

THE VOTER



This Newsletter published by and for the League of Women Voters of Yakima County
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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

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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 noon on the 2nd
Thursday of each month at the League office.
All members are welcome to attend.

Calendar

Thursday, April 12, noon, **LWVYC Board** meeting, League office at YUU Church. Board meetings are open to all members.

Tuesday, April 23, 5:30-7 PM, *League Conversations*, Jon Smith, Exec. Director of Yakima County Development Assoc., on **Yakima Valley Trends**. (See following article)

Wednesday, April 18, noon, **Kara Kondo Luncheon** (see following article and flyer).

Save The Date: Tuesday, May 22, 5:30 PM, **LWVYC Annual Meeting**. Details to follow.

Notes From Cynthia and Criss

Please RSVP soon if you haven't yet for the Kara Kondo luncheon scheduled for April 18 and encourage friends and family to do the same. Guest Speaker Monty Mills is the developer doing the old Nordstrom building, and has other projects under way or in the works for downtown Yakima. We think you will find him an interesting source of information and insight about our downtown development.

The 2018 TRY They Represent You Yakima County Political Directory has been published and distributed. If you belong to an organization or work at a location that you think would like to have these available for distribution, please call Criss at 965-2351. We always print more than what we need for our established distribution list.

NEW MEMBERS

Dori Peralta Baker: Dori is very active in the Asian Pacific Islanders Alliance and the Mabuhay Foundation, both of which work to preserve the heritage, history and culture of Filipino-Americans of the Yakima Valley, and the betterment of the Filipino-American community. Dori also supports many other causes including Noah's Ark.

Cheri Kilty: Cheri Kilty moved to Yakima in August 2017 to lead the YWCA. Cheri moved to Washington State in 1999 from Indiana to work with nonprofit agencies providing programs and services to women and children impacted by domestic violence and homelessness. She loves connecting people together that have likeminded interests, and mentoring young women as they navigate their work worlds.

Newer members have been invited to a League BFF (Brief, Fun and Friendly) meet and greet at 2nd Street Grill on Thursday, April 5. We welcome the opportunity to get to know our newer members and hope we will have ample reason to hold such events in the future.

LWVYC COMMUNITY ACTIVITIES

The LWVYC has been out and about at several events recently.

Westly United Methodist Church was the site of an International Women's Day event on March 10. Many organizations of interest to women were on hand to meet others and to pass out material relevant to their organization. The League was represented by Karen Pilon and Kathy Lambert. Criss Bardill attended as did Ellie Lambert. Following a time of browsing different tables, a fine luncheon was served and entertainment enjoyed by everyone.

Criss attended the Women 2 Women Celebration of International Women's Day at Heritage College on March 17 and was given the opportunity to promote our Karo Kondo Luncheon.

On April 3 and 9, are doing voter registration at Heritage College, and on the evening of April 18 Criss and Elaine Smith will do voter registration at the Sunnyside Mayor's Forum.

April League Conversations

Jonathan Smith, Executive Director of Yakima Valley Development Association, will give us a virtual tour of the website **Yakima Valley Trends** on Tuesday, April 24 at 5:30 PM in the Anne Ingham Room, Unitarian Universalist Church, 225 N 2nd ST (alley entrance).

Yakima Valley Trends is a collection of wide a range of information including economic vitality, education, health and housing presented in an easy-to-use format.

Report on the "League Conversation" on March 27, 2018

Guests Speakers: Wendy Christensen, YRBWEP Manager, Bureau of Reclamation, Pacific Northwest Region Columbia-Cascades Area.

Lisa Bernanke, Leadership Development Manager, Kittitas County, Trout Unlimited.

Attendees: Cynthia Garrick, Criss Bardill, Karen Pilon, Joyce Dennison, Milly Stenejhem, A.J. Cooper, Betty Van Ryder, Elaine Smith, Becky Scholl, Kitty Jubran.

Yakima River Basin Water Enhancement Project (or YRBWEP) is a complex, multifaceted project whose objective is to ensure the sustainability of the water supply in the Yakima River Basin and, therefore, the sustainability of the economy of the three counties of south central Washington: Kittitas, Yakima and Benton.

Stakeholders in the project include 17 city governments, the three county commissioner boards, all 5 irrigation districts, 15 conservation organizations, federal and state elected officials, the Confederated Tribes and Bands of the Yakama Nation, the Bureau of Reclamation and the Washington Department of Ecology.

Historically, the project began in 1977, with the adjudication of surface water rights among the Yakama tribe, the Washington State Dept. of Ecology and the Bureau of Reclamation. Thereafter, the increasing number of drought years led to the recognition among federal, state and local stakeholders that something had to be done if the river basin was to continue to sustain agriculture and improve fish passage as required by the declaration of salmon as an endangered species. A trigger for the YRBWEP project was the failure of the Black Rock dam proposal in 2009. According to Wendy, everything that has been spent on the multipronged YRBWEP project over the last 8 to 10 years has not come anywhere near the cost estimate of the Black Rock proposal (which, itself did not have the approval of the Yakama nation to use Columbia River water).

YRBWEP has continued since 2009 because it requires consensus among stakeholders represented on the YRBWEP Workgroup Committee, and because (in my opinion) every stage of the project has been open and available for public scrutiny. YRBWEP brings together advocates of the agricultural economy and advocates of fish passage restoration. Both communities must answer to the needs of the entire ecosystem or neither achieve economic and ecological sustainability in the Yakima River Basin. Wendy and Lisa credited the leadership of Dan Silver, consultant, as a facilitator and Urban Eberhart, Manager of the Kittitas Reclamation District, an enthusiastic supporter.

What the YRBWEP has accomplished in a continuing coordination among stakeholders is extraordinary. Wendy remarked that the California Sacramento River Basin agricultural area has not been able to address their critical need for water sustainability because currently their "stakeholders are at war." And, the project may be

internationally extraordinary. Wendy Christensen (with the newly appointed Director of Ecology, Thomas Tebb) recently returned from an international conference on water sustainability in Brazil, where she presented YRBWEP to an international gathering.

The project is complex and multi-faceted. Seven projects throughout the basin “all move forward together” and “all required continuing compromise” among the stakeholders. Wendy presented detailed overviews of three projects:

1) the Lake Kachess to Lake Keechelus pipeline and the new juvenile fish release construction at Kachess, 2) the Cle Elum Pool Raise and Fish Passage and 3) the Teanaway Forest land exchange and watershed restoration. Lisa Bernanke, of Trout Unlimited, gave us an overview of the volunteer work in riparian restoration of the Manastash Creek and its tributaries in the Upper Valley.

Detailed information about current restoration projects is available on the YRBWEP website. Meeting notes from the public meetings of the YRBWEP Work Group will give you some insight into the opposition to various aspects of the project. Under “Acquavella Adjudication” you can find additional detailed background information on the forty-year adjudication of water rights in the basin. Background on various aspects of YRBWEP can be found on other websites: Yakama Tribe Fish Restoration, Teanaway Forest restoration and recreation projects, the Washington State Department of Ecology and the Bureau of Reclamation for Eastern Washington.

Elaine Smith

LWWWA Council 2018

The League of Women Voters of Washington's biannual gathering is coming up this June in Richland, Washington. Council is open to members and nonmembers and it's a great chance to meet with other civic-minded citizens here in Washington State. Please let me know if you would like to attend. I have registered and would be happy to drive others.

Criss, 965-3251

[Early Bird registration is open. Please join us!](#)

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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>

