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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

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

January, 2021

Vol.21, No 1

**CALENDAR**

Tuesday, January 26, 5:30 PM **League Conversation:  Covid Update from Yakima Health District.** Via Zoom. *See information below*

Wednesday, January 27, 12 Noon to 1:30 PM **Redistricting 101** Lunch Zoom Session. REGISTER NOW! *See article on p. 3 and attached flier.*

Monday, February 1, 4:30 PM **Leadership Team Meeting.** Via Zoom.

Thursday, February 18, 11:30 AM to 1:30 PM **Train the Trainer for Speak Up School.** Via Zoom. *See p. 3.*

**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

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***League Conversation. . .***

**COVID UPDATE**

**The Virus, the Vaccine and Distribution**

Tuesday, January 26, 2021

5:30 PM

Presented by

|  |
| --- |
| **Nathan Johnson**  Local Emergency Response Coordinator |

Zoom Link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/9065780972>

Meeting ID: 906 578 0972

Or Dial from your Phone: (253)215-8782

Watch live on the LWVYC Facebook page.

*League Conversations:*

*Informing the public on topics of interest.*

**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](mailto:cbardill@gmail.com) to “attend”

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***LWVYC President’s Column…***

**NOTES FROM CRISS**

I can’t begin to express how appalling and deeply disturbing I found the siege on the Capitol last Wednesday, January 6th.  As I suspect is true for many of you, I have been glued to the TV for many hours a day as the aftermath unfolds.  And it is clear that more such actions are being fomented for the days ahead, not only in DC but in all 50 state capitals.

It is near impossible for me to understand the thinking and motivations of these insurrectionists, but I gained some insights in my recent reading of *Hillbilly Elegy, A Memoir of a Family and Culture in Crisis*, by J.D. Vance.  It may be that the only way out of this deep divide is for all Americans to come to recognize the segments of our peoples who have fallen out of the middle and working class, lost hope in the American dream, been ravished by the opioid epidemic, and are threatened by the more liberal social and multi-racial values that are ascendant in the urban and coastal regions of our country. They feel disenfranchised and angry, and are therefore susceptible to the dark conspiracy theories fanned by social and TV media groups and powerful politicians skilled at manipulation and brazen dishonesty.

We need to work together to find agreement on policies for college tuition support, health care, improved schools (especially in disadvantaged areas), a fair tax structure, and family wage jobs that could come from a strong infrastructure program and bold development of alternative energy systems. All Americans could stand to benefit greatly from such policies.

My hope is that we are entering a period of more enlightened leadership and commitment to work together and that chastened politicians and media figures come to recognize their roles in creating this dark time.

And the League of Women Voters continues its vital work:

Redistricting 101 and a Speak Up School are coming to Central Washington.  See the plans and schedule on page 3 in this issue of *The Voter,* and please consider participating. We need Central WA people of all colors and persuasions to testify (on Zoom) to the redistricting committee when it begins its hearings later this year.

The updating of our TRY: The Political Directory is underway.  We will be shifting to a smaller number of print copies to distribute while making the TRY available on our Facebook page and through postcards that give the on-line access information.

You will note the link to our new PayPal account on page 4. You now have the option of using PayPal to donate or pay your dues.  When you click on the link, you will see two options – one for a tax-deductible contribution to our Ed fund, and one for non-tax-deductible payments to our operations account. The 2nd should be used for dues payments, plus any donations you should choose to make to our operations expenses.

Many of us will be qualifying soon under the Phase B1 schedule for Covid vaccinations (those over age 70).  In the meantime, and even after, we need to stay masked up, wash our hands frequently, and avoid social gathering with those outside our household.  This has been such a long haul, and we aren’t home yet. The current case count, hospitalization rate, and death numbers are numbing. Please be safe! – Criss Bardill

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Yesterday was a dark day for America…We must commit anew to the vital work of the League in defending our democracy and promoting the informed and active participation of voters.

*Message from Criss Bardill, Jan. 7, 2021*

***The Voter,*** *January, 2021 Page 3*

***League Activities for Redistricting…***

**TIMELINE FOR LOCAL REDISTRICTING ACTIVITIES**

January 27, 2021 – Redistricting 101 Zoom Lunch Session (Information Below)

February 18, 2021 – Training for Coaches and Leaders for Speak Up School (Information Below)

March, 2021 (Date and time TBD) – Speak Up School to Prepare for Effective Input

June, 2021 (Dates and times TBD) – Public Meetings with Redistricting Commission

**SIGN UP NOW FOR REDISTRICTING 101**

League members and members of the community are invited to learn more about our local and state process of redistricting that will set boundaries for voting districts for the next ten years. **Register now at** [**https://tinyurl.com/R101Jan27**](https://tinyurl.com/R101Jan27) **to attend the Zoom Lunch Session on Wednesday, January 27, 12 Noon to 1:30 PM.**

Alison McCaffree, Census & Redistricting Issue Chair for League of Women Voters of Washington, will facilitate the session and share her extensive knowledge of the issues and process. Redistricting 101 will help attendees better understand how the 2020 Census data is used to draw state district lines by the 2021 Redistricting Committee.

The success of our unique form of democracy depends on fair, equal, and trusted representation.  Elected officials should represent the rights, needs and desires of all residents, a goal that can be frustrated by splitting of ethnic or social communities into different voting districts. In Washington State, the League has been active in redistricting reform to ensure equal voice for our citizens since the 1930s.  There is still more that can be done to ensure equitable representation, and the opportunity to make changes only comes every ten years following the census.

This is the ideal time and opportunity to brush up on redistricting facts and issues. Our Washington State Redistricting Commission is appointed in January and must complete the maps by November 15, 2021. Learn how the lines are decided and how we can influence the process.

**TRAIN THE TRAINER SESSION PREPARES FOR**

**ASSISTING AT SPEAK UP SCHOOL**

The Speak Up School, to be held locally in March, helps participants find their own voice and build effective, personal testimony for the Washington State Redistricting Commission. To offer this workshop, coaches and trainers are needed. **The Train the Trainer session, scheduled for Zoom on Thursday, February 18, 11:30 AM to 1:30 PM, will prepare interested members to assist participants of the Speak Up School.** Watch for registration information.

 The LWVWA Speak Up School development team offers a tremendous amount of support for Speak Up Schools. A comprehensive Guidebook, session curriculum and other resources are provided so both the Train the Trainer and Speak Up Schools provide valuable experiences.

Dori Peralta Baker participated in December in a series of sessions to learn more about Speak Up Schools and strategies for conducting our own. She is coordinating our local efforts. The Asian Pacific Islander Coalition of Yakima County and the Yakima Immigrant Response Network are joining the LWVYC in promoting advocacy for Redistricting.

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***Donate or Pay Dues. . .***

**LWVYC PAYPAL ACCOUNT ESTABLISHED**

The League of Women Voters of Yakima County has made it easier to donate and pay dues. Our Facebook page now offers payment through a PayPal account or using a credit or debit card. The link to the payment service is: <https://www.paypal.com/donate/?hosted_button_id=N6VDG9ZTNKMV8&fbclid=IwAR1oMQXCmF6JQo9QRKiEQyVFOa_oorKHtXDOZhRXluEIcAkzCE5pJclbeZY>.

You can also connect to the PayPal service by pointing your smartphone to this QR code:

***State League Planning. . .***

**LWVWA SEEKS INPUT FOR PROGRAM PLANNING**

The League of Women Voters of Washington is beginning the process of deciding where to focus energies during the 2021-2023 program years. All local Leagues are being asked to provide input about what they propose LWVWA will work on over the next biennium. Our state programs will relate to “The Campaign for Making Democracy” which was adopted at the 2020 national Convention as the over-arching goal of League work across the country.

February 25, 2021, is the deadline for local input to LWVWA. The Program of Work Planning Committee will review proposals and make recommendations. The results will be voted on at our state virtual convention in June. See <https://www.lwvwa.org/program2021> for more information.

***From National League…***

**MESSAGE FOLLOWING ASSAULT ON U. S. CAPITOL**

Friend,

Yesterday’s violence in the U.S. Capitol building was an attack on our democracy, but the violence and hate of white supremacists does not come as any surprise. For months, the sitting president of the United States has refused to concede the free and fair election he lost, while encouraging his supporters to somehow overturn the election. Other cities have also seen similar demonstrations and destruction of government property in the name of Trump and the lies he spews about our election.

The League condemns the attack for what it was: domestic terrorism.

There’s no doubt about it: our democracy was shaken yesterday. But the terrorists did not win. Congress resumed their constitutional duty and ascertained Joe Biden and Kamala Harris as the winners of the 2020 election and the next president and vice president of the United States.

We know there is fear and anger across this country today, but our job remains the same as it has for 100 years: **empowering voters and defending democracy.** We stand together today against the violent tyranny of this president and those who promote and carry out violence in his name.

In solidarity,

Virginia Kase  
Chief Executive Officer, LWVUS

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**LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF WASHINGTON**

**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**

**OF YAKIMA COUNTY**

**Empowering Voters. Defending Democracy.**

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

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Email\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**Membership Categories:**

   \_\_\_\_\_\_\_$60 Basic\*

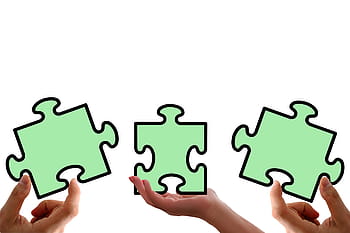
   \_\_\_\_\_\_\_$40 Each additional family member at the same residence

  \_\_\_\_\_\_\_$10 Student Associate

Sustaining Gift:  $60 \_\_\_\_\_ $40 \_\_\_\_\_ $25 \_\_\_\_\_ Other:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Your Sustaining gift will help support our local activities.                                                                               

**\*Please Note Dues Distribution:** National: $32

**Make checks payable to: LWVYC Mail to: PO Box 723**

**YAKIMA WA 98907**

              State:   19

                              LWVYC retains: 9

$60

