

THE VOTER



September, 2009
Vol. 17 No. 5

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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www.co.yakima.wa.us/auditor/
LWVWA: www.lwvwa.org

Notice ! Notice !

The Yakima County League of Women Voters' newsletter, The Voter, will be going ELECTRONIC with the January, 2010 issue. The change will mean a savings to the local League in printing and postage costs. Members who have internet service will be able to access Voter issues by "hyperlink" to the state League internet website.

Under these circumstances, it is essential that we have current email addresses from those members who are able to access The Voter electronically.

Doris Ayyoub is the keeper of League addresses. dayyoub@charter.net Please contact her or me, Elaine Smith, augusta03@earthlink.net if you have questions or want to update your contact information. (**Note:** League members without internet access will continue to receive mailed copies of The Voter.)

The League's **Downtown Committee** will be hosting its annual **Wine Tasting and History Walk on Wed.**

Oct.7th from 3:30 to 5:30 p.m., cost is \$15 per person. This year's event will be a tour of the Larson Building led by Joe Mann. The tour will also include a video showing the history of the Larson Building. After the tour, wine tasting will be held at the Kana and Plaza Socievole wineries. Participants should meet in the lobby of the Larson Building at 3:15 p.m. on the afternoon of Oct. 7th. An RSVP is requested at the league office by Tues. Oct. 6th at 509-452-3419. Marilyn Shearer, Downtown Committee Chair, 865 5019.

Calendar

Wednesday, Oct 7th 3:30 pm Downtown Tour, Larson Bldg.

Thursday, Oct 8th, Noon League Board League Office

Tentative: Tuesday, Oct 20 7 pm KIMA Candidates Forum

Saturday, Nov 7, LWVWA Action Workshop, Benton/Franklin County. Register at lwvwa.org.

Making money to support LWV's operations is always a challenge. This year, starting now, we will engage in a multi-pronged effort. Instead of putting all our efforts into a single fund-raiser as we have for the last four years, we will try several avenues. What those avenues will be, is up to the creativity and imagination of all of us. All League members are encouraged to be part of the imagining process. Please contact me, Joyce Dennison at joyceandclay@mac.com or 966-4363 to be part of this initial process, soon!

The Future of Water in the Yakima River Basin

A study group has been called together by The Bureau of Reclamation and the Department of Ecology under the auspices of the YRBWEP or Yakima River Basin Water Enhancement Project. The purpose of the study is to formulate a **consensus** position for the future of water supply and use within the Yakima River Basin. Given the history of periodic droughts in the valley, the future economic viability of the valley depends on making the best use of available water under drought conditions. And given that the valley will likely suffer future droughts under changing climate conditions, increased population and agricultural development, cooperation among interested parties has become critical.

The study group is made up of representatives from local and state government, irrigation districts, fisheries agencies, ecologists, and the Yakama Nation. The study group has the scientific, statistical, historic and management resources of the Bureau and the Department of Ecology including the materials prepared for a 2009 EIS (Environmental Impact Statement) drawn up by the Department of Ecology in response to the Black Rock storage facility proposal previously submitted to them by the YRBWEP group. That proposal was rejected by the Bureau. Additional information and clarification has been brought to the study group in response to its questions. The EIS surveyed seven (7) areas of current improvements and need for improvements in water use in the Basin.

All meetings of the study group are open to the public. All minutes and summaries of presentations are available at the meetings, on the internet and by email. Brief periods are allotted for public comment reflected in meeting agendas and minutes.

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The objective of the study is to determine which proposals for enhancement drawn into an integrated package have the best likelihood of funding from available public monies. When and if a consensus is formulated, (by January 2010) there will be a united position among the parties to back requests for assistance from state and federal resources. The schedule calls for an implementation package by Spring, 2010, for the Congressional budget of 2011.

Presently, the study group has been divided into three tracks to evaluate proposals for enhancement of water use in the basin combining elements of the original seven enhancement options: fish passage, fish habitat, new water storage, ground water storage, irrigation system structural and operational changes, conservation and marketing water. The first two have been given to subcommittees. The last five, with new or enhanced storage as the emphasis, are the responsibility of the main study group.

The study group is working within a Congressional mandate to balance fish habitat preservation and fish passage enhancement, with agricultural and residential water uses. Information can be found on the internet:

<http://www.usbr.gov/pn/programs/yrbwep/index.html>.

Additional background history and context for this study can be found on the YBSA (Yakima Basin Storage Alliance/Black Rock) website on the internet. Contrasting perspectives on Black Rock and uses of Columbia River water can be found on the websites for the Columbia Institute for Water Policy and the Center for Environmental Law and Policy.

League members who have attended: Elaine Smith, Eleanor Hungate, Jackie Hertel.

Next meeting, September 23th, Yakima Arboretum, 9:30 am.

News Update on a Candidates Forum

A tentative date of October 20th , 7 to 8 pm, has been set for a KIMA/ League Sponsored Candidates Forum for the Yakima City Council races. Karen Pilon, Joyce Dennison and I met with David Klugh, KIMA News Anchor; Barbara Serrano, Managing Editor of the Yakima Herald; and Tom Long, General Manager KIMA.

David and Barbara will moderate the Forum which will be broadcast from the KIMA studio. The hour may be split into two periods with four (4) candidates in each half-hour. There is no studio audience. The League Board will be submitting questions to the moderators. For more information contact Joyce Dennison, 966 4363. Cynthia Garrick

Women's Votes/Women's Voices

To commemorate the 100th anniversary of women's right to vote in Washington State, many events are being planned throughout the State and in the Yakima Valley. I have been participating in the planning committee for local events so here's a preview of what's to come.

The centerpiece of the celebration is the "Women's Votes/Women's Voices" exhibit at the Yakima Valley Museum from February 5 to June 26. Larson Gallery at YVCC will host an exhibit, "Women Artists: Where We Are Now" from January 8 through February 6. The League will co-sponsor a showing of the HBO film "Iron Jawed Angels" with Allied Arts. A tentative date for the film is April 15. The League and the Yakima County Auditor's Office will set up voter registration tables at many of the events. In addition, a community read is planned for Linda Hunt's book "Bold Spirit," the story of Helga Estby, an Eastern Washington mother of 8 who in 1896 traveled 3500 miles with her daughter to win a \$10,000 wager to save her family's homestead.

Other ideas for events are Pink Teas: gatherings where women discussed suffrage under the guise of having a social tea. The Yakima Valley Museum will program one of their Drawing Room Diversion evenings to include suffrage vignettes and music and there may be a rally which recreates a women's equality rally. Millie Stenehjelm will be planning a joint birthday party for the League of Women Voters (90 years) and the American Association of University Women, AAUW (100 years) to be held January 30 at Larson Gallery.

Lots of fun and interesting stuff. I'll keep you posted as the dates and times are set. Cynthia Garrick

Your League Participation

This year can prove to be a busy and informative one for our League members as well as the community we serve. At their retreat, the LWVYC Board discussed ways for all members to volunteer time and ideas for our local public meetings. Everyone is busy, but some, we hope, will find the time for a specific forum or informational meeting. Sometimes there is reticence to volunteer for fear that one is committing to an ongoing project involving a great deal of time. This year we are asking members to volunteer to help with *one aspect* of organizing *one meeting* around a topic they find of particular interest. We will be contacting members throughout the year to serve in these "one-time volunteer" positions. We hope everyone will participate

If you have an idea or know a good speaker, or group whom you would like the LWVYC Board to consider for a general public informational meeting, please contact the League office, 452-3419.

Your State League Participation

At this year's state convention, a statewide educational program about the state budget and tax structure was introduced to the delegates. The program will emphasize the relationship between public policy issues (such as health care, education, and environmental protection), and real-life state budgeting and tax policy considerations. In other words, the goal is to help the public better understand the connections between public policies and people's lives. Already there are many informative articles on the "Members Only" section of the LWAWA website, including "Budget Basics", "The State Tax System", "Understanding Washington State Revenue Sources and the State Budget Process", plus materials on budget impacts to Education, Health Care and Children's Issues. Also on the website is the 2004 LWVWA Washington State Tax Study.

Grants of \$250 - \$500 are available to local leagues for this education project. Lynne Baxter

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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 September 2009

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