



# Pandemic Shuts Down Spring Programs

■ **March 28:** What Happens to Our Garbage: **Postponed**    ■ **April 18:** Climate Change and Your Health: **Postponed**    ■ **?? May 21:** Annual Meeting and Luncheon: **May Happen**

Our Kitsap League is in the middle of an unprecedented time. We had scheduled a spring slate of public education programs that spoke to the heart of our members’ concerns about our health, our environment, and our community. The COVID-19 virus has put a hold on these important programs but has not wiped them from our consciousness. We hope that, once the threat to our health and that of our friends and neighbors has been eliminated, we shall be able to bring these events to our community.

**\*\* March 28 program,** “What Happens to Our Garbage: Waste Management and Recycling in Kitsap County,” has been postponed. All of our presenters support the postponement and are eager to resurrect the program. We have floated the possibility of having the program in mid-July. We shall pay close attention to the guidelines and recommendations from our public health leaders and government agencies in determining if this is may be accomplished.

**\*\* April 18 program,** “Climate Change and Your Health,” has been suspended. Olympic College closed the venue. Our panel has graciously offered to work with us in the future to make this happen.

### \* **May 21: Annual Meeting & Luncheon**

Our May 21 Annual Meeting and Luncheon Key-note Speaker, Supreme Court Justice Raquel Montoya-Lewis, still is on the calendar. Justice Montoya-Lewis remains optimistic that things will mellow out, and the luncheon will proceed as planned. We also are exploring the possibility of conducting it as a virtual meeting. For now, please mark your calendar for:

- When:** Thursday, May 21
- What:** Annual Meeting
- Time:** 9:30 a.m. to 2 p.m.
- Where:** Kitsap Golf and Country Club  
3885 NW Golf Club Hill Road  
Bremerton
- Cost:** \$25? (luncheon from noon to 2 p.m. Watch for details in the May Voter)



Justice Raquel Montoya-Lewis

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## 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.

*President's Corner**LWVK in the Time of Coronavirus*

What a difference a month makes. Just a few short weeks ago, as I worked on the March Voter, I was eagerly anticipating our Feb. 26 celebration with Amy Peloff at Island Lake and planning ahead for a March program on garbage and recycling and an April event on climate change

Fortunately, we were able to have our February program. But looking back, even that seems so long ago: the hugs and handshakes as we greeted old friends, the potluck items shared by all, the microphones we passed around. All of it, including the gathering itself, would be strictly verboten in the new reality of the coronavirus pandemic.

For now, we have had to postpone our March and April programs. We hope to bring them back, perhaps in slightly



Ann Strosnider

changed forms, at a later date. Program Chair Maureen Cervinsky and her committee had put in a great deal of work on lining up speakers and venues. We are all learning more about live streaming and virtual meetings, but the technology didn't seem appropriate for these large public programs.

We still have some hope that we may be able to have our Annual Meeting and Luncheon as planned on May 21. We are excited to have Justice Raquel Montoya-Lewis of the state Supreme Court as our guest speaker. But we may have to change to a virtual format; stay tuned for details in the May Voter.

We also are considering the use of live-streaming for some of our candidate forums this year. It's a big election year, and we still don't have a forums chair, so it might make sense to schedule at

least some forums for a venue where they could be recorded and streamed without a live audience or only a small one. If you are interested in helping out with forums, whether live or virtual, please let me know.

I have not heard of any of our members being diagnosed with the virus. But many of us are in the age group that is most susceptible, and some of us have those dreaded underlying conditions that make us even more vulnerable.

It was rather shocking to read in the Sun that one of our Kitsap County Superior Court judges, Bill Houser, 62, of Poulsbo did recently test positive for COVID-19. He said it came on suddenly: a temperature of 100 degrees, a cough and a sore throat. Now he and his wife and children are under quarantine. It just shows that anyone can get it.

We encourage unit leaders and everyone to reach out to members to make sure they are doing OK and ask if they are in need. Sometimes it's good to know someone is thinking about you.

Ann Strosnider  
Co-President

*Unit News*

**BI:** The BI Fire Station, where unit meetings are usually held, has been closed until the end of April, so the April 22 meeting is canceled.

**NK:** Because of COVID-19, the North Kitsap Unit canceled its March 25 meeting at Fishline. Our guest speaker, Vaan Wolfe from the YWCA Domestic Violence program, offered to speak at our May meeting. Our joint meeting with the Bainbridge Island Unit on White Supremacy with speakers Chuck Tanner and Airen Lydick was also postponed due to the coronavirus pandemic. Unit members will be informed via email about our next unit meeting.

**BREMERTON/CK:** Our next B/CK Unit meeting would have been Saturday, April 18, but we canceled it because it coincided with our April public education program (now postponed). Unit Leaders are being trained in the use of Zoom, a video conferencing app. April 18 may be our opportunity to have a Zoom Room unit meeting. If you would like to try a remote meeting, watch for emails with additional information for participation. If you have expertise in video conferencing with Zoom and are interested in helping make this video conference happen, contact Maureen Cervinsky.

**SK:** Our next Unit meeting, Monday, April 13, likely will be a virtual meeting via Zoom. It's

easy to connect to the meeting with either a phone or computer. Unit leader Susan Daniel will be in touch with members.

*Committee News***DEI**

Our Kitsap Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion committee was one of the first in the state. It has been active since Lydia Olsen started it two years ago. The LWVWA is fully committed to diversity, equity, and inclusion in principle and in practice, and it has decided to highlight leagues that have been successful in addressing this need. The state has asked our DEI Committee to make a presentation at the LWVWA Council planned for May 29-3 in Yakima. Our committee is putting together a PowerPoint presentation that could be shown as a web seminar to our League and to the Council.

DEI has continued the conversation as to the way to recruit more individuals from diverse communities as members of the League. We are looking at the barriers which currently exist that discourage their participation. Only through a robust interaction with individuals from minority, disenfranchised, or underrepresented communities can the League effectively promote civic responsibility through informed and active participation in government. Our

committee is strengthening its relationships with community agencies that serve these diverse populations so that we can become better informed of their issues, and hopefully can help them to see the benefits of joining the League.

With redistricting only a year away, DEI is considering how we can help members of diverse communities feel confident to testify in front of the Redistricting Commission and to be effective in their testimony. We are developing a survey to determine who in our local League has testified at a public hearing, whether it is a local governmental department, city council, or a state legislative body. Please reach out to either of us, as to who has the experience or expertise in our community.

The DEI committee was part of the Census "Get Out the Count," and is proud of the work that the Census Ambassadors did to educate the public about the Census and the online method it is using this year. Many of the members have also been active in Voter Registration drives and have encouraged diverse individuals to join the League. Contact Jeannie Allen or Susan Griggs, co-chairs, for more information.

**Program**

Given the present need for social distancing, the Program Committee canceled the March

### **New Member Update**

Membership Chair Carol Larsen reports that we now have 202 members. Here are brief bios of some of those who have recently joined:

**JP Tannen** of Chico says her husband is a Republican and she is a life-long Democrat. “In order to keep peace, we made rules about what we can and cannot do regarding politics, as soon as we got married. No yard signs, car-stickers, or donations. I have worked on four political campaigns — three Democrat and one Republican. I designed the messaging. Since League is nonpartisan, here I am.”

She also worked for 17 years to overturn a state law on surrogacy that affected her personally. Success came in 2018 when Gov. Jay Inslee signed the new law. Here is a link to her story from the Kitsap Sun: [www.kitsapsun.com/story/news/local/2019/01/06/kitsap-new-surrogacy-mother-compensation-law/2477522002/](http://www.kitsapsun.com/story/news/local/2019/01/06/kitsap-new-surrogacy-mother-compensation-law/2477522002/)

**Claire Zaner** grew up in Gold Bar and has spent her life in the Northwest. She was compelled to join LWV to make a positive contribution to democracy in Kitsap County. Claire currently lives on Bainbridge Island with her husband and

two boys. She has been a real estate broker for 17 years and works with Lake & Co Real Estate.

**Nancy Bern Edwards** moved to Poulsbo a year and a half ago. She is proud to be a new member of the League of Women Voters. She has found the League to be a wonderful updated source of information on all things happening locally, statewide and nationally. She especially wanted to register new voters to give them the opportunity to exercise the privilege of expressing their voice. Especially now that so much is at stake with the environment, air and water quality.

**Taffy Gallagher** 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.

**Patty LeVan** of South Kitsap, originally from Southern California, moved to Washington in 2008. She is a retired editor/writer and has been thinking about joining the League for some time. “I realized this is crucial time to try to do more to help with important issues and network with women who

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### **Legislative Wrap-Up**

The 2020 Legislative Session ended March 12 – at least for now. This was a “short” session, only 60 days, which made it harder to garner the necessary support and momentum for major changes. It was also driven by the I-976 car tab initiative, which unless it is determined to be unconstitutional, would severely limit transportation funding. To provide for that possibility, all major transportation proj-

ects were put on hold unless their contracts were already being implemented. Finally, the spreading impact of the coronavirus pandemic was being felt as the session was coming to an end, with uncertain but likely significant budgetary impacts, almost certainly requiring a special session.

Even with these gathering storm clouds, the Legislature was able to make progress on a number of issues of interest to League members.

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Justice Raquel Montoya-Lewis was appointed to the Washington State Supreme Court by Gov. Jay Inslee in December 2019 and took the oath of office on Jan. 6, 2020.

She is an enrolled member of the Pueblo of Isleta and a descendant of the Pueblo of Laguna, two federally recognized tribes in New Mexico. She is the first enrolled member of any tribe to sit on a state supreme court in the U.S. and the second Native American to sit on a state supreme court. She also is of Jewish descent.

Before becoming an Associate Justice, she served as a Superior Court judge for Whatcom County for five years, where she heard criminal and civil trials and presided over the Whatcom County Therapeutic Drug Court. — Maureen Cervinsky

### **Voting Rights**

**SB 6313** — Voting Opportunities Through Education (VOTE Act) to increase youth participation — Authorizes 17-year-olds to participate in primary elections if they will be 18 by the next election and adds Engagement Centers for voting and other civic engagement activities on four-year college campuses.

**HB 2421** — State Reimbursement of Election Costs — This bill requires the state to pay its fair share of election costs and fund additional voter outreach for elections. Historically the state has not reimbursed the counties for elections; this law requires the state to start paying for state elections, which occur during even years. Progress on redistricting and voting rights restoration for those convicted of felonies will need to wait for the next session.

### **Environmental**

**ESSB 5323** — Reducing pollution from plastic bags. Thirty-seven municipalities in the state already have prohibited thin plastic grocery and goods carry-out bags. This bill makes such regulations uniform across the state. Paper and thicker plastic carryout bags are permitted but are subject to a pass-through charge to the customer.

**HB 2311** — (Climate Pollution Reductions) Amending Green House Gas emissions limits for consistency with recent climate science and requires the state and state government as a whole to achieve net zero GHG emissions by 2050.

The Clean Fuels Standard, however, will have to wait until the next session.

### **Housing and Homelessness**

A number of bills related to this topic passed, but many of the major bills, including the Governor’s proposal for \$300 million to help fund initiatives to address homelessness and the request to allow King County to levy a payroll tax to address homelessness, did not pass. In addition, the revenue proposals for the working families’ tax credit and taxing capital gains did not pass. Much of the major work in this area remains to be done in the next session.

— Martha Burke



Photos by Janet Stegemeyer and Carol Larsen

Honored with yellow roses were longtime members, from left, Alice Millis, Myra Howrey, Connie Waddington, Ardis Morrow, Catherine Ahl, Helen Hoover, Patsy Campbell and Susan Daniel.



Amy Peloff

## *Potluck Leaves Us With Food for Thought*

By Ann Strosnider

We were thrilled to welcome Dr. Amy Peloff as guest speaker for our Feb. 26 centennial potluck. About 60 members gathered at Island Lake in Poulsbo to celebrate the 100th anniversary of the League and to honor some of our longtime members.

You may know Amy as the administrator for the state League, but she has another life as well. She's a speaker on popular culture with Humanities Washington and an affiliate assistant professor of gender, women, and sexuality studies at the University of Washington. She takes a second look at once-beloved icons such as Bill Cosby in the light of the "Me Too" movement. Or, in Internet shorthand, "Your Fave is Problematic."

At our event she applied that modern lens to the past. She tossed aside the rose-col-

ored glasses to give us an honest view of the history of women's suffrage and of the

League. For example, LWV founder Carrie Chapman Catt dedicated decades of her life to passing and ratifying a Constitutional amendment to protect women's right to vote. But, in 1894, she warned that the United States was "menaced with great danger ... in the votes pos-

essed by the males in the slums of the cities and the ignorant foreign vote." She also said that "White supremacy will be strengthened, not weakened, by women's suffrage."



The 100th birthday celebration cake was a huge hit at the gathering.

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meeting. Our next scheduled meeting is Monday, April 20. We are going to try and make this meeting remote. The LWVWA has a license for Zoom, an app that allows people to video conference. Our League leaders are starting the training to use Zoom. If you have any experience with video conferencing and are interested in helping make this new form of communication successful in Program Planning or you would like to be a part of developing educational programs for the League, please let the Program Committee know.

**With an eye to fall:** Many of you watched the excellent interview with Kitsap County Auditor Paul Andrews, moderated by retired Judge Anna Laurie, and produced in collaboration with BKAT. We are in the early stages of exploring a video exploring redistricting. Who would we interview? What do we want to know? If you would like to be part of a sub-committee to develop a video, please let the Program Committee know.

## LWV 101

Newer members will be informed via email when the next LWV 101 meeting will be scheduled.

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### *Kitsap Great Give Coming up April 21*

Here is something you can do from the comfort of your own home: Donate to the League and other worthy local nonprofit organizations through the Kitsap Great Give. This is a 24-hour, online giving event organized by the Kitsap Community Foundation to grow philanthropy in Kitsap County and surrounding areas. The minimum donation is \$10; there is no maximum. Donations made to the League through this event go to our Education Fund and are 100 percent tax-deductible. See [kitsapgreatgive.org](http://kitsapgreatgive.org) for all the details and watch for our ad in Sound Publishing publications on April 17.



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are on the front line of working for social justice.”

Artist **Betty Hames-Lewis** of Southworth recently relocated from West Seattle. She taught art for 21 years, then trained in a multisensory language approach to help students with learning challenges and taught literacy for 12 years. At the same time, she worked as a studio artist, showing her drawings and glass sculptures. She joined the League out of her frustration with “what seems to be immobilization of the mental initiative and abstention from voting in the American culture... I felt it best to get busy with seeking productive methods and a pos-

itive outlook in order to help demystify the political process, hence joining the League of Women Voters.”

**Jana Fisher** was born and raised in Eastern Washington and moved to the west side with her family while in high school. She has lived on Bainbridge, in Poulsbo, Tacoma and Gig Harbor and now calls Olalla home. Her passions are pottery and spending lots of time outdoors. She and her husband have three grown children and three grandchildren who live in Texas. She joined League out of a desire “to connect with a group of women whose activism has an impact on not only our local community but extends out into our country and possibly the world.”

### *Action Workshop Gets Good Reviews*

We have received a report on our Jan. 4 Action Workshop at the Kingston Community Center from state Lobby Team Chair Ann Murphy. We were pleased to learn we actually made a bit of money on the event. Our share of the profits was \$123.07.

“This represents 50% of the net from your workshop once the state expenses had been computed,” Murphy writes.

She also sent the workshop evaluations, filled out by about 40 of the 60+ who attended. The reviews were nearly all positive, with most people saying the event was either “inspiring” or “extremely helpful.”

Here is a sampling of comments: “Great venue,” “Good food,” “Well-planned,” “Expanding my knowledge base,” “Inspiring and a bit overwhelming,” and “This is the best Action Workshop I have ever attended.”

Many thanks to Leni Skarin, Carol Larsen, Catherine Ahl, Martha Burke and Betsy Cooper and everyone who helped organize the workshop. It does take a great deal of work, and it was good to see it was so well-received.

**ATTENTION:** Please let Carol Larsen know if you are having difficulty receiving state and national League information via email. Additionally, if after checking your personal information on the [lwv-kitsap.org](http://lwv-kitsap.org) website you find any discrepancies, let Carol know.

## CELEBRATION

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We cannot excuse her on the grounds that she was simply reflecting the sentiment of her time, Amy said. Even as Catt and others were agitating for women’s suffrage, Sojourner Truth gave her famous “Ain’t I a Woman” speech, and Frederick Douglas argued against sacrificing black male suffrage for the woman’s right to vote.

We must recognize that neither we nor our heroes are perfect, Amy said, and focus on the “more realistic work of being better.” In her later years, for example, Catt apparently softened her xenophobic views and pressured the federal government to ease immigration laws to make it easier for Jews to find refuge in the United States.

Amy gave us a lot to think about and ended with a challenge: Look ahead to 2120, LWV’s 200th anniversary, and ask ourselves, “What story do we want people to tell about the League 100 years from now?”

## ON THE WEB

*Find our local League news, meeting notices, publications, and reminders on our Facebook page or website, [www.lwv-kitsap.org](http://www.lwv-kitsap.org). Be sure to ‘like’ us on Facebook.*

**NEWS**

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**Voter Registration**

Thanks to all those 29 volunteers who registered and preregistered voters at all of the high schools. And a special thanks to Becky Drotz, Carol Larsen, Julie Shryock and Joan Spencer who arranged for each school to have an LWV contact person who will set up future high school registrations starting in September 2020. We registered/preregistered 427 students and sent home registration forms with 632 students. These numbers include Olympic College students and Coffee Oasis youth.

Our efforts were featured in an article, "November's youngest voters are eager to cast a ballot," in the Kitsap Sun on March 10. Reporter Jessie Darland visited Bremerton High School while Becky and others were registering voters. She interviewed students as they signed up to register and pre-register. They said they were interested in climate change, health care, immigration reform and access to education, Here is a link to the story: <https://www.kitsapsun.com/story/news/2020/03/10/registered-and-ready-novembers-youngest-voters-eager-cast-ballot/5002707002/>

**Thanks So Much**

Also thanks to those 38 volunteers who registered voters for the Presidential Primary on the ferries, at Project Connect, the Pouls-



Photo by Janet Stegemeyer

Kitsap Sun Reporter Jessie Darland interviews a student at Bremerton High School during LWVK's voter registration drive at the school on Feb. 28.

bo Episcopal Church and jointly with the Census Ambassadors at the libraries during the month of February. Congratulations to all for your excellent civic service.

**Health Care**

The Health Care Committee has been meeting with several organizations to educate ourselves on the many aspects of health. These include Kitsap Strong, Kitsap Mental Health Services, Peninsula Community Health Services, and End of Life Washington. The April meeting with Washington State Office of the Insurance Commissioner was postponed due to the coronavirus pandemic.

**Looking Forward to Something Fun**

Ladies, buy your hats in preparation to celebrate the 19th Amendment. Save the date Sept. 12 for the big party. Catherine Ahl is organizing our celebration of the 100th anniversary of women's suffrage. Watch for details in upcoming Voters.



Pam Hamon



Ardis Morrow

## *Ranked Choice Voting*

On a ranked-choice ballot, you get to rank the candidates in your order of preference. If your first choice doesn't win, then your vote goes to your second choice. If you have been wanting to learn the basics of ranked-choice voting, you can sign up for a Webinar at [fairvotewa.org](http://fairvotewa.org).

### *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

### *LWV Kitsap Committees and Current Chairs*

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

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



### **APRIL 2020 Voter**

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    May 21 Program
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### ***Regularly Scheduled Events/Meetings***

#### ***Unit Meetings***

Be sure to check with your unit leader for any schedule changes. **Refer to Unit News inside for the latest information.**

**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 (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.