



VOTER

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF BENTON & FRANKLIN COUNTIES

www.lwv-bf.org

October 2018

From the President **JoAnn Bengtson**

The League of Women Voters President Chris Carson had this to say in a September 27th press release: “Women will not be silenced a moment longer. We must do more than speak out. We have the power to change the system with our votes. We need to exercise that power on Election Day. And I believe we will.”

October holds many opportunities for our League members to support voter registration and voter education. Be sure to check out this month’s calendar and volunteer where you can.

Fully promote the Leagues vote411.org web site. It is a user-friendly resource, which supports voters with more information than any other election source.

Thank you for your commitment to making democracy work.

Voter Education Day

Sunday, October 14, 2:30 – 4 pm

Richland Public Library, Conference Room B

Learn where to find information on initiatives and candidates, judge a candidate in seven steps, and follow the money trail to find out who funds the candidates and ballot measures.

Sponsored by the League of Women Voters of Benton and Franklin Counties.

November 8th Table Talk

Join League members for a spirited discussion of the election results on Thursday, November 8 at 5:30 pm. The meeting will be held at Diane Molleson’s home (4375 Kimberly Street, Richland). Soups, salads, bread and beverages will be served.

Officers

President:

JoAnn Bengtson

1st Vice President:

JoAnne Dimond

2nd Vice President:

Janet Nail

Secretary:

Ruvine Jimenez

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

October Candidate Forums: Updates

Wednesday, October 10, 6:30 p.m. Pasco Police Department Regional Training Center, 204 W Clark St., Pasco

Races for 9th District State Representative, Position 1 (Mary Dye is unable to attend. Jennifer Goulet will read a prepared statement.)

9th District State Representative, Position 2 (Joe Schmick is unable to attend. Matthew Sutherland will read a prepared statement.)

16th District State Representative, Position 1 (Jenkin & Maroon)

16th District State Representative, Position 2 (Rude & Francik)

Wednesday, October 17, 6:30 p.m. Pasco Police Department Regional Training Center, 204 W Clark St., Pasco

Races for Franklin County Commissioner, District 3 (Roach & Didier)

Franklin County Auditor (Beaton & Izaguirre)

Franklin County Clerk (Killian & Lopez-Giddens)

Franklin County Coroner (Blasdel & McGary)

Thursday, October 25, 6:30 p.m. Carmichael Middle School, 620 Thayer Drive, Richland

Races for 8th District State Senator (Brown & Perales)

8th District State Representative, Position 1 (Klippert & Regev)

8th District State Representative, Position 2 (Boehnke & Tracy)

Benton County Commissioner, District 2 (Sanders & Small)

Benton County Coroner (Raebel & Leach)

The forum date for the candidates for the 4th Congressional District (Dan Newhouse and Christine Brown) has not yet been set.

Help is needed at the forums. We need volunteers to set up, collect questions, time the candidates' responses and more. Please contact Marilyn Perkins at jmperkins.cougs@frontier.com if you can volunteer. Please also send questions you have for the candidates to Marilyn.

Treasurer's Report

Shirley Sonnichsen

At the end of August, Checking was \$1,341 and savings, \$1,856 for a total of \$3,197.

Checking: \$ 1,341
Savings: \$1,856
Total: \$3,197

We received dues of \$75 and a donation of \$25.

The Per Member Payment (PMP) for first quarter was paid to National for \$380.

We have 55 members. Sadly we lost Paula Garland, Neil Norman and Shirley Miller. New members are Heather Cunningham and Judy Blair. They are in the Membership List.

In Memoriam

Marilyn Perkins and Diane Molleson

Within ten days in September, we lost three LWVBF members. Paula Garland, Neil Norman and Shirley Miller were dedicated to their families and community. Given all their other responsibilities, we are very grateful they shared their time, energy and valuable insights with our League. Services have already been held for Paula and Neil. Shirley's memorial service will be at 2 pm on October 27 at Events at Sunset in Richland.

Paula Garland – Paula was born in 1915, five years before the 19th amendment passed. She, and others of her generation, lived through a lot of history. She was from Brooklyn and after her marriage, the family moved often on the East Coast. In 1952, they settled in Buffalo where she helped start a League and became its first president. She would later serve on the League's State Board of Pennsylvania. The family moved to Richland in 1972 and Paula was a member of our League for the next 46 years. For several years she offered her "empty garage" to hold our annual garage sale fundraiser. Once in Richland, she and her husband Dan became part of a smaller Jewish community than they had experienced before, and she took on leadership roles in the congregation and the Sisterhood, even serving on the National Board. We will miss her sweet nature and faithful support.

Neil Norman – Neil was a more recent member of our League, joining in 2014. He and his wife helped us celebrate Paula's 100th birthday. We always appreciate the men in our League, and Neil was a wonderful addition and served a term on our board. He had already made his mark in our community both professionally and as a dedicated volunteer helping those less fortunate, including refugees who relocated to the Tri-Cities. The father of many daughters, he was a strong supporter of women and their changing roles, and we benefited from his perspective on many issues. He spoke lovingly of the time he spent with his children and grandchildren.

Shirley Miller — Shirley, who died at age 88 on September 21, was a trailblazer. She moved to the Tri-Cities from the Midwest in the early 1950s and worked for civil rights, women's rights, gay rights and farm workers. She helped African Americans rent when landlords were turning them away. In the 1970s, she co-founded a group for victims of sexual assault—Benton County Rape Relief. Now called the Support, Advocacy & Resource Center, it marked its 40th anniversary last year. With several friends, she opened a local independent bookstore, The Book Place, which was a beloved community institution for 30 years. She joined League in 1967. We will miss her boundless curiosity, compassion and open-mindedness.

Letter to the Editor (This letter was submitted to the *Tri-City Herald*)

It's not too late to register to vote in the November 6th elections. The deadline for on-line and mail-in voter registrations, address changes, and other updates is October 8th. In-person registrations for new voters are accepted until October 29th at the Auditor's Office, which has branches in Kennewick, Richland and Prosser for residents of Benton County. The Franklin County Auditor's Office is in Pasco. See their websites for details:

<https://www.bentonauditor.com> or <https://franklincountyauditor.com>

The non-partisan League of Women Voters of Benton & Franklin Counties is hosting a series of candidate forums in October to introduce the candidates and give people an opportunity to hear their views. See www.lww-bf.org for the dates and times of the forums. Also check the on-line voting guide, <https://www.vote411.org>, for the candidates' positions. (Continued on next page)

Letter to the Editor (continued)

The League is also offering a Voter Education workshop on Sunday, October 14th from 2:30- 4 pm at the Richland Public Library. Topics covered will include how to judge a candidate in seven steps, where to find information on the candidates and ballot issues, and more. Please vote!

LWVBF Calendar

October 2018

Wednesday, October 10—Candidate Forum for 9th and 16th Legislative Districts, 6:30 pm, Pasco Police Regional Training Center (204 W. Clark St., Pasco)

Sunday, October 14—Voter Education Workshop, 2:30- 4 pm, Richland Public Library, Conference Room B

Wednesday, October 17—Candidate Forum for Franklin County Races, 6:30 pm, Pasco Police Regional Training Center (204 W. Clark St., Pasco)

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

Thursday, October 25— Candidate Forum for 8th Legislative District and Benton County Races, 6:30 pm, Carmichael Middle School, 620 Thayer Drive, Richland)

November 2018

Thursday, November 8— Table Talk, 5:30 pm, Election Returns, Diane's home

Thursday, November 15—Board Meeting, 6 pm, BF Transit Center (1000 Columbia Park Trail). All members are welcome

December 2018

Sunday, December 8— Holiday Party, time and location TBD

No Board Meeting

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

League of Women Voters of
Benton & Franklin
Counties
**P. O. Box 765,
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