

League of Women Voters of Benton-Franklin Counties

THE VOTER

Ginger Vetrano, President // Judy Golberg, Editor

P. O. Box 765, Richland, WA 99352

August 2009

Calendar of Events

August 18		PRIMARY ELECTIONS
August 20	5:30 PM	All member COMMITTEE PLANNING workshop– Please bring a sack dinner and help plan the various committees' work for the year. See article below.
August 26	5:30 PM	PICNIC in Howard Amon Park, Richland (north end) – Join us in celebrating Women's Equality Day. Bring a dish to share.
August 25-29		BENTON-FRANKLIN FAIR – see article – need volunteers
September 3	5:30 PM	TABLE TALK, Alice Bryant's home, 2408 Alexander, Richland, 375-0189 – All members welcome! Light meal provided (\$3 donations towards food)
September 17	5:30 PM	BOARD MEETING – All members welcome to participate. Ginger and Ellyn to provide light meal

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### PRESIDENT'S REMARKS

While I love summer, I am getting energized for a great League year. We have a primary August 18th and a general election November 3rd, so we will join with the Coalition the Tri-City Herald is putting together to hold candidate forums. I'm sure we will be doing some voter registration too, but no definite times have been set up.

Marilyn Perkins, Judy Golberg, and I went to the LWVWA convention in Tacoma in May. Approval was given to send a letter to the LWVUS supporting a single-payer national health insurance plan and that it should have a side-by-side comparative analysis with other proposals.

Another resolution passed to communicate to the Department of Homeland Security and to Congress our rejection of the policy of apprehending, detaining and deporting undocumented immigrants with no serious criminal record; to lobby Congress to investigate the policies and procedures being followed by Border Patrol and ICE and pursue legislation that conforms with civil rights; and to lobby Congress to adopt comprehensive immigration reform that conforms with LWVUS immigration positions.

A third resolution that passed was to appoint a Task Force to study the Washington laws to determine that minimal standards for safe and decent residential housing construction and contracting exist and are

enforced. To consider as a priority for future Legislative sessions: to ensure that the state sets and enforces minimal standards for safe and decent residential housing, including new and remodeled construction; and that residential housing toxics meet EPA or other acceptable government or health standards, including the toxic mold secondary to water incursion.

The fourth resolution that passed was: if Referendum 71 is placed on the ballot, then the LWVWA encourages voting "yes" to affirm the "everything but marriage" expanded domestic partner law that has passed the state legislature and was signed by the governor.

It was a busy, but fun time, and was especially great to meet so many dedicated women serious about good government.

At our next Table Talk, September 3rd, we will be discussing the programs for the coming year. This is a good time to put your 2 cents in, so please think of topics you would like discussed.

*Ginger Vetrano*  
President, [vetrano@charter.net](mailto:vetrano@charter.net)

### LOCAL LEAGUE

**COMMITTEE PLANNING** – August 20: Meet at the Lampson Building in Kennewick to participate in the

planning for the year. Committees include: Voter Service (candidate forums); Voter Education; Health Care Reform; Climate Change; Observer Corps; Membership and others. If you would like to participate on one of our League's committees please come and if you can't attend, let Ginger Vetrano know so your name can be added to the committee communication list.

This workshop will help establish the year's calendar of events. Come provide your input!

**PICNIC** – August 26, 5:30 PM: Join our members by celebrating Women's Equality Day and hearing about the new law regarding restoration of felons' voting rights. Bring a dish to share with others. Paper plates and plastic ware will be provided.

**VOLUNTEER AT THE FAIR** – Signature gathering for the county seat move at the Benton Franklin Fair:

At the Board retreat on Saturday, July 29, 4 of our members graciously signed up to provide coverage at the Fair for petition signing for the county seat move. Obviously more help is needed to cover this 4-day event.

Our thanks to Ruth, Ellyn, Karen and Leona who are helping to put some action behind our study in working at the Fair. Last year at the fair was pretty successful as has been the time spent in July at the Justice Center. Ginger, Margery, Helen, Kay, Ruth and Leona made that project happen.

The Fair runs from Tuesday the 25<sup>th</sup> to Saturday August 29<sup>th</sup>. Fred Staples plans on being there every day that it is open. I am thinking that Saturday needs to be reserved for coverage by League members who are not likely to be available during the week. When asked when our assistance would be most needed he said that he will be there around 10 AM and stay until close to closing. He says that most help is needed in the later afternoon and early evening. This might translate into coverage from 2 to 5 and then 5 to 8. Three hours seemed to work okay last year but given the current weather it is hard to say. I think Fred brought an umbrella last year. As to location for his table, he thinks it will be as it was last year. The site

was close to the entrance. For those agreeing to participate, there will be more details later. If you can only work at a time other than what I listed, not a problem since the choice is yours to make.

The Fair runs from 9 AM to 11 PM on weekdays and from 9 AM to 12 PM on Saturday. I think we are stuck paying general admission which is \$5.00 for those 65 and over, \$12.00 for the rest of the adult population. Parking is \$5.00 but the Benton-Franklin Transit system is great way to get there and back.

Please let me know of your interest in participating via phone 375-1852 or email utzk@verizon.net. Please make this an extra good reason for you to get to the Fair this year. *Kathy Utz*

**SEPTEMBER TABLE TALK** – Mark your calendar for the first Thursday of every month (or nearly every month) for a relaxing *social event*. We share good food and usually have a discussion involving current events or one of League's business issues. September's discussion will include a speaker on the Citizen Centric Reports. Curious? Come find out what it means. Starts at 5:30 PM.

#### **REGISTERING STUDENT VOTERS -**

Columbia Basin College has requested our help registering student voters during **Constitution Week** (September 28–October 1). They would like us to man 3 tables at various locations on campus during the following times: Monday 9/28 from 8 to 11 AM / Tuesday 9/29 from 11 AM to 2 PM / and Wednesday 9/30 from 4:30 to 5:30 PM. – requiring 6 people to work each shift. Would you be willing to spend 3 or more hours helping? No experience necessary. Contact Ginger.

#### **STATE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS CONVENTION**

Other Business approved at State Convention:

- Senator Maria Cantwell spoke on recent Congressional issues
- Bylaws approved as proposed

- No new studies (see Ginger's article regarding resolutions)
- Approved increase in PMPs (\$2 1<sup>st</sup> year and an additional \$3 the following year)
- Elected a new Board of Directors  
Linnea Hirst, Seattle – President  
(see [www.lwvwa.org](http://www.lwvwa.org) for complete list)

### CIVIC ENGAGEMENT PROJECT

LWVWA is sponsoring a Civic Engagement Project, an interactive discussion on the Internet regarding the State budget, which will take place on August 13 at 7: PM (subject: the 3 parts of the budget); August 20 (subject: taxes); August 27 (subject: current mess); and September 3 (subject: possible ways out of the maze). Kathy, Helen and Leona all stated they are interested in participating, and they will contact Barbara Bush at the State office to get signed up.

### **NATIONAL LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS**

LWVUS is looking for people to serve and represent all of our members from 2010-2012 on the national Board or Nominating Committee. Ginger has the recommendation form (and you can recommend yourself)-just give her a call.

### IMPACT ON ISSUES

Marilyn Perkins will order copies of *Impact on Issues* for any member interested in having a copy. This publication lists all the current positions for the League of Women Voters of the United States. Please contact Marilyn if you would like a copy or want more information.

### **LWVB-F Board of Directors for 2009-2010**

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