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From the President

JoAnn Bengtson

Snowmageddon has dissolved, and the League is still intact and ready to usher in spring activities at last! There are multiple local and statewide meetings to attend. Please join us! Participation is critical for our continuing success as a voice for democracy, voter literacy, and voter participation. The League is better because of you.

Learn About League

Janet Nail

New members and people interested in League activities are invited to a Saturday morning coffee at the home of Janet Nail on **April 6 at 10 am**. Information about the various programs to be offered in the 2019-2020 year will be presented. Come to greet new members plus meet people interested in joining the League. (Address is 135 Meadow Hills Drive, Richland, and phone number is 509-546-1467.)

Table Talk on April 9

Lora Rathbone

We will learn the status of some of the bills the League supports at our April 9 Table Talk. The following people have agreed to cover bills on these topics—Democracy: JoAnn Bengtson; Education, Housing and Homelessness: Polly Parton; Education: Ruvine Jimenez; Environment: Lora Rathbone; Health Care: Marilyn Perkins; Gun Safety: Diane Molleson. Topics still available are Criminal Justice and Adequate Revenue.

The Table Talk will be held at Round Table Pizza (1769 Leslie Road, Richland) at 6 pm on Tuesday, April 9.

April 2019

Officers

President:

JoAnn Bengtson

1st Vice President:

JoAnne Dimond

2nd Vice President:

Janet Nail

Interim Secretary:

Polly Parton

Treasurer:

Shirley Sonnichsen

Past President:

Polly Parton

Voter Editor:

Diane Molleson

Elected

Directors:

Beverly Johnson-Torelli

Danette Keegan

Diane Molleson

Lora Rathbone

Chuck Torelli

Appointed

Directors:

Ruth Giese

Judy Golberg

Sabiha Khan

Lisabeth Jimenez

Marilyn Perkins

Kelly Pflieger

Democracy Lobby Day 2019

JoAnn Bengtson

The capitol buildings appeared serene but inside there was a beehive of activity during week six of this legislative session. The snow had rearranged schedules in Olympia, and the legislators were working on making up the time and meeting newly revised deadlines.

The LWVWA and FIX DEMOCRACY FIRST (fixdemocracy.org) cosponsored this statewide gathering of about 120 attendees. We met in a large conference room, and enjoyed meeting other league members over coffee/tea. First on the agenda, and paramount, lobby training by our LWV Contract Lobbyists, Nancy Sapiro and Pam Crone. Next up— special guest speakers including senators, representatives, and a county auditor. We took a group photo, had lunch, and dispersed as scheduled to meet with our District’s representatives and senators.

Rep. Brad Klippert met with me over his lunch of pork and beans, straight out of the can. Rep. Matt Boehnke was very interested in our civics education materials and voter education efforts. I followed the recommended agenda of BILL PRIORITY talking points, and we discussed five to six League-recommended Bills. I went to Sen. Sharon Brown’s office and met her legislative aides. They gave me some time to share why I was on the capitol grounds that day. There was an optional Capitol Campus Tour and House and Senate Committee Hearings I could listen to. I prioritized time with my legislators, and my ride share left for Seattle early to – you guessed it – beat the traffic!

I recommend this experience to all members. It was thrilling to participate in such a direct way. My perspective on the respectability and clout of the League was reinforced. I, for one, will be participating in 2020 and hope others will join me. DEMOCRACY ROCKS!

Treasurer’s Report

Shirley Sonnichsen

Checking: \$ 3,233
Savings: \$1,856
Total: \$5,089

At the end of February, checking was \$3,233; savings was \$1,856 for a total of \$5,089. Income was \$75 dues from Kathy White and no expenses. We have 54 members in total since Madge Watson has moved and 51 paid members. **Budget:** The budget committee met in March and Marilyn Perkins is chair. A copy of the proposed budget worksheet was passed out at the meeting. We have a shortfall for next fiscal year. A fundraiser was discussed possibly at a member’s home. The committee will meet again before the April meeting to finalize the budget.

State Convention in Tacoma, June 6-9

Shirley Sonnichsen

Registration is open and three double rooms have been reserved at the Murano Hotel in Tacoma. We can send the incoming LWVBF President and two delegates. Anyone who wants to go as an observer can attend but will need to pay their way. Full registration is \$240 before May 15. Full registration includes Friday dinner, Saturday lunch, and Saturday banquet. There are also a few Triple and Quad rooms, \$169 and \$179 before tax. Self-parking is \$16 and Valet is \$20/day. Since the Convention starts Friday at 9 a.m., we would pay for Thursday night for the delegates. The total for the three delegates would be \$1,535, and we may pay for parking since we have “workshop” funds. Please contact Shirley Sonnichsen if you would like to go: 627-1473.

WA State Legislature

Lora Rathbone

The 2019 session opened in Olympia on January 14, and is scheduled to end April 28. The LWVWA Lobby Team provides updates on relevant bills in our key areas—Democracy, Social Policies, Education, Environment, and Fair & Adequate Revenue: <https://lwwwa.org/issues>

Legislative Updates: I have been sending weekly updates covering these key areas, abbreviated from the LWVWA Legislative newsletter. Bills I select to support are chosen from a very extensive list of those the LWVWA supports and are in the committees our legislators serve on. (Sen. Brown and Rep. Boehnke and Rep. Dye are on environmental committees so many of those bills have been included in my updates.) I do not expect people to agree on all the bills, and you are encouraged to support other bills that are not included there. (However, if your representative is not on the appropriate committee, it won't get much notice until the bill comes to the floor.) Let me know if you'd like to receive my bill updates: ldrathbone@outlook.com To track bills, go to <https://app.leg.wa.gov/billinfo/>

Here are the legislators and their committees in the 8th and 16th Legislative Districts:

8th Legislative District

Rep. Matt Boehnke (R): Innovation, Technology and Economic Development (Assistant Ranking Minority Member), Environment and Energy, Transportation

Representative Brad Klippert (R): Public Safety (Ranking Minority Member), Civil Rights and Judiciary, Human Services and Early Learning

Senator Sharon Brown (R) Republican Deputy Leader: Ways and Means (Assistant Ranking Member, Operating); Environment, Energy and Technology; Higher Education and Workforce Development

16th Legislative District

Representative Skyler Rude (R): Appropriations (Assistant Ranking Minority Member), College and Workforce Development, Education, Rules

Representative Bill Jenkin (R): Housing, Community Development and Veterans (Ranking Minority Member), Capital Budget, Commerce and Gaming

Senator Maureen Walsh (R): Human Services, Reentry and Rehabilitation (Ranking Member); Labor and Commerce

The **8th LD Town Hall meeting** was held March 23 in Richland. This was a great opportunity to speak to our legislators about bills and ask for their support.

League Birthday Dinner

JoAnne Dimond

The Benton-Franklin League of Women Voters Birthday Dinner was held at CG Public House in Kennewick on March 26th. It is the 99th birthday of League this year so we celebrated at dinner and dessert with about 32 League members and guests. Our speaker was Ken Robertson, retired executive editor of the *Tri-City Herald*. Some highlights from Ken's speech follow:

- The population of the Tri-Cities has increased dramatically from 1976 when he moved here to approximately 300,000 today.
- The *Tri-City Herald* is owned by McClatchy Newspapers, based in Sacramento, California. *(Continued on p. 4)*

League Birthday Dinner *(Continued from p. 3)*

- In 1976, the *Tri-City Herald* had a circulation of 35,000, it had a circulation of 42,000 in 2006 and in 2017 the circulation was 16,620. Our children and grandchildren do not subscribe to the newspaper.
- We are paying more for newspaper subscriptions today because of the lack of advertisers.
- 1,700 daily newspapers have closed in the last decade.
- If you would like to see a better newspaper, encourage your friends and neighbors to subscribe and continue to support your local newspaper.
- The purpose of an editorial article is not to tell you what to think, but to tell you what to think about.

LWVBF Calendar

April 2019

Saturday, April 6— New Members/Coffee, 10 am, Janet Nail's home

Tuesday, April 9— Table Talk/ Legislative Updates, 6 pm, Round Table Pizza (1769 Leslie Road, Richland)

Thursday, April 18— Business and Planning Meeting, 6 pm, BF Transit Center (1000 Columbia Park Trail). All members are welcome

May 2019

Wednesday, May 1— Naturalization Ceremony, 10 am, Federal Building in Richland

Thursday, May 2— Table Talk, Noon, Round Table Pizza (1769 Leslie Road, Richland)

Friday, May 3— Voter Education/Registration, Delta High School in Pasco

Thursday, May 16— Annual Meeting, 5:30 pm, All Saints Church (1322 Kimball Ave., Richland)

June 2019

Thurs.-Sun., June 6-9— LWVWA State Convention, Murano Hotel in Tacoma

Email us at
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League of Women Voters of
Benton & Franklin
Counties
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