

## **2021 Annual Meeting**

League of Women Voters  
of Benton & Franklin Counties

Thursday, May 20, 2021  
at Your Home

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

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

It would be good to wear your League nametag!

## 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- 3) stated by the presiding officer after which it may not be withdrawn without the consent of the assembly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

Upcoming Virtual State Convention

Presentation of 2021-2022 Recommended Local Programs

Presentation of 2021-2022 Non-Recommended Local Program Suggestions

Presentation of Recommended 2021-2022 Budget

    Adoption of 2021-2022 Budget

Report of the 2020-2021 Nominating Committee

    Nominations from the Floor

    Election of 2021-2022 Officers, Directors, and Nominating Committee

Presentation of Recommended Bylaw Amendments for 2021

    Adoption of Recommended Bylaw Amendments for 2021

New Business

1.

2.

3.

Directions to the Board

Adjourn

## **Nominating Committee Report**

The 2020-21 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 2020-21 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  
**1<sup>st</sup> V P:** Diane Molleson  
**2<sup>nd</sup> V P:** Polly Parton  
**Secretary:** vacant  
**Treasurer:** Shirley Sonnichsen

**Board of Directors:** (1-year term)  
**Ann Roberts**  
**Sandra Hendry**  
**Lora Rathbone**  
**Wendy Espinosa**  
**Janet Nail**  
**JoAnne Dimond**

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

**2022 Nominating Committee:** (1-year term)  
**Christine Grantham, Chair**  
**Shari Gasperino**  
**Marilyn Perkins**

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

Submitted by the 2021 Nominating Committee: Ann Roberts, Marilyn Perkins, Sandra Hendry, Susan Kreid and Chair Judy Golberg

## Local Program

In January, our membership was invited to a “program planning” Zoom session to review ideas for state and local programs. State issues were forwarded to the State committee. Those in attendance at both the board meeting and the January session were invited to indicate their preference to consider a full study, update an existing position, or provide educational opportunities. From the responses:

**The Board is recommending that the 2021-2022 program of work focus on Making Democracy Work, with civics and voting education for students and community groups as a priority.**

Non-Recommended items for study but under consideration for educational programs are:

- Preservation of parks and maintenance/ creation of open spaces
- Support Friends of Badger Mountain in creating Little Badger Mountain Preserve, to preserve the ridgelines
- Riverfront usage
- Redistricting
- Study how to classify nuclear waste (grouting vs. vitrification)
- Sustainable Communities
- County Government
- Local education and student health needs
- Civil discussion (civility)
- Growth and housing developments in our two counties
- Availability of low income housing

— *Judy Golberg*

## Social Media, Webpage, Email

The goal for our Facebook page is to provide a non-partisan selection of articles, reminders having to do with upcoming events or voting, and interesting historical facts related to Black History month, Women’s History month, Tri-City DEI and national occasions. This year we included the videos from candidate forums that were very well received by the community and the notices for the Mastersinger events related to the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the suffragette movement.

Our League does not have a Twitter account because I am not willing to follow it. I do use my personal Twitter account to re-tweet LWV announcements.

Our gmail account can be accessed by a few board members. The Contact list is updated as the membership list is updated. We have shared Drive and a YouTube channel related to our gmail account. As time goes on, we can post more videos on the YouTube channel. The March 2021 DEI Table Talk was recorded and shared with a link to the shared Drive. It was too large to be posted on YouTube. By sharing the link, no one has access to other information on the shared Drive but can view the video.

Webpage: [lww-bf.org](http://lww-bf.org) For the past 2-3 years our webpage has been using the MyLO platform. Shirley Sonnichsen and JoAnne Dimond have been learning to add items to the site. There is so much more we could be doing with this webpage if someone would take the time to learn. Our page is updated at least once a month. Please take the time to review what our webpage has now. If you wonder how to access our newsletter, *The Voter*, it is there. The Bylaws or past studies are there. Calendar of upcoming events is there.

I am asking for other League members to step up and take on the responsibility for one or more of these electronic communication processes. I realize it has been at least 10 years that I have been handling these responsibilities so it is time for me to retire. Please see Bev Johnson-Torelli if you are interested. Training is available.

— *Judy Golberg*

### **Diversity, Equity and Inclusion (DEI) Committee**

Members: Christine Grantham, Sabiha Khan, Beverly Johnson-Torelli, Cielo Castor, Alexia Estrada, Ruvine Jimenez, Laura Pearson and Judy Golberg.

This committee was created in the fall of 2020 and met to discuss how to introduce Diversity, Equity and Inclusion (DEI) training to our local League members. DEI has become one of two Policies that all Leagues in the country must adhere to.

Committee members attended DEI webinars and training and asked presenters if it would be possible to have them present to our League. Sabiha contacted Rev. Rick Matters of the Spokane Diocese and St. Paul's Episcopal Church in Kennewick to ask if he would be willing. He was, at no fee! A Table Talk was scheduled for March 11, 2021 with local individuals who shared a personal story of how they had been treated as a person of color or a person of religious-diverse faith. Their stories stirred our hearts and created the setting to introduce Rick Matter's 3-part series on Racism. This series will be scheduled over the next three months.

Further training will be planned. As Ruvine shared, "We don't know what we don't know until we do the work." Members are always welcome to join the committee.

— *Judy Golberg*

### **Membership Committee Report**

During the 2020-2021 year, the League of Women Voters of Benton & Franklin Counties increased membership by 19. We gained 22 new members and lost 3 members. Current membership is 78. Membership Orientation was given by a Zoom presentation this year. Several League members gave short presentations explaining different aspects of the organization: Making Democracy Work, Advocacy, Table Talk, Dues, Observer Corps, TRY's, Voter Newsletter, Voter Service and Civics Classes.

The documents in the Membership Handbook, except for the membership list, are available on the LWVBF website [www.lww-bf.org](http://www.lww-bf.org) Current membership lists are emailed to all members intermittently. 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*

## **Voter Registration and Education**

During September and October 2020, several League members provided information and registered people to vote at the Richland and Kennewick Food Banks, as well as a few other outdoor locations. School supplies were given away to entice people to the table. A few other members wrote articles to the *Tri-City Herald* to educate and encourage eligible Washington citizens to vote. Judy Golberg kept the Facebook page active with voting information.

— *Lora Rathbone*

## **Action Chair Report**

The LWVWA is a nonpartisan political organization that encourages informed and active participation in government and influences public policy through education and advocacy. Our League encourages members to respond to requests from LWV for national policy and LWVWA for state policy.

The 2021 Washington State legislative session ran from January to April 25. As action chair, I forwarded the LWVWA Legislative Newsletter weekly with action specific to our districts, to members who asked to receive the updates. Action included calling or sending an email to our legislators, or simply signing a letter written by the LWVWA. Two priorities for democracy passed: HB 1078 — voting rights restoration for those with a prior felony, and SB 2015 — making unofficial ballot drop boxes a crime.

— *Lora Rathbone*

## **LWVWA Civics Education Inventory**

A group of LWV civics education committee chairs from throughout Washington met to compile the civics education activities of all the Leagues in the state. The goal was to provide ideas and resources for each other. Response was high: 81% reported with a total of 160 activities. The LWVWA Inventory of Civics Education Activities is available on our website under Publications.

— *Lora Rathbone*

## **Civics Education Committee**

The LWVBF Civics Ed committee switched gears last spring and gave our presentation on Zoom to Theresa Buczek's Richland High School's class. Topics included the Centennial, what we do as a League, voting rights history and voter suppression, branches of government, the census, and motivating students to vote. We wore our costumes and it was very successful. We have been working on making a recording to have available for the schools. In May we will be offering our Civics Ed presentation on Zoom to classes at Kamiakin, Richland and Pasco high schools. A brochure was made and printed and is ready to be handed out to teachers. We also plan to have a recording or a presentation for the summer teacher workshops.

— *Lora Rathbone*

## **The Year in Review: 2020 – 2021**

**MAY:** The **Civics Ed Committee** began the 2020-2021 year by making a presentation via Zoom on May 28 for Theresa Buczek’s class at Richland High School. It was in celebration of the 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the 19<sup>th</sup> Amendment. The presenters wore vintage hats and purple and yellow “Votes for Women” sashes. That was followed in September by a Zoom visit to Ryan McCord’s class at Kamiakin High School. Voter registration is generally part of the classroom presentation to students, as those 16 and 17 years old are now eligible to register in preparation for voting at age 18. Lora Rathbone began to meet with the State Civics Ed affinity group and has brought back many ideas for our League to consider. Currently, teachers are requesting Zoom presentations in May or June. Also, a recorded presentation is being made so that teachers may show it at any time as their classroom schedules allow. Michele Pirotte made a wonderful brochure to promote the LWVBF Civics Ed presentations. Besides Lora and Michele, other members of the committee now include Janet Nail, Marilyn Perkins, Polly Parton, Wendy Espinosa, Christine Grantham, JoAnne Dimond, Mary Shaw and Bev Johnson-Torelli.

**JUNE:** The **LWVWA STATE COUNCIL** on May 29 – June 4 was to be held in Yakima, but the Kittitas League hosted it virtually instead. Likewise, the **LWV NATIONAL CONVENTION** on June 22-27 became a virtual event rather than League members traveling to Washington DC. JoAnn Bengtson and Beverly Johnson-Torelli were our delegates. Many interesting topics were covered, such as Ranked Choice Voting and teaching Civics Ed via legal cases. As part of the state League, Judy Golberg cannot be a delegate for LWVBF but was in attendance. However, her advice and counsel are appreciated. In addition, many of our members attended as observers, which is an advantage of the virtual world since there are no costs for travel and hotels. Links were provided to the recorded sessions in case someone was not able to attend.

**JUNE-AUGUST:** Even though the Centennial Celebration Banquet was canceled due to Covid-19, the student Essay Contest entitled “*Your Vote is Our Future*” continued with the persistence of Christine Grantham and Janet Nail. Others who contributed greatly included Valerie Moffitt, JoAnne Dimond, Bree Bowen, Marilyn Perkins, Diane Molleson and Peggy Gregory. The quality of the essays was excellent. Thanks to community donors, each winner from the Kennewick, Richland and Pasco School Districts was awarded \$1200, with the runner-ups receiving \$500. Much appreciation went to the judges, who donated their time. They were comprised of League members and community members with expertise in writing and editing. In a symbolic gesture to the title of the essay contest, the virtual Awards Ceremony for each district was held on August 4, the date of the Primary Election. The students, their families, LWVBF and community members were invited to attend. Lunnell Haught, LWVWA President, gave the introductory remarks. A school or district representative addressed their students as well. The top winners were also invited to enter a video contest. The entries were fabulous!

**JULY-AUGUST-SEPTEMBER-OCTOBER:** The Richland Kiwanis Club requested a **presentation detailing the work of the LWVBF**. Janet Nail and Marilyn Perkins kindly obliged. Also in July, the **Primary Candidate Forums** were done virtually in collaboration with Northwest Public Broadcasting (NWPB), the City of Pasco and the City of Richland. The collaboration continued for the virtual **Candidate Forums/Debates held in September and October**. The state office of Treasurer was featured, as well as positions in the 8<sup>th</sup>, 9<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup> Districts. Appreciated for their efforts were the NWPB-WSU staff: Kanale Rhoden — Producer, Matt Loveless – Moderator, and Tom Hungate – KTNW TV. Thanks also went to our long-term



partners: Jon Funfar – City of Pasco, and Mike Charbonneau – City of Richland. Ruvine Jimenez did a great job of being the voice of the League and presenting the introduction. Behind the scenes making it happen were Kay Ottem and JoAnne Dimond who contacted the candidates, and Marilyn Perkins who spearheaded the quest for questions. Other committee members and League members contributing ideas and/or questions were Judy Golberg, Sabiha Khan, Leona Hassing, Alice Allison, JoAnn Bengtson, Ann Roberts and Lora Rathbone. Our local League also submitted questions to VOTE 411, to use for the candidates running in our two counties.

**OCTOBER:** **Taco ‘Bout Voting** on October 24 was organized by Alexia Estrada in Pasco. Her group offered voter registration to citizens on the last day it could be done without needing to go directly to the auditor’s office. As an enticement, free tacos were offered from a food truck to anyone who attended. The event was held in the parking lot of a tax business, which was across the street from a ballot box. When someone went to put their ballot in the box, a big production ensued with a march and a megaphone. Alexia invited the League to set up a booth detailing our activities. Lora Rathbone took the lead in organizing it. Christine Grantham, Marilyn Perkins, Bev Johnson-Torelli, Chuck Torelli, Sabiha Khan and Zahra Roach all participated. In October and November, Lora organized **Voter Registration at the Richland and Kennewick Food Banks**. Several other League members and community members also helped.

**NOVEMBER:** The **General Election** was held on November 3. On November 12, our traditional **Table Talk** was held as a debriefing. Miriam Kerzner did a wonderful job of facilitating the discussion. Thanks go to Marilyn Perkins for organizing it.

**DECEMBER:** The next **Table Talk was on Homelessness** on December 17, organized by Polly Parton. Chariss Warner, Ministries Director at the Tri-City Union Gospel Mission, gave an interesting and informative presentation. The holidays were celebrated virtually with the members dressing up for the occasion. Also in December, training was offered for giving testimony regarding **redistricting**. Currently, Ruvine Jimenez is working with Yakima and their **Speak Up School**.

**JANUARY:** A successful **New Member Orientation** was organized by Janet Nail, Membership Chair, with a second one to be held May 1. A **Program Planning Meeting** was organized by Marilyn Perkins and Judy Golberg and held on January 23. The LWVBF will not be doing any new studies this year but will focus on Civics Ed and Diversity, Equity and Inclusion. They do not qualify as studies but are the primary focus of our current energy.

**FEBRUARY:** The **League’s 101<sup>st</sup> Birthday** was celebrated with a **Table Talk on Legislative issues** on February 4, organized by Lora Rathbone. Kathy Sakahara, LWVWA Democracy Advocacy Team Chair, was the speaker and helped prepare us for the upcoming **Lobby Week**, which was held February 22-26. During that week, Janet Nail, JoAnn Bengtson and Durga Victorine spoke for the League while meeting with 8<sup>th</sup> District legislators Brad Klippert and Matt Boehnke. Judy Golberg, Shirley Sonnichsen, Lora Rathbone, Carla Chiotti, JoAnne Dimond and Beverly Johnson-Torelli were also present for one or both of the meetings. Christine Grantham, Leona Hassing and Karen Ringwood spoke for the League while meeting with 16<sup>th</sup> District legislators Skyler Rude, Perry Dozier and Mark Klicker. Lora Rathbone organized everyone and scheduled the meetings. In the meantime, many LWVBF members attended sessions on different legislative topics hosted by the League. Several of the bills supported by the League did pass.

**MARCH:** The **Diversity, Equity and Inclusion (DEI)** Committee presented a **Table Talk** on March 11. A panel of League and community members shared their stories, which were often

heart-wrenching. Committee members Judy Golberg, Sabiha Khan and Christine Grantham gave the introductions. Rick Matters, Episcopal Priest for Racial Equity, was the facilitator.

**APRIL:** On April 22 and 29, Rick Matters continued facilitating **DEI discussions** through the use of videos. The **first planning meeting for the 2021 Candidate Forums/Debates** was held on April 28.

**MAY:** The May 6 **Table Talk**, organized by Lora Rathbone, featured Marty Gibbons, LWVWA **Climate and Energy Issues Chair**. The **last scheduled video** with Rick Matters will be on May 27.

**THROUGHOUT THE YEAR:** Thanks go to Carol Larkin and Polly Parton for participating in Observer Corps. They have been keeping Richland and West Richland League members apprised of what's happening at their respective city council meetings. Polly Parton also has been meeting all year with the MELD pod #5 (Membership, Engagement, and Leadership Development) group, and reporting back to us.

**Thanks to all the Board members and others who have given their time to volunteer all year! It is so appreciated.**

For more information, go to the LWVBF website at [www.lwv-bf.org](http://www.lwv-bf.org) Thanks to Judy Golberg for maintaining the website, as well as our Facebook page.

— *Beverly Johnson-Torelli*  
*LWVBF President*

~~Strike out~~ means deletions. Underscored words are to be added.

Proposal Bylaws Amendments May 2021  
Submitted by Bylaws Committee Peggy Gregory and Judy Golberg

ARTICLE IV - OFFICERS

**Section 1. Election, Qualification, and Terms:** ..... (second sentence) They shall be voting members of the LWVBF and shall be elected for terms of ~~two~~ one years by the general membership at the annual meeting.

~~The president, second vice president, and secretary shall be elected in even numbered years. The first vice president and treasurer shall be elected in the odd numbered years. All officers, except the .....~~

ARTICLE V - BOARD OF DIRECTORS

**Section 1. Selection, Qualification, and Term:** (third sentence) The term of elected directors shall be for ~~two~~ one years, ~~with one half~~ to be elected .....

*Rationale: In order to find qualified officers and board members, the nominating committee offered one-year terms during a trial period. It is time to change the Bylaws to reflect this practice.*

ARTICLE VII - NOMINATIONS AND ELECTIONS

**Section 2. Suggestions for Nominations:** ..... (second sentence) Any member of this organization may submit suggestions in writing for nominations to the chair. Nominating Committee will ensure all efforts are made to provide a diverse, equitable, and inclusive slate of officers and Board.

*Rationale: To clarify and strive to have a more diversified leadership.*

ARTICLE IX - FINANCIAL ADMINISTRATION

**Section 2.**

c. **Students:** The dues for a member who is a student shall be free ~~unless otherwise indicated by LWVUS.~~

*Rationale: National League has permanently removed a fee associated with student members.*

ARTICLE XI - AMENDMENTS

These bylaws shall be reviewed annually and ....

The first three Articles of LWVBF Bylaws were updated to be in compliance with the LWVUS Bylaws as amended during the 2020 national convention.

LWV-BF PROPOSED 2021-22 Budget

<b>Income</b>		<b>2020-21</b>		<b>2021-22</b>	
Dues for 2021-22 (Reg Mbr)	60 @ 75	\$ 4,500	70 @ 75	\$ 5,250	
Dues for 2021-22 (SIH)	6 @ 35	\$ 210	8 @ 35	\$ 280	
<b>Contributions</b>	\$ -	\$ 3,050	\$ -	\$ 2,983	
Member Contributions		\$ 650		\$ 750	
Non-Member Contributions		\$ -		\$ 250	
Reserves - Ed Fund		\$ -		\$ 600	
Reserves - Savings		\$ -		\$ 1,383	
Reserves - Convention		\$ 2,400		\$ -	
<b>Other</b>		\$ 10,750		\$ 500	
Service Fees		\$ -		\$ -	
Fund Raisers		\$ -		\$ -	
Publications		\$ -		\$ -	
Table Talk		\$ 10,000		\$ -	
In-Kind Contributions (Member)		\$ 750		\$ 500	
In-Kind Contributions (Non-Mmbr)		\$ -		\$ -	
		\$ 18,510		\$ 9,013	
<b>Expenses</b>		<b>2020-21</b>		<b>2021-22</b>	
<b>Operating Costs</b>		\$ 575		\$ 840	
Meeting Facilities (incl Zoom)		\$ 100		\$ 200	
Incorporation Fee		\$ 10		\$ 10	
PayPal Fees		\$ 25		\$ 75	
Post Office Box Rental		\$ 140		\$ 155	
Web Site Creation/Maintenance		\$ 300		\$ 400	
<b>Board and Administration</b>		\$ 300		\$ 350	
Donations (Meeting rooms, church)		\$ 100		\$ 100	
Public Relations		\$ -		\$ -	
Board & Administration		\$ -		\$ -	
Sunshine Fund		\$ -		\$ 50	
President's Materials		\$ 100		\$ 100	
Treasurer's Materials		\$ 100		\$ 100	
<b>Convention and Workshops</b>		\$ 4,000		\$ 3,800	
National Convention		\$ 2,400		* \$ 2,700	
State Convention/Council		\$ 1,500		\$ 1,000	
Workshops		\$ 100		\$ 100	
<b>Membership Fees</b>		\$ 2,754		\$ 3,223	
PMP - LWVUS (Regular Members)	51 @ \$32	\$ 1,632	60 @ \$32	\$ 1,920	
PMP - LWVUS (Students, SIH)	6 @ \$16	\$ 96	7 @ \$16	\$ 96	
PMP - LWVWA (Regular Members)	51 @ \$19	\$ 969	60 @ \$19	\$ 1,140	
PMP - LWVWA (Students, SIH)	6 @ \$9.5	\$ 57	7 @ \$9.5	\$ 66.50	
<b>Member Services</b>		\$ 10,175		\$ 250	
Recruitment & Membership		\$ 50		\$ 50	
Programs: Events, 100th Anniversary		\$ 10,000		\$ 100	
Annual Meeting		\$ 125		\$ 100	
VOTER		\$ -		\$ -	
<b>Educational Activities</b>		\$ 656		\$ 500	
TRY		\$ 531		\$ 400	
Voter Service		\$ 75		\$ 50	
Educational Support/Local School Programs		\$ 50		\$ 50	
<b>Action</b>		\$ 50		\$ 50	
		\$ 18,510		\$ 9,013	
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