



VOTER

October 2025

www.lwv-bf.org

President's Message – Polly Parton

As this newsletter is being published, we are finishing our candidate Meet and Greet meetings. Richland and West Richland City Council, West Richland Mayor and Richland School Directors (shared by Richland and West Richland) is scheduled for September 29 at the Richland Library. Pasco City Council, School District Directors and Commissioners are at the Hopkins St. Library on October 1. Kennewick City Council, School District Directors and Port of Kennewick Commissioners are at the Union St. Library on October 3. The time for all the Meet and Greets is 5:30 -7:30 pm. Thank you to all who volunteered, we can't do this without you.

Tabling/voter registration/presentations have kept us busy and there are still more opportunities. Please email, text or call me to join in. Some of our very new members are joining with our more experienced members. This is a great opportunity to have conversations on what our League does and also get new fresh ideas. That's a win-win!

We have several tabling/voter events in October. **Email, text or call Polly to volunteer.**

Polly.parton@yahoo.com 509-551-3818

No Kings Day – Saturday October 18th - Polly Parton

LWVWA is encouraging local leagues to get involved in No Kings Day. Feel free to wear your LWV pins or something that shows LWV identity. Some suggested messages for signs are:

- We are elected leaders, not kings.
- We serve the Constitution, not a king.
- Democracy not monarchy.
- Power belongs to the people.
- Protest is patriotic.
- Make good trouble.

The event is on Columbia Center Boulevard from 11 am to 1 pm. If you want to meet as a group, meet on the east side of Columbia Center Blvd at the North (or river) end in the grassy triangle. You could bring lawn chairs. Bring your signs! St. Vincent de Paul will be collecting donations (coats, gloves, etc.) Check Out the LWVWA's Democracy Power-Up!

Workshop on The Letter to the Editor Held on September 16th – Polly Parton

Did you miss "Craft a Winning Letter to the Editor" workshop on Tuesday, September 16? The recording with a PowerPoint presentation and a handout is available. It's packed with practical and powerful guidance to up your letter writing. To summarize - Make it EPIC, ENGAGE the reader, state the PROBLEM, INFORM about a solution, and Give a CALL to action. If you're pressed for time, the handout is a great summary. Go to lwvwa.org and check out **Democracy Power-Up** for this and more Educational Workshops for League members.

Become a more confident and skilled writer. We all have something to say. Don't be silent, send a Letter to the Editor. Reminder - to use your association with the League, you must get League approval.

"Letters to the editor remain one of the few places where everyday people can speak directly to a broad audience with institutional credibility."

Election Observer Training – Diane Molleson

The Benton County Election Observer Training is planned for **Monday, October 6, from 2-4 pm** at the Election Processing Building (7122 W Okanogan Place in Kennewick). They plan to only hold one training per year, so if you cannot come to this one, you'll have to wait a year to attend the next training to be eligible to volunteer. If you know of any others who would like to attend, please pass this information along. If you have any questions, please contact Chuck LoPresti at clopresti@owt.com.

LWVBF Treasurer's Report – Carla Ciotti

As of August 31, 2025:

Checking is	\$7,823.74
Savings is	1,857.48
Total	\$9,681.22

Income:

Membership dues	\$ 254.55
Member donations	\$ 209.00
Non-member donation	\$ 100.00
Savings interest	.02

Total income: \$563.57

Expenses:

There were no expenses this month.

In August we received dues from two new members and 17 membership renewals, as well as donations from five members. We also received a donation from a former member.

We recorded one in-kind donation of \$96.98 for a spinning wheel game to use at tabling events.

IRS Report: In August I filed the 990N report to the IRS.

Education Fund: On August 31, we received a statement for our 501(c)3 Education Fund. Several members have given quite generous donations to this fund. The balance stands at \$16,744.54.

Members can donate to our education fund by sending a check to: **LWVWA Education Fund**. The address is 1511 Third Avenue, Suite 801, Seattle, WA, 98101, Attention: Ed Fund Treasurer. **Please note on the check or separately that your donation is for the Benton-Franklin League Education Fund.** Donations to the Education Fund are tax deductible.

LWV Membership Renewal:

Members with a September 30th renewal date who had not yet renewed, received an email from me on August 30 with information on how to renew. Those members should have also received a reminder from LWVUS on or near September 1.

If you missed those emails, you can renew your membership **on-line** in one of two ways:

1. Go to our league website (<https://my.lwv.org/washington/benton-franklin-counties>) and clicking the JOIN button. On the next page you will click the Join/Renew button to go to the Membership portal.
2. Go directly to the national website by entering <https://portal.lwv.org/home> in your browser.

At the LWV Portal you will be asked to enter your email address. You will receive a verification code. After entering your verification code, you will go to a page that shows your virtual membership card. Select the “renew” button in the upper right corner of your virtual membership card and follow the instructions on the following pages.

For step-by-step instructions on how to renew, an LWV Member User Guide is available at:

<https://www.lwv.org/sites/default/files/2025-05/LWV%20Portal%20Users%20Guide%20for%20Members.pdf>

Or, you may view a video at:

<https://vimeo.com/1046821379/ac6c340f06?share=copy>

If you are unable to renew on-line, you may renew your membership by check. To pay dues please send a check (minimum \$20, recommended \$75) made out to LWVUS to LWVBF, P.O. Box 765, Richland, WA 99352. Please do not include a donation to our league in your dues

check. If you would like to donate to our League, please write a separate check made out to LWVBF and send it to our P.O. Box. Thank you.

You may call one of the following members for help with the new system: Carla Chiotti (509-946-7217), Judy Golberg (509-627-5347), Janet Nail (509-546-1467) or Diane Molleson (509-554-7317).

Thank you for your continuing membership and support.

American Revolution Presentation – Polly Parton

Thursday, Oct. 23, 2025
6:30 – 8 pm
WSU Tri-Cities East Auditorium
2710 Crimson Way, Richland

Northwest Public Broadcasting, together with Washington State University Tri-Cities, presents 'The American Revolution: Screening & Community Conversation.' The event will feature a showing of the new Ken Burns documentary, The American Revolution: Reflections on the American experience by local students and community members, and presentations by storyteller Arthur Broady and keynote speaker Lawrence B. A. Hatter, WSU associate professor of history. This event is free and open to the public. Light refreshments will be provided, while supplies last. Doors open at 6 pm. First come, first seated. (RSVP link to come).

Membership, Engagement & Leadership Development (MELD) – Polly Parton

The MELD call on September 22 was short but impactful. Members, which of your community passions/interests could you report on? Do you attend any city or county meetings or other meetings? Do you research community issues such as affordable housing, homelessness or mental health/rehab resources? Would you write a brief update on something you recently attended? Other members may appreciate the update or it may spark a new interest. Email your article to us and if appropriate we may add it to a future Voter.

Advocacy/Legislative Update - Lora Rathbone

Two ways to help save Democracy, from the [LWVWA September Member Newsletter](#)

1. **Decline to Sign IL26-126.** Fight back against an initiative that would disenfranchise large numbers of legally eligible voters which promotes the lie that noncitizens are voting.

The LWVWA goal is to halt the effort before proponents can collect the 309 thousand signatures needed to qualify the initiative, by January 2, 2026. "We're at the beginning stages of this effort to educate our members about the problems with IL26-126,". The League will unveil a complete campaign later. Their PowerPoint presentation explains

the impact would be **burdensome to voters and costly for cash-strapped counties** to institute and manage, and it says it will try to eliminate mail-in voting, although IL26-125 does not include that. **Requires all voters to have an enhanced drivers' license** or provide **proof of U.S. citizenship** in person. If they don't, their registration is canceled. As an initiative to the Legislature, lawmakers could adopt the legislation as written, refer it to a vote of the people in November 2026 or propose an alternative initiative that would be on the ballot alongside it. League opposition must be conducted separate from nonpartisan tabling activities, such as voter education and registration.

2. **Join the Team Protecting Democracy in Washington.** The second year of the two-year legislative session starts in January 2026. Alison McCaffree is looking for volunteers to join her on the LWVWA **democracy team**, who will track legislation and help determine which bills the League will support or oppose. If you'd like to learn more or to help, email McCaffree at amccaffree@lwvwa.org

Volunteers will receive training to track bills through the legislative process, ask questions of lawmakers and their legislative assistants and consider whether a bill aligns with a League position. We are empowered to act only when we have a position on an issue.

Bills include election methods, election law and process, election security, money in politics and campaign finance reform, government structures, initiatives and referendums, citizens' right to know, local news and democracy and census and redistricting reform.

Unite and Rise 8.5 – Richard Badalamente

On April 17, 2025, The League of Women Voters of the United States declared that the United States is in a Constitutional Crisis. Since then things have only gotten worse. The operating systems that have powered the ship of state through stormy seas have been sabotaged. Key government institutions have been decimated or taken over.

Protests against these actions have been met with the deployment of federal troops, in violation of the Posse Comitatus Act, passed by Congress in 1878. This crucial act of Congress prohibits the use of federal military personnel for domestic law enforcement unless specifically authorized by the Constitution, or an act of Congress.

In response to this crisis, your League has issued a call to, and guide for action: "United & Rise 8.5." Your first order of business? Commit to United & Rise:

<https://www.lwvwa.org/Resisting-Threats>

Now, participate:

- Attend rallies and protests in our area
- Contact our local officials
- Attend local government meetings
- Write letters to the Editor

- Volunteer to help our league register and/or educate voters
- Leverage social media: Facebook, Instagram, Bluesky, etc.
- and of course,

VOTE

LWV-BF Book Club – Polly Parton

In September we reviewed *The Book of Lost Names* by Kristin Harmel. A historical fictional story of Eva in Nazi-occupied France who forges identification documents for Jewish children escaping to Switzerland. The secret book records their true identity.

Our next book will cover both *The Great Alone* by Kristin Hannah and *You Should Talk to Someone* by Lori Gottlieb. I confused our group when I thought we switched to *You Should Talk to Someone*. Several of us were having problems getting *The Great Alone* and the second book had better availability. I believe some of us will have read one book or the other. I read the second book and recommend it.

Join us the second Monday each month (October 13) at 6 pm via Zoom by emailing or texting Polly Parton to be added to the link. We keep discussions to one hour. Please join in even if you did not squeeze the book into your schedule.

Polly.parton@yahoo.com or 509 -551-3818

Calendar Of Events

September

29 Richland Candidates Meet and Greet

October

1 Pasco Candidates Meet and Greet

3 Kennewick Candidates Meet and Greet

13 Book Club via Zoom

21 LWVBF Business and Planning Meeting/Board Meeting via Zoom

23 Presentation on the American Revolution, WSU Tri-Cities

Email: lwv.of.bf@gmail.com

Instagram: [lwv.of.bf](https://www.instagram.com/lwv.of.bf)

Facebook: [League of Women Voters of Benton & Franklin Counties](https://www.facebook.com/LeagueofWomenVotersofBentonFranklinCounties)

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P.O. Box 765

Richland, WA 99352

OFFICERS:

President: Polly Parton

1st Vice President: Ruvine Jimenez

2nd Vice President: Michelle Pirotte

Secretary: Diane Molleson

Treasurer: Carla Chiotti

ELECTED DIRECTORS:

Margie Bass

Brianna Harty

Marci Palmer

Mary Shaw

Glenda Williams

Shirley Sonnichsen

APPOINTED DIRECTORS:

Lora Rathbone

JoAnne Dimond

Leona Hassing

Beverly Johnson-Torelli

Richard Badalamente