

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.*

January 2022
Vol.22, No 1

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.

CALENDAR

Monday, February 7, 4:30 PM Leadership Team Meeting
at YWCA, 818 W Yakima Ave, Yakima. Contact Cheri
Kilty if prefer to attend via Zoom.

4th Tuesday of Each Month, 5:30 PM Community
Conversation. On LWVYC Facebook Page. *See Below
for Upcoming Topics and Speakers*



Community Conversations

Attend via ZOOM at

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85239315653>.

or by phone at 253-215-8782

Passcode 852 3932 5653; ID 238187

OR

View on Facebook Live



Stream later on LWVYC Facebook Page.

Events will also be summarized in
the following months' issues of The Voter

January 25, 2022 at 5:30 PM – View at

<https://www.facebook.com/LWVYC>

Plant Based Eating for Everyone

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

February 22, 2022 at 5:30 PM

Election Systems in Yakima County

with Auditor Charles Ross

March 22, 2022 at 5:30 PM

Redistricting Commission

with Sarah Augustine

Notes from the Editor...

STAYING CONNECTED AND READY FOR ACTION

When I was teaching, I often referred to the time from December holidays until the sun reliably shone again with the approach of spring as “the doldrums.” For our organization, activities leading up to the November election as well as efforts to facilitate citizen input for legislative redistricting have largely come and gone. Adding the limitations related to Covid, we may feel a letdown beyond “calm” to “motionless.” But as with the ocean doldrums, the air and water are never completely still. This seeming period of inactivity offers us individually and as an organization time to gather strength and resolve; time to learn and plan; time to stay connected and be ready for action.

As League members we have several ways to stay connected and informed. This local newsletter, *The Voter*, as well as our Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/LWVYC> provide notices of local activities and events as well as background and emerging information of interest. Members also receive by email *This Month in the League*, with monthly updates from the LWV of Washington State. Plus, both the State and National League organizations maintain websites rich with information, resources, and opportunities for action. Access the LWVWA at <https://lwwa.org/> and LWVUS at <https://www.lwv.org/>.

During this quiet time of the past couple of months, your Leadership Team has continued to meet to oversee and consider a variety of activities, including:

Membership continues strong with 55 individuals on our latest roster! Rhonda Hauff is Membership Chair, and she reports that nearly all memberships have been renewed.

Community Conversations were on hiatus for November and December but will now resume every month. Quinn Dalan organizes the speakers and panels for these unfailingly interesting discussions covering topics impacting our community. See Page 1 of this newsletter for how to attend and the upcoming schedule. Quinn welcomes suggestions for topics and speakers.

They Represent You, commonly called the “TRY,” provides names and contact information for national, state, county, city, and school board officials, as well as miscellaneous districts (i.e., Mosquito Control and Flood Control) serving Yakima County. Kitty Jubran is doggedly tracking down current information, and she and Susan Kaphammer will be updating the document for publication and distribution throughout the county.

Study of Homelessness in Yakima County, the 33-page documentation of our LWVYC comprehensive study of the issue is being distributed to guide planning for and use of limited resources. Two hundred copies have been printed and mailed to city and county officials, libraries, agencies involved in providing services, and local media. It is also available on our Facebook page.

Kara Kondo Luncheon an annual downtown event featuring a community speaker had been held annually until suspended due to Covid. The Leadership Team is hoping to reinstate this gathering that bring together members of our league and local business people, city and county government officials and leaders of social service agencies. Planning will continue, depending upon pandemic guidelines.

The Leadership Team recently received a query about offering voter information or training for new citizens. What is needed and how the League might be involved will be researched and discussed.

It is evident that these “doldrums” don’t mean nothing is happening with the League of Women Voters. Consider these activities and what else we might be doing. Ask, learn and share your questions, your ideas, and your energy toward our mission of, “Empowering Voters. Defending Democracy.”



Photo from LWVWA website

Yakima County League History...

LWVYC BUSY THROUGH 1984 AND 1985

This is the sixth and final 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 local League activities during the “centennial year” of **1984-1985**. I am, however, uncertain as to what “centennial” was being marked.

My research shows that Washington became an official territory in 1853 and a state in 1889. Yakima County was organized by the territorial legislature in 1865. Yakima City was incorporated in 1883 at the site now known as Union Gap. In 1884 the Northern Pacific Railway Company responded to a dispute with land owners by moving over 100 buildings 4 miles north to establish a new town dubbed, “North Yakima,” which was incorporated in 1886. In 1918 the state legislature officially designated the city as “Yakima.” Concerning our organization, The League of Women Voters of Washington was founded in 1920, the same year as the national League. The League of Women Voters of Yakima County was initiated in 1950 and graduated from provisional to official status in 1952.

Out of all of these dates, it seems most likely that the “**84-85**” centennial was marking the establishment of the city of Yakima. But if any readers know better, please pass the information on to me. – Susan Kaphammer

Editor’s Note: The following transcribes the final sections of the “History of the League...” as originally printed.

MAJOR ACTIVITIES DURING CENTENNIAL YEAR

The League of Women Voters of Yakima County’s major activities during this centennial year (84-85) have included:

1. A major pre-election registration drive which resulted in over 100 new voters in Yakima County.
2. Caucus and election night reporting for ABC. (primary and general)
3. Produced 4th Annual Candidates Close Up on KYVE involving most of the candidates for contested positions, including all statewide office except the governor – a question and answer format.
4. Organized Community celebration of U. N. Day.
5. Participated in TARGET WASHINGTON, day-long conference.
6. Arranged for printing and distribution of “They Represent You,” a free citizens directory listing all elected officials in Yakima County.
7. Hosted “Luncheons With the Legislators” through the summer.
8. Provided facilitators for spring-fall public education meetings sponsored by Citizens Education Center N.W.
9. Answered phones for KYVE pledge week.
10. Sponsored “Women Judges of Washington State” program during the Fair.
11. Studied in depth National Security topics, Arms Control, the Federal Budget and Promoting Peace.
12. Studied Campaign Financing in Washington State.
13. Participated in Legislative Lobbying Workshop in December, attended state and national conventions and State Council meeting.
14. Lobbied state representatives and senators on issues of voting rights for D.C. Members participated in National Study on Financing the Federal Government.
15. Celebrated League of Women Voters of U. S. 65th Birthday by bringing Dr. Giovanni Costigan to Yakima to speak on Susan B. Anthony – as a community education project.

(Continued on Page 4)

LWVYC BUSY... (Continued from Page 3)

- 16. Testified twice in support of the Urban Area Regional Plan.
- 17. Interviewed and lobbied our member of congress.
- 18. Toured Wastewater Treatment Plan.

PAST PRESIDENTS OF THE YAKIMA COUNTY LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS

Charlotte Kendrick (Mrs. Leo)	Organizational Chairman
Ann Gilbert Ulrich (Mrs. Louis)	1950-1951
Laura Hopp (Mrs. Blaine)	1951-1953
Sybil Wadekamper (Mrs. C.C.)	1953-1955
*Dorothy Ledbetter (Mrs. Coleman)	1955-1957
Marge Van Scoy (Mrs. Hale)	1957-1959
Geneve Bowden (Mrs. Paul)	1959-1961
Marilyn Lane (Mrs. James)	1961-1963
*Louise Patterson (Mrs. William)	1965-1966
Marilyn Hudson (Mrs. Bruce)	1966-1967
Kara Kondo (Mrs. Tak)	1967-1969
Kara Kondo (Mrs. Tak)	1969-1971
Dorothy Plath (Mrs. Fred)	1971-1973
Bert Jose (Mrs. Robert)	1973-1975
Ruth Coffin (Mrs. Stanley)	1975-1977
Fran Dew (Mrs. Robert)	1977-1979
Patti Nagle	1979-1981
Linda Frazer (Mrs. Dallas)	1981-1983
Pat Ball (Mrs. Jack)	1983-1985

*Deceased (Editor’s Note: As of compiling of this undated document, likely circa 1986.)



Downtown Yakima as it looked in the 1950s as the League of Women Voters of Yakima County was getting underway.

Postcard image from Yakima – Thumbnail History by Jim Kershner. <https://www.historylink.org/file/9187>

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