

2023 Annual Meeting

League of Women Voters
of Benton & Franklin Counties

Thursday, May 18, 2023

Meet at the **CG Public House**
(9221 N Clearwater Ave in the Amon Creek Room)

at **6:00 p.m.**
to socialize and place your orders

*Please **RSVP** for yourself and any guests **by May 16**
to Bev Johnson-Torelli at 509-521-0947 or SasJoh@aol.com*

Please bring an electronic or printed copy of this Annual Meeting Packet
and 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- 3) stated by the presiding officer after which it may not be withdrawn without the consent of the assembly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

Presentation of Recommended 2023 - 2024 Budget

 Adoption of 2023 - 2024 Budget

Report of the 2022-2023 Nominating Committee

 Nominations from the Floor

 Election of 2023 - 2024 Officers, Directors, and Nominating Committee

New Business

1. Presentation of Marilyn Perkins Scholarship Awards

2.

3.

Directions to the Board

Adjourn

Nominating Committee Report

The 2022-23 Nominating Committee is continuing the policy of asking for only a one-year commitment from elected officers and board members. With that in mind the 2022-23 Nominating Committee presents **the following candidates to hold a one-year term (May, 2023 – May, 2024) in the position they are being elected to.**

Officers

President:	Diane Molleson
1st Vice President:	Peggy Gregory
2nd Vice President:	Wendy Espinosa
Secretary:	Carla Chiotti
Treasurer:	Shirley Sonnichsen

Elected Directors	JoAnne Dimond
	Leona Hassing
	Janet Nail
	Polly Parton
	Lora Rathbone
	Karen Miller

Up to six additional Directors may be appointed at the June Board meeting.

2023-24 Nominating Committee

- 1. Ruvine Jimenez, Chair**
- 2. Judy Golberg**
- 3.**

Two additional Nominating Committee members may be appointed at the June Board meeting.

Immediate Past President	Beverly Johnson-Torelli
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Submitted by the 2022-23 Nominating Committee:

Christine Grantham, Chair	Carla Chiotti
Judy Golberg	Karen Miller
Ruvine Jimenez	JoAnne Dimond

Scholarship Committee

During the 2022 LWVBF Annual Meeting, two \$1000 scholarships were presented to high school students to honor Marilyn Perkins, a long-time member who passed away in 2021. The winners were selected by a panel of judges based on essays the students had written. These students had known Marilyn through her work with civic education in the local high schools.

A Scholarship Committee was formed in the fall of 2022 to continue presenting two \$1000 Scholarships to local public high school graduating students. Donations in Marilyn's name were made to the local League's Education Fund. To continue this program, Marilyn's husband, John, donated enough money to continue this scholarship program for an additional five years.

The Committee met, agreed to a simple set of criteria, an application form was created, judges were asked to assist in scoring the essays, school districts were contacted and announcements were made that these scholarships were available. It had been decided that any Benton or Franklin County public school graduating student could apply by submitting an application and attaching an essay that addressed what good citizenship means to the applicant or their personal pathway to good citizenship in a democratic society. At this time, the judges are working hard to score the essays. The winners will be announced and scholarships awarded at this year's Annual Meeting.

Committee members included Wendy Espinosa, Christine Grantham, Shari Gasperino, Bev Johnson-Torelli, Diane Molleson, Shirley Sonnichsen, Leona Hassing, Kirby Amacker, Bree Bowen, Peggy Gregory and Judy Golberg.

Judy Golberg / Peggy Gregory, co-chairs

Membership

The League of Women Voters of Benton and Franklin Counties currently has 85 members, including 8 students and 9 second-in-household. All new members have access to our League Handbook that includes our Bylaws, policies, and events on our website. We have developed a questionnaire so we can advise our new members about our volunteer opportunities and we can direct them to the committees that interest them most. Name badges are offered to all new members. We strive to welcome new members and give them the tools to become active members who will enhance our League.

Janet Nail

MELD (Membership / Engagement / Leadership / Development)

The MELD Network consists of representatives from LWVWA and all local Leagues. Using a system of Network Pods, a Network Coach hosts 60-90 minute virtual monthly meetings with representatives from 3-5 local Leagues and 1-2 LWVWA State Board liaisons. A typical agenda includes these topics:

- I Local League representatives sum up key accomplishments from the past month – especially those that they want to share broadly across the state
- II State League reviews reports, initiatives, news and requests
- III Coach facilitates discussion of Shur Fellow guidance
- IV Everyone listens, appreciates and shares

During 2022-2023, MELD meetings were held monthly with the following units: Clallam Co, Kitsap Co, Lewis Co, Thurston Co and Benton-Franklin Co, the Network coach and a LWVWA Board liaison. The year began with Polly Parton as our representative and Leona Hassing took over this position mid-year.

Leona Hassing

Highlights of the Year in Review 2022 – 2023

Thanks go to the many members whose contributions made the year a success, especially the officers, elected and appointed Board members, and all who participated in the various opportunities. (For a full review of any month, go to www.lwv-bf.org and click on Publications – you will see each month's VOTER listed.) If I have inadvertently left anyone out in this review, I apologize in advance.

2022

MAY: The first annual scholarship awards of \$1000 each in memory of Marilyn Perkins were given. The recipients were Arianna Caiceros and Cassia Vinci, both Richland High School students and student members of the League. It was wonderful that both of them had a connection with Marilyn.

The Civics Ed Committee, led by Wendy Espinosa and supported by Janet Nail, Lora Rathbone and Polly Parton, continued to hold regular meetings and give classroom presentations throughout the year.

Also throughout the year, Treasurer Shirley Sonnichsen, Secretary Diane Molleson, Membership Chair Janet Nail and VOTER Editor Peggy Gregory continued to keep the business-end of our organization running. In addition, Diane coordinated the production of the TRY's and organized them for distribution.

Polly Parton continued as our League representative for MELD (Mentor/Engagement/Leadership/ Development), initiated the LWVBF Book Club and reported

on the West Richland City Council through the Observer Corps.

CBC invited the League to do voter registration / education in May and October. Chris Grantham, Kelly Doyle, Karen Miller and Shirley Sonnichsen all helped with at least one of the events.

JUNE: Miriam Kerzner was our League's delegate to State Council, which was held in Everett. She was elected to the LWVWA State Board with MELD as her portfolio.

Chris Grantham organized a Table Talk on election security that became a very successful public discussion event entitled '*Is Your Ballot Secure?*' It was held at CBC. The Washington Secretary of State and the Benton and Franklin County Auditors were the speakers.

League members assisted the auditors with voter registration at the Naturalization Ceremony. It was held in person at the Federal Building in Richland for the first time in two years. Two more ceremonies followed in September and November. Others who helped along the way were Chris Grantham, JoAnne Dimond, Lynne Harrison, Kelly Doyle and Karen Miller. Chris was even interviewed by a local television station and asked to share League's perspective on voting.

Judy Golberg attended the LWVUS Convention in Denver as co-chair of the National Nominating Committee. Throughout the year Judy hosted our ZOOM meetings. She also managed the League's website and Facebook page with the help of Polly Parton and Lynne Harrison. Judy also attended trainings and contributed articles regarding topics like information vs. misinformation, League's definition of non-partisanship, etc.

Susan Leckband resigned as the League's Alternate Representative on the Hanford Advisory Board. She held the position for many years and served as chairperson for several of those years. Chuck LoPresti will take her place on the HAB in December of 2023.

JULY / AUGUST: Primary Election Candidate Forums were held. With a reprieve from Covid, Northwest Public Broadcasting recorded the candidates in person at the WSU Tri-Cities studio rather than on ZOOM and then broadcast them on NWPB. Kay Ottem, JoAnne Dimond, Ruvine Jimenez and Polly Parton all contributed to the success of the forums in July and again in October.

The paid Pilot Program for Ballot Observers was initiated by the Benton County Auditor's office. The League was invited to participate, along with representatives from the Republican and Democrat parties. Chuck LoPresti, who was the coordinator, was interviewed by Dori Luzzo Gilmour of NWPB. Besides Chuck, others who acted as observers for the primary, general or special elections included Chris and Richard Grantham, Susan Kreid, Polly Parton, Miriam Kerzner, Kelly Doyle, Janie Treadway, Carla Chiotti and Jane Sereda.

Ruvine Jimenez invited League members to join her at the Edgar Brown Stadium Courtyard in Pasco to offer voter registration / education to returning Pasco School District staff members prior to the start of the school year. Other League members attending included Wendy Espinosa and Chris Grantham. As a result of a connection Chris made that day with the cheer coach of the Pasco High School Dance Team, a video will be made in May 2023, with the students promoting voting. It can be streamed on our League's website and Facebook page, the county auditors' websites, and many other places.

SEPTEMBER: The Equality Day Picnic was held at the gazebo of the Mid-Columbia Library on Union Street in Kennewick. Presentations were given on the many ways to become involved in the League. New member Karis Alderson was welcomed.

Polly Parton assisted with voter registration / education at the Legacy High School Resource Fair, in Kennewick.

National Voter Registration Day was celebrated by offering voter registration / education at the Richland Food Bank. Lora Rathbone coordinated this event, as well as a similar event at the Richland Uptown Fall Festival. Others who assisted with these and/or other voter registration / education events throughout the year included Barb Puigh, Amedee Marx, Carla Chiotti, Polly Parton, Karis Alderson, Michelle Pirotte, Karen Miller, Kelly Doyle, Wendy Espinosa, Ruvine Jimenez, JoAnne Dimond, Lynne Harrison, Chris Grantham and Judy Golberg.

The Scholarship Committee was established, with Judy Golberg and Peggy Gregory serving as co-chairs. Committee members were Shirley Sonnichsen, Chris Grantham, Leona Hassing, Kirby Amacker, Wendy Espinosa, Diane Molleson and Shari Gasperino.

OCTOBER / NOVEMBER: The General Election Candidate Forums were again recorded in person at the WSU Tri-Cities studio and broadcast by Northwest Public Broadcasting.

League continued to participate in the Ballot Observer Program (*see July/August*) for the general election.

An election debrief was held at the Azteca Restaurant in Kennewick on November 10.

Leona Hassing took over from Polly Parton as the next MELD representative. Leona has also been involved with redistricting more than anyone else in our League.

DECEMBER: The LWVWA Virtual Action Workshop was held on ZOOM on December 10.

On December 11, Christine Grantham hosted the first in-person Holiday Party since Covid began. Superior Court Judge Norma Rodriguez and District Court Judge for Pasco Trinity Orosco were the speakers.

2023

JANUARY: After meeting in both December and January, our League came to consensus on the Shoreline Study and passed the results on to the LWVWA. Committee members Judy Golberg, JoAnne Dimond, Karen Miller and Shirley Sonnichsen facilitated the discussion. Other participants in the process included Leona Hassing, Carla Chiotti, Jane Sereda, Susan Kreid, Lora Rathbone, Polly Parton, Janet Nail, Elisabet Van Swam, Chris Grantham, Peggy Gregory, Diane Molleson, Shari Gasperino and Wendy Espinosa.

The 2023 Legislative session began on January 9. Lora Rathbone kept us informed about what was happening in the Legislature and encouraged us to engage in the process.

The LWVBF Program Planning meeting was held on January 14. The primary area of interest identified was homelessness. However, those participating did not adopt a Recommended Program Study for 2023-2024. Subsequently, several members attended the Badger Club program entitled '*Addressing Homelessness in Our Community*'.

FEBRUARY: Legislative Week took place on February 6-10.

The League's Birthday Celebration luncheon was held on February 17 at CG Public House in Kennewick. Theresa Roosendaal, Executive Director of B5 to Thrive (*aka the Family Learning Center*) was the speaker.

Our participation in the Ballot Observer Program continued for the Special Levy elections, and the program became permanent. League members will have the opportunity to volunteer during the 2023 election season and beyond.

Voter Registration/Education events were held on February 1, 21 and 23 at the REACH, Kamiakin High School in Kennewick and Chiawana High School in Pasco. Wendy Espinosa, Janet Nail, Judy Golberg, JoAnne Dimond, Lora Rathbone, Michele Pirotte and Chris Grantham participated in at least one of these events. As a result of the Teacher Resource event at REACH, Wendy and Janet presented a Civics Ed lesson at Bickleton High School.

MARCH: Our League reached consensus on the study entitled "*Decline of Local News and Its Impact on Democracy*", and passed on the results to the LWVWA by March 20. Judy Golberg and Peggy Gregory acted as facilitators. Chris Grantham, Carla Chiotti, Barb Puigh, Leona Hassing, Diane Molleson, Janet Nail and Kelly Doyle all participated in the consensus process.

APRIL: April 2 was the deadline for essays to be submitted for the Marilyn Perkins Scholarship Award. The writers of the top two essays will be presented \$1000 each along with a certificate commemorating Marilyn, at the Annual Meeting on May 18.

The Legislative session that began in January ended on April 23. Throughout the session, Lora Rathbone continued to encourage us to be engaged with the Legislature. She also reported on the progress of various bills along the way (*see her article in the May 2023 VOTER*). You will note that advisory votes have been eliminated. The League has advocated for this position for several years, since these votes had no impact except to appear on the ballot and confuse the voters. Finally, legislation has been passed to remove them.

MAY: On May 1, along with the Benton and Franklin County auditors, League members offered voter registration at the first Naturalization Ceremony held in 2023. Those participating were Kelly Doyle, Chris Grantham, JoAnne Dimond and Barb Piugh. Additional dates scheduled are September 18 and November 8.

The LWVWA Convention was hosted by our League (Benton/Franklin) and took place at the Holiday Inn Express in Pasco on May 4 – 7. *Read more about the State Convention in the June VOTER.*

*Beverly Johnson-Torelli
LWVBF President*

LWV-BF PROPOSED 2023-24 Budget

Income		2022-23		2023-24	
Dues for 2023-24 (Reg Mbr)	70 @ 75	\$ 5,250	75 @ 75	\$ 5,625	
Dues for 2023-24 (SIH)	12 @ 35	\$ 420	9 @ 35	\$ 315	
Contributions		\$ 3,133		\$ 4,054	
Member Contributions		\$ 500		\$ 500	
Non-Member Contributions		\$ 100		\$ 100	
Reserves-Ed Fund (Scholarships)		\$ 2,533		\$ 2,500	
Reserves - Savings		\$ -		\$ 954	
Reserves - Convention		\$ -		\$ -	
Other		\$ 500		\$ 2,100	
Interest from savings		\$ -		\$ 0.15	
Fund Raisers		\$ -		\$ -	
Publications; Video; TRY		\$ -		\$ 1,500	
<i>Table Talk</i>		\$ -		\$ 100	
In-Kind Contributions (Member)		\$ 500		\$ 500	
In-Kind Contributions (Non-Mmbr)		\$ -		\$ -	
		\$ 9,303		\$ 12,094	
Expenses					
Operating Costs		\$ 930		\$ 1,050	
Meeting Facilities (incl Zoom)		\$ 200		\$ 250	
Incorporation Fee		\$ 10		\$ 10	
PayPal Fees		\$ 50		\$ 50	
Post Office Box Rental		\$ 220		\$ 240	
Web Site Creation/Maintenance		\$ 450		\$ 500	
Board and Administration		\$ 475		\$ 425	
Annual Picnic		\$ 100		\$ 75	
Public Relations		\$ -		\$ -	
Board & Administration		\$ 125		\$ 100	
Sunshine Fund		\$ 50		\$ 50	
President's Materials		\$ 100		\$ 100	
Treasurer's Materials		\$ 100		\$ 100	
Convention and Workshops		\$ 2,600		\$ 3,100	
National Convention		\$ 1,500		\$ 2,000	
State Convention/Council		\$ 1,000		\$ 1,000	
Workshops		\$ 100		\$ 100	
Membership Fees		\$ 3,698		\$ 3,519	
PMP - LWVUS (Regular Members)	67 @ \$32	\$ 2,144	65 @ \$32	\$ 2,080	
PMP - LWVUS (Second-in-Household)	11 @ \$16	\$ 176	8 @ \$16	\$ 128	
PMP - LWVWA (Regular Members)	67 @ \$19	\$ 1,273	65 @ \$19	\$ 1,235	
PMP - LWVWA (Second-in-Household)	11 @ \$9.5	\$ 105	8 @ \$9.5	\$ 76	
Member Services		\$ 900		\$ 750	
Recruitment & Membership		\$ 250		\$ 150	
Programs: Events		\$ 500		\$ 500	
Handbook		\$ -		\$ -	
Annual Meeting		\$ 100		\$ 100	
VOTER		\$ 50		\$ -	
Educational Activities		\$ 650		\$ 3,200	
TRY		\$ 500		\$ 700	
Voter Service		\$ 50		\$ -	
Educational Support/Local School Programs		\$ 100		\$ 2,500	
Action		\$ 50		\$ 50	
		\$ 9,303		\$ 12,094	

Budget 2023-24.xlsx

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