



The Kitsap *Voter*

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF KITSAP

SUMMER 2020

Virtual Forums Planned for July

With concerns about coronavirus continuing to disrupt many aspects of life in Kitsap and Washington state, it's not the time to resume the in-person forums we normally have around this time of year. Still, the primary is coming Aug. 4, and we have planned virtual forums in local races where multiple candidates have filed. Keep watching your email, our League website and Facebook page for updates and registration links.

See FORUMS on Page 5

Our Members Are Our Strength: Pay Your Dues

To our members: We value your membership, which has helped to support our important work to empower voters and defend democracy. Your dues pay for membership in the state and national League, with just \$9 of each \$60 membership retained for your local League. Membership for most of us begins on July 1 of each year. For those who joined between Feb. 1 and June 30, 2020,

your dues are paid through the following fiscal year. No remittance is necessary at this time.

For everyone else, please send your dues in as soon as possible.

Note the options for renewal on the back page of the Voter and for including a donation to cover the cost of scholarships and our local League activities. If you wish to make a tax-deductible contribution

to our Education Fund, please write a separate check.

Make checks payable to LWV-Kitsap or use PayPal, accessible through the "For Members" tab on our website, LWV-Kitsap.org. A small fee is charged those who pay through PayPal.

Send your questions to our Membership Chair, Carol Larsen, clarsen88@gmail.com or (360) 265-8132.

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

JULY

July 9 — Voter Registration/Get Out the Vote Committee Meeting, 10 a.m. via Zoom

July 11 — DEI meeting via Zoom, 10 a.m.

July 13 — SK Unit Meeting via Zoom, 10 a.m.

July 13 — Health Care Com-

mittee via Zoom, 1:30 p.m.

July 13 — 23rd District Representative, Position 1, Primary Candidate Forum via Zoom, 6:30 p.m.

July 15 — Kitsap County Commissioner, Position 2, Primary Candidate Forum via Zoom, 6:30 p.m.

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By Susan Griggs, Guest Columnist

What Is Going On?

In the United States, we are in the midst of two pandemics that are killing our brothers and sisters — one that silently snuffs out lives, and one that attacks violently in the streets. Both of these pandemics are killing thousands of people, but, statistically, both kill many more people of color than they kill our popular conception of “white” people. These labels in and of themselves can be limiting and often divisive, depending on their intent.

As someone who has recently been appointed as the LWVK Chair of the Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion committee, I realized that I needed to get better educated. I have become involved in many organizations that represent or serve communities that are underrepresented or disenfranchised, by attending many Zoom meetings on the issues that are affecting the black, brown, Asian, and Muslim communities. I have heard of hostility and racial profiling in Kitsap County: individuals of non-white races being followed in stores, overlooked by store clerks as they waited patiently in line, subjected to hostile comments or pointing by people when shopping, and being bullied in local schools without being given teacher support. Suquamish tribal members reported that street signs had been riddled with bullets, and that anti-indigenous graffiti appeared in many places.

I joined the NAACP and attended Zoom meetings of both the local chapter 1134 and the national organization. I learned that people of color have a disproportional chance of getting the Covid virus, not because of genetics but because of historical racial inequities. Toxic waste has been placed closer to neighborhoods of black and brown people, or poor communities, resulting in a higher level of toxicity in soil, water or air. People of color often have low-wage jobs without benefits. Many are

employed in essential jobs that preclude social distancing. Because of work and financial restraints, they have often had less access to medical services.

The national NAACP has expressed concern over the loss of learning for students of color during the last few months. These students have less access to computers and the internet, so they have benefited minimally from virtual teaching. These discrepancies suggest that they will be so much further behind in school when they return.



Susan Griggs

The stories of injustice presented on various platforms have been too numerous to list, but here are a few local accounts:

■ A black Olympic College professor and Bremerton School Board member discussed how she, when 8 or 9, was stopped by a policeman while skipping on her way home from school, and asked her name. Since her mom had told her not to tell strangers her name, she did not. The policeman then manhandled her and put her into the police car and called her the “N” word. She replied that her name was not “N,” but Karen.

■ Dr. Leroy Barber, a black United Methodist Church Pastor, described how lynching was used to terrorize African Americans in the South, so that watching George Floyd’s death on the T.V. was a spectacle lynching, evoking psychological trauma for blacks.

■ One black man I listened to said he was put in a knee-to-neck position similar to that used on George Floyd but not held in that position as long as Floyd was.

■ Over and over again, I heard cries from blacks who were stopped because they “looked like someone who had just committed a crime,” one of whom was a professor at a nearby university. His credentials did not keep the officer from becoming verbally aggressive even though the black man had been respect-

ful to the policeman.

When George Floyd was killed by a policeman in Minnesota, that was the last straw for many black people. Police have usually patrolled neighborhoods of people of color much more frequently and have arrested people of color for misdemeanors at a much higher rate, while overlooking similar actions by white people. Police have used excessive force more frequently on people of color. Unarmed black Americans have been killed by law enforcement officers in disproportionate numbers compared to unarmed whites (31 persons per million compared to the 13 millions per million since 2015).

The local NAACP chapter invited U.S. Rep. Derek Kilmer, State Rep. Drew Hansen, Bremerton Mayor Greg Wheeler, the police chiefs of Kitsap’s cities and the Kitsap County sheriff to its June 5 Vital Conversation Meeting. NAACP President Tracy Flood questioned the police chiefs about their policies. Poulsbo was the only city that had a Citizen Advisory Board, a sounding board on policies with no investigative powers. The other police chiefs said they were open to having a citizen advisory or review board.

Each of us in the League must take this moment to educate ourselves on the history of racism, examine our implicit biases, and open ourselves up to the ways that brown and black people are treated differently in our neighborhoods. We need to listen closely to what people of color say about their experiences and recognize the traumas they endure on a regular basis. Only then can we become true allies of our brown and black brothers and sisters and recreate our country so that all people are shown respect and given the same rights and equality. It is then important to determine what each of us can do to evaluate what our cities and counties are doing and use our voices to advocate for equity, diversity, and inclusion in Kitsap County.

(Editor’s note: This column has been edited for length. For the full version go to our League website, lwv-kitsap.org.)

Unit News

Bremerton/CK

The Bremerton/CK Unit hosted a Zoom meeting on June 20, with guests Paisley Gallagher, Food Access Program Coordinator for Kitsap Harvest; Deborah Horn, Executive Director, Meals on Wheels Kitsap; and Myra Battin, Director, Bremerton Backpack Brigade. Our speakers, each representing an organization in Kitsap County striving to ease food insecurity in our communities, shared with us their important missions.

Kitsap Harvest gleans surplus fruits and vegetables primarily from homeowners' fruit trees and backyard gardens and delivers it to those in need.

Meals on Wheels Kitsap delivers meals to homebound seniors and, before the pandemic, also served lunches at nine community dining sites. Now clients who are not homebound pick up five frozen meals one day per week.

Bremerton Backpack Brigade exists to provide a supplemental food source on weekends for children in need throughout the Bremerton School District. Thirty tons of food were packed and distributed last year by the Brigade.

Our guests expressed gratitude for community support and asked that we spread the word about the work they do. Twenty-three LWVK members participated in our meeting, including some from the BI, NK and SK units. Some planned to put information about these organizations in their community newsletters or Facebook page; others had excess produce for Kitsap Harvest. All were enthusiastic.



Photo montage by Maureen Cervinsky

Deborah Horn, Myra Battin and Paisley Gallagher addressed food insecurity in Kitsap County at the June 20 meeting of the Bremerton/Central Kitsap unit.



Photo by Ann Strosnider

SK members, from left, Adrienne Davis, Susan Daniel, Becky Drotz and Connie Syapin met in the Fred Meyer parking lot to pick up postcards for the League's campaign. More than 3,000 postcards will be sent to low-voting precincts before the Aug. 4 primary.

The next Bremerton/CK Unit Zoom meeting will be July 18. Bremerton Mayor Greg Wheeler, Police Chief James Burchett, and Fire Chief Patrick McManney have been invited to discuss how relations between our community and our law enforcement and emergency services personnel are going, how our police and firefighters are trained for crisis response, and

if they have determined that some departmental reforms are indicated given the unrest in the nation over law enforcement procedures. On Aug. 15, Aaron Leavell, Bremerton School District Superintendent, has agreed to attend a virtual unit meeting to talk about the school district's response to the COVID-19 pandemic and share developing plans for the 2020-21 school year.

The B/CK Unit meets on the third Saturday of each month, from 10 a.m. to noon. We have scheduled Zoom meetings and will continue meeting remotely through the summer. While we hope to be able to resume in-person meetings, the Zoom meetings have increased access to our monthly gatherings, so we plan to keep offering a remote option in the future.

If you have questions for Mayor Wheeler, Chief Burchett, Chief McManney, or Mr. Leavell, or you would like to attend the July and August meetings, please contact Maureen Cervinsky, mcervinsky@gmail.com

North Kitsap

The NK Unit had a zoom meeting June 24 with Vaan Wolfe, Education and Community Outreach Manager, YWCA/ALIVE to speak on domestic violence in Kitsap County. The July 24 Zoom meeting at 10 a.m. has yet to be planned. Members will be notified by email. We will have our annual potluck picnic on Aug. 26 at the home of Pam Hamon, if conditions allow.

South Kitsap

Karen Griffith and Judy McCay of End of Life Washington spoke June 8 via Zoom about Washington's Death with Dignity Act. They emphasized the importance of planning and of creating advance care directives if you want control over how you die. End-of-life choices may include hospice, palliative care, voluntarily stopping eating and drinking and, for those with a terminal illness, taking advantage of the Death with Dignity law.

The next meeting will be July 13. Speakers: Port Orchard Police Chief Matt Brown and Kitsap County Sheriff Gary Simpson.

Bainbridge Island

The BI Unit is regrouping under the new leadership of Colette Crosby and has no meeting scheduled now.

Committee News

Voter Registration/Get Out the Vote

The committee met on June 11. We started a GOTV postcard writing campaign and selected three low-turnout precincts to receive postcards. See story on Page 4 for details.

Voter registration has been difficult during the pandemic, and our concern is that people may not know that they can register online. Alicia Vause has made a variety of posters for all our members to print and place around their

neighborhoods. She made a bumper sticker size poster to put in car rear windows and larger posters to be put on any bulletin board. There also are bookmarks and a 1/2 sheet of voter information to run off and hand out. To print: go to LWV-Kitsap.org, Advocacy, Voting and Democracy, other resources, VR/GOTV Resources Page, Printable Resources. Print, post and give out!

Voter Pins are being distributed. Contact your unit leader if you want some.

A Social Media sub-committee was formed to manage LWVK sites on Facebook, Instagram

and Twitter. Members are asked to go to our LWVK media sites, mark as a friend, like the page and individual posts, and share and send on to other members and friends. The more volume, the bigger our impact. This is an effort to educate the public on voter registration and the importance of being an informed voter. Please send Maurie Louis or Colette Crosby fun voter pictures or voter stories.

We will be holding VOTE banners at the ferries before the primary. If safe, we may also

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Volunteers Address More Than 3,000 Postcards

Our postcard campaign has been a great success. It began with a suggestion from member Sue Hughes. She introduced the idea of encouraging voting among Kitsap residents in areas with the lowest voter turnout by sending them hand-written messages on postcards. Alicia Vause had already designed several attractive postcards that we could use.

With help from the Kitsap County auditor, we determined which precincts deserved our focus. We selected precincts 56, 95 and 175, primarily in Bremerton. As a control, we chose three similar precincts, also with low voter turnout, that will not receive postcards. The plan is, after the 2020 elections, to compare the voter turnout between the precincts that

received postcards and the control group to see if our efforts appear to have made a difference.

Once these precincts were selected, we requested a data file from the auditor with the names and street addresses of precinct residents as well as information on when they last voted. We decided to send postcards to all those who voted in 2012 or later in the three chosen precincts.

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COMMITTEES

From Page 3

walk onto the ferries. Anyone interested in helping please contact Pam Hamon.

Our next Zoom meeting will be Thursday, July 9, at 10 a.m.

Planning

The Planning Committee meets on the third Monday of each month from 10am to noon. Because of public health concerns, we are currently scheduling these meetings via Zoom. If you would like to join the planning committee, please contact Maureen Cervinsky mcervinsky@gmail.com to receive a Zoom invitation. Your comments and questions always are welcome.

The Committee is listening to our League members. As a result of our Annual Meeting conversation about fake news, the committee invited University of Kitsap Sun editor David Nelson to have a remote conversation about identifying false news reports and finding reliable facts. BKAT (Bremerton-Kitsap Access Television) has agreed to record and broadcast this program. At our July 20 meeting, we will discuss details for this September public education program about the internet and the spread of misinformation. Our Aug. 17 meeting will focus on developing plans for additional responsible public education.

We decided to send postcards to all those whose last vote was in 2012 or earlier in the three chosen precincts. It would be cost-prohibitive to send a postcard to everyone in the three precincts, and we decided not to send cards to those who, for example, now are 97 and haven't voted since 1982.

DEI

The Diversity, Equity and Inclusion focused over the last month on the PowerPoint presentation that was given at the "DEI Challenges and Successes Right Here in WA" LWVWA Council Conference session on June 2. We have placed that presentation on the LWVK website so that everyone in our League will be able to know what the DEI committee has done and what we



Bookmarks designed by Alicia Vause.

are planning to do during 2020-21.

The committee had a meeting on June 13 in which we regrouped and shared information about what we learned at the Council, what we could do in response to the murder of George Floyd, and what we still need to do in order to get collaborators for the Speak Up School that the Kitsap League will host in March. We shared information about books that we have read, and movies and webinars we have seen that have informed us recently of the experiences of the Black communities. Some of these resources will be shared via the DEI Resource Directory that we have put on the LWVK website.

Our next DEI meeting will be via Zoom on July 11 at 10 a.m. On the agenda: 1) Next steps for the Speak Up School; 2) Disseminating the DEI lens to unit leaders and program committees; 3) Next opportunities to develop relationships and work as allies with persons from diverse communities; and 4) LWVK material that we could share with diverse communities. All are invited. Contact Susan Griggs for the Zoom link.

Health Care

The Health Care Committee was excited to have Steve Valandra and Todd Dixon from the Washington State Office of the Insurance Commissioner join our June 8 Zoom meeting. OIC advocates for consumers and regulates insurance industries. They want to hear about insurance complaints (via www.insurance.wa.gov or 800-562-6900). OIC can require insurance compa-

nies to explain their actions and make sure they follow Washington state laws and individuals' policies. OIC also has great information about insurance (including Medicare) on its website and has Statewide Health Insurance Benefits Advisors who can answer insurance questions and do community presentations. The Committee is interested in having speakers join a future meeting to discuss race and health care. They also will review the Kitsap County Health Disparities Report. Our next meeting is scheduled for July 13 at 1:30 p.m.

Community Pocket Parks

Kathleen Gallagher, chair of this committee, says there is much groundwork to do in gathering introductory research. She continues looking for volunteers who might be interested in exploring this topic with her.

She hopes to do a short presentation in person for each unit in the future. It is a chance to address diversity in a different light, and also the environment, education, and community service. Other events have justly taken hold of our attention for now, she notes, but the 2050 Vision Plan still is viable.

September Celebration Canceled

We were hoping to have a big celebration in September of the 100th anniversary of the 19th Amendment giving women the right to vote. But, because of continuing concerns about Covid 19, it just doesn't seem like the right time to hold a major event attracting 100 people or more. The LWVK Board has reluctantly voted to cancel this event.

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.

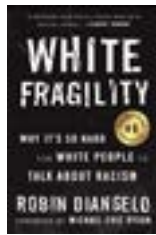
What We're Reading

LWVK once again is offering a peek into what we're reading. Here are what our members are reading:

■ **“Frederick Douglass,”** by David Blight. This Pulitzer Prize-winning book is the history of a famous slave who became an amazing well-known orator to help abolish slavery. It shows the many challenges for blacks before and after the Civil War up to 1900. It's a particularly timely book during the Black Lives Matter movement. — Pam Hamon

■ **“White Fragility,”** by Robin DiAngelo. Antiracist educator Robin DiAngelo, who earned her Ph.D. at the University of Washington, illuminates the phenomenon of white fragility and allows us to understand racism as a practice not restricted to “bad people.” Referring to the defensive moves that whites may make when challenged racially, white fragility is characterized by emotions such as anger, fear, and guilt, and by behaviors including argumentation and silence. In this in-depth exploration, DiAngelo examines how white fragility develops, how it protects racial inequality, and what we can do to engage more constructively. — Barb Willock

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



POSTCARDS

From Page 4



Fifty-four League members volunteered to write postcards to be sent to residents of selected precincts encouraging them to vote in the primary. We plan to do it again for November's general election.

Photo illustration by Ann Strosnider

It would be cost-prohibitive to send a postcard to everyone in the three precincts, and we decided not to send cards to those who, for example, are now 97 and haven't voted since 1982.

At this point we put out a call for volunteers to address the postcards. We had no idea we would get such a huge response. We had 54 members sign up to address anywhere from 20 to 200 postcards each, for a total of 3,395. They were given suggested messages for the cards: “Your vote is your power”; “You can't squawk if you don't vote,” for example. Many volunteers also have offered to stamp the cards since we have so many. We will pick them up and mail them seven to 10 days before the Aug. 4 primary.

The plan is to repeat this for the general election on Nov. 3. If you want to volunteer to help address postcards before the November election, contact Maurie Louis, maurie.louis@comcast.net or (925) 640-9002.

FORUMS

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We were asked to co-host the July 16 forums with the Tacoma-Pierce County League and have accepted the invitation.

**July 13, 6:30 p.m. Zoom
23rd District Rep.,
Position 1**
Lou Krukar
James Beall
Leslie J. Dausg
Tarra Simmons
April Ferguson

Co-sponsors of those forums include the NAACP, the University of Washington-Tacoma, AAUW and the Tacoma-Pierce County Affordable Housing Consortium.

**July 15, 6:30 p.m. Zoom
Kitsap County
Commissioner, District 2**
Paul Nuchims
Charlotte Garrido
Oran R. Root
Bob Perkins
Stacey (Spencer) Smith
Marcus Carter

**July 16, 5:30 p.m. Zoom
26th District Rep.,
Position 1**
Drew Darsow
Carrie Hesch
Jesse Young

**July 16, 7:30 p.m. Zoom
26th District Rep.,
Position 2**
Alisha Beeler
Michelle Caldier
Joy Stanford

CALENDAR

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July 16 — 26th District Representative, Position 1, Primary Candidate Forum via Zoom, 5:30 p.m.; Position 2, 7:30 p.m.

July 20 — Planning Committee meeting, 10 a.m. via Zoom

July 24 — NK Unit Meeting via

Zoom, 10 a.m.

Aug. 4 — Primary election

Aug. 10 — SK Unit Meeting via Zoom, 10 a.m.

Aug. 15 — Bremerton/CK Unit Meeting via Zoom, 10 a.m.

Aug. 17 — Planning Committee meeting via Zoom, 10 a.m.

LWV Kitsap Committees and Current Chairs

Community Pocket Parks — Kathleen Gallagher
Diversity, Equity and Inclusion — Susan Griggs
Early Childhood Education (0 to 3) — Rosalind Renouard

Health Care — Jessica Guidry

Housing — Rochelle Karlsen and Connie Syapin
Legislative Issue Liason — Martha Burke

Membership — Carol Larsen
Planning — Maureen Cervinsky

Publicity — Maurie Louis
Social Media — Colette Crosby
Technology — Maurie Louis

Vote411 — Martha Burke

Voter Registration and Get Out the Vote — Pam Hamon and Alicia Vause

Water — Betsy Cooper

League of Women Voters
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SUMMER 2020 Voter

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Membership Levels

_____ **\$60 Basic Membership**

NAME _____

_____ **\$90 Household Membership**

(2 or more members at the same address)

ADDRESS _____

_____ **\$110 Carrie Chapman Catt Member**

(founder of League of Women Voters)

_____ **\$160 Jo Huey Member**

(first president of LWV/K)

EMAIL _____

_____ **Donation to Education Fund**

(only donations to the Education fund
are tax-deductible)

PHONE _____

_____ **Free Student Membership**

(with current student identification)

_____ **Additional donation** to support your
local Kitsap League

(Full or partial scholarships are available upon request.)

Dues are payable by check or by PayPal at lww-kitsap.org. Make checks payable to LWV/Kitsap and 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.