



VOTER

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF BENTON & FRANKLIN COUNTIES

www.lwv-bf.org

October 2017

From the President Polly Parton

Ready or not, fall is here and October is filled with candidate forums. Please participate. Volunteer at an event; send questions for the candidates to the voter service group (Beverly Johnson-Torelli, Kay Ottem, JoAnne Dimond or Polly Parton); watch the forums live streaming or on YouTube afterward. These forums are a core educational service of the LWVBF for our community. The forum schedule is on p.2.

Please join our October 5th Table Talk at the Richland Library and become better informed on two topics: the Snake River dams and Initiative 940 “De-escalate Washington,” which could be proposed to the legislature next year. This is a great opportunity to learn and discuss in a friendly setting. Invite a friend, spouse or neighbor.

October 5th Table Talk

Our next Table Talk will be held on **Thursday, October 5th at 11:30 a.m.** in the Gallery Room of the Richland Public Library (955 Northgate Dr.). You can bring your own lunch or snack. Allison Colotelo, who works at PNNL, will present research on the Snake River dams and fish. Her talk will be followed by a discussion of Initiative 940, “De-escalate Washington” (<http://www.deescalatewa.org>). This measure would require all law enforcement officers in the state to receive violence de-escalation and mental health training, as developed by the criminal justice training commission.

Public Banking Meeting on October 12 Toyoko Tsukuda

The next public banking meeting will be held on **Thursday, October 12th at 4 pm.** It will be a phone conference. Dial-in Number: (605) 472-5754. Access Code: 273105

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October Candidate Forums

KENNEWICK

Wednesday, October 4, 6:30 p.m. at the Kennewick School District Administration Building Board Rooms B & C, (1000 W 4th Street, Kennewick)

Co-sponsor is Consejo Latino.

Candidates invited include Kennewick City Council Positions 1, 2 and 4-At Large; Kennewick School Board Director 1; Benton County Sheriff; Port of Kennewick.

Forum will be live-streamed on the KNDU Facebook page (moderator is Tracci Dial, KNDU news anchor). Charter will record it for replay on Charter Public Access Channel 190, and it will also be available on YouTube.

PASCO

Wednesday, October 11, 6:30 p.m. at the Pasco Police Dept. Regional Training Center (204 W Clark Street, Pasco)

Co-sponsors are Tri Cities Latino Coalition and Consejo Latino.

Candidates invited include Pasco City Council Positions for Districts 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 and 6; Pasco School Board Positions 3, 4 and 5.

Forum will be live-streamed on City of Pasco Facebook page (moderator is Mike Gonzales, KVEW news anchor). Pasco City Television will record it for replay on Public Access Channel 191; it will also be available on YouTube.

WEST RICHLAND

Thursday, October 12, 6:30 p.m. at Enterprise Middle School (5200 Paradise Way, West Richland)

Candidates invited include West Richland City Council Positions for Districts 1, 2, 3, 6 and Mayor; Benton County sheriff.

Forum will be moderated by Cody Proctor, KEPR news anchor. (Live-streaming and recording information is not yet available.)

RICHLAND

Wednesday, October 18, 6:30 p.m. at Carmichael Middle School (620 Thayer Drive, Richland)

Co-sponsors are Tri Cities Latino Coalition and Consejo Latino.

Candidates invited include Richland City Council Positions 1, 3, 4 and 7; Richland School Board Directors 1 and 2; Benton County Sheriff.

Forum will be live-streamed on City of Richland Facebook page (moderator is Mike Gonzales, KVEW news anchor). Richland CityView TV will record it for replay on Public Access Channel 192; it will also be available on YouTube.

WSU-TC

Thursday, October 26 at 5:00 p.m. at the new Student Union Building (2710 Crimson Way, Richland)

LWV is partnering with WSU Associated Students for Legislative Affairs.

Candidates invited include Richland City Council Positions 1, 3, 4 and 7.

Forum will be live-streamed on the KNDU Facebook page (moderator is Tracci Dial, KNDU news anchor).

State Council to be Held in Tri-Cities in June

Shirley Sonnichsen

The LWVBF is hosting State Council in the Tri-Cities on June 1 – 3, 2018. Polly Parton, JoAnne Dimond and Shirley Sonnichsen scouted potential venues at the Shilo Inn, The Marriott Courtyard and the Hanford House/Red Lion. We are leaning towards the Shilo because they are undergoing a renovation that will be completed by next year, they have the best rates with a free breakfast, and they have more than a few breakout rooms. All three have free parking and the walking path along the river, which is a big plus. The State League will make the final decision. We will need members to help with the logistics and planning, plus a member or two to actually attend Council. We will also need to provide speakers and workshops. If you have any ideas for speakers, please contact Polly Parton (polly.parton@yahoo.com).

New Member Spotlight: Taliah Dickinson

I am 34 years old and have lived in Kennewick for as long as I can remember. I attended Kamiakin High School and went through CBC to earn a general AA. After various minimum/low-wage jobs, I enrolled at the Tri-City School of Massage, got my massage license, and practiced in the field for seven years. Due to multiple factors, I recently returned to school and am currently taking courses to become a Physical Therapy Assistant (PTA). In addition to these classes, I work part-time as a PT aide.

Between work and school, I don't do very much! I enjoy various podcasts, books, and movies, and spend time with my husband and our cats. Nature has been calling my name lately and I'm investigating how to begin a garden, though I've got quite a bit of work to do before I can plant anything.

I became engaged with the League during the last national election cycle. During this time, it became evident to me that our country could not afford to continue with the typical political apathy that is so pervasive in our modern culture, of which I was (and still sometimes am) guilty. However, I felt too small and powerless to make any kind of difference. The League was and is the perfect answer. It is a well-established and respected organization with local as well as national influence. When I am more active, I would like to spend time focusing on the issues the LWV advocates, but I certainly appreciate the voter service it provides and believe this is a valuable aspect to our democracy.

2017 LWVWA State Convention Report Toyoko Tsukuda

Efforts to increase voter turnout in King County:

Because more than half of all returned ballots were brought to ballot drop-off boxes, King County expanded their number of drop-off boxes from 10 to 43 in 2016. 91% of King County residents now live within three miles of a ballot drop-off box.

Prepaid ballot, a pilot program, was administered in the February 2017 special election in Shoreline. More voters returned their ballots compared to previous elections. 72% of ballots were returned by prepaid mail and 28% by drop boxes.

Adding two new languages, Spanish and Korean, to the voter registration card, the ballot, and the voters' pamphlet resulted in a higher participation of voters.

The statewide effort:

Senate Bill 5472, which requires that at least 250 more ballot drop-off boxes be installed around the state, was signed into law by the governor in 2017.

Membership and Leadership Development (MLD) Training

Judy Golberg

Oregon and Washington MLD teams, members of the State Boards, and other League members gathered in Portland on September 8 - 10 to learn more about MLD, become re-energized and enthused! Meeting with 58 other League members to discuss successful ideas and projects did just that.

Elizabeth MacNamara, immediate past president of the LWVUS; Carol Reimers, chair of the MLD/Shur Fellow program on the national level and president of the LWV Connecticut; Mary Wilson, Shur Fellow (national coach) for Washington and former national president from New Mexico; and I (Judy Golberg, former LWVWA president, LWVBF president and Shur Fellow for Oregon) were the trainers. We had two wonderful Oregon League members who helped with the local arrangements and also called upon many of our members to participate in panel discussions.

Our topics ranged from great ideas using best practices suggested by the MLD program; shared resources available online; recruiting new members and engaging them immediately in activities; working with allied groups in the community; public relations and the use of social media; respecting each other no matter our personality types, cultural backgrounds or experience; and the part everyone enjoyed the most—small group discussions by topic on issues and solutions. We had a fun dine-around experience thanks to the variety of restaurants near our hotel! The finale was Elizabeth talking about the Transformational Journey. Change that LWV is discussing involves what would make being a League easier—how to form a new League faster and how can we make it easier to join. We need to remember that our core values will not change. The theme for our organization's 100th Anniversary is "Making a More Perfect Democracy." That will not change. If what we are doing supports that value, great! If it doesn't, why do it?

One idea that might be worth trying in our League is to hold a monthly Dine-Around. Sign up in groups of 8 or 10 to visit different restaurants. We can enjoy a social setting, get to know one another better and perhaps even talk about upcoming League events! Like the idea, let the Board know or volunteer to help organize this event.

Another take-home from the workshop is the online Resource list. From the list, we showed the audience how to access information on the national League's website. www.lwv.org—scroll down to the very bottom of the page and find the red button. Click on it. That will take you to a different website that provides all the LWV resources. Experiment. I can email the entire list of Resources if you are interested. Just ask – jgolberg@charter.net

Thank you to the Oregon and Washington State Leagues for covering most of the expenses for this worthwhile event. What a great way to spend a weekend! Wish you could have been there!

Treasurer's Report

Shirley Sonnichsen

At the end of August, checking was \$1,530; savings was \$1,856 for a total of \$3,386. There was no income this month. Expenses were \$368 for the National 1st Qtr PMP's (Per Member Payments) and \$218.50 for the State 1st Qtr PMP's. The dues letter has been mailed and there is self-addressed envelope in the mailing. Please pay your dues of \$75 and any contribution you'd like to make by September 30. We have 57 members down from 59. Ellyn Murphy is moving and Alice Ellis passed away this summer. Six members joined after February 1st and will not pay dues this September.

Checking: \$1,530
Savings: \$1,856
Total: \$3,386

Public Disclosure Commission (PDC)

Toyoko Tsukuda

The Public Disclosure Commission (www.pdc.wa.gov) has created a new search function on its home page. It's called "Follow the Money" and it tracks donations in your voting district. Enter your address, and the site gives you information on all the elections in your district.

Upcoming Events

The Tri-Cities Diabetes Coalition's Annual Diabetes Fair will be held at Pasco High School on Saturday, October 7, 2017 from 10 a.m. until 1 p.m. This event is free and open to the public. They offer free A1c, blood pressure, oral health and vision screening. There will also be vendors, door prizes and speakers that will address issues with diabetes and prevention.

LWVBF Calendar

October 2017

Wednesday, October 4—Kennewick Candidate Forum, 6:30- 8:30 pm, Kennewick School Admin Center (1000 W. 4th Ave., Kennewick)

Thursday, October 5—Table Talk, Snake River Dams and a discussion of I-940, 11:30 am, Gallery Room at the Richland Public Library (955 Northgate Dr., Richland)

Wednesday, October 11—Pasco Candidate Forum, 6:30 pm, Police Training Center (204 W. Clark St., Pasco)

Thursday, October 12—Public banking meeting, 4 pm, conference call

Thursday, October 12—West Richland Candidate Forum, 6:30 pm, Enterprise Middle School (5200 Paradise Way, West Richland)

Wednesday, October 18—Richland Candidate Forum, 6:30 pm, Carmichael Middle School (620 Thayer Dr., Richland)

Thursday, October 19— Business and Planning Meeting, 5:30 pm, BF Transit Center (Richland Wye/1000 Columbia Park Trail) All members are welcome.

Thursday, October 26—Candidate Forum at WSU-TC, 5 pm, new Student Union Building (2710 Crimson Way, Richland)

November 2017

Thursday, November 9—Table Talk, election discussion, time and location TBD

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

Email us at
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League of Women Voters of
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