

# VOTER

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

May 2020

## From the President

**Beverly Johnson-Torelli**

And just like that...many of us are now living a “virtual life.” The LWVBF Board members are no exception. We had a very successful Board meeting via Zoom on April 16. Because of this and the fact that COVID-19 has made the future uncertain, it was decided that our annual meeting on May 21 at 6 p.m. would also be held through Zoom. All members will receive an invitation to join the annual meeting either by computer, using Zoom or by telephone. To use Zoom, click on the link a few minutes before the meeting to make sure your sound is on, your camera is on if you have one, and then join the meeting. If you prefer the telephone, the number will be on the invitation. Keep the invitation handy if you need a meeting number or password. The Annual Board Meeting packet will be sent to each member electronically two weeks before the meeting.

This new normal is forcing many of us into the wide world of technology, which we may have resisted in the past. We are now converging with Gen X, the Millennials and Gen Z who already live in the electronic world. With the State Council in Yakima and the National Conference in Washington D.C. both becoming virtual, it makes them much more affordable and accessible with many more people able to attend. Also, both events will be offered over a greater number of days. However, it closes the opportunity to travel, physically meet, socialize, and tour the sights.

On a positive note, with our stay at home orders in place, many people now have the time to clean closets, garden, read books, play video or board games and do other tasks or hobbies that we may have put off in busier times. Conversely, our essential workers have never worked harder and are  
**(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)

putting their lives on the line to save other people or provide necessary supplies for everyone. Let's hope that we all remember their sacrifices and honor them as our nation once again begins to stabilize. At our June 16 Zoom Board meeting, Karen Crowley, a member of the League's Washington State Redistricting Committee, will be making a twenty-minute PowerPoint presentation entitled "Speak Up Schools." It is intended to prepare residents across the state to provide powerful and effective testimony to the Redistricting Commission after the Census has been tabulated in the spring of 2021. All members are welcome to attend.

I would like to end by giving kudos to Janet Nail and Val Moffitt for their excellent work on the "Your Vote Our Future" high school essay contest! The amount of effort and time that has gone into it is incredible. From crystallizing the details, obtaining sponsors, and doing the publicity, these ladies have gone above and beyond. Then again, when Christine Grantham conceived the idea for the Centennial Commemorative Banquet, we had no idea how "virtual" it would have to be. Stay safe and healthy so that we can all be at the banquet in August.

## Treasurer's Report

Shirley Sonnichsen

On March 31, 2020:

Checking is **\$4,087.44**

Savings is **\$1,856.47**

Total **\$5,943.91**

Checking: \$4,087

Savings: \$1,856

Total: \$5,943

**Income: \$549.57**

- We received \$70 for the "Votes for Women" painting that Polly did. Thank you, Polly!
- We received \$479.55 from our National Ed Fund reserve to offset the cost of the TRY printing

**Expenses: None**

**Membership:** We have 53 paid members at the end of March. We have a new student, Kylee Yearsley, which brings our total membership to 60.

**Proposed Budget:** The budget committee consists of Diane Molleson, Janet Nail and myself. The FY20-21 Budget was presented at the League's Zoom meeting on April 16. Notes were sent with the budget for members to familiarize themselves with it before the meeting.

**State Council:** May 30-31<sup>st</sup> in Yakima is now virtual.

**National Convention June 25-28, 2020:** LWWUS has made the difficult decision in April to make our 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary National Convention (in Washington, D.C.) a virtual convention.

## Civics Education Update

Lora Rathbone

The Civics Education team is waiting to hear back from RHS teacher Theresa Buczek as to when to hold our Zoom presentation. We hope to have a practice Zoom session, which could be recorded instead of doing a live presentation.

## Centennial Essay Contest

Janet Nail

In mid-April, the Kennewick, Pasco and Richland School Districts, as well as, community Facebook Pages were notified about the essay contest. Thanks to the school districts, the Mid-Columbia Libraries, the Richland City Library, and KNDU, who has been key to our publicity drive, for their support.

Also, a big thank you to our members. As in all things, it is that personal connection that has the greatest impact. If you know a student, a parent, a school administrator or a high school teacher, please forward the essay contest information to them and ask them to “spread the word.” I can forward the flyer to you or you can direct them to our website:

<https://my.lwv.org/washington/benton-franklin.counties/essay-contest>. Remind them of the \$500 winner award and the \$200 runner-up award in each school district.

## What to Watch While Staying Home

Marilyn Perkins

I came across some movie/documentaries I thought might be of interest to our members. The first is *Kill Chain: The Cyber War on America*. It is about how easy it can be to hack into voting machines and lists of voters. It is about 90 minutes long, but very interesting. It was made by HBO, but is also on YouTube. We can watch YouTube through our TV, which was a nicer way to watch than on our computer.

The second is *Crip Camp*. Also a documentary, it was released under the Obamas’ Higher Ground initiative. It focuses on a group of activists with disabilities who first met each other during the summer at Camp Jened, in upstate New York. They played a role in the ultimate passage of the Americans with Disabilities Act in 1990. The co-director said, “This camp changed the world, and nobody knows the story.” I haven’t watched it, but I hope to soon. This documentary is available on Netflix.

The last one I just learned about is *Mrs. America* about Phyllis Schlafly. Gloria Steinem, Shirley Chisholm, Betty Friedan and Bella Abzug are also portrayed in the movie; Cate Blanchett plays the lead role. This is a series and is on Hulu. If people are interested and we get to get together sometime, we can have a watch party or two—even if we have to maintain social distance.

## 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:

**Privilege:** Unearned social power accorded by the formal and informal institutions of society to ALL members of a dominant group. Is usually invisible to those who have it because we’re taught not to see it, but nevertheless it puts them at an advantage over those who do not have it.

*Source: Racial Equity Tools; Colors of Resistance Archive Accessed June 28 2013.*

# Centennial Celebration Committee Update

Chris Grantham

The Centennial Committee would like to acknowledge and thank the donors for their generous support of the high school essay contest, “Your Vote is Our Future,” which is the highlight of our Centennial Celebration. The contest is off and running under Janet Nail’s leadership and we are all excited to see the results of the students’ efforts. The Centennial Committee is very appreciative of the Tri-Cities’ school districts— and their staff— for their support of our essay contest. Thank you to the following organizations, businesses and individuals for their donations:

## Cash Donations

1. Benton County Democratic Central Committee - \$1,500
2. Community First Bank - \$600
3. League of Women Voters of Washington State - \$650
4. Kiwanis Club of Kennewick - \$500
5. Kiwanis Club of Richland - \$500
6. Pasco Education Foundation - \$500
7. Roof Maxx of the Tri-Cities - \$100
8. Anonymous - \$100

## Raffle Donations

1. Inn of the Four Winds, Seaside, Oregon – two-night stay
2. Centennial Quilt, made by Beth Ramsay – “Washington State Women of History”
3. Graze Restaurant— three gift certificates for lunch
4. Eddie Bauer— gift certificate
5. Piper & Twig— kitchen items
6. Sports Page—gift certificate for lunch
7. Uptown Antique Market—gift certificate
8. Marla June—gift certificate
9. Rockabilly Roast— coffee
10. Impressions Salon— three haircuts and three waxes
11. Barnes & Noble— gift membership plus book, *Well-Behaved Women Seldom Make History*
12. Layer Cake Artistry
13. Threads Boutique
14. Buds...and Blossoms Too— gift certificate
15. Jim Thompson Thai Silk Company— cookbook, *At the Table of Jim Thompson*
16. Allied Arts— gift certificate

# LWVBF Calendar

## May 2020

**Friday, May 15— Deadline for Centennial Essay Contest**

**Thursday, May 21— Annual Meeting via Zoom, 6 p.m.**

**May, Dates TBD— State League Council, Virtual.** See <https://lwvwa.org/event-3791044> for upcoming details.

## June 2020

**Thursday- Sunday, June 25, 26, 27 and 28— National LWV Conference, Virtual.** See <https://www.lwv.org/league-management/council-convention/update-convention-2020> for details.

## August 2020

**Saturday, August 8— Centennial Commemoration Banquet,** Richland Hanford House

Email us at  
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