

2020 Annual Meeting

League of Women Voters
of Benton & Franklin Counties

Thursday, May 21, 2020
at Your Home

ZOOM Meeting - 6:00 p.m.
Host will be available at 5:45 p.m.

You will need:
either your computer, laptop, iPad or smart phone
this Annual Meeting Packet
your Membership Notebook

and, still wear your League name tag!

Basic Parliamentary Procedure:

Parliamentary procedure is necessary for the orderly conduct of a meeting. However, the agenda and order of business as outlined here are based on the League tradition of allowing as much free debate and interchange of ideas as possible with a minimum need for parliamentary maneuvering.

Business is conducted by acting on motions. A motion must be:

- 1) made
- 2) seconded
- 3) stated by the presiding officer after which it may not be withdrawn without the consent of the assembly
- 4) debated or amended if debatable or amendable
- 5) put to a vote
- 6) the result of the vote is declared by the presiding officer

A subject is introduced by a **main motion**.

While a main motion is being considered, **parliamentary motions**, which affect either the main motion or the general conduct of the meeting may be made. The main parliamentary motions are:

- 1) **to amend** (debatable, amendable)
- 2) **to refer** to a committee for study or redrafting (debatable, amendable)
- 3) **to postpone** to a stated future time (debatable, amendable)
- 4) **to table** (not debatable, requires a future motion to “take in from the table”)
- 5) **the previous question** (not debatable, assembly votes immediately on whether to close debate on the original motion)
- 6) **to reconsider** (usually debatable, must be made by someone who voted on the prevailing side)
- 7) **point of order** (member feels procedures are not being followed and asks the presiding officer to rule)
- 8) **questions:**
 - * **parliamentary inquiry** (asks advice as to correct procedures)
 - * **point of information** (requests facts)
 - * **question of privilege** (seeks a change for comfort or convenience)
- 9) **to adjourn** (usually not debatable).

Proposed Agenda:

Call to Order

 Introductions

 Credentials Report

 Adoption of Agenda and Rules

 Announcements

Treasurer's Report

Other Reports

Upcoming Virtual National Convention

Upcoming Virtual State Council

Presentation of 2020-2021 Recommended Local Programs

Presentation of 2020-2021 Non-Recommended Local Program Suggestions

Presentation of Recommended 2020-2021 Budget

 Adoption of 2020-2021 Budget

Report of the 2019-2020 Nominating Committee

 Nominations from the Floor

 Election of 2020-2021 Officers, Directors, and Nominating Committee

Presentation of Recommended Bylaw Amendments for 2020

 Adoption of Recommended Bylaw Amendments for 2020

New Business

1.

2.

3.

Directions to the Board

Adjourn

Nominating Committee Report

The 2019-20 Nominating Committee is continuing the policy to ask for only a one-year commitment from elected officers and board members. With that in mind the 2019-20 Nominating Committee presents **the following candidates to hold a one-year term in the position they are being elected to:**

Officers: (1-year term)

President: Beverly Johnson-Torelli

1st V P: Diane Molleson

2nd V P: Polly Parton

Secretary: Mary Shaw

Treasurer: Shirley Sonnichsen

Board of Directors: (1-year term)

Brooke DuBois

Ann Roberts

Lora Rathbone

Marilyn Perkins

Janet Nail

JoAnne Dimond

Up to six additional Board members may be appointed by the Board

2021 Nominating Committee: (1-yr term)

Judy Golberg, Chair

Sandra Hendry

Susan Leckband

Two additional members of the Nominating Committee will be appointed by the Board at its first meeting following the Annual Meeting.

Submitted by the 2019-20 Nominating Committee: Judy Golberg, Chair; Shirley Sonnichsen, Mary Shaw, Bev Hunter, Christine Grantham

Local Program:

The Board is not recommending a formal study that would lead to a new or updated position for the coming year. If we want to adopt a study that might lead to a new position that we could act on locally, it must be adopted at the annual meeting. A list of current positions can be found in your membership handbook.

We are free to hear from speakers, go on tours and have discussions on any topic that our members are interested in pursuing. A topic that we have hoped to learn more about is **homelessness and affordable housing in our two counties. Water, including the**

rivers and ground water are always of interest to our members. **Updates on Hanford clean-up and the work of the National Lab** are important issues for our members to be aware of, especially when we interact with Leagues from around the state who might want to know our perspective on these issues. **Mental Health**, including treatment for the homeless and people in jail is also of interest to our members. Other topics of interest expressed are:

Criminal Justice System (adult & juvenile) Improvements to Mass Transit

Potential water shortages

Agriculture & Farm Workers in our area

Affects of Climate Change in our area **Re-conveyance of the Columbia River.**

It may be hard to plan too far ahead until we know what restrictions may apply to meetings. The Covid-19 pandemic and its impact on our two counties, including financial repercussions both personal and community-wide, will be important for all citizens to understand.

Membership Committee Report

During the 2019-2020 year, the League of Women Voters of Benton and Franklin Counties gained ten new members. Current membership is 60. Membership training was combined with program planning in January this year.

The membership committee has successfully moved all membership handbook papers except the membership list from the Membership Handbook to the website www.lwv-bf.org Current membership lists are emailed to all members intermittently. Now all members have the choice of having a paper membership handbook or accessing the information digitally on the website. We strive to welcome new members; they enhance our League.

Janet Nail, Chair

Proposed Bylaw Amendments for 2020

Article II, Section 2. Change title from “political policy” to read “**Non-Partisan Policy**”.

Article III, change title from “Types of Membership” to “**Membership**”.

Section 2. Membership: ~~The membership of the LWVBF shall be composed of voting members and associate members.~~
a. ~~**Voting Members.**~~ Persons at least 16 years of age who join the LWVBF shall be voting members of this League, LWVWA, and LWVUS; (1) individuals who live ~~in~~ within an area of a local League may join that League or any other local League; (2) those who reside outside the area of any local League may join a local League or shall be state members-at-large; (3) those who have been members of the League for 50 years or more shall be life members excused from the payment of dues
b. ~~**Associate Members.**~~ ~~All others who join the LWVBF shall be associate members.~~

Article V, Section 4. Insert sentence prior to last sentence regarding “notice”: Meeting(s) may be held electronically during times of emergencies or as determined by the board.

Article VI, Section 1. Insert sentence prior to last sentence regarding “notice”. Annual meeting may be held electronically during times of emergencies or as determined by the board.

Article IX, Section 2. (a) Dues Last sentence: The Board shall determine policy with respect to ~~pro-rating dues for those joining after December 31.~~ February 1.

c. **Students:** The dues for a member who is a student shall be free unless otherwise indicated by LWVUS. ~~equal to one-half the annual dues amount determined at the annual meeting.~~—A student is defined as an individual enrolled either full or part-time in an accredited institution.

Judy Golberg, Chair

THE YEAR IN REVIEW

Once upon a time when the world was “normal,” the 2019-2020 year in League was a whirlwind of activities and social gatherings, all in the name of democracy. However, since time stood still, it seems like we have lived a lifetime in just a few (short?) weeks. Here is a summary and a reminder of an outstanding year:

LWVWA STATE CONVENTION: JUNE 6-9 brought the opportunity for several of our members to attend State Convention entitled “Looking Back, Moving Forward” in Tacoma at the Murano Hotel. Participants included four delegates: Shirley Sonnichsen, JoAnn Bengtson, Toyoko Tsukuda and Heather Cunningham, as well as State Parliamentarian, Judy Golberg. They had the chance to mingle with fellow local and statewide League members, lobbyists, who advocate for League issues, and Chris Carson, the President of the National League. An apt workshop was “Making Democracy Work from Voter Registration to Get Out the Vote (GOTV) and Beyond” presented by Amy Peloff from LWVWA. Amy also discussed social media as a communication tool. The **League of Women Voters New Media Facebook Group** is one example. Voter Registration, including placement of drop boxes, was discussed. The process of the caucus on Civil Discourse took place in real time. A presentation that resonated with all of our attendees was from Rob Curley, Editor-in-Chief of the *Spokesman Review*. He is a dynamic innovator and was able to bring the newspaper from the bottom of the heap to fifth from the top in subscriptions. He has been described as breathing new life into the free press and as a disseminator of reliable news. Emphasizing the braver, more aggressive suffragists was a slide show entitled “Well-Behaved Women Seldom Make History,” a perfect preview for the 2020 Centennial year. Singer/songwriter Linda Allen inspired the group to sing along to traditional suffrage songs. In further connecting the League’s present with the past, Michelle Duster, the great granddaughter of Ida B. Wells, discussed Wells’ legacy and all the ways her contributions to the country are recognized and honored, not only as a woman, but also as a woman of color. Current notable women, who spoke from the heart regarding the fight to preserve democracy, included Tacoma’s Mayor, WA Supreme Court Justice, Congresswomen and others. “Making Democracy Work: Show me the Money” was a workshop on Public Disclosure and included Kim Wyman, our Secretary of State. Kim Bradford, Communications and Outreach Director for the Public Disclosure Commission (PDC), spoke to the fact that the Future Voter Program now allows 16 and 17-year olds to preregister to vote before they turn 18 per HB 1513, which was effective on July 1, 2019. Washington public schools were required to allow 16-year olds to pre-register on January 16, “Temperance and Good Citizenship Day,” or the proceeding Friday. Future voters can preregister any time after their 16th birthday until 8 days before the first election after their 18th birthday. Kim Wyman offered advice on ways to keep students engaged, as well as the need to protect minor children’s data. Regarding political advertising and financial disclosures, she stated, “The public’s right to know of the financing of political campaigns and lobbying and the financial affairs of elected officials and candidates far outweighs any right that these matters remain secret and private.” The website is: www.pdc.wa.gov “Pink Tea” was served in honor of the suffragists, which included pink lemonade with pink frosted

cookies. The business meeting on Sunday included electing Lunell Haught as the new LWVWA President and JoAnn Bengtson as a State Board member.

The New Program of Work Adopted: (1) Education on Public Bank (2) Update on Washington State's shorelines (3) Toolkits on range of election methods (4) Concurrence to update language in "Gun Safety" in current position

Some Directions to the Board: (1) Remove financial barriers to attendance at League events (2) Collaborate with Rob Curley at *The Spokesman Review* (3) Meetings and cooperation between leagues on civil discourse (4) Save democracy (5) Have robust discussions on Per Member Payment (PMP) and membership (7) Long-term stable financial resources

Challenge: How to embrace Membership Engagement and Leadership Development (MELD)/Diversity, Equity and Inclusion (DEI) and invigorate the League's numbers, impact and funding.

It should be noted that Judy Golberg consistently promotes DEI in our Voter and participates in the webinars. Others are encouraged to join her. Thanks also go to Judy for her work on our Facebook and website.

CANDIDATE FORUMS: Once again Kay Ottem and Marilyn Perkins did an excellent job of spearheading the primary and general election Candidate Forums in Kennewick, Richland, Pasco and Benton City, occurring in JULY and OCTOBER. The races included various City Council and School Board positions in Richland, Kennewick, Pasco and West Richland, as well as Port of Benton Commissioner and Mayor in Benton City. The moderators were Tracci Dial from KNDU, Cody Proctor from KEPR and our own League member, Susan Leckband. The venues included the Kennewick School District Administration Building, the Tri-Tech Skills Center, the HAPO Stage at John Dam Plaza, the Richland Library, the Pasco Police Training Center and the Benton City Community Center. Tracci Dial from KNDU, Jon Funfar from the City of Pasco, Mike Charbonneau from the City of Richland, and Mike Greif and Ed Dailey from Tri-Tech did the recording at the various locations for public viewing. Thanks go to all of our members who helped with questions, timing, organizing, setting up, etc. You are so appreciated.

VOTER SERVICE OPPORTUNITIES: Beginning in AUGUST 2019 and continuing through FEBRUARY 2020, our members offered voter registration at various events/locations, including WSU-Tri-Cities, Kamiakin and Legacy High Schools, Three Rivers Retirement Center, CBC Civic Education Day (21 people registered), Harvest Fest and the Community Day of Hope Resource Fair, as well as the Mid-Columbia Mastersingers performances in Richland and Prosser. At several of these events, Census 2020 was also promoted. On NOVEMBER 5, our members offered voter registration at the Naturalization Ceremony in Richland at the Federal Building. Since it was also general election day, no auditors were present. Participating members at one or more these events included JoAnn Bengtson, Marilyn Perkins, Val Moffitt, JoAnne Dimond, Polly Parton, Ann Collette, Christine Grantham, Lora Rathbone, Alice Allison, Ruth

Giese, Shirley Sonnichsen, Judy Blair, Ann Roberts, Beverly Johnson-Torelli and Peter Bengtson.

ANNUAL PICNIC AND CENSUS 2020: In honor of Equality Day, a picnic was held on AUGUST 22 at Howard Amon Park in Richland. The featured speakers were LoAnn Ayers of United Way and Marisol Lister of Planned Parenthood. They explained the details of Census 2020 and enlisted the League's help to promote it. Subsequently, several of our League members, including Lora Rathbone, Polly Parton and Chris Grantham joined United Way committees to become more involved and informed. Also, at a League Board Meeting, Brissa Perez, a partnership specialist for the U.S. Census Bureau, presented a PowerPoint regarding Census 2020. (Initially, the LWVBF had collaborated with United Way and several other organizations in successfully obtaining a grant, which United Way was able to use for advertising, fliers, publications, etc.)

PRESENTATIONS: On SEPTEMBER 12, the League collaborated with former Tri-Cities news anchor Christine Brown and others in sponsoring a speaker from Humanities Washington. Philosopher and religious studies professor, David Smith, spoke on the topic, "Civil Conversations in An Angry Age." Dr. Smith has a PhD in Religious Studies and currently teaches at the Osner Lifelong Learning Institute at the University of Washington. The thought-provoking and well-attended event filled the Mid-Columbia Library on Union in Kennewick.

TABLE TALKS: SEPTEMBER 17- **Perspectives from the Kennewick Teachers' Strike** featured League member and former Kennewick Education Association President, Mary Shaw. The venue was Tagaris Winery and was arranged by Polly Parton and Heather Cunningham. It was an informative and enjoyable evening. NOVEMBER 7— This **follow-up on the general elections** took place at Bob's Burgers in Kennewick, thanks to JoAnne Dimond, and included a discussion over lunch led by Marilyn Perkins. A Table Talk on Advocacy occurred on FEBRUARY 6 at Marilyn Perkins' house. Although it was a small group in attendance, Lora Rathbone, our Advocacy Liaison, and JoAnn Bengtson, who attended Lobby Day on January 21, led a lively discussion on bills being considered during the 2020 legislative session. Participants also enjoyed a soup potluck.

ANNUAL CHRISTMAS PARTY: Christine Grantham graciously hosted the Christmas Party on DECEMBER 8 for the second year in a row. Her beautifully decorated house again showcased numerous Christmas trees that were absolutely gorgeous! Theresa Richardson, the retired Habitat for Humanity Executive Director, and a colleague gave a highly informative talk. The delicious treats and social interaction were enjoyed by all of our members and guests.

NEW MEMBER ORIENTATION AND PROGRAM PLANNING MEETING: On JANUARY 11, Polly Parton generously welcomed everyone to her home. Members provided food items for brunch. Janet Nail prepared materials for a new member orientation. Program Planning was led by Marilyn Perkins. "Making Democracy Work" was the overarching theme.

ADVOCACY: JoAnn Bengtson represented us at Lobby Day on JANUARY 21. Lora Rathbone is our Advocacy Liaison. Our League had written a letter supporting **SB 6610 - Eliminating Advisory Votes**. Unfortunately, it did not make it out of committee. However, some other important bills passed during this legislative session, which ended MARCH 12.

HB 2421-Election Costs Reimbursement: Since this bill requires the state to pay a proportional cost for each state election, the League believes that it will provide a significant and stable funding source to county election officers. They will be able to use some of that money for election security and voter outreach. Also, some counties have not produced a local voters' pamphlet due to lack of funds. This bill specifically requires the production of that pamphlet.

SB 6152 Election Financing: Requires that only entities, including corporations, who certify that less than 50% of their stock is owned by foreign nationals, can make political contributions.

ESB 6313-Increasing Opportunities for Young Voters: This may provide an additional opportunity to work with WSU-Tri-Cities. Official League thank you letters were written to Senator Brown and Representatives Boehnke and Klippert for supporting **HB 2421** and **SB 6152**.

CENTENARY COMMEMORATION OF THE 19TH AMENDMENT AND THE FORMATION OF THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS: On FEBRUARY 9, League members were invited to a reception at Allied Arts, along with the Treble Choir of the Mid-Columbia Mastersingers. The occasion was to honor the female artists who participated in the Herstory Art Show and present the awards to the winners. Our members Christine Grantham, Ann Collette and Susan Kreid were honored to serve as art jurors for the show. Christine did a wonderful job of serving as the Mistress of Ceremonies. We also had the opportunity to share the history and mission of our local League. Thanks go to Marilyn Perkins for organizing the FEBRUARY 14 luncheon at the CG Public House to celebrate the League's 100th Birthday! It was a chance to share Governor Inslee's Proclamation, learn interesting details about the League's history, honor women like Sacajawea and Virginia Hall, celebrate with cake, balloons, and Valentine treats, as well as visit with fellow League members and honor each other. On FEBRUARY 21, 22, and 23, the League collaborated with the Mid-Columbia Mastersingers, along with the Rolling Hills Choir (Sweet Adelines) during their "*Votes for Women, Voices for All*" at the Players Theater in Richland and the Princess Theater in Prosser. League participated in each of the Pre-Concert shows which included Marilyn Perkins sharing our national history. In the lobby, our members manned a table that offered information regarding voter registration, the 2020 TRY's, the handout that Lora Rathbone created, etc. Others sold concessions to donate to our high school essay contest for the winners. A highlight was the silent auction for the picture Polly Parton painted replicating the picture on the program. She did a great job, and it sold for \$70, also for the essay contest. On Friday FEBRUARY 21, Allied Arts invited the League and the Mastersingers to a reception after the night's performance. Appetizers and beverages

were included, as well as a beautiful League 100th Birthday cake provided by JoAnn Bengtson. (LWVBF is featured in the April 10 edition of This Week in League.) In honor of International Women's Day, League was invited to the Center for Sharing in Pasco on MARCH 5, to make a presentation. Beverly Johnson-Torelli spoke in celebration of four local women. The Treble Choir from the Mastersingers also performed. During all of these events, many of our League members wore hats and/or sashes and some dressed in full regalia as Suffragists. Besides those who were mentioned above, participants in one or more of these events included Janet Nail, Shirley Sonnichsen, Judy Blair, Ann Roberts, JoAnne Dimond, Alice Allison, Peter Bengtson, Chuck Torelli and Diane Molleson. Other members participated as audience members, and it is appreciated. Plans for the Centennial Banquet on August 8 will be updated later.

CIVICS EDUCATION: This group gave a successful presentation to Ryan McCord's class at Kamiakin on MARCH 6. Richland High is pending. If it occurs this school year, it will be a Zoom presentation. Those who are involved include Lora Rathbone, Janet Nail, Marilyn Perkins, Polly Parton and JoAnn Bengtson.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR: Thanks to Marilyn Perkins and Bree Bowen, a letter from the League appeared in the *Tri-City Herald* celebrating the 100th anniversary of women gaining the right to vote through the passage of the 19th Amendment. It was well received and can be read in the February 26 issue of the TCH or the March addition of the LWVBF Voter.

ESSAY CONTEST: Janet Nail and Val Moffitt are making the essay contest "Your Vote is Our Future" happen. It is open to Pasco, Kennewick and Richland high school students. Essays are due on May 15.

THANKS: Thanks to Kay Ottem and Diane Molleson for putting together this Annual Meeting packet, especially as our first-ever virtual production.

2019-2020 Presidents—JoAnne Dimond and Beverly Johnson-Torelli

LWV-BF PROPOSED 2020-21 Budget

Income	2019-20		2020-21		
Dues for 2020-21 (Reg Mbr)	55 @ 75	\$ 4,125	60 @ 75	\$ 4,500	
Dues for 2020-21 (SIH)	5 @ 35	\$ 175	6 @ 35	\$ 210	
Contributions	\$ -	\$ 1,650	\$ -	\$ 3,050	
Member Contributions		\$ 650		\$ 650	
Non-Member Contributions		\$ -		\$ -	
Reserves - Savings		\$ -		\$ -	
Reserves - Convention		\$ 1,000		\$ 2,400	
Other		\$ 3,425		\$ 10,750	
Service Fees		\$ -		\$ -	
Fund Raisers		\$ 500		\$ -	
Publications		\$ -		\$ -	
Table Talk; 100th Anniversary		\$ 1,500		\$ 10,000	
In-Kind Contributions (Member)		\$ 500		\$ 750	
In-Kind Contributions (Non-Member)		\$ 925		\$ -	
		\$ 9,375		\$ 18,510	
Expenses	2019-20		2020-21		
Operating Costs		\$ 640		\$ 575	-
Meeting Facilities		\$ 100		\$ 100	
Incorporation Fee		\$ 10		\$ 10	
PayPal Fees		\$ -		\$ 25	
Post Office Box Rental		\$ 130		\$ 140	
Web Site Creation/Maintenance		\$ 400		\$ 300	
Board and Administration		\$ 275		\$ 300	
Donations (Meeting rooms, church)		\$ 100		\$ 100	
Public Relations		\$ -		\$ -	
Board & Administration		\$ 125		\$ -	
Sunshine Fund		\$ -		\$ -	
President's Materials		\$ -		\$ 100	
Treasurer's Materials		\$ 50		\$ 100	
Convention and Workshops		\$ 3,960		\$ 4,000	
National Convention		\$ 3,210		\$ 2,400	
State Convention/Council		\$ 750		\$ 1,500	
Workshops		\$ -		\$ 100	
Membership Fees		\$ 2,576		\$ 2,754	
PMP - LWVUS (Regular Members)	48 @ \$32	\$ 1,536	51 @ \$32	\$ 1,632	
PMP - LWVUS (Students, SIH)	5 @ \$16	\$ 80	6 @ \$16	\$ 96	
PMP - LWVWA (Regular Members)	48 @ \$19	\$ 912	51 @ \$19	\$ 969	
PMP - LWVWA (Students, SIH)	5 @ \$9.5	\$ 48	6 @ \$9.5	\$ 57	
Member Services		\$ 800		\$ 10,175	
Recruitment & Membership		\$ 50		\$ 50	
Programs: Events, 100th Anniversary		\$ 625		\$ 10,000	
Annual Meeting		\$ 100		\$ 125	
VOTER		\$ 25		\$ -	
Educational Activities		\$ 1,075		\$ 656	
TRY		\$ 925		\$ 531	
Voter Service		\$ 50		\$ 75	
Educational Support/Local School Programs		\$ 100		\$ 50	
Action		\$ 50		\$ 50	
		\$ 9,375		\$ 18,510	