



# VOTER

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF BENTON & FRANKLIN COUNTIES

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

## **From the President Marilyn Perkins**

A cornerstone of League is the idea of study and consensus. Over the decades, League members have studied many issues and reached consensus on several. This was done by coming together and hearing the facts on a certain subject, sharing experiences and opinions, and reaching consensus. This is not always an easy process and at times consensus cannot be reached.

Obviously this can't work for a nation as large as ours, but after this last election and seeing how divided the nation is, we in League need to think about ways we can help reinforce the idea of being a well-informed voter. While bringing people together in some ways, Facebook and other social media provide an easy and sometimes anonymous way of spreading lots of false information. Many have discussed social media and its impact on this last election, and there are no easy answers. We must all be diligent and question "facts" that don't seem right, try to listen to others' views, and be vigilant in protecting rights we often take for granted. Some of the activities we have planned over the next two months will help us better define how we want to move forward in our League in a way that will benefit us and the community.

## **Holiday Party Marilyn Perkins**

Our holiday party will be on Sunday, **December 11 from 2-4 pm at Goodwill (3521 W Court St, Suite B, Pasco)**. There will be a sign outside with an arrow to indicate what door to go through. We have always met in the home of a member, but because our turnout has been so good, we will be trying this more spacious venue. The Goodwill in Pasco has a room that holds 50 people and one of our newer members, Ruvine Jimenez, has arranged for us to use it. Best of all we can have food there, and members can bring an appetizer or something sweet to share. As always, guests, family members and potential members are welcome. Our guest speaker will be Felix Vargas of the Latino Coalition of Tri-Cities.

Dec.2016/Jan. 2017

## **Officers**

**President:**  
**Marilyn Perkins**  
**1st Vice President:**  
**JoAnne Dimond**  
**2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President:**  
**Janet Nail**  
**Secretary:**  
**Lora Rathbone**  
**Treasurer:**  
**Shirley Sonnichsen**  
**Voter Editor:**  
**Diane Molleson**

## **Elected Directors:**

**Bree Bowen**  
**Bev Hunter**  
**Diane Molleson**  
**Toyoko Tsukuda**  
**Susan Leckband**  
**Polly Parton**

## **Appointed Directors:**

**Ruth Giese**  
**Judy Golberg**  
**Ruvine Jimenez**  
**Beverly Johnson-Torelli**  
**Neil Norman**

## Voter Service

Marilyn Perkins

We participated in a Get Out the Vote rally on Oct. 29<sup>th</sup> at Volunteer Park in Pasco. There were hot dogs, pizza, popcorn and drinks. There were candidates and signs and music. There was also rain—and no one from the public. The county auditor even kept its office open that Saturday to provide an extra opportunity for people to register before the Oct. 31 deadline. While it may not sound like a success, it was a worthwhile experience. There was a large gazebo, and the rain did let up and many candidates showed up. They all took turns speaking to the group about why they were running and what they wanted to accomplish. It was a much more relaxed atmosphere than we see at our forums, and I think the candidates enjoyed having the opportunity to visit with each other in a less confrontational manner.

On Nov. 15<sup>th</sup> we assisted in registering new citizens at the Naturalization Ceremony at the Federal Building in Richland. It is always a worthwhile experience and I encourage all of you to attend when you can. After the ceremony, I went to visit Paula Garland and took her lunch. She is spending more time in bed, but is always happy to see me (and anyone else) and she always asks how League is doing. She makes 101 look good.

## Treasurer's Report

Shirley Sonnichsen

Checking: \$3,909

Savings: \$1,856

Total: \$5,765

At the end of October, checking was \$3,909; savings was \$1,856 for a total of \$5,765.

**Income:** We received dues of \$1,385 and contributions of \$245. We also received \$228 for the October table talk luncheon. Total income was \$1,828.

**Expense:** Total expenses were \$221 for Columbia River catering for the ballot issues Table Talk, \$209 for 2<sup>nd</sup> quarter State PMP, and \$102 for the post office box rental. Total expenses were \$532.

**Membership:** We have two new members, Jill McLaughlin who is actually rejoining and Hala Abdel Aal. We have 43 paid members (including two who joined this summer), and 50 in total. I will send the membership list out again soon. Two people (of the 50) have not paid their dues.

**IRS:** 990N is an IRS electronic postcard we do every year five months after our fiscal year ends stating that we do not have income of more than \$25,000. It does not cost money and is complete for 2015.

## Observer Corps

Marilyn Perkins

We have been hoping to get an Observer Corps going again in our League. The idea is simple: interested League members attend and observe a meeting of a government entity. It is a way of letting our elected and appointed officials know we are watching, and we can share with our own members and the public what is going on during school board, city council, port commission, county commissioner meetings and so on. More than one person could cover the same meeting. We will have a meeting on **Tuesday, Nov. 29<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 p.m.** at the **home of Judy Golberg** (1914 Meadows Drive N. in Richland). We will discuss what people might want to do and how we want to proceed. If you have any questions or are interested but can't come to the meeting, please contact Judy Golberg (jgolberg@charter.net).

## Name Tags

We have been fortunate to get some new members this fall and we will be making their nametags. If anyone has lost his or her nametag and would like to order a replacement, please contact Kay Ottem (735-4684) **by Dec. 5th**. We hope to have the nametags available by the Holiday Party. The first one is at League's expense. Replacements are about \$7. Please let Kay know if you prefer a magnet or a pin.

## Program Planning Meeting

Marilyn Perkins

Every year we have a meeting to send our suggestions to State or National about the direction of League. In even-numbered years we prepare for the National Convention and in odd-numbered years we look ahead to the State Convention. That means we will be discussing issues we would like the State League to focus on for the next two years. We usually also spend time thinking about the direction of our local League.

Polly Parton has invited us to her home in West Richland for **brunch on Saturday, January 14 at 9:30 am**. We always think better after eating good food. Polly and Fred will have just moved in December so we can help them celebrate being in their new home. Because of all the new flooring, we will take our shoes off, and to make it more fun, we decided to have a best/craziest sock contest. This is the time to wear those perfectly good socks that don't match anything in your closet or at least a pair without too many holes. If you don't have wild and crazy socks, ordinary ones will do. Who said the League isn't fun.

As always, members are invited to bring bagels, breads, muffins, fruit, egg dishes, potato casseroles etc. We always seem to have a good selection without too much planning. Food donations are optional, and we never want anyone not to come because they don't have time to bring something. We will gather at 9:30 and start eating as soon as we can get organized. We will try to carpool if possible so contact Marilyn Perkins ([jmperkins.cougs@frontier.com](mailto:jmperkins.cougs@frontier.com)) if you can attend and are willing to drive or would like to ride with someone.

**Directions to Polly's:** From Van Giesen, turn south on Bombing Range road, right on Collins (1 block), then up hill, right on Northview Loop, 2nd house on right. From Keene turn right at roundabout onto Bombing Range Road, go nearly to Van Giesen, turn left on Collins, up hill to Northview Loop, turn right, 2nd house on right. The address is 316 Northview Loop.

## LWVWA Eastside Action Workshop

Marilyn Perkins

The Eastside Action workshop will be held on **Saturday, January 7<sup>th</sup> in Spokane from 9:30 am – 3 pm**. One of the topics will focus on Forest Fire Prevention, but other issues about the upcoming Legislative Session will also be covered. It is a good opportunity to meet with other League members from around the state and be better prepared to know what issues the State League will be lobbying in the upcoming session. If you are interested in going, please contact Marilyn Perkins ([jmperkins.cougs@frontier.com](mailto:jmperkins.cougs@frontier.com)).

*Happy Holidays to all! We hope to see you at the holiday party on Sunday, December 11<sup>th</sup>.*

# Calendar

## December 2016

**Sunday, December 11th**— Holiday Party, 2-4 pm, Goodwill in Pasco (3521 W Court St, Suite B, Pasco)

No Board Meeting

## January 2017

**Saturday, January 7th**—Eastside Action Workshop, 9:30 am- 3 pm, Spokane

**Saturday, January 14th**—Program Planning Brunch, 9:30 am, Polly Parton's home in West Richland

**Thursday, January 19<sup>th</sup>**—Board Meeting, 5:30 pm, BF Transit Center (1000 Columbia Park Trail, Richland)

Email us at  
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Or visit  
[www.lwv-bf.org](http://www.lwv-bf.org)

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