

# League of Women Voters of Benton-Franklin Counties

## THE VOTER

Marilyn Perkins, President // Judy Golberg, Editor

P. O. Box 765, Richland, WA 99352

August 2010

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### Calendar of Events

August 5	2:00 PM	2011 CONVENTION COMMITTEE MEETING – Judy Golberg’s Home
August 19	5:30 PM	BOARD MEETING – Lampson Building, See article below
August 26	6:30 PM	90 <sup>th</sup> ANNIVERSARY LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS CELEBRATION – Mid Columbia Library on Union Street, Kennewick
September 2	5:30 PM	TABLE TALK – Meet at Judy Golberg’s Home, dinner will be provided
September 13		NATURALIZATION CEREMONIES / VOTER REGISTRATION



### PRESIDENT’S REMARKS

90<sup>th</sup> Celebration - August 26<sup>th</sup> will be the 90<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the adoption of the 19<sup>th</sup> amendment giving women the right to vote throughout the nation. I really shouldn’t say it was given, as many women worked for decades to secure the right to vote.

Our League is going to host a celebration and hope to include women who have served in elected office from our two counties. It will be hard to reach everyone and need the help of our members. If you have a friend who is or has served on a school board, city council, state representative etc. could you please share their name and address with us, it would be very helpful. If you made a phone call to encourage them to come that would be even better. We are hoping that some of them will be willing to reflect on their experiences and together we can look back on the changes of the last 90 years.

A committee is researching and compiling addresses in hopes of sending out the invitations by the middle of the month. As with all League events guest are welcome.

The celebration will be on Thursday, August 26<sup>th</sup> at the Mid-Columbia Library on Union from 6:30 – 8:00 PM and dessert will be served.

Please mark your calendar and help us recognize all the contributions that have been made by women in our area. Send suggested names to one of the following members – Ginger Vetrano 783-9205, Leona Hassing 492-4111, Susan Kayser 375-0641 or Marilyn Perkins 783-8610.

New Citizens – The next naturalization ceremony in our area will be Monday morning,

September 13<sup>th</sup> at the Federal Building in Richland. Our League will be registering our newest voters after the ceremony. If you would be willing to help, contact Madeleine Brown 946-4082.

President, [Marilyn Perkins](#), 783-8610

### LOCAL LEAGUE

SEPTEMBER TABLE TALK – Thursday, September 2 - Table Talk will meet at Judy Golberg’s home, 1914 Meadows Drive North, Richland (south Richland off Gage Blvd.) at 5:30 PM. If you need specific directions, please contact Judy. Dinner will be served.

A video of Helen Thomas’ speech to the League of Women Voters of the U.S. at its national convention in 2004 will be shown. Helen shared her experiences over the years as a White House reporter.

[Marilyn Perkins](#), 783-8610 or [Judy Golberg](#), 627-5347

### BOARD MEETING

Next Board Meeting – August 19<sup>th</sup> – The Board meeting is open to all members and is held at the Lampson Building in Kennewick. A light meal is served.

### NATIONAL CONVENTION

In June Marilyn Perkins attended the League of Women Voters National Convention in Atlanta Georgia. It was Marilyn’s first time in Georgia. Here is her report: “It was pretty hot and humid outside, but quite

comfortable inside. Representative John Lewis welcomed us to Atlanta and encouraged us to keep up the good work.

I had expected to be the only representative from eastern Washington, but I was very pleasantly surprised to meet the delegate from Pullman. She was young enough to be my daughter, which was a pleasant surprise, and it was interesting to get a younger perspective on League activities.

It was also great to meet with people from all around the country and see some of the great work that is being done. One of my favorite workshops was a presentation from a member in South Carolina who was working on sentencing reform. She said they were making headway in the state in large part because of budget problems. The story about Al Greene becoming the Democratic nominee for the Senate had just broken, and when you think of all their state has been through she thanked us all for not laughing when she told us where she was from.

A proposal for an update on our position on arms control was passed and I attended the presentation before the vote. I was very impressed with the work that people had done. The original position had been written in 1983 and the new position better reflects the realities of today. There are many challenges ahead both nationally and internationally in this area, but League will be in a better position to lobby for passage of the new Test Ban Treaty.

Two new studies were adopted. The first was the role of the Federal Government in education, which the board had recommended. The second was a study of privatization of government services, which will look at the pros and cons and was proposed by a League in our state.

A small dues increase had been proposed in the budget and with the adoption of the second study, delegates raised it by a dime. We are a frugal organization. National dues will be \$29.70 this year and \$30.00 next, which is half of our local dues.

Elisabeth McNamara (a lawyer from Georgia) was elected to be the next president. Eight former presidents also made a presentation in celebration of League's 90<sup>th</sup> birthday. National Convention provided an opportunity to connect with other states and members, the national board and staff and become better informed on national issues.

As a bonus after sitting on the runway for 2 hours waiting for a thunder storm to pass through, the man next to me was a farmer (small) from Nicaragua

and we had a good conversation about politics and environmental issues in our two countries, and he thought I was very well informed, as was he; and of course I had to tell him about the League. " *Marilyn*

## **VOTER SERVICE**

### **UPCOMING CANDIDATE FORUMS**

This year our League will again be participating in a community-wide coalition to present General Election candidate forums for the public. Other members of the coalition include the Tri City Herald, Charter Communications, the Tri City Regional, Pasco and West Richland Chambers of Commerce, and the Associated Students of CBC.

League will be taking the lead on two forums – one covering the 8th and 16th Legislative District races and the other covering the Benton County races (see dates below). League will also coordinate with Charter to present an in-studio forum featuring the two District Court judge races (dates tbd). Pasco Chamber is taking the lead on the Franklin County races (date tbd) and the Herald is working on arrangements for a 4th Congressional District forum (date tbd).

Charter has already taped the two editorial board meetings the Herald conducted with the State Supreme Court Justice candidates and those are currently up and running on both Charter Channel 3 and YouTube. These are the only races being covered by the coalition before the Primary, because it is possible that these positions will be decided in the Primary.

The **State Legislature forum** will be on **Thursday, September 23 at 6:30 pm at the Mid-Columbia Library** on Union in Kennewick. 8th District races include State Senator and State Representative Position 1. The 16th District race is for State Representative Position 1.

The **Benton County forum** will be held on **Monday, October 11 at 6:30 pm at the Richland Library**. Races to be covered include Assessor, Auditor, Commissioner District 2 and Coroner. Also planned for this forum is a presentation of information regarding the issue of moving the County seat from Prosser to Kennewick.

Our members Marilyn Perkins, Kay Ottem, Judy Golberg and Ginger Vetrano are League's representatives to the coalition. If other members are interested in working at any of the forums please contact one of them and let them know of your willingness to help. All League members are invited -- and encouraged -- to attend the forums.

[Kay Ottem](#), 735-4684

### **HEALTH CARE REFORM**

*The Threat & The Opportunity of National Health Care Reform* featuring former Governor of Oregon, John Kitzhaber, MD was presented Monday June 14<sup>th</sup> and was sponsored by Kadlec Regional Medical Center. A video of this presentation is available from [Judy Golberg](#), 627-5347

### **BENTON COUNTY SEAT MOVE**

Status of the Initiative to move the county seat to Kennewick

A report from Kathy Utz: "I attended the initial and evidently last meeting of the Public Advisory Group concerning the implementation of RCW 36.12. 010 Petition for removal-Financial Impact statement. The meeting was held on July 8<sup>th</sup> in the Council Chambers at Benton City.

Ten persons were asked to participate and 6 actually attended. Two participants were from Prosser, the remaining 4 from Kennewick and Richland.

The meeting was called by the consultants from the consulting firm of ENTRIX. Their purpose in holding the meeting was to "present the consultant's work plan and then hear the Group's comments and recommendations concerning their planned scope of work."

While it was impressive to think that the consultants could accomplish so much during one three hour meeting, one came away with more than an a slight sense that the work plan was already pretty well decided.

I learned what they would do and would not do. They would not include an analysis of the legal issues which surround our county's government in relationship to the location of county facilities. They would not speak to the benefits associated with moving the county seat unless they find a way to factor in benefits as "negative costs". The RCW mandate requires a cost estimate for any additional

space that may be required as a result of the move of the county seat to Kennewick\*. I am concerned that the cost to build an administration building in Kennewick for the needs of the Auditor, Assessor and Treasurer's will be counted as an additional cost of the move of the county seat to Kennewick.

The cost must also be estimated for county employees and the cities that will be most affected by the change.

Apparently, since there is no specific requirement that the costs or benefits to the general public be calculated, that topic will not be included in the study.

The ballot will focus only on the impact of a "yes" vote and there is no planned assessment of the costs and benefits associated with a "no" vote.

\*("The county has proposed trying to solve these problems and meet the need to service the bulk of the population by building another 10,000 square-foot building in Kennewick beside the Justice Center. There currently is no apparent funding available for this building. In addition, all planning for this building has been put on hold until legal issues of locating this building in Kennewick have been resolved.") From the League of Women Voters of BFC Study: Location of the county seat 2006-2007

If you would like more detailed information, please email (preferred) or call me to let me know. I will forward 4 attachments that we represented to our board members at the recent July meeting.

[Kathy Utz](#)

### **OBSERVER CORPS**

If you are curious about participating as an Observer to any of the public entities within our Counties and want to know more, please contact Marilyn Perkins. New members are always welcome.

### **THINKING AHEAD**

✚ **August 5 - Convention Planning Committee**

✚ **August 17 - Primary Election**

✚ **August 19 - Board Meeting, Lampson Building**

✚ **August 26 - Women's Equality Day - 90<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the 19<sup>th</sup> Amendment**

✚ **September 2 - Table Talk**

✚ **September 23 - Candidates' Forum**

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- ✚ **October 11 - Candidates' Forum**
  - ✚ **October 23 - LWVWA Eastside Action Workshop in Kennewick**

## **STATE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS**

### **LWVWA**

**State Convention:** May 19-22, 2011. Next planning meeting will be held in **August 5 2:00 PM** at Judy's home. Contact [Judy Golberg](#) if you have questions. We need everyone's help with this project. 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.

Are you on Facebook? If so, have you become "Friends" with other League members? Are you interested? This is one method of keeping in touch. There are a few of our members now in touch with each other through Facebook. If you would like to join us, search for Judy Golberg and I'll suggest others.

How many of you use YouTube? This is an easy way to share videos you have taken with the world, just your family, or just the people you send the link. Candidate forums are being shared through Youtube. This provides people with access without having to rely on a specific broadcast time. You do want to know more?