

VOTER

www.lwv-bf.org

February 2020

From the President

Beverly Johnson-Torelli

As we celebrate 100 years of the 19th Amendment, I would like to thank our members for their continued hard work and significant contributions. With our many planned activities and notable elective races, it will be an especially busy year.

At our Program Planning meeting in January, we determined that “Making Democracy Work” would be our overarching theme. Elections, census, redistricting, campaign finance, government ethics and election security are all under this category. Therefore, it seemed especially appropriate for this centennial year of the women’s vote. In addition, we touched upon “Climate Change and Its Effects” as related to sustainable farming. Under “Ensuring Social Justice,” it was decided to continue the 2019 chosen topics of Homelessness and Affordable Housing for study and/or possible Table Talks.

Also in January, League was approached by WSU with a unique opportunity to work with them in their Tri-City campus studio regarding the 2020 elections. They are interested in the explanation of state initiatives, as well as other possibilities. A follow-up call will take place in three weeks to continue the discussion. If you were not included in the first call but would like to participate, contact me at: sasjoh@aol.com

Other items of note for member involvement include:

Diversity, Equity, Inclusion (DEI): This is a state/national focus. Some interesting videos on this topic are available, which could be viewed and discussed at a Table Talk or an informal get together

Advocacy Liaison: JoAnn Bengston has graciously volunteered to fill this role for our League.

(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)

April 7: Conference in Yakima for non-profits

May 29, 30, 31: LWVWA State Council at the Yakima Red Lion, hosted by the Kittitas League

June: Possible road trip to the Maryhill Museum; see details on p. 4

June 24-28: LWV National Convention in Washington D.C.

Please let us know if you are interested in participating any of these events: sasjoh@aol.com

Table Talk with Soup Potluck

Lora Rathbone

Topic: Advocacy 101 for LWVWA

When: Thursday, February 6 at 5:30 p.m.

Where: Marilyn Perkin's home (4512 W. Yellowstone in Kennewick)

Speakers: Lora Rathbone, JoAnn Bengtson and Christine Grantham

If you have wondered which bills the state League lobby chairs are working on and how to voice your opinion in order to magnify the effort, please come! JoAnn will share her Lobby day experience and we'll learn how to track the progress of the bills we support such as SB 6610, ending Advisory votes. Christine will update us on federal legislation.

Soup, bread and dessert will be served. Anyone wanting to contribute food can contact Marilyn Perkins at 783-8610.

Luncheon on February 14 to Celebrate 100 Years of League History

Marilyn Perkins

February 14th will mark the 100th anniversary of the founding of the League of Women Voters of the United States. It was created to help prepare women to become well-informed voters after the passage of the 19th amendment, which would happen six months later.

We decided such an auspicious occasion deserves a celebration! Our League will be holding a luncheon for all members who can attend at **CG's Public house (9221 W. Clearwater in Kennewick) at 12:30 p.m.** It will be in the same room as last February's birthday dinner. We're hoping it will be a chance for long time members to reconnect and for all members to make new friends. For many of us, issues may have brought us to League, but the friends we have made are an extra bonus.

We will have a chance to share the names of women from history we admire. If you have a favorite quote from or about a woman or women, bring that too. We are hoping the 2020 TRYs (They Represent You) will be ready for distribution. We are not printing as many this year, but we want to make them available to members, and friends and neighbors you might want to share them with.

We need to give CG's Public House an estimate of how many to set up for. Hopefully we will have over 15 people, which means we will order off of a limited menu. **Contact Marilyn Perkins at 783-8610 if you can attend;** guests are welcome. She can help arrange car pools for members too.

This Week In League (TWIL)

Members should be receiving *This Week In League*, a round-up of news about League management, events and other happenings. If you are a member and have not been receiving it, you can sign up at this link: <https://lwvwa.org>

Reception at Allied Arts Gallery on February 9

Christine Grantham

Richland's Allied Arts Association has invited us to join them "to celebrate and honor the struggles and the monumental feats that women have accomplished in the last century." "*Her Story Through Art*" is one of the first juried shows of its kind for the gallery. This occasion will be a unique opportunity for us to see 61 interpretations of the suffrage movement from all over the country. League members Susan Kreid and Anne Collett will be jurors for the show. The Mid-Columbia Mastersingers will be performing a selection of songs from their upcoming show *Votes for Women: Voices for All*. A **reception** will be held to present awards on **Sunday, February 9 from 1:00 to 3:00 p.m.** There will also be an opportunity for someone from the League to speak about our history/mission at 1:30 p.m. that day. Please join us as we honor the women that have shaped our history. The Allied Arts' Gallery at the Park is at 89 Lee Boulevard in Richland.

Mid-Columbia Mastersingers Collaboration

Beverly Johnson-Torelli

Votes for Women – General Admission is \$25; K-12 students are free.

Friday, February 21, 7:30 p.m. Richland Players Theatre

Saturday, February 22, 7:30 p.m. Richland Players Theatre

Sunday, February 23, 3 p.m. Princess Theatre in Prosser

League members will be in the lobby greeting the audience as they arrive, manning a table with past and present history/information about the League, and contributing to and selling concessions. Some members may dress in period costumes and/or sashes and hats.

A League representative will 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 Centenary celebration.

League members: Please help us publicize this event and encourage everyone to attend. The Rolling Hills Chorus of the Sweet Adelines International will be performing with the MCM Treble Choir.

Presidential Primary Timeline

Marilyn Perkins

Ballots for the Democratic Party primary should be received by 2/21/20.

Republicans will also hold caucuses on 2/29/20.

The deadline to receive new voter registrations or updates electronically or by mail is 3/2/20. The deadline for in-person registration or voter updates is 3/10/20 for the Presidential Primary.

Ballots must be postmarked by 3/10/20 or left in an official drop box by 8 p.m. on Election Day. A personal stamp is no longer necessary, but by using one of the drop boxes throughout the two counties, you save the state and counties the cost of postage.

2020 Census Update

Lora Rathbone

Census results have a major impact on federal funding for our communities and in fair representation. In the last census, Benton and Franklin counties were undercounted by nearly 30%! Everyone can help get the word out. In mid-March we will get an invitation by postcard to respond to the census on line. Learn more at 2020Census.gov For more information or to schedule a presentation, contact BFCountyCensus@uwbf

Treasurer's Report

Shirley Sonnichsen

On December 31, 2019:

Checking is \$3,511.27
Savings is \$1,856.42
Total \$5,367.69

Checking: \$3,511
Savings: \$1,856
Total: \$5,367

Income: \$160

- Member dues of \$150, a non-member contribution of \$10.

Expenses: \$454.56

- \$3.07 PayPal fees
- \$451.49 to Judy Golberg for hats, sashes and suffragette cutout

Membership: We have 49 paid members at the end of December including six second-in-household. There are 62 members on the roster. Those who have not paid by the end of January (five people) will be taken out of the database and off the rolls. Seven people who joined after Feb. 1, 2019 were exempt from dues this last fall.

Convention June 25-28, 2020: Our budget is \$3,200 for two people. We currently have three rooms at the *Hyatt Regency* at the \$199/night rate + tax. We have reserved three rooms Wednesday through Sunday. The delegates will have to pay for Sunday or take the red-eye flight home. If we have over 50 members on February 1 when we submit our membership data, we should be allowed two voting delegates. Anyone else who goes as an observer will have to pay her/his own way. I received an email from Christina Davis of National regarding registration with this response: *\$399 – registration fee; \$100 – add-on Saturday night banquet (this has traditionally been a part of the registration fee but due to ballroom capacities, we are hosting two different Saturday night events this year with different price points); \$60 – add-on Saturday reception.*

Ed Funds: We have \$221.54 in the State Ed fund and \$479.55 in the National Ed Fund. I have asked via the National website for \$479.55 for printing 1000 copies of the TRY. It is my understanding that there is \$2,000 available to each league for civic projects. Shari Gasperino is on the State committee and can help us obtain those funds. If you would like to make a tax-deductible donation to the Ed fund, you can write a check to LWVWA Ed Fund and I will send in the check and the form. You can also choose the “donate” button on our website:

<https://my.lwv.org/washington/benton-franklin-counties>

Centennial Celebration: Hats and sashes were available at the board meeting and all were purchased. Donations were made as well and \$375 was deposited to offset the \$451 cost of the hats, sashes and suffragette cutout. We are considering ordering more hats and sashes.

Road Trip to Maryhill Museum

Shirley Sonnichsen

We might consider a road trip in June to the Maryhill Museum. “*Art by Women Celebrating the Centennial of the 19th Amendment*” runs from March 15 to November 15, 2020. We can see the two and 3-dimensional works by prominent women artists. We could also visit the Stonehenge replica, have them do a wine and cheese event or visit the café for lunch, do a brown bag, etc. There is an entry fee group rate of \$10 for groups of ten or more and also the senior rate, otherwise \$12.

Centennial Committee

Christine Grantham

We will be having a **banquet on August 8, 2020** at the **Hanford House in Richland** to celebrate the centennial of the founding of the League of Women Voters on February 14, 1920 and the passage of the Nineteenth Amendment on August 18, 1920. Our Centennial Banquet will be an evening of celebration befitting the monumental achievements of the last 100 years.

The committee is planning an essay contest for local high school students to encourage young people to explore the relevance of voting in 2020. A raffle is planned to help fund this project. The winners of the essay will be recognized and the winners of the raffle announced. The highlight of the evening will be to honor the women of Benton & Franklin Counties for their service. Please plan on joining us for this historical event. Look for more details in next month's *VOTER*.

High School Essay Contest for \$500 Award

Janet Nail

The League of Women Voters of Benton and Franklin Counties is organizing a high school essay contest. A \$500 award will be presented to one winning essay from each local school district (Kennewick, Pasco, Richland).

Winning essays will be posted on the League website. Awards will be presented at the Centennial Celebration at the Hanford House on August 8, 2020.

Essay title: Your Vote is Our Future

- Contest is open to all local high school students
- The essay must be 500 words or less. Only one essay per student may be submitted.
- All essays should be:
 - Double spaced
 - Have one-inch margins
 - Include the essay title
 - Be typed in 12 point font
 - Be in Microsoft Word or a compatible format
 - Submissions must be submitted via the League of Women Voters of Benton and Franklin Counties email address: lwv.of.bf@gmail.com by May 15, 2020
 - Include essay author's name, age, grade, address, email, phone number, name of high school, and name of parent or guardian
 - The essay will be judged on quality of analysis, quality of research, and form, style and mechanics
 - Judges are local English teachers and editors

The League of Women Voters of Benton and Franklin Counties is asking local organizations to sponsor the three \$500 awards. By sponsoring an award, the local organization will receive publicity in local high schools and recognition at the banquet honoring the essay winners. Award checks will be made payable to the essay winners. If you know of a local organization interested in sponsoring an award, please let us know. (Janet Nail, janet@janetnail.com, 509-546-1467)

Democracy Lobby Day 2020

JoAnn Bengtson

On January 21 in Olympia, Washington, the LWVWA teamed up with Fix Democracy First to fill the Columbia Room with enthusiasm. I set up 15 -minute appointments to speak to 8th Legislative District Representatives Brad Klippert and Matt Boehnke as well as Senator Sharon Brown. I also attended a House hearing where Rep Matt Boehnke presented HB2111, dealing with ballot security for the armed forces. He advocated for mail-in ballots due to security issues he has identified with emailing ballots.

The agenda included speakers and training on advocacy. Two standouts: Noah Ramírez, Latino Community Fund of WA, testified how his group shares our goals of citizen civic education and participation in voting; and Tamara Simmons, Civil Survival Project Director, who gave a poignant personal testimony about her post-incarceration journey. She is now a lawyer working on criminal justice reforms and voting rights restoration for ex-felons. Other enlightening talks came from Kirstin Mueller, the LWVWA Election Security Chair and Secretary of State, Kim Wyman.

The bills we advocated for included: voting access for felons SB6228-HB2292, increased voting opportunities for youth SB6313-HB2558, redistricting modernization HB2575, campaign transparency SB6361-HB2674, funding of elections SB6134-HB 2421, security of elections SB6412-HB2647, and elimination of advisory votes SB5224. We had a huge impact last year and hope to repeat the same success during this legislative session.

Plan now to lobby next year to make sure our voice is heard in Olympia. Democracy Rocks!

Observer Corps

The LWVBF is hoping to resurrect the Observer Corps where members attend events of interest to the community, such as school board, city council, port commissioner, county commissioner meetings etc. and report their observations to the League. Members interested in being part of the Observer Corps can contact Beverly Johnson Torelli at SasJoh@aol.com

LWV: Diversity, Equality and Inclusion (DEI)

The League's Shur Fellows have prepared a glossary of commonly used words as part of their work on DEI. Here is this month's word:

Oppression: The systemic and pervasive nature of social inequality woven throughout social institutions as well as imbedded within individual consciousness. Fuses institutional and systemic discrimination, personal bias, bigotry and social prejudice in a complex web of relationships and structures that saturate most aspects of life in our society.

- Denotes structural and material constraints that significantly shape a person's life changes and sense of possibility.
- Signifies a hierarchical relationship in which dominant or privileged groups benefit, often in unconscious ways, from the disempowerment of subordinated or targeted groups.
- Resides not only in external social institutions and norms but also within the human psyche as well.
- Eradicating this ultimately requires struggle against all its forms, and that building coalitions among diverse people offers the most promising strategies for challenging this systematically.

Source: W.K. Kellogg Foundation; Maurianne Adams, Lee Anne Bell and Pat Griffin, editors. Teaching for Diversity and Social Justice: A Sourcebook. New York: Routledge.

February Board Meeting

Beverly Johnson-Torelli

The next LWVBF Business and Planning Meeting meeting will be on **Wednesday, February 19** instead of February 20 at the Benton Franklin Transit Station, 1000 Columbia Park Trail, Richland. All members are welcome!

LWVBF Calendar

February 2020

Thursday, February 6— Table Talk on Advocacy, 5:30 p.m., Marilyn's home

Sunday, February 9— Reception at Allied Arts: "Votes for Women, Voices for All"
1 – 3 p.m., Gallery at the Park (89 Lee Blvd. in Richland)

Friday, February 14— Celebratory Luncheon: LWV Turns 100, 12:30 p.m., CG's Public house (9221 W. Clearwater, Kennewick)

Wednesday, February 19— Business and Planning Meeting, 6 p.m. Benton Franklin Transit Center (1000 Columbia Park Trail). All members are welcome.

Friday- Saturday, February 21-22— Mid-Columbia Mastersingers concerts: "Votes for All", 7:30 p.m. Richland Players Theater (608 The Parkway, Richland)

Sunday, February 23— Mid-Columbia Mastersingers concert: "Votes for All", 3 p.m., Princess Theater (1228 Meade Ave., Prosser)

March 2020

Thursday, March 19— Business and Planning Meeting, 6 p.m. Benton Franklin Transit Center (1000 Columbia Park Trail). All members are welcome.

Email us at
lwv.of.bf@gmail.com

League of Women Voters of
Benton & Franklin
Counties
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