

# The Kitsap *Voter*

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF KITSAP

NOVEMBER 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.

## Mark Your Calendar

### NOVEMBER

**Nov. 3:** General Election Day; deadline for in-person voter registration. Ballots must be postmarked by this day if mailed; or placed in an official ballot drop box by 8 p.m.

**Nov. 7:** 10 a.m. to noon, Board meeting via Zoom; contact Ann Strosnider or Leni Skarin

**Nov. 9:** 10 a.m. to noon, SK Unit Meeting via Zoom; contact Susan Daniel

**Nov. 14:** Deadline for December Voter; contact Ann Strosnider

See **CALENDAR** on Page 4

## We're All In for Getting Out the Vote

**C**ongratulations to all the many members of our League who participated in this year's voter registration and get out the vote campaign. Our activities were many, including developing voter pins, bookmarks, postcards and T-shirts; coordinating with the Auditor's Office to create and put Vote Early signs near all 96 blue mail boxes in the county; placing It's Time to be A Voter signs in our yards; holding banners and VOTE NOW signs at various locations; manning booths at farmers markets; encouraging voter information on high school websites; producing social media coverage

See **GOTV** on Page 2



Photo by Alicia Vause

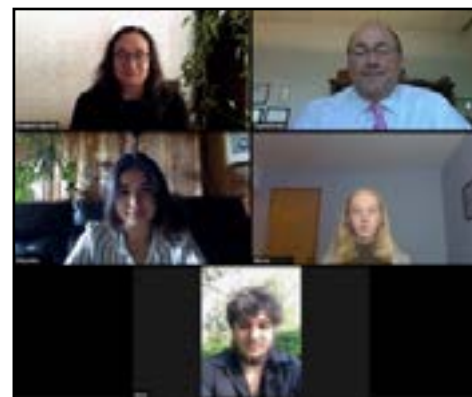
Calvin approves of our message.

## 'Voting 101': Teens Interview Auditor

**Why Vote?** Three local teenagers recently recorded an interview with Kitsap County Auditor Paul Andrews to ask that question and to find out how to ensure that, when they do vote, it counts.

Roan Aidane, 18, of North Kitsap and an LWVK member, will be voting in his first presidential election in November. Both Alejandra Pulido, 17, of Bremerton, and Alyssa Hawkins, 16, of South Kitsap, are preregistered to vote, ensuring that when they turn 18, a ballot will arrive for their first election.

These teens care about our community and our country. They are engaged in the conversation about diversity, equity, and inequality. They are concerned about our environment. They believe one way to make



Elizabeth Blandin helped organize the student interview of Kitsap County Auditor Paul Andrews. Students who did the interviewing included, second row: Alejandra Pulido and Alyssa Hawkins; and bottom row: Roan Aidane.

See **INTERVIEWS** on Page 3

## Guest Columnist

# New Board Member Finds It's Hard Work, But Worth the Effort

**R**honda Fairgrieve: Q and A

### *How long have you lived in Kitsap County and what brought you here?*

My husband and I moved to Manchester from the Portland, Ore., area in 1986, because of Bill's work opportunities. I was working with a Portland area Headstart program prior to our move and was able to find work with a Gig Harbor Parent Cooperative preschool before starting my work with Fort Lewis and McChord (JBLM) Child Services programs.

### *How long have you been a member of LWV Kitsap? What drew you to join the League?*

I joined LWV-Kitsap in November 2016 after talking with our new neighbors, Jeanne and Darrel Allen. Jeannie told me of

her experiences with the League in Indiana and with the LWV-Kitsap. Following the election that year, I felt that I wanted to find a proactive way to be engaged in the community, learn about and participate with local groups in local issues.



Rhonda Fairgrieve

### *Where did you grow up and how does your upbringing influence your League activity if at all?*

I was born and raised in southern Wisconsin in a small, conservative, rural farming community. My mother strongly encouraged me and my siblings to pursue our personal goals and career choices, which for me meant enrolling at the University of Wisconsin at Madison. Coming from my small hometown to the University gave me opportunities to experience the diversity of people, cultures, thought and beliefs that helped me to learn, grow and expand my horizons as a young adult. Though only an

hour's drive from my home, it felt like a world away.

After graduating with a teaching degree in Early Childhood Education, I chose to move to the other side of the world by joining the Peace Corps and spent 2½ years in the Philippines as a volunteer with a Nutrition/Community Development program. My work was primarily with Indigenous people in a very rural mountainous region. The program's focus was on addressing malnutrition and health issues. One of my key take-aways was the importance of our day to day contacts with others, through building trust and understanding, offer great potential to effect change and help individuals to grow and experience improvements in their lives.

These experiences and opportunities have influenced me in a variety of ways. In terms of my involvement with the League, two of the groups I am working with, the Diversity, Equity and Inclusion (DEI) group and the '0-3' study group, are both close to my heart!

### *What kind of work do you or did you do (if retired)?*

After returning from the Peace Corps, I re-entered the workforce in the Early Childhood field, working in child care, the Headstart program and parent cooperative preschools. The majority of my career was with military child care at JBLM. I served as a teacher trainer and as a center director. After retirement in 2016, and until Covid struck, I continued to support the ECE field through consulting work with a national organization that accredits ECE programs, ensuring the highest quality of services and care in programs for young children and their families.

### *What are your hobbies and interests outside of League?*

Depending on the season, I spend a lot of my time outside in our vegetable garden and weeding the flower beds. It's

See Effort on Page 3

## Board Snippets

From Oct. 3, 2020

■ The Nominating Committee for 2021-22 board members will consist of Susan Daniel, chair, Betsy Cooper, Ann Pyles, Maurie Louis, and Gail Sackman.

### ■ Treasurer's Report:

Karen Faye reports we have \$11,492 in checking, \$27,719 in savings and \$9,638 in our Education Fund, for a total of \$48,850. Some checks are still outstanding and will need to be deducted from this amount.

We considered revisiting the idea of investing our bequest from Elisabeth Bondy, probably with the Kitsap Community Foundation, but decided to wait since markets have been volatile lately.

## GOTV

From Page 1

on our website, Facebook, Instagram and Twitter; addressing and mailing more than 3,500 postcards; producing BKAT/Webinar candidate forums and interviews; and making 118 calls to more than 150 religious organizations with voting information.

There are too many people to thank for their participation, but special thanks go to Alicia Vause,

Colette Crosby, Susan Daniel, Candy Rankin, Becky Drotz, Judy Friedberg-Nerf, Martha Burke, RuthAnn Krussel, Jeannie Allen, Maurie Louis, Janet Stegemeyer, Evie Scherwin, Susan Griggs, Patty Graf-Hoke and the entire VR/GOTV Committee. It was a wonderful effort and surely made a difference in voter participation.

Many thanks to all the husbands who helped out as well. — Pam Hamon

## CALENDAR

From Page 1

**Nov. 14:** 10 a.m. to noon, DEI Committee meeting via Zoom, contact Susan Griggs

**Nov. 16:** 10 a.m. to noon, Planning Committee meeting;

contact Maureen Cervinsky

**Nov. 21:** 10 a.m. to noon, Bremerton/CK Unit meeting; contact Maureen Cervinsky

**Nov 25:** 10 a.m. to noon, NK Unit meeting; contact Pam Hamon

## How to Arm Yourself Against Disinformation

We all recognize the threat of misinformation. As Jevin West, assistant professor in the University of Washington iSchool and director of the Center for an Informed Public states, “It’s one of the most important problems of our time that we as a society need to solve. This is not a left or right issue. This is an issue that transcends political boundaries. Everyone wants to get this right.” In an effort to get it right, we invited Dr. West and David Nelson, Kitsap Sun editor, to discuss “When Disinformation Meets the 2020 Election: Becoming an Informed Citizen.” This interview, taped by Bremerton Kitsap Access Television (BKAT), is available at <https://vimeo.com/464283265>.



Jevin West

The far-ranging interview explores how disinformation is created and disseminated, how we as consumers of information are a major part of the problem, and how we can become part of the solution. For starters, as both David and Jevin emphasize, we can “think more and share less.”

See our website for more information.  
— Maureen Cervinsky

### INTERVIEWS From Page 1

a difference is through the ballot box. By recording this interview with Andrews, Alejandra, Alyssa, and Roan hope other first-time voters have the information they need to make their votes count.

“Voting 101: Making Your Vote Count,” our student interview with the Kitsap County Auditor is available through our website, [www.lwv-kitsap.org](http://www.lwv-kitsap.org), and through Bremerton Kitsap Access Television (BKAT), at <https://vimeo.com/bkat>. For more information about the

### EFFORT From Page 2

never-ending battle with the weeds frequently winning out! We work hard to use organic practices with our trees, berry bushes and garden beds. Then when harvest time comes around I usually can, freeze or dry the produce or give it away. When I’m not in the garden I also enjoy reading, weaving on a floor loom and sewing projects.

Since the start of the pandemic and spending so much time at home, I’ve become an avid bread baker. Early on, finding yeast and flour in the grocery stores was a big challenge which led me to making a sourdough starter so I’m now exploring various sourdough recipes. Our family has always enjoyed vacations out on the road camping, fishing, hiking and exploring the many beautiful parks and forests in the Northwest.

students, see our website.

As these young voters are learning, it’s important to fill out your ballot carefully and to sign the outside envelope. Of the 182,458 ballots issued to Kitsap County registered voters during the primary, 93,407 ballots were submitted by voters. Of those ballots received by the Auditor’s office, 3,599 were rejected for the following reasons:

- 317 received too late
- 60 no signature
- 768 bad signature
- 2,453 other

— Maureen Cervinsky

### *Tell us a little about your family.*

My husband and I met in the Philippines, when we were volunteers. We married after returning stateside and completed our graduate degrees in Moscow, Idaho, before our eventual move to Washington. We’ve raised two daughters here, who are now off on their own career paths. Our older daughter and her husband are living in Omaha and our younger daughter is in Berkeley. We miss them all! We’ve always had dogs living with us and currently have a very sweet rescue dog named Abe. He makes sure we get out for daily walks to explore the neighborhood, rain or shine!

***What do you hope to accomplish in the coming year as a League board member?***

It’s a privilege and honor to be asked to be a member of the LWV-Kitsap board. Since joining the League I’ve met so many

## Committee News

### Publicity and Media Presence

Colette Crosby and Victoria Hilt are doing an outstanding job of reorganizing and updating our Facebook page and other social media. Their hard work is paying off as we can see from the “insights” generated by Facebook. In the People Reached category, we were up 872 percent in mid-October, to 4,655 people reached, over the previous 28 days. Traditional media has not been ignored. With the help of Janet Stegemeyer and Catherine Ahl, we have published letters to the editor on our candidate forums and on the League’s support for Referendum 90, in favor of comprehensive and scientifically based sex education, in the past few weeks. We have sent out press releases on our forums and posted information about them and our other activities on [nextdoor.com](http://nextdoor.com).  
— Ann Strosnider

### Planning

We have been on a steep learning curve regarding public education programs, shifting from in-person meetings to remote. Between Aug. 11 and Oct. 5,

See NEWS on Page 4

amazing women and truly enjoyed learning about Kitsap county and the many issues we all face. Being on the board has given me additional opportunities to learn and expand my understanding how the League works, how it’s guided by the policies and positions it takes and how I can actively participate in League efforts to engage voters and defend democracy. Staying nonpartisan is challenging at times. Being involved takes time and energy, but it’s worth the effort! In the remaining year, I hope to be more involved and active in the groups I’ve connected with. It’s been an unusual and concerning year, to say the least, yet interesting and exciting at the same time. Virtual meetings, conferences and forums, who would have imagined that we could effectively continue the work of the League through such a challenging time! Thank you for the opportunity to serve!

## Thanking Us from Down Under

Below is a thank-you received at our website. Apparently our postcards are getting around, and not just in Kitsap County.

**From:** Patricia Marx  
Hello! Just wanted to say thank you for the voter postcard all the way to Australia. I feel like absentee voters tend to be forgotten about.

Keep up the good work!

## Unit News

■ **Bremerton/CK:** The Brem./Central Kitsap Unit joined the other LWVK units in GOTV activities leading up to the November general election by writing postcards, waving signs, registering voters, and assisting the auditor's office effort to post voting instructions near USPS collection boxes. CK/B meets every third Saturday of the month from 10 a.m. to noon. Our next

Zoom meeting will be on Saturday, Nov. 21. For information, contact Maureen Cervinsky.

■ **North Kitsap:** The NK Unit plans to have its regular fourth Wednesday Zoom meetings at 10 a.m. on Nov. 25 and Dec. 23. Members will be notified either of these are canceled.

■ **South Kitsap:** SK Unit members have been busy getting out the vote. We are addressing and mailing VOTER

postcards to low turnout precincts in Kitsap. We will hold VOTE NOW signs near heavy traffic areas in late October to encourage voters to return their ballots. Led by Jeannie Allen, League volunteers Jami Bledsoe, Anita Rose, Julie Fowler-Wilson, Betty, and Darrell Allen, have been at the Port Orchard Farmers Market each Saturday to register voters.

The SK Unit meets via Zoom at 10 a.m. the second Monday of each month.

## NEWS From Page 3

we helped plan and produce four public education programs focusing on the census, systemic racism, disinformation, and voting in the 2020 General Election. All four were recorded by Bremerton Kitsap Access Television (BKAT). For more information regarding these programs, go to [www.lvw-kitsap.org](http://www.lvw-kitsap.org). The Planning Committee meets every third Monday of the month from 10 a.m. to noon. Our next Zoom meeting will be Monday, Nov. 16. All interested League members are welcome to attend. For information, please contact Maureen.

— Maureen Cervinsky

## Housing

■ **Morrow Manor**, an eight-unit housing complex for victims of domestic violence and their children, was officially turned over from North Kitsap Rotary to the YWCA on Oct. 9. Featured in the Zoom ceremony was Ardis Morrow, a longtime League and Rotary member, for whom the complex is named. League members donated more than \$1,000 to provide welcome baskets for the new residents.

■ **Pendleton Place**, a 74-unit Bremerton complex that will provide housing and services for the county's most vulnerable residents, is on track to be built and opened in the fall of 2021. Committee members agreed to wait until summer 2021 to begin a welcome basket drive.

■ Members have been actively involved

in housing-related activities over the past few months, including Homes of Compassion; Kitsap Advocating for Immigrant Rights and Equality; and Pilgrim Firs, where cabins are provided for those positive for COVID, mostly those experiencing homelessness.

■ **Calvinwood**, a county-owned campground, has been identified for the proposed tiny house village. A temporary approval was granted, but more work is needed before permits can be applied for. There's still no contract in place for property management, and it isn't likely that the village will be built this year.

— Barb Willock

## DEI

The interview with Tracy Flood (see page 5) was the first of several Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Committee webinars planned to introduce League members to different Kitsap communities and explain how to be better allies in their struggles for equity.

In November, the DEI committee will host a webinar with Karen Vargas, founder of Kitsap Equity, Race, and Community Engagement Coalition, and others in a panel discussion entitled "Desegregate White Privilege." We will discuss some of the areas in which ERACE is trying to confront systemic racism in local institutions.

DEI is planning for the March Speak Up School, which will train residents to testify at the Washington State Redistricting Commission's Public Hearings

in May or June 2021. Trainers will be trained in December of 2020. Additional trainers and coaches to encourage the testifiers still are being sought.

Let Susan Griggs know if you are interested.

— Susan Griggs

## 0 to 3

At the meeting on Sept. 23, the 0 to 3 committee was joined by five colleagues from the Nurse Family Partnership. This highly instructive meeting left us with many leads to follow. There are quite a few organizations giving childcare services for low income families. However, each one of these organizations works with somewhat different criteria. Also the funding streams can be complex.

At an earlier meeting we worked on a mission statement (helped along by Beth Worthington) for our committee. This has not yet been adopted but, I think, pretty well sums up what the committee is about: *"POSITIVE CHANGE BEGINS WITH SEEKING UNDERSTANDING AND WITH A DESIRE TO HELP OTHERS"*

Given our core belief, supported by research, that early education from birth to three years leads to more successful outcomes for children and families, our goals are as follows:

■ Map Kitsap's system, infrastructure and capacity for parent education and support.

■ Quantify the need for 0 to three education in our Kitsap communities

■ Identify opportunities to improve 0 to 3 education in our Kitsap communities.

## NAACP President Suggests Ways to be a Better Ally

The DEI committee, on Sept. 30, hosted an interview by League member and former County Commissioner Linda Streissguth with Tracy Flood, President of the Bremerton NAACP, on “How to Be a Better Ally.” Tracy defined an ally as someone who is willing to act with others and for others, and said that our joint end goal would be to end oppression, and that we may need to develop a new lens in order to be allies. She suggested the following books and/or videos so as to understand better the inequity for people of color:

### Books:

- **“Black Robes, White Justice,”** by Bruce M. Wright
- **“The Alchemy of Race and Rights — Diary of a Law Professor,”** by Patricia J. Williams
- **“Why Are All the Black Kids Sitting Together in the Cafeteria?”** by Beverly Daniel Tatum, Ph.D
- **“The New Jim Crow,”** by Michelle Alexander

**Videos** by Dr. Bryant Marks, Morehouse College professor and presenter/trainer on implic-it/unconscious bias:

- [www.youtube.com/watch?v=toQCvWpyJXI](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=toQCvWpyJXI)
- [www.youtube.com/watch?v=bUDIMWVVLXGk](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bUDIMWVVLXGk)
- [www.youtube.com/watch?v=ws5ro-wt3uo](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ws5ro-wt3uo)
- [www.facebook.com/watch/?v=212291190044726](http://www.facebook.com/watch/?v=212291190044726)

— Susan Griggs



Linda Streissguth



Tracy Flood

View this webinar at:  
<https://vimeo.com/466494504>

## State League News

■ **Civics Education:** The new middle school text, appropriate for 5th- to 8th-graders, will be available this fall. Each local League is asked to help market it in local school districts. It would be helpful if each unit had a volunteer contact for the school district in their area. That volunteer could share information about “The State We’re In” with the curriculum director and ask if either middle schools or high schools would use classroom sets of either level. Please contact Leni if you are interested in helping promote these resources.

■ **The new state Lobby Team Chair** is Joan Lawson, who has the Advocacy Portfolio on the state board of directors. She encourages everyone to contact the Lobby Team Issue Chair for questions related to their areas of expertise. Action Workshops will be virtual and held in the first week of December. The format is yet to be determined, but we are asked to consider watching in groups.

■ **State Convention** will also be via Zoom in late spring (usually in June.) We are asked to begin considering any state-wide studies we would propose. These extensive looks at a particular topic are first proposed at local League Program of Work Planning Meetings. Kitsap usually has theirs in January.

■ **A new Affinity group** is forming for discussions on gun issues in our State. Please email Linda Benson, MELD Chair, at [lbenson@lwvwa.org](mailto:lbenson@lwvwa.org) if you are interested in joining the first zoom meeting.

— Leni Skarin

## Zooming into the Elections

Our League held virtual forums for candidates for Kitsap County Commissioner and for legislators in the 23rd and 26th state legislative districts. Unfortunately, Commissioner Charlotte Garrido was unable to attend after a sudden death in the family on the day of the forum, and we canceled her and her opponent, Oran Root’s portion of the forum. We also had some technical glitches in the forum for the 23rd District candidates, pictured above. Moderator Catherine Ahl and technical helper Colette Crosby handled the brief interruption beautifully, and we carried on. Many thanks to all the Forum Committee members. In addition to Catherine and Colette, they included Robin Muir, Maurie Louis, Janet Stege-



meyer, Susan Daniel, Alicia Vause, Myra Howrey, RuthAnn Krussel, Carol Larsen, Candy Rankin and Rhonda Fairgrieve. To find out where to get links to watch the forums in case you missed any of them, keep an eye on our website.

— Ann Strosnider

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



## NOVEMBER 2020 Voter

In this issue:

- ▶ Get Out the Vote
- ▶ Teens Interview KC Auditor
- ▶ Guest Columnist
- ▶ Committee News
- ▶ Unit News
- ▶ NAACP President Suggests  
Ways to be a Better Ally
- ▶ Arm Yourself Against Disinformation

### 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.*

### LWV Kitsap Committees and Current Chairs

**Bylaws Review** — Leni Skarin, [leniskarin@gmail.com](mailto:leniskarin@gmail.com)  
**Civics Education Subcommittee** — Carol Larsen and Becky Drotz; [clarsen88@gmail.com](mailto:clarsen88@gmail.com); [drotz123@msn.com](mailto:drotz123@msn.com)  
**Community Pocket Parks** — Kathleen Gallagher; [miley98370@yahoo.com](mailto:miley98370@yahoo.com)  
**Diversity, Equity and Inclusion** — Susan Griggs; [susan.griggs0803@gmail.com](mailto:susan.griggs0803@gmail.com)  
**Early Childhood Education (0-3)** — Rosalind Renouard; [rrenouard@msn.com](mailto:rrenouard@msn.com)  
**Housing** — Rochelle Karlsen and Connie Syapin; [sailorrochelle@gmail.com](mailto:sailorrochelle@gmail.com); [csyapin@msn.com](mailto:csyapin@msn.com)  
**Legislative Issue Liaison** — Martha Burke; [mburke2007@aol.com](mailto:mburke2007@aol.com)  
**LWV 101** — Pam Hamon and Carol Larsen; [pchamon@icloud.com](mailto:pchamon@icloud.com); [clarsen88@gmail.com](mailto:clarsen88@gmail.com)  
**Membership** — Carol Larsen; [clarsen88@gmail.com](mailto:clarsen88@gmail.com)  
**Nominating** — Susan Daniel; [sdaniel537@aol.com](mailto:sdaniel537@aol.com)  
**Planning** — Maureen Cervinsky; [mcervinsky@gmail.com](mailto:mcervinsky@gmail.com)  
**Publicity** — Maurie Louis; [maurie.louis@comcast.net](mailto:maurie.louis@comcast.net)  
**Social Media** — Colette Crosby; [colettecrosby@gmail.com](mailto:colettecrosby@gmail.com)  
**Technology** — Maurie Louis; [maurie.louis@comcast.net](mailto:maurie.louis@comcast.net)  
**Vote411** — Martha Burke; [mburke2007@aol.com](mailto:mburke2007@aol.com)  
**Voter Registration and Get Out the Vote** — Pam Hamon and Alicia Vause; [pchamon@icloud.com](mailto:pchamon@icloud.com);  
[aliciavotes@gmail.com](mailto:aliciavotes@gmail.com)