



# VOTER

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF BENTON & FRANKLIN COUNTIES

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

## From the President Marilyn Perkins

I have had a busy week as a citizen here in the Tri-Cities. I attended a climate change/solar energy presentation at WSU, a meeting about DACA students, earth/science day and met with Congressman Newhouse's aide. Doesn't that sound impressive for one week? Actually, all I did was show up at these events, but it did make me realize how many dedicated people we have in our community who worked to make all those events possible. I saw several other League members that put in a lot of effort or took the time to attend those events too. As they say about life, so much of it is just showing up.

Sometime the needs seem overwhelming, but if we are all willing to do a little we can make a difference. I also know that many people literally do not have the time or resources to be part of community events as they work long hours and have families to care for **I would like all our members to know that by paying your dues, showing up for a meeting now and then, and helping when you can, you are doing your part to help keep our local League going.** We hope to get more members involved in Voter Service activities this year and there is more information on that in this *Voter*.

This is my last article for the *Voter* as the president. I have been a member of this League for almost 38 years. It's easy for me to remember because my son was one when I joined and he just turned 39. I still have memories of some of the first meetings I went to and how impressed I was with the other women I met. Mainly it was a stimulating/fun outing for this stay-at-home mom. I think what I like best about League are the other members (women and men) I have gotten to know.

We are very lucky that Polly Parton is willing to step up as our newest president. I have no doubt she will excel in this role.

May/June 2017

## Officers

**President:**  
Marilyn Perkins  
**1st Vice President:**  
JoAnne Dimond  
**2nd 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

## **New Member Orientation & Brunch on May 6th**

### **Janet Nail**

The League will host a brunch for new members and others interested in League activities. The event will provide an overview of the League's programs and volunteer opportunities. The brunch will be at **10:00 a.m. on Saturday, May 6th at the home of Janet Nail** (135 Meadow Hills Drive, Richland). As an added bonus, League member Ellyn Murphy will present a program concerning the impact of climate change and the latest projections.

**Directions to Janet'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 over the canal (about 1/4 mile) and turn left. The house is the second on the left. The number 135 is painted on the curb at the driveway.

## **LWVBF Annual Meeting on May 18**

### **Marilyn Perkins & Polly Parton**

The Annual meeting will be **held on Thursday, May 18, at All Saints' Episcopal Church in Richland (1322 Kimball Ave.)**. We will start gathering at **5:30 pm** and hopefully begin eating at 5:45. Anyone with a little extra time can come at 5 pm to help set up. We will be handing out the annual meeting packet at Janet Nail's on May 6<sup>th</sup>, and if you can't make that meeting we will mail your packet to you. If time allows we ask that members contribute a salad, side dish or dessert to share. We always have plenty of food so come whether you can bring anything or not.

At past Annual meetings we have sometimes asked for donations to help send delegates to the State or National Conventions. This year we are asking for donations to help provide scholarships to high school and college students who might want to join League. The by-laws were changed at the last National Convention and anyone 16 or older can become a member. When we were at Pasco High last month, several students indicated they might be interested in joining. This opens up lots of exciting opportunities for us, but we did say scholarships were available and we would like to make good on that offer.

If you would like to attend the meeting and need a ride or would like to carpool, contact Marilyn Perkins at [jmperkins.cougs@frontier.com](mailto:jmperkins.cougs@frontier.com).

**From Polly Parton:** We need about 10 tablecloths and some cut flowers for the annual meeting decorations. Email or call, and we can pick them up a day or two before the meeting: [polly.parton@yahoo.com](mailto:polly.parton@yahoo.com) or 509-5513818, or JoAnne Dimond: [catlovermac@yahoo.com](mailto:catlovermac@yahoo.com)

## **Public Disclosure Commission: Take a Survey**

### **Toyoko Tsukuda**

For the next generation of open data access on the Public Disclosure Commission's (PDC) website, the PDC has developed new Open Data that includes campaign contributions and expenditures, political action committees, ballot initiatives, lobbyists and firms employing lobbyists. This was completed in Phase 1 of the project. Phase 2 entails designing what they call "Specific Search." **The PDC wants your input on how you would search for data on their site. Please take the survey at this link: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/WQ9KYKD>**

## **Voter Service**      **Marilyn Perkins**

When people think of the League of Women Voters, they often think of our voter service activities. There are several components to voter service and many are for a short period of time. We will have a signup sheet at the Annual Meeting or you can contact Marilyn Perkins if you would be willing to head up, co-chair or help with any of the following activities:

**VOTE 411** – Help write questions for local candidates. Their responses will appear on the State League’s VOTE 411 website.

### **Candidate Forums –**

Contact candidates by email or phone to inform them about upcoming events.

Moderate forums – more fun than you might think at first, plus it’s your chance to be on TV.

Help at the forums – collect questions, time the candidates’ responses, welcome candidates and audience members.

**Register Voters** – Assist in finding location(s) for National Voter Registration Day in September or other special events and recruit other volunteers to help.

**Ballot Issues Meeting** – Help present information on the various initiatives and other ballot measures that will be on the ballot.

**They Represent You (TRYs)**- Help research updates, bundle for distribution and distribute the TRYs.

Any help with these activities would be greatly appreciated.

## **Treasurer’s Report**

### **Shirley Sonnichsen**

At the end of March, checking was \$3,402; savings was \$1,856 for a total of \$5,258. We received \$150 in dues from Danette Keegan and Shawn Murrow. The last two quarters of the National PMP’s have been paid for \$704. We currently have 53 members.

Checking: \$3,402
Savings: \$1,856
Total: \$5,258

Seattle-King County is hosting this year’s State Convention at the Best Western Executive Inn June 2-4<sup>th</sup>. Early bird registration is \$165 (ending May 3); regular registration is \$249. Noah Purcell, Washington’s “de facto defender of the Constitution,” will speak at the Convention. The negotiated reduced room rate is \$197. Several rooms will be reserved for our League. The hotel is right by the Seattle Center, the Space Needle and several museums. We are allowed the President and two delegates. You don’t have to be a delegate to go. You can go as a non-voting interested League Member and you can bring a prospective League Member as well. Please register with your own credit card and we will settle up after. No refunds after May 26<sup>th</sup>.

The cost for the League Easy Web (LEW) is \$100 for startup and \$200/year, which is in the proposed budget. The LWVWA may have a new LEW in July of 2017 with another fee of \$50 or more. Judy Golberg is setting up pages on LEW. She has given the Treasurer access, but it would be good to have several people who know how to maintain the website.

## **June Table Talk**      **Marilyn Perkins**

We hope to have speakers to talk about native plants and the difference between good and bad bugs at a meeting in June that will be both informational and fun. We will send out information when a date and location are determined.

## **Sharing a Day With Our Local High School Students Polly Parton**

League members presented a voter primer to five of Amber Wilcox's Pasco High class of AP English on 4/14. Marilyn Perkins based the presentation on the Pullman League's, "All Things Voting." Janet Nail presented the history leading to the formation of our United States and the foundation of our government's structure. Toyoko Tsukuda tested the students using a literacy test from Louisiana and reviewed various obstructions used to limit voting rights (historically and currently). Polly Parton gave a time line of voting rights and an example how various voting blocs (liberals, moderates, conservatives) can affect voting results. Marilyn wrapped up with how students can prepare to be informed voters —English classes promote critical thinking, science promotes an understanding of climate change and math improves economic knowledge and data mining. She reviewed how to properly register to vote, answered questions and challenged students to become better informed as they near their voting age.

It was rewarding to see young adults interested in history, voting, politics and current events. They proved to be attentive and eager to discuss various topics. We hope to expand this presentation to other schools and may ask other members to assist us. We even had some students interested in joining the League.

## **From the LWVWA Legislative Newsletter Lora Rathbone**

Governor Inslee has called for a special session to begin Monday, April 24. In addition to approving the operating budget, the legislature must come up with a plan to fully fund education, as required by the Washington State Supreme Court's McCleary decision. Neither the House nor the Senate's budget will be what ultimately passes. Instead, it will be a compromise between the two. We need to continue to **encourage legislators not to compromise on** our children's education, mental health care, or the need to fix our state's regressive tax code. For the 8<sup>th</sup> LD, email Representatives [Larry.haler@leg.wa.gov](mailto:Larry.haler@leg.wa.gov) and [Brad.klippert@leg.wa.gov](mailto:Brad.klippert@leg.wa.gov) and Senator [sharon.brown@leg.wagov](mailto:sharon.brown@leg.wagov)

Some members of the LWVBF spoke with a Newhouse staff member last Wednesday. We asked for a budget that does not give tax breaks to the wealthy and increases to the military, while cutting social services. We also discussed immigration reform (Newhouse is already on board with that) and expressed our concern over proposed cuts to the EPA, science and medical research. We argued for joining the Climate Solutions Caucus as a way to mitigate climate change. If you wish to reinforce our message by sending an email to Newhouse, you can do so by going to <https://newhouse.house.gov/contact>. Please include your name, address and email address to get your message "counted" when contacting your legislators.

## **Tender Care Village Polly Parton**

A new non-profit is forming to provide services for the aging. Based on the national "Village to Village," Tender Care Village (TCV) responds to the needs of their members. They vet and insure their volunteers, and the volunteers pick when, where and how often they volunteer. TCV's members (for a small yearly fee) can request various types of assistance.

### **Tender Care Village may offer the following:**

Car rides to medical appointments, grocery shopping, minor computer assistance, changing light bulbs and fire alarm batteries, checking in on a parent. Have a different need? Check if TCV can help.

### **What Tender Care Village doesn't do:**

No emergency care or medical care or driving, no personal care, no regular house cleaning, no laundry. If you are interested joining, volunteering or learning more about Tender Care Village, we meet the first Wednesday of each month at the Union Street Library at 10 am for about an hour. For more information, contact Polly Parton ([polly.parton@yahoo.com](mailto:polly.parton@yahoo.com) or 509-551-3818) and Traci Wells ([tendercarevillage@gmail.com](mailto:tendercarevillage@gmail.com) or 509-290-0617).

## **OBSERVER CORPS: West Richland City Council Meeting**

### **Polly Parton**

The April 18, 2017 meeting of the West Richland City Council was called to order at 7 PM. All members were present. Various business and administrative activities were approved and noted. An informative presentation by Carl Adrian, the President of TRIDEC, explained various ways that TRIDEC promotes and represents the Tri-Cities for economic development, job creation and capital investment. They promote the Pasco/Kennewick/Richland/West Richland cities.

The land lease/sale acceleration was approved for the ‘Shelby auto manufacturing’ property in the Belmont Business District. The Canadian finance group requested this before proceeding with planning/building the facility. It was noted that the sale (before construction) only gave the city \$150/year in property tax, but did give the city a net gain of \$ 270,000 to city funds.

The police department remodeling should be completed in May. Police negotiations are ongoing. Chad Uteck was introduced as a new member of the Planning Commission. The move to the new construction buildings and shops should begin in June. The new welcoming entry to West Richland, at the Yakima River, is in progress. Bids are due for various projects for Benton County affordable housing funds. Saturday 4/22 is Earth Day. Old tires may be taken to the Mosquito Control District as part of the event. Appreciation for the flock of sheep—and new lambs—on Bombing Range Road was noted. This is part of West Richland’s uniqueness. The meeting was adjourned at 8:03 pm.

### **New Member Spotlight: Toyoko Tsukuda**

Toyoko Tsukuda has been a member of the LWVBF since 2013 and a board member since 2014. She is a Ph.D. Molecular Biologist, retired from the Cancer Research Center at the University of New Mexico, Albuquerque.

#### **Q: What prompted you to join the League?**

**A:** In 2010 when I lived in Albuquerque, I was shocked to hear on the radio that the Supreme Court ruling, Citizens United, allowed individuals and corporations to contribute unlimited amounts of money to political campaigns. I wanted to do something about it. So I joined a group of people who wanted to start Move to Amend in Albuquerque. Move to Amend is a nationwide movement to amend the constitution to say that money is not free speech and corporations are not people. In 2013 when I moved to Washington State, to continue my effort, I joined the League of Benton-Franklin Counties. When I saw an announcement in their newsletter seeking members for the Citizens United study committee, I immediately joined.

#### **Q: What did you learn by being on the Citizens United study committee?**

**A:** The Citizens United (CU) study focused on the effects of the Citizens United ruling on Washington State’s elections and politics. From that study, I learned that Washington State has the most extensive and strongest public disclosure law in the nation, and the law was passed in 1972 as an initiative through the efforts of the LWVWA and other groups. I just fell in love with the State of Washington and League, and I was very encouraged because I witnessed democracy at work through the study.

#### **Q: What would you as a League member encourage citizens to do?**

**A:** If we want to shape public policies to attain a fair and equitable society, we need to engage in advocacy. Vote in the local elections because the decisions of city, county, and state governments affect our day-to-day lives the most. Often city, county and state platforms become federal platforms. Your vote truly affects the outcome of local elections. One of the Franklin county commissioner races was determined by only 30 votes. Lotte Sharfman, a former president of the LWVUS said, “Democracy is not a spectator sport.” Our rights are not just given to us. We have to work for them.

# Calendar

## May 2017

**May 5 at 7pm to May 6 at 9 pm**—Cinco de Mayo Festival, downtown Pasco. For more information, see [www.facebook.com/events/273737136388106/](http://www.facebook.com/events/273737136388106/)

**Saturday, May 6**— New Member Orientation and Brunch at Janet Nail's home, 10 AM. See page 2 for details.

**Thursday, May 18**—Annual Meeting, 5:30 pm, All Saints' Episcopal Church (1322 Kimball Ave. in Richland)

## June 2017

**June 2-4**—State Convention in Seattle

**June Table Talk**—fun activity, day and time TBD

Email us at  
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