



VOTER

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF BENTON & FRANKLIN COUNTIES

www.lwv-bf.org

From the President **JoAnn Bengtson**

KUDOs to our League membership!

As the November 6th general election results unfold, let us acknowledge the Benton Franklin League of Women Voters' activities in support of the democratic process. A shout out to Kay Ottem and Marilyn Perkins for heading up the candidate forums; Lora Rathbone and Toyoko Tsukuda for leading the Voter education seminars; multiple voter registration drives throughout the Tri-Cities with many League members assisting; a published letter to the editor; and multimedia coverage of the League's on-line voter guide, VOTE 411.org.

I look forward to a lively discussion of the election results and an evaluation of voter turnout at our next Table Talk on November 8th. A reminder: all are welcome at our monthly board meetings, and your input is invaluable as we look at local League strategy for 2019. See you there.

November 8th Table Talk **Marilyn Perkins**

For the last several years, our November table talk has been a discussion about the election. With this being a mid-term election that has received more attention than usual, there should be plenty to talk about. Besides what happens locally, we will discuss races and issues we find noteworthy. For example, in Florida, they will be voting on whether felons should be able to vote once they have served their term. Currently they are barred from ever voting again. This often changes, depending on who is elected governor.

If there are races or issues that have caught your attention, plan to share the outcome on Thursday, Nov. 8th. We will be meeting at Diane Molleson's home (4375 Kimberly Street, Richland), at 5:30 pm. A light supper will be provided, and a small donation of \$3 is suggested. Guests are welcome and interesting conversation is assured. (Continued on next page.)

November 2018

Officers

President:

JoAnn Bengtson

1st Vice President:

JoAnne Dimond

2nd 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

Judy Golberg

Sabiha Khan

Lisabeth Jimenez

Marilyn Perkins

Kelly Pflieger

November 8 Table Talk (continued from page 1)

If you would like to carpool or are willing to drive, contact Marilyn Perkins 783-8610 or jperkins.cougs@frontier.com

Directions: Take I-182 to Queensgate North, Exit 3B. Turn left on Duportail. Right on Keene, left on Tomich, and right on Kimberly Street. The house is the second from the end on the left. It has a red door. Street address: 4375 Kimberly. Call or text Diane at 554-7317 with any questions.

Candidate Forums

Marilyn Perkins

Our three candidate forums this fall covered the 8th, 9th and 16th legislative districts and the contested races in Benton and Franklin Counties. Unfortunately, not all the candidates were able to participate and that presented a problem for their opponents and for us to try to make it fair and help voters learn more about the candidates. All the forums were well attended and we are very grateful to the candidates who participated.

As always, these forums wouldn't be possible or reach as many people without the help of Mike Charboneau from the City of Richland, Jon Funfar from the City of Pasco and Bob Kreider, a volunteer who also helps with technical production.

A very special thanks to Kay Ottem who contacted all the candidates, sent out information about the format, and moderated two of the three forums. Karly Tinsley from KNDU was a guest moderator at one forum, and we very much appreciate her help. Every year there are new challenges and surprises, and next year we will be taking on the school board and city council races.

Links to View the Forums

Oct. 10: Candidates for the 9th and 16th Districts:

Go to <https://psctv.viebit.com> and click on the forum date.

Oct. 17: Candidates for Franklin County Commissioner, Auditor, Clerk and Coroner:

Go to <https://psctv.viebit.com> and click on the forum date.

Oct. 25: Candidates for the 8th District and Benton County Commissioner and Coroner:

<https://www.ci.richland.wa.us/departments/communications-and-marketing-office/cityview/watch-cityview>

Treasurer's Report

Shirley Sonnichsen

At the end of September, checking was \$3,066; savings was \$1,856 for a total of \$4,922.

Income: We received \$1,345 in dues and \$125 in member contributions. We also received a donation in memory of Paula Garland for \$500.

Expenses: The fees for the PayPal dues and donation were \$19.76. The 2nd quarter of the State PMP was paid for \$225.63.

Membership: We have new members Judy Blair, Heather Cunningham and Anne Collette, which brings our membership to 56. Total paid membership is 42. I will be sending out the latest membership list soon.

Checking: \$ 3,066
Savings: \$ 1,856
Total: \$4,922

Voter Education

Lora Rathbone

Our league tried something new this year and, with some growing pains, had some success. The idea to provide voter education came about when we realized that getting people registered to vote wasn't enough. League member Ruvine Jimenez told us that many ballots were thrown out due to not being signed as well as other issues.

Our Voter Education event held October 14 at the Richland Public Library exceeded expectations: the room was full, and people told us they learned a lot. This group of people included a few students, but mostly "experienced" voters. They especially appreciated the information on how to judge a candidate and "following the money trail." We owe Toyoko Tsukuda a big round of applause for putting it together and making a special trip to the Tri-Cities to make it happen.

We then decided to abbreviate the presentation, targeting new ESL voters, and hold a Voter Education event one hour prior to the candidate forum on October 25. We had Spanish and Arabic translators. No one attended; there had been little publicity for this event. We used the time to discuss how to get the word out to these populations. Currently a group who works with refugees is looking for a venue in Kennewick, possibly for October 30, so we may soon have another opportunity to provide our presentation.

On October 26, I attended the Harvest Fest held at Tierra Vida in Pasco and shared a table with the Tri-Cities Immigrant Coalition. We had a Spanish translator at that event. This was very successful. With her help and Ruvine's posters, we reached many people, encouraging them to vote and showing them the steps. We also discussed other ways to reach this population and decided that holding an event with childcare, children's activities and a brief voting presentation was the way to go.

Thanks again to Toyoko Tsukuda, as well as Ruvine Jimenez, Marilyn Perkins, Danette Keegan, Janet Nail, and our translators Donna Kary and Hala Abdelaal (and Philippa, Ana and Adam), for helping at these events. I think we agree that the league should plan to hold voter education events in the future with better publicity and new approaches. We learned that the Richland school district is willing to help get the word out to teachers, and we got an enthusiastic response from the RHS librarian. This will also help us in the league's next step —to line up teachers who would like our Civics education presentations. Let's form a team for an even better 2019!

Website Management / Facebook Administration

Judy Golberg

It would be most helpful to have two or three people capable of making changes to keep our website up to date. If you are curious and would like to know more, please contact me (Judy Golberg, jgolberg@charter.net or 509-627-5347). Lessons will be available on how to manage our League website, www.lwv-bf.org. This doesn't require learning computer language, just simple instructions!

Our Facebook page is another opportunity to volunteer. Adding interesting non-partisan articles, pictures, and responding to requests are all part of the administrative role of a Facebook page. If you like using Twitter or Instagram and would be willing to maintain our League's presence, this is an additional method to get the word out about our organization. Let me know if one of these social media programs is of interest.

Naturalization Ceremony

Marilyn Perkins

Besides being Election Day, Nov. 6th will be the last Naturalization ceremony for new citizens here in the Tri-Cities. It starts at 10 am at the Federal Building in Richland, and we help the county election official register the new voters. It is an inspiring ceremony to witness. If you would like to help register voters, contact Marilyn Perkins at 783-8610 or jperkins.cougs@frontier.com

From LWVWA: Voter Initiatives

The LWVWA supports the following:

Initiative 940 would require law enforcement officers to receive violence de-escalation and mental health training, provide first-aid, and amend the standards for justifiable use of deadly force.

Initiative 1639 would require increased background checks, firearm safety training, and waiting periods before semiautomatic assault rifles could be purchased. It includes other firearm-related requirements, such as keeping guns secured at home.

Initiative 1631 would impose pollution fees on certain large emitters of greenhouse gas starting in 2020. A public board would supervise spending the revenues to reduce pollution, promote clean energy, and address climate impacts to the environment and communities.

From LWVWA: Action Workshops

“LWVWA Action Workshops will once again offer an in-depth look at the upcoming legislative session, a chance to hear from local lawmakers and keynote speakers, information about key issues in Washington State, and ways to get involved in issues you are passionate about. Learn how you can advocate and gain the knowledge, skills, and confidence needed to defend our democracy.”

Action Workshop in **Seattle**: Nov 17, 9:30 am, 415 Westlake, Seattle

Action Workshop in **Spokane**: Dec 1, 9:30 am, The Women’s Club, 1428 W. 9th Ave, Spokane

Action Workshop in **Shoreline**: Jan 12, 2019, 9:30 am, Shoreline Community College, 16101 Greenwood Avenue, North Shoreline

More information at <https://lwvwa.org/events>

Holiday Party

Mark your calendars for **Sunday, Dec 9 from 1-3 pm** for our annual holiday party. It will be held at the home of Christine Grantham on Tripple Vista Drive in Kennewick. This year we will be gathering items to share in the community—gently used jackets or blankets, bags of toiletries for homeless shelters, and items for children. We are also planning to have a guest speaker who works with refugees or the homeless. More details will be in the December *VOTER*.

LWVBF Calendar

November 2018

Tuesday, November 6—Election Day!

Tuesday, November 6—Naturalization Ceremony, 10am, Federal Building, Richland

Thursday, November 8— Table Talk, 5:30 pm, Election Returns, Diane's home

Thursday, November 15—Board Meeting, 6 pm, BF Transit Center (1000 Columbia Park Trail). All members are welcome

December 2018

Sunday, December 9— Holiday Party, 1-3 pm, Christine's home

No Board Meeting

Email us at
lww.of.bf@gmail.com

League of Women Voters of
Benton & Franklin
Counties
P. O. Box 765,
Richland WA 99352