

2017 Annual Meeting

League of Women Voters
of Benton & Franklin Counties

Thursday, May 18, 2017
All Saints Episcopal Church
1322 Kimball Avenue, Richland

Social Gathering - 5:30 p.m.
Potluck Dinner - 5:45 p.m.
Business Meeting - 6:15 p.m.

Please bring:
This Annual Meeting Packet
Your Membership Notebook

A hot or cold dish to share
(or come without--there's always plenty)

And don't forget to wear your League name tag!

Basic Parliamentary Procedure:

Parliamentary procedure is necessary for the orderly conduct of a meeting. However, the agenda and order of business as outlined here are based on the League tradition of allowing as much free debate and interchange of ideas as possible with a minimum need for parliamentary maneuvering.

Business is conducted by acting on motions. A motion must be:

- 1) made
- 2) seconded
- 3) stated by the presiding officer after which it may not be withdrawn without the consent of the assembly
- 4) debated or amended if debatable or amendable
- 5) put to a vote
- 6) the result of the vote is declared by the presiding officer

A subject is introduced by a **main motion**.

While a main motion is being considered, **parliamentary motions**, which affect either the main motion or the general conduct of the meeting may be made. The main parliamentary motions are:

- 1) **to amend** (debatable, amendable)
- 2) **to refer** to a committee for study or redrafting (debatable, amendable)
- 3) **to postpone** to a stated future time (debatable, amendable)
- 4) **to table** (not debatable, requires a future motion to “take in from the table”)
- 5) **the previous question** (not debatable, assembly votes immediately on whether to close debate on the original motion)
- 6) **to reconsider** (usually debatable, must be made by someone who voted on the prevailing side)
- 7) **point of order** (member feels procedures are not being followed and asks the presiding officer to rule)
- 8) **questions:**
 - * **parliamentary inquiry** (asks advice as to correct procedures)
 - * **point of information** (requests facts)
 - * **question of privilege** (seeks a change for comfort or convenience)
- 9) **to adjourn** (usually not debatable).

Proposed Agenda:

Call to Order

 Introductions

 Credentials Report

 Adoption of Agenda and Rules

 Announcements

Treasurer's Report

Reports

Convention 2017

 Guidance for delegates

Presentation of 2017-2018 Recommended Local Program(s)

Presentation of 2017-2018 Non-recommended Local Program(s)

 Adoption of 2017-2018 Local Program(s)

Presentation of Recommended 2017-2018 Budget

 Adoption of 2017-2018 Budget

Report of the 2016-2017 Nominating Committee

 Nominations from the Floor

 Election of 2017-2018 Officers, Directors, and Nominating Committee

New Business

1. Sponsorship of 2018 State Council ?

2.

3.

Directions to the Board

Adjourn

Nominating Committee Report

Feeling that more people would be willing to hold office or be a board member if the commitment was for only one year, the 2016-17 Nominating Committee presents **the following candidates to hold a one-year term in the position they are being elected to.** It is with the State League's blessing, we are experimenting to change the system of how we do things before moving on to the formal step of changing any bylaws.

Officers: (1-year term)
President: Polly Parton
1st V P: JoAnne Dimond
2nd V P: Janet Nail
Secretary: Ruvine Jimenez
Treasurer: Shirley Sonnichsen

Board of Directors: (1-year term)

Ruth Giese
Beverly Hunter
Beverly Johnson-Torelli
Diane Molleson
Lora Rathbone
Toyoko Tsukuda

Up to six additional Board members may be appointed

Nominating Committee: (1-year term)

Susan Kayser, chair
Susan Kreid
Kay Ottem

Two additional members of the Nominating Committee will be appointed by the Board at its first meeting following the Annual Meeting.

Submitted by the 2016-17 Nominating Committee: Kay Ottem, Chair; Susan Kreid, Susan Kayser, Beverly Hunter and Polly Parton.

Recommended Local Program:

The Board recommends an informational study of Public Banking. North Dakota has a public bank and other states are considering the possibility of creating one. This would raise revenue for the State without relying on increasing taxes. While this is a State issue, we could do an informational study that could provide a basis for introducing it to the LWVWA State Convention in 2019. Our League did propose it as a study to LWVWA, but it was not recommended by the State Board for adoption at this year's State Convention

Non-Recommended Program Items:

Voter Education – focus on high-school students

Snake River Dams – feasibility of breaching

Civics Curriculum in local high schools

Hanford Clean-up

Climate Change effects in E. Washington

Immigration issues in Benton & Franklin counties

River Shore Control – federal & local options

Drinking Water Safety in our local area

Small Nuclear Reactors – feasibility of

Year in Review

Marilyn Perkins was our representative to the National Convention in Washington DC in June, 2016. One of the interesting developments at Convention was a change in the by-laws that made any person 16 or older eligible for membership in the League. Previously, members had to be 18 years old and a citizen.

We had our Women's Equality Day Picnic at the Marina Park in Richland and had a good turnout of members and guests. Member Ellyn Murphy discussed climate change and we were also lucky to have member Neil Norman's son-in-law as a guest, who shared his experiences working as a climate change scientist.

Throughout the fall many members were involved with presenting candidate forums (*see Voter Service article on page 7*)

Our traditional Holiday Party was held in Pasco at meeting rooms arranged for by new member Ruvine Jimenez. Our turnout in past years has been almost too big for gathering in a home, and meeting rooms next to the Goodwill in Pasco were a great solution. Felix Vargas of the Latino Coalition was our guest speaker. Felix graduated from Pasco High in 1963 and from the University of Washington, served in Vietnam, and then worked for the State Department for many years. He shared his experiences abroad and his observations of how the Latino population has changed over the years in the Tri Cities.

In January we had our traditional program planning meeting at member Polly Parton's new home in West Richland. Again we had a good turnout of members as we discussed both State and Local program ideas.

Leo Perales was the speaker at our Birthday Dinner in February. When it turned out that our scheduled speaker was unavailable at the

last minute, one of our newer members, Marjory Kaspar recommended Leo, who had worked with us on candidate forums in the fall.

He spoke about his efforts to bring people of different backgrounds together to move our communities forward.

One of our last speakers this past year was Amira A Salami, a refugee from Iraq who came to the Tri Cities over 10 years ago. She works with the local World Relief team, where she helps other refugees when they first arrive. It was interesting to hear about the challenges they face and the various types of help they receive. A family that was originally from Syria and who had moved here recently, was also at the meeting. Their story of how they have adjusted to a new life in Washington state was also interesting.

Carol Moser, a long-time League member who just began a new job as director of the Greater Columbia Accountable Community of Health, was our last speaker this year, sharing statistics about health care in our area, the state of health care in our area, and the goal of optimizing health care for all residents while also trying to provide it cost efficiently.

An ongoing effort during the year was to have members participate in the Observer Corps. A few members have been attending various local government meetings on a regular basis and we hope to expand this program in the coming year. City Council, School Board, Port District and County Commissioner meetings are all important and it would be great to get more League 'Observers' out and about.

Thanks to Diane Molleson for faithfully preparing the VOTER throughout the year. And thanks to everyone for your participation.

...*Marilyn Perkins, 2016-17 President*

MLD Program

In 2015, LWVUS confronted the single most important issue, *Can something be done about membership decline?* In order to understand the problem, LWVUS conducted research and brought in outside specialists to assist in answering this question.

The research found that:

“ ...individuals outside the organization do not have a clear understanding of the value in becoming a member of LWV because current members are not communicating this in a consistent way that resonates with potential members. The best practices of this program were designed to address this challenge.”

The findings also addressed a need for trained leaders to lead the Leagues. From the findings, LWVUS developed a **Membership and Leadership Development (MLD) program** to increase members, establish a powerful and visible League presence in communities, and provide League leaders with necessary training, materials, and support to lead local Leagues effectively.

The MLD program is a partnership among the local, state and national Leagues. For the League to grow and strengthen, all levels of League need to work toward the common goals of the program. A local League MLD Committee has a conference call with a state League coach once a month to discuss the local League’s challenges, share its successes, and receive guidance on growing and strengthening the League.

Since the November 2016 election and the Women’s March in DC, League membership has soared nationwide, including in our League. The MLD program has been focused on welcoming new members, getting to know them and learning how we can effectively engage them in the programs we

for more information on MLD, visit http://forum.lwv.org/sites/default/files/mld_handbook_full_0.pdf

... Toyoko Tsukuda

Membership

During the 2016-17 year the League of Women Voters of Benton & Franklin Counties gained 12 new members. Total membership is now 54. The Membership Committee is working on a program to make sure we know what our new members hope to gain from League activities, how we can educate members about volunteer opportunities, and what expertise these new members will bring to us.

The committee organized an Orientation on May 6 for new members and people who may be interested in joining League. All of us started as brand new members, looking in from the outside on an unfamiliar and often intimidating organization. With so many new individuals coming to League now, we strive to welcome new members and give them the tools to become active members who will enhance the League.

... Janet Nail

Bylaws

No formal bylaw changes will be taking place at this time. However, we will be changing our first 4 bylaws to conform to any changes that were made by the National League at the 2016 National Convention

Voter Service

We held two primary election candidate forums in the summer, one covering the 4th Congressional and the 8th Legislative District races, and the other for candidates in the 16th Legislative District. These forums were the first of our new partnership working with the Latino Coalition of Tri Cities. As in years past, Mike Charbonneau and Jon Funfar with the cities of Richland and Pasco respectively, recorded these forums for future television viewing. I think this combination made for a good team.

We registered voters at CBC as part of their Constitution Day activities, at the Fiery Food Festival in Pasco, and on National Voter Registration Day. Members also attended and registered voters at three Naturalization ceremonies during the year.

We held two ballot issue luncheons where we covered the six Initiatives and four Advisory measures that were on the ballot. Volunteer members provided good background information for our other members.

We held four more candidate forums during the fall, which included the state-wide races for Attorney General, Superintendent of Public Schools, Secretary of State and State Appellate Judge. These forums also featured races in the 8th, 9th and 16th Legislative Districts, Franklin County Commissioners, Superior Court, and the 4th Congressional District. We even traveled to Walla Walla to provide a forum for the 16th Legislative District candidates and their (WW's) County Commissioner races. Thanks to Kay Ottem for her organizational work on these forums and for serving as one of our moderators.

We concluded the election season with a 'Get-Out-the-Vote' rally in Pasco with most local candidates attending, if not many members of the public. The candidates seemed to enjoy the opportunity to be together in a more informal setting and

listened to each other as they made one last pitch for people's votes.

We again updated the TRY's and distributed them throughout the two counties. Judy Golberg and Diane Molleson are the two members most responsible for getting the TRY ready to publish. Kadlec Medical Center's contribution made the publication possible.

... *Marilyn Perkins*