



# VOTER

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF BENTON & FRANKLIN COUNTIES

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

## From the President JoAnn Bengtson

Warm Greetings! There is hope—I saw green plants and grass while in Olympia last week when I attended the Washington State League of Women Voters Lobby Day 2019. I was able to meet with the 8<sup>th</sup> District’s State Representatives Brad Klippert and Matt Boehnke. In the midst of their busy day, they made time to hear from a League of Women Voter member. They were both receptive to the League’s legislative priorities, and it was an honor to see just how much “Democracy Rocks” in action. Whether in person, by phone, email or a letter, engagement is important to the process of moving the League’s agenda forward. Make sure you are signed up for the Washington State League of Women Voters legislative newsletter for up-to-date information on bills of high priority for the League.

## League Birthday Dinner

JoAnne Dimond

The LWVBF’s annual **birthday dinner** will now take place on **Wednesday, March 6 at CG Public House**, 9221 West Clearwater in Kennewick. We will start at 5:30 pm (with a no host bar) and order dinner off a limited menu at 6 pm. Entrees will include Chicken Cordon Bleu, Alfredo pasta, London broil, Chicken Caesar salad, and burgers. Prices range from approximately \$15 to \$23. Our speaker will be Ken Robertson, retired executive editor of the *Tri-City Herald*. **To RSVP, please call JoAnne Dimond, [509-438-2330](tel:509-438-2330) or Marilyn Perkins, [509-521-7716](tel:509-521-7716) or [509-783-8610](tel:509-783-8610).**

**The League of Women Voters turns  
100 in 2020!**

March 2019

## Officers

**President:**

**JoAnn Bengtson**

**1st Vice President:**

**JoAnne Dimond**

**2nd Vice President:**

**Janet Nail**

**Interim Secretary:**

**Polly Parton**

**Treasurer:**

**Shirley Sonnichsen**

**Past President:**

**Polly Parton**

**Voter Editor:**

**Diane Molleson**

## Elected

### Directors:

**Beverly Johnson-Torelli**

**Danette Keegan**

**Diane Molleson**

**Lora Rathbone**

**Chuck Torelli**

## Appointed

### Directors:

**Ruth Giese**

**Judy Golberg**

**Sabiha Khan**

**Lisabeth Jimenez**

**Marilyn Perkins**

**Kelly Pflieger**

## Table Talk on April 9

The LWVBF is planning a Table Talk on Tuesday, April 9 to feature legislative updates. Lora Rathbone, our Lobby Liaison, has included a list of topics (see her article below) for individuals to choose from and report on the status of a bill. The Table Talk will begin at 5:30 pm, and the location has yet to be decided.

## Washington State Legislative Session

### Lora Rathbone, LWVBF Lobby Liaison

The Washington State Legislative Session is in full swing, and so are our hard-working advocates at the LWVWA. They make lobbying easier for us by sending weekly bill updates in their Legislative Newsletter.

To sign up to receive their updates, go to <https://www.lwvwa.org/advocacy>. At that link, you will also find the list of bills the LWVWA supports. If you would like my email update, abbreviated from the LWV Legislative Newsletter, email me at [ldrathbone@outlook.com](mailto:ldrathbone@outlook.com). Bill information and status can be found at <https://apps.leg.wa.gov/billinfo/> by putting the bill number in the search bar. To find how our legislators voted, clicking on Minority or Majority report.

We will learn the status of the bills the League supports at our April Table Talk by having several members update us on one of these areas of interest. Please let JoAnn Bengtson ([joann.bengtson1@gmail.com](mailto:joann.bengtson1@gmail.com)) know which subject area you choose:

Democracy: Elections, Campaign Finance and Government Ethics, Election Methods, Election Security, Census and Redistricting

Education

Housing and Homelessness

Environment: Climate Change, Energy, Forests and Rivers, Shorelines, Wetlands, Land Use, Transportation, Water

Health Care bills: State-based Single Payer, bills for those requiring behavioral health services, and “surprise billing” bills.

Gun Safety: LWVWA position supports schools as gun-free zones

Criminal Justice: Eradicate racial bias from the criminal justice system to uphold principles of fairness and due process of law

Economic and Social Justice: Introduce policies to correct the imbalance that keeps prosperity beyond the reach of lower and middle class families

## Book Recommendation

**Diane Molleson**

*THICK and Other Essays* by Tressie McMillan Cottom, a professor and sociologist. In eight trenchant and witty essays, Cottom lucidly explores the experiences of black women in contemporary America. She reflects on her personal story and adds data and research to highlight the structural inequalities black females experience. In her aim to “tell powerful stories that become a problem for power,” she covers LinkedIn (and the backlash she received for skewering it), the tensions between African Americans and blacks from other countries, how beauty and self-esteem are treated as commodities, infant mortality, violence, the media, and far more. Released in January 2019 and available through the Mid-Columbia libraries.

# Treasurer's Report

**Shirley Sonnichsen**

Checking: \$ 3,984
Savings: \$1,856
Total: \$5,840

At the end of January, checking was \$3,984; savings was \$1,856 for a total of \$5,840. There was no income this month. We paid \$600 to the California League for the new MyLO web site. It was \$400 for the year and \$200 to migrate the data. The 3<sup>rd</sup> Quarter Per Member Payment was made to the State for \$225.63. Total expenses were \$825.63. Bettendorf's printed the TRY's and the cost was \$760 for 3500 copies. The Port of Benton has generously paid for the TRY's again this year. We have 50 paid members, 55 in total, which includes 5 second-in-household. Two of our members are now lifetime: Ginger Vetrano and Madge Watson. The National database has been updated. The February Membership list has been sent out and is the final for what they will be billing us starting in July. The budget committee will meet soon. Members are Bev Johnson- Torelli, Marilyn Perkins and Janet Nail.

## **Madge Watson**

**Marilyn Perkins**

Madge Watson, who is a lifetime member of League, is moving to Boise to be closer to one of her daughters. She is moving into a senior living facility she is excited about, and we know they will be glad to have her. When I joined League forty years ago, Madge was the resident water expert. She always was aware of how important the quality and quantity of water is, especially in our area. Occasionally I would drop in to see her, and it will be hard to know she is not there. If you would like to have her new address, contact Marilyn Perkins, 783-8610.

## **The Phone Tree**

**Marilyn Perkins**

Our League has resurrected its telephone tree and hopefully you have received a call or will shortly. We tried to organize the phone tree geographically to help with carpooling. If you have both a landline and cell phone, let your caller know which you prefer. If you only want to be called for the most spectacular events that is fine. With all the methods of communication we have today, we decided it is still nice to talk to people one on one. We appreciate all our members and if you have any suggestions you can pass them on to your contact person, and she will pass them on to us.

## **TRYs (They Represent You)**

**Marilyn Perkins**

The TRYs are sorted and labeled and most have been delivered. We've not gotten them to all our members, though. If you can come to the League's Birthday Dinner on Wednesday, March 6, we will have them to hand out. If you were delivering some and ended up with extras, bring them back with you because we don't have many left over for the rest of the year. We have handed them out to the auditor offices, city halls, senior centers and the Richland Library and Community Center, where they should be available to the public. If you cannot get one conveniently, contact Marilyn Perkins, 783-8610, and she will mail you one.

# LWVBF Calendar

## March 2019

**Wednesday, March 6— League Birthday Dinner**, 5:30 pm, CG Public House (9221 West Clearwater, Kennewick)

**Thursday, March 14—Voter Registration**, Delta High School (5801 Broadmoor Blvd., Pasco)

**Thursday, March 21— Board Meeting**, 6 pm, BF Transit Center (1000 Columbia Park Trail). All members are welcome

## April 2019

**Tuesday, April 9— Table Talk**, 5:30 pm, location TBD

**Thursday, April 18— Board Meeting**, 6 pm, BF Transit Center (1000 Columbia Park Trail). All members are welcome

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

League of Women Voters of  
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