



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

The Voter The Voter

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Table Talk to focus on Early Care and Education of Young Children

The topic for December's Table Talk will be education. Attendees will discuss and answer consensus questions about the state study on Early Care and Education of Young Children Birth to Age Five. The summer issue of LWV Voter contained an abridged version of the study.

Our local league has a position on education which was adopted in 1988. The policy is in your member notebook. The policy has two sections. One is general and deals with items such as local control, class size, construction of new buildings, curriculum, the role of the principal and evaluations systems.

The second and the more extensive section addresses the health needs of students. It includes a call for health classes, an emphasis on lifetime fitness in physical education classes, and in-service training for teachers.

There is no mention of early childhood education in our policy. There is also no mention of high stakes testing, graduation requirements, senior projects, AIDS education, censorship, teaching of evolution, abstinence based sex education, or vocational education. All of which were controversial issues when I taught last year. I taught in a high school so am more aware of issues at this level.

Kathy Utz will be discussion leader for this month's Table Talk. The discussion will focus on the consensus questions but the board also determined that this year we should look at our existing policies to see if they need to be update so there may be discussion on that as well.

Member Spotlight : Judy Golberg Board Member



Dick and I met while students at Montana State University. After graduation, Dick took a job with Boeing where we spent the first 8 years of our marriage. We moved to the Tri-Cities in 1969. During the 1970s I was active in the Federated Women's Club (Junior Women), PTA and many youth sports organization in Richland. I was interested in joining the League of Women Voters but it wasn't until moving to Olympia in 1979 that the opportunity presented itself.

We moved back to Richland in 1981 and I soon became active in the Benton-Franklin League. Over time there have not been very many committees or offices that I haven't served on including president and more recently chair of the Benton County study. I served two different terms on the League's State Board as Vice President and President. During the late 80's I was elected and served 8 years on the Richland School Board. Currently I am a member of the Washington State Executive Ethics Board. I have one more year to serve of a 5-year term.

Dick and I have two sons. While they were growing up we spent a great deal of time supporting them while they participated in sports, music and theater productions. Peder and his wife Cathy, both engineers, have two teen-aged sons who are following in their parent's footsteps with activities. Todd has a degree in law, teaches college and is now in international nuclear training.

For the past 20 years, I have worked for Kadlec Medical Center as an Administrative Assistant. My plan is to retire in March. Retirement will make it easier for us to travel to those locations we have yet to visit. Who knows, I might get out the golf clubs to see if I can hit the ball farther than 10 yards.

League has been a great organization to keep me informed of issues, candidates, and those who serve us in office. League members have become part of my circle of friends and I appreciate having you there.



LWV of Benton Franklin County

Working for a Better Future

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Membership Drive Begins

Eleven interested individuals attended a short program to answer questions about "What is League and What League does?" Our membership committee planned an open house at the Bamboo Gardens in Kennewick at which time a presentation was made on the history of League, local, state and national issues and a brief overview of the Observers Corps program. Many members participating in the program gave their insights into the jurisdictions they observe. Questions were answered. One individual joined that day and many others voiced an intent to join. This is the start of our Membership Drive activities. Leona Hassing, Membership Chair

A Message from Our President Ginger Vetrano

Thanks to all who made the first Eastside Action Workshop a success-both by attending and by providing a great lunch. It was good to meet some of the state Board and lobby team, as well as two of our local state representatives. Larry Haler and Maureen Walsh also stayed for lunch, allowing a more informal chance to talk to them.

It was a busy election season, and I especially want to thank Marilyn Perkins, Kay Ottem and Leona Hassing for all their help putting on the forums and debates. Leona also put on a very successful membership event, resulting in 10 women who showed interest in our organization.

Our annual Holiday party is on December 14th at Judy Golberg's house. I look forward to it because of the camaraderie and the GOOD goodies. Hope you all plan to be there.

Wasn't that great to have a TCH editorial about the League? We have been in the news a lot this election season. They seemed to be interested in the Observer Corps, information which we are going to start reporting to all of you in January. This is a new effort by the observers and Dea to let everyone know what we have learned that month.

December Calendar

December 4 Table Talk Topic: Education Attendees will discuss and answer consensus questions about "Early Care and Education of Young Children – Birth to Five." An abridged copy of the study is in the Summer 2008 edition of the state Voter. The complete report is posted at the state website <http://www.lwvwa.org/edfund/projects.html>. We also have a local position on Education. More info above. Table Talk is the first Thursday of each month. The meeting is held at Alice Bryant's house. The address is 2408 Alexander Avenue, Richland. Her phone number is 375-0189 The meeting begins with a soup and salad dinner at 5:30. The suggested donation is \$3.00.

December 14th: Holiday Party Judy and Dick Golberg once again are hosting our holiday party. It will be December 14, 2-4 p.m., 1914 Meadows Drive N., Richland. Please bring an appetizer or dessert to share. The program will feature speakers on early childhood education.



ACTION WORKSHOP SUCCESS

Those of you who have attended the Action Workshop in the past will know that it was a day long meeting in Bellevue which usually involved an overnight stay. That was not the case this year. This year we hosted the event.

Thirty-two attended the workshop, coming from Eastern Washington locations, including the Pullman and Spokane area as well as the Tri-Cities. Barbara Bush, Action Chair, and the state lobby team were also in attendance.

Attendees enjoyed morning coffee, juice, spudnuts, and bagels upon registration. Lunch included homemade soup, salads and dessert. A going away treat featured locally grown apples, and trail mix.

Carol Moser, Washington State Transportation Committee; Representative Larry Haler, 8th LD; Representative Maureen Walsh, 16th LD; and Michelle Dearlove, CPA, Fiscal Administrator, ESD 123 were the speakers.

Also on the program was a presentation on how the legislature works, how the lobby team works, and who speaks for the league. The lobby team concluded the program with a panel discussion explaining their portfolios.

We had a fundraiser – It was "cookie mix in a jar." All of the jars were sold.

Barbara Seitle, State League President, was unable to attend but extended an invitation to us to host the workshop in the future.

Local Members on State and National Committees

Local League members have been appointed recently to state and national committees and task forces. Ellyn Murphy is a member of the National Climate Change Task Force or CCTF. Information about the task force is available at the U.S. LWV website www.lwv.org

Helen LaDouceur is a member of the State-Wide Transportation Issues group. Susan Kayser is a member of the State Health Committee. Information on state committees in on line at www.lwvwa.org