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This Newsletter published by and for the League of Women Voters of Yakima County

PO Box 723 Yakima WA 98907 509-452-3419

June, 2019

Vol.19, No 6

**Calendar**

Saturday, June 22**, Board Retreat,** 9:00 AM to Noon, Unitarian Universalist Church of Yakima, 225 N. 2nd St., Yakima.

Tuesday, June 25***,* League Conversation*:*  Spencer Hatton on Fake News.** 5:30 PM at Wesley United Methodist Church, 14 N. 48th Ave., Yakima. (See enclosed announcement)

**MISSION STATEMENT**

Empowering Voters. Defending Democracy.

**VISION**

We envision a democracy

where every person has the desire,

the right, the knowledge, and the confidence

to participate.

**VALUE STATEMENT**

The League believes in the power of women to create a more perfect democracy.

March 26

April1, 4 PM

**Notes From Criss**

I want to express my gratitude to Cynthia Garrick for her partnership with me in our two-year stint as Co-Presidents. Cynthia’s depth of knowledge about the history of our local League as well as State and National was so helpful, and she was and is a real pleasure to work with. Thank you, Cynthia, and I trust I can continue to use you as a valued advisor moving forward.

I have sent a follow-up request to those members who have not yet completed our **League Engagement Survey**. It will now be easier to respond with an email message. Please take a minute or two to complete the survey. It is very important for our efforts and activities going forward.

The new, enlarged Leadership Team will gather for a morning retreat on Saturday, June 22, 9 AM to noon. The surveys will be very helpful in setting goals and prioritizing our activities based on member interest and League commitments.

 *(continued on Page 2)*

## **Officers**

 *President:*  Criss Bardill

 *Secretary:* Karen Pilon

 *Treasurer:* Janis Luvaas

Board of Directors

Quinn Dalan

Cynthia Garrick

Rhonda Hauff

Kitty Jubran

Susan Kaphammer

Cheri Kilty

Kathy Lambert

Joan Robertson

Marilyn Shearer

Elaine Smith

*Voter Editor:* Susan Kaphammer

949-0127; susanlkap@gmail.com

The Board meets at 4:00 PM the 1st Monday of each month at the League office.

**All members are welcome to attend.**

Kathy Lambert

**Notes from Criss *(continued from Page 1)***

As decided at the Annual Meeting, we will take a break from our ***League Conversations*** after our June 25 event, resuming in September. I encourage you to always be on the lookout for possible presenters.

I am anticipating we will conduct candidate forums this fall, plus a possible Meet and Greet. We’ll keep you posted!

**Report from**

**Washington State League of Women Voters Biennial Convention June 7-9, 2019**

Rhonda Hauff and I attended the state convention. An opening reception Thursday evening at the Washington State Historical Museum was an appropriate kick-off of the coming 100 year anniversary of suffrage in America. A year-long display celebrating the attainment of the vote for women is worth seeing if you are in the Tacoma area.

Our opening speaker Friday morning was **Kim Wyman, Washington’s Secretary of State**. She explained how the new state presidential primary will happen in March of next year. All voters will be required to give a partisan identification. In other words, voters will need to declare a stated preference for the Democratic or Republican party when we vote in the primaries. This preference will be public information. The regular primary in August will cover all the other races and will not require a party identification, and voters may place their votes for any candidate, regardless of party affiliation. This will be a big change for our state and I’m hoping will not decrease voting for this important presidential primary.

Ms. Wyman also described an exhibition from her office called “Ahead of the Curve” which will open in September at the State Capital and will circulate through the State in 2020. It celebrates the 100th anniversary of women’s right to vote. Hopefully it will be making a stop in Yakima. I’ll look for that and keep you informed. More information is on the Secretary of State’s website at <https://www.sos.wa.gov/_assets/legacy/ahead-of-the-curve-information.pdf>

Ms. Wyman discussed the new online voter registration website which should be online now at <https://weiapplets.sos.wa.gov/MyVote/#/login>

Break-out workshop sessions followed four themes: League Management; Making Democracy Work; History of the League, and MELD (Member Engagement and Leadership Development) / DEI (Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion). Rhonda and I always attended different workshops so we could spread our learning as much as possible. I participated on a panel titled “How Local Leagues are Already Employing Their DEI Lens” in which I described the work we did last year with Heritage University, and what we hope to do going forward.

**Rob Curley, Editor of the Spokesman Review**, gave an amazing (and amusing) speech on the work he is doing in Spokane and beyond to strengthen independent reporting, build coalitions among independent or family owned newspapers, and community involvement. The Spokesman Review offers a widely attended book club which brings in well know authors for discussions. They offer community political discussions in various public venues (“Beers and Ballots”) and candidate forums that are relatively unstructured and free flowing. He has connections to newspapers all across the region and invited us to call him if we need help with getting editorial support for our activities.

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**Report from State League of Women Voters Biennial Convention** *(continued from Page 2)*

Other speakers included **WA State Supreme Court Justice Sheryl Gordon McCloud and LWVUS President Chris Carson. Authors Eva Abram and Michelle Duster** are two women who both spoke on the suffrage movement in regards to Black women. Michelle is the great-granddaughter of Ida B Wells. It was sobering and shocking to hear of the blatant discrimination against Black suffragettes that came from the White suffrage movement. A good synopsis of this is in Wikipedia, Google African American women's suffrage movement.

In addition to the above, there was extended time when we were engaged in the business of the State League, with credentials reports, resolutions, by-law amendments, election of new officers, budget, etc. It was mostly interesting and necessary work for the Convention.

The Concurrence with the LWV Snohomish County position on Civil Discourse, which we voted to support at our Annual Meeting in May, was brought to the floor as a Not-Recommended Item, as the State leadership did not feel it warranted a recommendation for approval. This was a controversial decision, with lots of pro and con speakers. Ultimately, it was voted down.

The Convention also voted down a State Board proposed dues increase of $1 in the per member payment, starting in the 2nd year of the biennium, 2020. Several speakers spoke convincingly of the League’s need to be more accessible for lower income members, and it was voted to shift the projected income from a dues increase to fundraising.

I think both Rhonda and I heard lots of good information and interesting reports on some exciting work being done at the local League level. We will look forward to sharing that as much as possible in the months ahead.

Criss Bardill

**June Conversation: Spencer Hatton on Fake News**

On Tuesday, June 25, at 5:30 PM, the League of Women Voters of Yakima County is sponsoring a talk by Spencer Hatton, former Yakima Herald-Republic city editor and columnist, local author and humorist. Spencer will entertain and educate members of the League and the community with a historical view of what has become too familiar — “fake news.”

He will describe our constant national tug-of-war between truth and scurrilous lies, drawing on the past heroics of John Peter Zenger from colonial days to the present-day fact-checkers who try to make sense out of the chaos churned up in Facebook and other social media outlets.

And to liven up the evening, Spencer will offer a quiz show on current events.

The event is free and open to the public. It will be held at Wesley United Methodist Church at 14 N 48th Avenue (corner of 48th and Chestnut) in Yakima, starting at 5:30 PM.

**MEMBERS CORNER: Remember this ongoing feature providing an opportunity for members to submit brief announcements they would like League members to see. They should be non-partisan, non-profit making, and personally involve the member. Just call or email your Voter Editor at 949-0127 or susanlkap@gmail.com**

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***League of Women Voters of Yakima County***

**Cordially invites you to: JOIN US!**

Name:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Date:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Address:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Phone:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ E-Mail: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**Membership:** \_\_\_\_\_\_$60 Basic\_\_\_\_\_\_$40 Each additional family member at same residence

Sustaining Gift: $25 \_\_\_\_\_ $40 \_\_\_\_\_ $60 \_\_\_\_\_ Other\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

 Your Sustaining gift will help support our local activities.

**Make checks payable to:** LWVYC, PO Box 723, YAKIMA WA 98907

## VOTER INFORMATION WEBSITES

 Secretary of State [www.secstate.wa.gov/](http://www.secstate.wa.gov/)

LWVWA- Vote 411 Yakima County Auditor

 [www.VOTE411.org](http://www.VOTE411.org) <http://yakimacounty.us/170/Elections>