

THE VOTER



April, 2009
Vol. 17 No. 4

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

MISSION STATEMENT

The League of Women Voters, a nonpartisan political organization, encourages the informed and active participation of citizens in government and influences public policy through education and advocacy.

VISION

To empower citizens to shape better communities worldwide.

Officers

President: Cynthia Garrick
1st Vice Pres: Lynne Baxter
2nd Vice Pres: Vacant
Secretary: Karen Pilon
Treasurer: Gina Popovic

Board of Directors

Doris Ayyoub
Jackie Call
Mary Crago
Joyce Dennison
Kay Gempler
Janis Luvaas
Gina McCoy
Becky Scholl
Elaine Smith

Voter Editor : Elaine Smith

WEB Sites

Secretary of State:
www.secstate.wa.gov/
Yakima Co. Auditor:
www.co.yakima.wa.us/auditor/

LWVWA: www.lwvwa.org

March 29th Gala

Thanks to The Righteous Mothers. They braved Snoqualmie Pass and gave a wonderful performance. They fell in love with The Seasons, roused us with humor and harmony and expressed their appreciation for the fund raiser committee and for The League and its work.

Cynthia Garrett, President
More on page 3

CALENDAR

Mon., April 6th
RSVP Due
Kara Kondo Lunch

Wed., April 8th, Noon
Kara Kondo Memorial Lunch Greystone

Thurs., April 9 Noon
League Board Meeting
League Office

4th Annual **Kana Kondo Memorial Lunch**

April 8th Noon Greystone Restaurant
East Yakima Avenue and N Front Street

Program:

Topic: Yakima Downtown Renaissance

The Use of Public and Private Dollars

Overview : Richard Zais,
City Manager, City of Yakima

Public Facilities Districts

John Cooper, CEO
Yakima Visitors & Convention
Bureau

No Host Lunch \$13.50
(tax & tip incl.)

Reservations: 452 3419

Deadline: April 6th, 5 pm

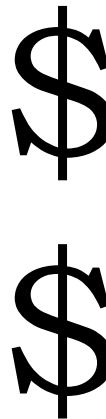
CONSENSUS RESPONSE OPTIONS

Consensus forms **DUE
April 8th** by email or
mail.

OR

Consensus Discussion
Thurs., April 23 Noon
League Office

Thurs., May 14
Annual Meeting
Global Climate Change



LWVUS National Popular Vote Compact (NPV Compact) Study Consensus Discussion Meeting Slated Thursday, April 23 at Noon at League Office

In last month's Voter the consensus questions for the NPV Compact Study and some additional study materials were printed adding to the materials published the previous month.

Members offered the option of providing their responses to the consensus questions via email or mail; or having a discussion meeting. Some members preferred a meeting. It will be a brown bag lunch and discussion.

All members are invited to attend the discussion, but, again, if you are unable to attend, please send your answers to the consensus questions via mail or email. If you would like the unabridged study packet or have any questions, please call the League office, 452-3419.

This study, "The Advisability of Using the National Popular Vote Compact among the States as a Method for Electing the President", was adopted at the 2008 National convention. We want to determine whether it is better to continue to pursue an amendment to the Constitution to abolish the Electoral College, or whether it is better to achieve that result with the National Popular Vote Compact (NPV Compact). The consensus questions were also printed.

Here is the LWV current position on Selection of the President, most recently updated June 2004:

The League of Women Voters of the United States believes that the direct-popular-vote method for electing the President and Vice President is essential to representative government.

The League of Women Voters believes, therefore, that the Electoral College should be abolished.

The League also supports uniform voting qualifications and procedures for presidential elections.

The League supports changes in the presidential election system from the candidate selection process to the general election.

We support efforts to provide voters with sufficient information about candidates and their positions, public policy issues and the selection process itself. The League supports action to ensure that the media, political parties candidates, and all levels of government achieve these goals and provide that information.

Righteous Mothers and the Yakima County League of Women Voters Present a Sunday GALA.

A good crowd gathered at the Seasons Performance Hall Sunday afternoon for our 2009 League Gala to raise funds for operating expenses for the coming year.

The RM band were funny and well prepared for their audience. They are consummate performers of a style of folk/blues songs, almost all composed by members of the band. They are four professional women who play together as an avocation and their success with the audience could be measured by the number of CD's sold in The Season's foyer.

The songs were not entirely comic. One of the most moving was a musical version of the Julia Ward Howe "Mothers' Day" speech reminding us that to work for peace is as relevant today as when the speech was delivered in the late 19th century.

Other songs.... about guilt over not learning Spanish, about underwear and boring meetings, about falling in love with a new grandchild, gave rise to giggles and knowing laughter in the audience. The program closed with a standing ovation and an encore followed by another standing ovation. An altogether enjoyable Sunday afternoon!

Special Thanks to the League committee and to our supporters

Lynne Baxter, Joyce Dennison co chairs, Jackie Hertel, event facility manager, Doris Ayyoub, treasurer and publicity, Becky and Larry Scholl, supporting funds raiser and wine sommeliers, Elaine Smith, gofer and general oddsboddy.

A special thanks to our ticket holders. And to our underwriters and commercial assistants. We had a supporting grant from Memorial Hospital and special fees extended to the League by the Righteous Mothers and The Seasons Performance Hall. We also want to thank our caterers Classic Events of Wapato, Donna Menard and Lorrie DeVitt 961 7525, Wray's Thriftway Summitview, and our expert sound man, Jim Brunner from Taylor Music, Yakima.

LWVYC 2009 Annual Meeting Thursday, May14

Will Focus on Global Climate Change

As you know, the issue of global climate change is of great importance to the League of Women Voters, and a top national legislative priority. As obvious as it sounds, climate change affects everybody, but did you realize that climate change is already having a disproportionate impact on poor people in the US and abroad, and it's hitting women hardest?

Changes in weather and extreme weather events are being felt most in poor communities. This is because poor people rely more on natural resources, are more vulnerable to disaster, and have fewer ways to protect themselves. And because women tend to do the jobs that are most affected by changes in weather, they are feeling the greatest pressure.

For example, in developing countries it tends to be women who grow the family's food, collect fuel and water, and bring up the children. So when clean water becomes harder to find during a drought, or when crops are destroyed by floods, it's up to women to find solutions. And as the weather becomes increasingly uncertain in many places, that can feel like a near-impossible task.

Men are badly hit too, of course, but because they tend to do fewer jobs that rely on natural resources, they are usually in a much stronger position to cope and rebuild their lives. They are also more likely to be educated, have savings, and have skills to earn money. And if there is no work locally, they are able to migrate to other areas to find it.

So it's actually fairly simple. Climate change is hitting women hardest by exacerbating inequalities that already exist.

Join us at the Annual meeting where we will view the DVD, "*Sisters on the Planet, Four inspirational women and the fight against climate change*". Sahena, Sharon, Muriel and Martina's stories are stories of inspiration. They give us the chance to understand why women are hit the hardest, but they also show us what can be achieved when you combine the belief that change is possible with the determination to make it happen.

The **Annual meeting will be on Thursday, May 14, from 5 pm to 9 pm.** Please mark your calendars and plan to attend. Watch for the "Call to the 2009 Annual Meeting" (which you'll receive the end of April) for the meeting details. Hope to see you there!

SOCCER FIELDS for YAKIMA, Mary 29th Report, Cynthia Garrick

Larry Mattson, Project Manager, for the Central Washington Soccer Center spoke at the League's general meeting on March 26.

The Yakima Youth Soccer Association hopes to turn 35 acres of city-owned property east of Interstate 82 and south of State Route/Nob Hill Boulevard into 14 soccer fields, a concession stand and restrooms, a children's play area and picnic areas.

This facility would be available to local players and their families and would also accommodate tournaments and be a source of tourist revenue.

Currently soccer fields at Ahtanum Youth Park, Chesterly Soccer Park and Perry Soccer Complex cannot meet the current demand for space. The Soccer Center would occupy land in the flood plain that is not suitable for other uses and would be a neighbor to the wastewater treatment plant. The cost would exceed \$3 million. Yakima Youth Soccer Association is looking for funding to build three to five fields

Yakima City Council will consider this project at the regular city council meeting on Tuesday, April 7. For further information, go to www.yysa.org.

Announcements:

Kay Gempler

Doris sends these words about Kay. She is working hard to regain her strength and would love to have visitors.

Room #708-1

Summitview Health Care Center

3801 Summitview Avenue

Yakima 98902

Nancy Faller

Elaine sends these words about Nancy. Nancy is at home. She has a busy schedule of physical therapy, movies and suppers out with friends. She would like to hear from her League colleagues.

457 4528

LWVWA Good In Government Awards

Gala The LWVWA Good in Government Awards Gala will be held Saturday, May 30 at 6:30 PM during convention in Tacoma . It will be a grand evening of celebration with three honorees (Senator Rosa Franklin, the Korean Women's Association, and The News Tribune). Included in the wine and dessert reception will be an opportunity to tour the "Women's Votes, Women's Voices" exhibit at the WA State History Museum. A raffle drawing will be at the close of the program. Both the gala and the raffle serve as wonderful opportunities to support the LWVWA Education Fund. The Gala is open to League members and invited public. Additional information will be in the Call to Convention. .

If you have questions, call the Tacoma-Pierce County League of Women Voters or contact the state League:

lwwa@lwwa.org

206 622 8961

League of Women Voters Of Yakima County
PO Box 723
Yakima, WA 98907
Phone: (509) 452-3419
Return Service Requested

NON PROFIT
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
YAKIMA, WA
PERMIT # 80

Voter

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF YAKIMA COUNTY
Cordially invites you to: JOIN US!

Name: _____
 Adress: _____

 Phone: _____
 E-Mail: _____

Membership Categories:

- _____ **\$10 Student Associate**
- _____ **\$60 Basic**
- _____ **\$70 Contributing**
- _____ **\$80 Supporting**
- _____ **\$40** Each additional family member
at the same residence

Student Associate is not a voting member

Make checks payable to: LWVYC
And mail to: PO Box 723
 Yakima, WA 98907

Observer Corps Opportunities
April 2009

Yakima County Commissioners
 Yakima City Council Chambers
 Tuesdays, 10 am
 129 North 2nd Street 574 1500
yakima county.us/cmrs/

Yakima City Council
 1st and 3rd Tuesdays at 6 pm
 (See Y Pac, Cable 22 for broadcasts)
 Yakima City Council Chambers
 129 North 2nd Street 575 6050
ci.yakima.wa.us/council/

Please call Jackie Call, Mary Crago, Jackie Hertel,
 or Marilyn Shearer for forms and information to
 get started.