

THE VOTER



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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.

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WEB Sites

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

LWVWA: www.lwvwa.org

WOMEN'S VOTES/WOMEN'S VOICES

MARCH, 2010

Sunday, March 7, 1 pm Yakima Museum "The Campaign for Women's Votes in Washington State" author Shanna Stevenson.

Thursday, March 18, 6 pm Yakima Museum Reception 7 pm Dinner. With a program of Words and Music \$35.

Wednesday, March 24, 7 pm Deccio Bldg YVCC. Singer /songwriter Linda Allen of Inquiring Minds.

More information at:

<http://yakimavalleymuseum.org/special/womensvotes.cfm>

A Special Thank You to Mary Crago, Becky Scholl and Doris Ayyoub for their work on the 2010 TRY. Cynthia Garrick

Calendar

League Board, Thursday, Noon, March
League Office
Members Welcome

Kara Kondo Lunch
April 28, Café Melange

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Kara Kondo Memorial Luncheon

This year the luncheon will be held at noon on April 28th, at Café Melange, with a panel of speakers on the theme of a more livable, appealing and safe downtown. Marylyn Shearer, Chair, 865 5019 for details.

Yakima River Basin Water Enhancement Project Update

Meeting date correction: March 24th, 9:30 am, Yakima Arboretum. The purpose of this meeting is to provide an update on the Basin Study efforts and share detailed work plans for instream flow need evaluations and approaches for defining out of stream needs. Open to the public.

The League of Women Voters: A Grassroots Organization

By Lynne Baxter

On February 14, 2010, the League of Women Voters celebrated its 90th Anniversary. How has the League enjoyed such longevity and maintained its respected status? Key to its success is the structure, consistency and discipline of the organization.

Soon after the League's founding, the decision was made to take positions on issues, but to neither support nor oppose any political party or candidate (appointed or elected) for public office. Today, this policy continues to ensure that the League's voice is heard above the tumult of party politics.

The League of Women Voters is organized to parallel the three levels of government: local, state and national. When you become a member of the League of Women Voters of Yakima, you also become a member of the League of Women Voters of Washington (LWVWA or "State") and the League of Women Voters (LWVUS or LWV or "National").

At each level, the League is governed by a volunteer president and board of directors.

The process used in formulating positions and in taking action at the grassroots level makes the League unique and sets the League apart from other organizations. The fact that we are members not only of a local League, but of a state League and of the League of Women Voters of the United States as well, makes us a powerful force.

When we say the League "has a position" on an issue it means there is a written statement reflecting members' agreement about what they think about various aspects of the policy. Before the League can take action the League must have a position on that issue. To assure consistency, the League has one set of positions on national issues, one set on state issues and each local League has its own positions on local issues. Interpretation of a League position is the responsibility of the board that oversees that position. Local League boards are responsible for interpreting their own positions before taking action. Similarly, the LWVUS board interprets national positions, and state League boards interpret their own state positions. Uniform interpretation is essential for the League's effectiveness.

"Speaking with one voice" is one of the most important tenets of the League and is essential for our effectiveness as an advocacy organization. The national League is responsible for determining strategies and action policies that ensure that the League's message on national issues is consistent throughout the country. Similarly, state Leagues are responsible for a consistent state message, and local Leagues must cooperate to ensure that regional issues are addressed in a consistent matter by neighboring Leagues. Only the president (or designee) is permitted to speak for the League in an official capacity. However, members are encouraged to take action on League topics as individuals.

While it is the job of the national board to take the lead in national action and to keep League action synchronized, national legislation is every League's and every member's business.

Lobbying in DC is highly important, but direct lobbying of Members of Congress by their constituents often is the key to persuading them to adopt the League position. Many League members belong to the national League's Grassroots Lobby Corps. This online network of activists gets the League message to

Congress in a highly effective way. Members of the network receive e-mail action alerts from the LWVUS and then respond by sending quick, targeted, and sometimes last-minute, messages to Members of Congress on priority issues before key votes. Any League or individual League member interested in lobbying Congress on LWVUS positions is encouraged to join the Grassroots Lobby Corps by going to the League Web site.

All three League levels have a written set of League Positions.

The publication *Impact on Issues: A Guide to Public Policy Positions*, contains all LWVUS (national) positions agreed to through study, consensus and concurrence.

The LWVWA (State) Position Statements are in the publication: *Program in Action 2009-2011*

Yakima County League positions are in the publication *League of Women Voters of Yakima County Consensus Positions*

Since Yakima League members are also members of LWVUS and LWVWA, they have access to all national and state League information. The information is available on League websites – national - www.lwv.org as well as state – www.lwvwa.org. If you do not have web access you can also purchase printed copies of any information you would like from the LWVWA 4730 University Way NE, Suite 720, Seattle WA, 98107. 206 622 8961

The national website includes recent studies and reference materials on several topics including climate change, the recent Supreme Court ruling regarding corporations and campaign contributions, Civil Liberties and Homeland Security, Immigration, Fair Judiciary and Openness in Government, just to name a few. At this site, you can also sign up for the national e-news letter or to become an e-activist (no charge).

The state website has multiple state studies on topics such as Early Care & Education Birth to 5, Washington State Ferries, Growth Management Act, Election Reform, and Washington State Taxes. At this site you can also sign up to receive the Legislative Newsletter for information about what's happening during this year's state legislative sessions, or you can review past Legislative Newsletters that have been posted. You can also join a list-serve discussion group (no charge).

When someone joins a local League, and automatically becomes a state and national League member, the local League assumes the responsibility of contributing to the financial health of the League of Women Voters by paying a required Per Member Payment to each the LWVWA (state), and LWV (national) organizations. The amounts of the payments are determined by the membership's delegates at the State and National League conventions.

LWVYC would like to thank our members for being a part of this vibrant organization. Please be sure to take advantage of everything that's included in your membership at all levels. If you have any questions, or would like additional information, please contact the Yakima League office.

CELEBRATIONS

by Cynthia Garrick, President

Our Pink Tea

90 years ago the League of Women Voters was founded on Valentine's Day 1920 to finish the Women's Suffrage fight and work to end all discrimination against women. It is therefore quite appropriate that the LWV of Yakima County participate in local events to celebrate 100 years of suffrage in Washington State.

On January 30, the League celebrated its 90th birthday with American Association of University Women, celebrating the 100th birthday of their local chapter. Millie Stenhjem of AAUW and the Yakima League and Cheryl Hahn of Larson Gallery organized the Pink Tea at the Larson Gallery.

Pink Teas were organized originally by suffragists who needed a "cover" for their organizational meetings. Our Pink Tea featured speakers from both AAUW, Dixie Swenson Washington State AAUW, President, and the local League, Cynthia Garrick, President, LWVYC. Corky Mattingly, Yakima County Auditor and chairperson of the state suffrage celebration spoke of the suffrage movement attired in her turn of the century costume. In her talk she gave us the definition of a "pink" tea.

In earlier days everyone knew about "Pink Teas". It was the way women held underground recognizance when planning their actions to achieve suffrage. Certain groups of men were outrageously disruptive during their meetings. So they organized lacy, dainty, pink teas with doilies and cakes. When the men burst in on their gatherings they quickly changed the subject and began chattering about non essentials. Even if invited to stay, the men couldn't abide the pink and frills so they quickly left. Then the ladies could get back to the business at hand. Clever, clever ladies!!! As reported by Doris Ayyoub.

The 85 participants enjoyed lots of pink cupcakes and the added bonus of the Larson Gallery show "Women Artists" Where We Are Now." art work and accompanying stories by local Yakima area women artists.

The Women's Votes/Women's Voices Opening Reception

February 19th marked the opening of the "Women's Votes/Women's Voices" at the Yakima Valley Museum. The exhibit will continue until June. The League set up a voter registration table to show off our new TRY and the WA State League's book on Washington State government, "The State We're In." Karen Pilon, Lynne Baxter and I served at the table to answer questions. At 6:30, Dr. Tim Jeske and Dr. Carli Schiffner introduced the film "Iron Jawed Angels," a powerful film centered around Alice Paul's fight for women's suffrage. Alice Paul and a number of other women were imprisoned for "obstructing traffic" as they stood outside the White House with signs advocating votes for women. When she refused to eat in prison, Paul was interviewed by a psychiatrist, who when reporting his findings to White House staff, asserted that she was not insane but committed to her cause. As he quoted Patrick Henry, "Give me Liberty or give me death," he said courage in women is often mistaken for insanity. The audience responded at the end with a round of applause. If you haven't seen the film, I recommend it and also a visit to the museum exhibit. It will make you proud. Other events in the Women's Votes, Women's Voices celebration are listed at www.yakimavalleymuseum.org/special/womensvotes/cfm

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6th Edition

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Make checks payable to LWVWA Ed Fund and return to the name and address below.

League of Women Voters of Washington

4730 University Way NE, #720, Seattle, WA 98105

For more information call 206-622-8961, 1-800-419-2596, Fax 206-622-4908

Email: lwwwa@lwwwa.org, Website: www.lwwwa.org

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

Voter

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

Name: _____

Address: _____

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

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.