



VOTER

October 2020

www.lwv-bf.org

President's Message~ Beverly Johnson-Torelli

The beautiful colors of fall are rapidly becoming visible. With the clearing of the recent smoke and haze, we are reminded that in the Tri-Cities, we are so lucky to have clear, beautiful, sunny skies most of the time. Our hearts go out to the communities in Washington, Oregon and California who have been affected by the fires, as well as those in the South who have had to endure tropical storms.

As we live our lives in the days of COVID-19, our League continues to stay busy. By the time you read this, you may have watched the Treasurer Debate, as well as some of our local debates. To inform the public of their voting choices and to do so in a non-partisan manner is one of the main goals of League. We are proud of this tradition and are also extremely grateful for our wonderful partner, Northwest Public Broadcasting, in this time of virtual living. The cities of Richland and Pasco continue to support us as well. To view the NWPB Vote 2020 local debates, go to www.nwpb.org. Additionally, they can be viewed on our Facebook at www.lwv-bf.org, on the websites of the cities of Pasco and Richland, on YouTube, PBS television, or at KTNW channel 31. Special thanks go to Kay Ottem for tirelessly communicating with the candidates to ensure their participation, Marilyn Perkins for taking the lead in providing questions, Ruvine Jimenez for being the League's Spokesperson, to Kanale Rhoden, NWPB producer, Matt Loveless, moderator, Tom Hungate, program manager, who contacted League initiating this wonderful partnership. Thanks also to everyone who served on the committee and helped in any way. **The local debates are from 7:00-8:00 p.m. on the dates below and will also be available for future viewing as noted above:**

September 30th

Benton County Commissioner- District 1 (*Delvin & Raffa*)

Benton County Commissioner- District 3 (*McKay & Beaver*)

Franklin County Commissioner-District 1 (*Lehrman & Peck*)

October 1st

Franklin County Commissioner - District 2 (*Mullen & Peralta*)

Superior Court Judge - Position 1 (*Petersen & Brown*)

Legislative District 8 Representative - Position 1 (*Klippert & Regev*)

October 8th

Legislative District 16 Representative - Position 1 (*Chvatal & Klicker*)

Legislative District 16 Representative - Position 2 (*Rude & Coburn*)

Legislative District 16 Representative - Senate (*Dozier & Reser*)

October 9th

Legislative District 8 Representative - Position 2 (*Stanley & Boehnke*)

Legislative District 9 Representative - Position 1 (*Borden & Dye*)

The state debates are listed on the state website at: www.lwwwa.org

There, you will be able to view the videos of the Treasurer and Secretary of State Debates that aired on September 17 and 19th respectively. View the Commissioner of Public Lands and Superintendent of Public Instruction (OSPI) on October 1st and October 6th.

Dates for Nationally Televised Debates are: President: September 29th, October 15th, and October 22nd; Vice President- October 7th

September 22, 2020 was National Voter Registration Day. Kudos to Lora Rathbone for organizing voter registration at the Richland Foodbank on that day, as well as on 9/24, 9/26, 9/29, 10/1 and 10/3. Besides Lora, volunteers include Alice Allison, Diane Vanderburg, Shirley Sonnichsen, Michele Pirotte, Carol Larkin, Arianna Caiceros, Ann Roberts, Judy Blair, Wendy Veysey, Kathy Blaisdell, Brenda Diaz, and Jeanne Reardon. In the meantime, Diane Molleson, Polly Parton, and Mary Shaw are writing articles to the Tri-City Herald to educate and encourage all eligible WA citizens eighteen and older to vote during the 2020 election cycle. Lora Rathbone, Ruvine Jimenez, and Michele Pirotte are hoping to make a virtual Presentation/Q&A on “Why Vote?” to the general public co-hosted by our local libraries. If you are interested in helping with any of these projects, contact Lora Rathbone at 509-375-1954 or ldrathbone@outlook.com. (Apologies go to any volunteer whose name was inadvertently overlooked.)

Treasurer's Report~ Shirley Sonnichsen

On August 31, 2020:

Checking is	\$2,056.40
Savings is	<u>\$1,856.55</u>
Total	<u>\$3,912.95</u>

Income: \$682.50

We received a \$500 check from HAPO and \$182.50 from the Indivisible local chapter. They were liquidating their assets and wanted to donate to a non-partisan organization.

Expenses: \$5,469

The national PMP for \$424 and the State PMP for \$251.75 were paid. Checks were written to the winners and second-place winners in the essay contest for a total of \$4,730. A \$47.70 check was also written to Christine Grantham for the gold coins. The Treasurer spent \$63 on stamps and copies for the dues letter.

Membership and dues: The dues letter went out in August and there were no dues returned in August. We have 4 new members who joined in September: Kathy Blaisdell, Cait Guyette, and Carol Larkin and Fred Parton is a second-in-household. We have 67 members per the September Membership list and 4 of those are students. Also, Hannah Kuhn sent a generous check for the LWV-WA Ed Fund which I put through to the LWV-WA for the TRY.

Volunteers: There were 8 volunteer sheets returned and 3 were officers or board members who already have jobs. The main responses were Voter Service and Civics Ed with a couple Observer Corps.

Election Information~ Marilyn Perkins

This is a unique election year, to say the least. I've learned a lot about other state's voting procedures, and it has made me more grateful to live in Washington state. Ballots will be mailed on their normal time, which is by Oct. 16th this year. We should receive them by the next Monday at the latest. If other family members, friends or neighbors receive a ballot, and you don't, contact the elections department in your county.

Each county will also mail the Voter's Guide the middle of October, but it is available online if you go to the Secretary of State's website. **Online or mail registration or change of address, must be made 8 days prior to the election which is Monday, Oct. 26th.** I would not recommend waiting that long unless absolutely necessary. After that you must go to each county's election office. In Franklin County it is still in the County Courthouse on 4th Ave. In Benton County they have opened a special election location in Columbia Center North in the old Chuck E. Cheese location. They will give you a ballot and you can vote right then or return ballot on time.

This is definitely the year to take your ballot to a drop box, and you can use any of the ones in the state and they will get it to the correct county. If possible, please return your ballot to a drop box that is in your home county by 8 p.m. on election day and save election officials the extra work. It will also save the government the cost of postage and you won't have to worry about it being postmarked on time. If you can get in by Monday, the 2nd at the latest, it might give them time to process and have it ready to be counted on Election Night.

All the attention this election has received and the information about registering and voting that is being shared has made me realize how uninformed so many are about voting and its importance to their lives.

I do have extra registration forms and if you would like some to share, let me know and I will get them to you.

Marilyn Perkins 509- 783-8610 or jmperkins.coug@frontier.com

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Board Meeting via Zoom October 15, 6:00pm

Candidate Debates:

October 1, 8, and 9

Email us at:

lwv.of.bf@gmail.com

Mailing Address:

League of Women Voters of Benton and Franklin
Counties

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Richland WA 99352

OFFICERS:

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