

VOTER

March 2020

www.lwv-bf.org

From the President

Beverly Johnson-Torelli

Thank you to Marilyn Perkins for the great Letter to the Editor that appeared in the February 26, 2020 edition of the *Tri-City Herald*. Because I signed it as the League President, I have received many compliments, but she and Bree Bowen, who did the editing, deserve all the credit.

February was a very busy month. We showcased the 19th Amendment and made democracy work! Our various activities, celebrations and commemorations, which are described in more detail in this *Voter*, were all successful and very memorable. Thanks to our awesome members who contributed so much of their time, energy and resources to all these events.

Now we turn our attention to the March 10th Presidential Primary. For this primary only, in order to have your vote count, you must declare a party, either Democrat or Republican. Then you must mark your ballot for a candidate in the party you declared. There is one Republican candidate and several Democratic candidates. However, some of them have dropped out but did not do so before the ballots were printed. Therefore, if you vote as a Democrat, you may want to check to see who is still in the running before marking your ballot. In addition, some suggest that waiting to vote until after Super Tuesday on March 3 might be worthwhile. The top two candidates from the Republican and Democratic parties will then move on to the General Election on November 3, as will the non-presidential candidates from the August 4 Primary. Please click on the link below for further information:

<https://www.bellinghamherald.com/news/politics-government/election/article239695618.html>

(Continued on next page)

Officers:

President:
Beverly Johnson-Torelli
1st Vice President:
JoAnne Dimond
2nd Vice President:
Janet Nail
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Polly Parton
Treasurer:
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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)

Related to the August 4 Primary and/or the General Election on November 3, members of the League of Women Voters of Benton and Franklin Counties are exploring the possibility of hosting a state candidate forum that will include positions such as the Governor, Attorney General, etc. Details may be forthcoming at a later date.

Next month we will be back to our regular Board meeting date on Thursday, March 19. All members are always welcome to attend and to get involved in our many League functions.

Letter to the Editor

Marilyn Perkins and Bree Bowen

This letter appeared in the February 26, 2020 issue of the *Tri-City Herald*.

2020 marks the 100th anniversary of women gaining the right to vote with the passage of the 19th Amendment, championed by the women's suffrage movement. This year we also celebrate the 100th anniversary of the League of Women Voters (LWV).

LWV is a direct result of 70 years of hard work by different women's groups. A similar organization was first proposed in 1909, by 'The Mother of Women's Suffrage' Emma Smith DeVoe from Tacoma. However, it would be another decade before the LWV was formally proposed at the National American Woman Suffrage Association in St. Louis. It was officially founded at the next convention in Chicago on February 14, 1920, six months before the 19th amendment would be ratified and signed into law.

The League is proud to be nonpartisan, neither supporting nor opposing candidates or political parties at any level of government, but always working on vital issues of concern to members and the public. If you (man or woman) believe in empowering voters, defending democracy, and envision a country where everyone has the desire, right, knowledge, and confidence to participate, contact the League of Women Voters of Benton and Franklin Counties at <https://my.lwv.org/washington/benton-franklin-counties> to join or ask questions.

Nominating Committee

Judy Golberg

Each of us joined League for a reason. Was it to register voters? Be involved with particular issues? Or was it because you believe in the mission of League and wanted to be part of this organization? Whatever the reason, thank you. We are glad you joined.

The Nominating Committee is in the process of calling members for next year's slate. If for some reason you don't get a call but do want to help, please feel free to contact us. We probably won't get everyone called but do want you to know there are many activities you can help out with. Here are a few:

Work on Voter Service—preparing for candidate forums, registering voters; edit/layout/proofread the *Voter*; webpage, Facebook or other social media administration; teach civics to high school students; follow the legislative issues based on the state League's priorities; attend school board/city council or other public meetings as a member of the Observer Corps; organize/set up meetings; participate on the Audit or Budget committees; review Bylaws; or work on the membership committee. Get involved! Thanks everyone.

Members of this year's Nominating Committee: Judy Golberg (Chair), Shirley Sonnichsen, Christine Grantham, Bev Hunter, and Mary Shaw.

2020 Legislative Session Update

Lora Rathbone

March 12 is the last day of this session. February 28 was the deadline to pass bills out of the **policy** committees. The bill we hoped would pass, **SB 6610- Eliminating Advisory Votes**, didn't make it out of committee so is dead.

Bills will have until March 2 to pass out of House fiscal committees, Senate Ways & Means and Transportation committees. Senator Sharon Brown is on the Ways and Means Committee.

The LWVWA would like your help to pass **SHB 2575- Modernizing the Redistricting Commission**. If you support this bill, please alert our senators. You can tell them "you believe in increasing access to democracy, transparency in government processes, and maximizing people's ability to give input to the Washington State Redistricting Commission." Don't forget to add your own story of why access to democracy is important to you. You can sign the LWV WA letter at http://participate.lwv.org/c/9163/p/dia/action4/common/public/?action_KEY=13866

Another bill you may want to speak up for is **ESSB 5323- Banning single-use thin plastic grocery carryout bags**, which clog recycling equipment and pollute our waterways as they break down. Grocery companies, recyclers, and trade organizations support this bill because it makes the regulations uniform across the state. Contact Representative Matt Boehnke, 8th LD, Matt.Boehnke@legwa.gov to help pass it.

To see what other bills are still alive and what you can do to support them, click on the subject at <https://lwvwa.org/issues2020>

Treasurer's Report

Shirley Sonnichsen

On January 31, 2020:

Checking is **\$3,629.03**
Savings is **\$1,856.44**
Total **\$5,485.47**

Checking: \$3,629
Savings: \$1,856
Total: \$5,485

Income: \$600.02

- Member dues of \$225, \$228 for hats and sashes plus \$87 for contributions for suffragette cutout. Beverly Johnson-Torelli also gave a \$125 contribution for the suffragette.

Expenses: \$482.24

- \$2.48 PayPal fees
- \$479.76 for 3rd & 4th qtr. PMP's to the State League.

Membership: We have 52 paid members at the end of January. The National database was updated for the February 1 deadline and we have 59 members.

Convention June 25-28, 2020: \$399 – registration fee; \$100 – add-on Saturday night banquet; \$60 – add-on Saturday reception. We can have two voting delegates. We have three rooms at \$199 + tax. If you are interested, please let the Treasurer know at jsson.dawgs@charter.net

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. The receipt was sent Monday and I received a response that they are depositing the \$\$ in our bank account.

Budget Committee: The Treasurer needs a budget committee. Diane Molleson and Janet Nail volunteered to be on it. We will meet in March and I will try to get one more person on the committee.

Centennial Committee

Christine Grantham

Centennial Banquet

Saturday, August 8, 2020

Richland Hanford House (formerly the Red Lion)

We are working on the preliminary details of the Centennial Celebration Banquet. The first order of business has been the raffle to help fund the essay contest. JoAnne Dimond is helping collect raffle items to support that effort. If you have a local restaurant you frequent, a quaint shop you like, or a vender you support, perhaps they would be willing to donate an item. We have a few nice prizes, but we could certainly use some more. If you have any ideas for possible donations, please call JoAnne Dimond (509) 438-2330 or Christine Grantham (509) 845-0820. We have LWV donation forms and keep a log of all the businesses that make contributions. All donors will be recognized in our banquet program and at every school that offers the essay contest. We will begin selling raffle tickets when we have enough items. Raffle tickets will also be sold prior to the banquet, and we will draw for the winners later in the evening. Winners do not need to be present to win. Janet Nail is the essay contest chair and is doing a wonderful job coordinating the contest. More details will be in the next *Voter*.

Herstory—Allied Arts Exhibit

Beverly Johnson-Torelli

At a reception on February 9, The Gallery at the Park (Allied Arts) hosted sixty-one pieces of Herstory by female artists, partnering with the League and the Mid-Columbia Mastersingers. League members Chris Grantham, Susan Kreid and Ann Collette did an excellent job of serving as art jurors. Coincidentally, four out of the five finalists were local artists. Chris was fabulous at announcing the winners. We had a great turnout of League members, several in period costumes and others with sashes/hats. It was also a wonderful opportunity to publicize the mission and history of our local League. Thank you to League member Rose Quirk, the Featured Artist chair, for coordinating the show and to Emma Barnes, the Director of Allied Arts, for choosing the theme. Thanks also to Lora Rathbone for the excellent brochure we can pass out at multiple events.

Happy Birthday, League!!

Beverly Johnson-Torelli

February 14th 2020: Happy 100th Birthday League of Women Voters! Marilyn Perkins arranged a very enjoyable luncheon at CG's Public House to celebrate, complete with delicious cake, balloons and good conversation. In addition, Bree Bowen surprised us with decorated bags filled with candy. Governor Inslee's proclamation was read celebrating the 19th Amendment and the mission of the League. Marilyn gave us interesting details about the League's history. She then encouraged us to talk about women whom we find interesting. Mary Keffer presented an informative history of Sacajawea. Peggy Gregory offered a book review of *A Woman of No Importance* by Sonia Purcell about Virginia Hall, an American female guerilla leader who helped the allies in WWII, performing amazing feats, all with a wooden leg. Yellow roses were presented to various League members in appreciation of long-term membership, dedication to their duties or committees, dressing up in the spirit of the day, etc. The luncheon was well attended. Thank you, everyone.

Civics Education

The Civics Education group is going to Kamiakin and Richland High Schools on **March 6** and **March 23** to make presentations. Please contact Lora Rathbone at ldrathbone@outlook.com if you would like to join this group and help teach Civics to high school students.

Mid-Columbia Mastersingers Concerts

Beverly Johnson-Torelli

From the dress rehearsal on February 20 through the last performance on February 23, our participation with the Mid-Columbia Mastersingers in “*Voices for Women: Votes for All*” was a huge success. Our members dressed up in period costumes, sold concessions and demonstrated how to access Vote411.org, which works as a nationwide resource for looking up candidate information. Our table display with TRY’s, Lora Rathbone’s brochures and the information for our August 8 Centennial Banquet was eye-catching, especially with Polly Parton’s picture depicting the postcard advertisement for “*Votes for Women: Votes for All*.” It brought in \$70 in a silent auction. Thank you, Polly! Marilyn Perkins did an excellent job of presenting League’s history at the pre-concerts at all three performances. Thanks to Janet Nail’s oversight (and Albertson’s generosity), our concessions were simplified with the sale of brownies and bottled water. Many audience members also contributed extra donations at the event. Appreciation goes to Shirley Sonnichsen for keeping track of the funds. All proceeds will be given to the winners of the essay contest for Kennewick, Pasco and Richland High School students at our Centennial Banquet.

Other recognition goes to JoAnn Bengtson for the beautiful and delicious cake celebrating the League birthday that was brought to the reception at Allied Arts after the first performance. Thanks also to the rest of the Suffragists of the weekend: Chris Grantham who helped all four days, Judy Blair, Ann Roberts, JoAnne Diamond and Alice Allison, who helped with the Mastersingers’ programs and whose shoes were from 1918. Peter Bengtson assisted in manning the League table and even wore a straw hat in the spirit of 1920. Many thanks to all the members who helped and/or attended these concerts.

The following thank you was received from the Mastersingers:

Dear Bev and the LWV Members,

It has been an absolute pleasure to collaborate with the League of Women Voters BF on the Votes for Women concerts! You really made the event special. I hope that we can work together again in the future!

All the Best,

Wendy, Justin and MCM

MCM also donated to us the framed pictures with histories of the Suffragists and the Vote411.org information that were displayed during the concerts. They will be on loan, along with our Suffragist cutout, to the East Benton County Historical Society Museum in Kennewick during March and then perhaps displayed at other locations until we use them at our Centennial Commemoration Banquet on August 8.

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:

Power: Unequally distributed globally and in U.S. society; some individuals or groups wield a greater amount than others, thereby allowing them greater access and control over resources. Wealth, whiteness, citizenship, patriarchy, heterosexism, and education are a few key social mechanisms through which this operates. *Source: Racial Equity Tools; Intergroup Resources, 2012.*

Explore books, YouTube videos and other resources on DEI at this link:

<https://www.lwv.org/league-management/leadership-development/lwv-diversity-equity-and-inclusion-webinars>

Road Trip to Maryhill Museum

We might consider a road trip to the Maryhill Museum in June. The exhibit, “Art by Women Celebrating the Centennial of the 19th Amendment”, runs from March 15 to November 15, 2020. There is an entry fee group rate of \$10 for groups of ten or more and also the senior rate, otherwise \$12. Contact Shirley Sonnichsen at jsson.dawgs@charter.net if you are interested.

LWVBF Calendar

March 2020

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

April 2020

Thursday, April 2— Table Talk, Location and time TBD

Tuesday, April 7— Non-Profit Conference, Yakima

Thursday, April 16— Business and Planning Meeting, 6 p.m. Benton Franklin Transit Center (1000 Columbia Park Trail). All members are welcome.

May 2020

Friday, May 1— Naturalization Ceremony, register voters, Federal Building, Richland

Thursday, May 21— Annual Meeting

Friday-Sunday, May 29, 30 and 31— State League Council, Yakima

June 2020

June— possible visit to Maryhill Museum, date TBD

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

Friday- Sunday, June 26, 27 and 28— National LWV Conference, Washington D.C.

August 2020

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

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

League of Women Voters of
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Counties
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