



# VOTER

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF BENTON & FRANKLIN COUNTIES

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

April 2018

## From the President Polly Parton

Spring is an active time for our members, so do jump in and get involved! We presented two civics classes at Kamiakin High School in March and will continue presentations in April and May. This is an ideal opportunity to promote civics, introduce the League of Women Voters and engage with young people. We hope this program expands each year. If you want to get involved, please contact Janet Nail ([janet@janetnail.com](mailto:janet@janetnail.com)) or Toyoko Tsukuda ([tmjdaddy@gmail.com](mailto:tmjdaddy@gmail.com)).

We have been invited to participate in a family evening on April 17 at Park Middle School in Kennewick to promote civics to parents and kids. I would love a couple of newer members to contact me to help out that evening. We are also planning to register voters at Pasco's Cinco de Mayo celebration. This is another fun event to volunteer for!

Both budget and nominating committees are preparing for our Annual Meeting on May 17 at All Saints Episcopal Church in Richland. This is a great evening to catch up with fellow members with a delicious potluck; then we finish the evening with our business meeting to adopt a budget, elect officers and present, discuss and adopt possible studies and priorities for the coming year.

This is our year to host the **Washington State Council**, to be held on **June 1, June 2, and the morning of June 3** at the **Shilo Inn** in Richland. A lot of planning is happening, and we will contact each member to help make State Council a success. I hope to see you at our various meetings and events!

**April is Earth Month**  
**For related events, go to**  
**[www.gogreentricities.org](http://www.gogreentricities.org)**

## Officers

**President:**  
**Polly Parton**  
**1st Vice President:**  
**JoAnne Dimond**  
**2nd 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:

**Lisabeth Jimenez**  
**Danette Keegan**  
**Sabiha Khan**  
**Chuck Torelli**  
**Jo Ann Bengtson**

## State Council in Richland

### Marilyn Perkins

Our League will be hosting State Council June 1-3. State Board members will be arriving on May 31<sup>st</sup>. To make this a success we are hoping many of our members will be able to donate time, ideas and items. We need HELP with the following:

**Gift Basket:** Each League is asked to donate a basket of goodies, usually of items from their area, but books and other fun items are also good. Last year at convention our basket was the biggest money maker, with the money going to help with the work of the LWVWA. Wine seems to be popular, so if you have an extra bottle you think people would like, we would very much appreciate the donation. Items can be brought to any League meeting or contact Marilyn Perkins. Marilyn would also appreciate any help in arranging and decorating the basket.

**Registration Bag:** All the delegates will receive a bag provided by the Visitor and Convention Bureau, but we could use some extra goodies to put in them. If you know of any business that might be willing to provide something, such as pens, notepads etc., contact JoAnne Dimond at [catlovermac@yahoo.com](mailto:catlovermac@yahoo.com)

**Thursday Night Potluck for the State Board:** We will be hosting an informal dinner on Thursday night, May 31. If you would be willing to help with a salad, side dish or dessert, contact Marilyn Perkins at [jmperkins.cougs@frontier.com](mailto:jmperkins.cougs@frontier.com)

**Friday Night Dine Around:** We need suggestions for restaurants or wineries with food and people willing to guide a group to those locations. We are hoping to have League members or guests available that could lead a dinner conversation about local issues, including Hanford, agriculture, immigration, water, education and anything else people might think of. We could use 8-10 locations. This should be an easy one to volunteer for; eating and talking with other League Members is always a good thing. Able to help, contact Marilyn Perkins at [jmperkins.cougs@frontier.com](mailto:jmperkins.cougs@frontier.com)

**Volunteers for Council:** Members will be needed to help register attendees, provide help with workshops, and other odd jobs as needed. If you can donate a couple hours, contact Polly Parton at [polly.parton@yahoo.com](mailto:polly.parton@yahoo.com)

## Urge Congress to Support the Automatic Voter Registration Act

### Lora Rathbone

Governor Jay Inslee just signed a bill to allow Automatic Voter Registration. If you support Governor Inslee's decision and would like to see automatic voter registration for the entire U.S., go to [lwv.org](http://lwv.org) and sign their letter to let Congress know you. "Senator Patrick Leahy (D-VT) and Representative Robert Brady (D-PA) introduced the Automatic Voter Registration Act of 2017 on June 14, 2017. The League is proud to support legislation that enhances access for eligible voters in our elections and works to modernize our electoral system. This bill will improve the accuracy of voter records, cut down on costs, modernize outdated registration systems while supporting implementation in states across the country. Expanding voter registration has been a principal goal of the League since its founding in the wake of the passage in 1920 of the 19th Amendment, which gave women the right to vote. We are proud to see Congress embracing new technology that expands access to the ballot while still taking the necessary safeguards to secure personal information. The League fully supports this bill and urges all members of the U.S. Senate and House of Representatives to support this important legislation."

## Civics in the Classroom

Marilyn Perkins

On March 21<sup>st</sup>, Janet Nail, Marilyn Perkins, Polly Parton and Toyoko Tsukuda made two presentations to students at Kamiakin High School. This was only the second group of students that we have worked with, but three other presentations are scheduled for later in the spring. These students were slightly older, and most were old enough to register to vote, but not too many took advantage of the opportunity. It will be interesting to see how the new voter registration, passed in the last legislative session, will impact voter turnout. Part of the lesson involves having students vote on a current issue, but they have to wait their turn depending on when their assigned group was able to vote. The question was about training and arming teachers to carry guns in the classroom. Most of the boys were in favor of it and most of the girls were not. There was no discussion beforehand, so this reflects their initial thoughts.

We are hoping to expand this program, but we will need more volunteers. If you are interested, contact Toyoko ([tmjdaddy@gmail.com](mailto:tmjdaddy@gmail.com)), and you can sit in on one or two classes.

## Treasurer's Report

**Shirley Sonnichsen**

At the end of February, checking was \$4,063; savings was \$1,856 for a total of \$6,053.

**Income:** We received \$250 in dues, \$409 for the dinner and \$5 in contributions for a total of \$664. A member paid dues twice and \$100 was refunded to him.

**Expenses:** \$431 for the dinner and \$100 to pay back dues.

We have 46 paid members at the end of February and 55 in total including a new member in February, Sarah Thornton.

National Convention budget is \$2000, which can be divided among the members attending. Chuck Torelli, Beverly Johnson-Torelli, and JoAnne Bengtson are going.

There has been some communication about a new tablecloth for our League and the estimate from Fastsigns is \$205.

Checking: \$ 4,197
Savings: \$1,856
Total: \$6,053

## Columbia Basin Badger Club

Bev Hunter

March's topic was Getting a Fair Chance After Prison. The speakers were Kristin McRoberts, Benton County prosecuting attorney, and Bill Keizer, an "I did the time" member who lobbied for the removal of questions about criminal records on job applications. Kristin talked about who felons are and the various crimes committed, noting that about 1 in 5 Americans has committed a crime. She spoke of the cost to us as taxpayers and the difficulties with employment for felons once they reenter society. Bill told his story of how his life got out of control and he became an alcoholic and was the cause of an accident in which a person died. He served his prison time and started a service to help released prisoners reenter society. They need help getting jobs, finding housing, family restoration etc. Both speakers stressed the importance of the local community supporting these persons.

The next Benton Badger Club meeting is about the environmental impact of large-scale agriculture in the Yakima Valley. More details are on their web site: [cbbc.clubexpress.com](http://cbbc.clubexpress.com).

## Naturalization Registration

**Marilyn Perkins**

For several years, our League has sent members to help with voter registration for our newest citizens after they complete the Naturalization Ceremony. On March 19, Ruth Giese, Virginia Rogalski, one of our newest members, and Marilyn Perkins helped register 25 citizens from 11 countries. The youngest was a 20-year-old woman from the Philippines and the oldest was a man in his 60's or 70's from Iraq. We can witness the ceremony beforehand, which is always inspiring, and meeting the new citizens and their families is a bonus. The next scheduled ceremony will be on May 1 and there will be one September 17 and November 6. If you would like to help at future ceremonies, contact Marilyn Perkins at [jmperkins.cougs@frontier.com](mailto:jmperkins.cougs@frontier.com)

## March Table Talk

**JoAnne Dimond**

We had a small group discussing the topic of gun control on March 20 at Janet Nail's home. As usual at League meetings, we had some excellent discussion, which led to more questions than answers. Here are some points we discussed:

The Dickey Amendment – a study of gun violence behavior by the Center for Disease Control. Does League have a position on this issue? This could also be a question for future candidates forums.

Should there be limits on the type of armaments an individual can own?

Laws need to target irresponsible gun owners.

Guns confiscated should be destroyed (after used as evidence in a trial). Presently, the State Patrol in Washington does not destroy guns, but resells them. (Not sure about other states.)

The NRA spends money on negative advertisements for candidates they want defeated.

How can individuals who shouldn't purchase guns be identified?

How do you identify the mentally ill?

## OBSERVER CORPS

**Polly Parton**

Polly Parton attended the West Richland City Council meeting on March 20, 2018

Topics discussed:

- Council approved plat of West Haven Town Homes, estimated 33 units, higher density off Bombing Range road, near the firehouse.
- Tridec provided Council with an update.
- After adjournment, a citizen asked when he could speak. Council agreed to open the meeting again to hear his comment regarding a possible closing of an informal road. The Council was polite when this citizen was confused and provided him with the opportunity to speak.

## Ideas For Table Talk

**Marilyn Perkins**

The date, location and topic for the next Table Talk have not been determined. We may try and have one in the evening for those who are unable to attend an afternoon session. Our last one on guns in our culture had fewer attendees, but it was informative and thought provoking. We came up with questions on gun control issues that we can use for congressional and state candidates at our forums. One suggested topic is the impact— good and bad—of social media. We also need to think about how our League can better use social media and hopefully find some volunteers for our Facebook page and website. If you have suggestions about future Table Talk topics, contact Marilyn Perkins at [jmperkins.cougs@frontier.com](mailto:jmperkins.cougs@frontier.com)

# Upcoming Events

## **Climate Advocacy Training Workshop**

**Saturday, April 7, 9 am- Noon**

**Shalom United Church of Christ, 505 McMurray St, Richland**

Learn the difference between power and force, how to explain the carbon fee and dividend, how to connect with others on controversial issues, and how to lobby congress and write letters to the editor.

## **Poor People's Campaign**

**Saturday, April 7, 10:30 am- Noon OR Tuesday, April 10, 2pm -3:30 pm**

**St. Paul's Episcopal Church, 1609 W. 19<sup>th</sup> Ave., Kennewick**

In 1968, Martin Luther King Jr. began the Poor People's Campaign, just a few months before he was assassinated. That campaign is starting again as a national movement because today poverty in the U.S. is more extensive than it was 50 years ago.

## **Science Celebration- 2nd annual**

**Saturday, April 21, 11 am - 3 pm**

**John Dam Plaza, Richland**

Celebrate the contributions of science-based industries and STEM professionals in this area. Featured speakers and a variety of booths with science education and activities. For all ages!

<https://www.facebook.com/ThreeRiverScience/>

## **Faith Over Fear: Standing With Our Muslim Neighbors Roadshow**

**April 24, 6:30 pm**

**Gjerde Center at CBC, 600 N 20th Ave, Pasco**

Aneelah Afzali and Pastor Terry Kylo will present an overview of the Islamophobia industry, the threat it poses to our nation and civil liberties, and what we can do about it.

**Speakers:** **Pastor Terry Kylo** serves as the director of Neighbors in Faith (NIF), an interfaith effort to recognize Muslims as neighbors and partners in building a more peaceful world. NIF is authorized by the Lutheran and Episcopal churches in western Washington State. **Aneelah Afzali, Esq.** is the founder and Executive Director of the American Muslim Empowerment Network (AMEN), a new initiative of the Muslim Association of Puget Sound (MAPS).

Aneelah graduated from the University of Oregon Honors College and was named a Chayes International Service Fellow at Harvard Law School.

**Sponsors:** MAPS-AMEN (American Muslim Empowerment Network), Neighbors in Faith, The Shoulder to Shoulder Campaign, The Council on American Islamic Relations-WA, The Episcopal Diocese of Spokane, The Eastern Washington-Idaho Synod of the ELCA, Faith Action Network, The Islamic Center of Tri-Cities, League of Women's Voters, League of United Latin American Citizens- Tri-Cities, the Associated Student Body of Columbia Basin College, Insight Meditation of the Mid-Columbia, Lord of Life Lutheran, Shalom United Church of Christ - Richland, Center for Spiritual Living Tri-Cities, and the Community Unitarian Universalist Church

**More Info:** [www.mapsredmond.org/amen](http://www.mapsredmond.org/amen) and [neighborsinfaith.org](http://neighborsinfaith.org)

# LWVBF Calendar

## April 2018

**Tuesday, April 17 and Wednesday, April 18**—Civics presentations at Pasco High

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

**Tuesday, April 24**—**Faith Over Fear: Standing With our Muslim Neighbors** Roadshow, 6:30 pm, Gjerde Center (600 N 20<sup>th</sup> Ave., Pasco)

## May 2018

**Tuesday, May 1** — Register voters at Naturalization Ceremony, Federal Building, Richland

**Saturday, May 5**—Register voters at Cinco de Mayo Celebration, John Dam Plaza, Richland

**Thursday, May 17**— **Annual Meeting**, 5:30 pm, All Saints Episcopal Church (1322 Kimball Ave., Richland)

## June 2018

**Friday, June 1 – Sunday, June 3**— **State Council**, Shilo Inn (50 Comstock St., Richland)

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

League of Women Voters of  
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