoor activities like sports, fishing, camping and building tree houses. I majored in general science at the University of Iowa and then moved west to complete a master's degree in Forest Science. I met my future husband, Dave Hostetler, at Oregon State University. We lived in Cannon Beach, Oregon where I worked for Crown Zellerbach and Dave consulted on engineering projects for PNNL, his former employer. Our next move was to the University of Arizona to complete a PhD in hydrology.

Dave and I both accepted positions at PNNL in 1987, which brought us back to the northwest. We have two wonderful daughters, Kasey and Kelly, both currently undergraduates in college. Dave works on wireless communications and networking at PNNL, while I am working on geologic carbon sequestration. Richland has been a great community to raise the girls and PNNL has provided interesting and challenging career opportunities – we have been very fortunate!

When I am not at work or LWV meetings, I enjoy my early morning spin class, camping and kayaking with the family, and my favorite pastime, reading. I also enjoy cooking, gardening, refinishing furniture, remodeling – all hobbies that I may someday resume when I retire.

Climate Change/Energy Study Group Plans Field Trip

The Climate and Energy Study group has started to evaluate the current mix of energy, and its potential growth, in our area. The different types of energy include wind, solar, nuclear, hydropower, biofuels, and fossil. Once we have this baseline and potential of the different energy technologies for the Tri-Cities, we would then superimpose climate change to gain a better understanding of the energy mix needed in 20 to 30 years. As an example, water shortages are predicted under climate change, which could have a significant impact on hydropower. Hydropower contributes approximately 85% of Washington state's electricity.

The first field trip was held on May 12th to get a better understanding of the electricity grid and "smart grid." The Electricity Infrastructure Operations Center (EIOC) at Pacific Northwest National Laboratory is designed as a fully functioning electricity operations center that receives real-time grid information. There are currently 140 electricity operations centers around the country that continually monitor electricity distribution and load. The EIOC at PNNL is the only operations center in the country dedicated to research, but can also serve as a back-up resource for energy utilities and industry operation centers.

Jeff Dagle provided a historical view of the development of the electricity grid in north America. A "smart grid" increases the connectivity, automation and coordination between electricity suppliers, consumers and networks by adding two-way communication to the grid. Transmission networks that move electricity in bulk over medium to long distances are already controlled in real time. Local networks traditionally moved power in one direction "distributing" the bulk power to consumers and businesses. Nowadays with homes and small businesses increasingly selling surplus power onto the local net generated from wind and solar sources, the old local network paradigm is shifting. The intermittent nature of alternative electricity generation and the ability for consumers to realize energy consumption efficiency, requires more communication to manage power flows and provide the metering needed to compensate local producers of power.

On May 16th we toured the Florida Power and Light windmill site on Hatch road near Wallula Gap. The view at the top of Hatch Road is truly impressive, with 454 wind turbines spanning 70 square miles in Washington and Oregon. This wind farm was built in 2001 and 2002. The turbines are either 160 ft high and 10.5 ft wide at the base or 207 ft high and 12 ft wide at the base. Each windmill costs about \$1.2M to install (labor, materials, and permits). The 3-blade turbines span 154 ft in diameter and are manufactured in Denmark by Vestas. The turbines can produce electricity at wind speeds as low as 9 mph, reach their peak of production at 33 mph and shut down at constant wind speeds of 56 mph or gusts of 62 mph. When all 454 turbines are operational they produce enough energy to power approximately 90,000 homes.

The Climate and Energy study group is planning a visit to the wind farm in the fall. We will contact local members regarding dates and times for tours and meetings of this study group. If you are interested in participating, please contact Ellyn Murphy (375-3290) or Kathy Utz (375-1852).

Calendar

June 4th: Tour of Benton Franklin Health District. 5:15 PM. We will meet at the Health District's offices near the Justice Center (7102 W. Okanogan). After we tour and facility and hear from Dr. Larry Jecha, those who would like can proceed to a nearby restaurant and enjoy a meal.

June 20th: Yard Sale. See articles on page 1 for details.

A Message from our President: Ginger Vetrano

The annual meeting not only accomplished the goals of electing officers, adopting a budget, and determining the major programs for the year, but also gave us an opportunity for fellowship and to feast on excellent food. As we look to the coming year, we will build on the solid groundwork the Health Care and Climate Change study groups have done and continue to bring the studies closer to our local area. The reports that were given on those subjects showed how much was accomplished this past year and where they want to proceed. We will also have an opportunity to gather signatures this summer to change the County Seat. Even though this is not an election year, there is a lot going on.

Judy Golberg, Marilyn Perkins and I will be going to the State Convention in Tacoma at the end of May. The results of that Convention will be in the next *VOTER*, but 3 issues to come before the Convention are the dues increase, a health care proposal and where the 2011 convention will be held.

There are 2 events early summer – on June 4th we will be touring the new Public Health building and June 20th is our annual Yard Sale – a chance to get rid of all your extras and buy lots of goodies at excellent prices. This is our major fund-raiser and it particularly helps the League to send representatives to the National and State conventions. The Board will have a retreat to further shape up the next year's calendar this summer, August 26 is the annual picnic and then we will meet again in September.

Legislative Update

Two bills passed the recently adjourned session of the Washington State legislature which dealt with issues our local League has discussed.

One gave felons back their voting rights after they have served their time in jail.

The other was the National Voter Compact. At the April Table Talk meeting, members in attendance supported the National Voter Compact. The last issue of the *VOTER* carried an article on the NVC. Washington State is the 5th state to pass the Compact. The following link provides additional information and discussion <http://www.thenation.com/blogs/edcut/435782> on the issue.