LWVUS Mission and Vision Statements

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.

Mark Your Calendar
FEBRUARY
Feb. 7: DEI Committee meeting, 10:30 a.m.-to noon, Monica’s Bakery, 3472 NW Byron St., Silverdale
Feb. 10: SK Unit meeting, 10 a.m. to noon, Port Orchard Library
Feb. 10: Health Care Committee meeting, 1 to 3 p.m., Poulsbo City Hall (2nd floor conference room). Focus: mental health services
Feb. 11: Program Committee meeting, 1 to 3 p.m., Kitsap Tennis & Athletic Club, 1909 John Carlson Road NE, Bremerton
Feb. 15: Bremerton/CK Unit
See CALENDAR on Page 5

Centennial Celebration of the Founding of the League of Women Voters

When: Wednesday, Feb. 26
What: Potluck Brunch and Speaker
Time: 10:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.
Where: Island Lake Community Building
1087 NW Island Lake Road
Poulsbo
Guest: Dr. Amy Peloff,
LWVWA Administrator

Please bring a brunch item to share and consider bringing a mug and your own table setting in support of environmental sustainability.

The League of Women Voters will be 100 years old in February. To celebrate this milestone, Amy Peloff will join us at Island Lake for brunch and a historical look at the LWV. Her presentation will highlight some of the League’s many successes while exploring what we can learn from our history — both positive and negative — to create an even brighter future.

Amy is an affiliate assistant professor of gender, women and sexuality studies at the University of Washington. Her writing on feminism has encompassed a variety of pop culture topics from Dolly Parton to Doctor Who, and she continually studies the ways in which ideas about identities are created, presented, and shared through media and entertainment.

When she is not working with students at the University of Washington or giving talks on feminism and media through the Humanities Washington Speakers Bureau, she runs the state office for the League of Women Voters of Washington.

— Maureen Cervinsky

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President’s Corner

Democracy Rocks in Olympia

For many of us, Democracy Lobby Day, Jan. 21, in Olympia, was an ideal follow-up to our highly successful Action Workshop on Jan. 4.

We learned a lot at the morning sessions with Secretary of State Kim Wyman, State Rep. Mike Pellicciotti (30th District), and many other speakers. Did you know that Washington, unlike most other states and the U.S. Congress, lacks a law to prevent legislators from becoming lobbyists the minute they leave the Legislature? After hearing Pellicciotti’s talk, I felt more knowledgeable when I responded to the League’s Jan. 26 Legislative Newsletter asking us to help “close the revolving door from legislator to lobbyist” by urging our legislators to support HB 1067 and SB 5033.

In the afternoon we had time to attend hearings on bills concerning voting accessibility and security; enhancing cybersecurity by eliminating the return of ballots by fax and email; enhancing the transparency of the redistricting commission and more. We learned how to sign in to a hearing if we wanted to testify or register support for a bill.

We also found time during the day to take a mini-tour of our beautiful Capitol building (the one with the dome, which is actually called the Legislative Building). It houses the offices of the governor, treasurer and secretary of state as well as the legislative chambers. On the marble steps, both inside and out, you’ll find many groups of citizens visiting to advance their causes with the Legislature. For example, we ran into a group advocating to “Keep Film in Washington.” They would like to see productions that are set in Washington actually filmed here. You’ll also see young pages scurrying around the corridors and groups of school children getting a firsthand look at democracy in action.

Olympia is a bustling small city, especially during the legislative session. If you’ve never been there, or if it’s been a while, you owe yourself a visit. You usually can schedule a meeting with one of more of your legislators while you are there. We met with Sen. Emily Randall (26th District) and got her take on many of the bills the League supports. We left her with some of the colorful Democracy Rocks the League provides every year.

We later dropped in on Rep. Michelle Caldier (also from the 26th) and shared with her some of the League-supported bills. We had run into her earlier, on the free Dash shuttle bus that stops at the farmers market and other places in Olympia and can drop you off at the Capitol. It’s good to know about since it can be tough to park anywhere near the main legislative buildings during the session.

Everyone we met was friendly and eager to show us around. Again, Olympia is definitely worth a visit, especially during the legislative session.

Ann Strosnider, Co-President

Meet Our Legislative Liason

The Legislature is back in session and Martha Burke is serving as a liason for our league to the Lobby Chairs. She will work to follow what is happening with key legislation of interest to our members, and will convey our interests and concerns to the Lobby Chairs while letting us know when we need to get in touch with our legislators. Since this is a short session, only 60 days, things are moving fast, and to make her job easier, you should let her know if you have an issue or topic that you are interested in following. Key dates to keep in mind are that by Feb. 7, legislation needs to have had a hearing and be out of committee, and by Feb. 19 it has to pass out of its house of origin, either the House or Senate. One easy way to keep in touch with issues is by checking the League Legislative Newsletter that comes out weekly on Sundays during the Legislative session. The Newsletter will highlight the status of legislation that the League supports and includes “Action Alerts” when requesting members to contact legislators to support a position. You can sign up to get the Newsletter in your email by clicking on the link on the home page for our web site.

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Census Update

The first training for Census Ambassadors has been completed. There now are more than 20 League members ready to spread the word about both the census process and the importance of counting everyone. Census Ambassadors will be available from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. each Saturday in February to hand out information and answer questions at five branches of the Kitsap Regional Library: Bainbridge, Port Orchard, Poulsbo, Silverdale, Sylvan Way and Village Green.

If you are interested in joining the census outreach project, contact Leni Skarin for training.

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League Addresses March 10 Presidential Primary

Because of the importance of the presidential election, our League is sponsoring a televised interview with Kitsap County Auditor Paul Andrews to talk about the upcoming presidential primary on March 10. Retired Judge Anna Laurie will be the interviewer. Auditor Andrews, Judge Laurie and I have designed a set of questions and answers that will be used for the interview. It is our hope that this will help voters in Kitsap (and beyond) understand the primary and participate in it.

This primary is the ONLY chance we have to vote for our preferred candidate to help that chance we have to vote for our and participate in it.

because there is no need to go to the caucus. The presidential primary replaces the caucus.

There also will be a SECOND primary in Washington. This is the state's general election primary and will be on Aug. 4. The presidential candidates will NOT be included in the August general election primary.

The interview will be recorded by BKAT in its studio in Bremerton. The final edited recording will be televised several times before March 10. For information about the primary, go to the Secretary of State website at www.sos.wa.gov/elections/voters/and click on the March 10 2020 box. You also can go to the Kitsap County Auditor’s website at www.kitsapgov.com/auditor/Pages/Presidential-Primary-2020.aspx.

— Maurie Louis

Committee News

Health Care

Jessica Guidry, manager of the Kitsap Public Health District’s Department of Emergency Preparedness, and chair of our Health Care Committee, has been recognized as one of Leadership Kitsap’s “20 Under 40” rising stars. These are young leaders who are making a difference in their professions, in philanthropy, and in their communities.

The Health Care Committee’s next meeting will be from 1 to 3 p.m. Monday, Feb. 10 at the Poulsbo City Hall (2nd floor conference room). The focus will be on mental health services with guest speakers Joe Roszak (Kitsap Mental Health Services); Bergen Starke (Peninsula Community Health Services, or PCHS); and Jackielyn Jones (PCHS).

Voter Registration

March 10 is date of the Presidential Primary. Same day registration is available at the auditor’s office in Port Orchard and the two satellite offices at Poulsbo Olympic College and Marvin Williams Center in Bremerton. The last day for League volunteers to register voters and mail the forms in for the primary election is Wednesday, Feb. 26. We will register voters from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. each Saturday in February at the libraries with the Census Ambassadors.

Coffee Oasis

Looking for volunteers who like to interact with youth 1/2 hour once a month. The goal is to interest them in our community and participate as voters. Volunteers are needed for the Port Orchard, Poulsbo and Kingston Coffee Oasis sites. Contact Pam Hamon.

DEI Committee

Susan Griggs of North Kitsap has agreed to co-chair the Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Committee with Jeannie Allen of SK. The committee’s next meeting is from 10:30 a.m. to noon Feb. 7 at Monica’s Bakery, 3472 NW Byron St., Silverdale.

North Kitsap

The North Kitsap Unit meets the third Wednesday, Feb. 19, from 10 a.m. to noon at the Poulsbo Library. However, the following three months the unit meets on the fourth Wednesday (March 25, April 22 and May 27) at the conference room, second floor of Fishline’s Office on Viking Way.

Meet 3 of Our Newest Members

■ Taffy Gallagher of Poulsbo: She is a marketing professional, real estate investor, and elementary school teacher who likes to do work she can be proud to share with her children. That's why she joined the LWV, and she is looking forward to being a more engaged citizen.

■ Evelyn Schwerin of Kingston: I have always been interested in politics and enjoyed registering people to vote with Martha Burke. I believe I will enjoy doing that again with the LWV.

■ Ann Pyles of Poulsbo: In 1999, my husband John and I moved to the Northwest to be near our oldest daughter and her family. We moved from Fremont, CA, where I owned and operated several home care aide agencies, specializing in live-in care for elderly dementia and Alzheimer's clients … John and I actively formed in Poulsbo for over 8 years and helped start the Poulsbo Farmers Market. I am a Master Gardener Emeritus and helped to design and build the Community Garden at Raab Park. I continue to actively support and volunteer for North Kitsap Fishline, currently working as a checker in the food bank.

I was a very active LWV member for several years in California until my young family and business needs took precedence. I have always had a strong belief in the mission and direction of the LWV and am very happy that I now can get to know and work with all of you.

South Kitsap

Susan Daniel is the new chair of the South Kitsap Unit. The unit meets from 10 a.m. to noon on the second Monday of each month at the Port Orchard library.

The next meeting is Feb. 10. Unit members met with State Sen. Emily Randall and also Rep. Michelle Caldier, both of the 26th District, during the recent LWVWA Democracy Day in Olympia.

Unit members participated in the Homeless Count, will provide Census Information at the Port Orchard library on Saturdays in February, and continue to register voters at schools and other venues.

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What We’re Reading
LWVK once again is offering a peek into what we’re reading. Here is what a member is reading:

■ “Evicted: Poverty and Profit in the American City” by Matthew Desmond, chosen by Kitsap Regional Library for its One Book, One Community reading program this year.

Set in the poorest area of Milwaukee, the book follows eight families as they struggle to pay rent during the financial crisis of 2007-08. If anything, the book seems even more relevant today as housing costs skyrocket everywhere from New York to Seattle to Bremerton. For information about screenings of “Trickle Down Town,” a documentary about the homeless crisis in Seattle, and other “Evicted”-related events, go to krl.org.

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

Board Tidbits: 01/18/20
Scheduling: Because we have so much going on, it is sometimes hard to schedule an activity or program that does not conflict with a committee or unit meeting. We will try to correct this problem by using a master Google calendar that allows us to enter all of our regular unit, board and committee meetings. Then when we want to plan a public program or other special event, we can do our best to avoid conflicts.

Membership: Membership Chair Carol Larsen reports that we now have 185 members, including five who joined in January.

Budget: Treasurer Karen Faye reported that as of Dec. 31, 2019, we had $5,315.92 in our checking account at Kitsap Credit Union, $6,000.22 in our savings account and $6,824.38 in our Ed Fund account with the state League, for a total of $18,140.52.

CALENDAR
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meeting, 10 a.m. to noon, United Way, 645 4th St., Bremerton.

Saturdays in February: Census Ambassadors at local libraries, 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Feb. 19: NK Unit meeting, 10 a.m. to noon, Poulsbo Library

Feb. 26: Centennial Celebration with Dr. Amy Peloff, 10:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m., Island Lake Community Building, 1087 NW Island Lake Road, Poulsbo; bring food to share.

March
March 10: Deadline to mail ballots for Washington’s Presidential Primary
March 28: What Happens to Our Garbage? “Waste Management and Recycling in Kitsap County,” 10 a.m. to noon, Poulsbo City Hall, 200 Moe St. NE

LWV Kitsap Committees and Current Chairs

Action Workshop Planning – Leni Skarin
Centennial Celebration — Catherine Ahl
Civics — Catherine Ahl
Diversity, Equity and Inclusion — Jeannie Allen
Early Childhood Education — Rosalind Renouard
Health Care — Jessica Guidry
Housing — Rochelle Karlsen and Connie Syapin
Program — Maureen Cervinsky
Publicity — Maurie Louis
Voter Registration and Get Out the Vote — Pam Hamon
Candidate Forums — In need of a leader
Water — Betsy Cooper
Website — Maurie Louis

LWV Kitsap Board
Co-Presidents
Ann Strosnider and Leni Skarin

1st Vice President
Maureen Cervinsky

2nd Vice President
Carol Larsen

Treasurer
Karen Faye

Secretary
Barbara Paul

Voter Editor
Barb Willock

Position 1
Vacant

Position 2
Martha Burke

Position 3
Gail Sackman

Position 5
Vacant

Position 6
Maurie Louis

www.lwv-kitsap.org
League of Women Voters
of Kitsap County, WA
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FEBRUARY 2020 Voter
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Regularly Scheduled Events/Meetings

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

**Bainbridge Island:** Usually the 4th Wednesday of the month, 10 a.m. to noon, Bainbridge Island Library; contact Rosalind Renouard or Madelyn Fox

**Bremerton/CK:** 3rd Saturday of the month, 10 a.m. to noon, United Way of Kitsap, 645 4th St., Bremerton; contact Maureen Cervinsky

**North Kitsap:** Third Wednesday in February, 10 a.m. to noon, Poulsbo Library; following three months (March 25, April 22 and May 27), meets the fourth Wednesday in the conference room, second floor of Fishline’s Office on Viking Way; contact Pam Hamon

**South Kitsap:** 2nd Monday of the month, 10 a.m. to noon, Port Orchard Library; contact Susan Daniel

Board Meetings
The board meets the first Saturday of the month, 10 a.m. to noon, St. Paul’s Episcopal Church, 700 Callahan Drive, Bremerton. All League members are welcome. Contact Ann Strosnider or Leni Skarin.