



Big Election Year Brings Major Efforts

At the Annual Meeting, our League approved a voter turnout campaign as our major undertaking for 2020. We would love to increase voter participation since we have so many important elections at the local, state and national levels. There will be many opportunities to get involved with our efforts, so please let Pam Hamon, Alicia Vause or Maurie Louis know if you are interested.

The Voter Registration/Get Out the Vote Committee had a Zoom meeting on May 13 and agreed to work on the following:

VOTE411 — Martha Burke is our liaison to the state League’s VOTE411 Committee, and she asks members to give her questions for the candidates to be posted on the website. Please get questions to Martha no later than June 8.

Postcards/Pins — Two postcards designed by Alicia Vause and Cyn Shick were chosen, and Maurie Louis and Martha Burke



Alicia Vause and Cyn Shick have designed postcards for sending to registered voters, encouraging them to cast a ballot in both the primary and general elections.

will develop a postcard writing campaign for both elections. LWVK volunteers will be asked to write 50 postcards. Kitsap League members interested in helping with the writing campaign are asked to contact their unit leader or Maurie Louis, who will coordinate the volunteers. Postcards will be mailed when the ballots go out. Alicia and Cyn also designed and bought 250 rainbow Vote pins.

Social Media — Maurie Louis, Collette Crosby and Alicia Vause See ELECTION on Page 3

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

MAY

May 31-June 7: LWVWA Centennial Council via Zoom (see lwvwa.org)

JUNE

June 6: LWVK Board Meeting via Zoom, 10 a.m. (contact Ann Strosnider)

June 8: 10 a.m., SK Unit

Meeting, 10 a.m. (contact Susan Daniel)

June 20: CK/Bremerton Unit Meeting via Zoom, 10 a.m. (contact Maureen Cervinsky)

June 25-27: LWVUS Virtual Convention with Norah O’Donnell, CBS Evening News anchor, as keynote speaker; see lwv.org for information

President's Corner

Zoom: From Fear and Loathing to Appreciation

Like a lot of people, I hesitated to use the Zoom platform for virtual meetings once the new pandemic rules made in-person meetings impossible. I had done Facetime a few times and freaked out at having to look at my face with all the wrinkles and extra chins seemingly magnified. I had heard a lot about Zoom bombing and how disruptive it could be. But after a few practice sessions offered by Maurie Louis and Meredith Green, I felt more confident. I began to see the usefulness of Zoom during these difficult times. I also realized that it cut commute time to meetings and allowed people who might be out of town to participate. Gradually, I came to appreciate some of the special features on Zoom, including:

Change your background — When I get tired of showing off my messy office/coat closet I can switch to an island



Ann Strosnider

in the South Seas or even a picture of my own backyard

Mute yourself and others — Getting onto this is key to having a successful meeting. It prevents people from talking over each other and mutes the sounds of barking dogs, whining children, sudden coughing fits or other distracting background sounds.

Raise your hand virtually — We used this successfully during the Annual Meeting. When participants used the “raise hand” emoji, Leni Skarin called on them and unmuted them so they could speak. It makes for a more orderly meeting and is essential when you have 30 or more participants.

Mute your video — This is handy if you need to make a wardrobe adjustment and would rather not have everybody watch or if you just want to finish your sandwich off-camera.

Chatbox — This feature allows people to ask questions or make comments without interrupting the flow of the meeting. You can even excuse yourself if you need to leave while the meeting continues.

Screen-sharing — Maurie handled the screen-sharing during the Annual Meeting. I thought it was especially effective in highlighting parts of the budget that are often hard to find when looking at a printed copy while someone is speaking.

Personally, I will be glad when we get back to having at least some of our meetings in person. There's nothing quite like a “real” League gathering, with people expressing their opinions, sharing ideas and yes, sometimes engaging in crosstalk. But I think we'll continue to find uses for Zoom or other virtual meeting platforms even when things return to normal.

Ann Strosnider, Co-President

We've all been getting better at holding meetings with Zoom.

Photo by Maurie Louis



A Zoom of Our Own

Our League now has its own license for Zoom. Given the social distancing that we all must adhere to in order to help “flatten the curve,” we have become pretty proficient in using Zoom. We have the Pro version rather than the FREE version. This allows us to schedule and host meetings without having to burden Amy Peloff in the state office. This version also allows up to 100 participants in any one meeting and it allows meetings to last up to 24 hours. The Annual Meeting went very smoothly with 44 participants.

If you'd like to schedule a any type of meeting (committee, unit, event) send an email to Maurie Louis (maurie.louis@comcast.net) and include in the request the topic, day, date, and time. Once it is scheduled Maurie will send the Zoom meeting information to whomever made the request. If you are having trouble joining and participating in Zoom meetings Maurie will be glad to have a practice Zoom meeting or two.

Unit News

NK: The North Kitsap Unit had a Zoom meeting with Airen Lydick and Chuck Tanner on White Supremacy in Kitsap County on May 27. We most likely will have a Zoom meeting in June and July and a picnic in August.

Bremerton/CK: The Bremerton/CK Unit hosted a Zoom meeting on May 16, with guests Kirsten Nicholson, Central Kitsap Education Association President, and Cheryl Brown, Central Kitsap elementary PE/music teacher. Kirsten and Cheryl shared information about how CKSD is trying to address the challenges of remote schooling during the COVID19 school closures. We were all moved by their stories and came away with a deep appreciation for the efforts of all of our teachers during this difficult time. When asked what we can do to support our educators, both Kirsten and Cheryl encouraged us to let our teachers and support staff know how much we appreciate their efforts to help our students. They also encouraged us to support our local food banks because food insecurity has increased for our children with the closure of our schools. We are especially grateful to Connie Marchant,

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Virtual Annual Meeting Gets the Job Done

Our Annual Meeting this year was the same yet different from other years. The agenda was similar — adopt a Program and a budget for the next fiscal year, approve a slate of board members and recognize new members, life members and those who passed away during the past year. The difference was that we held it on Zoom, a virtual platform on the Internet instead of in person. While we didn't get to enjoy a lunch at the Kitsap Golf and Country Club as we had hoped, we did manage to attract 44 participants and accomplish our goals.

Program

We adopted our board-recommended Program, including a massive Get Out the Vote (GOTV) effort for this major election year; formation of

a committee to study the “pocket park” concept for growth management planning; and creation of a subcommittee to work with the state League on having a “Speak Up School” to train local residents to testify at public redistricting hearings in 2021.

We discussed incorporating a non-recommended item on fake news and digital literacy into our plans. We are looking into a one-on-one interview with Jevin West, University of Washington expert on distinguishing fact from fiction in the digital age. This would be similar to the interview with the Kitsap County Auditor prior to the Presidential Primary, which was very well received.

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UNIT NEWS

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Janice McLemore, and Candy Rankin for organizing this meeting.

The unit will meet via Zoom on Saturday, June 20, from 10 a.m. to noon. Please let Maureen Cervinsky mcervinsky@gmail.com know if you would like to attend.

SK: SK Unit will meet Monday, June 8, from 10 a.m. to noon. Speakers will be Judy McCay and Karen Griffith from the End of Life organization. They will speak about Death with Dignity legislation. Contact Susan Daniel for information.



Rock the Vote: Volunteers will be asked to create painted Vote Rocks and place them around the county before the Aug. 4 Primary and Nov. 3 General elections.

ELECTION

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will develop a social media campaign for Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter. LWVK has an account on all three websites. We also will post videos on YouTube. Members will be asked to send interesting and fun pictures on voting to Maurie. To engage the public, these social media sites require regular posting and a variety of items. Our goal is to develop a large following of “friends.”

Maurie is looking into setting up virtual candidate forums for the primary, probably using Zoom. She also will develop a social media guide for those who are unfamiliar with social media formats.

Alicia and Cyn wrote a “Talking to Voters” instructional pamphlet on how to talk to people who don't want to vote. All LWVK members will receive a copy, and it is posted on our website.

VOTE Rocks

For fun, interested LWVK volunteers will be asked to make 3- to 4-inch little rocks with VOTE on them and LWVK on the back to be placed in various places around the county. They should be put out a couple of weeks before both the primary and general elections and picked up afterwards. The more the merrier! Please let Pam Hamon know if you want to make some rocks.

Important Dates

Aug. 4: Primary; ballots to be mailed by July 17

Nov. 3: General Election; ballots to be mailed by Oct. 16

Primary Challenges

Primary candidate forums are planned for local elections in which three or more candidates have filed for the same position. For the Aug. 4 primary, these include:

Kitsap County Commissioner, Dist. 2

Paul Nuchims (D)
Charlotte Garrido (D)
Oran Root (R)
Bob Perkins (No Pref)
Stacey (Spencer) Smith (D)
Marcus Carter (R)

State Rep. Dist. 23, Pos. 1

Lou Krukar (D)
James Beall (D)
Leslie Daugs (D)
Tarra Simmons (D)
April Ferguson (R)

State Rep. Dist. 26, Pos. 1

Drew Darsow (D)
Jesse Young (R)
Carrie Hesch (D)

State Rep. Dist. 26, Pos. 2

Michelle Caldier (R)
Joy Stanford (D)
Alisha Beeler (R)

State Rep. Dist. 35, Pos. 2

Earl Burt (Shortstop)
Drew MacEwen (R)
Darcy Huffman (D)

Committee and Study Group News

Planning Committee Change: The board has determined that the committee name, "Program Committee," is confusing to our members because "Program" and "Program Committee" are not synonymous in the lexicon of the League. The committee responsible for public education programs will now be called the Planning Committee.

The Planning Committee is facing a difficult path forward. Because of the safety requirements associated with the COVID19 pandemic, the traditional public education programs planned for this past spring were canceled. The near future of public gatherings is still unclear at this point.

The Committee will have a Zoom meeting on Monday, July 20, to begin a conversation about public education program alternatives for 2020-21 LWVKitsap. The group will begin exploring safe, alternative ways to engage with the Kitsap Community to provide public education opportunities. If you would like to join the Planning Committee, please contact Maureen Cervinsky, mcervinsky@gmail.com.

Pocket Parks Committee

The Pocket Parks project was voted in at the annual meeting. A first step would be to define what pocket parks are, investigate ones that already exist, how they came to be, and what challenges there

were to implementing them.

After further study steps, we might present the outcome to the Kitsap County portion of the 2050 Vision. It is a possible two-year study that fits with the LWV's stance on land use, parks, and green belts. I also see it taking into account health, environment, education, diversity and community service possibilities. I particularly appreciate all of the input from the group of people that would form this committee, whether it be problems, creative suggestions, and changes needed.

All who might be interested in working on this committee please email Kathleen Gallagher at miley98370@yahoo.com.

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MEETING

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Budget

We adopted the proposed budget for 2020-21. It calls for spending \$20,750 in operating expenses, slightly more than for 2019-20. Treasurer Karen Faye noted that we have \$27,700 in our savings account at Kitsap Credit Union, largely because of the bequest of \$22,250 received earlier this year from the estate of Elisabeth Bondy. We had planned to invest it and use the proceeds for League projects each year, but because of the uncertainty of the stock market, we have left it in savings. Myra Howrey wondered what plans the board has for spending the bequest. We have said we are committed to funding scholarships and financial aid for anyone who wants to attend League-related seminars or similar events. We are open to suggestions from all League members and will be discussing this issue at future board meetings.

New Board Members

We welcomed two new members to the board — **Rhonda Fairgrieve** from South Kitsap and **Diana Urbaite-Sosonkina** from Bainbridge Island. The other members of the board will continue in their current positions. **Ann Strosnider** and **Leni Skarin** will continue to serve as co-presidents for another year. Other board members continuing in their current roles are **Maurine Cervinsky**, first vice president; **Carol Larsen**, second vice president; **Karen Faye**, treasurer; **Barbara Paul**, secretary; **Martha Burke**, board

position 2; **Gail Sackman**, board position 3; **Barb Willock**, board position 4; and **Maurie Louis**, board position 6.

We were sorry to report the death of **Marge Thorne**, one of our past presidents and founding members, on April 29 at the age of 91. Catherine Ahl, Susan Daniel and Ann Smith shared fond memories of her. A longtime volunteer in many community activities in Silverdale, she received the C. Keith Birkenfeld Humanitarian Award in 2011. She worked with the American Cancer Society, Hospice of Kitsap County, United Way, the YMCA and many other organizations over the years.



Marge Thorne

completed her education in England and later lived in Washington, D.C., before settling in Washington state.

Rhonda Fairgrieve

Rhonda joined LWVK in November 2016. "My hope in joining the League was to find ways to become more engaged in a collective dialog about our democracy and participate in actions that encourage all citizens to exercise their right and responsibility to vote!" During the past three years she has worked with the Water Committee, registered voters,



Rhonda Fairgrieve

helped with some of the Community Forums, the DEI committee and the '0-3' Study group. "It's been a pleasure to come to know and work with so many awesome League members and I look forward to the coming year," she said.

Before retiring in February 2016, she worked at Joint Base Lewis-McChord for close to 30 years. Her first position was as an Early Childhood Education teacher trainer and then as a Child Care Center director with programs serving active duty service members and their families. She and husband Bill have lived in Manchester since 1986. They now are empty nesters with two daughters, off on their own adventures.

She enjoys gardening, trying out new bread recipes, weaving on a floor loom and sewing projects.

Meet Our New Board Members

Diana Urbaite-Sosonkina

Diana moved to Bainbridge Island with her husband Mike over two years ago. A year later she joined LWV, where she became a member of the '0-3' committee, led by Rosalind Renouard. Diana was a member of the Bainbridge Island Cultural Funding Advisory Committee in 2019; she also regularly attends Bainbridge Island Watershed Council meetings. Her professional background is in public relations and education.



Diana Urbaite-Sosonkina

She was born and raised in Lithuania,

New Bainbridge Island Unit Leader

Colette Crosby is the 2020/21 BI Unit Leader. Colette is a relatively new member (Nov 2019) and ready to share her talents organizing monthly meetings and being our unit's liaison with the Kitsap League Board of Directors.

— Madelyn Fox and Rosalind Renouard

COMMITTEES

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DEI

The Diversity, Equity and Inclusion committee has been very busy this spring. The committee prepared a PowerPoint presentation on the history of our DEI committee which we presented at the LWVWA Council and will put on the LWVK website. We also have put a DEI Committee Resource Guide on the site.

The committee has been planning for a Speak Up School in Kitsap, a training program developed by the State League in order to train the public in the spring of 2021 on how to deliver effective testimony at the Redistricting Commissioners Public Hearings, expected

to be held in June and July of 2021.

DEI committee members are currently contacting agencies that serve minority and underrepresented communities who will be willing to collaborate with the League on putting on this School and publicizing it. We will be seeking League members and members of diverse communities to be trained as the trainers of this School.

The DEI committee is also developing handouts to share at community events to better inform the public as to how to advocate and to encourage them to get involved with the League. Another set of handouts will be for League members on "What To Ask When Examining Your Work Through a DEI Lens."

Although there have been no in-person community events, DEI members have been busy strengthening relationships with the organizations that service minority and underrepresented communities, and attending numerous Zoom meetings highlighting the many issues that concern them.

— Jeannie Allen and Susan Griggs,
Co-leaders

Health Care

Health Care Committee will meet Monday, June 8, at 1:30 p.m. via Zoom. Our guest speakers will be Steve Valandra and Todd Dixon with the Washington State Office of the Insurance Commissioner. For information, contact Jessica Guidry.

LWV Kitsap Committees and Current Chairs

Centennial Celebration — Catherine Ahl
 Diversity, Equity and Inclusion — Susan Griggs and Jeannie Allen
 Diversity, Equity and Inclusion — Jeannie Allen
 Early Childhood Education (0 to 3) — Rosalind Renouard
 Health Care — Jessica Guidry
 Housing — Rochelle Karlsen and Connie Syapin
 Pocket Parks — Kathleen Gallagher
 Publicity — Maurie Louis
 Social Media — Collette Crosby
 Technology — Maurie Louis
 Vote411 — Martha Burke
 Voter Registration and Get Out the Vote — Pam Hamon and Alicia Vause
 Water — Betsy Cooper

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.

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



JUNE 2020 Voter

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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)
- _____ **Free Student Membership**
(with current student identification)
- _____ **Additional donation** to support your
local Kitsap League
(Full or partial scholarships are available upon request.)

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

EMAIL _____

PHONE _____

Dues are payable by check or by PayPal at lww-kitsap.org. Make checks payable to LWV/Kitsap.
Mail to: League of Women Voters/Kitsap
P.O. Box 1524
Poulsbo, WA 98370

Mark Your Calendar: Dues are payable in July. Members are notified well in advance; please pay dues on time.
NOTE: If paying with PayPal, you will be charged a small additional fee to cover the PayPal convenience charge.