

# The League of Women Voters of Benton and Franklin Counties

## VOTER Newsletter - October, 2007

PO Box 765, Richland, WA 99352 546-8192

### LEAGUE CALENDAR October/November/December

Thurs, Oct 4 Table Talk--**CANCELLED**

Thurs, Oct 18 Business & Planning Mtg, [Paula Garland's House, 2305 Hood Ave, Richland](#)

Sat. Oct 20 Yard Sale, Paula Garland's House, 2305 Hood Ave, Richland

Thurs, Nov 1 Table Talk: A visitor from the LWVWA Board and U.S. Immigration

Thurs, Nov 15 Business & Planning Meeting

Thurs, Nov 29 Table Talk: U.S. Immigration—national study consensus questions

Sun, Dec 9 Holiday Meeting

June 13-17, 2008 LWVUS Convention, Portland, OR

**PLEASE notice all of the changes and additions in our regular monthly calendar above.**

**Membership dues are now payable.** Send your check for \$50 to Helen LaDouceur, 441 Greenbrook Place, Richland, WA 99352-8430, 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, October 4:** This month's meeting has been cancelled. The topic of the meeting would have been state-wide initiatives. Please plan to attend the Voter Forum co-sponsored by our League on Wednesday, October 3 at 6 p.m. at CBC's Gjerde Center on Statewide Initiatives. Anyone interested in going out to eat and visit after the forum should contact Marilyn Perkins.

**Business & Planning Meeting, Thursday, October 18, 5:30 p.m.:** We'll be at Paula Garland's house preparing for the yard sale. We'll have a pizza supper with a donation basket. Bring your yard sale items, price tags, and a sharpie. There may be some business to conduct but our primary business is the yard sale. You may also bring your items to Paula's house prior to the meeting. Give her a phone call first.

**LWV Observer Corps Message:** There will be a meeting of folks who have shown interest in serving on the Observer Corps at Ginger Vetrano's house on Saturday, October 13 at 9:30 a.m. Please call her 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.

Kennewick School Board &                    6 pm    Oct 1 at Kamiakin High School Library  
Kennewick City Council

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 &                    6 pm    October 4 at CBC HUB  
Pasco City Council

Richland School Board &                6 pm    October 11 at Richland Community Center  
Richland City Council

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. The Board voted to send all proceeds in excess of \$400 to the LWVWA Education Fund to help them with the Education Fund Challenge.

**Table Talk, Thursday, November 1, 5:30 p.m.:** Karen Kiessling of Pullman will be our visitor at Table Talk. She sends this message: "I will be bringing greetings from the state board and from my own Pullman League as well. I do not have any presentation, just some state board business that affects your league and to share vital decisions with you. I want to know what the state board can do for you and just enjoy the chance to meet you and hear what is vital to the good work of the Benton/Franklin Counties League."

If time allows we will also begin the process of discussing the consensus questions from the LWVUS study on immigration. This process will continue to the next Table Talk meeting which is on Thursday, November 29.

Table Talk, which meets the first (and sometimes last) 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

**Holiday Meeting, Sunday afternoon, December 9:** A committee has been formed to plan our holiday meeting. If you are willing to provide your home for this event or want to be part of the planning, contact Leona Hassing.

**Possible Book Discussion:** Kathy Utz is reading Alan Greenspan's new book titled *The Age of Turbulence: Adventures in a New World*. If you are also reading it or plan to read it, contact Kathy to plan a discussion of the book.

**Treasurer's Report from Helen:** As Shirley knows, I'm still fussing with cut-off dates and reporting periods but the only income was 78 cents of savings interest. No checks were written. The dues income came in after the 9/15/2007 cut-off date for this report and will be reflected in the September-October report. I expect you're all curious, however, so here are some stats:

49 members on LWVBF roster

2 are Life Members

5 are National Members

42 dues-paying members are listed

19 members have paid to date

**New E-mail Address:** Please update your address books with Kay Ottem's new e-mail address: [ottem@verizon.net](mailto:ottem@verizon.net).

**Political Blogs:** There has been some discussion about blogs at recent meetings as they apply to finding and retaining members in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century. Shirley Sonnichsen did a little surfing and this is what she learned.

There is a web site for public campaign financing called “For Just \$6” and they have a blog page with some interesting stories so I thought it would be a good place to start. The link is: <http://www.just6dollars.org/blog>.

The Democrats also have a blog, <http://www.dccc.org/stakeholder/> and also the Republicans, <http://www.nrcc.org/blog/default.asp?ID=15>.

There are also some blogs and cartoons on MSNBC: <http://www.msnbc.msn.com/id/3032105/>.

**NEW National Members:** We have two new national members Robert McKee and Helen Lujan. If you know either of these folks, welcome them to the League and invite them to join you at a meeting.

**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](mailto: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.*