



VOTER

July 2022

www.lwv-bf.org

President's Message ~ Beverly Johnson-Torelli

Summer has come on slowly this year because of our unusually rainy June. It's hard to believe that it will soon be time to celebrate the 4th of July! As you can see below, the League's dance card continues to be filled with efforts regarding the theme "Making Democracy Work."

June 22nd - Thanks to Christine Grantham, the June 22nd event, "Is your Ballot Secure?" was a great success! The speakers, Secretary of State Steve Hobbs and our local Benton and Franklin auditors, Brenda Chilton and Matt Beaton were quite informative. The thoughtful questions submitted by the audience and League members helped them focus on the details. A special thanks to all the League members who supported this event through attending, collecting audience questions, offering voter registration and information, submitting questions, etc.

June 29th – 10:00 am The Naturalization Ceremony is back in person at the Federal Building in Richland, 825 Jadwin Avenue. League members will be assisting staff members from the offices of the Benton and Franklin auditors in doing voter registration. Any League member who would like to participate is welcome. It is your chance to view the ceremony, which is always a heartwarming and impressive event. The next two ceremonies will occur on September 14th and November 1st at the same time and location.

July 11th – 15th Candidate Forums for the 2022 Primary Election are coming! Sponsored by the League of Women Voters of Benton and Franklin Counties and produced by PBS - Northwest Public Broadcasting, they will be aired at 7:00 p.m. on KTNW and repeated at 11:30 p.m. on Monday and 11:00 p.m. on Tuesday – Friday. They will also be available at www.nwpb.org/vote2022, on the League's website at <http://www.lwv-bf.org> where the League's Facebook can also be accessed, Columbia Basin Badger Club's website at www.cbcc.clubexpress.com and through the Cities of

Richland and Pasco at www.ci.richland.wa.us or TV192 and www.Pasco-wa.gov. or TV 191. Viewing will remain accessible through Primary Election Day August 2nd.

Featuring a total of five races with three or more candidates each:

8th Legislative District - 2 Races

Monday, July 11th State Senate

Tuesday, July 12th Representative Position 2

16th Legislative District - 1 Race

Wednesday, July 13th - Representative Position 1

4th Congressional District - 1 Race

Thursday, July 14th - US Representative

Benton County Commissioner - 1 Race

Friday, July 15th - Commissioner District 2

Important Dates:

July 15th - Ballots mailed out.

July 21st - Business/Planning Board Meeting ~ Zoom - All members are welcome to attend!

July 25th - Deadline for online and mail registrations.

August 2nd - Election Day - can register and vote in person

August 18th - Business/Planning Board Meeting ~ Zoom - All members are welcome to attend!

September 12th - Book Club –Zoom - See Polly’s article in this voter.

September 15th - 5:00 pm. To avoid August events, like the Benton County Fair, etc., the Women’s Equality Day Picnic will be held in September, as it was last year. It will be in person at the large shelter by the Mid-Columbia Library at 1620 Union Street in Kennewick. More details will be forthcoming at a later date.

Treasurer's Report ~ Shirley Sonnichsen

On May 31, 2022:

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|--------------|------------|
| Checking is: | \$6,736.34 |
| Savings is: | \$1,856.88 |
| Total: | \$8,593.22 |

| | |
|---------|------|
| Income: | \$00 |
|---------|------|

| | |
|-----------|----------|
| Expenses: | \$500.00 |
|-----------|----------|

\$500.00 was sent to the Edward R. Murrow School of Communication at WSU.

Membership and Dues:

We have 91 members including 10 students, 11 second in household

Budget Committee:

The Proposed FY2022-2023 Budget was approved at the Annual Meeting in May and will be implemented next fiscal year beginning July 1st. It should be noted that our President, Beverley Johnson-Torelli, contributed \$701.00 in "in kind" donations for renting the room at Applebee's; the broadcast/Zoom equipment and labor, and the scholarship recipients' families' dinners. It is important to turn in 'in kind' receipts so that these costs can be included in the next fiscal year budget.

Receipts from the State Council need to be turned in and the recipient check cashed before June 30th in order to keep the cost in this fiscal year where it was budgeted. Our league will pay for ½ of a hotel room for the nights of the convention/council and the registration fee.

Beverly Johnson-Torelli, Diane Molleson, and myself went to Umpqua bank in north Richland and had signatures updated. They are backup signatories for checks and other transactions.

The **Nonprofit Corporation Annual Report** was filed with the Secretary of State along with a \$20.00 fee. It was not available via online express as it was in past years.

Education Fund: We have \$2,211.00 remaining in the Education fund which is enough for next year's scholarships which may be able to be a continuing project from this year (needs board approval). We also need a new project for the \$10,000.00 donation that John Perkins would like to give us in Marilyn's honor, and it needs to be approved by the board.

Suggested (draft project): *Marilyn Perkins, who passed away in 2021 has received many donations in her memory/honor to our League's Education Fund held by the*

Washington State League. Two scholarships to high school seniors were given by our League this year. Marilyn's husband, John, would like to donate \$10,000.00 for five years of scholarships. The scholarships will be given to high school graduates and college/technical school students who have maintained a 3.5 grade point or better, who live in the Tri-Cities and who present an essay stating what good citizenship means to them or their personal pathway to good citizenship. The project will then be approved by our Board. We can't handle the money through the state education fund without having an approved "project".

LWVUS Convention, June 23rd-26th, Denver ~ Judy Golberg

This year's convention was a hybrid convention with more than 800 voting delegates, with at least 200 observers via Zoom. It was the first time in four years many of us have seen people we know in person. I agree it was more satisfying than a virtual gathering. I did wear my mask, as did many others. I doubt that I would have attended had it not been for my commitment to report as co-chair of the national nominating committee.

The pre-convention workshops were held virtually. There was so much information shared prior to attending that it gave delegates the opportunity to get their questions answered—practical process questions, budget, bylaws, program and much more. There were also workshops and caucuses held during convention on dozens of different topics.

The Budget was passed. There will not be a change in the PMP (per member payment). Big changes coming though! The Bylaws Amendment proposed by the Transformation Roadmap Committee passed. This will give the committee the ability to put energy into figuring out all the details how to change the dues' structure. The goal is to have anyone wishing to join the League, from any computer, league meeting, at the local level, state or national by simply clicking on a "Join" button. The member's information will be shared with the appropriate league, state and national with the dues' income shared among the three. This should eliminate most of the work local leagues' treasurers or membership chairs must do now. The actual details still need to be worked out. Hard to do without the bylaws and budget changes. Those were approved after much discussion. Now the work can really get underway!

Other business:

- Emergency Resolution from Washington State on the topic of abortion rights passed
- Age limit for membership did not pass. It will remain at 16.
- Voted to retain all proposed national programs

- Concurrence approved with New York’s health care proposal
- Concurrence approved as amended on the popular vote
- Concurrence approved on the criminal justice proposal
- Failed to concur with Colorado’s election security issue. (Considered to be covered now)
- Concurrence approved with Connecticut’s’ digital equity proposal
- Proposed study on digital democracy failed
- ERA to be added to Program – passed
- Resolution made regarding immigration – passed
- Resolution regarding climate emergency - passed
- Resolution regarding Douglass Commonwealth statehood (WA DC) – passed
- Resolution from Wyoming regarding missing and murdered native Americans – passed

The Slate of Officers, Board, Nominating Committee Chair and Committee members were elected as proposed.

An email was sent from LWVUS on 06/28/22 with the subject line of “The Leagues’2022 Convention Recap”. If you are interested in reading more details but didn’t receive the email please contact me at jgolberg@charter.net and I will forward.

We also had fun at an evening reception. (Video shared...for a fee!) Just kidding!

Report from Council 2022 ~ Miriam Kerzner

Francis Benjamin launched Council with a presentation on the results of the LWVWA internal survey. While unscientific because respondents were self-selected, the primary strength of the League they identified was highlighted throughout the weekend: (future) voter education.

Voter education begins in the schools. Beth Pellicciotti and her Spokane team explained that teachers found the League more useful when we first asked how we could be of service and then provided those specific resources and assistance rather than developing set programs which might or might not fit in with the teachers’ plans.

Just as we excel as a resource for schools, so too do we provide important services for adults. Mary Coltrane took us through the logic of the new “Be a Voter” campaign and reinforced the importance of the Vote 411/Voter Pamphlet project.

Adult education extends to broader issues as well and our role in state advocacy. Susan Fleming drew our attention to upcoming issues in education, elections, voting, redistricting, criminal justice and police accountability. The Consensus Process Team is developing a position about the last. Dee Ann Kline’s presentation on the decline of local news brought home the multitude of ways in which this trend not only

impacts voter knowledge and government accountability, but even the refusal of banks to underwrite bonds because that accountability is lacking. The League is sometimes able to step into that reporting role as it has with the Shorelines Study which reviewed the Shoreline Management Act of 1971, another issue on which we are currently developing a League position.

The internal survey not only pointed to these strengths but highlighted our difficulties with recruitment and retention. Some of this may have to do with the increasing incivility discussed by Nicholas Lovrich in his presentation on polarization. It may have to do with a weakness in our DEI efforts, a topic addressed obliquely by Vicki Lowe when she spoke about working with tribal communities in the context of health care. It may also be related to the way in which we socialize people into the League when they express an interest, a topic addressed by the Seattle-King County League when they shared their training guide for the “Getting Engaged” orientation and potentially our failure to take advantage of research about how all people learn best as Linda Benson and her team encouraged us to do.

Details and links to materials on all the above can be found [here](https://lwvwa.org/Council-2022#download): <https://lwvwa.org/Council-2022#download>. Please don't hesitate to contact me if you have any questions at miriamkerzner@gmail.com.

Hanford Advisory Board Vacancy ~Susie Q Leckband

The LWV of Washington State has had a seat on the Hanford Advisory Board for more than 25 years, primary and alternate. I have resigned from the alternate position as of June 30, 2022. If you are interested in being appointed to the Board as the alternate LWV representative, please notify Lunell Haught at the state league office at President@lwvwa.org. The state LWV President is the authorized person to put names forward to the US Department of Energy for consideration. Typically, the term is for 2 years with term limits of 3 total terms. The Board has 5 subcommittees where the bulk of the work is done. The Board passes advice and recommendations via a consensus process after becoming as educated as possible on each issue in the workplan. Full Board meetings are 4 or 5 times a year with subcommittees meeting a bit more often. Meetings may be virtual, hybrid or in person depending on circumstances. Currently the primary member for the League is Jan Cantrell who lives in Bellingham. Hopefully, someone from the local LWVBF is interested in Hanford cleanup and has the time and interest in this volunteer position.

LWVBF Book Club ~ Polly Parton

We enjoyed the June 13th selection of *Eleanor Oliphant is Completely Fine* by Gail Honeyman, a fictional story of a young woman dealing with past trauma, depression and mental illness. We will skip July and August and meet again Monday September 12th at 6 PM (1 hour) via Zoom. Peggy Gregory will lead the discussion of *Inheritance a Memoir of Genealogy, Paternity and Love;* by Dani Shapiro. If you want to join, text or email me to be added to the September 12th link 509-551-3818 or polly.parton@yahoo.com

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

August 18th, 6:00pm ~ Board Meeting via Zoom

September 12th , 6:00pm ~ Book club via Zoom

September 15th, 5:00pm ~ Women's Equality Day Picnic large shelter Highlands Grange Park by Mid-Columbia Library

Email us at:

lwv.of.bf@gmail.com

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and Franklin Counties
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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