



The Kitsap

Voter

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS/KITSAP

FEBRUARY 2016

Kitsap League

Board

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LWV/K Program Planning General Meeting

Please join your fellow members in planning programs for the coming League year.

When: Feb. 17

Time: 9:30 a.m.

Where: Hostmark Apartments
Community Room,
703 NE Hostmark St.
in Poulsbo.

Info: Myra Howrey (contact information is available in your member directory)

Mark Your Calendar

JANUARY

Jan. 30: February board meeting (early for MIP consensus confirmation), 10 a.m. to noon, Poulsbo Library upstairs meeting room.

FEBRUARY

Feb. 17: Program Planning General Meeting, 9:30 a.m., Hostmark Community Room, 703 NE Hostmark St., Poulsbo. Contact person, Myra Howrey.

Feb. 24: North Kitsap Unit Meeting, 10 a.m., Hostmark Community Room, 703 NE Hostmark St., Poulsbo. Contact person, Pam Hamon

MARCH

March 5: Board meeting, Poulsbo Library upstairs meeting room, 10 a.m. to noon.

LWV/US Program Planning:

Background and National Board Input

National Program Planning will culminate with adoption of a program of education and action at LWV/US Convention 2016 in Washington, D.C. The input of League boards will help shape the proposed program of study and action that will be submitted to convention delegates for debate and adoption.

Program planning is a valuable League tool for identifying issues for focus and for insuring that League resources, human and financial, from our grassroots volunteers to our professional staff, are engaged where they have the most impact. This process is appropriate for all three levels of League. State Leagues undertake program planning before state conventions where a program of education and advocacy for the state League is adopted for the following biennium. Local Leagues do program planning before their annual meetings where local program is adopted.

See Planning page 2

President's Corner

Happy birthday to the League of Women Voters! Our birthdate was February 14, 1920 — just amazing to think that in four more years, we will be part of a 100-year-old organization. The League is a grassroots organization in the truest sense of the word and on February 17, you will have a chance to participate in one of the most basic parts of what we do: Program Planning. We will look at our own local positions and discussing whether we need to retain or expand them or perhaps we will decide on a new area of study, action or emphasis. Bring your thoughts and ideas with you to this meeting.

Last year at our Annual Meeting, members adopted a Local Public Transportation Study

and the transportation committee is working hard on developing background information on the subject for our members. This committee is actively looking for more people to help in the study process, so please, if you are interested, contact Phyllis Mann.

We also will look at national positions in advance of the National Convention in June. Are there some positions that are no longer relevant? Do we want the National League to conduct a new study? All of us who participated in the Constitutional Amendment Study and the Money in Politics Study certainly learned a lot and gained a greater grasp on those important issues.

The Program Planning meeting can be a wonderful way to introduce potential new members to the League process. Even though non-members cannot vote at the meeting, what

better way for someone to learn about the wide range of issues that the League works on? What better way to find out what the issues are than non-members are interested in working on? Invite your non-League friends to be a part of this important process.

Here is some homework in advance of our Program Planning meeting on February 17:

“Think of a time when you advocated for a change using a League position ...

- How did this experience make you feel?
- How did this experience change your connection to League? Your community?
- What was the outcome?
- How can you advocate for positive change in your League?”

See you all at 9:30 a.m. February 17 at the Hostmark Community Room in Poulsbo. Myra Howrey, Board President

We Need Your Help During This Election Year

It's 2016, a presidential election year, and it is going to be a very busy year for the League of Women Voters. This means we need your help. Whether it be for just one small task or for many small tasks or for a somewhat bigger task — please volunteer to help out. It is the simple truth that the more volunteers we get the less each volunteer has to do.

Here are just some of the areas where we really need help during this election year.

- Voter Registration activities (working registration tables, deciding where to locate registration tables, setting up the tables, etc.)
- Voter Turnout activities (working remember to vote tables, deciding where to locate remember to vote tables, creating information

materials to have available at the remember to vote tables, etc.)

- Candidate Forum activities (Invite candidates, determine dates, reserve venues, publicize, greeters, time keepers, facilitators, etc.)
- Public event promotion activities (Submit newspaper public releases, newspaper and online event calendars, flyers, radio announcements, etc.)
- Writing promotion materials (Write the releases that others will submit to newspapers, online event calendars, etc.)
- Designing eye-catching flyers

As you can see, there are many things that need to be done. It will be up to you how much

or how little time you choose to donate. Every little bit will be greatly appreciated.

Please call Maurie Louis (her number is in the member directory) to join our pool of volunteers during this extraordinary election year.

Ballotpedia, Judgepedia, VOTE411

Ballotpedia, Judgepedia, and VOTE411 are three great sources for candidates, issues and voting information.

Ballotpedia (ballotpedia.org) is the online encyclopedia of American politics and elections. Their goal is to inform people about politics by providing accurate *See Sources page 5*

Planning

From page 1

For the upcoming biennium, the LWV/US Board suggests taking a close look at our current positions as found in Impact on Issues (<http://lww.org/content/impact-issues>) and, in some cases, in state and local program books. We have a many positions in several areas.

Over the years, we have studied and come to consensus on topics within Representative Government, International Relations, Natural Resources, and Social Policy. We need to more fully utilize the positions we have. We suggest Leagues apply our current positions while also basing action on

League Principles.

When looking at our positions as a whole, it is clear that a main goal for which we are striving is Making Democracy Work®. Voting rights, voter protection and service, and election reform are crucial elements in achieving the goal, and the League is particularly noted for action in these areas. Currently, as part of the three-part Key Structures of Democracy program adopted at the 2014 Convention, Leagues nationwide are: engaging in the Money in Politics Review and Update of LWV's campaign finance position, studying the process of amending the U.S. Constitution; and reviewing the redistricting process for

U.S. Congress, through the existing Redistricting Task Force, for the purpose of developing action steps.

We are ready to more fully engage in these issues to further our efforts in a campaign: Making Democracy Work®. The LWV/US Board asks you to consider seizing the opportunity for Leagues nationwide to meet this critical challenge.

To free up resources and unite Leagues across the country, we must focus. We suggest that, during your program planning efforts, you strongly consider the need to act versus adding new studies or reviews to the agenda for the 2016-2018 biennium. Let's focus on taking action.

Member Spotlight - Susanne Hughes

Sue Hughes is one of our League's most active members. She is a past local and state board member and is currently the LWV State Coordinator for the membership and Leadership development program.

On Jan. 7, she was part of the interview panel for the new Kitsap County Community Development Director. The County Commissioners asked for LWV/K to be a part of the panel. She also is continuing in her role as a community member on the Kitsap Sun Editorial Board for the year 2016.

She represented the League on the State Department of Health Suicide Prevention Steering Committee and helped develop a new Washington State Suicide Prevention Plan that was presented to the governor and legislature on Nov. 15, 2015.



(Member Spotlight is a new feature in the Voter. If you would like to suggest yourself or someone else for the spotlight, please send information and a photo if possible to astrosnider@mac.com.)

Meet Our New Leaguers

Gail Sackman of Silverdale joined because she loves politics and current events. Now that she is retired she has time to delve into the issues and is very interested in helping with League efforts to get out the vote. She moved to Kitsap County from Wyoming in 1991 to be principal of a school in Bremerton, then left after about 15 years to become a school superintendent in Grays Harbor County. After six years there she retired and moved back to Kitsap where she plans to stay. She volunteers with the Boys and Girls Club in Bremerton and has two grown children and one granddaughter.

Kim Fox moved to Bainbridge Island from the Bay Area about a year ago and is ready to get involved in the League. She's a friend of Maurie Louis and has agreed to be Maurie's tech support partner and to help with the state League's GOTV (get out the vote) efforts. Kim retired from EMC, a large hardware and software storage company, where she focused on customer satisfaction. Besides League, she's taking classes to become a Master Gardener and has taken up tennis. She and her husband, Jim, have a 21-year-old daughter, Alex, who will graduate from college this year.

Dr. Paul Dutky of Bremerton, a retired emergency physician, was inspired to join the League because we hosted "an informed discussion of the dangers of big money in our elections process." He was until recently on the board of WAmend and helped write the wording for Initiative 735. The initiative, which calls for a Constitutional amendment to end corporate personhood and get money out of politics, has qualified for the November ballot. He is interested in non-motorized transportation issues and election reform. He has lived in Kitsap since 1991 and is a past president of the Peninsula Wilderness Club, current president of the West Sound Cycling Club and current chair of the Kitsap County Non-Motorized Facilities Citizen's Advisory Committee.

ON THE WEB

Find all our local League news, meeting notices, reminders and publications online on Facebook or our website, www.lwvwa.org/kitsap. Be sure to 'like' us on Facebook.

Remembering Two True Leaguers

Sadly, our Kitsap League lost two of its active and highly accomplished members this past December. Lucy Johnson and Luella Wells, both long time League members, were models of what the League hopes to cultivate: active and knowledgeable leaders and involved, committed citizens.

A Life LWV member, **Lucy Johnson** joined our League about 10 years ago after relocating to Kitsap to be close to family. Active in both LWV and local civic affairs, Lucy served on the Greenwich (CT) School Board, on the Greenwich Fair Housing Coalition and on the Connecticut Permanent Commission on the Status of Women. She helped organize a League study of health care issues in Greenwich and assisted our League with its survey of health care access here in Kitsap. Lucy's passions, other than politics, included books, photography, art and travel, especially to Africa, which she visited seven times.

Luella Wells joined our League in 1997. Prior to moving to Kitsap, Luella served on the Dane (WI) County Board of Supervisors and as President of her local LWV. With a master's degree in Urban Planning, Luella developed an expertise on transportation issues, serving with distinction on transportation boards in Wisconsin and Washington State where she represented the LWV/WA as a member of the Puget Sound Regional Council's transportation board. Luella and her husband shared a life-long interest in music and opera, especially Italian opera. Her prized possession was her antique piano forte.

LWV/K Board Meetings

Want to know what the LWV/K Board of Directors is all about? Are you curious as to what exactly it is that we do every month – how we conduct the business of your league and make decisions? Please join us — members always are welcome to attend our monthly board meetings. For information, contact Myra.

Members' Personal Contact Information

Because of some instances of unpleasant and/or inappropriate emails directed to board members from some community members, the board made the decision to remove all personal contact information from our monthly Voter. We are working towards developing a "Members Only" - password protected - section of our website where the complete member list can be posted. All members should have also received their printed copy of the Member Directory, which can be used to contact any member of the Kitsap league. The Voter does have a general email address where the public can contact us with questions or concerns and this email address is being regularly monitored.

Want to Serve?

There are several openings in 2016 for Kitsap County Boards and Commissions that Kitsap League members may wish to apply for — including the Planning Commission. Applicants should mention they are LWV/K members.

Online applications are available at kitsap.gov/volunteer/current.htm and by calling the Kitsap County Volunteer Service at 360-337-4650 or rpirtle@co.kitsap.wa.us. Deadlines are not mentioned but most likely would be sometime in January.

LWV/Kitsap Positions — 2015-2016

NATURAL RESOURCES

LAND USE

Position in Brief: Support the orderly development of Kitsap County in a manner that provides a variety of urban and non-urban environments while preserving the integrity of the environment and the county's natural resources as well as minimizing the public cost of providing services.

Statement of Position: We support management of land as a finite resource, not as a commodity, since we believe that land ownership, whether public or private, carries responsibility for stewardship. In resolving conflicts between public and private property rights, we believe the criteria to be considered are uniqueness or scarcity, importance to the community as a whole, promotion of health, safety and welfare, and the irreversibility of decision.

■ Support the goal of maintaining, so far as possible, the rural character of Kitsap County. Foster appropriate population densities in rural areas, including the elimination of bonus densities in Planned Unit Developments.

■ Support preservation of open space, agricultural land, forest and woodland, and the requirement and protection of green belts between different land uses.

■ Encourage long-range planning that results in urban concentration (particularly in areas considered transportation hubs), reinforces existing community identities, and allows opportunities for industrial development and the provision of housing for people of all income levels.

All known factors should be considered in a consistent, logical manner in making land use decisions, with emphasis on the availability and protection of water resources and the protection of Critical Areas, wetlands, recharge areas, fish and wildlife habitat, flood and geologically hazardous areas.

OPEN SPACE, PARKS AND RECREATION

Position in Brief: Support acquisition of open space, park and recreation lands, and provision of funds to develop, maintain, preserve and operate such areas.

WATER RESOURCES

Position in Brief: Support measures to ensure adequate and safe water supplies for county residents.

Statement of Position: Promote coordinated planning and management of surface and groundwater resources to meet the needs of current and projected population. Support implementation of the wellhead protection program and measuring of water use. Support waste management practices that protect regional water quality.

All land use decisions must consider the protection of wetlands and critical recharge areas. Support purchase or other protection of open space lands that may serve a recharge function. Support educational programs related to water use and encourage individual and government conservation efforts.

GOVERNMENT

COUNTY GOVERNMENT STRUCTURE

Position in Brief: The League of Women Voters of Kitsap supports measures that improve county government responsiveness to the people, provide for a greater separation of powers, promote administrative efficiency, increase the size of the legislative body to reflect population growth, and promote intergovernmental coordination.

Statement of Position: The League of Women Voters of Kitsap supports measures that:

■ Encourage an informed and active citizenry. Comprehensive information as to the operation of county government should be readily available from trained, courteous personnel, from websites and print publications.

Opportunities for citizen comment on and review of legislative and administrative decisions should be provided wherever appropriate. We do not, however, support institution of a people's initiative and/or referendum procedure at the county level of government.

■ Strengthen the separation between legislative and administrative functions of county government, providing clear lines

of authority and assignment of responsibilities.

■ Increase the size of the legislative body to reflect population growth. In choosing members of this body, we support the process of nomination by district in a primary election to office by a vote of all county voters in the general election.

■ Promote intergovernmental cooperation and coordination.

BAINBRIDGE ISLAND, POULSBO, BREMERTON AND PORT ORCHARD MUNICIPAL GOVERNMENT

Position in Brief: Support procedural changes in local government that will improve efficiency, provide checks and balances, promote intergovernmental cooperation, and increase citizen confidence.

SUSTAINABILITY

Position in Brief: A sustainable community respects its own diversity, values the complexity of the natural world, and accepts responsibility for the social, economic, and ecological wellbeing of present and future generations through individual and collective actions. It advocates an economy that equitably provides satisfying livelihoods in a safe, healthy environment that protects its natural resource base and the viability of natural systems on which all life depends. It balances regenerative and degenerative resources by applying the following principles:

- 1) rates of use of renewable resources do not exceed their rates of regeneration.
- 2) rates of nonrenewable resources do not exceed the rate at which sustainable renewable substitutes are developed.
- 3) rates of pollution emission do not exceed the assimilative capacity of the environment.

Statement of Position:

Specifically Sustainable Communities:

- 1) have levels of pollution, consumption and population size that are in keeping with regional carrying capacity;
- 2) share an ethic of responsibility to each other and to future generations;
- 3) reflect the social and environmental costs of the provision of goods and service in the prices charged for them;
- 4) encourage informed democratic participation and deliberation in their system of governance, education and civic leadership;
- 5) enhance neighborhood livability and access to green space in their design markets, land use and architecture;
- 6) make sure that housing is affordable and interrelated with employment, recreation and shopping areas;
- 7) integrate principles of sustainability into the community's Comprehensive Plan and other planning policies and procedures;
- 8) foster business development policies and procedures that support a sustainable community;
- 9) encourage inter-jurisdictional planning that supports a sustainable community; and
- 10) encourage innovative and creative approaches to sustainability.

Sources

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and objective information about politics at all levels of government.

They are firmly committed to neutrality. Ballotpedia's articles are 100 percent written by their professional staff and a small group of guest editors. All content written by their guest editors is reviewed and fact-checked by their staff. Ballotpedia has an editorial staff of more than 50 writers and researchers. It covers local, state and federal politics. Its content includes neutral, accurate, and verifiable information on government officials and the offices they hold, political issues and public policy, elections, candidates, and the influencers of politics. Ballotpedia currently

has more than 220,000 encyclopedic articles.

Judgepedia (ballotpedia.org/Judgepedia) is a project on Ballotpedia that provides information about the federal and state judiciaries. Judgepedia's mission was to connect people to politics while serving as an objective and useful source of information about the judiciary. Judgepedia was composed of two projects, the Federal Courts Project and the State Court Project. The Federal Courts Project focuses on federal judges at all levels of the courts. It covers judicial transitions and federal vacancies on the Supreme Court of the United States, Court of Appeals, District Courts, Bankruptcy Courts, special jurisdiction courts, and territorial courts. This project also covers notable federal judicial legislation, the United States Department of Justice,

the District of Columbia, and federal judicial nominations by the president. Each Wednesday, the Federal Courts Project releases the Federal Vacancy Count, a unique look at vacancies on the courts. The State Courts Project focuses on courts under state, county and local jurisdiction. This project covers courts and judges in all 50 states, in addition to judicial elections, judicial selection, disciplinary agencies, budgets and judicial salaries, among others.

VOTE411.org is a "one-stop-shop" for election related information. It was launched by the League of Women Voters Education Fund in October 2006. VOTE411 provides nonpartisan information to the public with both general and state-specific information on several aspects of the election process.

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



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FEBRUARY 2016 Voter

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Clip & Mail
Membership Levels

_____ **\$60 Basic Membership**

_____ **\$90 Household Membership**

(2 or more members at the same address)

_____ **\$110 Carrie Chapman Catt Member**

(founder of League of Women Voters)

_____ **\$160 Jo Huey Member**

(first president of LWV/K)

_____ **Donation to Education Fund**

(only donations to the Education fund
are tax-deductible)

_____ **\$30 Student Membership**

(includes State and National Membership)

_____ Additional donation to support our
local Kitsap League

Please make checks payable to LWV/Kitsap.
Send to:

League of Women Voters/Kitsap

P.O. Box 1524

Poulsbo, WA 98370

NOTE TO MEMBERS

Dues are payable in July.

Members are notified well in advance.

(Full or partial scholarships are available upon request.)