



## VOTER

September 2023

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

### President's Message ~ Diane Molleson

More than twenty League members attended our August 15 Equality Day picnic on one of the hottest days of the year at the East Benton County Historical Society and Museum. It turned out to be a wonderful venue, and we thank Beverly Johnson-Torelli, the museum's board chair, for arranging this when the picnic had to be moved inside. Our guest, Dr. Jim Conca, provided a lively Q & A on Washington State's energy resources, nuclear power, and nuclear waste disposal. His talk was so informative that we've had requests to have him come back to give a more formal presentation.

Our League is working on the candidate forums for the general election on November 7. This is a local election year, and voters will be selecting port commissioners, city council members, and school board directors, among others. A list of the 21 races we're covering appears in this VOTER. Now is your chance to question the candidates about issues important to you. Please send your questions to Beverly Johnson-Torelli at [SasJoh@aol.com](mailto:SasJoh@aol.com) by **September 15**.

A big thank you to all the volunteers who are covering voter registration events for our League in Pasco, Kennewick and Richland this month: Christine Grantham, Beverly Johnson-Torelli, Carol Larkin, Polly Parton, Carla Chiotti, Peggy Gregory, Kelly Doyle and JoAnne Dimond. We are also partnering with the Richland Public Library to provide handouts and voter information for their display on National Voters Registration Day on September 19.

**September 19** is also the date of our **Wine Social at Janet Nail's home**. We will welcome Mary Coltrane, the State League's president, and Beth Pellicciotti, the State League's Chair for civics education who will be our guest speaker. The social begins at 5:30 pm, and more details are in a separate article. We hope you will join us!

## **Board Training: The Conversation Continues ~ Diane Molleson**

We are very grateful to longtime members Judy Golberg and Susan Kreid for sharing their wealth of League experience with the officers and directors of our League on August 9 at the board training session they provided. Both have served in numerous positions in our local League. Judy is also a past president of the State League and served as Co-Chair of the LWVUS Nominating Committee and a Shur Fellow coach. Susan was the State League's newsletter editor for five years and also a past president of our local league. They are willing to form a committee to continue to answer our questions and address topics, such as Robert's Rules of Order and our Bylaws. Interested in joining? Please contact Diane Molleson at [molleson@frontier.com](mailto:molleson@frontier.com)

## **Treasurer's Report ~ Shirley Sonnichsen**

On July 31, 2023:

<b>Checking is:</b>	\$5,017.78
<b>Savings is:</b>	\$1,857.09
<b>Total:</b>	\$6,874.87

**Income:** \$75.00  
Membership dues.

**Expenses:** \$1,830.81  
\$1,500.00 for the wonderful dance video, \$327.00 for the 1<sup>st</sup> quarter PMP to the State League.

### **Membership and Dues:**

We have a new member, Patricia Godoy-Kain. Our membership now stands at 84.

### **Ed Fund:**

After reconciling our Ed fund with the LWVWA statement, we have \$10,490.00 remaining in the Education fund. I was incorrect last month about the \$1,500.00 for the dance vote video. It was a grant and did not come out of the Education fund.

### **Notes:**

This month we started over with the new budget. We also have new Per Member Payments with the National and State Leagues. We have not yet received the new PMP statement from the National League.

## Questions for Candidates for General Election Candidate Forums~ Bev Johnson-Torelli

Please see the candidates for the General Election on November 7 listed below. These races will be broadcast in mid-October, dates TBD. They will be available through YouTube, the League, Northwest Public Broadcasting, the Cities of Richland and Pasco and the Columbia Basin Badger Club. **We would love to have your questions. Please provide them to Beverly Johnson-Torelli at [sasjoh@aol.com](mailto:sasjoh@aol.com) no later than September 15 or at any time before that.**

City of West Richland - Council Position 7 - David Cole, Kate Moran

City of Benton City - Mayor - Len Burton, Jake Mokler

Port of Benton - Commissioner District 2 - Scott D. Keller, Christy Rasmussen

City of Richland - Council Position 1 - Allison Ball, Jhoanna R. Jones

City of Richland - Council Position 2 - Theresa A. Richardson, Elizabeth (Liz) Vann-Clark

City of Richland - Council Position 5 - Gregory Levy, D. Shayne Van Dyke

City of Richland - Council Position 6 - Kent Madsen, Kurt H. Maier

City of Richland - Council Position 7 - Joshua Short, Ryan Whitten

Richland School District 400 - Director No. 3 - Chelsie Beck, Nino Kapitula

Richland School District 400 - Director No. 4 - Katrina Waters, Kari Williams

Richland School District 400 - Director No. 5 - Gene Nemeth, Jill Oldson

City of Kennewick - Council Position 7, At Large - James (Jim) Millbauer, Ted Owens

Kennewick School District 17 - Director No. 3 - Michael Connors, Dustin Petersen

Kennewick School District 17 - Director No. 4 - Brittany Gledhill, Aaron Michele Massey

Kennewick School District 17 - Director No. 5 - Josh Miller, Lisa Peppard

Pasco School District No. 1, Director District. 2 - John Kennedy, Gabriel Lucatero

Pasco School District No. 1, Director At Large, Position 5 - Steve Simmons, Rosa Torres

City of Pasco, Councilmember At Large, Position 7 - Peter Harpster, Kim Lehrman

City of Pasco, Councilmember, District 2, Position 2 - J.R. Campos, Charles Grimm

City of Pasco, Councilmember, District 3, Position 3 - Irving Lee Brown Sr, Leo A. Perales

City of Pasco, Councilmember, District 5, Position 5 - James Czebotar, David Milne

## **LWVBF Webpage ~ Judy Golberg**

Our League is fortunate to use software for our webpage that was developed and is maintained by the LWV of California. There are so many features that would be useful for our membership that are not being utilized right now. What is needed to make this more useful is someone with time, skills, and the desire to learn. I can teach the basics but most of the learning will be through YouTube videos. Is this something you might be interested in doing? Do you have a spouse or someone else you know who might fit this role? This work can be done by non-members but should be someone who can spend a little time learning and maintaining the site. **Thank you for considering this position!** [jgolberg@charter.net](mailto:jgolberg@charter.net)

## **Help Raise Awareness of Emergency Risk Protection Orders: Volunteers Needed ~ Richard Badalamente**

In Washington, someone is killed by a gun every 12 hours. Gun violence is the leading cause of death for children and teens. Seventy-six percent of gun deaths are suicides.

We can do something about it!

Extreme Risk Protection Orders (ERPO) prevent people who are at high risk of harming themselves or others from having access to a firearm. Family, household members, or police can obtain an ERPO by submitting a request to the court with evidence demonstrating the danger the individual poses.

ERPOs have been used infrequently in Benton and Franklin counties. Barriers to ERPO implementation:

- Public generally unaware of ERPO law
- Gov/Org websites not consistent in providing/updating information on ERPO
- Courts and police lack resources (e.g., courts don't provide advocates)
- Potential petitioners have trouble with English language and/or 'legalese'
- Potential petitioners may distrust police
- Police not trained in nexus between Domestic Violence and ERPO
- Constitutional questions persist in some areas

The LWVBF is undertaking an effort to raise awareness in Benton and Franklin Counties, consistent with the LWVWA position on Gun Safety.

Please help save lives!

For more information or to volunteer, please contact Richard Badalamente, (509) 546-1420, [richamente@gmail.com](mailto:richamente@gmail.com) or Diane Molleson at [molleson@frontier.com](mailto:molleson@frontier.com)

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

Join us Monday September 11 at 6:00 pm as we discuss *Forever* by Judy Bloom. Published in 1975, Judy Bloom wrote this for her daughter about teenage sexuality. Over 45 years later, it is often listed as a 'banned book'.

In August we discussed *Beloved* by Toni Morrison. The novel tells the story of a Black woman named Sethe, from her pre-Civil War days as a slave in Kentucky to her time in Cincinnati, Ohio, in 1873. We are planning to read *The Big Burn* by Timothy Egan for October, *Mad Honey* by Jennifer Finley Boulanger & Jodi Picoult for November and *In the Garden of Beasts* by Erik Larson for December.

Join in a great hour of discussion via Zoom by emailing or texting Polly Parton to be added to the link [polly.parton@yahoo.com](mailto:polly.parton@yahoo.com) or 509-551-3818.

## **Wine Social in September ~ Janet Nail**

Grab a bottle of wine and attend the League of Women Voters wine social. We have two very special guests: Mary Coltrane, president of the LWVWA, and Beth Pellicciotti, Board of Directors – Civics Education of LWVWA. Be sure and invite a friend who would enjoy League activities. It promises to be an evening of lively conversation. Wine, non-alcoholic beverages, and heavy hors d'oeuvres will be served.

Social will be on September 19 at 5:30pm at 135 Meadow Hills Drive, Richland, WA 99352. Please RSVP to Janet Nail [janet@janetnail.com](mailto:janet@janetnail.com) or 509-546-1467. Hope to see you there.

## **Main Points on the Nuclear Energy Talk by Guest Speaker Dr. James Conca at the LWVBF Equality Day Picnic ~ Lora Rathbone**

The East Benton County Historical Museum was the perfect setting to hear about the history and status of nuclear power and weapons by our guest speaker, Dr. James Conca. There was a good turnout of league members for our annual picnic, held this year on August 15. At a breath-taking clip we were challenged to recall what we have learned in chemistry classes long ago, and to reconsider a lifetime of stories we have heard about the risks of nuclear energy. In case you missed this fascinating and informative talk, here is a quick summary of his key points.

There has been much misinformation about nuclear power safety; it has the best track record for safety, by far, of any source of power.

Many people confuse commercial nuclear power with nuclear weapons regarding waste and risk of proliferation. In either case, there is a waste disposal solution.

New advanced reactors and Small Modular Reactors solve all safety issues (cannot melt down) and can be built much more quickly.

Nuclear power is necessary to meet the world's energy needs, lift people out of poverty, and prevent the climate crisis. It is necessary because of limited storage ability for renewable power, and the increasing demand of electricity as the world transitions from fossil fuels.

To learn more go to these YouTube Videos:

Dry Cask Storage of SNF (six 2-minute back-to-back videos, also has a little nuclear primer in it)

[Spent Fuel Storage Video](#)

Geopolitics of Energy with WA slant

[Nuclear Waste for CCL by Conca 6-27-2023 - YouTube](#)

Nuclear Waste Disposal

[Geopolitics of Energy for CCL by Conca 6-22-2023 - YouTube](#)

And if you get a chance, ask one of us who attended what he does with hundreds of pounds of fish bones.

Dr. James Conca is a Trustee of the Herbert M. Parker Foundation at Washington State University in the Tri-Cities. He has worked on nuclear and energy issues for

40 years at NASA, Washington State University, New Mexico State University, Los Alamos National Laboratory, Pacific Northwest National Laboratory and Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory. Conca has been an advisor to DOE, EPA, state and federal regulatory agencies, and to President Obama's Blue-Ribbon Commission on America's Nuclear Future from 2010 to 2012, worked on the Yucca Mt and WIPP nuclear waste projects for 25 years, and was a Science Contributor to Forbes on energy issues for 10 years. He is also an advisor to the new WA State Legislature's bipartisan Nuclear Caucus.

## **CALENDAR OF EVENTS**

September 11, 6:00pm ~ Book Club via Zoom

September 13, 5:00pm-8:00pm ~ Voter Registration Kamiakin High School

September 15 ~ Candidate forum questions due to Bev Johnson-Torelli

September 18, 10:00am ~ Naturalization Ceremony Federal Building Richland

September 19, 5:00pm ~ Short Business/Board Meeting at Janet Nail's Home

September 19, 5:30pm ~ Wine Social at Janet Nail's Home

October 17, 6:00pm ~ Business/Board Meeting via Zoom

**Email us at:**

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**Mailing Address:**

League of Women Voters of Benton and  
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**OFFICERS:**

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