

2022 Annual Meeting

League of Women Voters
of Benton & Franklin Counties

Thursday, May 19, 2022

Attending **in person**? Meet at the **Kennewick Applebee's**
(606 N Columbia Center Blvd) in the banquet room
at **6:00 p.m.**

to socialize and place your orders

*(Please **RSVP** for yourself and any guests **by May 15**)*

Attending **just the meeting via ZOOM**? Join the ZOOM session
at **6:45 p.m.**

(ZOOM invitations will be sent out to all members)

If you will be joining us in person, please bring
an electronic or printed copy of this Annual Meeting Packet

And wear your League name tag, please!

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- 3) stated by the presiding officer after which it may not be withdrawn without the consent of the assembly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

Upcoming State Council – in person – June 10-12, 2022, Everett, WA

Upcoming National Convention – in person and virtual – June 23-26, Denver CO

Presentation of 2022-2023 Local Programs

Presentation of Recommended 2022-2023 Budget

 Adoption of 2022-2023 Budget

Report of the 2021-2022 Nominating Committee

 Nominations from the Floor

 Election of 2022-2023 Officers, Directors, and Nominating Committee

New Business

1.

2. -

3. -

Directions to the Board

Adjourn

Nominating Committee Report

The 2021-22 Nominating Committee is continuing the policy to ask for only a one-year commitment from elected officers and board members. With that in mind the 2021-22 Nominating Committee presents **the following candidates to hold a one-year term (May, 2022 – May, 2023) in the position they are being elected to.**

Officers

President: Beverly Johnson-Torelli
1st Vice President: Polly Parton
2nd Vice President: Karen Miller
Secretary: Diane Molleson
Treasurer: Shirley Sonnichsen

Elected Directors
Bree Bowen
JoAnne Dimond
Wendy Espinosa
Ruvine Jimenez
Janet Nail
Lora Rathbone

Appointed Directors – *the following members will be appointed at the June Board meeting:*
Christine Grantham
Peggy Gregory
Leona Hassing
Sabiha Khan

2022-23 Nominating Committee

Christine Grantham, Chair
Carla Chiotti
Judy Golberg

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

Submitted by the 2021-22 Nominating Committee:
Christine Grantham, Chair
JoAnne Dimond,
Shari Gasperino

Local Program

In January, our membership was invited to a “program planning” Zoom session to review ideas for state and local programs. It was decided that rather than doing a full study or updating an existing position, we would provide educational opportunities through our Table Talks and continue to focus on ‘Making Democracy Work’. A full report on the planning meeting is listed below. *(It was also published in the February VOTER and sent out by email.)*

LWVBF Program Planning Meeting – January 15, 2022

Direction: In the LWVBF Program Planning Meeting, it was decided that rather than doing a specific study, we would carry out National, State and Local Policies and Priorities by holding pertinent Table Talks throughout the year. If so desired, we could then examine a particular topic in more detail. Although we identified several relevant areas, we also discussed having flexibility as the year unfolded. It was emphasized that a DEI (Diversity, Equity, Inclusion) lens be applied as we examined all of our work. The discussion included applicable legislation that may occur either nationally or in Washington State in 2022. An opportunity to speak to our State Legislators on January 25-27 was planned.

Making Democracy Work

- ☐ Invite personnel from the Benton and/or Franklin County Auditor’s office to speak on election processes, security, etc. (Benton Co – Brenda Chilton or Amanda Hatfield / Franklin Co – Matt Beaton or Rosa Herrera)
- ☐ The Table Talk on 12/02/21 featured Fair Vote WA on Ranked Choice Voting – our League will follow any applicable bills in the current legislative session.
- ☐ Continue our Civics Ed program for students but expand it to adults, emphasizing Why Voting Is So Important. Include short videos and/or power points, informational articles on how to ensure your ballot is secure, what happens if your ballot doesn’t match your signature, time limits on ballots, locations of the ballot boxes and the local certification process.
- ☐ Redistricting – continue efforts to influence fair representation for everyone.
- ☐ Continue efforts to influence legislation for fighting voter suppression and championing the Freedom to Vote Act and the John Lewis VRAA, which restores the Voting Rights Act of 1965.

Ensure Quality Health Care for All Americans

- ☐ Concentrate on mental health, suicide issues and COVID issues for adults and students.
- ☐ Invite Michelle Gerber to speak on the Addiction Recovery/Mental Health Facility planned for the Tri-Cities.
- ☐ Ask student members (such as Cassia Vinci) for ideas to get student feedback and perhaps have a Table Talk featuring them.

Natural Resources and Climate Change

It was pointed out by some long-term members that the LWVBF’s study on Sustainable Tri-Cities was used as a foundational document for a local group that continues to meet on climate change and environmental issues. At that time, the Benton-Franklin LWV adopted the

following consensus position:

The League of Women Voters of Benton and Franklin Counties believes that sustainable practices lead to more cost-effective provision of services, which means a more efficient use of revenue and/or taxes. Sustainable communities affect businesses and people because of a high quality of life through reduced energy costs, energy & food security, transportation and recreation options, and a healthier environment.

Since some of our League members belong to said local group, it was suggested that interested League members may want to also join that local group, rather than duplicating efforts. Contact Lora Rathbone for more information.

Media

It was also suggested that we try to get local people more involved by inviting other groups or the community at large to our Table Talks and other events, through media outlets such as the Spanish-language newsletter *Tu Decides*, *Tumbleweird*, *Senior Times*, and television and radio stations, etc.

Membership Report

The League of Women Voters of Benton & Franklin Counties currently has 87 members, including 7 students and 11 second-in-household. In 2012 we had 53 members and in 2011 only 44. Considering that so many service organizations have lost members over the past ten years, we are grateful to be gaining members. It has been difficult to engage our new members during a pandemic and we are looking forward to a time when we can meet our newer members in person.

All new members have access to our League Handbook, which includes our By-Laws, policies and events. It can be found on our website. We have developed a questionnaire so that we can advise our new members about our volunteer opportunities and we can direct them to the committees that interest them most. We strive to welcome new members and give them the tools to become active members who will enhance our League.

— Janet Nail

The Year in Review 2021 – 2022

2021 - MAY: On May 19, 2021, our beloved League member Marilyn Perkins passed away. Many donations were received in her honor. Because she was so supportive of our student members, this May 19, 2022, we are commemorating her memory by presenting two of these student members with \$1,000 each to use for their post-high school education. Arianna Caiceros and Cassia Vinci are both graduating seniors at Richland High School. Marilyn met Arianna when she was one of our essay contest (*Your Vote is Our Future*) winners in 2020. Also in 2020, Cassia interviewed Marilyn regarding the history of the League of Women Voters for a video clip that Richland High was presenting. In addition, Marilyn was a supporter of public broadcasting, so a \$500 donation will be made to the WSU Edward R Murrow College of Communication. Northwest Public Broadcasting (NWPB) has been the League's production partners for our Candidate Forums/Debates since 2020. Marilyn was a WSU alumna and a dedicated Cougar fan.

JUNE: The 2021 LWVWA convention, titled 'The Next Hundred Years: Defending Democracy,' was held virtually from June 24–28. Please see the recap of the Convention in the August, 2021 VOTER at lwv-bf.org under Publications by attendees Diane Molleson, Polly Parton and Beverly Johnson-Torelli.

JULY: Primary Candidate Forums were aired from July 12 – 15 by PBS / NWPB (Northwest Public Broadcasting), who were the League's collaborative partners. The cities of Richland and Pasco published them on You Tube. They were also accessible through the Columbia Basin Badger Club's website and the League's Facebook page and website.

AUGUST: A drive-through 'Back to School' event was held at Amistad Elementary in Kennewick on August 28. League member Polly Parton took on the main responsibility of handing out voter registration information and educational materials.

SEPTEMBER: The League's Annual Picnic was held on September 23 at the large gazebo by the library on Union Street in Kennewick. It was our first and only 'in person' social event since the onset of COVID-19. On September 28, Cassia Vinci, Twila Lewis (a former Gig Harbor member), and Bev Johnson-Torelli offered voter registration and education at the Legacy High School's Fall Fest in Kennewick.

OCTOBER: The General Election Candidate Forums were aired from October 11 – 15, again on PBS / NWPB. The cities of Richland and Pasco through You Tube, the Badger Club via their website, and the League via their Facebook page and website, were also supportive in getting these forums out to the public.

NOVEMBER: The General Election was held on November 2. The State Tax Structure work-group members were the speakers for the November 4 Table Talk.

DECEMBER: On December 2 Leona Hassing arranged for a Table Talk on Ranked Choice Voting. The speakers were from FairVote WA. On December 4, several of our League members attended the virtual LWVWA Action Workshop. Highlights of the 2021 Legislative session, a forecast for the 2022 session, and a panel discussion by House and Senate members

from both parties was moderated by League lobbyist Nancy Shapiro. This was followed by three sessions with options that included climate change - prevention and resilience; behavioral health and health care; democracy issues (including money in politics); public banking; revenue; housing and homelessness; and education.

2022 JANUARY: Program Planning was held virtually on January 15 (see a complete description of the results in this document under ‘Local Program’.) The results were also published in the February VOTER under Publications, at lwv-bf.org. They were also noted in the January meeting minutes, which were sent by email to all members. We continued with our overall theme ‘Making Democracy Work’. It has guided our work over the past few months, including Table Talks and our advocacy for specific legislative bills. In fact during Lobby Week (January 24 – 27), Peggy Gregory, Polly Parton, Lora Rathbone, JoAnn Bengston, Janet Nail, Carla Chiotti and Bev Johnson-Torelli met with 8th Legislative District representatives Matt Boehnke and Brad Klippert; and Christine Grantham and Leona Hassing met with 16th Legislative District state senator Perry Dozier. Lora Rathbone provided a thorough update on the status of numerous bills that were of interest to the League in the April VOTER.

FEBRUARY: Lora Rathbone took the lead for a February 7 Table Talk to discuss legislative bills. Speakers were LWVWA members Cindy Madigan who is the ‘Making Democracy Work’ Issue Chair, and Carol Sullivan who is the Elections Advocate.

MARCH: Shari Gasperino invited Michele Gerber from the Benton-Franklin Recovery Coalition to speak to us at the March 14 Table Talk. The Addiction Recovery Facility in the Tri-Cities may eventually be located at the former KGH Hospital in downtown Kennewick. She encouraged us to contact the Benton County Commissioners to request closure on KGH with no restrictions. There is also a possibility that the facility might be built in a different location off of Canal Drive. At the March 17 Business/Planning meeting, Sabiha Khan gave an informative update on the status of the Afghan Resettlement in our area. She has been greatly involved in this process.

APRIL: Steve Gahn, retired PNNL scientist, presented ‘Climate Change Solutions’ at the Table Talk on April 25. It was a fitting tribute to Earth Day, which was on April 22.

THROUGHOUT THE YEAR:

1. In 2020 and 2021, Judy Golberg brought us several webinars and sessions on DEI (Diversity, Equality, Inclusion), including a panel made up of League members and others sharing their personal experiences. Along the way, Rick Matters, Episcopal priest for racial equality, showed us several videos and facilitated discussion amongst the attendees. As part of our January 15 program planning meeting, it was agreed that a DEI lens would be applied to everything we do.
2. Polly Parton continued to be our MELD representative, keeping us up-to-date each month in the VOTER.
3. Our Advocacy representative Lora Rathbone kept us informed on legislative matters and encouraged our participation.
4. Wendy Espinosa, Janet Nail, and Lora Rathbone gave Civics Ed presentations to Kamiakin students. In October they gave presentations to Ryan McCord’s class, and on March 24 they were in Sabiha Khan’s class. The importance of voting was emphasized.

5. Observer Corps – Polly Parton and Carol Larkin have been consistently attending and reporting on the West Richland and Richland City Councils, respectively. Although Carol will not be participating in the future, she advises interested parties to read information published in the tricitieobserver.com.
6. Letters to the Editor – Several members wrote letters to the editor and/or op-eds on various topics. These were published in the *Tri City Herald*, and particularly focused on describing voter registration deadlines and processes to the public. Thanks to all for promoting democracy.
7. Redistricting – League members were involved in several meetings regarding this process. It had a disappointing outcome. There is much to be done to prepare for the next census. LWVWA's Alison McAffree is again leading the charge.
8. Thanks to the following members: Shirley Sonnichsen, our dedicated Treasurer; Janet Nail, Membership Chair; Peggy Gregory, VOTER editor; Diane Molleson, who took charge of the TRY's; Kay Ottem, JoAnne Dimond, Ruvine Jiminez and all who submitted questions, for their involvement with the Candidate Forums; Polly Parton for the website, Lynne Harrison for Facebook, and Judy Golberg for both; Kay Ottem and Diane Molleson for producing this 2022 Annual Meeting packet.

— *Beverly Johnson-Torelli*
LWVBF President

LWV-BF PROPOSED 2022-23 Budget

Income	2021-22		2022-23	
Dues for 2022-23 (Reg Mbr)	70 @ 75	\$ 5,250	70 @ 75	\$ 5,250
Dues for 2022-23 (SIH)	8 @ 35	\$ 280	12 @ 35	\$ 420
Contributions	\$ -	\$ 2,983	\$ -	\$ 3,133
Member Contributions		\$ 750		\$ 500
Non-Member Contributions		\$ 250		\$ 100
Reserves - Ed Fund		\$ 600		\$ 2,533
Reserves - Savings		\$ 1,383		\$ -
Reserves - Convention		\$ -		\$ -
Other		\$ 500		\$ 500
Service Fees		\$ -		\$ -
Fund Raisers		\$ -		\$ -
Publications		\$ -		\$ -
Table Talk		\$ -		\$ -
In-Kind Contributions (Member)		\$ 500		\$ 500
In-Kind Contributions (Non-Mmbr)		\$ -		\$ -
		\$ 9,013		\$ 9,303
Expenses	2021-22		2022-23	
Operating Costs		\$ 840		\$ 930
Meeting Facilities (incl Zoom)		\$ 200		\$ 200
Incorporation Fee		\$ 10		\$ 10
PayPal Fees		\$ 75		\$ 50
Post Office Box Rental		\$ 155		\$ 220
Web Site Creation/Maintenance		\$ 400		\$ 450
Board and Administration		\$ 350		\$ 475
Donations (Meeting rooms, church)		\$ 100		\$ 100
Public Relations		\$ -		\$ -
Board & Administration		\$ -		\$ 125
Sunshine Fund		\$ 50		\$ 50
President's Materials		\$ 100		\$ 100
Treasurer's Materials		\$ 100		\$ 100
Convention and Workshops		\$ 3,800		\$ 2,600
National Convention	*	\$ 2,700		\$ 1,500
State Convention/Council		\$ 1,000		\$ 1,000
Workshops		\$ 100		\$ 100
Membership Fees		\$ 3,223		\$ 3,698
PMP - LWVUS (Regular Members)	60 @ \$32	\$ 1,920	67 @ \$32	\$ 2,144
PMP - LWVUS (Students, SIH)	7 @ \$16	\$ 96	11 @ \$16	\$ 176
PMP - LWVWA (Regular Members)	60 @ \$19	\$ 1,140	67 @ \$19	\$ 1,273
PMP - LWVWA (Students, SIH)	7 @ \$9.5	\$ 66.50	11 @ \$9.5	\$ 105
Member Services		\$ 250		\$ 900
Recruitment & Membership		\$ 50		\$ 250
Programs: Events		\$ 100		\$ 500
Annual Meeting		\$ 100		\$ 100
VOTER		\$ -		\$ 50
Educational Activities		\$ 500		\$ 650
TRY		\$ 400		\$ 500
Voter Service		\$ 50		\$ 50
Educational Support/Local School Programs		\$ 50		\$ 100
Action		\$ 50		\$ 50
		\$ 9,013		\$ 9,303