

League of Women Voters of Benton-Franklin Counties

THE VOTER

Ginger Vetrano, President // Judy Golberg, Editor

P. O. Box 765, Richland, WA 99352

November 2009

Calendar of Events

November 3		GENERAL ELECTIONS
November 5	5:30 PM	TABLE TALK, Thursday evening at Alice Bryant's home, 2408 Alexander, Richland, 375-0189 – All members welcome! Light meal provided (\$3 donations towards food) - see article for topic. Angie and Helen to bring soup.
November 7	9:30-2:30	ACTION WORKSHOP
November 12	Time TBD	TOUR BioProducts Science and Engineering Laboratory -see article regarding registering
November 19	5:30 PM	BOARD MEETING – All members welcome to attend and participate. Kay and Karen will provide meal.



PRESIDENT'S REMARKS

There have been several activities to inform voters about the issues and about the candidates including two Letters to the Editor, and moderating a forum for the Port Commissioners, Kennewick City Council and Kennewick School board. If you have ever been to a forum that Marilyn and Kay did NOT do, you would see the difference. They do such a great job — they seem so relaxed doing a complicated job. Thank you, Marilyn and Kay.

Coming up in November is the Eastside Action Workshop on the 7th. It should be an informative day about early childhood education, the state budget, and campaign reform for judicial positions. We'll include a fund-raiser and lunch-should be a fun and informative day. Put it on your calendar now.

We all await election returns and hope we have a good voting turnout. Happy Thanksgiving to everyone.

President, [Ginger Vetrano](#), 735-4248

LOCAL LEAGUE

NOVEMBER TABLE TALK – Thursday, November 5th Table Talk will be held at Alice Bryant's home in Richland. The topic to be discussed is:

- Health Care Reform

A light meal will be provided. \$3 is a suggested contribution toward the meal.

Report from October Table Talk: Initiative 1033 and Referendum 71 were reviewed. The LWV of Washington has officially voted to oppose Initiative 1033 and support Referendum 71.

MEMBERSHIP

2009 -2010 dues are *past due* and can be paid by sending them to: LWV B-F, Attention- Helen LaDouceur, PO Box 765, Richland 99352. \$60 is the amount to be paid.

ACTION WORKSHOP

Don't forget the East Side Action Workshop on Saturday, November 7. LWV of Benton-Franklin will host about 20-25 League members at the Lampson Headquarters Building, 607 E. Columbia Drive, Kennewick. Registration will start at 9:30 and the program from 9:40 to 2:30. The cost is \$25, part of which is returned to us to cover expenses. Registration will be accepted at the door. Lunch will be provided by members of our local League.

Key topics to be discussed will be: 1) Early Learning, 2) State Budget and Tax System and 3) Judicial Campaign Reform.

This workshop is designed to do two things: give us information about the issues that will be key in the 2010 Legislative session and show us ways we can each, from our own home, have an impact on legislation we care about. We'll hear from some elected officials and some of our own Lobby Team members. Ideas will be shared that have worked in different communities. There will be ample opportunity to ask questions.

This year we are making and selling "Soup Mixes in a Jar" as a fundraiser. (Work party—10/31, 2:30 PM) Leona is still in need of volunteers to help with the Saturday event i.e., provide food for the pre-registration and lunch meal, set-up and clean-up. Information will be sent to you. Help if you can.

We also need a few volunteers to provide a bed for one or more of the West side League members. They will drive over on Friday afternoon. Most of these individuals are State Board members and last year met each other for dinner before going to their hostess' home. We serve a light breakfast at the workshop so preparing a meal is unnecessary. If you could host one or more overnight guests, please let [Ginger](#) know. Thank you.

Read the State *VOTER* or the [League website](#) for complete details about the workshop and a registration form.

Chair, [Leona Hassing](#) or 492-4111

ENERGY AND CLIMATE STUDY GROUP

A tour of the BioProducts Science and Engineering Laboratory (BSEL) is tentatively scheduled for Thursday, November 12 at the WSU Tri-Cities Campus. Dr. Birgitte Ahring, Director of BSEL, will provide the tour and a discussion of the role of biofuels in the energy mix. If you are interested in this event please call or email Ellyn Murphy (375-3290; ellyn.murphy@pnl.gov) and let her know if you can attend. Please indicate the best time of the day for you (e.g., morning, lunch time, afternoon, evening). We will try to schedule the meeting for the time that works for the majority of people.

Ellyn Murphy will be attending the Climate Change Negotiations in Copenhagen, Denmark as part of a delegation from the US League of Women Voters.

The meetings span two weeks in December, but Ellyn will only be attending the second week. She will provide a report on the behind-the-scenes negotiations that will hopefully lead to new targets for reducing global greenhouse gas emissions.

HEALTH CARE STUDY GROUP

A Focus Group forum was held at All Saints Episcopal Church. It went very well. Plans are underway for three more forums in three communities. More information will be available during Table Talk discussion November 5.

VOTER SERVICE

Many thanks to Marilyn Perkins, Kay Ottem and their helpers for the many hours providing League's touch at several candidate forums these past few weeks.

OBSERVER CORPS REPORTS

Richland City Council: Comprehensive Code Enforcement review has been completed. A citizen making a code enforcement complaint will be sent a postcard indicating how the complaint will be handled.

Tourism Promotion Plan was presented. Yakima and Spokane had decreases in tourism this year, Tri-Cities was flat or up. Log into the Tri-City Convention & Visitors Bureau website to see the latest advertisements promoting the Tri-Cities.

Richland will authorize the sale of \$10,000,000 in Electrical Revenue Refunding Bonds. Seattle Northwest Securities will sell the bonds and the bonds have been upgraded from A to A+.

Richland's proposed 2010 budget is \$239,000,000. No increases, no new employees, no property tax increases, no extreme cuts, flat. (2% electrical rate increase, no increase in the water rate.)

Watch for the three solar powered trash containers to be placed in city parks this year.

There will be a Smart Grid workshop at the end of the month.

Observer: [Janet Nail](#)

At this time, other Observers are:

Kennewick Planning Commission - [Ginger Vetrano](#)

Port of Kennewick - [Helen LaDouceur](#)

Pasco City Council - [Leona Hassing](#)

Kennewick School Board - [Marilyn Perkins](#)

Please contact them if you have questions about those jurisdictions. We can use additional Observers for other Boards and Commissions so if you have an interest in participating, please contact [Helen LaDouceur](#).

TRYs (THEY REPRESENT YOU)

It's that time of year again when we start planning for the 2010 edition of "They Represent You" that we distribute throughout our two counties. It is a directory of elected officials and we can use people to help gather information, work on the layout, proof and distribute. We are fortunate to again have Kadlec Regional Medical Center as our printing sponsor. If you would be willing to help with this project contact [Marilyn Perkins](#). No previous experience necessary.

THINKING AHEAD

Holiday Social - Sunday, December 13, 2-4 PM. Details to be available in December's *VOTER*.

League's 90th Birthday - February 14, 2010
Women's Equality Day - August 26, 2010

A committee held its first meeting to discuss ways to celebrate the 90th birthday of League (2/14/10) and the 90th anniversary of the 19th Amendment (8/26/10) that gave women the right to vote.

The committee is in the planning stages of both events and welcomes any suggestions. For the League's birthday we will probably continue with our traditional dinner and speaker, but welcome suggestions for location and speaker or any additional suggestions.

In years past we have celebrated the 19th Amendment with our picnic in the park. Next year we would like

to have a reception to honor all women from our two counties who have served in elective office. Depending on the number of women, we are hoping to have it at the Richland Community center. We will need to send out invitations, make a booklet with all their names, decorate etc.

Again we welcome all help, especially anyone with artistic or computer skills or suggestions for extra funding. We think it will be a fun project and hopefully get a good response from the community. If you want to help in any capacity, contact [Ginger Vetrano](#) or [Marilyn Perkins](#).

LWVWA Convention - May 19-22, 2011

A planning meeting will be held soon. There will be a variety of activities so be thinking about ideas you will want to help with. More information to follow. [Judy Golberg](#) will chair.

STATE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS

LWVWA URGES VOTERS TO:

Vote YES on Referendum-71 and NO on Initiative 1033. For League's position paper, see details at the following link: [LWVWA positions](#)

NATIONAL LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS

First Call to LWVUS Convention 2010 has been issued:

When: June 11-15, 2010
Where: Atlanta Marriott Marquis

For more information: [Convention Page](#)

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. (This is not always possible since many times it could be a link to a video or no longer available.)

Port of Kennewick ideas for enhancements between Columbia Drive and the river can be seen at <http://www.tri-cityherald.com/business/story/694650.html>. Questions? Contact Helen

Did you take the quiz that was mentioned in the Tri-City Herald on October 19? This will provide you with a quick understanding of where you fit in society’s political leanings—at least according to this quiz. It only takes a couple minutes to complete. www.theadvocates.org/quizp/index.html.