



# VOTER

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF BENTON & FRANKLIN COUNTIES

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

## From the President Polly Parton

Congratulations to all who organized, assisted and attended our 2017 Candidate Forums. This was a busy but very successful season that included three primary forums and five final forums. A special thanks to Kay Ottem, Beverly Johnson-Torelli, Chuck Torelli and JoAnne Dimond for their behind the scenes work.

Join us Thursday, November 9 at Table Talk for a lively discussion on elections and other current topics. (More information on the November Table Talk follows.)

On Saturday, November 18, I will attend an LWVWA State Action Workshop in Olympia that will cover advocacy priorities, the upcoming legislative session and a tour of the capital. The Workshop runs from 9 am- 3 pm, and the \$25 registration fee includes lunch, coffee and all workshop materials. Please let me know if you are attending too.

For more information and to register, go to

<https://leagueofwomensvotersofwashington.wildapricot.org/Action-Workshops/>

Set aside Sunday afternoon on December 3 for our annual Holiday Party at the Goodwill Building in Pasco. We will enjoy food, conversation and a speaker (speaker details to come).

Remember all members are welcome at our monthly Board Meetings (aka Business and Planning Meetings), where we discuss and plan future events. We all get busy during the holiday season, but please join us for as many events as you can.

## November 9th Table Talk

Join us on **Thursday, November 9<sup>th</sup> at 5:30 pm at Janet Nail's home** (135 Meadow Hills Drive, Richland) for a lively discussion of the election results. Soups, salad, bread and beverages will be served. **(Continued on p. 2)**

November 2017

## Officers

**President:**  
**Polly Parton**  
**1st Vice President:**  
**JoAnne Dimond**  
**2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President:**  
**Janet Nail**  
**Secretary:**  
**Ruvine Jimenez**  
**Treasurer:**  
**Shirley Sonnichsen**  
**Past President:**  
**Marilyn Perkins**  
**Voter Editor:**  
**Diane Molleson**

## Elected

### Directors:

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

## Appointed

### Directors:

**Danette Keegan**  
**Chuck Torelli**  
**Sabiha Khan**

## **November Table Talk** (Continued from p. 1)

**Directions to Janet Nail's house:** From Clearwater Avenue, take the traffic circle's first exit to Leslie Road. Travel on Leslie 1.2 miles and turn left on Meadow Hills Drive. Or, from Gage Boulevard, turn on Leslie and go one mile and turn right on Meadow Hills Drive. Once on Meadow Hills Drive, travel up the hill and over the canal (about ¼ mile) and turn left. The house is the second on the left. The number 135 is painted on the curb at the driveway.

## **Public Banking Meeting**

**Toyoko Tsukuda**

The next public banking meeting will be a phone meeting on **Thursday, November 2<sup>nd</sup> at 4 pm** (to 5:30 pm). Dial-in # 605-472-5754. Access Code: 273105

### **Agenda:**

Before the meeting, 1) listen to the TVW video of the state senate hearing on SB 6310, Establish The Washington Investment Trust held in Jan 2012:

[http://www.tvw.org/index.php?option=com\\_tvwplayer&eventID=2012011204](http://www.tvw.org/index.php?option=com_tvwplayer&eventID=2012011204)

2) Listen to questions raised by the state house members in the video of a companion HB 2434 hearing: [http://www.tvw.org/index.php?option=com\\_tvwplayer&eventID=2012011233](http://www.tvw.org/index.php?option=com_tvwplayer&eventID=2012011233)

Both are hour-long videos, so those who want to get to the point can start watching from the times listed below. For the Senate hearing, you should listen to the testimony of Senator Hasegawa who introduced the SB, which starts at **12min. 30 sec.** The state treasurer, McIntire, who is an opponent of the bill, starts speaking at **18 min. 55 sec.** For the house hearing, the committee members' questions to the state treasurer for HB 2434 start at **36 min.**

### **Questions to be discussed:**

- 1) What is your opinion of the testimonies by the proponents and opponents of SB6310 and the questions asked by the house members?
- 2) Do the testimonies answer our questions or raise more questions?

## **Observer Corps: West Richland City Council** **Polly Parton**

Polly Parton attended West Richland's City Council meeting on October 3, 2017. Two major topics:

1. Animal Control contract was discussed at length by staff and the public. Priorities for a new contract were cost savings to citizens, proper animal care and low-cost fast retrieval of pets by owners. A one-year contract was approved with Tri-Cities Animal Control. Mostly positive feedback by citizens.
2. Waiver request by developer for street improvements at 45<sup>th</sup> and King Drive resulted in another lengthy discussion. A partial waiver was issued. This was a compromise between street compliance, costs to newest homeowners and to minimize disruptions and costs to long-time owners who had improved driveways into the street easements. The city staff worked to move the centerline of the street to cause the least disruptions/costs. Interested parties were mostly satisfied with the results.

The meeting could have been considerably shorter if staff and Council had a better understanding of parliamentary procedure. Much time was spent discussing the proper way to state motions.

## **Book Reviews Wanted**

**Polly Parton**

Read a great book lately? Please send a review, long or short. (Thanks to Bree Bowen for her past and future contributions). I recommend *Hillbilly Elegy: A Memoir of a Family and Culture in Crisis* by J.D. Vance. Vance tells his story of white working-class poverty and family dynamics in Appalachia. This is a gritty tale of family dysfunction and strength. Book reviews can be sent to molleson@frontier.com

## Finding Your Community

Beverly Johnson-Torelli

On September 24, 2017, LWVBF members Chuck Torelli and Beverly Johnson-Torelli hosted a table at the Finding Your Community Event at the Howard Amon Park. Attendees who had not registered to vote were invited to do so. They were also encouraged to learn about League or become League members.

The event was sponsored by FUSE (<http://www.fusespc.com>) and encouraged community involvement and volunteering. Besides the League of Women Voters of Benton Franklin Counties, many other organizations were represented, such as the Salvation Army; Rotary Club; ACLU; Red Cross; Fun, Fit and Over Fifty; Girl Scouts; Republicans; Democrats; Results; Indivisible; and some church groups. There were networking opportunities, as well as food trucks and coffee. It was well done and hopefully, it will be an annual event!

## Treasurer's Report

Shirley Sonnichsen

At the end of September, checking was \$2,685; savings was \$1,856 for a total of \$4,541.

**Income:** We received \$900 in dues and \$275 in contributions for a total of \$1,175.

**Expenses:** The only expense we had was \$19.60 for the dues letter postage.

A membership form, which was incorrect, was received at the post office from a potential new member. She forgot to send a check so I sent her an email correcting the information. The membership form on the web site was incorrect and has since been corrected. Dues were payable by September 30. If you have not paid your dues, please do so as soon as possible.

We pay a Per Member Payment (PMP) to National and State, which comes out of the League's \$75 dues. The number of members is calculated February 1<sup>st</sup> of each year. Here is a breakdown for newer members of how those \$\$ are broken down:

**National:**

Primary member - \$32

2nd-in-household or student - \$16

**State:**

Primary member - \$19

2<sup>nd</sup>-in-household - \$9.50

We only keep \$24 (out of \$75) for primary members and \$9.50 (out of \$35) for 2<sup>nd</sup>-in-household.

Checking: \$2,685
Savings: \$1,856
Total: \$4,541

## Public Disclosure Commission

Toyoko Tsukuda

The Public Disclosure Commission (PDC) has launched Campaign Explorer, a new tool for those looking for information about candidates' campaign finances.

[Campaign Explorer](#) provides an overview of money in state and local races, including quick access to a campaign's top contributors, most recent expenses, and all loans, debts and pledges. It also shows independent expenditures made by third parties in support of or opposition to a candidate. A function, Compare Candidates, lets users compare candidates' expenditures and contributions in one graph. Share links allow users to easily post what they find on Facebook and Twitter. Please visit the PDC website to see campaign finance reports and explore the new tool: <https://www.pdc.wa.gov/browse/campaign-explorer>. Many more improvements are coming to the site. I will keep you posted.

# LWVWA endorses Initiative 940, De-Escalate Washington

## Lora Rathbone

The LWVWA Board has endorsed Initiative 940, De-Escalate Washington. This statewide initiative is seeking to update and improve law enforcement training and community safety. In the words of the campaign, “It...

1. Requires training for violence de-escalation, mental health, and first aid.
2. Provides that police should render first aid at the scene.
3. Applies a **good faith standard** for use of deadly force and **removes the de facto immunity**.
4. Requires completely independent investigations of use of deadly force when there is injury or death.
5. Brings diverse community stakeholders to the table for the development of standards and curriculum.
6. Includes tribal governments in investigations where a tribal person was injured or killed.”

The League is asking for our help to get the required signatures to send this measure to the 2018 Legislature. Once it is in the hands of the legislators, their action can make it law, or their inaction will put it on next year's ballot, or they can write their own law (and both measures will be on the ballot). To be involved with the LWV statewide committee—from signature gathering to writing press releases—contact Heather Kelly (hejokelly@gmail.com) and Nikki Hurley (nhurley1009@gmail.com; 410-300-6195). Or see the events calendar on the I-940 website: <http://www.deescalatewa.org/calendar>

I-940 was discussed at the LWVBF's Oct. 5, 2017 Table Talk. It was agreed that additional de-escalation training for officers would be valuable, but concerns were raised over what is meant by change standards for use of deadly force, adding a “good faith” standard. A spokesperson for the campaign explained: “The existing de facto immunity is what ties prosecutor's hands. We are not making it easier to prosecute, we are making it possible to prosecute. The good faith test is a two-part test, and both parts must be satisfied to find that the use of deadly force was justified. The initiative explicitly adds an objective requirement [presently subjective], which is a substantive change in the law.” People may be concerned that the WA law is overly protective of officers, and will find this initiative does not go far enough to correct the problem. Others feel that it's a compromise and a first step towards more inclusive justice that still protects police, but also provides training to make the use of deadly force less likely.

## Program Planning: Artificial Intelligence Study

The LWV in Palo Verdes Peninsula/San Pedro, California urges Leagues across the country to consider taking up a study of Artificial Intelligence at the next Program Planning meeting. Here's what they wrote (excerpted and condensed):

“Artificial Intelligence (AI), defined as the science and engineering of making intelligent machines, especially intelligent computer programs, able to perform tasks that normally require human intelligence such as perception, speech recognition and decision making is growing into the stage of taking off. When Artificial Intelligence fully blooms it will impact our lives in myriad ways. Many are suggesting that ethical rules need to be considered in controlling this powerful technology. Perhaps intelligent machines should not be able to kill? (They already can, as *60 Minutes* showed). Economically, what jobs will there be—will we need any? Will our family robot do all the house chores? What will happen to our tax base?

“The full impact of AI is not here yet, but it is approaching faster than you think. The League has always been at the front edge of studying issues important to us. Currently we have no study that addresses how this technology will impact us. Let's do one now so that as Congress becomes more aware and starts to make laws, we can also have a voice based on a thoughtful consideration of how this technology should interact with us.”

If any local League members have knowledge of AI, please contact Polly Parton ([polly.parton@yahoo.com](mailto:polly.parton@yahoo.com)) before our Program Planning meeting in January.

## 2017 LWVWA Convention Report      Toyoko Tsukuda

A presentation called “Civic Literacy and the Fight Against Political Passivity” was given by Josh Parker, a high school social science teacher. Here are the highlights of his presentation:

Voting is one day but the impact of government is everyday. Forty-seven percent think that their votes don't have any impact and influence on the government. To combat the political apathy, one needs to have strong political efficacy (PE).

### **Internal PE:**

Do I know how to vote?

Do I know who is running?

Do I know how to contact and to speak at town hall meetings?

But knowing these things is not enough.

### **External PE:**

In order to change from political passivity to political empowerment, one needs to have:

Knowledge of how the government works

Understanding how one can influence the government

Belief that our actions can make difference

Civic education strengthens external PE and combats political passivity. Effective civic education should be based at the local level such as school, town etc. It is relevant to the students' life. It invites students in discussion and debate through inquiry about big questions and political processes. It shows them how to participate by writing to Letters to the Editor, representatives or making a speech and **doing a civic duty** (he emphasized). It should give correct information to the students

Civics teachers need professional development, resources, time to plan and collaborate. (LWV WA's civics book, “The State We're in: WA” is a wonderful resource.)

**Call to Action:** Reach out your local schools, connect and collaborate with social studies teachers, reach out to your local representatives, and support HB1896 Expand Civics Education teacher training across Washington State.

## **Upcoming Events**

**Water, Wind & Fire Tour: Saving our Farms, Forests, and Fish While**

**Strengthening the Economy**

**Friday, November 3, 7pm**

**Benton County PUD, 2721 W 10th Ave, Kennewick**

Citizens' Climate Lobby (CCL), a non-partisan grassroots advocacy organization with over 340 U.S. chapters, and Audubon Washington are conducting a 12-city tour around Washington state and the Idaho Panhandle to engage citizens and community leaders in a discussion about the impacts of our changing climate. They will speak about warming temperatures, their impact on Washington and Idaho citizens, and how we can move past partisanship to address the challenges of plentiful and affordable energy, a growing economy with lots of good jobs, and managing risk as a result of climate change.

**The speakers:** Dr. Steve Ghan, Climate Scientist, former Editor of the *Journal of Geophysical Research – Atmospheres*, Richland Citizens' Climate Lobby Group Leader.

John Sandvig, Aerospace Engineer, business executive, member of the Citizens' Climate Lobby's “Conservative Caucus.”

Jennifer Syrowitz, Audubon Washington Chapter Conservation Manager, Citizens' Climate Lobby volunteer.

**More information:** <http://tinyurl.com/waterwindfiretour> or contact Cigdem Capan at [capancigdem@gmail.com](mailto:capancigdem@gmail.com)

## More Upcoming Events

### **Do Your Part/Have Your Say—Post Card Writing Sundays**

**2pm- 4pm, Ethos Bakery & Café, 2150 Keene Rd, Richland**

An Indivisible group invites everyone to write postcards to elected officials on all issues. Materials (postcards, stamps, mailing labels and pens) are provided.

### **Bake Sale**

**Saturday, November 11, Noon – 3 pm**

**Islamic Center of Tri-Cities, 2900 Bombing Range Road, West Richland**

Presented by the Muslim Youth Group, the bake sale will have Muslim and American sweets, tea, and henna.

## LWVBF Calendar

### November 2017

**Thursday, November 9—Table Talk**, election discussion, 5:30 pm at Janet Nail's home (135 meadow Hills Drive, Richland)

**Thursday, November 16—Business and Planning Meeting**, 5:30 pm, BF Transit Center (Richland Wye/1000 Columbia Park Trail) All members are welcome

**Saturday, November 18—LWVWA Action Workshop in Olympia**, 9 am- 3 pm, lobby team/ tour of Olympia

### December 2017

**Saturday, December 2—LWVWA Action Workshop in Tacoma**, Homeless/Housing

**Sunday, December 3—Holiday Party**, Goodwill (3521 W. Court St., Pasco), time and speaker info to come

**No Board Meeting**

### January 2018

**Saturday, January 6 or 13— January Planning Meeting**, time & location TBD

**Saturday, January 6— LWVWA Action Workshop in Seattle**, Revenue Issues

**Thursday, January 18— Business and Planning Meeting**, 5:30 pm, BF Transit Center (Richland Wye/1000 Columbia Park Trail) All members are welcome

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

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