

# 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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Vol.19, No 7

## 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:* Criss Bardill  
*Secretary:* Karen Pilon  
*Treasurer:* Janis Luvaas

## Board of Directors

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Marilyn Shearer  
Elaine Smith

*Voter Editor:* Susan Kaphammer  
949-0127; [susanlkap@gmail.com](mailto:susanlkap@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

Monday, August 5, Board Meeting, 4:00 at LWVY  
Office, Unitarian Universalist Church of Yakima, 225 N.  
2<sup>nd</sup> St., Yakima.

Tuesday, July 24, Kids Voting USA Training, 10 AM –  
1:30 PM at UUC office (see info in “Notes from Criss”)

### *Save the Date!*

Monday, September 16: “Civil Conversations in an  
Angry Age,” address by Humanities Washington  
speaker David Smith. See info in “Notes from Criss”  
below. Time and place to be announced later

## Notes From Criss

We have some exciting opportunities and events  
coming up this summer and fall!

The Clallam County LWV is going to be in town  
July 24 to train us on the **Kids Voting USA** program. We  
hope to begin providing this program in area schools,  
beginning this fall with the Sunnyside School District.  
Check out these links and let me know if you are  
interested in attending the training and being involved in  
this great program:

[https://my.lwv.org/washington/clallam-county/kids-  
voting-usa-program-sponsored-education-committee](https://my.lwv.org/washington/clallam-county/kids-voting-usa-program-sponsored-education-committee)  
and <https://kidsvotingusa.org>

On September 16, we are hosting a Humanities  
Washington event with David Smith speaking on “**Civil  
Conversations in an Angry Age.**” Check out the  
program at: [https://www.humanities.org/speaker/david-  
smith/](https://www.humanities.org/speaker/david-smith/) Please note, our event is not yet on their  
calendar as we are still working on location, etc., but the  
date is firm. This will be a no-charge public event.

*(continued on Page 2)*

## Notes from Criss *(continued from Page 1)*

We are seeking co-sponsorship from other non-partisan organizations. If you have any suggestions for us, please contact Rhonda Hauff, who is taking the lead on this: [rhondahauff@live.com](mailto:rhondahauff@live.com).

We also intend to host a Yakima City Council **Candidate Forum** after the Primary and before the General Election, and we are considering doing the same for one of the Lower Valley cities. We may also do a candidate **Meet and Greet**; we'll keep you posted. As our Voter Services Chair, Elaine Smith will be heading this up and if you would like to help please let her know at [augusta03@earthlink.net](mailto:augusta03@earthlink.net).

Finally, I have this little dream of our local League **participating in the Sunfair Parade** on Saturday, September 21. We are approaching the 100 year anniversary of the League of Women Voters, as well as the passage of the 19<sup>th</sup> Amendment giving women the right to vote (both in 2020). I'm imagining us carrying our banner plus some individual signs about these anniversaries, get out the vote, etc., and maybe a few of us dressed like suffragettes? Sound like fun?? I'll be bringing this to the Board at our August 5<sup>th</sup> meeting, but would love to hear from you prior to that if you would be in support this activity: [cbardill@gmail.com](mailto:cbardill@gmail.com).

Our new Leadership Team is up and running – I am grateful for their interest, ideas, and willingness to step up to leadership positions.

## Large Turnout Informed and Entertained about “Fake News” at June League Conversation

Spencer Hatton, former Yakima Herald-Republic city editor and columnist, local author and humorist provided a lively talk on the topic of “Fake News” for 65 community members, the largest audience to date for a League Conversation.

Hatton put our current concerns about misinformation and deliberate distortions of news into a historical context, showing that the problem has always been a part of public discourse. He provided examples, including several in Washington State such as the “toppling of the Space Needle” and the “Bigfoot video.” Several audience members won \$5 bills by correctly identifying situations and quotes.

In the current atmosphere of an overwhelming flood of information and rampant misstatements, Hatton emphasized the importance of investigative journalism. He encouraged everyone to consider news, whether from print, broadcast, or social media sources thoughtfully and with a questioning attitude. Hatton offered a handout of four reliable online fact checkers that help people sort out fact from fiction. Excerpted from the handout:

**SNOPEs:** [www.Snopes.com](http://www.Snopes.com) Check their shortcuts to the most popular or more recent content, or search their archive of “thousands upon thousands of fact checks and investigations... Snopes has been independently verified by the International Fact-Checking Network (IFCN), which lists its core principles as: “non-partisanship and fairness, transparency of sources, transparency of funding and organization, transparency of methodology, and open and honest corrections policy... Research materials used in the preparation of any fact check are listed so that readers who wish to verify the validity of our information may check those sources for themselves. Just click the “Sources” button at the bottom of an article.”

### **THE WASHINGTON POST’S FACT CHECKER:**

[www.washingtonpost.com/news/fact-checker](http://www.washingtonpost.com/news/fact-checker) “The purpose of this website, and an accompanying column in the Sunday print edition of The Washington Post, is to ‘truth squad’

**League Conversation** (continued from Page 2)

the statements of political figures regarding issues of great importance, be they national, international or local... We also seek to explain difficult issues, provide missing context and provide analysis and explanation of various ‘code words’ used by politicians, diplomats and others to obscure or shade the truth.” Statements are rated as “True” or assessed a range of “Pinocchios” from one for “some shading of the facts” to four for “whoppers.”

**FACTCHECK.ORG:** [FactCheck.org](http://FactCheck.org) is a project of the Annenberg Public Policy Center of the University of Pennsylvania. “We are a nonpartisan, nonprofit ‘consumer advocate’ for voters that aims to reduce the level of deception and confusion in U.S. politics. We monitor the factual accuracy of what is said by major U.S. political players in the form of TV ads, debates, speeches, interviews and news releases. Our goal is to apply the best practices of both journalism and scholarship, and to increase public knowledge and understanding... We primarily focus on presidential candidates in presidential election years, and on the top Senate races in midterm elections. In off-election years, our primary focus is on the action in Congress... We seek to devote an equal amount of time reviewing claims by Republicans and Democrats.”

**POLITIFACT:** <https://www.politifact.com/truth-o-meter/> “Fact-checking journalism is the heart of PolitiFact. Our core principles are independence, transparency, fairness, thorough reporting and clear writing. The reason we publish is to give citizens the information they need to govern themselves in a democracy.” The relative accuracy of statements earns one of six ratings, ranging from “True” to “Pants on Fire – The statement is not accurate and makes a ridiculous claim.”

**MEMBERS CORNER:** Remember this ongoing feature provides an opportunity for members to submit brief announcements they would like League members to see. They should be non-partisan, non-profit making, and personally involve the member. Just call or email your Voter Editor at 949-0127 or [susanlkap@gmail.com](mailto:susanlkap@gmail.com)





**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: \$60 \_\_\_\_\_ \$40 \_\_\_\_\_ \$25 \_\_\_\_\_ Other \_\_\_\_\_

Your Sustaining gift will help support our local activities.

**\*Please Note Annual Dues Distribution: National: \$32**

**State: 19**

**LWVYC retains: 9**

**\$60**

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

VOTER INFORMATION WEBSITES

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

LWVWA- Vote 411  
[www.VOTE411.org](http://www.VOTE411.org)

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