



VOTER

May 2022

www.lwv-bf.org

President's Message ~ Beverly Johnson-Torelli

Happy May Day! It is traditionally celebrated on May 1st by hanging flower baskets on doorknobs and dashing away. I'm sending you best wishes for beautiful flowers and a wonderful day through this message.

Mark your calendars for our **Annual Meeting on Thursday, May 19th**. It will be in person in the banquet room at the Kennewick Applebee's Restaurant, 606 North Columbia Center Blvd. It will also be on Zoom. In-person attendees should arrive at 6:00 pm to socialize and place their orders. At 6:45 pm those attending on Zoom should tune in. The business meeting will start at that time. The in-person participants will eat their meals as the meeting proceeds. We'll hope this hybrid version works for all. **If you plan to attend in person, please RSVP for yourself and any guests to Beverly Johnson-Torelli, sajoh@aol.com no later than May 15th**.

The highlight of this year's Annual Meeting will be the presentation of \$1000.00 each to Arianna Caiceros and Cassia Vinci, two of our League's student members, for their post high school education. Funding for this is coming from some of the generous donations our League received in honor of Marilyn Perkins, who passed away one year ago on May 19, 2021. Marilyn was extremely supportive of our student members. Arianna and Cassia are both graduating seniors at Richland High School. Marilyn met Arianna when she was one of our essay contest winners (*Your Vote is Our Future*) in 2020. Cassia interviewed Marilyn regarding the history of the League of Women Voters for a video clip that Richland High was doing, also in 2020. You will hear more about these amazing young ladies at the Annual Meeting. Marilyn would be so proud of them and honored that they will benefit from donations in her name.

In addition, Marilyn supported public broadcasting, so a \$500.00 donation will be sent 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.

Dates to remember:

May 5th ~ Cinco de Mayo

May 8th ~ Happy Mother's Day to all League members who are Moms!

May 16th-20th ~ Candidates officially file to run for office.

May 19th at 6:00 pm ~ LWV-BF Annual Meeting -All members are invited and encouraged to attend. - Please see the detailed information above. In person and Zoom

May 30th ~ Memorial Day

June 10th-12th ~ LWV-WA Council - Everett, WA – In person

June 16th , 6:00 pm ~ Business/Planning Meeting - Zoom

June 19th ~ Happy Father's Day to all League members who are Dads!

June 19th ~ Juneteenth, which is now a federal holiday. It will be recognized by the postal service on the 20th in 2022, as the 19th is a Sunday.

June 22nd , 6:00 pm ~ Table Talk In person at CBC with Benton County Auditor Brenda Chilton, Franklin County Auditor Matt Beaton and Steve Hobbs, WA Secretary of State regarding election processes.

June 23rd-26th LWV-US Convention - Denver, Colorado. In person and Virtual.

July 11th-15th ~ Primary LWV-BF Candidate Forums/Debates will be conducted. Northwest Public Broadcasting will again be our production partners. The races in 2022 range from Senatorial, Congressional and Legislative Districts to County Officials and Judges. Also, because of redistricting, all five of the Pasco School District Board members will be up for election in 2022. **Please send questions for any of these positions to Bev at sasjoh@aol.com as soon as possible but no later than June 15th.**

Note: If you go to www.lwv-bf.org and click on Publications, you will find our TRY (They Represent You) pamphlet with complete information regarding election years for Washington officials.

July 15th ~ Date for ballots to be mailed out.

August 2nd ~ Primary Election.

Treasurer's Report ~ Shirley Sonnichsen

At March 31, 2022:

Checking is:	\$6,756.34
Savings is:	\$1,856.84
Total:	\$8,613.18

Income:	\$44.00
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Expenses:	None
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Membership: We have 87 members including 7 students, 11 second-in-household members.

Budget: The Board approved the FY2022-23 budget at the April Business and Planning and will be formally approved by the membership at the May Annual Meeting.

National Convention: The National Convention is in Denver, CO June 23rd - 26th. The in-person registration fee is \$475.00, and the virtual registration fee is \$300.00. Information is at this link: [Home | League of Women Voters 2022 Convention \(lwv.org\)](https://www.lwv.org)..

LWV-WA Council: State Council will be held in June 10th-12th at the [Delta Hotels-Marriott](https://www.marriott.com) in Everett. Registration for the Council is \$125.00 (early bird) and after May 14th will be \$150.00. Here is the link: [League of Women Voters of Washington - The LWV of Washington Council, "Reconnect, Restore, Renew," Set for June \(lwvwa.org\)](https://www.lwvwa.org)

If you are interested in attending the Council or Convention, please contact Shirley Sonnichsen at jsson.dawgs@charter.net

Membership, Engagement and Leadership Development ~ Polly Parton

MELD Zoom Meeting-Membership, Engagement and Leadership Development, March 28, 2022

Attending-Lynn Busacca as Facilitator, Polly Parton (Benton-Franklin), Karen Tvedt, Julie Frick, Carol Goss and Shelley Kneip (Thurston), Maren Halvorsen (Callam), and Jayne Freitag as WA Board Liaison (Renton-Bellevue-Issaquah).

Round Table Discussion:

Polly Parton- Three members (Wendy Espinosa, Lora Rathbone and Janet Nail) presented in-person Civics Education at Kamiakin High School. Other classroom visits may follow. Michele Gerber spoke at our March Table Talk about the great need for and progress to establish a Tri-Cities drug rehabilitation and mental health facility. Steve Ghan will speak on Climate Change at our April Table Talk. Our May Annual Meeting is planned as a hybrid both in person and Zoom. Our first book club choice is *State of Terror* by Louise Penny and Hilary Rodham Clinton.

Maren Halvorsen- Leadership is by Executive Council, but they still struggle to fill positions with new nominees. They need a new co-treasurer and secretary. Committees are thriving in contrast to new nominees for offices. This could be because they are easier to step in and out of, as opposed to office terms. They established a “Women Who Make a Difference” award and a public health official was the awardee. This also gave public recognition to the League. A May mixer for members is planned. A college credited internship is being developed by their league (new idea!).

Shelley Kneip- Working on policies and procedures including forum rules and conflicts of being an officer/board member and holding local offices/positions.

Carol Goss- Their first walk and talk was held March 29th and they are working with high-schoolers to register future voters at their schools. Their book club is 2 ½ years strong. They joined with the Pacific Asian Group for a speaker about race dialogue. Karen Tvedt reported 10 new members recently, including some 16 or under. They join as associate members.

Julie Frick- **Promote Civic Education Fair**, was held April 23rd at our State Capitol, included tours, a scavenger hunt, information on page and internship programs. They received a grant to provide *The State We're In* (books) to students who attend. The Lt. Governor is invited. (Awesome! We need feedback on this event!)

Jayne Freitag (State Board Liaison) reported on the June 10th-12th Council at Delta Hotel in Everett. Vaccinations are required but they will prepare to pivot to remote if needed. Advocacy, voter services, a study of legislature and advocacy and breakout sessions are planned. Jessica Roloff from National will speak on *What's New, What's Not*. Local leagues can use up to 60% of their Ed Funds to help send members to Council. They are having success at getting a slate for state board members.

Lynn Busacca- Lynn suggested *Saving Us: A Climate Scientist's Case for Hope and Healing in a Divided World* by Katharine Hayhoe from her League's book club. Next month we continue to discuss filling leadership roles, types of structures, time commitments and can some leagues hire an Executive Director?

Next Meeting April 25th-

LWV-BF Book Club -Polly Parton

Come and Join Us!

Join us for our 1st book club discussion (even if you haven't read the book). We may read fiction (or non) women's and social issues, biographies, political and climate stories plus new and older books. Our meetings will be held via Zoom, limited to one-hour discussions and led by whoever chose that month's book.

May 2nd, 6:00 pm (1st Monday of the month) - *State of Terror* by Hillary Rodham Clinton and Louise Penny (available at Mid-Columbia Library)

June 13th, 6:00 pm (2nd Monday)- (I suggest)- *Eleanor Oliphant is Completely Fine* by Gail Honeyman

July 11th, 6:00 pm- a rotating member chooses a book

A Zoom invite will be sent to all members the 1st month. After that it will be sent only to those who request it. Please send me a text or email if you want on the invite list (even if you cannot always attend)

Hope to see you there, Polly Parton, 509-551-3818 or polly.parton@yahoo.com

LWV-BF Slate of Officers and Nominating Committee ~ Christine Grantham

May 2022- May 2023

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:

Christine Grantham
Peggy Gregory Voter Editor
Leona Hassing
Sabiha Khan

NOMINATING COMMITTEE: 2023

Carla Chiotti
Judy Golberg
Christine Grantham - Chair

SUBMITTED BY 2022 NOMINATING COMMITTEE:

JoAnne Dimond
Shari Gasperino
Christine Grantham - Chair

Election Security Table Talk ~ Christine Grantham

Since its founding, the League of Women Voters primary focus has been access to the vote and voter engagement. However, as League members, we continue to challenge ourselves to understand the issues that impact our schools, cities, and communities. How we resolve these challenges and how we vote has a direct influence on every aspect of our lives. Voter engagement is critical as it enables us to begin collecting information prior to that dreaded voter's pamphlet's arrival. Our League has a solution to the "panic" one might feel when that ballot appears.

Every year our board members select topics of area interest to explore that are pertinent to our quality of life here in the Tri-Cities. These programs are referred to as "Table Talk" and we welcome all members to attend. During COVID we have held Table Talks via Zoom.

I like to think of "Table Talk" as our version (the League) of a "Continuing Education" program. This is a wonderful opportunity to get involved in our community by becoming an "informed voter".

Recently, via Zoom, Michelle Gerber spoke about the need and progress of a Tri-Cities Drug Rehabilitation and Mental Health Facility. Retired Climate Scientist Steve Ghan spoke on the challenges and solutions of climate change. Although these are both complicated subjects these conversations can be a foundation for building further information upon.

Our next Table Talk will be in person on June 22nd at CBC. The topic will be Washington's Election Security. Although we know most Washington residents believe our elections are secure, there may be some who question the process. We would like to address this issue prior to the November election. We have invited the most knowledgeable officials to discuss our election process. Benton County Auditor Brenda Chilton and Franklin County Auditor Matt Beaton have agreed to participate in a question-and-answer forum. We will also be joined by Washington Secretary of State Steve Hobbs. This will be our first in person forum and we are excited to have a State official join in the conversation.

We encourage League members and the public to participate. For questions, concerns, or additional information contact: christinegrantham3@gmail.com.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

May 19th, 6:00 pm. ~ Annual Meeting in person at Applebee's Restaurant or via - Zoom, at 6:45pm

June 10th-12th ~ LWV-WA State Council-Everett

June 16th, 6:00 pm. ~ Zoom Business Planning Meeting

June 22nd, 6:00 pm. ~ Table Talk regarding election processes. In person at CBC. Benton County Auditor Brenda Chilton, Franklin County Auditor Matt Beaton and Steve Hobbs, WA Secretary of State.

June 23rd-26th ~ LWV-US Convention Denver, CO and Virtual

July 11th-15th ~ Candidate Forums/Debates

August 2nd ~ Primary Election

October ~ Candidate Forums/Debates

November 8th ~ General Election

lwv.of.bf@gmail.com

Mailing Address:

League of Women Voters of Benton and
Franklin Counties
P.O.Box 765
Richland, WA 99352

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