



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

July 2019

## From the President

First Vice President JoAnne Dimond is stepping up to assume the LWVBF Presidency during the campaign season since Beverly Johnson-Torelli's husband is running for a position. JoAnne's willingness to do so is greatly appreciated.

The League's 100<sup>th</sup> Birthday is right around the corner in 2020! Special events, voter registration, civics education, table talks and other activities will all tie-in with the celebration. In keeping with tradition, we will celebrate our annual birthday dinner in February 2020, but we will also add a special event with the Mid-Columbia Master Singers on February 20, 21 and 22. More details will follow in the coming months.

This summer we hope to see everyone at the **Candidate Forums in July** (see p.2) and at the **Annual Picnic on August 22**. The next Board meeting is on July 18 and, as always, all members are welcome. In the meantime, have a wonderful summer spending time with family and friends and enjoying fun vacations.

## More Upcoming Events in July

**Friday, July 12** is a nationwide day of action to focus awareness on the inhumane treatment of immigrants in detention. See <https://www.lightsforliberty.org>.

**Tuesday, July 23, Noon-1 pm, Webinar- How leagues can get involved with Census 2020**, LWVUS Policy and Action This webinar will highlight the resources, opportunities, and policies driving the implementation of the 2020 Census.  
<https://register.gotowebinar.com/register/3371305359731115021>

## Officers

### **President:**

**JoAnne Dimond**

### **1st Vice President:**

**Vacant**

### **2<sup>nd</sup> 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:

**Christine Grantham**

# **Primary Candidate Forums**

**Kay Ottem and Marilyn Perkins**

## **Kennewick**

**Wednesday, July 10**—Kennewick Administration Center (1000 4<sup>th</sup> Avenue, Kennewick)

**6 pm:** Kennewick School Board, Positions 3, 4 and 5

**7 pm:** Kennewick City Council, Positions 5, 6 and 7

## **Richland**

**Wednesday, July 17**—HAPO Stage at John Dam Plaza (815 George Washington Way, Richland)

**7 pm:** Richland School Board, Positions 4 and 5 and Richland City Council, Positions 1, 2 and 5

## **Pasco**

**Tuesday, July 23**—Pasco Police Department Regional Training Facility (204 W. Clark St., Pasco)

**7pm:** Pasco City Council, Position 7

It is not too late to submit questions for the upcoming primary forums. They can be generic or specific to a jurisdiction, but send them to Marilyn Perkins, [jperkins.cougs@frontier.com](mailto:jperkins.cougs@frontier.com) preferably by the following dates: July 3 for Kennewick's forum, July 10 for Richland's, and July 16 for Pasco's.

## **Help Needed for Candidate Forums**

**Marilyn Perkins**

Our League has been doing televised candidate forums for almost 25 years. In the past few years, we have been very fortunate to work with Mike Charboneau of Richland and Jon Funfar from Pasco. Unfortunately, Kennewick does not have a comparable media person. Recently, we have also been able to recruit local TV anchors to moderate these forums.

We do need lots of help and hope members will be available. It is interesting to hear about the races in all three cities, so feel free to volunteer as much as you can; no prior experience is necessary. We need people to greet the candidates, collect questions, serve as timekeepers, make sure the candidates have water and be part of the audience. **If you can help at any of the forums, contact Marilyn Perkins 783-8610.**

Kay Ottem has sent emails to all the candidates for the primaries, but we are hoping to divide up the fall forums and have one or two people volunteer to contact and follow up with candidates in the general elections for each jurisdiction. If you would be willing to be the contact person for one of the cities, but would like to know what it entails, contact Kay Ottem at [ottem@frontier.com](mailto:ottem@frontier.com).

Regarding the Candidate Forum on July 10th in Kennewick, available League members are needed to help set up at 3:30 p.m. in Board Rooms B & C. The building closes at 4 p.m., but the doors will be unlocked and the building opened to the public at 5:15 p.m.

## **Book Review: *The Gilded Hour* by Sara Donati**

**Polly Parton**

The historical novel, *The Gilded Hour*, is a great read and a timely reminder of the profound importance of women's rights. Set in 1883, the story follows the life of two young female doctors (extremely unusual for the time), their practices, and the price women can pay for trying to control their reproductive rights. More than 150 years later, women again face the question of who controls our bodies.

## Treasurer's Report

Shirley Sonnichsen

At the end of May, checking was \$3,295; savings was \$1,856 for a total of \$5,151. Bev Johnson-Torelli gave a donation in memory of Kathy White deposited in June.

Checking: \$ 3,295
Savings: \$ 1,856
Total: \$5,151

The expenses this month were paying for two State Convention Registrations for \$480, the donation for the church where we had the Annual Meeting, and \$46 for name tags. Checks were written at the State Convention to Toyoko Tsukuda and Heather Cunningham for their registrations, total \$480. We have 57 members in total and 54 paid members. We have a new member who just graduated and is being treated as a student. Her name is Brissa Perez. An updated membership list was sent out in June.

**State Convention Expenses:** Judy Golberg, Heather Cunningham, JoAnn Bengtson, Toyoko Tsukuda and Shirley Sonnichsen attended the State Convention in Tacoma. Judy was Parliamentarian so we were able to have four delegates. The State League will reimburse Judy. We had a nice lunch/dinner Thursday with the League's donated funds. The remaining \$30 was deposited. Our League paid for or reimbursed four registrations for a total of \$960. Our League also paid for half of a shared room, parking and half of Judy's gas. Because we did not go to any workshops this fiscal year, we have \$379 remaining from the total budget of \$1,700. The board approved giving \$126 each to Toyoko, JoAnn and Shirley. Toyoko asked that her \$126 be used for education or scholarships. The "in kind" amounts for JoAnn, Toyoko and Shirley would be \$1,385 after the reimbursement. JoAnn, Toyoko, and Heather also paid for gas and some meals. All receipts need to be turned in and checks cashed before June 30 when the books are closed for the fiscal year.

## LWVWA Convention 2019 Report

Shirley Sonnichsen

The LWVWA State Convention, "Looking Back, Moving Forward" was held June 6-9 at the Murano Hotel in Tacoma.

### Highlights:

- My first workshop was "***Making Democracy Work from Voter Registration to Get Out the Vote (GOTV) and Beyond***" with Amy Peloff from the LWVWA. Link to presentation:  
<https://lwwa.org/resources/Convention/2019%20Convention/Technology%20and%20the%20Local%20League.pdf>.
- Amy said they are searching for ways to communicate with local leagues and for local leagues to communicate with each other. Social media is very important and "should offer good content; build an interactive audience; recruit a few co-conspirators." Every elected official representing her region that has a Twitter account follows the local League. There is also a ***League of Women Voters New Media Facebook Group***, which I joined.
- **Voter Registration:** Where are the drop boxes? How do we make the process comfortable? The Goodwill Training Center was mentioned as having good outreach. Felons can register to vote. Cards from ACLU will tell them if they can vote. We need a 2-address system for 20 year olds attending college or technical school. King County has text messaging to remind students to change their addresses because they move so much.
- The caucus on Civil Discourse became a wine social in Kim Abel and Myra Howry's room. It was fun to talk to people from different parts of the state, and the discourse was very civil. **(Continued on next page)**

## LWVWA Convention 2019 Report (Continued from p.3)

- Saturday we had the motion to adopt the new Per Member Payment, and there was a lot of discussion about the \$1 raise in the PMP. The campaign against it was successful in moving that \$2134 in income to the Contributions/Development category of the budget.
- Rob Curley, Editor-in-Chief of **The Spokesman Review**, discussed his work to bring the paper from the bottom of the newspaper heap to fifth from the top in subscriptions. Considered one of the newspaper industry's biggest innovators, he talked about the book club they started where they invited the authors and there was a waiting list of people to get in. They've also collaborated with groups to have forums, offered beer, and advertised that the candidates would be there. Then they told the candidates they had better show up or look pretty silly.
- Another workshop, "**Well-Behaved Women Seldom Make History**," was a slide show with explanations about some of the braver, more aggressive suffragettes.
- Kim Wyman, our Secretary of State, went to the "**Making Democracy Work: Show Me the Money**" Public Disclosure Workshop I attended. Kim Bradford, Communications and Outreach Director of the PDC, spoke about Washington's new Future Voter Program, which allows 16 and 17-year olds to preregister to vote before they turn 18 (**HB 1513**) effective 7/1/19. Washington public schools are required to allow 16-year-olds to pre-register on "Temperance and Good Citizenship Day," January 16 or the proceeding Friday. Future voters can preregister any time after their 16<sup>th</sup> birthday until 8 days before the first election after their 18<sup>th</sup> birthday. To keep them engaged, Kim Bradford suggested text messages or pledge cards with what they are interested in with a tear off portion they keep. Kim Wyman emphasized the need to protect minor children's data. Information, rules about political advertising, financial disclosures and more are on the website: [www.pdc.wa.gov](http://www.pdc.wa.gov). If you have questions, you can email them at [pdc@pdc.wa.gov](mailto:pdc@pdc.wa.gov). "The public's right to know of the financing of political campaigns and lobbying and the financial affairs of elected officials and candidates far outweighs any right that these matters remain secret and private."
- Michelle Duster, the great granddaughter of Ida B. Wells, discussed Wells' legacy and all the ways her contributions to the country are recognized and honored as a woman of color.
- We had "Pink Tea" in honor of the suffragettes — pink lemonade with pink frosted cookies.
- Sunday we voted for the budget, bylaw amendments, per member payment, resolutions, the officers, and the program.
- JoAnn Bengtson was elected to the State Board. Lunell Haught is the new President.

### New Program of Work Adopted:

(1) education on Public Bank, (2) update on Washington State's shorelines, (3) toolkits on range of election methods, (4) concurrence to update language in "Gun Safety" in current position.

### Some Directions to the Board:

(1) remove financial barriers to attendance at League events, (2) collaborate with Rob Curley at **The Spokesman Review**, (3) meetings and cooperation between leagues on civil discourse, (4) save democracy, (5) have a technology committee, (6) have robust discussions on PMP and membership, (7) long term stable financial resources.

# LWVWA Convention 2019: Impressions

JoAnn Bengtson

## Connections:

- With fellow local and statewide League members, and even the President of the National League, Chris Carson.
- With resources from around the state, inspirational examples of meaningful events, and methods for accomplishing our mission.
- With an editor-in-chief of *The Spokesman Review*, Rob Curley, who endorses and is breathing new life into the free press and the dissemination of reliable news.
- With lobbyists, who advocate for League issues.
- With notable women from our state, who exemplified the League's impact: Tacoma's mayor, WA Supreme Court Justice, WA Secretary of State, Congresswomen, and others who spoke from their heart regarding the fight to preserve democracy.

**Legacy:** The upcoming 2020 anniversary of women's suffrage; inspired storytelling, in word and song, of Washington State's suffrage pathway giving women the vote and remembering those who came before us to make it possible. Look up the singer songwriter Linda Allen (<https://www.lindasongs.com/suffrage>), who inspired us to sing along to traditional suffrage songs.

**Challenge:** How to embrace Membership Engagement & Leadership Development (MELD)/ Diversity, Equity & Inclusion (DEI) and invigorate the League's numbers, impact, and funding.

More information on the 2019 State Convention in Tacoma, plus photos, can be found at this link: <https://lwvwa.org/Convention2019>

## 2019 Legislative Session Recap

Lora Rathbone

The results of the session include some significant successes and some disappointments. However, all the bills the LWVWA supported that did not pass will be back in the 2020 legislature. The LWVWA will be working with legislators and coalitions to get these bills passed next year.

The goal for the 2019 session was to improve access to the ballot, reduce the influence of special interest money, and increase transparency in government and politics.

### Improve access to the ballot

SB 5063 will provide pre-paid postage for ballots. Effective date 7/1/2019.

SB 5079 Native American Voting Rights- removes current obstacles for those living on native lands to receive a ballot and ensures access to a drop box. Effective date 7/28/2019.

Both bills passed with a strong bipartisan vote.

SB 5207 expands voting access for persons formally convicted of a felony. Requires the Department of Corrections to provide a voter registration form and information on how to restore their right to vote. Passed. Effective date 7/28/2019.

### Reduce the influence of special interest money

One of our top priority bills, HB 1067, failed to pass. It would have established a one-year "cooling off" period before high-level government officials, including elected officials can work as lobbyists influencing state public policy. The ability to hire lobbyists with inside connections is one of the many ways that well financed special interests exert undue influence.

HB 1722 / SB 5708 The Local Options Bill, to create uniformity in state law by permitting jurisdictions across the state to adopt Ranked Choice Voting (RCV) and expand voter choice, also failed to pass. **(Continued on next page.)**

## **2019 Legislative Session Recap** (Continued from previous page)

### **Increase transparency in government and politics**

HB 1379 requires that campaign ads list the actual people and corporations that are top donors rather than hiding behind shell PACs or political action committees with friendly-sounding names. This has been a priority bill for the League for a number of years, and we are one of very few groups fighting for campaign finance reform. Passed. Effective 7/28/2019.

HB 1545 requires election officials to maintain a daily record during ballot processing of when and how voters are contacted to cure a mismatched or missing signature on their ballot. Effective 7/28/2019.

## **Financial Disclosure Survey      Lora Rathbone**

The Public Disclosure Commission (PDC) is conducting a survey about how to weigh the public interests and privacy concerns associated with the personal financial affairs disclosure reports (F-1s) submitted by elected and appointed officials and candidates. The Commission wants to hear from you as it considers how to make F-1s more readily available to the public and whether there need to be changes to the F-1 requirements. To complete the survey, go to  
<https://www.pdc.wa.gov/financial-affairs-disclosure-what-matters-you>

## **From LWV: Stop Voter Suppression      Lora Rathbone**

Across the country, there has been a concerted effort in many states to stop some voters from voting, or to make it much harder for them to participate. Legislators and election officials have purged existing voters from the rolls, made cuts to early voting, reduced polling places, put in place strict voter photo ID laws and levied onerous voter registration restrictions.

All of these actions have been made easier by the Supreme Court's decision to gut key provisions of the Voting Rights Act in 2013. The 2016 election was the first presidential election in 50 years without full protection of the right to vote. Throughout the 2016 election cycle, the League worked to make sure voters impacted by new laws were aware of these restrictions. In Ohio, the League made thousands of phone calls to inform voters about that state's purge. In Virginia, the League conducted outreach so voters knew how the state's new voter photo ID law might affect them. Across the country, thousands of League volunteers served as non-partisan poll observers, staffed voter protection hotlines, and made sure get-out-the-vote phone banks reached as many voters as possible.

The League is gearing up to take a stand in Congress, statehouses, and courtrooms nationwide to ensure no voters are left behind. Stand with the League in our fight to ensure our elections are always free, fair, and accessible.

Contact your senator and ask to bring S 949 to the Senate floor for a vote, or sign the petition at  
[http://participate.lwv.org/c/10065/p/dia/action3/common/public/?action\\_KEY=12567](http://participate.lwv.org/c/10065/p/dia/action3/common/public/?action_KEY=12567)

## **LWV: Diversity, Equality and Inclusion (DEI)**

The League's Shur Fellows—dedicated volunteers across the country who work on engaging members—have prepared a glossary of commonly used words as part of their work on DEI. One or two of these words are appearing each month in the VOTER. The first one appeared in the last VOTER. Here is the second:

**Bigotry:** Intolerant prejudice, which glorifies one's own group and denigrates members of other groups. *Source: W.K. Kellogg Foundation; National Conference for Community and Justice St. Louis Region—unpublished handout used in the Dismantling Racism Institute program.*

# LWVBF Calendar

## July 2019

**Wednesday, July 10—Kennewick Candidate Forum, 6pm** Candidates for School Board, **7 pm** Candidates for City Council, Kennewick School Administration Center (1000 4<sup>th</sup> Ave., Kennewick)

**Wednesday, July 17—Richland Candidate Forum, 7 pm** Candidates for School Board and City Council, Hapo Stage at John Dam Plaza (815 GW Way, Richland)

**Thursday, July 18— Business and Planning Meeting, 6 pm** Benton Franklin Transit Center (1000 Columbia Park Trail). All members are welcome.

**Tuesday, July 23— Pasco Candidate Forum, 7 pm** Candidates for City Council, Pasco Police Department Regional Training Center (204 W. Clark St., Pasco)

## August 2019

**Thursday, August 15— Business and Planning Meeting, 6 pm** Benton Franklin Transit Center (1000 Columbia Park Trail). All members are welcome.

**Thursday, August 22—Women's Equality Day picnic, 5-9 pm,** Howard Amon Park/ North Shelter in Richland

**Happy 4th to all!**

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

League of Women Voters of  
Benton & Franklin  
Counties  
**P. O. Box 765**  
**Richland WA 99352**