



## VOTER

March 2023

[www.lwv-bf.org](http://www.lwv-bf.org)

### President's Message ~ Beverly Johnson-Torelli

With our strong winds in February, we may really be in for it in March. Chicago, eat your heart out! We all know that the luck of the Irish comes to all of us on the 17<sup>th</sup> with Saint Patrick's Day. March is also very important to the League. It is Women's History Month with **March 8<sup>th</sup>** celebrated as International Women's Day. The day is known globally to be a focal point in the women's rights movement, bringing attention to issues such as gender equality, reproductive rights, and violence and abuse against women. Coincidentally, March 8<sup>th</sup> is also the Zoom meeting date for the "Decline of Local News and Its Impact on Democracy" study discussion at 6:30pm. A link and details were sent out on February 22<sup>nd</sup> and will be sent again closer to March 8<sup>th</sup>. An attachment containing the consensus questions and sixteen important pages to read was included. The full study is available at [www.lwvwa.org](http://www.lwvwa.org). Please join us!

**March 16<sup>th</sup>** , ~ Business/Planning Board meeting.

### Our League loves Table Talks!

Here's a little history regarding the Table Talks in our League. In the beginning they were casual meetings with no set topics. We had discussions about issues in our daily lives or in the news. We brought political cartoons to share and discuss. We also provided a light meal and in a short time, those meals became soup, bread, and a dessert. We met at a church, then in members' homes. As time went on, a little League business was added and then a specific topic was added to focus on one issue per meeting. For a period of time, we held two a month—one at noon in a restaurant and one the following week in the evening—the same topics or speakers were used. When Covid came along, we reverted to Zoom. These gatherings have evolved over time and where they go will be our memberships' desires for such events. They could be in person or on Zoom; or two, same topic, one on Zoom and one in person. If you work in a field or have a hobby you feel would be of interest to other members, know an expert who could come and speak, or want to

be a speaker yourself, bring this to the attention of the board. A time to schedule this Table Talk can be discussed and plans can be made.

To give you potential ideas, some Table Talks over the last two years included: Election Security (a Table Talk on steroids held at CBC with the Benton and Franklin County Auditors and the Secretary of State), Steve Ghan on Climate Change, Michelle Gerber from the Benton and Franklin Recovery Coalition, Afghan refugee resettlement, Fair Vote WA on Ranked Choice Voting, Tax Structure group, Facilitator Rick Matters and a panel of speakers on Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion, and Homelessness with Charisse Warner from the Union Gospel Mission. Here is a link to an excellent article on DEI. <https://tumbleweird.org/dei-doesnt-work-without-the-work/?ref=tumbleweird-newsletter>

Table Talk ideas that have been suggested but haven't yet found champions are: WA Transportation; Study guide/requirements to become an American citizen; How the court system works (possible speaker – Josie Delvin), Progress on Hanford Cleanup (Patrick Conrad with Hanford Mission Integration Solutions is offering a presentation from their speakers' bureau), DEI Continued, Shoreline Study (Speaker to follow up the consensus study), Public Health Districts, Preserving Voters' Rights, Single Payer Healthcare, Social Security/Disability issues.

### **Important Spring Dates:**

**April 20<sup>th</sup>** ~ Business/Planning Board meeting ~ 6:00pm on Zoom. April would be an ideal month for a Table Talk!

**April 24<sup>th</sup>** ~ End of Washington state Legislative session. In the meantime, let your voice be heard!

**May 4<sup>th</sup>- 7<sup>th</sup>,** ~ **LWVWA Convention in Pasco at the Holiday Inn Express by the HAPO Center.** More details will be available soon. Please volunteer to help sometime during those four days. Prior to Convention, we will publish a schedule with the needed responsibilities.

**May 15<sup>th</sup> -19<sup>th</sup>** ~ **Dates for Candidate Filing for 2023.** Final day to withdraw from the ballot is May 22<sup>nd</sup>

**May 18<sup>th</sup>** ~ **Annual Meeting at CG Public House, 6:00pm.** At our meeting, the Marilyn Perkins Memorial Scholarship Awards will be given to two applicants, \$1,000.00 each. The scholarships are open to Benton and Franklin public school students who are eligible to graduate in the spring of 2023. See the League website at [www.lwv-bf.org](http://www.lwv-bf.org) for further details.

**July TBD** ~ **Candidate Forums!** Local offices like City Council and School Boards will be on the ballot. Get out the Vote!

## Treasurer's Report ~ Shirley Sonnichsen

As of January 31, 2023:

Checking is:	\$6,787.11
Savings is:	\$1,857.00
Total:	\$8,644.11

**Income:** \$335.00  
We received \$335.00 in dues.

**Expenses:** \$1,567.44  
The PMP's for the 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> quarters were paid at \$1,160.00, \$400.00 to the California League for Maintenance of the Website, and PayPal fees of \$7.44.

**Membership and Dues:** We currently have 82 members including 8 students, 9 second in household members. The National member database was updated in January. This database "roster" determines what Per Member Payment (PMP) we are charged by National and State Leagues. Ten members were dropped from the rolls on January 31<sup>st</sup>.

**2023-2024 Budget:** Janet Nail and Judy Golberg volunteered to be on the Budget committee. The budget committee met in February and drafted a budget.

**Education Fund:** Our State Ed Fund dollars are \$12,515.00 with the \$10,000.00 donation from John Perkins and many others. Sharon Grant donated \$207.00 in December. We will be taking out \$2,100.00 for our Scholarships this year. Christine Grantham is seeking a \$1,500.00 Civic Education grant for the Pasco School District Dance team video that will promote voting.

## Civics Education ~ Wendy Espinosa

Members of the Civic Education Committee were invited to attend the Reach Museum Open House for Tri Cities teachers held on February 1<sup>st</sup>. Janet Nail, Beverly Johnson-Torelli, and I visited with several teachers who were interested in us visiting their classrooms to talk about WA history and Civic Education. Roger Craver, a History and Social Studies teacher from the Bickleton School, invited us to his classes the following week. We had a wonderful visit with his outstanding students who knew quite a bit about their state and local governments! I left Roger with activity pamphlets from the WA State Legislature, along with copies of The State We're In, and a Good Citizenship poster, both published by the LWV.

We have several names and emails to reach out to, thanks to the Reach Open House and look forward to more visits in the future. I will be scheduling an Education Committee Meeting for March and asking members for their ideas for future projects.

## **Preferences, Traditions and Requirements ~ Judy Golberg**

Generative thinking and conversations – what exactly does that mean?? Generative thinking involves inventive ways to produce ideas and decisions. Generative thinking tackles habits of thinking that hold us back from making good strategic decisions.

Traditions evoke emotions. Think about the tradition of gathering family for Thanksgiving dinner. Do you prefer to attend these traditional family meals or do you prefer to vacation on a tropical island? Are you required to attend? (Depends upon your family, right?!!)

In League, do we traditionally take on projects, do we prefer to do it or not, or are we required by law or Bylaws to do it? As our landscapes change, should our projects change? Examples of landscape changes would include becoming more reliant on electronic communications and our need to social-distance during the pandemic. The process we are using for our candidate forum in recent years is an example of changing our tradition to meet the needs of our changing landscape. There are a few requirements that will not change—maintaining a non-partisan position is the main requirement.

A discussion along this line could provide our League with a healthy analysis about what we do, how we do it and who will be involved. Does this interest you?

This topic was presented by the national League of Women Voters (LWV) recently to participate in the LWV Webinars and training. Bi-weekly *League Update*, a newsletter from the LWV, includes a message from our national President Dr. Deborah Turner and lists upcoming Webinars, training sessions and opportunities. Every member has the options to sign up for this means of communication by clicking on [www.lwv.org](http://www.lwv.org), scroll near the bottom and use the “sign up” box. The very bottom of that page has the link to the League Management page that has so much more information. Check it out, sign up, get involved!

## Impact on Issues ~ Judy Golberg

Ever wonder exactly what League does? For one, as an organization it advocates at the national level, state level and in certain circumstances, at the local level. First, there must be a Position supporting or opposing the issue. Positions?? There are approximately 100 national Positions for our organization, and they can be found in the publication called *Impact on Issues*. This publication is the history of our organization and provides the Positions used at all levels to advocate on issues. Through the process of our programs, studies, consensus and convention action, these Positions are developed, updated and supported.

Another recent LWV Webinar discussed the latest version and how it has been updated to include the recent action of last summer's national convention, provides hyperlinks through the Table of Contents, and if the Position title has a looking-glass icon, the language has been updated to include diversity, equity and inclusion (DEI) language. A committee of ten or more has been reviewing each Position to update language. They have the DEI review about half completed.

Curious? Please do look at this document: [https://www.lwv.org/sites/default/files/2023-02/LWV\\_ImpactOnIssues2022-2024.pdf](https://www.lwv.org/sites/default/files/2023-02/LWV_ImpactOnIssues2022-2024.pdf)

For our State League, there is a similar document: <https://www.lwvwa.org/resources/Documents/Program%20In%20Action%202021-23.pdf>

Locally, our Positions (that should be reviewed and updated) can be found at this link: <https://my.lwv.org/washington/benton-franklin-counties/positions>

## Legislative Action ~ Lora Rathbone Action Chair

This year the WA state legislative session is a long one, ending in April. So there's still plenty of time to participate!

1. You can ask me to add you to my action alerts at [ldrathbone@outlook.com](mailto:ldrathbone@outlook.com), or you can follow the LWV WA Legislative Newsletter. Click here to [Subscribe](#)
2. You can attend a lobbying meeting with our legislators. I plan to set up our own Zoom meeting whenever we can find the best time for the most people to attend. If you would like to speak to them, let me know your legislative district. We will also have a meeting to plan what to say before we meet our legislator

## **They Represent You (TRYs) ~ Diane Molleson**

Our 2023 TRY pamphlet has now been printed and distributed to auditors' offices, city halls, ports, community centers, schools, and other organizations. It can be found on our website at [www.lwv-bf.org](http://www.lwv-bf.org) under Publications. If members need copies for voter registrations or other events, or if anyone would like a printed copy, please contact Diane Molleson at [molleson@frontier.com](mailto:molleson@frontier.com)

## **LWVBF Book Club ~ Polly Parton**

Join us Monday March 13<sup>th</sup> (on Zoom) at 6:00pm for a discussion of *Unbroken: A World War II story of Survival, Resilience and Redemption* by Laura Hillenbrand. Carla Chiotti will lead the non-fiction story of Louis Zamperini, an Olympic track star, who as an Army Airman in 1943 survived crashing into the Pacific just to be captured as a POW. April's book will be *Snow Child* by Eowyn Ivey, a magical story about brutal life in Alaska in the 1920's. Email or text Polly Parton to be added to the Zoom link [polly.parton@yahoo.com](mailto:polly.parton@yahoo.com) or 509-551-3818.

## **LWVBF Election Observers ~ Chuck Lo Presti**

This program is being continued. We would encourage you to get involved for the Primary and/or General Elections.

So if you would like to get a taste of election observing, come visit the Voting Center at 2618 N Columbia Center Blvd. Richland. It is best to call them at 509-736-2727, before showing up to make sure they are actually processing ballots that day.

Please see attached Benton County Paid Observer Program PDF for more information.

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

March 1<sup>st</sup>, 6:30pm ~ Convention Committee Meeting via Zoom

March 8<sup>th</sup> , 6:30pm ~ Decline of Local News and its Impact on Democracy study discussion via Zoom

March 13<sup>th</sup>, 6:00pm ~ Book club via Zoom

March 16<sup>th</sup>, 6:00pm ~ Business/Board Meeting via Zoom

April 20<sup>th</sup>, 6:00pm ~ Business/Board Meeting via Zoom

May 4<sup>th</sup>-7<sup>th</sup>, LWVWA Convention Holiday Inn Express Pasco

May 15<sup>th</sup> -19<sup>th</sup>, ~ Dates for Candidate Filing 2023

May 18<sup>th</sup> , ~ 6:00pm Annual Meeting, CG Public House Kennewick

[lwv.of.bf@gmail.com](mailto:lwv.of.bf@gmail.com)

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**OFFICERS:**

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2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President: Karen Miller  
Secretary: Diane Molleson  
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Ruvine Jimenez  
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Peggy Gregory