



Kitsap League Board

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Public Meeting

Homelessness:

Challenges in Kitsap

Guest Speakers: Monica Bernhard, Kirsten Jewell, David O. Frederick and Renee Kimball-Rouse

When: Saturday, April 22

Time: Noon to 2 p.m.

Where: Council Chambers, Poulsbo City Hall, 200 Moe St. NE

Mark Your Calendar

MARCH

March 26, "Effective Advocacy," 1 to 3 p.m., Central Kitsap Fire Station, 5300 NW Newberry Hill Road; contact Kim Abel

APRIL

April 1, Board Meeting, 10 a.m. to noon, Silverdale branch Kitsap Regional Library, 3450 NW Carlton St.

April 11, Suquamish Open House, 4 to 7 p.m. at the House of Awakened Culture in downtown Suquamish

April 12, SK Unit Meeting, 9 to 11 a.m., Port Orchard Library; contact Adrienne Davis

April 22, Homelessness Meeting, noon to 2 p.m., Poulsbo City Hall; contact Ann Smith.

April 26, BI Unit Meeting (topic is Bainbridge Homelessness and Affordable Housing), 2 to 4 p.m., home of Karen Faye

Please join us as we examine the plight of Kitsap's growing homeless population, focusing on the causes and extent of our current homelessness, its impact on individuals, and current programs and future plans to alleviate housing insecurity in Kitsap. Bring your friends and neighbors.

David O. Frederick is the executive director of Coffee Oasis, and Renee Kimball-Rouse will discuss her experiences with homelessness.

Monica Bernhard is the Director of Housing and Community Support Services for Kitsap Community Resources. She administers multiple programs providing assistance to low-income individuals and families across Kitsap County



Monica Bernhard

including Housing and Homeless Services, the Housing Solutions Center, Veterans Assistance Program, Weatherization Services and Energy assistance. Monica previously was the executive director of the Bremerton Foodline, grant accountant for the City of Poulsbo and spent more than 15 years in the private sector. She holds a bachelor's degree in business administration and a master's of science in finance.



Kirsten Jewell

Kirsten Jewell has worked with homeless and affordable housing programs in Kitsap County for more than a decade. As program coordinator of Housing and Homeless Services in Kitsap's Department of Human Services, she manages housing and homeless grant programs that fund

local homeless and housing efforts, oversees the state-mandated database for homeless clients and works with local groups on related projects.

Previously, Kirsten managed homeless housing program for the Kitsap Regional Coordinating Council, served on the Governor's State Advisory Council and many state and local nonprofit boards.

She holds a master's degree from the Evans School of Public Policy and Governance.

President's Corner

Welcome, spring (I hope)! On Sunday, March 26, we will present a meeting on "Effective Advocacy." This will be from 1 to 3 p.m. at the Central Kitsap Fire Station on Newberry Hill. Elected officials are invited as part of the program. This will be a great opportunity to learn about how to let your elected officials know your opinion on issues of interest and concern to you.

Please plan to attend the public meeting on Homelessness from noon to 2 p.m. on Saturday, April 22, at Poulsbo City Hall. We will hear from Monica Bernhard, Housing and Community Support Services Director for Kitsap Community Resources; Kirsten Jewell, Program Coordinator Housing & Homelessness Program

for Kitsap County; David O. Frederick, executive director of Coffee Oasis; and Renee Kimball-Rouse who will discuss her experiences with homelessness.

Our 2017 Annual Meeting will be from 9:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. Wednesday, May 17, once again at Island Center Community Hall. We will have a speaker from Planned Parenthood. Sharon Shrader, Gail Sackman and Carol Larsen are spearheading the silent auction. Like last year, we will donate the proceeds from the silent auction to a county nonprofit entity. Please email me with any thoughts as to which nonprofit we should choose.

We had such a good time with our Program Planning potluck that we decided to do another potluck for the Annual Meeting — start looking for some great recipes! See you all very soon.

Myra Howrey, LWV/K President

97th Birthday Party With LWV 101 Summary

Our February Birthday Party was well attended and an overview of LWV 101 was explained.

We divided into 4 groups for the discussion questions asked at the beginning of the LWV 101 sessions. The object is to get to know each other first. After some explanation of how the League works we then try to find out what the new members are interested in and how the League can best meet their expectations. Handouts were available.

Following group discussions, Kim Abel gave an impressive history of the League through the decades. Pam Hamon followed with an overview of how the League works at the national, state and local levels, and other members explained briefly projects the League has been involved with over the years.



Photo by Annie Strosnider

Our February meeting at Hostmark Apartments celebrated the 97th birthday of the national League of Women Voters.

Participants then were asked to indicate their area of greatest interest. High on the list was voter registration and helping with

candidate forums. Other areas included water issues, education/civics, environment, immigration, land use, climate change, resource conservation, health care, field trips, observer corps, lobby days, mental health, and how we can help critical thinking in the electorate.

We ended with a toast to the League at its 97th birthday and shared a wonderful birthday cake. Many agreed to do it again next year!

Additional LWV 101 sessions will be set up in April and May but the dates and times have yet to be decided upon. Two were held this year so far, one in Poulsbo and another in Port Orchard with 14 participants total. Although open to anyone,

email invitations are sent to all members who have joined in the past 3 years. Guests also are welcome.

Calendar From Page 1

April 26, NK Unit Meeting, Poulsbo Library, 10 a.m. to noon, CK members are welcome, contact Pam Hamon

MAY

May 6, Board Meeting, 10 a.m. to noon, Silverdale branch Kitsap Regional Library, 3450 NW Carlton St.

May 17, Annual Meeting, 9:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m., Island Lake Community Center, 1087 NW Island Lake Road

Please note: New Member bios will be included in May's Voter.

Committee

Members Sought

■ If you are interested in being on the **health committee** contact Pam Hamon.

■ Contact Betsy Cooper if you are interested in being on the **water issues committee**.

Unit Meetings

Be sure to check with your unit leader for any schedule changes.

■ **Bainbridge Island:** 4th Wednesday of the month, 2 to 4 p.m. at different members' homes; contact Maurie Louis.

■ **North Kitsap:** 4th Wednesday

of the month, 10 a.m. at Poulsbo Library, upstairs meeting room; Bremerton and Central Kitsap unit members are welcome; contact Pam Hamon.

■ **South Kitsap:** 2nd Wednesday of the month, 9 to 11 a.m. at the Port Orchard Library; contact Adrienne Davis.

South Kitsap Unit Meeting Report

The South Kitsap Unit meeting, March 8, focused on questions for the upcoming forum, Law Enforcement in the 21st Century, and suggestions for topics to discuss at unit meetings. Adrienne

Davis, unit leader, encouraged members to pick topics and lead discussions.

Annie Strosnider took questions to ask the sheriff and police chiefs participating in the forum.

Voter Registration

Voter registration will start up again this spring and summer.

Board Snippets — 03/4/17

1. Draft 2017-18 Budget was approved by the board with explanation detail to be added, and will

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It Was Standing Room Only at Policing Meeting

It was a wet and dreary evening, but 90 people braved the weather to attend our March 9 public meeting on “Law Enforcement in the 21st Century: A Kitsap Perspective” at Poulsbo City Hall. Kitsap County Sheriff Gary Simpson and local police chiefs spoke of local and national trends in crime. They all agreed that Kitsap County is in general a safe place to live and that opioid addiction, as well as heroin, methamphetamine and alcohol dependence, are causing some of their biggest problems. Like the rest of society, their officers must grapple with the social ills of homelessness, dysfunctional families and mental illness. They offered reassurance to those in the audience who said young children of immigrants are fearful that they or their parents may be deported. The chiefs do not see their officers as enforcers of federal laws; they have their hands full with local enforcement. They said they work cooperatively, unlike police agencies in some areas, and are always willing to speak to school groups or others who have questions about policing.

“It is certainly encouraging to hear that our main law enforcement officers are as sensitive as these men seem to be,” said Leaguer Eloise Andrus after attending the meeting.



Photos by Gary Beanland

Our March 9 program drew a standing-room crowd.



Our speakers were, from left, Police Capt. Tom Wolfe of Bremerton, Police Chief Dan Schoonmaker of Poulsbo, Kitsap County Sheriff Gary Simpson, Police Chief Geoffrey Marti of Port Orchard, Police Chief Matt Hamner of Bainbridge Island and Police Chief Mike Lasnier of the Suquamish Tribe.

Board Snippets From Page 2

be provided to the membership for the Annual Meeting.

2. As of May 4, LWV/K has 118 members.

3. The Board approved a recommended program item which will be provided to the membership for the Annual Meeting. A list of non-recommended items will also be provided. All these items were discussed at the January Program Planning Meeting.

4. The Bremerton Police Chief is unable to attend the March 9 Law Enforcement meeting, but will send a substitute speaker.

5. Planning for the March 26 meeting on “Effective Advocacy” is well under way.

6. The League has been invited to staff a table at the Suquamish Open House on April 11. We will register voters and provide TRYs.

7. Planning for the April 22 meeting on Homelessness is well under way.

8. The board will ask members for suggestions for nonprofits to receive donations from the Annual Meeting Auction and will make a final decision at the April board meeting.

9. Policy reviews are almost complete; final

discussion and approval will be at the April board meeting.

10. LWV/WA State Convention will be June 2-4 in Seattle. LWV/K can send the President and 5 delegates. All other members are welcome to attend as observers.

Effective Advocacy Proposals

At a recent League planning meeting, members wanted more information about how they could be effective in talking with their elected leaders. We are planning to meet this interest by holding a two-hour training entitled “Effective Advocacy” from 1 to 3 p.m. Sunday, March 26, at the the Central Kitsap Fire Station, 6470 Seabeck Highway, Bremerton.

The first part of the workshop will cover how to use League positions in your own community, at the state level and nationally. We will share how to get signed up to be a League advocate at the state and local level and then take some action on a League topic of your choosing.

We will end by learning best practices from those we lobby including **Kathryn Quade**, former Poulsbo City Councilperson and Mayor, Kitsap County Commissioner **Rob Gelder** and state Representative **Michelle Caldier** from the 26th Legislative District. They will share the best ways to reach out to them and their fellow electeds.

Please Be Advised

A reminder that at the National Convention in June, delegates changed the LWV/US Bylaws to permit non-citizens and anyone 16 years or older to become League members. This change was in Article III, and Articles I through III of our Bylaws must agree with LWV/US Bylaws. We received instructions from LWV/US that our members did not need to vote on this change since convention delegates already had done so. We made the appropriate change to our Bylaws that can be seen on the Members Only section of our website.

League of Women Voters
 of Kitsap County, WA
 P.O. Box 1524
 Poulsbo, WA 98370



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APRIL 2017 Voter

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Clip & Mail
Membership Levels

<p>_____ \$60 Basic Membership</p> <p>_____ \$90 Household Membership (2 or more members at the same address)</p> <p>_____ \$110 Carrie Chapman Catt Member (founder of League of Women Voters)</p> <p>_____ \$160 Jo Huey Member (first president of LWV/K)</p> <p>_____ Donation to Education Fund (only donations to the Education fund are tax-deductible)</p> <p>_____ \$30 Student Membership (includes State and National Membership)</p> <p>_____ Additional donation to support your local Kitsap League (Full or partial scholarships are available upon request.)</p>	<p>NAME _____</p> <p>ADDRESS _____</p> <p>_____</p> <p>EMAIL _____</p> <p>PHONE _____</p>
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I want to receive my Voter (newsletter)
 by _____ email or _____ regular mail.

Please make checks payable to LWV/Kitsap.
 Mail to: League of Women Voters/Kitsap
 P.O. Box 1524
 Poulsbo, WA 98370

**NOTE: Dues are payable in July. Members
 are notified well in advance.**