



# VOTER

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF BENTON & FRANKLIN COUNTIES

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

## For Every End – There is a Beginning Polly Parton

I have enjoyed and learned so much during the past year as your League president, and I am pleased to announce we have a new leader for the coming year. Jo Ann Bengtson was voted in at the June Board Meeting as our new BF League President. It is great to have a newer member willing to take on the task. I welcome her energy and ideas; please continue to give her your support.

A big thank you to all the volunteers at the State Council in Richland! I received many positive comments on the great job you all did. Work started months ago on venue planning, gift bags, organizing a potluck dinner for the State organizers, dine around choices-drivers-hosts, and all the volunteers who helped the events run smoothly from morning to night. Council was very well attended and the Tri-Cities was a hit!

Lastly, thank you to all who helped me during the last year, with a special thanks to Marilyn Perkins for her patient guidance and knowledge for all things League.

## July Candidate Forums

**8<sup>th</sup> Legislative District (Richland, West Richland and Kennewick)**

**Monday, July 16<sup>th</sup>, 6:30 pm**

**Richland Public Library**, 955 Northgate Dr., Richland  
Races: State Senator and State Legislator Positions #1 and #2

**16<sup>th</sup> Legislative District (Pasco and part of Benton County)**

**Wednesday, July 18<sup>th</sup>, 6:30 pm**

**Police Training Center**, 204 West Clark Street, Pasco  
Races: Franklin County Commissioner District #3 and State Legislator Position #2

Members are needed to write questions to ask the candidates and to help at the forums. Or come be a part of the audience. If you can volunteer, **please call or text Marilyn Perkins** at 521-7716. Email questions to [jmperkins.cougs@frontier.com](mailto:jmperkins.cougs@frontier.com)

July 2018

## Officers

**President:**

**Jo Ann Bengtson**

**1st Vice President:**

**JoAnne Dimond**

**2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President:**

**Janet Nail**

**Secretary:**

**Ruvine Jimenez**

**Treasurer:**

**Shirley Sonnichsen**

**Past President:**

**Polly Parton**

**Voter Editor:**

**Diane Molleson**

## Elected

### Directors:

**Beverly Johnson-Torelli**

**Danette Keegan**

**Diane Molleson**

**Lora Rathbone**

**Chuck Torelli**

## Appointed

### Directors:

**Ruth Giese**

**Lisabeth Jimenez**

**Marilyn Perkins**

# First Council – Lasting Impression

Chuck Torelli

As a relatively new member of the LVW, I wasn't sure what to expect from the **2018 Washington State Council**, which was held June 1<sup>st</sup> through 3<sup>rd</sup> in Richland.

I feel the word that best sums up the three-day Council is "Collaboration." I have rarely seen so many with such varied backgrounds work so hard to come to consensus. Even when consensus wasn't possible, there was acceptance of different approaches to the issues. The core values of the League were on full display and I can't speak highly enough of the support I saw delegates extend to each other. For me, the key message was that the league 'represents a marathon approach rather than a sprint.' The issues raised by League require recognition that inequities may take years and even decades to resolve. The 'quick' solution, while satisfying, often has a limited impact.

The main theme of the Council, "Engaging the Future" displayed the power of recognizing when change is needed and how to effect that change. The LVW 2018 National Convention will focus on methods for implementing the Transformation Roadmap, changes I believe will result in a more nimble organization at all levels.

During the MELD (Membership, Engagement, Leadership and Development) training, the participants were given the opportunity to ask questions, offer suggestions and provide resources to one another. The end result was one of being invested in the success of the program. It is that type of collaboration that will see the League through the next 80 years!

## Treasurer's Report

Shirley Sonnichsen

At the end of May, checking was \$1,111; savings was \$1,856 for a total of \$2,967.

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Total: \$2,967

**Budget:** We are under budget for both income and expenses, which is a good thing for expenses, not so much for Income. Contributions and scholarships exceeded our expectations at \$635. The budget was \$500.

**Income:** There was no income again. I should note that the end of the fiscal year is June 30<sup>th</sup>. Dues are not due until September 30<sup>th</sup> and a letter will be sent out late August or early September. However, anyone wanting to pay their dues after July 1 is welcome to pay me, use PayPal ([lvw-bf.org](http://lvw-bf.org)) or send a check to P.O. Box 765, Richland, WA 99352. It would be wonderful if those using PayPal would consider adding its fee of \$2.50.

**Expenses:** We paid \$250 for the League Easy Web and will have to decide at some point whether to go with My League Organization (MyLO), which is the new platform and will be \$400 minus what we have already paid plus \$200 to migrate the data. All receipts for expenses and in kind should be sent to me by the end of June. The National Convention does not end until July 1<sup>st</sup> so those receipts can wait.

**Membership:** We still have 48 paid members and 56 in total. Madge Watson is now a lifetime member and Ginger Vetrano will be also. We need to vote on whether students can join our league for a nominal fee of \$5 or \$10. The mechanisms for student memberships are set up by the national League.

## Ballot Help

The LWVBF League is helping residents at Brookdale on 770 W. Gage Blvd. with their ballots for the Primary on July 24. If you are interested in volunteering, please contact Lora Rathbone at [ldrathbone@outlook.com](mailto:ldrathbone@outlook.com)

## State Council 2018

Shirley Sonnichsen

One of the highlights of the Council weekend on June 1-3 was the wonderful dinner and get together at Marilyn Perkins's home. She generously volunteered her house for the get together and work party for the State board and ours. Our League volunteers brought a dish to share, and Marilyn baked a ham and had Cougar cheese and other appetizers. Good conversation ensued on a beautiful night. After dinner we split up and did the work: put nametags in holders, filled and boxed the goodie bags, and Christine Grantham took home the baskets to beautify. The State Board was able to get their packets together as well. I think everyone had a very good time.

Friday night was the Dine Around and I can attest that the wineries on Tulip Lane were a huge success. Polly Parton and I each drove a group of ladies and they went to all three wineries—Bookwalter, Tagaris and Barnard Griffin. Half of my group went to Barnard Griffin. The food was excellent, and it was nice to visit with different league members with no agenda. On the way home, I took my six ladies to the Sacajawea statue at the confluence of the Yakima and Columbia Rivers. I think they were impressed.

Saturday I went to a breakout session Polly was giving, "Civics in the Classroom." Polly, Toyoko Tsukuda, Katherine Murphy and a member from King County all shared their experiences and ideas. I attended the buffet dinner and keynote speeches. Our very own Susan Leckband was the keynote speaker and did a wonderful job of explaining the Hanford Advisory Board (HAB) with a little history of League's role on the HAB. The speaker from Ecology, Alexandra Smith, Nuclear Waste Program Manager at the Department of Energy, was excellent also. She discussed the waste tanks; the problems; the waste no one wants; the vitrification; and the end date of the cleanup, which depends on the funding we receive annually. David Replog, Vice President of Federal Programs, TRIDEC, gave an informative speech about the history of Hanford.

Sunday I volunteered in the morning and everything went smoothly. There weren't too many baskets at State Council so our three were very popular, selling for \$250 total, and we received half of the proceeds in our State Education Fund account. The volunteers get high marks for making this state Council a success. I'm sure there will be more to come. Who would not want to come to the Tri-Cities in June?

### **Wanted: Observer Corps Chair**

**Judy Golberg**

Looking for enthusiastic League member—or potential League member—to oversee the Observers Corps. Duties include receiving reports from those who attend meetings and submitting them to the Editor for sharing in the VOTER. Some minor editing may be required. Curious? Contact Judy Golberg, 627-5347 or [jgolberg@charter.net](mailto:jgolberg@charter.net) for further details. No experience necessary. A sample report form is available to those interested.

A brief overview of the Observer Corps: The League of BF has an invaluable tool in its mission of working for good government when there is a vigorous and lively Observer Corps in place. This group forms the eyes and ears of the Board as participants attend and observe the workings of governmental bodies with rule-making authority. What is the Observer Corps and how does it help the League? Observer Corps members attend council, board, commission and agency meetings to listen, observe, and make note of any information that the Board may wish to know. In particular, the Observer calls the League Board's attention to community and public policy issues that we can act/testify on based on League Position statements. Observers also identify trends or problems for future study and action by the League. Thus, timely reporting of that information to the Observer Corps Chair and/or League Chair is a primary duty of the Observer.

## Update on Climate Lawsuit

Lora Rathbone

**Background:** On February 16, 2018, 13 young people from across the state of Washington filed a constitutional climate lawsuit against the state, Governor Jay Inslee, and several state agencies in King County Superior Court. The complaint asserts that in causing climate change, the state of Washington has violated the youngest generation's constitutional rights to life, liberty, property, and equal protection of the law, and has caused impairment of essential public trust resources.

You can read the letter they sent to Governor Inslee at this link:

<https://www.ourchildrenstrust.org/washington/>

On June 1, 2018, the State of Washington Defendants moved to dismiss the Youth's case and the Youth filed their response on June 22, 2018. The Youth are supported by amicus briefs from a coalition of environmental organizations, leaders in the faith community, and the League of Women Voters of Washington. Oral argument on the State's motion will be held on July 13, 2018 at 11 am before the Honorable Michael Scott at King County Superior Court in Seattle, Washington.

## LWVBF Calendar

### July 2018

**Monday, July 16— Candidate Forum/ 8<sup>th</sup> Legislative District**, 6:30 PM, Richland Public Library, 955 Northgate Drive, Richland

**Wednesday, July 18— Candidate Forum/ 16<sup>th</sup> Legislative District**, 6:30 PM, Police Training Center, 204 W. Clark Street, Pasco

**Thursday, July 19— Board Meeting**, 6 PM, BF Transit Center (1000 Columbia Park Trail), All members are welcome

**Tuesday, July 24— Voter Assistance/** residents of Brookdale, 770 W. Gage Blvd., Richland, Time TBD

### August 2018

**Thursday, August 16— Women's Equality Day Picnic**, location TBD

Email us at  
[lww.of.bf@gmail.com](mailto:lww.of.bf@gmail.com)

League of Women Voters of  
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