

VOTER

www.lwv-bf.org

June 2020

Officers:

President: Bev Johnson-Torellii

1st VP: Diane Molleson

2nd VP: Polly Parton

Secretary: Mary Shaw

Treasurer: Shirley Sonnichsen

Voter Editor: Peggy Gregory

Elected Directors:

JoAnne Diamond

Brooke DuBois

Janet Nail

Marilyn Perkins

Lora Rathbone

Ann Roberts

President's Message

Beverly Johnson-Torelli

Welcome to the 2020-2021 year in League! Our 100th banner year celebration is continuing. I am so proud to be your President, and I'm looking forward to working with the new and returning officers and Board members, whose willingness to serve is greatly appreciated. All members are invited to join the Board meetings at any time. Just notify me of your interest at: sasjoh@aol.com to receive the Zoom link, as we are currently having virtual meetings. Our next meeting is scheduled for July 16th at 6:00 p.m.

Attending WA State Council and the National Convention in May and June reminded me once again of the great influence and credibility the League has, not only nationally but statewide and

locally as well. The sessions reinforced the League's mission of democracy and the right to vote for all. In order to have informed voters, the League has traditionally hosted candidate forums. This year they will be done virtually. **NWPB 2020 (KTNW-TV)** from WSU will be broadcasting them on July 9th and July 16th at 8:00 p.m. Since our primaries include eight races with over thirty candidates participating, they will be divided between the two evenings. Matt Loveless, Communications Professor at Murrow College and former TV anchor, will act as the moderator. League member Ruvine Jimenez will give the opening statement and introducing Matt. The candidates will each have about seven minutes to give an opening statement, answer three questions, and give a closing statement, if time permits. As they are wanting to be recorded on June 29th, 30th and July 2nd, they will not hear their opponents' answers. The Cities of Pasco and Richland will also be featuring the forums on their respective websites after July 9th and 16th. You can view them then on our League website, etc. as well. **Members: Please publicize these events at every opportunity!**

https://www.dropbox.com/s/d3m8pfwn65n6h9i/BF%20County%20Pimrary%20Candidate%20Forum%20Promo_30_Preview_V2.mp4?dl=0

The following races will be aired on July 9th:

Benton County Commissioner District 1: 5 candidates-Mr. Delvin/Mr. Landsman/Mr. Smart/ Mr. Raffa/ Mr. Alvarez

Benton County Commissioner- District 3: 3 candidates- Mr. McKay/Mr. Beaver/Mr. Lusignan

Franklin County Commissioner- District 1: 3 candidates- Ms. Lehrman/Mr. Peck/Mr. Beaton

Franklin County Commissioner- District 2: 4 candidates - Mr. Mullen/Mr. MacHugh/Ms.

Peralta/ Mr. Cissne

Franklin PUD Commissioner- 3 candidates- Mr. Gordon/ Mr. DeWoody/Mr. Cochrane

The following races will be aired on July 16th:

16th District Senator- 3 candidates- Mr. Dozier/Ms. Reser/Mr. Jenkin

4th Congressional District- 6 candidates- Mr. Cooper/Ms. Wright/Mr. McKinley/Mr. Jones/Ms.

Sloot/ Mr. Newhouse

Superior Court Judge-6 candidates- Ms. Sams/ Ms. Ajax/Mr. B. Brown/Mr. Petersen/ Mrs. S.

Brown/ Mr. Sant

A special thanks goes to Kanale Rhoden, producer and broadcaster at NWPB and instructor at Murrow College at WSU in Pullman, Matt Loveless and Tom Hungate, NWPB-WSU Tri-Cities and to the League members who helped with the planning and implementation of the Candidate Forums, especially Kay Ottem, JoAnne Dimond, Marilyn Perkins and Ruvine Jimenez.

Treasurer's Report

Shirley Sonnichsen

Treasurer Notes – May, 2020

Note: There was no activity in April.

At May 31, 2020:

Checking is \$3,785.69
Savings is \$1,856.50
Total \$5,642.19

Income: \$2,600

We received the following checks:

Richland Kiwanis	250
Community First Bank	600
Roof Maxx, TC	100
Anonymous	100
Carol Larkin	<u>50</u>
Benton Democratic Central Committee	<u>1,500</u>
Total	<u>\$2,600*</u>

*In June we received \$250 cash from Richland Kiwanis and \$500 from GESA. A check was written to LWVWA Education Fund for \$750. We also have a \$650 grant from the State League. We will ask for this grant money and the \$3,250 in the Ed fund in July. The \$500 from Pasco Education and the \$500 from Kennewick Kiwanis are not going through our League books but will go to the student winners in their districts directly. Grand total of Essay Contest Money is \$5,000. Our League's balance in the State League Education Fund should be \$4,122.

Expenses: \$2,900

\$400 was paid to the California League for our MyLo website. A check was written to the LWVWA Education Fund for \$2,500 under the approved project for our High School Essay Contest. It has cleared. There is \$1.75 in PayPal fees.

Membership: Our membership has not changed. Kylee Yearsley is our newest student which brought our total to 60 members. Carol Larkin made a \$50 donation and is a possible new member.

State Council: The registration was \$19 and the Council was virtual. Many members joined in to sessions from May 29 to June 7th. Please send your registration receipts for the "in kind" file.

National Convention June 25-28, 2020: Registration - \$50, Our league is eligible to have 2 delegates. Bev and JoAnn have signed up. There is a webinar for registered delegates and delegates will receive webinar information in their confirmation email. Please send the Treasurer receipts for this registration also. Judy G. is going for the National League; Diane Molleson, Chuck Torelli, Shirley, and Christine are going as Observers.

Note: There is a \$1000 in reserve in the budget. There was discussion in the Centennial Committee meeting June 17th that we buy 50 “The State We’re In” books to distribute to schools. This money could be used but it should be costed this fiscal year which ends June 30. The Treasurer is looking into the cost for these books as the web site has them at \$20 apiece if you buy 3 or more. We are thinking that we should get the classroom set which is \$330 for 30 books. Here is one of the testimonials for the book.

“This is my favorite textbook on Washington state. Its simple presentation blends well with the complexity of the topic. Its story of our history and overlapping governments is enlightening. And the timeline at the end can’t be beat.”

Walter Parker,
PhD Professor of Education and Political Science
University of Washington

Notes From Council

Lora Rathbone & Shirley Sonnichsen

The LWV-BF is **open for business and active** during this pandemic. Along with our monthly board meetings, the essay contest, and a Civics’ Ed presentation, several members attended the LWV-WA Virtual Council meeting this month. We learned so much, including what other leagues are doing, and came away with several ideas of things we’d like to do as well.

Social Media: Use Canva.com for graphics not adobe. Amy can give us access (nonprofit accounts only 5013C). Hootsuite: schedule 3 sites at once. Can tell Facebook to post on Instagram. Every time someone “likes” your post on Facebook, it rises in the algorithm. “Like” all the LWV chapters/counties you can and their posts.

The Handout talks about Reach versus Engagement on Facebook. This is a direct quote about scheduling a post: *“Schedule your posts. Yep, there’s a drop down next to the Publish button that allows you to create a post and schedule it for future publication. So if you have 4 upcoming candidate nights, create the posts NOW, but publish closer to each event. It’s a great feature for page volunteers with limited time.”*

Take pictures and send to Judy Golberg (jgolberg@charter.net) to post on Facebook, website. Need a volunteer to post to Facebook. A suggestion is to make photography an off-board position. Also need another person to serve as Administrator for our Facebook page (Polly).

Vote 411: Not much in the way of a handout but very enthusiastic presentation. There are materials (postcards, handouts) we can download. Promote Vote 411.org on Facebook and website, Twitter for those who use it. It is one of the best ways to encourage voter registration and voting this year. In addition to letters to the editor, spread the word about voter registration, Vote411.org, census, forums, etc. Provide questions for Vote 411 to the State League. Try to get more statewide Republican participation.

Membership: Our League will be forming a committee to look at ways to implement ideas, and to invite new members. Janet would like there to be an expanded Membership team. If you would like to join their effort, or if any of these projects interest you, please contact Janet Nail (janet@janetnail.com).

If you are unsure of how to be involved in the League, we will pair you with a mentor. Here are some of the ideas for the Membership team - invite less-active members to find an area of interest, ask what motivated people to join and follow-up to engage them. Continue mentoring and we could call members just to check on them. Also ask if they need help with their computers and offer to show them how to use Zoom (Judy G). Encourage members to attend Zoom board meetings.

It was emphasized for DEI that Leagues go to other organizations meetings such as the Latino groups, African American groups (there is a Black Lives Matter group on Facebook). These might be more accessible since meetings are on Zoom. The DEI coordinators are Susan Griggs (Kitsap) and Peggy Smith (Thurston).

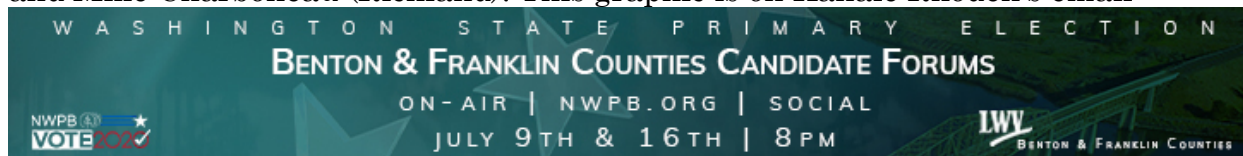
Table Talk: Hold a virtual table talk meeting once a meeting once a month via Zoom with topics of interest such as homelessness, health care, how to get to Phase II, etc.

Civics Education: Civics Ed presentations have been popular and now are on Zoom. Word can be spread to other schools via YouTube. There is now a Civics requirement in Washington schools which can promote our presentation to teachers on curriculum committees. We can put it on our Facebook page under the “Cultivating Conversations” series. Partner with libraries to advertise civics education and also to promote the candidate forums and census. Voter Education presentations will continue via Zoom (*Lora*). There is a LWV poster with a QR code. Also the secretary of state website is www.VoteWA.gov, and Barbara Sisco is the Program Coordinator: barbara.sisco@sos.wa.gov.

Promote the Civics Essay Contest at the state and local level and reimburse the essay contest winners to make a video of their essay reading. Promote the awards presentation via social media, paper, radio, TV. Work with Junior Achievement by participating in the civics education lesson (Polly).

Distribute “The State We’re In” to classrooms, libraries, and members. 50 copies have been ordered and received. *Katherine Murphy* has published text on Cultivating Civic Conversations presentations and learn about “The State We’re In”. We might have book club discussions on it.

Help with candidate forums (Marilyn and Kay). Provide questions a little different from Vote 411 for all races (Marilyn). Promote the Zoom forums on social media, YouTube and city channels. They will be broadcast July 9th and 16th by Kanale Rhoden, an instructor at WSU Department of Murrow Broadcasting and NWPB. They have been fantastic to work with and other contributors are Matt Loveless (moderator, -WSU), Tom Hungate (WSU-TC), and our own Jon Funfar (Pasco) and Mike Charboneau (Richland). This graphic is on Kanale Rhoden’s email:



We should borrow it with Kanale’s permission.

Observer Corps- join online city council meetings, commissioners, ports, etc. This is easier now that they are on Zoom.

State Advocacy: Participate in LWVWA and LWVUS advocacy (make calls to legislators). There are state budget and federal issues. Be a league issue chair and take a position on local issues. Respond to action alerts during the legislative session (*Lora, JoAnn B.*). The state website for coalitions is: www.lwvwa.org/coalitions. They can delve into issues more easily. Also, at www.leg.wa.gov/coalitions participation MUST be non-partisan and issue driven. Online resources such as TVW provide committee views on social justice, homelessness. The Census has been extended but will need much support during the Covid 19 pandemic.

Public Financing in Elections: Allows more participants; is more democratic; allows civic participation; accountability to constituents, empowers small donors. League supports and has a Position on Public Financing of Elections. In 2015 Seattle's I-122 (Honest Elections Seattle) passed, making way for the Seattle Democracy Voucher Program. The league supported Initiative 1464 in 2016 (statewide public financing of elections). The Voucher program was the first in the country and is very popular. The program is grant-based with a small donor match. Donations less than \$200 make up 79% of financing.

Highlights from 2019:

- 38,092 residents returned more than 147,128 vouchers
- \$3.68 million distributed to 35 qualifying candidates
- New online portal in 15 languages, used by 6,204 residents

Join or support the LWVWA Redistricting Team. The Video "Slay the Dragon" a panel discussion about gerrymandering is now on Facebook:

https://www.facebook.com/watch/live/?v=319583776098512&ref=watch_permalink. This series is supported by LWVWA and several other groups. The second film screening is June 30th at 6 p.m.

It was suggested we could hold a community meeting on this topic (perhaps a virtual Table Talk).

Health Care tool kit: There is easier access provided on the LWV Arizona website. These are the Zoom presentations the 3 of us attended and there are more. The videos are still available as well as handouts on: <https://lwvwa.org/2020council> . There is a wealth of information in them.

Centennial Committee

Christine Grantham

“Women Power the Vote” Banquet

Our world has certainly changed since late March when we were locked down because of the impending Coronavirus. Because we were hopeful that our situation would quickly improve with precautions, we thought we might be able to go ahead with our Centennial event. By the end of May with Benton County still in Phase 1, we were made aware of the impending restrictions regarding large gatherings. Planning for a large banquet within the Governor’s guidelines respecting safety precautions would have been nearly impossible. Ultimately a unanimous decision was made to cancel the August 8th banquet. However, there was no reason we should not proceed with the Tri- City high school essay contest “Your Vote is Our Future.” We had planned to announce the winners of the essay contest during the banquet. Due to the cancelation, the committee is exploring other venue options for announcing the winners. Our capable Essay Chairman, Janet Nail, is coordinating the rollout of the awards. We will have more essay contest details after our Centennial Committee meeting on July 8th.

National Convention

Judy Golberg

For those members who wish to learn about what took place at the recent **LWVUS Convention**, here is a link that provides a recap, including vote results:

[https://www.lwv.org/league-management/council-convention/2020-convention - daily-briefing](https://www.lwv.org/league-management/council-convention/2020-convention-daily-briefing)

July 2020

Board Meeting via Zoom July 16

August 2020

Saturday, August 8—Centennial Commemoration Banquet, CANCELLED

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

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Benton & Franklin
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