

THE VOTER



This Newsletter published by and for the League of Women Voters of Yakima County
PO Box 723, Yakima WA 98907 509-452-3419

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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

Co-Presidents: Cynthia Garrick and
Criss Bardill

Secretary: Karen Pilon

Treasurer: Janis Luvaas

Board of Directors

Kathy Lambert

Rhonda Hauff,

Kitty Jubran

Elaine Smith

Voter Editor: Criss Bardill
965-2351 or cbardill@gmail.com

The Board meets at noon on the 2nd
Thursday of each month at the League office.
All members are welcome to attend.

Calendar

Thursday, May 10, noon, **LWVYC Board** meeting, League office at YUU Church. Board meetings are open to all members. Enter through alley door.

Tuesday, May 22, 5:30 PM, **LWVYC Annual Meeting**. See attached **Call**.

Notes From Cynthia and Criss

We are looking forward to seeing you at the **Annual Meeting** on Tuesday, May 22. Please note that we need your RSVP to insure we have a quorum. You can RSVP to yakimacountylwvyc@gmail.com or call the office at 452-2419.

We want to prompt your thinking in advance of the Annual Meeting. We will be electing a Nominating Committee, which should begin its work in the fall per LWV guidelines. Please consider serving on this important committee.

We have had many interesting speakers at our League Conversations on the evenings of the 4th Tuesday of the month. But our attendance has typically been just a handful of members/guests. If you do not or rarely attend, what changes would you recommend for increasing your attendance?

And finally, how is the League working for you? What activities do you want to propose, be involved in, or to see managed differently?

We are eager for your ideas, input, and involvement, and hope to see you there!

NEW MEMBERS

Carrie Huie Pascua: Carrie is the daughter of immigrant parents from China. She was born and raised in Ellensburg, WA. She earned a Master of Science in Clinical Psychology from San Francisco State University and has over 35 years of experience serving people with behavioral health needs. She has a commitment to serving diverse populations and has been the director of behavioral health agencies in eastern and western Washington and elsewhere. Carrie has provided training and consultation in cultural competency and cross-cultural communication with a focus on quality interpreter services. She has served on the Governor's Interagency Council on Health Disparities, the Behavioral Health Advisory Council, the Mabuhay Foundation, and Child Care Aware of Washington. Retired in 2016, Carrie is active in the Filipino American Community of the Yakima Valley and the Seattle Chinese community. She continues to be involved in issues of equitable access in social services and provides consultation and training.

Clara Eustis: Clara retired in 2010 after working as a librarian in the Yakima Valley Library System for 36 years. Her husband, Bill, passed away in 2008 so it is just her and her two cats living in their house in Selah. Clara has lived in Selah her whole life except for years away at college and a few years in Yakima. Although she is retired she is not idle. She volunteers with the American Red Cross and is secretary for the Yakima-Morelia Sister City Association. Since retirement, she has had time to travel and in the past few years has visited The Netherlands, Belgium, England, Costa Rica, Quebec, Mexico, New York, Washington D.C. and Alaska. She also tries to make time for a weekly hike in the mountains, reading (of course) and gardening. She is a firm believer in the power of the individual to make the world a better place.

LWVYC COMMUNITY ACTIVITIES

On April 18 Criss Bardill and Elaine Smith staffed a voter registration table at the Sunnyside Mayor's Forum. While there were no voter registrations done, the small group of attendees had a spontaneous round table discussion about current political issues in the Lower Valley. This led to a suggestion that the LWVYC host a candidate forum in Sunnyside prior to the primary for the District 3 County Commissioner's seat. District 3 stretches from Terrace Heights to Grandview, and Commissioner Rand Elliott has declared he will not run for reelection. At the time of our discussion, seven individuals had reportedly expressed intent to file for the position. LWVYC has not had a very visible presence in the Lower Valley, and this presents an opportunity for us to support voter education in our more rural area. We hope to pursue this proposal this summer. The Primary is August 7.

League Conversation

On April 24, a small group of League members and a guest met with Jon Smith, Executive of the Yakima County Development Association (YCDA). YCDA is a non-profit supported by many local organizations. YCDA was originally founded in 1986 through Yakima City and County cooperation. Its website, <http://www.yakimavalleytrends.ewu.edu/> was developed recently as the result of a grant from the Yakima Foundation. Many Eastern Washington counties have similar “Trend” websites.

The purpose of the Yakima Trends website is to provide demographic information to residents, businesses, non-profits, educational or other service entities.

From the website:

The Yakima Valley Trends website seeks to improve local, private and public decision-making by providing relevant data in an easily navigable website. The data will serve neutral information for all parties involved. More specifically, the goals are:

- *To collect and share a broad spectrum of information for individual community members, policy makers,*
- *non-governmental organizations, businesses, business organizations, researchers, and the press.*
- *To track progress over time of various efforts toward a healthy, vibrant community.*

The YCDA staff works with

“The EWU Institute for Public Policy & Economic Analysis which was created in 2002 to provide data and analysis about a variety of factors in the region that will be useful for businesses, communities and others as they plan for the future. Patrick Jones has been the Executive Director of EWU's Institute for Public Policy & Economic Analysis since its inception.”

Those who attended the Conversation were impressed with the kind of information provided by the website. We recommend that League members look at the web page and the Yakima Valley Trends Facebook page where a selection of current reports are posted.

Contributed by Elaine Smith

Kara Kondo luncheon, April 18, 2018

If you were unable to attend the luncheon, here is a summary of the talk given by Monty Mills, developer, and Wes Edwards of Borarchitects on the remodel of former Nordstrom’s building.

Monty Mills is a son of the Mills Music family which ran Mills Music in Yakima several years ago. Monty’s grew up in Yakima from age eight. His Yakima memories and his parents’ principles in building the Mills music store business throughout Washington state were the basic

incentives for his choice to remodel the Nordstrom building, to be called “The Valentina” after his youngest daughter.

He chose to remodel the building into a multi-use retail, restaurant and apartment complex in downtown Yakima. His objective was not exclusively to make an investment in a business asset. Monty’s parents believed in setting their music businesses in medium-sized towns where they could contribute to the economic and cultural welfare of the town.

After college at CWU, Monty worked in Yakima where he met his first wife, then in Tallahassee as an estate manager, in the Tri-Cities for Pitney Bowles, and finally elsewhere for Glaxo Smith & Kline and Purdue Pharma until he returned to the family business in Seattle in 2004.

After the passing of his parents who had managed the Mills Music store businesses for over 30 years, in 2012 the music stores were sold, and the descendants formed a real estate acquisition company. Then, during the tenure of Ben Soria as Yakima School District Superintendent, Monty, visiting Yakima as a musician, learned of the loss of arts programs in the district. Together with Ben he decided to develop an alternative arts curriculum in Yakima. That effort, though successful, survived only briefly until it too lost funding.

When the Nordstrom building came up for sale in 2014 Monty decided to purchase the building for remodeling. His original objective, to add value to the downtown of Yakima, has been sustained throughout the difficult and sometimes costly four years of the remodeling project. He kept his objective in mind: to revitalize downtown Yakima with an attractive corner building, raise the value of the downtown for tourism, and elicit pride in his home town.

Monty called on Wes Edwards of BORArchitecture, Yakima, to describe the stages of the remodel. Wes shared that the original JC Penney’s was a two-story department store built in 1952 and remodeled by Nordstrom’s in 1972. Monty’s vision was to have luxury apartments with useable balconies, basement parking for apartment residents, in a mixed-use building with retail and a restaurant on the street level, an accessible third floor observation deck and, maybe, a second restaurant. Essentially, the building was gutted to the outer walls.

Cost overruns were incurred very early when the building was flooded. When they dug for the basement parking garage, they discovered an enormous horse trough. All the original heating and cooling system was refitted; all the floors required reinforcement; a slanted elevator shaft was accommodated, and the roof was entirely rebuilt to create a third floor capable of carrying visitors for the view and perhaps for a roof-top restaurant.

Throughout the remodel and the unexpected cost overruns, the architects were able to accommodate Monty vision for the project.

Thank you to Yakima League Downtown Committee for bringing us this interesting program for the Kara Kondo Luncheon.

Contributed by Elaine Smith



CALL FOR 2018 LWVYC ANNUAL MEETING

Tuesday, May 22, 2018

5:30-8 PM

Windcrest Villa Clubhouse

(note location change from preceding 2 years)

5910 Lincoln Avenue, Yakima

Parking available on both east and west side of clubhouse.

Dinner Buffet, \$10, payable at the meeting

A quorum of the membership is required to conduct business, so please let us know if you will be attending so we can determine if we will meet quorum.

Please **RSVP** by **FRIDAY, MAY 18** to

yakimacountylwvyc@gmail.com

or call the office at 452-2419.

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

Name: _____

Membership Categories:

Address: _____

_____ \$10 Student Associate

_____ \$60 Basic

Phone: _____

_____ \$70 Contributing

E-Mail: _____

_____ \$80 Supporting

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

Note: → Student Associate is not a voting member

Make checks payable to: LWVYC, PO Box 723, YAKIMA WA 98907

VOTER INFORMATION WEBSITES

Secretary of State www.secstate.wa.gov/

LWVWA- Vote 411
www.vote411.org

Yakima County Auditor
<http://yakimacounty.us/170/Elections>