



The Kitsap

Voter

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF KITSAP

FEBRUARY 2020

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.

Centennial Celebration of the Founding of the League of Women Voters



Dr. Amy Peloff

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.

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 Ten-
nis & Athletic Club, 1909 John
Carlson Road NE, Bremerton

Feb. 15: Bremerton/CK Unit
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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

*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



Ann Strosnider

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 first-hand 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



Above, LWVWA provides painted Democracy Rocks for League members to hand out when they visit their legislators. At left, Local League members attending Democracy Lobby Day, Jan. 21 in Olympia, included, from left, Ann Strosnider, Susan Daniel, Martha Burke, Jeannie Allen, Betsy Cooper, Becky Drotz, Leni Skarin and Rhonda Fairgrieve.

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 liaison 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



Martha Burke

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.



Ann Murphy, state Lobby Team Chair, speaks at the Action Workshop in Kingston.

LWVK Hosts Action Workshop

Sixty-eight LWV members attended the Jan. 4 Legislative Action workshop held in Kingston's Village Green Community Center. The keynote speaker was Andy Nicholas, Senior Fellow with the nonprofit Washington State Budget & Policy Center. He talked about the base of our state's tax code being deeply flawed, with a legacy of discrimination and racial oppression. The gap between percentage of income paid in state and local taxes by the top 1 percent and the poorest 20 percent is the widest in the country.

Immediate significant change could be accomplished by 1) taxing capital gains and 2) expanding the Working Families Tax Credit to reach 30 percent of the state's population.

State Sen. Emily Randall (26th District) spoke on Effective Advocacy: Making Change Happen. She sees her job as a convener, inviting all parties involved in an issue to the table and listening to community members already working on that issue who bring expertise and advocacy. She plans to support capital gains legislation as a way of making the state's tax system fairer.

LWVWA Contract Lobbyists Nancy Sapiro and Pam Crone gave a Lobbying Overview; then we could choose three of five breakout sessions, each lasting 30 minutes, led by LWVWA Lobby Team members. All were invited at the end to choose how we would like to add to LWVWA's advocacy work and to make our own action plan for the coming year. The Washington State Legislature reconvened Jan. 13 for a short, 60-day session.

Those who are not already receiving LWVWA's Legislative Newsletter via email can sign up by going to lwvwa.org. — Candy Rankin

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.

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 candidate get on the Nov. 3 general election ballot. This presidential primary replaces the caucus.



Auditor
Paul Andrews



Ret. Judge
Anna Laurie

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 hwww.kitsap.gov/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.

Unit News

Bainbridge Island

Because of a date conflict, the BI Unit's scheduled meeting on Feb. 26 is canceled. All members are instead encouraged to go to the Centennial Brunch at Island Lake in Poulsbo. Carpools will be formed to facilitate attendance.

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 clients ... John and I actively farmed 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.

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.

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 Bremer-ton. 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

ON THE WEB

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

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	Position 1 Vacant
2nd Vice President Carol Larsen	Position 2 Martha Burke
Treasurer Karen Faye	Position 3 Gail Sackman
Secretary Barbara Paul	Position 5 Vacant
Voter Editor Barb Willock	Position 6 Maurie Louis

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



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.