



The Kitsap

Voter

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS/KITSAP

MARCH 2016

Kitsap League Board

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Public Transportation General Meeting

When: March 16

Time: 9:30 a.m. to noon

Where: Poulsbo Library,
downstairs meeting room,
700 NE Lincoln St.

Speaker: John Clauson, Executive Director,
Kitsap Transit

Topic: Overview and future plans

Info: Phyllis Mann (contact information
is available in your directory)

Mark Your Calendar

MARCH

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

March 16: General Meeting on Public Transportation, 9:30 a.m. to noon, Poulsbo Library downstairs meeting room; John Clauson, Kitsap Transit Executive Director to speak. Contact person: Phyllis Mann.

March 23: North Kitsap Unit Meeting, 10 a.m., Hostmark Community Room, 703 NE Hostmark St., Poulsbo. Contact person: Pam Hamon. *Calendar Cont'd on page 2*



John Clauson

John Clauson has worked at Kitsap Transit since 1983 and has served as executive director there since 2012. He continues to include passenger-only ferry service in the equation for transportation choices for the county. Under his leadership, Kitsap Transit completed the wake study for the cross-sound passenger-only ferry from Bremerton Seattle and is in the midst of Phase Two of the POF Business Plan Development.

Mark Your Calendar: Annual Meeting Auction

It is time to start thinking about your contribution to the Silent Auction we have every year at our Annual Meeting. This year's Annual Meeting is at Island Lake on May 25. Future Voters will provide details.

The auction always is fun thanks to members' generosity. Sue Hughes has offered to arrange this year's auction and welcomes your help. This year the Board asks that member donations be limited to the following: Books, indoor or outdoor plants, freshly baked goods, and events such as a lunch for four or a wine tasting party. Please ask Sue if you have a question about this. If anyone needs help transporting their item Sue can pick up your donation and deliver it the day of the meeting. Otherwise, please bring your item with you.



Countdown to Kitsap Great Give on May 3, 2016.
www.kitsapgreatgive.org

President's Corner

Is March going to come in like a lion and out like a lamb? (I'm hoping for the lamb to appear first!) I have several items of interest to tell you about this month:

At the Membership Committee meeting, it was decided that since the Voter is posted to our website and thus readily available to the public, we would no longer charge for mailed copies. This was formerly shown on our dues notice as the \$30 non-member local newsletter option.

Coming soon: Join LWV/K, renew your dues or make donations to LWV/K from our website! We will let you know when this new feature is up and running. There now is a member's only section on our website, which is password protected. You should have received an email giving you the password for access to this section which contains contact information for all of our members. There is a section for you to let us know of any corrections that need to be made to the master list. We have also posted a link to the consensus results for both the Constitutional Amendment and Money in Politics studies. Anyone wanting a paper copy of either of these documents, please contact Kim Abel.

We will learn about transportation issues at our meeting on March 16, with John Clauson from Kitsap Transit, who will give us an overview of the system and plans for the future. We hope to see everyone there! Contact your unit leader if you need a ride.

You have all noticed, I am sure, that when you receive your dues renewal notices or on the back page of your monthly Voter, there are several membership categories. I recently was asked to explain these categories which I am happy to do. Years ago, the board decided to develop these membership categories as a way to encourage members to make donations in addition to paying their yearly dues. We looked at some other league's membership categories while deciding how to develop our own. I am sure you all understand why we included the Carrie Chapman Catt category since she was the founder of the league.

And then there is the Jo Huey category — and we tell you that Jo was the first president of the Kitsap League. But most of you do not know anything about Jo — who was a wonderful woman. With this in mind, I asked Ardis Morrow, who knew Jo well, to tell us all about her. Thank you very much, Ardis, for this wonderful tribute. All of us who knew Jo loved her very much.

“Our first Kitsap County LWV president had our respect first of all. Her infectious attitude gathered women eager to become members. Once she was a member, her thoughtful deliberation convinced others to join her as Board Members. Serious and reasonable discussion encouraged participation and good suggestions for study items. Her background as a teacher encouraged thorough analysis and resulted in easily supported positions.

“One of our first actions was to at-

tend public meetings, which was almost unheard of at that time. She encouraged each of us to select a public meeting in our local area and then if we had time, to branch out. Another first in Kitsap County was our attendance at a County Commissioner meeting. At that time they were called Road Commissioners. The press made this behavior a big deal and included a photo in the Bremerton Sun (as it then was called). Jo was in the foreground and was amply endowed, so after that at our next meeting her quip was (quoted by Adele Ferguson of the Bremerton Sun), “We can no longer be called flat chested do-gooders.”

“Another of our first actions was support of State redistricting. We were knowledgeable, believable and convincing and noticed by many citizens. We answered many requests for speakers on this unique interest in governmental functions.

“Jo confessed that in their previous employment she and her husband were teachers and female teachers had to be single. Marriage was prohibited. So since they were both teachers, they secretly married and only disclosed that fact when they came west to Silverdale. Jim was hired as Superintendent of the Central Kitsap School District and Jo continued teaching. I remember the election supervisor in the county trying to get her to re-register from Mrs. Jim Huey to Jo Huey. She refused and said, ‘I am the only Mrs. Jim Huey there will ever be and that is who I am.’”
Myra Howrey
LWVK President

Calendar from page 1

APRIL

April 2: Board Meeting, 10 a.m. to noon, Poulsbo Library upstairs meeting room.

April 15: Members are invited to join the Transportation Study Group them for lunch at noon at Wild Wings at Kitsap Mall. The only thing is you must ride a bus to the mall. The bus should drop you off in front of Wild Wings. Please allow 3 hours to get there. Contact person: Phyllis Mann.

LWV/K Membership

Interesting fact: Since July 2015, our Kitsap League has welcomed 11 new members. They are Suzi Crosby, Paul Dutky, Kimberlee Fox, Diane Iverson, Peggy Iverson, Karen Lange, Gail Sackman, Chris and Stacy Schmechel, Beth Worthington and Roeliena VanZanten. The motivations behind their membership are many, but it seems clear that outreach from our current members is powerful. What a privilege we share in being advocates for good government and the voting rights of all people.

2016 Elections

Maurie Louis has generously created a “2016 Elections” page off our website at www.lwv-kitsap.org.

You can go there to get a better understanding of the party caucus processes and learn the precinct caucus date and location for your party of interest. As the Iowa caucuses showed very clearly, every person going to a caucus can make a difference so please consider participating.

ON THE WEB

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

Member Spotlight - Ardis Morrow

A Child Dies But Not in Vain

Thirty years ago the death of young Eli Creekmore hit Washington state like a bombshell. The cherubic 3-year-old was viciously kicked by his own father and left to die at their Everett home.

While many were sickened by the story, it was more personal for one longtime Kitsap League member. Ardis Morrow, 90, of Poulsbo was related to Eli. He was her great-grand-nephew; her niece, Myrna, was Eli's grandmother.

Eli's death was especially disturbing because Ardis, Myrna and others had known that Darren, Eli's father, had been abusing the boy. They had called the police who had alerted CPS, and Eli had been placed in foster care. In fact, Eli had been removed from the home three times in the two years before he died. Unfortunately, he was returned to his family to be abused again.

"One day I got a call saying Eli's dead; I still remember it like it was yesterday," Ardis said.

The call set in motion a new chapter of her own life. After all the tears, she and other concerned citizens began working to change training and procedures for CPS caseworkers as well as laws. Now the alleged abuser is removed the home rather than the child, and adults who kill their children can be charged with homicide rather than just manslaughter.

But Ardis didn't stop there. She worked with Poulsbo Rotary, the YWCA of Kitsap County and the county housing authority to create Eli's Place, transitional housing for domestic violence victims. Now she is working, again with Poulsbo Rotary and the YWCA, to build Morrow Manor, which will offer longer-term supportive housing for survivors of domestic violence and their children. They will be able to stay as long



Photos by Annie Strosnider
At 90, Ardis Morrow still has vivid memories of 3-year-old Eli Creekmore, her great grand-nephew who was brutally killed by his father in 1986. His death set Ardis on a campaign to change the laws regarding child abuse and to establish transitional housing for survivors of domestic abuse. She is currently working with Poulsbo Rotary and the YWCA of Kitsap County on a capital campaign to build Morrow Manor. It will provide longer-term supportive housing in a peaceful community.



as six years while getting an education and becoming established financially and emotionally.

Fundraising is going well, Ardis said. "In fact, it's taken on a life of its own."

A Poulsbo Rotary member has donated 2.2 acres of land on Noll Road for the project. It will be a community of eight housing units with a park and children's play area.

Total cost is estimated at about \$2.2 million. The Birkenfeld Trust has announced a gift of \$500,000. Tim Ryan Properties of Poulsbo has made a \$100,000 matching grant. Bainbridge Island Rotary recently announced a \$50,000 matching challenge gift, and many other donations are coming in as well.

Ardis, a 55-year member of the League, has long been actively involved in her community. She and her late husband Burton raised two sons, and she now is the grandmother of three and great-grandmother of 10. She's served on the North Kitsap School Board and as a Port of Kingston commissioner. She worked in real estate for 20 years as an agent, broker and agency owner. In January, she was named Person of the Year by the Greater Poulsbo Chamber of Commerce. She still drives and goes to the gym. She recently took up Latin dance.

But these days, nothing keeps her going like the campaign to create Morrow Manor.

To learn more about Morrow Manor or to request a speaker, visit the website: supportmorrowmanor.org or send an e-mail to info@supportmorrowmanor.org.

(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.)

One Call For All



Kitsap League received the first distribution from One Call for All — Bainbridge Island — in the amount of \$2,688.50. This is 95% of our total donations from this funding; the money will be deposited into our Education Fund account with LWV/WA. Many thanks to all of you who donated to us through OCFA. You will receive a personal thank you note soon!

Voter Service Committee

THE LEAGUE NEEDS YOU!!! This is going to be a VERY busy year for the League and we need YOUR help. You don't need to be a member of the League to help get people to register to vote, to get people to vote, to help with the candidate forums, and so on; if you would like to help, please send us an email to info@lww-kitsap.org.

Come to State Council in June

The LWV/WA Council is in Vancouver, WA at the Vancouver Hilton. The dates to remember are June 3-5. This year we will be joining the LWV of Oregon so it will be an extra special opportunity to meet other members and share ideas. The Columbia River will be featured and there will be workshops on various League topics. Plus lots of "social hour" activities. The State League will be providing details in the spring but please mark your calendars now.

Lucy Burns Institute

Both Ballotpedia and Judgepedia, which were written about in the last LWV/K Voter, are funded and governed by the Lucy Burns Institute, which is a nonprofit organization founded in December 2006. The stated mission of the Lucy Burns Institute is "to empower our audience to engage in democracy by delivering exceptionally high quality information."

In late 2006, in an effort to gain a better understanding of local government activity, Wisconsin resident Leslie Graves filed a number of Freedom of Information Act requests. She encountered several roadblocks along the way, including a number of government officials who ignored her FOIA requests. Frustrated with how difficult it was to exercise her rights, Graves wondered if perhaps

other citizens had experienced similar obstacles. She decided to create a resource devoted to helping citizens navigate the laws surrounding government transparency.

The Institute is named in honor of Lucy Burns, a suffragette who helped to organize the National Woman's Party in 1916. In her work to advocate the cause of "votes for women," she organized, lobbied, wrote, edited, traveled, marched, spoke, rallied and picketed.

When she eventually was arrested for her activities, she led a hunger strike in prison and ultimately was force-fed. She knew that being able to participate in a democracy by voting was an essential way to express our human dignity. For this goal, she was willing to fight and suffer.

— Maurie Louis

ONLINE INFO:
https://ballotpedia.org/Lucy_Burns_Institute

League Position Adopted: Constitutional Conventions Under Article V of the U.S. Constitution

Following the January 2016 meeting, the League of Women Voters of the United States board announced a new position calling for safeguards to govern the constitutional convention process. State Leagues can use this new position, as well as the new position outlining considerations for evaluating constitutional amendment proposals, to address the ongoing debates in many legislatures regarding constitutional conventions, in particular as they related to the Balanced Budget amendment.

Position on Constitutional Conventions under Article V of the U.S. Constitution

Adopted January 2016

The League is concerned that there are many unresolved questions about the powers and processes of an Article V Constitutional Convention. The League believes such a convention should be called only if the following conditions are in place:

- a) The Constitutional Convention must be transparent and not conducted in secret. The public has a right to know what is being debated and voted on;
- b) Representation at the Constitutional Convention must be based on population rather than one state, one vote, and delegates should be elected rather than appointed. The delegates represent citizens, should be elected by them, and must be distributed by U.S. population;
- c) Voting at the Constitutional Convention must be by delegate, not by state. Delegates from one state can have varying views and should be able to express them by individual votes;
- d) The Constitutional Convention must be limited to a specific topic. It is important to guard against a "runaway convention" which considers multiple issues or topics that were not initiated by the states;
- e) Only state resolutions on a single topic count when determining if a Constitutional Convention should be called. Counting state requests by topic ensures that there is sufficient interest in a particular subject to call a Convention and enhances citizen interest and participation in the process; and
- f) The validity of state calls for an Article V Constitutional Convention must be determined by the most recent action of the state. If a state has enacted a rescission of its call, that rescission must be respected by Congress.

Meet Our New Leaguers

Karen (KJ) Lange of Poulsbo has been interested in issues and politics since before she could vote (1974). Coming of age during the Democratic National Convention of 1968, the Vietnam War, Kent State and Watergate “either meant you care a lot about issues or you just don’t care at all, as far as I can tell,” she said. Her interests as a League member include candidate forums, campaign finance and water issues. She’s a Realtor with John L. Scott/

Kingston and is immediate past president of the Kitsap County Association of Realtors. She’s lived in Kitsap County for 14 years and has been married to Heinz Lange for 12 years. Between them they have four children, ages 16 to 30, and one grandson, “who keeps us smiling.”

Roeliena VanZanten of Bainbridge Island is a retired oncology social worker who worked in specialized settings for most of her career. She is also an immigrant who moved to the United States from the Netherlands as an adult

in 1979. While growing up in post-war Europe, “We were taught that voting is not only a right but also a responsibility,” she said. “As a matter of fact, voting was mandatory for many years.” She often used the League as a resource in her career when working with patients or seeking information on elected representatives. With a presidential year upon us, she would like to be involved in voter registration and education. She and her husband have four adult children and six grandchildren. They enjoy traveling, culture, classical music, and the outdoors.

League Happenings

Membership

The membership has remained the same (95) including new member, Kimberlee Fox on Bainbridge Island. No letters of interest have been sent out.

Several people who have worked on membership met January 16 to establish the job description of the Membership Committee members. The duties include Chair (new member and LWV interest letters/packets, notification of new members to committee, LWV/WA and Unit leaders, sign-in sheets and greeters at general meetings), Data Collection/name tags, LWV 101, New Member Biographer for Voter, Dues Renewals and Member Directory.

LWV 101

The committee had one LWV 101 session on Thursday, January 21, in Poulsbo. Three new members attended: Beth Worthington, Chris Schmechel and Stacie Schmechel. Another session will be scheduled later in the spring. All members since 2013 are invited by email to attend.

North Kitsap Unit

The North Kitsap Unit met January 27 at the Hostmark Apartments. Eight were in attendance. Phyllis Mann was invited to speak on the progress of the Transportation Committee. Other topics discussed were Compassion and Choices, proposed gun legislation HB 2793, Morrow Manner and the need to develop a telephone tree for the north unit members.

LWV/K Book Club

Four members of the LWV/K Book Club met January 27 to discuss “The Secret History of Wonder Woman.” The next book will be “My Life on the

Road” by Gloria Steinem and the book discussion will be in the summer. Membership is open to any LWV/K Leaguer.

Unit Leader Meeting

The Unit Leaders met January 14 to discuss how often each Unit will meet, the need to share information from their unit with the board and the other unit leaders, the development of telephone trees in each unit, proposed topics for discussion with an emphasis on the topics to coordinate with general meetings, and setting up car pools. It was agreed that it is more important to be consistent in a meeting day and location and not to worry about low turnouts.

Dues News

Coming soon: Join LWV/K, renew your dues or make donations to LWV/K from our website! We will let you know when this new feature is up and running.

Seeking LWV Kitsap Board Nominations

Due Date: March 3

The Nominating Committee is asking for help from all Kitsap League members. Are you interested in serving as a board member or would you like to suggest a member for a board position? This is a two-year commitment and the board member is expected to participate in monthly board meetings. A board member will be assigned work by the president but in-depth knowledge of the League is not essential as this can be learned and “job sharing” will be considered.

Please contact Susanne Hughes, Nominating Committee Chair, if you are interested or want to nominate another member. Sue can be reached at suhughes111@comcast.net and 360-692-3571. Sue invites questions.

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



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MARCH 2016 Voter

In this issue:

- ▶ Transportation General Meeting
- ▶ President's Corner
- ▶ Member Spotlight - Ardis Morrow
- ▶ League Announcements
- ▶ Meet New Members
- ▶ Constitutional Amendment Position

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.)