



VOTER

November 2023

www.lwv-bf.org

President's Message ~ Diane Molleson

Election Day is on November 7th!

Besides the Voters' Pamphlet, information about the candidates can be found on www.vote411.org and by watching our candidate forums. You can view the forums through Election Day on YouTube, and at the following sites: lwv-bf.org, NWPB Vote 2023, ci.richland.wa.us, pasco-wa.gov and cbbc.clubexpress.com. We so appreciate our partnership with Northwest Public Broadcasting. They do a wonderful job producing our forums.

Kudos to our League membership for all their activities in support of democracy. A shout - out to Beverly Johnson-Torelli for heading up the candidate forums with the help of Ruvine Jimenez, JoAnne Dimond, Polly Parton and others who supplied questions and greeted the candidates. A huge thank you to Christine Grantham for realizing we needed a lively GOTV video and bringing it to fruition. It is shown with the candidate forums. Many thanks to all the members who signed on to be election observers, helped with voter registration drives throughout the Tri-Cities, brought civics education to groups of students, and made us more aware of the Leagues' policies on climate issues and gun safety.

Please join us on November 13 for a post-election Table Talk at Janet Nail's home where we will discuss the election results and voter trends. More details are in a separate article in this issue. We are also planning a Holiday Party on December 3 at the East Benton Historical Society and Museum with guest speaker Matt Truman, Coordinator of the Benton-Franklin Housing Consortium. Matt also works as the Executive Director of the Housing Authority of the City of Pasco and Franklin County. More details in the December Voter.

A big welcome to all the new members who joined our League in the last month! All members are welcome to our monthly Business/Planning/ Board meetings. The next one is on November 21 at 6:00pm via Zoom, and we hope you will join us.

Voter Registration Drives: Volunteers Needed ~ Diane Molleson

Members can help register voters and talk to people about the importance of voting at the following events:

November 8: Naturalization ceremony at the Federal Building in Richland at 10:00am. Many thanks to Bev Johnson-Torelli, Carla Chiotti, JoAnne Dimond and Richard Badalamente for volunteering for this event.

November 17: 3:00pm- 6:00pm

Sunset View Elementary

711 N. Center Parkway, Kennewick

Diane Molleson has volunteered. One or two more volunteers needed.

Please contact Diane at molleson@frontier.com if you can help.

November 20: 3:00pm- 5:30pm

Highlands Middle School

425 S. Tweedt St., Kennewick

Beverly Johnson-Torelli and Peggy Gregory volunteered. One or two more volunteers needed. Please contact Bev Johnson-Torelli at SasJoh@aol.com if you can help.

From the LWVWA

Action Workshop:

The State League will be hosting their Annual Action Workshop on **Saturday, December 2 from 9:00am-3:00pm** on Zoom. Attendees will meet with Lobby Team members to learn about the issues coming up in the 2024 legislative session.

Democracy Lobby Week:

Democracy Lobby Week, co-sponsored with Fix Democracy First, is scheduled for the evenings of January 22 through 26 at 6:00pm-8:00pm. During the evenings, legislative updates are provided on specific issues; and during the day, local League and Fix Democracy First members can participate in meetings with their legislators.

Registration details for both virtual events are coming soon and will be posted on the State League's website: <https://lwvwa.org>

Treasurer's Report ~ Shirley Sonnichsen

On September 30, 2023:

Checking is:	\$6,583.63
Savings is:	\$1,857.12
Total:	\$8,440.75

Income: \$2,305.00

\$1,905.00 was received for dues and \$400.00 in contribution.

Expenses: \$739.15

\$552.00 was paid to the National League for the first quarter Per Member Payment (PMP); \$162.94 for annual Zoom membership; \$24.21 in PayPal fees. "In kind" invoices for printing, envelopes, and stamps totaling \$48.94 were submitted. Please, if you have "in kind" payments for our local league submit them to me.

Membership and Dues:

We welcome Julie Mercer, Molly Petersen, Joyce McMurphy and Susan Thornton to Benton Franklin League. Our membership is 91 but taking into account that students (8) don't pay. Of the members who need to pay dues, 59 members have paid. This includes new members and 11 second-in-household. If you have not paid your dues, please do so at your earliest convenience.

Ed Fund:

No changes. Shari Gasperino made a \$100.00 donation to the state Education Fund for our league. It will not be reflected until next month.

Washington State Redistricting Task Force ~ Leona Hassing

Highlights from the Task Force meeting on October 18. With the 15th district lawsuit, approximate dates have been set to comply with redrawing the maps. The redistricting of the 15th legislative district could affect from 4 to 10 legislative districts. Please note: At 5:00pm, November 1, Happy Hour for Fix Democracy First, the topic will be Redrawing Washington's 15th Legislative District with Andrew Hong from Redistricting Justice for WA.

At the meeting Clark, Kitsap and Yakima Leagues talked about what they are doing within their groups. Clark is educating its community with letters to the editor. Kitsap says the committee needs short time-framed goals. The year 2030 is far away and perhaps we should have short attainable goals as we progress forward. Yakima fell into the process by default. The lawsuit brought in the city,

county, ACLU and League became involved. The meeting closed with a possible agenda item for the next meeting. How to keep momentum; 2030 is far off.

Step Up!! To Redistricting Training

On November 18, The Washington State Redistricting Task Force is presenting: Step Up!! To Redistricting. This is a two-hour training that will give the basics of why redistricting reform is essential in Washington and how you can help. Training topics will include local team development, redistricting reform talking points, community outreach strategies, the latest on the new legislative maps, and much more.

Step Up!! To Redistricting

Date: Saturday, November 18, 2023

Time: 10:00am-12:00pm

Who's invited: Anyone who wants to see Washington State put people over party.

Zoom Registration Link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZIuf-qurTlvHdKzZr8LJIM7hsjmkIccuhdG>

It is suggested that you register now so you will receive the links and information as the date approaches.

Fix Democracy First Happy Hour

Upcoming Topics/Schedule:

- Nov 1 ~ *Redrawing Washington's 15th Legislative District* with Andrew Hong, [Redistricting Justice for WA](#)
- November 8 ~ *How to Get Involved with Local Actions*, Daniel Weise, [Take Action Network](#)
- November 15 ~ *Avoiding Election Misinformation* with DeMario Phipps-Smith, [News Literacy Project](#)
- November 22 ~ CANCELED - No Democracy Happy Hour this week - Happy Thanksgiving!

Extreme Risk Protection Orders Awareness (ERPO)~ Richard Badalamente

Despite our busy agenda with voter registration and candidate forums, our ERPO team, continued in its efforts to raise awareness of the Washington Extreme Risk Protection Order (ERPO) law. We had three opinion pieces published in the last two months; one in the Yakima Herald, another in the Tri-City Herald, and a third in the Tri-Cities Observer. We teamed with Moms Demand Action at the September Suicide Prevention March at John Dam Plaza to help educate a large and energetic crowd of attendees on safe firearm storage, and on ERPO. We are currently reaching out to stakeholders, such as Domestic Violence Services of Benton-Franklin Counties, and the Support, Advocacy & Resource Center to discuss ERPOs.

The ERPO Awareness effort is an “organic” undertaking of LWVBF. This means that anyone can participate in any way that suits their situation. Contact Richard Badalamente richamente@gmail.com for more information.

Table Talk - Post Election Analysis ~ Janet Nail

The civics committee has taken the lead to organize this event on November 13th at 5:30pm.

- Chairman of the Advocacy Committee, Lora Rathbone, will discuss how the League chooses its causes, the issue papers explaining the legislation and the power of written and oral testimony.
- Bev-Johnson Torelli will present an update on the League’s 2023 Candidate Forums.
- Kelly Doyle, Chris Grantham and Chuck LoPresti will discuss their experiences as election observers at the Auditor’s Office.

Join together for soup, bread and dessert. We will also toast our efforts to advocate for our issues, conduct civil discussions, present information about election issues and introduce the candidates running for office. (We have a dozen bottles of wine left over from our Wine Social.)

Location: 135 Meadow Hills Drive, Richland, WA 99352 RSVP: janet@janetnail.com or 509-546-1467

LWVBF Book Club ~ Polly Parton

Boys in the Boat is Our November Book

In October we discussed *The Big Burn* by Timothy Egan about the 1910 Northwest fire with the background of conservation and politics. It was steeped in gritty history of our Pacific Northwest forests and our national parks. *Boys in the Boat* by Daniel James Brown is our November book choice. We will take the month of December off. For January we read *Mad Honey* by Jennifer Finley Boulanger & Jodi Picoult; which was delayed to January because of book availability. February choice will be *How the Penguins Saved Veronica*.

Join us for an hour of discussion on November 20th at 6:00pm via Zoom by emailing or texting Polly Parton to be added to the link. We keep discussion to one hour. The date changed to the third Monday in November because there is a table talk on November 13. Polly.parton@yahoo.com or 509 -551-3818

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

November 7 ~ Election Day

November 8, 10:00am ~ Naturalization Ceremony Federal Building, Richland

November 13, 5:30pm ~ Table Talk Post Election Analysis, Janet Nail's house

November 17, 3:00pm-6:00pm ~ Voter Registration at Sunset View Elementary
Kennewick

November 18, 10:00am-12pm ~ Step Up to Redistricting via Zoom

November 20, 3:00pm-5:30pm ~ Voter Registration at Highlands Middle School
Kennewick

November 20, 6:00pm-7:00pm ~ Book club via Zoom

November 21, 6:00pm ~ Business/Board/Planning Meeting via Zoom

December 2, 9:00am-3:00pm ~ LWVWA Annual Action Workshop via Zoom

December 3, 1:00pm-3:00pm ~ Holiday Party at East Benton County Historical
Museum 205 Keewaydin Drive Kennewick

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: Sue Thornton
Secretary: Carla Chioti
Treasurer: Shirley Sonnichsen
Immediate Past President: Bev
Johnson-Torelli

ELECTED DIRECTORS:

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

APPOINTED DIRECTORS:

Ruvine Jimenez
Sabiha Khan
Mary Shaw