

# VOTER

[www.lwv-bf.org](http://www.lwv-bf.org)

Dec. 2019/ Jan. 2020

## From the President

### Beverly Johnson-Torelli

A big thank you to JoAnne Dimond for serving as LWVBF President for the last several months. She did an outstanding job, and I am so appreciative!

2020 is right around the corner, and it's an exciting one for League. We celebrate the 100<sup>th</sup> year since women won the right to vote, and the Suffragettes deserve to be honored. Plans for our League include:

- A collaboration with the Mid-Columbia Mastersingers for their production of *Votes for Women: Voices for All*. Performances are on Friday and Saturday, February 21 and 22nd at 7:30 p.m. at the Richland Players Theater in Richland and Sunday, February 23 at 3 p.m. at the Princess Theater in Prosser. Please contact Beverly Johnson-Torelli [sasjoh@aol.com](mailto:sasjoh@aol.com) if you would like to volunteer on any or all of these dates. Volunteers will staff a display table with materials about League and anything connected to the Centennial celebration. Wearing hats and/or sashes or coming in full Suffragette costume would be a nice touch. A League representative will also participate in the 30-minute pre-concert talks with Justin Raffa, the Artistic Director of the Mastersingers, to discuss the work of the League and highlight elements of the Centennial celebration. A different League member can participate at each performance. We also have an opportunity to be involved in the concessions at the Richland Players Theater, if we would like to do some fundraising. One idea might be selling League birthday cupcakes.

(Continued on next page)

## Officers

**President:**  
**Beverly Johnson-Torelli**  
**1st Vice President:**  
**JoAnne Dimond**  
**2nd Vice President:**  
**Janet Nail**  
**Secretary:**  
**Polly Parton**  
**Treasurer:**  
**Shirley Sonnichsen**  
**Past President:**  
**JoAnn Bengtson**  
**Voter Editor:**  
**Diane Molleson**

## Elected

### Directors:

**JoAnn Bengtson**  
**Heather Cunningham**  
**Shari Gasperino**  
**Diane Molleson**  
**Lora Rathbone**  
**Virginia Rogalsky**

## Appointed

### Directors:

**Bree Bowen**  
**Ruth Giese**  
**Christine Grantham**

## President's Message (Continued from p. 1)

- Judging artwork for the “Herstory through Art” exhibit at the Allied Arts Center, also in February. There may be a post-concert event at Allied Arts as a partnership with the Mastersingers, the League and the Arts Center when the music performances are in Richland. Please let us know by the January Board meeting if you would like to be involved in this. Details are pending.
- A committee is meeting to plan our own **LWVBF Voting Rights Centennial Celebration 2020** later in the year. The next committee meeting is **January 8 at 2:30 p.m. at the Mid-Columbia Library on Union Street** in Kennewick. Contact Christine Grantham [rrgrantham@live.com](mailto:rrgrantham@live.com) if you would like to join the committee and have not yet done so.

## Holiday Party on December 8 Beverly Johnson-Torelli

The Holiday Party will be held on Sunday, December 8 from 2-4 PM at Christine Grantham's house, 105105 Tripple Vista Drive in Kennewick. JoAnn Bengston was able to secure speakers from Habitat for Humanity for this event. Please bring an appetizer or dessert to share. All members are encouraged to attend and enjoy visiting with fellow LWVBF colleagues. As always, guests, family and potential members are welcome. Christine's phone number is 509-845-0820.

## New Member Orientation and Program Planning Meeting on January 11 Janet Nail

The new member orientation and annual program meeting will be held Saturday, January 11 from 9 AM to noon. The new member orientation will start at 9 AM followed by brunch at 10 AM. After brunch we will discuss program ideas. January is the time we welcome the members that joined during the preceding year and plan our programs for the coming year. This year most of our programs will center on the centennial celebration of the women's right to vote. If members would like to review state issues, they are available at the state League's website (<https://www.lwvwa.org>) and our local positions can be found on our website ([www.lwvbf.org](http://www.lwvbf.org)).

Also, we will be offering the League handbook in paper or digital form again this year. If you would like a new updated League of Women Voters of Benton and Franklin Counties in paper form, please let Janet Nail know at [janet@janetnail.com](mailto:janet@janetnail.com)

Members can bring an item for brunch, such as fruit, muffins, bread, breakfast casseroles, juice, but if you have had a busy week, just bring yourself. The meeting will be held at the home of Polly Parton: 316 Northview Loop in West Richland. From Bombing Range Road turn west onto Collins Road and go up the hill. At Northview Loop, turn right and Polly's house will be on the right. (Polly's contact info: 509-551-3818).

## Want Ad

Looking for someone to assist with our webpage. No experience necessary but computer skills would help. Contact Judy Golberg, [jgolberg@charter.net](mailto:jgolberg@charter.net) or call 627-5347.

## **2020 Census**     **Lora Rathbone and Beverly Johnson-Torelli**

The 2020 Census officially opens on April 1. LoAnn Ayers of United Way and Brissa Perez, a Partnership Specialist for the US Census Bureau, have spoken to our League about this topic.

Tri-Cities Counts is a local coalition created to help ensure that every person in Benton and Franklin Counties understands the importance—and has an opportunity—to be counted during the 2020 Census. With growing distrust of government, it will be up to local communities and leaders of non-profits, private businesses and organizations to conduct outreach and education around the importance of participating in the census. Census results have a major impact on federal funding for our communities. In the last census, Benton and Franklin counties were undercounted by about 30%!

More help is needed, and you are welcome to attend the next Partnership committee meeting to find out how you can become involved at your desired level of commitment. It ranges from doing presentations to disseminating information. We will be meeting **Wednesday, December 4 from 2 to 4 PM** at United Way of Benton and Franklin Counties, 401 N Young St. in Kennewick. If you have any questions contact Lora Rathbone, [ldrathbone@outlook.com](mailto:ldrathbone@outlook.com)

## **High School Civics Education: Presenters Needed**

**Lora Rathbone**

Our league has a presentation to impress upon students the importance of being registered to vote and casting that vote. This 50 -minute civics class presentation includes the history of voting in the United States and who had the right to vote, voting in Washington State, and the importance of voting. We each present a different topic, which keeps things interesting, and give students the opportunity to register. We hope to start in January. If you would like to join us, please contact Lora Rathbone at [ldrathbone@outlook.com](mailto:ldrathbone@outlook.com)

## **Voter Registration**     **Beverly Johnson-Torelli and Marilyn Perkins**

LWVBF recently solicited voter registrations at several events:

Harvest Fest, October 26 in Pasco. Thank you to Lora Rathbone and Alice Allison.

Community of Hope, November 2 in Pasco. Thank you to Lora Rathbone, JoAnn Bengston, Beverly Johnson-Torelli.

Naturalization Ceremony, November 5 in Richland. Thank you to Anne Collett, JoAnn Bengtson, JoAnne Dimond, Ruth Giese, Christine Grantham, and Marilyn Perkins.

CBC Civic Education Day, November 25 in Pasco, where 21 people registered. Thank you to Marilyn Perkins, Christine Grantham, Polly Parton, Shirley Sonnichsen and Beverly Johnson-Torelli. We met a student from Rwanda who is here because he found a sponsor while touring the U.S. with a choir of young people from his country. The student body President, who was our main contact, is from Connell and Polly Parton's ears perked up when she heard that they shared a high school alma mater. Another student government representative was good at encouraging people to register and is now a potential student member for our League. There was also a student representative promoting the 2020 census. Hopefully, we'll have more voter registration opportunities as the year goes on.

## **Public Hearing and Rally: Governor's Orca Task Force Study**

**Monday, January 13, 2020**, Pasco Red Lion (2525 N. 20 Ave., Pasco)

**3- 5 p.m.:** Public Rally. **5- 9 p.m.:** Public Hearing. Visit [www.SnakeRiverDams.com](http://www.SnakeRiverDams.com) to take Governor Inslee's public survey.

# Upcoming Allied Arts Exhibit Celebrates 100 Years of Women's Suffrage

Christine Grantham

Sponsored by the Allied Arts Association, the "Gallery at the Park" will have an exhibition "to celebrate and honor the struggles and the monumental feats that women have accomplished in the last century." The artwork entitled "Herstory through Art" will be showcased at the "Gallery at the Park" reception for the artist and guests on **Sunday, February 9 from 2 to 4 p.m.** We would like to thank the Allied Arts Association for presenting artwork to honor this important anniversary for all women. Please join us at this exciting event. We look forward to seeing everyone.

The Gallery at the Park is located at 89 Lee Boulevard in Richland. Their phone number is 943-9815.

## Treasurer's Report

Shirley Sonnichsen

On October 31, 2019:

Checking is **\$3,805.83**

Savings is **\$1,856.39**

Total **\$5,662.22**

**Income: \$945**

- Member dues of \$825, second-in-household \$70 and member contributions of \$50.

**Expenses: \$1,582**

- \$7.44 PayPal fees
- \$25 for a Starbucks gift card for Cody Proctor
- \$134 for the Post Office Box rental
- \$1176 for 3 National PMP quarters; \$240 for 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter State PMP.

**Membership:** We have 48 paid members at the end of October and we have seven second-in-household. There are 63 total members, including new members Katie O'Leary and Janie Treadway. Seven or eight people do not have to pay dues this fall (they joined after Feb 1, 2019). Seven people have not paid their dues. A reminder email was sent Nov. 21. Please make your check out to LWV-BF and send to P.O. Box 765, Richland 99352. You can also pay via PayPal on our website: <https://my.lwv.org/washington/benton-franklin-counties>

**Convention June 25-28, 2020:** Our budget is \$3,200 for two or three people. Registration is set to open in January. Members interested in going should be asking about hotel arrangements at **Hyatt Regency Capitol Hill** or **Liaison Washington Capitol Hill Hotel**. Room blocks at both hotels have been secured at a rate of \$199/night. If we have over 50 delegates on February 1 when we submit our membership data, we should be allowed two voting delegates.

## Get Out the Vote (GOTV)

Lora Rathbone

The state League purchased access to a voter database, WIN/WIN, which has been available to local Leagues for the last couple of years. It can target prospective voters for GOTV activities. The Thurston County League took advantage of the database capabilities to target 400 voters from under-represented groups and sent these voters a postcard reminding them to vote. They will analyze the results to see if the effort worked. We may want to try this in our League.

Checking: \$3,805
Savings: \$1,856
Total: \$5,662

# Catch a Ride with Other League Members

## Lora Rathbone

The LWVBF has a lot of events planned, and we don't want you to miss anything because you can't get there. The following people have offered to give others a ride. All you need to do is call or email someone who lives in your area:

**North Richland**—Lora Rathbone, [ldrathbone@outlook.com](mailto:ldrathbone@outlook.com) 509-460-1223

**West Richland**—Polly Parton, [polly.parton@yahoo.com](mailto:polly.parton@yahoo.com) 509-551-3818

**South Kennewick**—Beverly Johnson-Torelli, [sajoh@aol.com](mailto:sajoh@aol.com) (509) 521-0947 or (509) 585-2701

If you can volunteer to be a driver, please contact Diane Molleson at [molleson@frontier.com](mailto:molleson@frontier.com) to be added to this list.

## A Little History

### Marilyn Perkins

Nancy Witcher was born in Danville Virginia in 1879. Waldorf Astor, her future husband, was also born in the U.S., but his father moved the family to England when Waldorf was 12. Nancy moved to England after a short first marriage and she and Waldorf married in 1906. When William Waldorf died in 1919, his son took his place in the House of Lords opening up his seat in the House of Commons. On November 28 of that year Nancy ran for his seat and won, and on December 1, she became the first woman to be seated. She served until 1945.

Known for her quick wit, she has many well-known quotes: “Women have got to make the world safe for men, since men have made it so darned unsafe for women.” Perhaps her most famous was an exchange with Winston Churchill in which she said, “Sir, if you were my husband, I would poison your tea.” He replied, “Madame, if you were my wife, I’d drink it.”

Also, if you have access to Netflix, the movie *Suffragette* (1915), about women working for the vote in England in the early 20<sup>th</sup> century, is now playing. It stars Meryl Streep and Carey Mulligan. We may try to schedule a watch party in January.

## From LWVWA

### Lora Rathbone

We need your help protecting our democracy! Earlier this year, the U.S. House passed important legislation focusing on election security and now it is the U.S. Senate’s turn to vote. The Senate has legislation in front of them that will provide \$600 million in funding to states to protect voter data, require paper auditable voting machines, and ensure our government agencies and election officials can do their jobs.

Ask your senators to support a fair and protected election in 2020. Securing our elections should not be a partisan issue—we must invest in our elections and prevent meddling from the same foreign actors who targeted our elections in 2016. Contact your U.S. senators today and urge them to support funding for election security measures. For more information, see <https://www.lwvwa.org/election-security>

## LWVWA Action Workshops

Action Workshops include speaker and panel presentations, issue breakout sessions, and lunch. Go to <https://lwvwa.org/events> for more information.

[Seattle Action Workshop](#) on December 7 at 9 a.m. *Seattle First Baptist Church*

[Kingston Action Workshop](#) on January 4, 2020 at 9 a.m. *Village Green Community Center*

# January Board Meeting

Beverly Johnson-Torelli

The next LWVBF Business and Planning Meeting meeting will be on Wednesday, January 15 instead of January 16 at the Benton Franklin Transit Station, 1000 Columbia Park Trail, Richland. All members are always welcome!

## LWVBF Calendar

### December 2019

**Wednesday, December 4—Census Partnership Committee Meeting, 2 – 4 p.m.,** United Way of Benton and Franklin Counties (401 N. Young St., Kennewick)

**Sunday, December 8— Holiday Party, 2 – 4 p.m.,** Christine's home

**No Board Meeting**

### January 2020

**Wednesday, January 8— Suffrage Celebration Planning Meeting, 2:30 p.m.,** Union Street Mid-Columbia Library (1620 S. Union St., Kennewick)

**Saturday, January 11— New Member Orientation and Program Planning Meeting, 9 a.m.** Polly's home

**Wednesday, January 15— Business and Planning Meeting, 6 p.m.** Benton Franklin Transit Center (1000 Columbia Park Trail). All members are welcome.

**Tuesday, January 21— Lobby Day in Olympia**

**Thursday, January 23— Table Talk, "How to Engage"** Location and time TBD

Email us at  
[lwv.of.bf@gmail.com](mailto:lwv.of.bf@gmail.com)

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