

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

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

Year-End 2021
Vol.21, No 11

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.

Officers

President: Cheri Kilty
Secretary: Karen Pilon
Treasurer: Janis Luvaas
Membership: Rhonda Hauff

Leadership Team

Criss Bardill
Quinn Dalan
Kitty Jubran
Susan Kaphammer
Lee Murdock

Voter Editor: Susan Kaphammer
949-0127; susanlkap@gmail.com

The Board currently meets at 4:30 PM,
typically the first Monday of the month.

All members are welcome.

Editor's Note

This issue of The Voter is in lieu of publication of November and December issues.

Following the election in early November, League Activities slowed down, as has this newsletter editor. I have been focusing on family and friends and staying safe with the uncertainties and changing aspects of Covid.

As we enter 2022, let us agree to continue our League efforts to fulfill our mission and vision as printed in the first column of every issue of our newsletter. Our community and our country are evermore in need of our thoughtful, principled work on behalf of democracy.

Personally, I wish League members, families and friends good health, happiness, and success in the New Year.

--Susan Kaphammer

CALENDAR

*Postponed Due
to Weather*

Monday, January 3, 4:30 PM Leadership Team Meeting

Tuesday, January 25, 5:30 PM Community Conversation:
Plant Based Eating for Everyone. Via Zoom. See
announcement on Page 4.



League of Women Voters – Past and Present

October Community Conversation...

AWARENESS NEEDED TO CURB DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

Our most recent Community Conversation marked Domestic Violence Awareness Month with important information from Dani Aguilar, YWCA Outreach Coordinator. The theme of “Break the Silence. Stop the Violence” reminds us that everyone needs understanding and awareness year-round. Public concern may not match the significant impact of domestic violence on our community and on individual families. But it is real, and it is happening here.

Based on the number of people seeking help from the YWCA, the Police Department, and other local agencies, Yakima County ranks 2nd in the state in the incidence of domestic violence. An estimated 35% of crime in our city is due to domestic violence, in contrast to 1% of crime identified as gang violence. The YWCA serves up to 10,000 people per year; the Yakima Police Department fields 3500 calls a year. 1 in 4 women, 1 in 9 men, 1 in 2 transgender and non-binary individuals will be in abusive relationships in their lifetime. And 1 in 3 teens may encounter domestic violence before the age of 18. In its extreme form, 12 to 16 homicides in Yakima County in a five-year period can be attributed to domestic violence.

Domestic violence is broadly defined as any criminal act toward a family or household member. The violence may be fear of harm with or without actual bruises or broken bones. It is about power and control over another. Unhealthy behaviors occur in all relationships. Left unacknowledged, smaller incidents of coercion and intimidation can accumulate. The “Power and Control Wheel,” pictured on the next page, illustrates the range of behaviors.

Ms. Aguilar pointed out that domestic violence does not discriminate by age group, ethnicity, religion, socioeconomic level, educational background, family values, or what side of the city you live on. We are each likely to already know or at some time will know someone who is experiencing domestic violence. Warning signs of an unhealthy relationship that may already be or may become abusive include:

- Wanting to move too quickly into relationship
- Creating fear for partner to break up
- Insisting or coercing partner to decrease or stop hobbies, activities, interests
- Increasing controls finances or sabotages employment for partner
- Asking to always know partner’s whereabouts
- Making it difficult for partner to be independent outside of the relationship
- Showing entitlement for own feeling, needs, and want over partner’s
- Seeing everything as a personal attack. looking for fights, blowing things out of proportion
- Demonstrating disrespect or cruelty to others, i.e. children or pets
- Expecting submission during sex and/or regarding household decisions
- Gradually increasing insults, shifting blame, belittling partner, emotional and mental put-downs
- Raging with partner but maintaining composure around others in public
- May show past criminal record

The YMCA urges citizens to believe what we see and hear, to take incidents seriously and to respond. Support from the YWCA / Yakima County Domestic Violence Services is available 24 hours a day at 509-248-7796. Contacts can remain anonymous, and police reports do NOT have to be filed.

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...DOMESTIC VIOLENCE (Continued from Page 2)



Copyright by the Domestic Abuse Intervention Project
<https://www.thehotline.org/identify-abuse/power-and-control/>

Services focus on providing safety to talk about what is happening and connecting individuals with resources. YWCA Yakima Programming related to domestic violence includes:

- Domestic Violence Awareness Clinics, such as this presentation
- Empowerment and Self-Sufficiency: Community Outreach and Prevention
- Emergency Shelter Services & Crisis Advocacy
- Housing and Legal Referrals
- Mobil Advocacy and 72 Hour Response
- Family and Children's Advocacy
- Domestic Violence Support Groups; Victim's Meetings
- Working Women's Wardrobe & Retail Employment Training

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...DOMESTIC VIOLENCE (Continued from Page 3)

Additional support is provided in our area by:

The Lighthouse – Crisis Line, 509-837-6689

Aspen Victim Advocacy Services – 24/7 Hotline, 509-452-9675

Get Connected – Get Help – Call 211/ 24/7 Chat 211 For Help at 211.org

NAMI Yakima – In a crisis text NAMI to 741741 or text TELLNOW to 85944

Cheri Kilty and Dani Aguilar concluded the presentation by affirming the importance of helping those impacted and holding abusers accountable. Domestic violence can be prevented. With all in the community working together we can build violence free, abuse free lives.

Upcoming LWVYC Community Conversations...



Community Conversations

January 25, 2022 at 5:30PM

Plant Based Eating for Everyone

by Dr. Yami Cazorla-Lancaster, DO, MPH, MS, FAAP, CHWC

February 22, 2022 at 5:30PM

Redistricting Commission with Sarah Augustine

March 22, 2022 at 5:30PM

Election Systems in Yakima County with Auditor Charles Ross

Yakima County League History...

VOTER SERVICES ENCOURAGE PARTICIPATION

This is the fifth installment of a series of articles adapted from a typed ten-page document titled, “A History of the League of Women Voters of Yakima County,” by co-authors Kara Kondo, Geneve Bowden, Marge Van Scoy, Laura Hopp, Pat Ball, Charlotte Kendrick, and Marilyn Lane. This installment recounts efforts begun in the 1950’s to provide voter services.

Editor’s Note: Direct quotes from “A History of the League...” will be indicated by quotation marks or indented sections. Some details and names will be omitted. At the conclusion of the newsletter series, the entire document will be made available to interested members.

“A key cornerstone in the League of Women Voters’ concern for citizen participation in the political process is its Voters Services, placing special emphasis on solid nonpartisan information on candidates and providing information on registering and voting.”

“The fledgling League” conducted candidate questionnaires in 1952 with the Herald-Republic publishing the responses for State Legislature and County Commission candidates. “The other questionnaire for candidates for state offices and U. S. Congress was mimeographed and distributed at its pre-primary candidates meeting.” This meeting attracted “200 or so”. The meeting before the general election featured candidates for state legislature, county commissioner, constable and coroner, and 4th District of U.S. Congress. “This meeting drew 100.” A January 23, 1953, meeting included “pro and con speakers on the garbage fee proposal” as well as city and school board candidates. “About 100 were present.”

Various activities around this time included: members demonstrating use of voting machines; giving out “small gold feathers to each voter at the polls in keeping with the state ‘gold feather’ campaign”; providing upon request to several organizations pro and con speakers on the state ballot issues; and “thirty league members each called 300 names from the phone book to remind respondents about the last day for registering, the election date, and to vote.”

From 1955 to 1957, “members interviewed local people on issues such as the city charter, water department, probation office, and others, not necessarily League programs” for a 30 minute program every other Sunday on Radio Station KYAK.

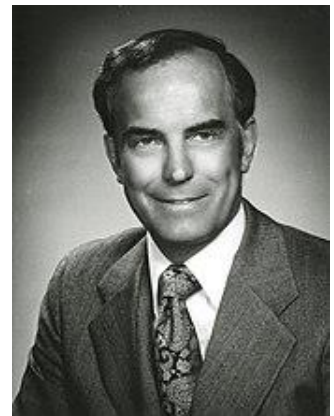
“Voters Service activities have continued unabated over the years. Some remain in similar forms; others have evolved.” Candidates meetings “moved from indoors to enormous affairs on a closed-off city block on North 2nd Street...attended by notable candidates...who have, or are making marks in the political arena.” Henry Jackson, Dan Evans and Slade Gorton are among the notable attendees identified in this history. “It then moved indoors again to more predictable weather of the Yakima and Valley Malls.”



Among the “notable candidates” attending League-sponsored campaign meetings in Yakima were:

Left: Slade Gorton; first elected to State House in 1958; later serving as State Attorney General then as U.S. Senator.

Right: Dan Evans; elected to State House in 1957; then as Governor; later serving as U.S. Senator.



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VOTER SERVICES... (Continued from Page 5)

One Voters Services activity tried out was a “Candidates Caravan that stopped at strategic towns throughout the county.” Beginning in 1980, the League “co-produced a yearly live candidates meeting on KYVE-TV, a two to three hour Sunday afternoon program” for candidates in the station’s viewing area of Yakima and parts of Kittitas, Chelan and Benton Counties.

Locally created candidates questionnaires “to provide compact written information on candidates” gave way to inclusion of information in the State Voters Pamphlet. A special effort undertaken by the local League was “a local version of the State Voters Pamphlet...in cooperation with Davis High School. The students interviewed candidates for Yakima City Council and Yakima School District Board of Directors and researched local ballot measures. The League secured funding, provided direction and edited the useful, attractive pamphlet.”

“Liberalizing the registration of voters progressed through the years until registration drives are



now commonplace with deputy registrars able to sign up potential voters in all kinds of locations.” The League made special efforts in the “Civil Rights and Community Action program movements of the ‘60’s and 70’s” to provide voter education to Hispanic and low income people. In addition, League members have observed, monitored or supervised elections with attention to “voting accessibility, layout of election sites election workers’ performances, flow of voting process, etc.”

Yakima Avenue, 1960s Postcard; from *Yakima – Thumbnail History* by Jim Kershner. <https://www.historylink.org/file/9187>

(The next installment from our history will recount League Centennial activities during 1984-1985.)

Excerpts of Message from National League CEO ...

LWV's ACHIEVEMENTS IN 2021

CEO of LWVUS, Virginia Kase Solomón reflects on some of the challenges and empowering moments from this past year. Her full post is available at https://www.lwv.org/blog/lwvs-achievements-2021?utm_source=Newsletter&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=December2021Highlights.

“A health care crisis, attempts to disempower voters, a new administration, racial injustice — it’s a year that has challenged us physically and psychologically. Despite this, we have not stopped striving to build a better, more just country... As the late, great civil rights activist Bob Moses, who passed this last April, said, ‘Do what you think actually needs to be done, set an example, and hope your actions will click with someone else.’”

REDISTRICTING: “2021 marked the beginning of a once-in-a-decade cycle that decides how (and whether) we’re represented in our governments for the next ten years... One problem: fair maps are often threatened by racial and/or political gerrymandering, which occurs when politicians draw maps

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LWV ACHIEVEMENTS... *(Continued from Page 6)*

that dilute the power of certain communities while enhancing that of others, typically to support their own political needs... Throughout 2021, an estimated 180,000+ people participated in our redistricting events... I continue to be inspired by their dedication to ensuring that every person is fairly represented.”

Editor’s Note: Our own local League Members were instrumental in collaborating with our State League to provide Speak Up Schools educating, encouraging and assisting the public to testify for our Washington State redistricting process. One success is the unifying of the Yakama Nation into one political district.

CAMPAIGN FOR MAKING DEMOCRACY WORK: “The League launched Women Power Democracy (WPD)... The League was founded on the knowledge that women and their allies have the power to change our country for the better. When we’re given the information and opportunities to defend our democracy, the US becomes fairer, more representative, and stronger... WPD aims to build a stronger, more representative democracy by: 1. Countering mis- and disinformation; 2. Increasing voter participation; 3. Protecting voting rights; and, 4. Creating fair, people-powered maps. As “League President Dr. Deborah Ann Turner, said at the panel [to kick off WPD...’When we fight for and protect women, we fight for and protect America, because women power democracy.””

MESSAGE TO THE BIDEN ADMINISTRATION: “As more than 400 anti-voter bills hit legislatures across the country, the Biden administration failed to step up to promote federal voting rights legislation, thereby leaving millions of people vulnerable to voter suppression, particularly Black, brown, and female Americans... That’s not what our democracy stands for... Together with our partners at People For the American Way and the Declaration for American Democracy, we organized a series of five civil actions outside the White House... We went from five people risking arrest at an early event to nearly 200 at our latest... Thousands of you [League members] sent letters to President Biden and Vice President Harris demanding they do all they can to support federal voting rights legislation. Hundreds of thousands of you repeated this message on social media.”

LOOKING AHEAD TO 2022: “There are two issues that stand out to me: racial justice, and who holds power in our democracy... Silencing voters, disempowering communities through gerrymandering, and focusing on politicians’ needs over the people’s are antithetical to the very concept this country was founded on. Almost always, we see these issues compounded for Americans of color... We cannot afford to ignore these issues in 2022.”

“As I celebrate all we’ve done this past year, I’m thinking of how we can build an empowered and racially equitable nation, both in our advocacy at LWV and in our everyday lives. We can continue to make our voices heard, demanding our elected leaders support legislation that will make America fairer. We can continue to inspire one another by sharing ways to get involved in the government that is meant to represent us. And we can keep watching, listening, and learning — from our youth, our future leaders, and from the actions we’ve taken together.”

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.

Cordially invites you to: JOIN US!

New Member Renewing Member

Name: _____

Membership Categories:

Address: _____

_____ \$10 Student

_____ \$60 Basic

Phone: _____

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

E-Mail: _____

Scholarships are available for potential members who cannot afford dues. Please contact us at yakimacountylwvyc@gmail.com

Additional Sustaining Gift: \$60 _____ \$40 _____ \$25 _____ Other: _____

Your Sustaining Gift will help support our local activities.

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

Please note: Our fiscal year is July 1 through June 30. Initial dues received before December 31 will be subject to renewal on June 30 of the following year. Initial dues received after January 1 will be subject to renewal on June 30 of the year following that year.

- Examples: a) Initial dues paid October 10, 2020; renewal date June 30, 2021
- b) Initial dues paid February 24, 2021; renewal date June 30, 2022