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## **From the President JoAnn Bengtson**

Benton Franklin League's May annual membership meeting needs you! Consider attending both the May membership meeting and the June statewide convention in Tacoma to see the League in action. The league has been, and still remains, at the forefront of defending our democracy. To quote Simon Sinek, a motivational speaker and the author of *Start With Why: How Great Leaders Inspire Everyone to Take Action*, "Leadership is not about the next election, it is about the next generation." You are a part of the League's legacy of leadership.

## **Table Talk on May 2**

### **Marilyn Perkins & Beverly Johnson-Torelli**

The May 2nd Table Talk will be at the Original Pancake House at 3177 Plaza Way in Kennewick at Noon. It is across from Trios Hospital and beside the Hampton Inn.

We will be reviewing the last 99 years, since the 19<sup>th</sup> amendment passed, and seeing how life has changed for women. When Marilyn Perkins graduated from high school in 1966 and looked back 50 years, WW I was two years in and the U.S. hadn't entered yet. For today's high school students looking back 50 years, the Vietnam War was ongoing and may seem like ancient history to them. We'll discuss the political, technical and cultural changes that have changed the world for women in our country. Specifically, Marilyn will talk about her mother, who was born in 1920, and came to live in this area. Beverly Johnson-Torelli will recount her mother's lifetime, 1913-2005, and talk about the changes she saw in the world and then continue from 2005 to the present. Everyone is invited to share the experiences of their mothers and grandmothers, bring pictures, etc. We're hoping this meeting may help inspire ideas for the 2020 League 100th Birthday and also ideas for the June convention.

Annual meeting packets will be handed out to members who are present to save on postage.

May/June 2019

## **Officers**

### **President:**

**JoAnn Bengtson**

### **1st Vice President:**

**JoAnne Dimond**

### **2<sup>nd</sup> 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**

# Annual Meeting on May 16

Marilyn Perkins

The League's Annual Meeting is held on the third Thursday in May, which this year falls on the 16<sup>th</sup>. It will start at **5:30 pm at All Saints Episcopal Church**, 1322 Kimball, in Richland, just off Williams Blvd. above the old cemetery. We use the parking and entrance in the back of the church.

If you haven't been to a meeting all year, this is a good one to attend. There is time for eating, socializing and business. We will be electing a slate of officers and approving a budget and program priorities for coming year. We have a potluck and welcome contributions (main dish, side, beverage or dessert), but if your day is busy come anyway—we always have plenty. We will start setting up at 5pm and extra help is appreciated. If you have a rectangular tablecloth you are willing to share, contact Marilyn Perkins at 783-8610. We could also use a volunteer or two to provide drinks. Plates, cups and utensils will be provided, but you're welcome to bring your own water bottle and table service since we are trying to go green again this year.

The packets for the meeting will be handed out at the May 2<sup>nd</sup> Table Talk for those who can make it. The rest will be mailed the next day and hopefully you will receive them by the 6<sup>th</sup> at the latest. Also, try and remember to wear your League name tag. Name tags will be available for our newer members.

## Treasurer's Report

**Shirley Sonnichsen**

**Balance:** At the end of March, checking was \$3,233; savings was \$1,856 for a total of \$5,089.

Checking: \$ 3,233
Savings: \$1,856
Total: \$5,089

**Income:** We received a \$1,000 check from Paula Garland's estate, which was very much appreciated. We received \$225 in dues and a \$50-member donation for a total of \$1,275.

**Expenses:** The 4<sup>th</sup> quarter PMP's were paid for both National and State for a total of \$605.61.

**Membership:** We are very pleased to welcome three new members: Sandra Hendry, Ann Roberts, and Mary Shaw. We have 57 members in total and 54 paid members.

**Budget Committee:** Marilyn Perkins (chair), Janet Nail, Beverly Johnson-Torelli and I met again to finalize the budget, which we voted to accept at the April meeting with an amendment. It is felt that the goal of 60 paid members would be hard to reach, and the budget was amended to 55 members. We also placed the \$1,000 donation from Paula's estate into income. The budget will be in the Annual Meeting packet to be voted on at the Annual Meeting in May.

## State Convention in Tacoma, June 6-9

**Shirley Sonnichsen**

Registration continues and three double rooms have been reserved at the Murano Hotel. Registration is \$240 before May 15 and it goes up after that. A double room is \$181 including tax, which our League will pay if you share a room or half if you want to have your own room. The Convention starts Friday, June 7 at 9 a.m. so League would pay for Thursday night. Parking is a \$20 fee so it would be good to car pool. If you want to go, please register yourself and you will be reimbursed or come to my house and I can register you with the League debit card. You can also claim one of the rooms and put your name on it. Please let me know if you are going: Shirley Sonnichsen, 627-1473. After convention, receipts need to be turned in and checks cashed before June 30<sup>th</sup> when the books are closed.

# From the LWVWA: 2019 WA State Legislative Update

Lora Rathbone

“Work in Olympia will now focus on passage of bills necessary to implement the budget and initiatives. The significant activity will be on negotiations to reconcile the House and Senate budgets into a final budget for approval by both houses. Legislative session is due to close on April 28. Now is the time to let your legislators know that you support additional revenue in the final budget... Thank you for your action during this session. We still have work to do!”

Here is the status of the bills the League supports as of Thursday, April 25, as well as how our senators and representatives of the 8th, 9th and 16th LD voted. We should thank them if they voted for a bill we supported.

The bills that passed and are now law are underlined. Many are close to passing and just need the Governor’s signature to become law. To see if the Governor has signed the bill, go to <https://apps.leg.wa.gov/billinfo/> To learn more about the bills, go to <https://lwwva.org/issues>

## Democracy:

***Bills the League supported that passed or are likely to pass:***

**SB 5079 Native American Voting Rights Act**. Will enable mail-in ballots for those living on native lands but without a recognized street address. All our senators voted yes. Passed and is now law. Effective date 7/28/2019.

**SB 5207 -provide inmates with a felony conviction with information on how to restore their right to vote**. Walsh (16th LD) and Rep. Rude voted yes. Senators Brown and Schoesler and all our Representatives voted no except Rep. Rude. Passed and is now law. Effective date 7/28/2019.

**HB 1379 -disclosure of **contribution from political committees** to other political committees.** Would close a loophole by requiring that the top donors listed be the individuals, corporations or nonprofits that actually contributed. All our senators voted no. Passed Legislature.

**SB 5063 -provides **prepaid postage for ballots****. Passed the Senate, 42-3. The bill was amended in the House. All our senators voted yes. Delivered to Governor.

**2SSB 5287 -adjusts prison populations from their current count in prison districts to their home districts for **better representation****. All our Representatives voted against except Rep. Rude. Passed Legislature.

## LWV: Diversity, Equality and Inclusion

The League’s Shur Fellows—dedicated volunteers from across the country who work on engaging members and the community—are currently focused on Diversity, Equality and Inclusion (DEI) for the organization. These terms are defined on the League Management Site: <https://www.lwv.org/league-management/leadership-development/diversity-equity-and-inclusion>.

As part of their work, they have prepared a glossary of commonly used words. One or two of these words will appear each month in the VOTER. Here is the first:

Ally: Describes someone who supports a group other than one’s own. [This someone] acknowledge[s] disadvantage and oppression of other groups than their own; take[s] risks and support[s] action on their behalf; commit[s] to reducing their own complicity or collusion in oppression of those groups and invest[s] in strengthening their own knowledge and awareness of oppression. *Source: W.K. Kellogg Foundation; Center for Assessment and Policy Development*

# LWVBF Calendar

## May 2019

**Thursday, May 2—Table Talk**, Noon, Original Pancake House (3177 Plaza Way, Kennewick)

**Friday, May 3—Voter Education/Registration**, Delta High School in Pasco

**Thursday, May 16— Annual Meeting**, 5:30 pm, All Saints Church (1322 Kimball Ave., Richland)

## June 2019

**Thurs.-Sun., June 6-9—LWVWA State Convention**, Murano Hotel in Tacoma

Email us at  
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