



VOTER

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF BENTON & FRANKLIN COUNTIES

www.lwv-bf.org

From the President JoAnn Bengtson

The suffragettes who paved the way to women's right to vote in all elections deserve recognition, and a sort of superhero designation. To ratify the 19th Amendment, which gave women the right to vote, lawmakers had to approve it in 36 out of 48 states. One group traveled the west to encourage its passage, calling their trip the "Wake Up America" tour. This tour involved a group of suffragists giving speeches and holding meetings. That tradition proudly continues in the League today.

Our Benton Franklin League's efforts in September and October to educate and register voters is important for our democracy and can "Wake Up" our region. We can increase voter turnout and enable better-informed voting in November's elections. I am looking forward to working with our group of local superheroes as we approach this election season. Thanks for volunteering!

League 101 for New Members

Janet Nail

Learn about our League goals and activities at a brunch at **9:30 am on September 22**. This is a chance to meet long-time members, other new members, and people interested in League membership, plus find a perfect role for engaging in League. It is a good time to invite someone you think might like to be a League member. The brunch will be at the home of Janet Nail, 135 Meadow Hills Drive, Richland, WA. (Meadow Hills Drive intersects with Leslie Road between Gage and Clearwater/Badger). RSVP if you will be attending and if you are bringing a guest to Janet Nail: 509-546-1467 or janet@janetnail.com.

September 2018

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

Membership Handbook: Paper or Paperless? Janet Nail

In the past, the League of Women Voters of Benton and Franklin Counties provided a hardcopy handbook to its members. As we started communicating via the computer, the hard copies of many things went by the wayside as meeting minutes, the *Voter*, the membership list, and announcements were sent by email. A few years ago, the LWVBF built a website, which can be found at lww-bf.org that includes the Calendar, “About Our League,” publications, and a membership form. The “About LWV” section on the website includes all the items in the hardcopy notebook. Many of us still like to organize by paper while others prefer viewing information online. If you still prefer a hardcopy handbook, let me know and I will be glad to provide. I can be reached at janet@janetnail.com (The bylaws are missing from the website. They are being updated and will be added to the “About Our League” shortly.)

LWVBF: Overview of Volunteer Opportunities

Event Planning, Organizing, Hosting: annual meeting, program planning meeting, Birthday lunch, monthly Table Talk, Equality Day Picnic celebrating passage of 19th amendment

Event Promotion: through local news outlets, social media, newsletter

Legislative Action: on bills supported by the LWV. (Lora Rathbone, current chair)
Call or write your representatives, write letters to the editor, testify at public hearings

Membership: (Membership, Engagement, Leadership and Development) training call, mentoring new members

Newsletter, the Voter: provide content and proofreading. (Diane Molleson, current editor)

Observer Corps: attends public meetings. Doesn't speak for the league but provides a report to the board and/or newsletter. (School boards, city council, county commissioner meetings etc.)

Study Group: discuss, organize or participate in studying an issue (chosen during annual Program planning), or report on what other leagues are doing

Voter Service/Education

Candidate Forums: setup, provide questions, contact candidates, book venues, moderate forums or arrange for moderators, schedule broadcasting of forums, time candidate's responses.

Civics classes at the high schools and service clubs

Table Talks at homes or restaurants, afternoon or evening

Promote vote411.org

Update, proofread, and distribute the **TRY's (They Represent You)**

Voter Registration:

Naturalization Ceremonies

Registration at assisted living homes, community events, colleges, county fair, etc.

(Administrative—Board members are appointed or elected: President, VP, Treasurer, Secretary; they also serve on the Budget, Audit and nominating committees.)

The Civics Class Committee

Janet Nail

This will be the third year LWVBF has offered high school civics classes. The class includes a history of the US constitution as it applied to voting, a literacy test used by the state of Louisiana until 1965, a history of US voting rights, and background on women's voting rights. The course material has been compiled but we need a group to present the material. Toyoko Tsukuda chaired this committee last year. Toyoko has moved and her departure has left a “big hole” in this project. We hope to add members to this committee. If you are interested, please let me know: janet@janetnail.com or 509-546-1467.

Voter Registration: Volunteers Needed

Monday, September 10 from 1:30- 2:30 p.m.: register voters at **Sun Terrace Prosser**, an assisted living facility on 2131 Wine Country Road in Prosser. Voter registration will take place in their dining hall, just beyond the main entrance. If interested, please contact JoAnn Bengtson at joann.bengtson1@gmail.com

Tuesday, September 11, 1 p.m.: update voter registrations at **Parkview Estates Senior Living Community** at 7820 W. 6th Ave. in Kennewick. Three volunteers are needed. Please contact JoAnn Bengtson at joann.bengtson1@gmail.com to volunteer.

Thursday, September 13 at 10:30 a.m.: update residents' voter registration information at **Affinity at Southridge**, a senior living center at 5207 Hildebrand Blvd. in Kennewick. The contact at the facility is Rhonda Robson, the Community Director. Three volunteers are needed. If interested, please contact JoAnn Bengtson at joann.bengtson1@gmail.com

Thursday, September 25th from 1 to 2:15 p.m.: update voter registrations at **Solstice Senior Living**, just behind Costco in Kennewick (8464 W. Grandridge Blvd.). If interested, please contact Polly Parton at polly.parton@yahoo.com or 509-551-3818. She needs one or two volunteers to come with her.

Treasurer's Report

Shirley Sonnichsen

We have a new fiscal year, 2018-19, which began July 1, 2018 and ends June 30, 2019.

Budget: The new budget is in the new fiscal year report. At the end of July, checking was \$1,622; savings was \$1,856 for a total of \$3,478.

Income: We received \$450 in dues and \$325 in member contributions. Thank you to our board members for their generosity.

Expenses: \$29 for the North Pavilion in Howard Amon Park; The first quarter of the State PMP for \$225.63 was paid and there was \$14.58 "in kind" expenses from JoAnn Bengtson for the primary forums.

Membership: We still have 48 paid members and 56 in total. We have not received dues from some potential members who expressed interest in the League.

We will change the membership form to reflect the free student membership until 2021. Student ID will be required for free membership.

Checking: \$ 1,622
Savings: \$1,856
Total: \$3,478

Book Recommendations

Valerie Moffitt

Braving the Wilderness: the Quest for True Belonging and the Courage to Stand Alone by Brene' Brown, a social scientist. Brown discusses the spiritual crisis of disconnection facing our culture, the erosion of civility, and challenges what we know about cultivating belonging in our society. Released September 2017 and also available as an audiobook, read by the author.

Fascism: A Warning by former U.S. Secretary of State Madeleine Albright is an urgent examination of Fascism in the 20th century and its legacy in our world today. Albright shows it as a rising threat as she both bears witness and issues a warning. Released April 2018 and also available as an audiobook.

October Candidate Forums

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 (Dye & Goulet)
9th District State Representative, Position 2 (Schmick & Sutherland)
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)

Members are needed to write questions to ask these candidates and also to help at the forums. Please send candidate questions to Marilyn Perkins at jimperkins.cougs@frontier.com and also let her know if you can volunteer at the forums.

We are hoping to schedule a forum for the candidates for the 4th Congressional District (Dan Newhouse and Christine Brown). Further details will be in the October *Voter*.

Upcoming Events

Free Webinar: Teacher Salaries

Ruvine Jimenez

In our free webinar on **September 6 at 12:30 p.m.**, League of Education Voters State Field Director Kelly Munn will explain what **teacher salary negotiations are and how they work**, how teachers are paid, what a collective bargaining agreement (CBA) is, how to find your school district's current teacher contract, and what happens when negotiations break down. She will also answer your questions. Register at:

https://zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_LHmz1tAnT1mKbbcHCkZ4UQ

Climate Science on Tap

Wednesday, September 12, 7-9 p.m., Ice Harbor Brewery, 206 N. Benton St., Kennewick
Join us as we learn about how past climates help us understand the current climate change. Come meet two scientists engaged in these inquiries, both with insightful information but with two different perspectives. Presenters Hansi Singh and Bruce Bjornstad will provide informal discussion with plenty of time for questions.

For more information, see <https://www.facebook.com/groups/WAtricititiesCCL/>

LWVBF Calendar

September 2018

Monday, September 10—Register Voters, 1:30 pm, Sun Terrace Prosser (2131 Wine Country Road, Prosser) Volunteer needed. See p. 2 for details.

Tuesday, September 11—Update Voter Registrations, 1 pm, Parkview Estates Senior Living Community (7820 W. 6th Ave., Kennewick). See p. 2

Thursday, September 13— Update Voter Registrations, 10:30 am, Affinity at Southridge (5207 Hildebrand Blvd., Kennewick) Three volunteers needed. See p. 2.

Monday, September 17— Naturalization Ceremony, 10 am, Federal Building, Richland

Thursday, September 20— Board Meeting, 6 pm, BF Transit Center (1000 Columbia Park Trail). All members are welcome.

Saturday, September 22 — Brunch for New Members, 9:30 am, Janet Nail's home

Tuesday, September 25— Update Voter Registrations, 1- 2:15 pm, Solstice Senior Living (8464 W. Grandridge Blvd.) One or two volunteers needed. See p. 2.

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)

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)

Table Talk—ballot issues, where to find information on candidates, date and time TBD

November 2018

Thursday, November 8— Table Talk, 5:30 pm, Election Returns, location TBD

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

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

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