



The Kitsap

Voter

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF KITSAP

JANUARY 2019

LWVUS

Mission Statement:

Empowering voters.
Defending democracy.

Vision Statement:

We envision a democracy where every person has the desire, the right, the knowledge and the confidence to participate.

The LWV does not support or oppose any candidate or political party.

LWV Kitsap Program Planning

When: Wednesday, Jan. 30

Time: 10 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

Where: Poulsbo Library
large meeting room
(lower level)
700 NE Lincoln Road

Come help us shape League's work for 2019.
See the President's Corner on Page 2
for complete information and links
to our existing positions.

Mark Your Calendar

JANUARY

Jan. 5, Board meeting, 10 a.m. to noon, St. Paul's Episcopal Church, 700 Callahan Ave., Bremerton

Jan. 16, League 101, 10 a.m. to noon, Poulsbo Library

Jan. 23, BI Unit meeting, 10 a.m. to noon, Bainbridge Library; discussion of zoning issues as well as Program Planning

Jan. 23, North Kitsap Unit meeting, 10 a.m. to noon, Poulsbo Library; Program Planning discussion; contact Pam Hamon

Jan. 26, Bremerton/CK Unit
See CALENDAR on Page 7



Photos by Annie Strosnider

We had a banner year for voter registration in 2018 with volunteers including, above from left, Lynn Collins, Jeannie Allen and Becky Drotz, signing up hundreds of new voters at South Kitsap High School. Come to the Program Planning meeting Jan. 30 to help shape our plans for 2019.

Left, Martha Burke, dressed as Mother Nature, argues passionately in favor of the carbon tax initiative as a skeptical Leni Skarin listens.

President's Corner

Each year, LWV Kitsap hosts a Program Planning general meeting in January. The purpose of this meeting is for all members to gather together and share ideas about what our League might want to work on in the next League year. We call this the Program of Work. Every other year, we also share ideas to forward to the LWVWA Convention or the LWVUS Convention. The ideas we come up with at our Program Planning general meeting will be forwarded to the LWVK board of directors and then to the LWVWA (or LWVUS) board depending on which convention is upcoming. Local ideas will be forwarded to the LWV Kitsap Annual Meeting. At this year's Program Planning general meeting, we will all be given a chance to 'vote' for our favorite ideas. That 'vote' will help inform the board about the most popular ideas from the meeting as they make their decisions about what to send to the LWVWA board and also to our Annual Meeting.

Ideas can be categorized in several areas: Education (both League and Public), Study or Action. It is very helpful for all of us to review the LWV Kitsap positions prior

to the January Program Planning meeting, and also, for this year, because we have a state convention in June, the LWVWA positions. (State and National positions in detail can be found at the following link, <https://www.lwvwa.org/league-positions>)

League positions form the basis of all League action and are derived from member study and agreement. Through study members have the opportunity to become informed before making decisions about the governmental issue under consideration. Agreement can be reached either by consensus, that is by determining the overall sense of the group as expressed through the exchange of ideas or by concurrence, a vote on a position statement.

Program planning discussion has been occurring at unit meetings as well, so please bring those ideas with you to the meeting on January 30. If you are going to propose an item for consideration, please come prepared with a detailed plan, complete with scope of work and potential committee members (see below). That will help members and the board know what is intended and who is available to work on it. See you all on Jan. 30.

Myra Howrey, LWVK President

What We're Reading

LWVK offers a peek into what our members are reading. Here is what a member is reading:

■ **"Dear America: Notes from an Undocumented Citizen"** by Jose Antonio Vargas. Here's a brief synopsis:

"My name is Jose Antonio Vargas. I was born in the Philippines. When I was 12, my mother sent me to the United States to live with her parents. While applying for a driver's permit, I found out my papers were fake. More than two decades later, I am still here illegally, with no clear path to American citizenship. To some people, I am the "most famous illegal" in America. In my mind, I am only one of an estimated 11 million human beings whose uncertain fate is under threat in a country I call my home. This is not a book about the politics of immigration. This book — at its core



— is not about immigration at all. This book is about homelessness, not in a traditional sense, but about the unsettled, unmoored psychological state in which undocumented immigrants like me find ourselves. This book is about lying and being forced to lie to get by; about passing as an American and as a contributing citizen; about families, keeping them together, and having to make new ones when you can't. This book is about what it means to not have a home."

Let us know what your suggestions are ... we want to continue sharing our love of reading to the rest you.

When you come to the Program Planning meeting with your ideas and energy, please ask yourself the following questions:

- 1) Are you proposing:
 - a. A new study?
 - b. An update, Action, or Citizen education based on an existing position?
 - c. Perhaps you are proposing Concurrence with another League's position?
- 2) How much time will this project take?
- 3) What possible sources of information are available?
- 4) Do you have members eager and willing to work on this project? Are you willing to take the lead on this project?
- 5) Is this a subject of vital importance to our community now?
- 6) Is this a subject where League's special expertise or perspective would be valuable?
- 7) Is this an issue that can more likely result in positive changes when informed citizens work on them? Is there a way to evaluate results?
- 8) Are there other groups in the community that we can collaborate with?
- 9) Is there a topic that you feel would be of educational interest to our community? Look at the topics we have heard about this year. Are there others?

Immigration Forum Sparks Lively Discussion



Photos by Annie Strosnider

Above, audience members said they learned a lot about immigration in Kitsap County at our Nov. 10 program.

At left, speakers were, from left, Martitha May, Mitchell Riese, Ray Garrido and Diana Soria.

The Diversity, Equity & Inclusion Committee organized a well-attended public education program on Immigration Today. The Nov. 10 event at the Norm Dicks Government Center in Bremerton covered immigration law along with recent rules changes and their impact on local immigrants and agencies. Our speakers were Mitchell Riese, a Washington State assistant attorney general in the Civil Rights Division; Ray Garrido, director of legal services for the Kitsap Immigration Assistance Center; Martitha May, director of Kitsap Mesa Redonda and co-founder of KIAC; and Diana Soria, a DACA (Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals) recipient. A big thank-you to our presenters and to all the League members who helped organize this program, with special gratitude for the work of members of the

Program and Publicity committees.

The audience of about 60 participants had many good questions and reported their appreciation for the information shared by the four panelists. In the evaluations, many mentioned specific things that they had learned including immigrant legal rights cases undertaken by the state Attorney General's office, ways to help immigrant families, and the many services provided by local Kitsap agencies. Several audience members shared information in response to questions, including clarification that undocumented immigrants are not eligible for any public assistance services but their children born in the U.S. may receive support such as Medicaid.

The committee continues to explore ways to educate and inform themselves, other League members and the public about the status of equity and inclusion among diverse populations in our area and in the League itself.

— Leni Skarin

Mayors, Commissioners Join Us for Holiday Meet and Greet

Photos and story
by Annie Strosnider

Our 2018 Holiday Meet and Greet on Dec. 8 brought about 55 League members and guests to Ambrosia Catering in Bremerton for a wide-ranging discussion of Pressures of Population Growth in Kitsap County. Moderator Linda Streissguth posed questions to local mayors, including Greg Wheeler of Bremerton, Kol Medina of Bainbridge Island and Becky Erickson of Poulsbo and all three county commissioners, Charlotte Garrido, Ed Wolfe and Rob Gelder.



Voter Registration Recap

Many thanks to the 40 volunteers who helped with our voter registration effort. This year we registered 554 people including 17-year-olds and those who were given forms to take home.

Special thanks to Robin Muir for running National Voter Registration Day during which 26 volunteers were at nine sites and registered 66 people. An additional 82 took forms home and addresses were changed for 16.

Kudos also go to South Kitsap Unit members Becky Drotz, Janet Stegemeyer, Jeannie Allen and her husband Darrel, Lynn Collins, and Adrienne Davis, who registered 159 students at South Kitsap High and Discovery schools in the fall. This included 93 forms sent home with students to be filled out on their own. In addition, they already had registered 175 students in the spring!

According to the LWVWA Voter for November, Kitsap had a 72.43 percent turn-out this year, which is higher than the state total of 71.83 percent!

Eleven of our members met to review our voter registration effort and came up with many ideas for improvement. A few include: 1) setting up small teams to regularly work with both Coffee Oasis youth and Kitsap Immigration Assistance Center to talk about the importance of voting, democracy and elections; 2) form small groups of members for each farmers market to contact them before they open in the spring and hopefully set up tables on a regular basis; 3) develop a condensed and easy to understand pamphlet explaining the various candidate positions and ballot issues. These can be updated each year; 4) coordinate with the Kitsap Regional Libraries to hopefully develop a regular education program on civics and elections. This will be particularly important in 2020; and 5) develop a YouTube video that encourages youth to vote. This would be similar to what the South Kitsap High School video class has already done.

Please contact Pam Hamon if anyone is interested in working in one of these areas or wants to read our entire list of 33 ideas.
— Pam Hamon, Chair

Action Workshop Registration Open

When: Jan. 12

Time: 9:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.

Where: Shoreline Community College
16101 Greenwood Ave. No.
Shoreline, WA 98133

LWVWA Action Workshops once again will 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 that you are passionate about. Learn how you can advocate and gain the knowledge, skills, and confidence needed to defend our democracy. For information and to sign up, go online to www.lwvwa.org/.

Catherine Ahl will attend and would love to have Kitsap Leaguers join her.

Board Snippets: 12/01/18

1. Current membership is 167
2. Recap of November Immigration meeting
3. Finalized plans for Dec. 8 Meet and Greet
4. Discussed plans for meetings in January through May.

LWVK Units

■ SK Unit

The South Kitsap Unit now meets on the second Mondays at 9 a.m. at the Port Orchard Library. We have programs related to interests such as citizenship training

and test questions, the Constitution, how bills become laws in Washington, and books, such as "Impeachment: A Citizens Guide" and the like.

■ NK Unit

The North Kitsap Unit meets from 10 a.m. to noon at the Poulsbo Library; for information, contact Pam Hamon

■ Bremerton/CK Unit

The Bremerton/CK Unit (new) meets the last Saturday of January from 10 a.m. to noon at Andy and Cindy's Diner in Bremerton; for information, contact Maureen Cervinsky.

Housing Committee Report

More than 200 pairs of socks have been donated by League members and friends to cold weather shelter residents. The first batch along with protein bars was handed out at the cold weather shelter in South Kitsap and the rest of the gifts will be delivered to the Salvation Army before Christmas. The Housing Committee thanks everyone for their generosity.

The committee organized five community education meetings to inform residents about tiny cabin villages. The last session was Nov. 15 at the Port Orchard Church of Christ. The pilot village planned for South Kitsap has been delayed in part because of the extensive land use permitting and review process.

The committee is still available to help educate the community on this transitional housing option but is considering working on other homeless projects under way in the county.

— Sue Hughes, Chair

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meeting, 10 a.m. to noon, Andy and Cindy's Diner, 3561 Wheaton Way, Bremerton; contact Maureen Cervinsky

Jan. 28, South Kitsap Unit meeting, 9 a.m., Port Orchard Library; brainstorm ideas for Program Planning meeting; contact Adrienne Davis

Jan. 30, Program Planning meeting, 9:30 a.m. to noon at

Poulsbo Library in lower meeting room

FEBRUARY — Culverts; public meeting

MARCH — Opioid Use Disorder; public meeting

APRIL — Truth vs. Misinformation; public meeting

MAY — Annual meeting

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



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LWV Kitsap Committees and Current Chairs

Civics Committee — Catherine Ahl, chair
Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Committee — Jeannie Allen and Leni Skarin, co-chairs
Health Care Committee — Jessica Guidry, chair
Housing Committee — Sue Hughes, chair
Materials Committee — Annie Strosnider, chair
Program Committee — Lydia Olsen, chair
Publicity Committee — Annie Strosnider, chair
Voter Service Committee — Pam Hamon and Shelley Kneip, co-chairs (Voter registration, Voter forums and Get Out the Vote)
Water Committee — Betsy Cooper, chair
Website Committee — Maurie Louis, chair

Housing Tip

Happy New Years to all and a big thank you for all the sock donations! They were gratefully received by the men, women and children at the severe weather shelter in Port Orchard. For this month, consider donating to the Salvation Army or the Rescue Mission in Bremerton. These maintain their shelters throughout the winter and can use any help we can give them.

The need continues to be great. — Connie Syapin

Regularly Scheduled Events/Meetings Unit Meetings

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

Bainbridge Island: 4th Wednesday of the month, 10 a.m. to noon, downstairs meeting room of Bainbridge Library; contact Maurie Louis

Bremerton/CK: Last Saturday of January, 10 a.m. to noon, Andy and Cindy's Diner, 3561 Wheaton Way, Bremerton; contact Maureen Cervinsky

North Kitsap: 4th Wednesday of the month, 10 a.m., location TBD; Bremerton and CK unit members are welcome; contact Pam Hamon

South Kitsap: 2nd Monday of the month, 9 a.m. at Port Orchard Library; Bremerton and CK unit members are welcome; contact Adrienne Davis

Board Meetings

The board meets the first Saturday of each month. All League members are welcome.