



VOTER

August 2023

www.lwv-bf.org

President's Message ~ Diane Molleson

Please join us at our Equality Day picnic on August 15 at Howard Amon Park in Richland at 5:30 p.m. to celebrate the passage of the 19th Amendment and find out more about League. We will have a guest speaker and desserts to share. (More details are in a separate article.)

Many thanks to Beverly Johnson-Torelli and all the members who helped her with our candidate forums for the primary election: JoAnne Dimond, Kay Ottem, Ruvine Jimenez and Kathy Schroeder as well as the League members and the students at CBC and Richland High who provided questions for the candidates. The forums were broadcast on KTNW in July through our partnership with National Public Broadcasting and are still available for viewing on YouTube. They have been well received.

We will soon be gearing up to work on the forums for the general election where there will be 21 local races to cover! We will also be registering voters at events in late August and September and invite you to join us in these or other activities you will see in this newsletter.

A big welcome to our new members! We also wish Wendy Espinosa, the dedicated Chair of our Civics Education Committee, all the best as she prepares for her move to the Spokane area. Wendy has contributed so much to our League and we will be sorry to see her go.

Voter Registration Drives: Volunteers Needed ~ Diane Molleson

Members can help register voters at the following events:

Monday, August 28: Pasco School District [All-staff Welcome Back Expo](#) from 7:00 am-10:00am. at Edgar Brown Stadium Courtyard. A total of four volunteers are needed to cover two 2-hour shifts. Help wanted with set-up and takedown. Bev

Johnson-Torelli and Diane Molleson have signed up. Two more volunteers are needed. Please contact Ruvine Jimenez at Ruvine@educationvoters.org to volunteer.

Wednesday, September 13: Kamiakin High School Resource Fair, 5:00-8:00pm. Polly Parton is covering this event. One or two more volunteers are needed. Please contact Polly Parton at polly.parton@yahoo.com to volunteer.

September 18: Naturalization Ceremony at the Federal Building in Richland at 10:00 am. Thanks to Bev Johnson-Torelli, Kelly Doyle, Christine Grantham and JoAnne Dimond, we have enough volunteers for this event. We will be looking for volunteers for the November 8 Naturalization ceremony closer to the date.

The LWVBF will supply the Richland Public Library with handouts and copies of our TRY (*They Represent You*) pamphlet for their display on National Voter Registration Day on September 19.

Equality Day Picnic on August 15 ~ Diane Molleson

Please join us at Howard Amon Park (the north shelter) in Richland for our annual Equality Day picnic on **Tuesday, August 15 at 5:30 pm**. Bring a chair, your sack dinner and beverage, and a dessert to share. If you are pressed for time, no worries about bringing a dessert. We will have plenty to share. Please also bring friends who may want to learn more about League.

Our guest speaker will be Energy and Environmental speaker Dr. James Conca, the Senior Scientist at UFA Ventures, Inc. in Richland and a frequent contributor to *The Hill*, *Forbes* and various podcasts on energy issues. He gives talks on a variety of environmental topics, including nuclear waste disposal.

Directions: Drive north on George Washington Way past Howard Amon Park in Richland. Turn right on Newton Street; Sterling's Restaurant will be on the right. Follow Newton and you will see the parking lot for the park. You can also park in the parking lot for the boat ramp.

The Washington State Tax Structure Work Group ~ Diane Molleson

Two years ago, the Washington State Tax Structure Work Group gave a Table Talk to our League to explain their work and elicit feedback from our organization and other groups around the state. Here is the link to their final report, which summarizes the work they conducted between 2019 and 2023:

<https://dor.wa.gov/sites/default/files/2023-07/TSWG-Final-Report-landscape-June30.pdf?uid=64b92c7a5f889>

Treasurer's Report ~ Shirley Sonnichsen

On June 30, 2023:

Checking is:	\$6,773.64
Savings is:	\$1,857.07
Total:	\$8,630.71

Income: \$00.00

Expenses: \$190.00. \$170.00 to reimburse Martha Swedlund for convention registration. \$20.00 to the Secretary of State for the Annual Incorporation fee. If not done for 3 years, the organization is dissolved. Also I submitted the IRS form 990n, no dollars involved, just an annual report.

Membership and Dues:

There were no changes in membership.

Education Fund:

I have asked for an accounting of our State Ed Fund dollars which was \$12,515.00 in November 2022. We received the \$1,500.00 for the Civics Ed Fund grant. \$2,100.00 was taken out for this year's scholarship winners. I calculated we should have \$8,915.00 remaining.

Notes: June 30 is the end of the fiscal year. July, we start over with the new budget. Anyone who would like to send in their dues early can do so. We got a nice note from Lacey Hudlow thanking us for the scholarship.

Candidates for General Election ~ Bev Johnson-Torelli

Please see the candidates for the General Election on November 7th listed below. These races will be broadcast in mid-October, dates TBD. They will be available through YouTube, the League, Northwest Public Broadcasting, the Cities of Richland and Pasco and the Columbia Basin Badger Club. **We would love to have your questions. Please provide them to Beverly Johnson-Torelli at sasjoh@aol.com no later than September 15th or at any time before that.**

City of West Richland - Council Position 7 - David Cole, Kate Moran

City of Benton City – Mayor – Len Burton, Jake Mokler

Port of Benton – Commissioner District 2, Top Two Finishers from Primary – Cliff Dyer, Scott D. Keller, Christy Rasmussen

City of Richland – Council Position 1 – Allison Ball, Jhoanna R. Jones,

City of Richland – Council Position 2 – Theresa A. Richardson, Elizabeth (Liz) Vann-Clark

City of Richland – Council Position 5 – Gregory Levy, D. Shayne Van Dyke,

City of Richland - Council Position 6, Top Two Finishers from Primary – Kent Madsen, Kurt H. Maier, Marc Newman

City of Richland – Council Position 7 - Joshua Short, Ryan Whitten

Richland School District 400 – Director No. 3 – Top Two Finishers from Primary - Chelsie Beck, Tony Gonzalez, Nino Kapitula

Richland School District 400 – Director No. 4 – Top Two Finishers from Primary - Aaron C. Riggs, Katrina Waters, Kari Williams,

Richland School District 400 – Director No. 5 – Top Two Finishers from Primary – Matthew J. Bishop, Gene Nemeth, Jill Oldson

City of Kennewick – Council Position 7, At Large – James (Jim) Millbauer, Ted Owens

Kennewick School District 17 – Director No. 3 – Michael Connors, Dustin Petersen

Kennewick School District 17 – Director No. 4 – Brittany Gledhill, Aaron Michele Massey

Kennewick School District 17 – Director No. 5 – Josh Miller, Lisa Peppard

Pasco School District No. 1, Director District. 2 – John Kennedy, Gabriel Lucatero,

Pasco School District No. 1, Director At Large, Position 5 – Steve Simmons, Rosa Torres

City of Pasco, Councilmember At Large, Position 7 – Peter Harpster, Kim Lehrman

City of Pasco, Councilmember, District 2, Position 2 – J.R. Campos, Charles Grimm

City of Pasco, Councilmember, District 3, Position 3 – Irving Lee Brown Sr, Leo A. Perales

City of Pasco, Councilmember, District 5, Position 5 – James Czebotar, David Milne

Civics Education Committee ~ Wendy Espinosa

“Whenever the people are well-informed, they can be trusted with their own government.”– Thomas Jefferson

I love this quote because it embodies what the League of Women Voters is all about. From the Candidate Forums to Voter Registration, to Youth Outreach, and all the other endeavors our members pursue, our goal is to assure citizens that they own their government, not the other way around.

It is a bittersweet moment for me, but my family is moving to Northeast WA, back to the mountains we love, but away from Tri Cities. Being part of the Civic Education Committee has been rewarding and inspiring. It is an opportunity not only to inform people about their government, but to listen to what they know, how they feel, and what they care about regarding our governing bodies. Being part of the Civic Education Committee has been a highlight of my time in Tri Cities. I highly recommend joining in!

Our committee continues to develop its partnership with Communities in Schools, a non-profit that supports student achievement, academically and socially, throughout our school systems. We also have the opportunity to work with The Boys and Girls Club and high school Key Clubs in the coming school year. But civic education is not just for kids! Our members reach out to adult groups as well. The Badger Club, The Kiwanis Club, and book club meetings all offer space to talk and learn more about active citizenship.

The LWVBF Civic Education Committee is a wonderful way to learn more about our government and our community. I highly recommend it!

LWVBF Book Club ~ Polly Parton

Join us on Monday August 14 as we discuss *Beloved* by Toni Morrison. The novel tells the story of a Black woman named Sethe, from her pre-Civil War days as a slave in Kentucky to her time in Cincinnati, Ohio, in 1873.

July's book was *Dinner with Ruth* by Nina Totenberg. In September we will read *Forever* by Judy Bloom. Published in 1975, Judy Bloom wrote this for her daughter about teenage sexuality. Over 45 years later, it is often listed as a 'banned book'.

Join in a great hour of discussion via Zoom by emailing or texting Polly Parton to be added to the link. polly.parton@yahoo.com or 509-551-3818.

Wine Social in September ~ Janet Nail

Save the date! Grab a bottle of wine and a friend who you know would enjoy League activities. It is time to reacquaint ourselves with "seasoned" members, meet our newer members, and introduce potential members to our local League. Wine, non-alcoholic beverages, and heavy hors d'oeuvres will be served.

Social will be September 19 at 5:30pm at 135 Meadow Hills Drive, Richland, WA 99352. Please RSVP to Janet Nail (janet@janetnail.com or 509-546-1467). Hope to see you there.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

August 14, 6:00pm ~ Book Club via Zoom

August 15, 5:30pm ~ Equality Day Picnic, Howard Amon Park. North Shelter

August 28, 7:00am-10:00am ~ Voter Registration Edgar Brown Stadium

September 13, 5:00pm-8:00pm ~ Voter Registration Kamiakin High School

September 18, 10:00am ~ Naturalization Ceremony Federal Building Richland

September 19, 5:00pm ~ Short Business/Board Meeting at Janet Nail's Home

September 19, 5:30pm ~ Wine Social at Janet Nail's Home

Email us at:

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: Diane Molleson
1st Vice President: Peggy Gregory
2nd Vice President: Wendy Espinosa
Secretary: Carla Chioti
Treasurer: Shirley Sonnichsen

ELECTED DIRECTORS:

JoAnne Dimond
Leona Hassing
Karen Miller
Janet Nail
Polly Parton
Lora Rathbone

APPOINTED DIRECTORS:

Ruvine Jimenez
Sabiha Khan
Mary Shaw

Voter Editor: Peggy Gregory