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*We respectfully acknowledge that we are on the traditional land of the Yakama People.*

This Newsletter published by and for the

League of Women Voters of Yakima County

PO Box 723 Yakima WA 98907 509-452-3419

September, 2020

Vol.20, No 9

 **CALENDAR**

Monday, October 5, 4:30 PM. **Leadership Team Meeting.** Via Zoom.

Wednesday, October 14, 7:00PM **EmpowHer Program.** Heritage UniversityWebinar. *See article on Page 3.*

Friday, October 16 through November 3 **General Voting Period.** *See article on Debates on Page 5.*

Tuesday, October 27, 5:30 to 7:00 PM **League Conversation**.Via Zoom. Topic and presenter to be announced.

**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

***LWVYC President’s Column…***

**NOTES FROM CRISS:**

**Plenty of News!**

Even in this stressful time of partial shut-down, mask wearing, and staying in because of both the smoke and Covid 19, your League Leadership Team is organizing several actions and activities for this election season.

**County Commissioner Forum**: We have received commitments from both the County Commissioner Position 1 candidates, Vicki Baker and Amanda McKinney, for a virtual forum. As I write this, we do not have a date nailed down, please watch for that by email. A flyer will also be forthcoming. The Yakima Herald Republic is co-sponsoring, along with the local chapter of the NAACP. The Asian Pacific Islander Coalition and the Latino Community Fund have also been invited to co-sponsor. YPAC will film it, and Quinn Dalan, our tech wizard, will live-stream it to our facebook page where it will remain for viewing after the fact.

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**Officers**

 *President:*  Criss Bardill

 *Secretary:* Karen Pilon

 *Treasurer:* Janis Luvaas

**Leadership Team**

Quinn Dalan

Rhona Hauff

 (*also Membership*)

Kitty Jubran

Susan Kaphammer

Cheri Kilty

Kathy Lambert

Anita Monoian

Lee Murdock

*Voter Editor:* Susan Kaphammer

949-0127; susanlkap@gmail.com

The Board currently meets at 4:30 PM

the 1st Monday of each month via Zoom.

**All members are welcome.**

Contact Criss Bardill at 509-965-2351 or at cbardill@gmail.com to “attend”

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**NOTES FROM CRISS** *Continued from Page 1*

County Commissioner Forum *(continued):* Please be thinking of questions, issues and concerns you have about County Government that can be formatted as questions for the forum.  Questions will be screened for lack of bias and relevance to the Commissioner position.  I’ll send out an email soon specifically asking for questions. NOTE: We were unsuccessful in our work with the State League to host a Gubernatorial forum.  Both candidates committed to a Seattle based organization to do three debates, and they were unwilling to add any additional.

**Get Out the Vote Calling:** You all have received emails from me about the GOTV (Get Out The Vote) calling we plan to do after the ballots drop.  The Leadership Team welcomes non-League friends to join us in this effort.  We will be providing scripts and phone bank lists. I anticipate we will have a Zoom meeting for volunteers once we have the details organized.  And it isn’t too late to volunteer, just shoot me an email.  There will not be a minimum of calls anyone needs to make, just what you feel able and willing to take on.  The phone bank lists will come from Win/Win, and we will be updating their information as we make calls. If you have friends and/or family who would like to volunteer, please send me their contact information and I will follow up with them.

**Voter Information:** We are developing a plan to print and distribute flyers *(see attached)* to food banks, medical clinics, and school food pick-up locations. At the foodbanks and the school meal distributions, our intent is to have the flyers placed in the bags and boxes of food so everyone gets them.  If you have thoughts for distribution in other places, please let me know. We will have the “Voter Checklist” and “Where Can I Learn More” flyers also translated for back to back printing.

**League Dues:** We still have a few members that have not yet paid their 2020-2021 dues.  You received an email reminder and I hope you will take a minute to get yours in the mail.  Thank you!

And please stay safe! We are doing well in Yakima County with Covid 19, but it is no time to let down our guard.

 – Criss Bardill

***Local Member Appointment. . .***

**CONGRATULATONS TO ONE OF OUR OWN!**

 **Quinn Dalan**, who serves on your Leadership Team, has been appointed by Governor Inslee to serve on the Washington State Women’s Commission.  On her Facebook page, Quinn posted “This is truly a dream come true and I’m still in shock. I look forward to working with my fellow commissioners to ‘Improve the life of every woman by ensuring equitable opportunities and removing systemic barriers.’ Seriously. So. Excited.”

We are excited, too, Quinn!  And happy to have you working with this group toward the Women’s Commission vision: “Every woman is healthy, safe, prosperous, and empowered to achieve their full potential.”

Quinn is the Executive Director/CEO at Yakima County Volunteer Attorney Services and is very active in the community and with local non-profits.

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***League Conversation Recap. . .***

**LONG TERM CARE TRUST ESTABLISHED**

Cathleen MacCaul, Advocacy Director for AARP Washington State, presented information via Zoom on the new Washington State Long Term Care Act. This League Conversation, held on Tuesday, August 25, was the first since the Conversations were suspended earlier this year when in-person gatherings were restricted due to the coronavirus.

Ms. MacCaul reviewed the increasing need for long term care. Explaining that with people living longer, “the age wave is here,” and she noted that most seniors are unprepared. While the average lifetime cost of long-term care is $266,000, the median retirement savings is only $148,000, and 90% of adults are not insured for long term care. While Medicare can fund rehab, it does not fill the gap for on-going and non-medical care. A broad coalition including AARP, area councils on aging, home health care workers union, and other organizations worked for many years to design the program and advocate for the legislation. A 2018 poll showed significant public support. Among voters ages 18-34, 83% support the concept with 62% indicating support for the taxation to fund the program.

Beginning in 2022, the trust will be funded by a charge to residents of 58 cents per $100 of income, which comes to $290 on $50,000 of income. Benefits are scheduled to be available to vested workers beginning in 2025. Capped at $36,500, the benefit will provide help with activities of daily living such as eating, bathing, dressing, etc. While the benefit won’t go far for full residential care, it can fund a variety of services. Adult Day Care, transportation, home modification, meals, personal care, and caregiver respite and education are among allowed services.

In her work with AARP, Cathleen MacCaul manages government relations and legislative affairs to support policies serving the 50+ population. The organization is working on additional aspects of health care for seniors, including telehealth and addressing the shortage of care providers. AARP is looking to partner with DSHS to develop the career path in health care for young workers. A vision is that training and work as a certified nursing assistant (CNA) could become an alternative to fast food as a young adult’s early job to help meet the increasing need for senior assistance.

***LWVYC Participating. . .***



 **TO CELEBRATE, EDUCATE AND INSPIRE**

Final planning is underway for EmpowHer, a webinar set for7:00 PM on Wednesday, October 14, 2020. Heritage University is hosting the event that will feature women speaking to health, safety, education, justice and voting.

Our own Quinn Dalan will join a panel headlined by Regina Malveauz, Director of the Washington State Women’s Commission (to which Quinn was recently appointed). Also invited to speak are centurion Virginia Hislop, who will reflect on women’s rights over the past 100 years, and Caty Padilla, a newly naturalized citizen, to share what it means to vote for the first time.

“Heritage University is an institution founded by women and where women make up the vast majority of the student body,” reports Dana Eliason, Senior Director of Donor Development and lead organizer for EmpowHer. Marking the 100th anniversary of the 19th Amendment, this event supports the Heritage belief in “empowering women to make an impact in the world.”



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***New Members in the Spotlight…***

**KAY FUNK FOLLOWS**

**HER MOTHER’S EXAMPLE TO LWV**

Kay Funk considers herself a pure scientist, with a special interest in applying science principles to evaluation of data, and evidence-based decision making. She graduated from Colorado State University, the University of Colorado School of Medicine and Michigan State University Family Medicine Residency.

She and her husband, Mike Collins, have been married for 46 years and moved to Yakima in 1983. They have twin boys, James and Donovan Collins, who graduated from Davis High School in 2002. James Collins now works as a Prosecutor in Dunedin, New Zealand. Donovan Collins works as a Chemical Engineer in the San Francisco Bay Area, and has 2 sons whom Kay and Mike love to visit.

Dr. Funk practiced at the Yakama Nation Clinic for 5 years, then owned and operated a medical office for 25 years, retiring in December, 2015. She was on the Conjoined Medical Staff of Yakima Valley Memorial and Yakima Regional Hospitals for 26 years, serving in several offices. She is on the Board of Trustees of the Yakima Health District. She has been active in the Yakima County Medical Society, and served many years on the Board of the Yakima Hearing and Speech Center. She and her husband volunteer at On the Corner, an after-school program at Central Lutheran Church. She was Davis High School PTA President for one year. In 2017, Kay was elected to the Yakima City Council from District 4 and her term will conclude at the end of 2021.

Kay continues a legacy of League activity. Her mother, Ruth Funk, was a very active member of LWV from her marriage in 1946 until her death. She volunteered as a Lobbyist for the California LWV for many years, managed (non-partisan!) campaigns, served on innumerable community boards, and educated her children in public service.



**MERNIE GRAHAM PURSUES SOCIAL JUSTICE**

I spent my career working primarily with children and families. A lifelong learner, I attended community colleges wherever I've lived, as well as earning a BA from the University of Washington and a Masters in Counseling from Seattle University. I also studied and worked with Judith Bluestone at the HANDLE Institute in Seattle, working with individuals with neurodevelopmental issues. In addition to my more traditional studies in therapy, I'm a strong advocate of energy psychology and other alternative ,healing methods.

Starting with Head Start in southern Oregon when my children were small, I moved on to mental health counseling in the Seattle area with community mental health agencies as well as having a small private practice while raising teen-aged sons. Around 1990, I lightened the load a bit by becoming a childcare licenser in Seattle, then working as a licensing supervisor in Wenatchee, Everett and finally Yakima. I was interested in retiring here, because I lived an ideal childhood here when I was small and despite many moves through Washington, Oregon and northern California, Yakima has always felt like home base.

My sons are now grown with kids of their own, ranging in age from 2 to 17, and are all living on the west side of the mountains. My husband Patrick and I don't get to see them as often as we would like, especially, of course, during the pandemic, and are eternally grateful to be retired and not having to do home schooling!  I enjoy the outdoors, biking, hiking, swimming, gardening and learning about the remarkable geology of this area.

I feel passionate about social justice and want to help return the country to a more civil state of being.

The League of Women Voters of Yakima County welcomes our new members!

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***Empowering Voters. . .***



**VIEW DEBATES PRIOR TO ELECTION**

Information is power, and League members understand that informed voters make better choices to build the communities and societies we want and need. In-person debates are helpful in assessing candidates, but especially this year the opportunities to attend debates are limited. The LWV of Washington provides for citizens to virtually attend debates sponsored by Leagues around the state.

 The League webpage, 2020 Candidate Debates (<https://lwvwa.org/Forums/#general>) lists scheduled debates and provides updated information to livestream the events. Links to recordings of the debates are provided and will be available until November 3.

 Statewide general election debates currently planned include: Treasurer – September 17; Secretary of State – September 19; Lieutenant Governor – TBD; Commissioner of Public Lands – October 1; Superintendent of Public Instruction – October 6 and October 12; and Insurance Commissioner – October 8.

***League Initiatives. . .***

**EDUCATION AND ADVOCACY FOR CRIMINAL JUSTICE**

Criminal justice policies intersect with the LWV vision of “a democracy where every person has the desire, the right, the knowledge and the confidence to participate.” Recent events across the nation have increased the importance of the League’s work to increase understanding of this major public policy issues, and influence public policy through education and advocacy.

In June, our national LWV joined over 400 civil rights organizations in a letter to Congress urging “leadership to swiftly rectify the legacy of white supremacy and anti-black racism that has led to police violence against Black people across our country.” Many state leagues are pursuing activities related to criminal justice and juvenile justice policies in their states and localities.

In Washington State, Quinn Dalan earlier this summer participated in a Criminal Justice Forum that familiarized her with the efforts of the California LWV. Their website, National Engagement Criminal Justice ( <https://my.lwv.org/california/criminal-justice-reform-position/national-engagement-criminal-justice>) provides extensive background and resources for individuals and groups.

The forum, Quinn reports, emphasized the importance of identifying local power dynamics and establishing coalitions. Local attention to criminal and juvenile justice issues could include policies of law enforcement, diversion programs, certification and de-certification of law enforcement officer, or establishment of an observer corp. If interested in working with Quinn Dalan on criminal and juvenile justice issues, contact her at quinndalan@gmail.com or 509-771-1321.

***League Volunteer Opportunities. . .***

**CHANCES TO PARTICIPATE AT STATE LEVEL**

**LWVWA Lobby Team:** The Lobby Team is a group of League volunteers and professional lobbyists working to effect public policy changes at the State level. They lobby legislators to pass bills and work in coalition with other like-minded organizations formed around the same [issues that the League supports](https://lwvwa.us2.list-manage.com/track/click?u=741b01ca5b0b87432e97bbfc2&id=9aacfeacd8&e=6fb9dd1b17) (<https://lwvwa.org/issues2020>).

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**CHANCES TO PARTICIPATE** *Continued from Page 5*

Are you interested in the League’s advocacy? The Lobby Team is recruiting additional

volunteers for the coming legislative session. For more information, contact Criss or Ann Murphy at [amurphy@lwvwa.org](http://amurphy@lwvwa.org).

**LWVWA Civic Education Committee**: A new statewide Civic Education Committee is being formed this fall by State Board Member Beverly Austin. She is seeking volunteers from local leagues.  This is an opportunity for Beverly to communicate directly with people in local Leagues about civic education opportunities and actions, and equally important, facilitate local leagues communicating with each other to share ideas and get help.  Please contact Criss or Beverly at baustin@lwvwa.org if this is of possible interest to you.

**LWVWA STATEMENT ON DIVERSITY:** The League of Women Voters is an organization fully committed to diversity, equity, and inclusion in principle and in practice. Diversity, equity, and inclusion are central to the organization’s current and future success in engaging all individuals, households, communities, and policy makers in creating a more perfect democracy.We will actively work to remove barriers to full participation in this organization on the basis of gender, gender identity, ethnicity, race, native or indigenous origin, age, generation, sexual orientation, culture, religion, belief system, marital status, parental status, socioeconomic status, language, accent, ability status, mental health, educational level or background, geography, nationality, work style, work experience, job role function, thinking style, personality type, physical appearance, political perspective or affiliation and/or any other characteristic that can be identified as recognizing or illustrating diversity.



**LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS YAKIMA COUNTY**

**Empowering Voters. Defending Democracy.**

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

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**Membership Categories:**

**\*Dues Distribution:**

National: $32 State:   19

LWVYC retains: 9

 $60

   \_\_\_\_\_\_\_$60 Basic\*

   \_\_\_\_\_\_\_$40 Each additional family member at the same residence

  \_\_\_\_\_\_\_$10 Student Associate

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

Your sustaining gift will help support local activities.

**Make checks payable to: LWVYC**

**Mail to: PO Box 723**

**YAKIMA WA 98907**