

# 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

February, 2017  
Vol. 17, No 2

## 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

*President:* Lynne Baxter  
*Secretary:* Karen Pilon  
*Treasurer:* Janis Luvaas

### Board of Directors

Kathy Lambert  
Ruth Schroeder  
Criss Bardill  
Cynthia Garrick

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

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

## February Calendar

- Feb 9, Board Meeting, noon LWVYC Office
- Feb 13, *LWVYC League Conversations*  
5:30-7:30, Ann Ingham Room, UUCY  
LWV Birthday Party and  
State & Local League Priorities for next year
- Feb 14, LWV Birthday
- Feb 28, Downtown Committee tour of Pacific Northwest University of Health Sciences (see article for details)
- 
- April 12, Annual Kara Kondo Luncheon
- June 2-4, LWVWA State Convention, Seattle  
"Democracy: Must Be Present to Win!"

### *LWVYC League Conversations*

The January *Conversations* was cancelled.

The February *LWVYC League Conversations* discussion will be **Monday, February 13, 5:30 - 7:30 pm** at the Ann Ingham room at the Unitarian Church. If you can't make it by 5:30, please come when you can. The official birthday of the League of Women Voters is February 14, 1920.

In addition to the birthday celebration we will also discuss local League priorities for next year as well as LWVYC's suggestions to the state League on what we believe should be the state League priorities for 2017 - 2019.

An invitation was sent in a separate email.

Bring your favorite snack and beverage (wine OK) to share. Hope you can come and bring a friend.

LWVWA- Vote 411  
[www.vote411.org](http://www.vote411.org)

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

Secretary of State  
[www.secstate.wa.gov](http://www.secstate.wa.gov)

## YAKIMA LEAGUE AWARDED \$35,000 GRANT

We have been awarded a \$35,000 grant from the DOROTHY AND FRED PLATH FUND at the Yakima Valley Community Foundation. The donation is a 501(c3) contribution (to be used entirely for tax deductible purposes). These funds are also restricted to specific uses per Dorothy's wishes.

At the end of November, Rick Plath contacted the LWVYC to let us know his Mom wanted to make two donations to the LWV of Yakima:

\$25,000 to encourage qualified people to run for public office.

\$10,000 to be used for training and encouragement of excellence in qualified candidates for public office.

A December 28 letter from the Yakima Valley Community Foundation advised LWVYC that the grant had been approved and the accompanying check was deposited as restricted funds in our LWVYC account with the LWVWA State Education Fund. This is the only way LWVYC can accept 501(c3) funds - under the state Ed Fund's umbrella.

A "LWVYC Plath Project steering committee" has been formed to discuss ideas and formulate the general outline of plans to wisely use the funds for the stated purposes while strictly following the League's nonpartisan policy. The League does not support or oppose any candidate or any political party. The committee meets weekly.

**Some Leaguers were asking about the LWV and Immigration.** We received the following from LWVUS President Chris Carson today – and please know that more will be forthcoming.

The League is opposed to deportation of non-criminal undocumented immigrants.

The LWV supports cities, towns, counties and states that make a decision not to cooperate with federal deportation and enforcement actions that include non-criminal undocumented immigrants. Moreover, the Trump Administration's orders are of dubious legality.

It is simply wrong, and a perversion of the American system of justice, for the Executive Branch to refuse to obey federal court orders.

The LWV is opposed to discrimination, including discrimination in immigration, based on religion. The Trump Administration's orders appear to be targeted at Muslims and immigrants from majority-Muslim nations.

### **Downtown Committee Tour**

Join the Downtown Committee of the League of Women Voters in a tour of the Pacific Northwest University of HealthSciences on Tuesday, February 28 at 11:00 a.m.

We will meet in the lobby of Butler-Haney Hall, 200 University Way, Yakima WA 98901. Alaina Hull will be our guide.

Lunch will be available for purchase at the lunch kiosk immediately following the tour. Parking is plentiful, although you may need to walk some distance.

For more information, contact Mary Stephenson at 509-966-7692, or at [grandmeresgarden@earthlink.com](mailto:grandmeresgarden@earthlink.com).

### **Civic Learning Initiative Testimony in Olympia**

Ann Murphy, LWVWA President, joined a panel of other civic learning enthusiasts in presenting to the Senate K-12 Education Committee, Thursday, Jan. 26, on Bill # 5236 regarding the formation of a public private partnership to bring civic learning to six communities in the coming year. League, with our 100 years of a living civic lab, would be key volunteers in helping this happen. Citizen testimony as well as comments by Committee Chair Senator Hans Zeiger were all positive support. Follow, this bill and others in our Legislative Newsletter ([sign up here](#) if not already on the list).

**Save the Date!** The Kara Kondo Luncheon is scheduled for April 12, 12:00 noon at the Hilton Garden Inn, 401 E Yakima Avenue, 98901. Yakima City Manager, Cliff Moore will be the guest speaker. Cost for luncheon is \$20.

2017

## 2017 STRATEGIC PLAN FOR LWVWA SUSTAINABILITY

The League of Women Voters is nearly 100 years old, having been formed in 1919 after women were granted the right to vote. The League of Women Voters of Washington was formed in 1920. The upcoming Centennial provides an opportunity to develop strategies for sustainability into the future. This plan is intended to Make Democracy Work for All and is based on the following mission and role.

### **LWVWA Mission**

The League of Women Voters, a nonpartisan political organization, encourages the informed and active participation of citizens in government, works to increase understanding of major public policy issues, and influences public policy through education and advocacy.

### **Role of LWVWA Board**

The role of the Board is to work in concert with the LWVUS to achieve LWVUS goals and policies, to direct League political activities at the state level, and to facilitate and support local League work.

## GOALS & STRATEGIES

### **Increase League Impact**

- Develop a robust external League communication plan
- Increase civic and issue education
- Enhance voter services
- Enhance advocacy outcomes affecting public policy
- Motivate attitudes toward the value of civic involvement
- Build stronger relationships with League allies and partners

### **Facilitate Local League Work**

- Help local Leagues increase membership and new leadership
- Increase diversity of ethnicity, age, gender and socio-economic status at all levels of League
- Support on-going training and exchange of ideas
- Support local League fund development

### **Strengthen Organizational Capacity**

- Consider reorganization of the LWVWA non-profit structure
- Hire additional staff
- Develop necessary funding to achieve League goals
- Invest in technical support needed to support state and local Leagues
- Develop and implement short- and long-term communication plans
- Establish policies and procedures needed to assure organizational effectiveness and continuity

FROM the LWVUS -  
*Some Advocacy on National issues*

**Invitation to a Webinar: The Case for Pricing Carbon (NEW) ★**

As the evidence of accelerated climate change and its impact on society mounts, there is an increasing sense of urgency to find solutions. Join a webinar hosted by the LWVUS [Price on Carbon Steering Committee](#) to learn how putting a [price on carbon](#) works and why scientists, economists and world leaders view pricing carbon as an essential strategy for reducing greenhouse gas emissions. [RSVP](#) to join us on February 21, 2:00-3:00 pm EST, for an insightful and informative presentation by internationally renowned science historian and author, [Dr. Naomi Oreskes](#). For more information, please contact Eleanor Revelle, Chair, LWVUS Climate Change Task Force, at [er@revelle.net](mailto:er@revelle.net).

**League Opposes Use of Congressional Review Act to Repeal Public Protections (NEW) ★**

The League joined [a letter](#) to Capitol Hill urging Congress to table Congressional Review Act (CRA) resolutions of disapproval, which would harm American workers, consumers, and families. CRA resolutions do more than just strike down vital safeguards; they also block agencies from ever again issuing “substantially similar” regulations without express authorization from Congress. As a result, Americans could lose dozens of critical health, safety, pocketbook and environmental protections.

**League Joins Letter in Support of DACA (NEW) ★**

The League joined [a letter](#) with the Leadership Conference on Civil and Human Rights and other groups in support of the Obama Administration's 2012 executive action on "Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA)." The action puts in place common sense and compassionate measures for immigrants who were brought to this country as children, have grown up here, and cannot rationally be blamed for their lack of legal immigration status. If President Trump moves forward with his vow to overturn the action, he would disrupt the lives of 750,000 immigrants and their families across the country.

**League Calls on U.S. House to Keep Key Elements of the ACA (NEW) ★**

The League sent [a memo](#) to the U.S. House of Representatives urging them to not disrupt the health coverage of millions of Americans. The League strongly urged House members to ensure that a full replacement plan for the Affordable Care Act is in place before repealing any of its elements.

From LWV National –  
*Making Democracy Work Campaign*

**Grants Available: 2017 New Citizens Voter Registration, Applications Due 2/17 ★**

The League of Women Voters Education Fund (LWVEF) is pleased to announce a 2017 New Citizens Voter Registration Project. As part of this project, LWVEF will award pass-through grants to state and local Leagues to undertake voter registration activities at naturalization ceremonies for new citizens. Applications are due February 17, 2017. [To apply, please see the application guidelines here.](#)

*President's Message ----*

In my last President's message I said the Women's March on January 21 was not a League-endorsed event. I based that on the LWWUS position at that time. Here's a letter to State League Presidents from the LWWUS President

**Friday December 16, 2016**

**Subject: Women's March**

Thank you for the feedback that we have received from members both thanking the LWWUS Board for the decision to not officially participate in the Women's March on Washington and for those who have requested the Board reconsider the decision. There is tremendous passion and strong sentiments on both sides of this issue.

As leaders for our respective League organizations, we need to consider our participation through multiple lens – activists, influencers, and organizational leaders. As organizational leaders, protecting our brand and assets, as well as considering the safety of members and staff must be at the forefront of our thoughts. We have continued to monitor the media as well as engage in conversations with leaders of other organizations. Based on the information now available, we note:

- The national march organizers have obtained a permit and have engaged three veteran organizers of color into their leadership ranks.
- While the Women's March on Washington developed organically in the spirit of sisterhood post-election, there is a very real perception problem with the timing of this march. The day after inauguration, this event will be viewed by many as a protest against the incoming Trump administration. Because the League is a non-partisan organization, and we never endorse or oppose specific candidates, we cannot risk appearing to be an anti-Trump organization.
- March organizers have yet to release any details of safety or security measures being taken to protect the women and men who plan to march. The issue of risk and the seriousness of liability for organizations who elect to officially participate in the march is something we all need to consider especially since the national organization (s) planning the march are not visible. The issue of risk and liability is an issue for all Leagues.
- Organizers have not shared the names of any organizations officially partnering and participating in the festivities. While they promise to include nationally recognized advocates, the League has not been officially approached in any capacity.

We believe the intentions of the Women's March organizers are good – and we do not discourage private citizens from taking part in this event. At this time, LWWUS continues to monitor the plans for this event but we will not officially participate in the Women's March on Washington nor should state and local Leagues officially participate. There are still too many unanswered questions to help us safeguard our brand, assets, and the safety of members, volunteers and staff.

Chris Carson, President/Chair

League of Women Voters of the United States

League of Women Voters Education Fund

1730 M Street, NW, Suite 1000, Washington, DC 20036

Facebook: @leagueofwomenvoters Twitter: @LWV

[www.lwv.org](http://www.lwv.org) | Making Democracy Work™ | [www.VOTE411.org](http://www.VOTE411.org)

In mid-January the National Board changed their position and voted to participate officially in the DC march. They warned state and local Leagues who planned to participate in sister marches carrying signs and identifying League, to check their insurance policy to be sure they were covered. Because of the insurance issue some local Washington Leagues opted to participate in the Seattle march. All members were encouraged to participate on their own as involved citizens.

Like it or not, true or not, there are many who believe the Women's March was an anti-Trump (and therefore partisan) protest, not simply a show of solidarity. People in Yakima County may believe that. Future activities associated with the Women's March may be seen by Yakima people as part of an anti-Trump protest (a partisan activity). LWVYC is a nonpartisan organization.

The success and longevity of the League for almost 100 years is based on the perception that the League is a NONPARTISAN organization. This perception is essential to our credibility when we advocate issues, work for citizen education and for an informed electorate; not to mention encouraging citizens to vote. Let's make sure that in Yakima everything about the LWVYC follows the League's nonpartisan policy.

Lynne

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If you know someone who is interested in Joining the Leagus of Women Voters of Yakima County, please forward their contact information and we'll send materials.

Phone: 509-452-3419

Email: [yakimacountylwvyc@gmail.com](mailto:yakimacountylwvyc@gmail.com)

PO Box 723

Yakima, WA 98907

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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

***Happy Valentine's Day!***