

The League of Women Voters of Benton and Franklin Counties
VOTER Newsletter - September, 2007

PO Box 765, Richland, WA 99352 546-8192

LEAGUE CALENDAR

September/October

Thurs, Sept 6	Table Talk: Topic: Benton County Criminal Justice Tax Increase Ballot issue
Thurs, Sept 20	Business & Planning Mtg, Lampson Building, Kenn.
Thurs, Oct 4	Table Talk
Thurs, Oct 18	Business & Planning Mtg, Lampson Building, Kenn
Sat. Oct 20	Yard Sale

Membership dues are now payable. Send your check for \$50 to Helen LaDouceur or give it to her at the next meeting. In case you are interested, your \$50 is divided between the LWVUS, the LWVWA and our local League. LWVUS receives \$26.80, LWVWA receives \$17.00, and our local League keeps \$6.20. If you would like to make an additional contribution, you may include it in your check.

Table Talk, Thursday, September 6, 5:30 p.m.: Benton County voters will get a chance to decide on a new criminal justice sales tax after county commissioners agreed to put the issue on the November ballot. With that in mind our guest for the first Table Talk of the fall will be Richard Nordgren. He will help us better understand the proposal that will be on the ballot.

Table Talk, which meets the first Thursday of each month, begins with visiting and a light meal. While discussions generally center on current events, League subjects will occasionally be included. The meal is prepared by members and donations (\$3 suggested) are collected to cover the cost. All members and friends are invited to attend at the home of Alice Bryant, 2408 Alexander in Richland. Call Alice at 375-0189 for more information, directions, or with suggestions for topics to discuss

Business & Planning Meeting, Thursday, September 20: We're back at the Lampson Building for our meetings again this year. Remember that we eat at 5:30 pm and start the meeting at 6 pm. All members are welcome.

LWV Observer Corps Message from Ginger Vetrano: There was a very exciting teleconference among many Leaguers around the U.S. about the Observer Corps on August 23rd. Some Leagues have had it in place for 20 years, others, like us, are just starting up. I was lucky enough to be able to participate and am looking forward to getting this program going. I would like to have about 15 people who are willing to attend city or county meetings to see what is going on and report back to the League. Please call me at 735-4248 and be part of this opportunity to bring sunshine into our local committee.

Voter Service: Here is the schedule for the candidate forums at this point.

KGH levy & Benton County Criminal Justice sales tax	6 pm	Sept 26 at Southridge High School Library
Kennewick School Board & Kennewick City Council	6 pm	Sept 27 at Kamiakin High School Library
West Richland City Council	noon	October 3 at Benton REA community room
Statewide initiatives	6 pm	October 3 at CBC Gjerde Center
Pasco School Board & Pasco City Council	6 pm	October 4 at CBC HUB
Richland School Board & Richland City Council	6 pm	October 11 at Richland Community Center

The format for these general election forums will let the candidates have opening and closing statements, with written questions taken from the audience. It is helpful to have League members there to pick up and screen the questions. Also, League is responsible for providing the moderator and a timer. If League members don't want to do any of these jobs, just being there to be supportive is great -- plus attending the forum in the town you live in just makes good sense!

Yard Sale, Saturday Morning, October 20: The Board has decided to hold a yard sale this fall to assist in meeting our budget requirements, to help meet the LWVWA Education Fund challenge grant, and to help you clean out your house. The sale will be held at Paula Garland's house in Richland. If you are interested in helping to organize the sale, let Leona know. The Board voted to send all proceeds in excess of \$400 to the LWVWA Education Fund to help them with the Education Fund Challenge. Further details will be available in the September VOTER.

Celebration for Women's Suffrage, Thursday, August 23, Howard Amon Park: Thanks to everyone who helped make this an enjoyable event. The weather cooperated and the food was plentiful and yummy. Special thanks to Dea Podhajsky for writing the script for the program and to Kay Ottem for emceeding our game show. Thanks also to Alice Bryant and Marilyn Perkins.

MESSAGE FROM THE VOTER EDITOR: Comments, questions, and concerns about this newsletter may be addressed to Jeene Hobbs at 545-0127 or via e-mail at jhobbs@pocketinet.com. Suggestions and constructive criticisms are welcomed.

The League of Women Voters of Benton-Franklin Counties affirms its belief in and commitment to pluralism and diversity. There shall be no barriers to participation in any activity of the LWVBF on the basis of gender, race, creed, age, sexual orientation, national origin, disability, or socio-economic level.