



The League of Women Voters is where hands-on work to safeguard democracy leads to civic improvement.

The Voter The Voter

Inside this Issue	Page #
Message from President	2
State Voter Forum	2
Dues Due	2
Upcoming Events	2

LWV of Benton Franklin County

Working for a Better Future

Working for a Better Future

Health Care Position Review September Table Talk Topic (Our current position below)

The spectrum of health care delivery includes six levels of care: preventive, primary, secondary or acute care, tertiary or special care, restorative, and continuing care. Ideally, all these levels of care would be available within our community, eliminating the extra expense and inconvenience to people involved in going outside the area for health care. However, economic reality dictates that some services, particularly in the categories of secondary and tertiary care, will not be available locally.

There are a variety of provider groups, both private and tax-supported, involved in health care delivery including: hospitals, the health department, clinics, individual and group practitioners, educational and support groups, residential homes, outpatient services, health maintenance organizations, and day care centers. It is the position of the League of Women Voters of Benton and Franklin Counties that: All health care planning involve opportunity or strong local input.

- spending decisions should favor programs that will be meeting a need currently unserved rather than duplicating an existing service..
- we encourage cooperation among the health care providers, to help avoid the unnecessary duplication of services.
- emphasis should be placed on preventive health care and educational efforts. It is recognized that individuals should be personally responsible for their own health and health care.
- hospitals need to remain economically viable and should be allowed and encouraged to develop new or alternative programs and services, provided the need has been assessed.
- the community needs increased services in the restorative and continuing care area
- the hospice concept is valuable and deserves community support and the expansion of services.
- the Benton-Franklin District Health Department should continue in its multi-jurisdictional format.
- the availability of health care insurance is an important factor in health care delivery. We support measures to ensure access to insurance for the greatest number of persons.

Member Spotlight : Marilyn Perkins 2nd Vice President



I still remember my first League meeting as a guest of Judy Chasse. Vina Hudson asked me how I felt about paying taxes and I said I didn't mind, but I appreciated it when the taxes were well spent.

I joined the League in 1979 and since then I have made so many friends, that it is hard for me to imagine what my life would have been like if I had not been a League member. As a stay at home mom my membership has provided me with an opportunity to be a life-long learner. Later in life, I became a substitute teacher, I used many of the skills and information gained from my years in League to enhance my teaching.

I have served three terms as president of our local League and also have served on the state board for seven years. Again, my time on the state board allowed me to meet many wonderful, dedicated women. I never was a specialist in any one area and that is one reason why the League is a good fit; I find too many issues interesting to become an expert in any one, but I do feel that I am a more informed voter than I could possibly be without League. Most of my time in our League has been spent in Voter Service; I have always enjoyed registering voters.

I was born and raised in Richland and remember watching political conventions as a fairly young child in 1956. I later majored in history at WSU and still enjoy going back on campus. One of my favorite classes at WSU was constitutional law. My interest in politics and history is another reason why League is a perfect fit for me.

I have three children: a daughter, Erin, in Renton with twin granddaughters and a son and daughter in the LA area. One of the highlights of this last year was when my husband John and I stayed with Kara and went to the PAC 10 basketball tournament at the Staples Center in Los Angeles. Other than being with my kids, my favorite memories involve our trips to the Oregon coast. Much of my time is now spent helping to care for my mom and mother-in-law who will be 88 and 90 next month. League is still providing the friendships and opportunities to learn that makes my time in it well worth the effort.



Marilyn Perkins and husband John

Election 2008 State Forum Planned

The LWVWA, with KOMOTV and the Seattle PI are pleased to announce that Governor Christine Gregoire and Dino Rossi have accepted our invitation for a forum/debate. The live broadcast will occur Saturday, September 20, 9 p.m. immediately following college football. In addition to KOMO in Seattle, the program will be broadcast live on station KXLY Spokane and KATU Portland, and perhaps a station in Yakima and the Tri Cities. Following the live broadcast, the program will be streamed on the KOMOTV website.

The forum will be issue oriented and formatted as a dialogue with voters. All questions will be approved as to format and content by the state League Voter Service Committee

According to present schedule of the candidates, ours will be the first of four debates they have selected. We have the opportunity to set the tone. We are working hard to get it right

A Message from Our President Ginger Vetrano

This is an exciting election seasons this year. We've had our first top two primary, joining Louisiana as the only other state to adopt this system. As Leaguers we can write letters to the editor about our preferred candidates, but must not use our League connection. In fact, unless there is a League position on an issue, never use your League connection in any group or in written material.

I learned a lot at the National Convention in June. One was our definition of concurrence and consensus. These are both ways of reaching a position on an issue. Concurrence is agreeing with a prior statement, study or position that was a League study or position in the past. Consensus is arriving at a position by the general sense of the participants. It is not a majority vote, and a strong differing position can result in no position. Few groups use this way of deciding issues, but it can result in the group owning a position rather than a win-lose situation.

September Calendar

September 4th: Table Talk

- Topic: Review of Health Care Policy
- Location: Alice Bryant's Home 2408 Alexander Avenue Richland
- Time: 5:30
- Format: Discussion, Soup & Salad Dinner Suggested Donation \$3.00.
- Questions: Alice Bryant 375-0189

September 18th: Business & Planning Meeting

Location: Lampson Building Kennewick



Dues for 2008 are Due Now

Dues are due after September. 1st. They can be sent to PO Box 765, Richland. Dues for the year are \$60.

You will be receiving a letter soon reminding you .

Our local coalition will be sponsoring candidate forums before the general election. They will air on Charter.

Table Talk

Table Talk is held the first Monday of the month. Each month a different topic is considered. The meeting begins at 5:30. Before the discussion there is a soup and salad dinner. This year at the annual meeting it was decided to examine current positions of our league. This month we will look at our position on health care. It is on page one of this newsletter. It was adopted in 1985.