

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

Becky Scholl

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

Summer recess, No Board meetings in June or July

July 8, 10 AM, Board Retreat at home of Criss Bardill

League Conversations will resume in September

LWVYC Annual Meeting

On May 22, the LWVYC Annual Meeting was held at the Orchard Park Senior Living facility. A delicious dinner was catered by El Porton and enjoyed by the approximately 20 members in attendance.

Activities included an informative presentation from the League committee working on plans for the Plath Memorial donation, outlining the work underway to effectively use these funds for the purposes established by the donor family.

The Nominating Committee Chair, Jackie Hertel, presented the slate of officers which were elected unanimously. (see listing on left).

Following the election of new officers, Criss and Cynthia led a discussion inviting those present to identify goals and issues they would like to see the LWVYC pursue. A vote was taken, and passed, to undertake a local study of homelessness.

Please note, this is an informal report, and not the official Minutes of the meeting, which will be presented at the next 2018 Annual meeting.
Criss Bardill

**2017 LWVWA State Convention, June 2 – 4, 2017 - Seattle, WA
“DEMOCRACY: MUST BE PRESENT TO WIN”**

By Lynne Baxter

The state convention was incredible. It was wonderful seeing fellow Leaguers from around the state and the speakers, workshops and topics covered were inspirational and informative. Here are a few of the highlights:

Roll Call of Local Leagues. Each League had 2 minutes to share their highlights since last convention. Here are a few –

Seattle League: Ballots and Baristas. At 5 different Starbucks locations, League members were available to discuss local ballot measures with those interested. Starbucks would like to expand this partnership to other communities and Leagues nation-wide.

Tacoma-Pierce: held a forum series on Civility, Incivility and Civil Disobedience. You can watch the premier forum “Civility, Whose Role Is It Anyway?”, which was held on February 4, at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LveGSmnVJJs&feature=youtu.be>.

Mason County tried a new format for their candidate forums. Instead of the usual debate format with a moderator, they used a “speed dating model” with the candidates each seated at their own table. Then small groups of attendees went from table to table, in timed sessions, to speak with the candidates and ask them their own questions.

Kittitas had a series of affordable housing forums talking about the county’s crisis in moderate-income housing and increased density.

We met Jessica Rohloff, LWVUS Board Member, and liaison to LWV Washington. She is a League member in Minnesota.

Featured Speakers:

Josh Parker, Instructional Specialist at North Thurston Public Schools. Josh spoke about Civic Education, Civic Literacy, Political Efficacy – Voters should understand the rolls of the offices for which they are voting.

He referenced the book You Are More Powerful Than You Think by Eric Liu who is also the founder of Citizen University, dedicated to a “Stronger Culture of Citizenship”

www.citizenuniversity.us

Josh's goal is to move from "Political Passivity to Political Empowerment". To do that Civics Education must provide

- 1. A knowledge of how government works.**
- 2. An understanding of how we can influence government.**
- 3. A belief that our actions can make a difference.**

Josh also provided what he believes are the Pillars of Effective Civic Education

- 1. Access to power.**
- 2. Placed-based education – relate to issues identifiable issues – local, school, town, county, state**
- 3. Make it relevant to the student - how it impacts their lives and community.**
- 4. Make education inquiry-based. Don't just tell students or people the information. Explore the "big questions".**
- 5. Make it disciplinary DO CIVICS, don't just learn about it.**

One semester of Civics Education is required in Washington state

Friday night- Noah Purcell, Washington State Solicitor General who argued Washington state's case against the President's travel ban before the Ninth Circuit. As Washington's Solicitor General, Purcell is responsible for representing the State of Washington in cases before the U.S. Supreme Court, as well as assisting the attorney general in appellate cases in state and federal courts.

Saturday Awards Celebration - Sahar Fathi, the Division Director for Leadership Development at the Department of Neighborhoods in the City of Seattle. Previously, she served as the Policy, Strategy, and Programs Lead for the Seattle Office of Immigrant and Refugee Affairs, as a legislative aide to Seattle Councilmember Mike O'Brien, and as a legal clerk for the International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda. Fathi has worked on immigrant and refugee issues for 10 years, both internationally and nationally, receiving numerous awards in Seattle. She has served as adjunct faculty at both Seattle University and the University of Washington School of Law and held numerous positions. Fathi is a co-founder and past president of the Middle Eastern Legal Association of Washington, as well as the founder of its Legal Clinic – the first Middle Eastern Legal Clinic in the country. She spoke about the difference between "equality" and "equitable".

UPDATES ON NEW TOOLKITS APPROVED AT 2015 CONVENTION

The Citizens United Toolkit is up and running. It's quite impressive and can be downloaded and modified/customized by Local Leagues so they can do forums/presentations locally. <http://www.lwvwacutoolkit.org/> The Voter Turn-out Toolkit/ Get the Vote Out is still a work in progress.

AWARDS

Evergreen Award: Dorris and Wayne Martin

Dorothy Roberts Award: Linnea Hearst

Good Citizen Award: Starbucks

(The local host League gets to nominate someone in their community to be the recipient of this award. In 2015 at the convention here is Yakima we gave this award to La Casa Hogar.)

ELECTION OF OFFICERS

Ann Murphy was elected for another 2-year term as President. For a complete list of officers and directors, please go to the website.

WORKSHOPS

There were many excellent workshops. I especially liked those dealing with the state's redistricting. When PDFs are distributed, I'll forward them.

2020 WILL BE THE 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF LEAGUE. IF YOU ARE INTERESTED IN HELPING WITH THE CELEBRATION LET CRISS OR CYNTHIA KNOW.

If you know someone who would like information about the League or is interested in joining, please forward their contact information and we'll send materials, or invite them to complete and mail the form below..

Phone: 509-452-3419
Email: 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

VOTER INFORMATION WEBSITES

Secretary of State
www.secstate.wa.gov/

LWVWA- Vote 411
www.vote411.org

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