



VOTER

April 2023

www.lwv-bf.org

President's Message ~ Beverly Johnson-Torelli

The month of April brings the excitement of spring, marked by spring break for our area schools and the start of a new season for everyone. It's always nice to emerge from the snow and rain of previous months and see the blossoms and blooms coming alive. April also ushers in an exciting spring and summer for League. Important events include:

April 20 6:00pm ~ Board (Business/Planning) Meeting on Zoom. All members are invited.

April 22 ~ Earth Day!

April 23 ~ Last day of Washington state Legislative session

May 1, 10:00am ~ Naturalization Ceremony at the Federal Building in Richland. League helps the county auditors with voter registration. RSVP to Bev at sasjoh@aol.com if you would like to participate.

May 4-7 ~ LWVWA Convention at the Holiday Inn Express in Pasco by the HAPO Center at 4525 Convention Place, (509) 542-9521. Our League is hosting. All members will be contacted to volunteer sometime during that weekend. We are eligible to send five voting delegates whose registration will be covered by our League. Contact Bev at sasjoh@aol.com or Shirley at jssonndawgs@charter.net if you are interested. Also, any member may attend as an observer to the Plenaries and/or workshops by paying the registration fee.

Early Bird registration - \$260.00 (ends on April 18) Late registration - \$310.00 (starts on April 19) Friday only - \$170.00, Saturday only - \$175.00 only. Guest Meals: Lunch- \$32.00 (\$16.00 for children 12 and under) Dinner - \$35.00 (\$17.50 for children 12 and under) Besides the information below, more details can be found by signing into the www.lwvwa.org website. Go to convention/council to find the link.

Our league members who volunteer aren't required to pay the registration fee unless they wish to participate as an observer or delegate.

If you would like to stay at the hotel that weekend, reservations must be booked by April 6, 2023. Use the code LWV to receive the group rate, \$161.00 total for either a 2 Queen Beds Suite or a 1 King Bed Suite. Both options include breakfast.

Important: A volunteer photographer(s) (doesn't need to be a league member) is needed for the Convention. Please contact Bev at sasjoh@aol.com or (509) 521-0947 if you are interested.



Call to Convention

The League of Women Voters of Washington will convene its [biennial Convention](#) on Thursday, May 4, 2023 and end on Sunday, May 7, 2023 at the [Pasco Holiday Inn Express and Suites](#).

Plan now to attend—each local League may send its President and additional delegates as determined by your membership count that was finalized with LWVUS on January 31, 2023. Bring yourself, your family, and your friends to be part of the League's work and play. It'll be worth it! Delegates chosen by the members of local Leagues can have one delegate for its first through 15 voting members and one delegate for every 25 additional voting members or major fraction thereof.

The business of Convention will set the stage for the 2023-2025 biennium and will include adoption of Program of Work, election of officers and board of directors, and approval of the budget. There will be a variety of workshops addressing key issues and tips and ideas from other Leagues for League work.

This is a great place for new and long-term members to learn more about the League, meet members from across the state, and be inspired about our next 100 years. Bring friends who might want to discover the League and family who can

uncover the hidden gems of our region. All are welcome!

Join us at the Convention: Discovery4: Discover Democracy, Discover League, Discover Partners, Discover Tri-Cities.

People, not just plenaries.
Relationships, not just rules.
Discovery, not just decisions.

Convention Business

- [Recommend Program Report](#)
- [Nominating Committee Report](#)
- [Delegate Count](#)
- [Proposed 2023-2025 Biennial Budget](#)

The [LWVWA Education Fund 501\(c\)3 budget](#) was passed by the LWVWA Board of Directors on March 24, 2023. The [LWVWA 501\(c\)4 budget](#) should be considered in the context of the Education Fund budget having been adopted.

There were no proposed bylaws amendments

May 15-19 ~ Dates for Candidate Filing for 2023. Final day to withdraw from the ballot- May 22.

May 18, 6:00pm ~ Annual Meeting at CG Public House on Clearwater Avenue in Kennewick. Besides our membership business meeting, two students will be awarded \$1000.00 scholarships in honor of Marilyn Perkins. We will order off the menu.

June 15, 6:00pm ~ Board (Business/Planning) Meeting

July ~ Candidate Forums – Dates/Times TBD. Local offices like City Council and School Boards will be on the ballot.

August 1 ~ Primary Election Day

Treasurer's Report ~ Shirley Sonnichsen

As of February 28, 2023:

Checking is: \$5,746.74
Savings is: \$1,857.01
Total: \$7,603.75

Income: \$325.00

We received \$300.00 in dues and a \$25.00 donation.

Expenses: \$1,365.37

\$688.76 was paid to the State League for the 3rd and 4th Quarter PMP's, \$643.50 for the TRY, \$30.00 donation to the Reach, PayPal fees of \$3.11.

Membership and Dues: We currently have 84 members including 8 students, 9 second-in-household members. Elaine Chapman-Ballou has joined us but has no computer. Janet will contact her for events.

2023-2024 Budget: Janet Nail, Judy Golberg, and the Treasurer met in February to draft a budget. The preliminary budget will be presented at the March Board meeting.

2023 Convention: We should have our President and our delegates attend the May 4-7 convention in Pasco. The registration fee has not been set.

Ed Fund: Our State Ed Fund dollars remain at \$12,515.00. \$1,500.00 will be taken out in a Civics Ed Fund grant for the Pasco High School dance video. \$2,100.00 will be taken out for this year's scholarship.

Update on the WA Legislative Session ~ Lora Rathbone

April 24 is the last day for the 2023 WA state legislative session. Now is the time to contact our legislators to support LWVWA bills that are still moving forward. It's easy to participate! Learn more about these bills and bills for many other issues, and how to respond, at: <https://lwwa.org/current-issues-2023> Bills that may pass this year include:

HB 1048- Enhanced WA voting Rights
SB 5112 - Updating the voter registration process
SB 5208 - Updating the online voter registration process
SB 5207 - Campaign contributions by controlled entities
SB 5284 - Concerning campaign finance disclosure
SB 5083- Abolish Advisor Votes



April is also Earth Month!

Tri-Cities Citizens’ Climate Lobby, Sustainable Tri-Cities, and Ben Franklin Transit are hosting an admission-free Earth Day event at the REACH Museum on April 22 (10:00am – 2:00pm). The REACH will be open all day for our community (10:00am – 4:30 pm)! Explore how we can work collectively on creating a “happy planet” for years to come! Enjoy activities and presentations from community organizations, live music, food trucks, a Poetry Slam and an electric vehicle show! There will be “Tri-Talks”, including Dr. Jim Conca who will address climate solutions in the third word.

Civics Education ~ Wendy Spinosa

Even though it’s only April, the school year is flying by. In past years, generally, more teachers are interested in our visits during May and June. Most of their requirements and testing have wrapped up by then, so we’ll look forward to again visiting a few AP History Classes along with Civic Education classrooms. We will focus our talks in the following areas:

Who we are and the history of the LWV.

How our government is structured, with an emphasis on local governing.

How we vote in Washington State.

Good citizenship.

This year, The National Archives, partnering with iCivics, introduced their first National Civics Week, March 6-10, 2023. Schools and organizations across the U.S. held workshops, virtual webinars, and student-led learning opportunities, highlighting the importance of Civic Education. Topics included Reaffirming the

Civic Mission of Schools, Civic Education as a Matter of National Security, and a conversation with Supreme Court Judge Ms. Sonia Sotomayor. This is a wonderful opportunity for our members to learn more about and participate in building our democracy. We'll stay informed and ready to participate in 2024!

Misinformation day occurred the last week of March. The Center for an Informed Public, at Washington State University, helped establish this day to reach out to educators, providing resources for classroom activities that help identify misinformation and disinformation across the media spectrum.

The links are below if you would like to know more about Civic Education in our schools and throughout our community.

<https://www.cip.uw.edu/>

<https://www.archives.gov/news/articles/civic-learning-week-kickoff>

Our committee member Janet Nail shared Civic Education videos that NPR has on their website:

https://m.facebook.com/story.php?story_fbid=pfbid0bMYxT1ZVfRkSzWq7L31wZ4o4ScrEKC2rNFKvbTyhVcLLZqV2T3XjTGM3nnffqbb1&id=100064679737142&mibextid=kdkkhi

It's a great refresher and reminiscent of "School House Rock," that we all grew up on. Quite fun!

As always, we welcome new people interested in civic education and ideas for future community engagement.

Membership, Engagement and Leadership Development ~ Leona Hassing

For the monthly Zoom MELD Pod #4 meetings an agenda is sent by the chair. It consists of (1) round robin sharing, (2) LWV-board report from state president, Lunell Haught, and (3) a pre-chosen topic to discuss.

During the round robin sharing each attendee shares the activities from their unit. There are four leagues represented, Kitsap County, Lewis County, Mason County and Benton Franklin Counties. Units range in size from Kitsap with 172 members, Mason with 64 members, Lewis with 14 and Benton-Franklin with 84.

The sharing session takes up most of the time and provides opportunities to hear what the other units are doing and to ask questions of each other. When I shared that our unit had set up the Marilyn Perkins Scholarship, the others had questions. As a follow-up the Kitsap group has been in contact with our scholarship committee wanting information on how to develop a scholarship.

State President, Lunell Haught, shares information from the LWVWA board. Lunell talked about the Shoreline Study, Study on Local Journalism and News Crisis, the legislative session, and planning for Convention in Pasco, May 4-7.

The discussion topic last meeting was - Advocacy Now and Beyond - how might your local league encourage member engagement during and after the legislative session? We ran out of time so there was no discussion.

The topic for the next meeting is - Has MELD been helpful to you and your league? How could it best meet your needs in the future? I'm open to suggestions or your thoughts if you would like to send them to me at lhassing215@gmail.com.

LWVBF Book Club -Polly Parton

Join us on Monday April 11 (on Zoom) at 6:00 pm for a discussion of *Snow Child* by Eowyn Ivey. This magical story of homesteaders Jack and Mabel as a struggling, childless couple is set in 1920's Alaska. The toll of harsh work and loneliness take a crushing toll until unexpectedly, a child arrives on their doorstep.

In May we will discuss *The Worst Hard Time* by Timothy Egan, the story of those who survived the environmental disaster known as the Great American Dust Bowl during the Great Depression. Join in a great hour of discussion by emailing or texting Polly Parton to be added to the Zoom link. polly.parton@yahoo.com or 509-551-3818.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

April 6 ~ Last day to reserve hotel for convention

April 11, 6:00 pm ~ Zoom Book Club

April 18 ~ Last day for early bird convention registration

April 20, 6:00 pm ~ Zoom Business/Planning (Board Meeting). All members are welcome to participate

April 22 ~ Earth Day

April 23 ~ Last day of Washington State Legislative Session

May 1, 10:00 am ~ Naturalization ceremony, Federal Building Richland

May 4-7 ~ State Convention Pasco HAPO Center

May 15- 19 ~ Candidate filing dates

May 18, 6:00 pm ~ Annual Meeting CG Public House

June 15, 6:00 pm ~ Zoom Business /Planning (Board) Meeting. All members are welcome to participate

July ~ Candidate Forums/Debates

August 1 ~ Primary Election

lwv.of.bf@gmail.com

Mailing Address:

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

OFFICERS:

President: Beverly Johnson-Torelli
1st Vice President: Polly Parton
2nd Vice President: Karen Miller
Secretary: Diane Molleson
Treasurer: Shirley Sonnichsen

ELECTED DIRECTORS:

Bree Bowen
JoAnne Dimond
Wendy Espinosa
Ruvine Jimenez
Janet Nail
Lora Rathbone

APPOINTED DIRECTORS:

Christine Grantham
Peggy Gregory
Leona Hassing
Sabiha Khan

VOTER EDITOR:

Peggy Gregory