

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

March 13, 2019
Vol.19, No 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.

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 4:00 PM the 1st
Monday of each month at the League office.
All members are welcome to attend.

Calendar

Tuesday, March 26, 5:30 PM **League Conversation**
Wesley United Methodist Church (see enclosed
announcement)

Monday, April 1, 4 PM, **Leadership Team Meeting**,
League office at UU Church. LT Meetings are open to all
members, please enter through alley door.

Tuesday, April 23, 5:30 PM, **League Conversation**, Wesley
United Methodist Church.

April, date to be set, **Kara Kondo Luncheon**

Tuesday, May 13, **LWVYC Annual Meeting**, more info to
come

Notes From Cynthia and Criss

As the snow begins to melt and crocuses peak their heads up for the sun, we are entering a busy Spring time for our League, per the schedule above. We hope you will make **save-the-date** notations on your calendars for as many of these events as possible!

You have or will be receiving a mailing from us asking for your possible donation for the support of our local league activities. We are hoping you will give serious thought to helping sustain your league, and a heartfelt thank you in advance for any giving you choose to do.

LEAGUE CONVERSATIONS

COMING:

On Tuesday, **March 26** at 5:30 PM, the LWVYC is sponsoring a presentation by **Christine Annen** on the Court Appointed Special Advocates Program for children. Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA) are trained volunteers appointed by the court to advocate for the best interests of children who are alleged to have been abused and/or neglected by their parents or other caregivers.

On Tuesday, **April 23**, at 5:30 PM, Will Denton, the Census representative in our area, will talk about the Census processes and its importance to our country.

These events are open to the public and will be held at Wesley United Methodist Church at 14 N 48th Avenue (corner of 48th and Chestnut) in Yakima.

REPORT:

Sarah Augustine's purpose in her March 4th presentation at our recent League Conversation was to make us aware of the case which is coming before the U.S. Supreme Court the week of March 11th.

The Supreme Court will be asked again to respond to a challenge to the 1978 Indian Child Welfare Act passed by the US Congress in 1978. The federal law is being challenged by three states following the lead of Texas. The states are asserting that the law is unconstitutional on the grounds that it provides for the care of indigenous children on the basis of race. Native American tribes believe that the law provides for the care of indigenous children as members of the sovereign states under treaty with the United States. Sarah's interest in the case is founded on her knowledge of her father's treatment as an infant of the Tewa tribe (a branch of the Pueblo). In 1943 her father as an infant was removed from the care of a family of the Tewa tribe and taken to an orphanage in California. He was never placed in foster care; he was never adopted. He spent the first 17 years of his life in an orphanage in a program intended to separate him in language and culture from his native family. At age 17 he was released from the orphanage and entered the army.

Sarah believes that indigenous children are removed from Native American families based primarily on the policy that poverty alone is a sufficient reason for their removal. In contrast, she believes that care of children by family members and/or placement in the extended family of the tribe is more likely to result in adequate child-rearing than the foster care which is the outcome for at least 25% of those taken into the care of the state.

While she agrees that no current system of care for dependent children in pressing and needful circumstances is always adequate to their needs, she believes tribal services are closer in kind to "families" than what is available in state child welfare programs. 325 tribes, 50 organizations and 22 states have filed Amicus Briefs with the Department of Justice in support of the principle

of tribal sovereignty which is integral to the Act. Bob Ferguson, Attorney General of Washington State, is in support of the statute.

Sarah has concerns that if the Indian Child Welfare Act of 1978 is struck down, it will eventually mean the end of Tribal Sovereignty itself. The consequence will be and perhaps is intended to mean, over time, and ultimately, the assimilation of tribal identity into mainstream culture.

During the question and discussion period following Sarah's presentation, a member of the audience described a present and on-going case of the placement of her grandchildren who are indigenous members of the Yakama tribe. The description brought home to us the pain and sorrow for families participating in such disputes.

The Indian Child Welfare Act of 1978 (ICWA) ((Pub.L. 95-608, 92 Stat. 3069, enacted November 8, 1978), codified at 25 U.S.C. §§ 1901-1963) is a Federal law that governs jurisdiction over the removal of Native American (Indian) children from their families.

Elaine Smith

WELCOME NEW MEMBER

Sarah Augustine, who many of you met when she moderated our candidate forums in both 2017 and 2018, and was our *recent League Conversations* presenter (see above article), has joined our local League. Sarah was instrumental in building the connections and activities the League engaged in at Heritage University during the election season last fall. Sarah is a Pueblo (Tewa) woman originally from Northern New Mexico. She identifies as both Native American consistent with her father's identity, and Latina consistent with her mother's identity. She lives on a cattle ranch in White Swan with her husband Dan and ten-year-old son, Micah. She has two step-daughters who both live in Twisp with their families including two grandsons (Oliver, 10 and Arlo, 3 months). In addition to her lifelong commitment to working for human rights, Sarah enjoys reading, writing essays, poetry and fiction, quilting and canning. Sarah is committed to reaching out to young women and supporting them as the leaders of the future. She says it is this commitment that has brought her to the League, because she passionately believes in the strength, wisdom and experience of League women. We have much to offer young women who face many challenges as they step into positions of leadership and shape our shared future. Sarah is the Executive Director of the Dispute Resolution Center, was a founder of the Suriname Indigenous Health Fund, and has taught at Heritage University.

We have received the follow invitation from League member Cheri Kilty, Executive Director of the YWCA:

Washington's Undiscovered Feminists

Noon, Wednesday, March 27, 2019, Yakima Valley Museum

Meet five "women warriors" who changed our state - and American society.
This FREE presentation is part of Humanities Washington's Speakers Bureau program.

For more information:

<https://www.humanities.org/event/washingtons-undiscovered-feminists-4/>



LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF YAKIMA COUNTY

Cordially invites you to: JOIN US!

Name: _____ Date: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____ E-Mail: _____

Membership: _____ \$60 Basic _____ \$40 Each additional family member at same residence

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

Your Sustaining gift will help support our local activities.

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>