

# *Please Join Us*

*2018 Annual Meeting*

**League of Women Voters  
of Benton & Franklin Counties**

# **2018 Annual Meeting**

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Thursday, May 17, 2018  
Pasco Goodwill, Meeting Room  
3521 W Court Street  
Pasco, Washington

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- 3) stated by the presiding officer after which it may not be withdrawn without the consent of the assembly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

Other Reports

Upcoming State Council 2018 - Update

Presentation of 2018-2019 Recommended Local Program(s)

Presentation of 2018-2019 Non-recommended Local Program(s)

    Adoption of 2018-2019 Local Program(s)

Presentation of Recommended 2018-2019 Budget

    Adoption of 2018-2019 Budget

Report of the 2017-2018 Nominating Committee

    Nominations from the Floor

    Election of 2018-2019 Officers, Directors, and Nominating Committee

New Business

1.

2.

3.

Directions to the Board

Adjourn

## **Nominating Committee Report**

The 2017-18 Nominating Committee decided to continue the practice agreed to last year of asking for only a one-year commitment from elected officers and board members. With that approach in mind, the 2017-18 Nominating Committee presents **the following candidates to hold a one-year term in the position they are being elected to:**

**Officers:** (1-year term)  
**President:** \_\_\_\_\_  
**1<sup>st</sup> V P:** **Joanne Dimond**  
**2<sup>nd</sup> V P:** **Janet Nail**  
**Secretary:** **Ruvine Jimenez**  
**Treasurer:** **Shirley Sonnichsen**

**Board of Directors:** (1-year term)  
**Beverly Johnson-Torelli**  
**Diane Molleson**  
**Lora Rathbone**  
**Danette Keegan**  
**Chuck Torelli**  
**Jo Ann Bengtson**

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 2017-18 Nominating Committee: Susan Kayser, Chair; Susan Kreid, Kay Ottem, Marilyn Perkins and Beverly Johnson-Torelli.

## **Recommended Local Program:**

The Board recommends continuing the informational study of Public Banking, with the hopes of presenting it to the State Convention in 2019 for consideration as a State topic. The Board also recommends continuing a focus on Civics Education presentations, for the schools and for the community.

## **Non-Recommended Program Items:**

Water and Columbia River issues, including Rivershore Development, Irrigation, Water rights, Snake River Dams, Columbia River Treaty

Affordable housing in our area / income assistance

Sexual Harassment in local jurisdictions

Local Education

Immigration and human trafficking

Latino voter registration and turnout

Know your community

Update on State redistricting

Gun control

Sentencing and mental health

Agriculture

Hanford and other nuclear issues

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## Year in Review

This past year was busy for our members, full of events to participate in, and even more full with political news (and more than a few tweets!). However, our members continued doing the very important work of League.

Shirley Sonnichsen gave us thorough reports on the workshops she attended in June at the 2017 LWV State Convention (*see July/Aug 2017 Voter*). Workshop topics included the Federal 9<sup>th</sup> Circuit Court against President Trump's immigration order (led by Noah Purcell, State Solicitor General) and John Parker speaking on "Liberty and the Fight Against Political Passivity". Our own former member Ellen Murphy gave a report on a "Climate Change Toolkit". Shirley noted that the "Update on the Hanford Contamination Crisis" presentation was alarmist and one-sided. This was a good reminder that League should always be wary of presenting one-sided opinions. At the convention's conclusion, Marilyn Perkins invited everyone to travel to Richland this June for State Council 2018.

At the June Table Talk, Heather Wendt from the Native Plant Society led a walk in my (Polly's) neighborhood and botanist Gretchen Graber spoke about "Good Bugs / Bad Bugs". My neighbor Karl Fecht, a retired geologist, wrapped up the morning sharing how changing climate, geology and environments have caused plants to evolve in our area.

July was busy with presenting three primary candidate forums. The Richland forum at John Dam Plaza was our first to take place outdoors and it turned out to be very successful. Thanks to organizers Kay Ottem, Beverly Johnson-Torelli, Chuck Torelli and JoAnne Dimond, and to our many members who wrote candidate questions, collected audience questions, greeted the candidates and attendees, and kept time at the forums.

Toyoko Tsukuda formed and led a committee to research the possibility of Public Banking in Washington state. This group has continued meeting over the past year.

State Senator Sharon Brown spoke at our August Women's Equality Day. She spoke about being the Vice-Chair on the male-dominated Ways and Means Committee, how the McCleary Decision was affecting the budget process, the youth suicide rate in the Tri-Cities, and STEM education and jobs. She was critical of Governor Inslee's veto of a provision that would have given Washington manufacturing the same (lower) B&O tax rate that was given to Boeing. She answered many audience questions.

Successful general election candidate forums took place in the fall in Kennewick, Pasco, Richland and – I was pleased to see – West Richland (where I now live). Beverly Johnson-Torelli also organized a joint WSU Students / LWV candidate forum at the Richland campus.

Toyoko submitted an article to the *Voter* summarizing the presentation given at the Convention's plenary session, "How did the Electoral College Get so Screwed Up?" She also updated us on the Washington State Public Disclosure Commission and on how to view candidate expenditures and contributions via an easy-to-use website. She also provided updated voter registration training to League and community members.

We congratulated member Neil Norman, who received the National Society of Professional Engineers Award for his contribution to the engineering profession, public welfare and humankind.

On December 19, Senator Brown and Representative Larry Haler spoke at our annual Legislative Lunch, with the Hirst Decision being the major topic.

... continued on page 6

Our December holiday party was held at Pasco's Goodwill meeting room. Judge Katy Butler and prosecutor Megan Kilgore spoke on the Benton County Mental Health Court. Diane Molleson wrote a great summary of this in the February 2018 *Voter*. Marilyn Perkins organized and reported on the January Program Planning meeting (*also see Feb 2018 Voter*) and Marilyn and JoAnne Dimond held a lively Table Talk in January, covering the topics of immigration, border wall / security, and DACA.

Lora Rathbone became our liaison for the LWVWA lobby team and she continues to report at our monthly board meetings on legislative action. She also sends a group email with updates, so please contact her if you want to be added to the emails.

Mike Blair (a former school superintendent) was the speaker at our February 8 LWV Birthday dinner. He shared about his role as a stakeholder and the history of the McCleary Decision. This type of education for our members and the community is very valuable. At the March Table Talk we had a very interesting discussion of gun control and questions about gun issues were developed for future candidate forums.

Our Civics presentations to students are continuing at area high schools. Presenters Janet Nail, Marilyn Perkins, Toyoko Tsukuda and I have been joined by Lora Rathbone and Zahra Roach. I am excited about this service, as it is being well-received and should continue to expand. Ruth Giese, Marilyn Perkins, Janet Nail and others continue to register new voters at Naturalization Ceremonies at the Federal Building in Richland. Look for various articles in each month's *Voter*, such as Bev Hunter's review of the March Columbia Badger Club discussion of "Getting a Fair Chance After Prison (*see April 2018 Voter*). We also have members who participate in the Observer Corps, attending various local government

meetings, and we hope to expand this with new member observers.

We are the host League for the LWVWA State Council to be held in Richland on June 1, 2 and 3. Our member Susan Leckband will be giving the keynote speech on Hanford issues and she will also be moderating a Hanford Speaker's Panel at the Saturday evening dinner.

I thank you all for your support and participation this past year, including Diane Molleson for publishing our *Voter* and Kay Ottem for continuing to print this Annual Meeting packet.

...Polly Parton, 2017-18 President

## Civics Education Project

In the spring of 2017 we did our first class presentation to students in Amber Wilcox's classes at Pasco High. We very much enjoyed our experience and branched out a little more this year. We have been to classes at Kamiakin, Hanford and Pasco and have one more to do at Kennewick High. There were four of us at most of the presentations, but if we want to reach out to all the high schools in our area we will need to recruit a few more volunteers and have only two or three of us at a presentation. There is also a possibility that we could create a civics presentation directed at community groups.

We have developed several mini-presentations. They are: the history of who got the vote and when; a literacy test used in Louisiana; a mini-voting exercise that involves candy and a timely subject; an update on the world, US and Washington state's populations and why this is important; what

... continued on page 7

level of government decides what issues; our state's top-two primary system; and just who are the elected officials representing us.

We can expand and delete topics as needed. Our goal is to let these potential voters know that their vote is important and encourage them to become life-long voters. We have registered those students who are 18 or will be by November 6 of this year. The election officials in both counties have been very helpful.

... *Marilyn Perkins*

## **Public Banking Informational Study**

Members of the Public Banking Committee include League members JoAnne Dimond, Polly Parton, Beverly Johnson-Torelli, Chuck Torelli and Toyoko Tsukuda, and citizen-activists from western Washington, Clyde Cramer and Richard Chonovy.

The committee began meeting in August, 2017 to research and discuss the pros and cons of establishing public banking (a State-owned bank) in the state of Washington. We examined and discussed a state-owned bank, the Bank of North Dakota, which is the only state-owned bank in the US, and successful state funding systems in California and Washington. Public Works Trust of WA has been successful funding programs for state infrastructure projects since its inception in 1986. It has been earning enough interest to become a self-sustained system until the Legislature recently took money out of the fund.

The state of Washington has an average of \$20.9 billion in debt which is almost equal to the state's total tax revenue of \$23 billion (2016). To service the debt, the State has to pay \$2 billion interest/principle every year, while the state revenue kept in private banks is earning miniscule interest. Bank of North Dakota has shown that the bank can operate

independently from the North Dakota state legislature. From the research, the committee did not find negative aspects of having public banking in the state of Washington.

The committee members agreed that public banking could be valuable for the state of Washington and discussed how it could be promoted at the local and state level. The committee also proposes a broader study to be taken up by the State League. What we need to do to promote Public Banking to the State League is our agenda for our next meeting.

... *Toyoko Tsukuda*

Income	2017-18		2018-19	
	60	\$	60	\$
Dues for 2018-19 (Reg Mbr)	@ 75	4,500	@ 75	4,500
Dues for 2018-19 (SIH)	1 @ 35	\$ 35	5 @ 35	\$ 175
Contributions	\$ -	\$ 1,560	\$ -	\$ 600
Member Contributions		\$ 500		\$ 600
Non-Member Contributions		\$ -		\$ -
Reserves - Savings		\$ 1,060		\$ -
Reserves - Convention		\$ -		\$ -
Other		\$ 3,100		\$ 2,575
Service Fees		\$ -		\$ -
Fund Raisers		\$ -		\$ -
Publications		\$ -		\$ -
Other - Special Events, (Table Talk)		\$ 1,500		\$ 1,500
In-Kind Contributions (Member)		\$ 500		\$ 275
In-Kind Contributions (Non-Member)		\$ 1,100		\$ 800
		\$ 9,195		\$ 7,850

Expenses	2017-18		2018-19	
		\$		\$
Operating Costs		520		455
Meeting Facilities		\$ 100		\$ 100
Incorporation Fee		\$ 10		\$ 10
Charitable Organization Filing Fee		\$ -		\$ -
Post Office Box Rental		\$ 110		\$ 120
Web Site Creation/Maintenance		\$ 300		\$ 225
Board and Administration		\$ 325		\$ 421
Donations (Meeting rooms, church)		\$ 100		\$ 100
Public Relations		\$ -		\$ -
Board & Administration		\$ 100		\$ 121
Sunshine Fund		\$ -		\$ -

President's Materials		\$ -		\$ -
Treasurer's Materials		\$ 125		\$ 200
Convention and Workshops		\$ 2,950		\$ 1,750
National Convention		\$ 2,000		\$ -
State Convention/Council		\$ 750		\$ 1,500
Workshops		\$ 200		\$ 250
Membership Fees		\$ 2,525		\$ 2,474
PMP - LWVUS (Regular Members)	49 @ \$32	\$ 1,568	46 @ \$32	\$ 1,472
PMP - LWVUS (Students, SIH)	1 @ \$16	\$ 16	5 @ \$16	\$ 80
PMP - LWVWA (Regular Members)	49 @ \$19	\$ 931	46 @ \$19	\$ 874
PMP - LWVWA (Students, SIH)	1 @ \$9.5	\$ 10	5 @ \$9.5	\$ 48
Member Services		\$ 1,675		\$ 1,750
Recruitment & Membership		\$ 75		\$ 100
Programs: Events, Health, Energy		\$ 1,500		\$ 1,500
Annual Meeting		\$ 100		\$ 100
VOTER		\$ -		\$ 50
Educational Activities		\$ 1,200		\$ 950
TRY		\$ 1,100		\$ 800
Voter Service		\$ 50		\$ 50
Educational Support/Local School Programs		\$ 50		\$ 100
Action		\$ -		\$ 50
		\$ 9,195		\$ 7,850

