



The Kitsap *Voter*

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF KITSAP

DECEMBER 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

DECEMBER

Dec. 2: VR/GOTV Committee meeting, 10 a.m. via Zoom; contact Pam Hamon

Dec. 3: LWVK Board meeting via Zoom, 6:30 to 8:30 p.m.; contact Ann Strosnider or Leni Skarin

Dec. 4: 30th Annual Kitsap County Conference for Human Rights, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., to be held virtually; information at <http://kcowa.us/hrc>

Dec. 5: LWVWA Annual Action Workshop Session 1, 9:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. Watch your email for registration information and details about

See **CALENDAR** on Page 2

'Pocket Parks' Photos Needed



The Manette Gazebo is an example of the small pocket parks that Kathleen Gallagher and Maureen Cervinsky are exploring.

Photo by Maureen Cervinsky

Kathleen Gallagher and I are going to record the pocket parks presentation in the near future. In place of some blank slides, Kathleen is considering using photos of existing small gathering places in the county. These would be places that local residents are able to easily access. They are not "destination" parks such as the Silverdale Waterfront Park, but places to which local residents may walk and which reflect a special aspect of that discrete community.

An example where I live in Manette is the gazebo at the foot of the peninsula (above). Locals often walk there. Children love to play on the little rocky beach. Friends enjoy sitting on the bench or seawall to visit. People sit and watch the ferries or read. There is a small parking area, and when whales are sighted, people do come to whale watch, and when ships leave on de-

ployment, people come distances to see them off, but for the most part it is used by the community.

We could use some photos of similar community treasures in South, North, Silverdale, and Bainbridge. Send photos, if you have them. Or I'm happy to photograph your examples if you will let me know where they are located.

— Maureen Cervinsky

Guest Column by Carol Larsen

Hello to my valued League friends. I have been asked to share my “story” with you in this issue of our Voter newsletter, which I am pleased to do. League has been and hopefully will continue to be a very important part of my story.

In 1988, I moved to Squamish having been born and raised in Seattle. I retired from public school teaching in 2010, and it was at this point that I came to join LWV-Kitsap. I have a dear friend who was very active in the Seattle-King County League and for years



Carol Larsen

we spoke of LWV and her passion for all things League.

Moving to Kitsap and retiring brought forward the question of what kept me from joining. I knew very little of county government so reached out to learn. And learn I did! The first couple years passed in a blur with many questions clouding my thinking.

I was on the verge of leaving League, feeling overwhelmed with all the acronyms and confusing conversations happening at what seemed like warp speed. Then came the idea to create League 101, offering new members and others

like me a chance to ask questions in a small group setting.

Pam Hamon and I moved forward with the idea, and it has become a valuable tool. I encourage anyone in the least confused, overwhelmed, or needing direction to persevere and ask questions. I believe our League has much to offer in making a difference in our neighborhoods, larger communities and our country. The collective mind we have at our disposal, to learn from, discuss with and move ideas forward to effective programs is astounding. I am so proud to be a part of League as a Board member and in whatever role lies ahead.

Unit News

■ **Bremerton/CK:** The Bremerton/CK Unit meets every third Saturday of the month, from 10 a.m. to noon. In November, we met with Carina Wood, KRL Silverdale librarian, to learn about services during the pandemic. In December we hope to see and discuss the Pocket Parks video. Any interested League member is welcome to join us. Our December meeting is scheduled for Saturday, Dec. 19.

— Maureen Cervinsky

■ **North Kitsap:** The NK Unit will meet at our usual time of the fourth Wednesday of the month at 10 a.m. Our next meeting is Dec. 23. The Zoom connection will

be sent out to all members. We have been discussing the DEI agenda on race. We also will talk about what members have learned at the Action Workshops. Please contact Pam if you want to add something to the agenda.

— Pam Hamon

■ **South Kitsap:** SK Unit members meet via Zoom at 10 a.m. on the second Monday of each month. Our guests at the November meeting were Kitsap County Auditor Paul Andrews and Chief Deputy Auditor Daryl Daus. They said they were pleased with the voters of Kitsap for getting their ballots in early this year, and they gave much of the credit to our League. — Susan Daniel

Board Snippets

From Nov. 7, 2020

■ We agreed that storage is badly needed, especially with all of the new signs we had made for our Get Out the Vote efforts this year. Carol Larsen will be looking into rental space that includes room for meetings and an office as well as storage.

■ We set the Meet and Greet for the evening of Dec. 10 since one of the state League’s Action Workshops is set for Dec. 12,

the day we were considering. Martha Burke will contact legislators.

■ We discussed our archive material, which is housed at the Historical Society Museum in Bremerton. Leni Skarin will look into the possibility of digitizing it.

■ Treasurer Karen Faye reported we have more than \$9,000 in our checking account. She asks that anyone who has League-related expenses submit receipts to her in a timely fashion.

CALENDAR

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speakers

Dec. 10: Meet and Greet with Legislators: Budgeting During a Crisis; 5 p.m. via Zoom. More information will be coming by email.

Dec. 12: LWVWA Annual Action Workshop Session 2, 9:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. Watch for registration information and details about breakout sessions

Dec. 13: Deadline for January Voter. Please have all material to Ann Strosnider by 5 p.m.

Dec. 14: SK Unit meeting, 10 a.m. to noon via Zoom; contact Susan Daniel

Dec. 19: CK/Bremerton Unit meeting, 10 a.m. to noon via Zoom; contact Maureen Cervinsky

Dec. 21: Planning meeting, 10 a.m. to noon via Zoom; contact Maureen Cervinsky

Dec. 23: 10 a.m. to noon, NK Unit Meeting via Zoom; contact Pam Hamon

LOOKING AHEAD

Feb. 3: Program Planning, 5 to 7 p.m. on Zoom (bring your own cocktails!)

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 Comes Next

■ **Dec. 8** is the deadline for resolving election disputes at the state level. All state recounts and court contests over presidential election results are to be completed by this date.

■ **Dec. 14:** Electors vote by paper ballot in their respective states and the District of Columbia. The votes for president and vice president are counted and the electors sign six “Certificates of the Vote.” The certificates, along with other official papers, are sent by registered mail to various officials, including the president of the Senate.

■ **Jan. 6, 2021:** The House and Senate hold a joint session to count the electoral votes. If one ticket has received 270 or more electoral votes, the president of the Senate, now Vice President Mike Pence, announces the results.

■ **Jan. 20:** The president-elect is sworn into office on Inauguration Day.

— Associated Press
(for the complete story, click on this link: https://replica.seattletimes.com/infinity/article_popover_share.aspx?guid=c-391b2e5-8612-432b-932c-d0e893fe5f08)

Why Some People Choose Not to Vote

Before this year’s Presidential election, I spoke to some of my acquaintances, who openly expressed their decision not to vote. It is important to note the demographic of these people; they fall in the 30- to 50-age bracket. They all are college graduates and some hold post-graduate degrees. They all have successful careers in engineering, law or media.

In sum, their choice not to vote boils down to their desire to update an outdated system, which no longer works. A no-vote, they believe, is a vote to delegitimize the current two-party system and hence create room for an advanced electoral system, which meets the needs and social structures of the 21st century. These are three main reasons why they believe the current system is outdated:

1. It’s more than 200 years old. It was created by the Founding Fathers, with the first election held in 1788-

89. The founders believed that pure democracy was equivalent to mob rule or “tyranny of the majority” in John Adams’ words.

2. Choosing between two evils. My acquaintances believe that lately presidential elections have produced candidates, neither of which were worthy of their vote. One candidate might be preferable to the other, but even then, they were not satisfying choices.

3. The unequal power of the vote. It seems unfair that voters in less populous states like Alaska carry significantly more weight than those in California or New York due to the electoral college.

In conclusion, the people I spoke with would never advocate violence. All they want is a civil transformation. They hope that the new system will be created using reason and data-driven approaches.

— Diana Urbaite-Sosonkina

Auditor Credits League for Early Voting

Kitsap County Auditor Paul Andrews and Chief Deputy Auditor Daryl Daugs, appearing as guests at the Nov. 9 SK Unit meeting, credited our League for encouraging voters to use ballot drop boxes and to vote early.

At the suggestion of the auditor’s office, we put up 96 signs near the blue post office mailboxes directing voters to the nearest drop box.

For this election, 75 percent of those who voted used the drop boxes, a huge increase over the 50 percent who used them last time, Andrews said.



Paul Andrews

Voter turnout also was high this year, with 83.49 percent of Kitsap’s 190,646 registered voters returning their ballots. It did not reach the 90 percent predicted at one time, but was up significantly from the 78 percent who voted in 2016. Voter turnout in Kitsap for the November election closely matched the state turnout of 83.4 percent, according to the Secretary of State’s website.

Andrews and Daugs said the early turnout helped make this one of the smoothest elections they could remember.

— Ann Strosnider

Program Planning for 2021-2022

As we close out 2020, it's time to begin thinking about the LWVK Program Planning for next year. We usually meet the end of January to discuss ideas for our program of work for the year ahead, which begins in June 2021. This year we plan to meet from 5 to 7 p.m. Feb. 3 on Zoom. Our focus will be on state and local planning.

The current state League Program in Action 2019-2020, which was adopted at the 2018 State Convention, is on the LWVWA website under the Advocacy tab. Since most

program proposals are supported of a current League position, it is helpful to review state and national positions (both at lwvwa.org/league-positions) and local positions on the lwv-kitsap.org website.

We once again will ask the local units to discuss proposals for program at the local level. Please be thinking about ideas for topics for a study, a public education meeting or a project that might be undertaken by a committee. A study usually involves extensive research by a committee and adoption by consensus; a public education meeting might be on any topic of community interest; a project might involve

a group of interested members looking into a topic in depth. For all of these activities, it is crucial to have a leader and a group of people willing to help out.

The Program Planning meeting is the first step in focusing on the year ahead, or in the case of the State League for the next two years.

We will have time to review and develop our ideas further before the membership approves the Program at our annual meeting in May.

What do you want to be part of in League next year? Please share your ideas at your next unit meeting.

— Leni Skarin

Committee News

DEI Sponsors 'Desegregating White Privilege'

The Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Committee held a panel discussion on "Desegregating White Privilege" Nov. 9 with three racial equity activists: Karen Vargas, Chastity Malatesta, and Airen Lydick. The panelists discussed what white privilege is and ways to overcome the inequities currently evidenced in Kitsap County, specifically in regard to governmental jurisdictions, criminal or community justice institutions and educational institutions. Suggestions were made as to how to undo systemic racism and move equity forward in our Kitsap community. Go to this link to view the webinar: www.youtube.com/watch?v=Y-CW3vAc-4tk&feature=youtu.be

The DEI committee will present a panel discussion on Radical Joy Dec. 4 at the Kitsap County Conference for Human Rights. Our panel will suggest that activists will receive this joy through the opportunities that the Speak Up School offers disenfranchised and marginalized communities to have a greater voice in our democratic process through participation in the Redistricting Commission's



May or June of 2021 Public Hearings.

Our meetings are typically on the second Saturday in the month at 10 a.m. A different time may be selected for December as there is a state action workshop that day. Contact Susan for information.

— Susan Griggs

Healthcare Issues Need Support

Many League members are concerned about a wide range of healthcare issues. In just the past two years, the Healthcare Committee has sponsored a community education program on opioid use, considered a program about suicide prevention (which lacked a leader to organize), and met with representatives of several organizations like Kitsap Mental Health Services and End of Life Washington.

We also had a spring meeting planned about Climate Change and Your Health, which was cancelled due to the Covid-19 pandemic — an important healthcare issue itself.

Recently a new concern has arisen about access to the full legal range of healthcare services as the number of Catholic hos-

pitals in the state of Washington has increased dramatically. Catholic hospitals must comply with Ethical and Religious Directives (ERDs), which limit provision of full reproductive care options as well as end of life options that are legal services in our state. Here in Kitsap County, the former Harrison Hospital is now operated by CHI Franciscan as St Michael's Hospital, and Virginia Mason is also considering a merger with CHI Franciscan. This topic is definitely a concern to be further investigated.

The current LWVK Healthcare Committee is taking a break from monthly meetings this fall due to Chair Jessica Guidry's personal and professional commitments. To address all the above

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Membership at 207

Our current membership stands at 207. We have three students on the roster and four Lifetime members. There are 11 members who have shared their intention to continue membership or joined recently but need to pay the dues of \$60 through Pay Pal or by sending a check to P.O. Box 1524, Poulsbo, WA 98370.

League values your participation, and scholarships are graciously made available by sending an email to Carol Larsen. Phone calls and emails have been made, and those who have not paid need to reply by

Jan. 15. At that time our League is required to pay \$50 to National for each recorded member.

If you have any questions, please contact Membership Chair Carol Larsen at clarsen88@gmail.com.

Additionally, if you would prefer to receive our monthly Voter newsletter by post rather than email please send notice to the above email. — Carol Larsen

New Members Who Joined from Sept. 1 to Oct. 31, 2020:

Bainbridge Island Unit

Susannah Braff
Lisa Glaze

Mary Ellen Murphy
Marie Pence

Bremerton/CK Unit

Torie Brazitis
Jillian Lyeria
Patricia Troxell
Alexandria Wensil (student)

Seattle (no local Unit)

Anne Huey (founder Jo Huey's daughter)

NK Unit

RuthAnn Krussel
Shielda Trotter
Lynne Ukich

SK Unit

Dara Morgan

NEWS

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issues and others, it would be helpful to have more members active on the committee. Perhaps someone would be willing to co-chair with Jessica or serve as vice chair? If you are interested and able to help in this work, please contact me or Jessica, jessicaguidry@hotmail.com.

— Leni Skarin, leniskarin@gmail.com

Planning Committee

Looking for Video Editors

The Planning Committee generally meets every third Monday of the month, from 10 a.m. to noon, and we invite you to join. Our focus recently has been on producing virtual public education programs. Our December program supports a Meet and Greet with our state legislators to learn about budgeting during the coronavirus pandemic.

The Technology Committee has uploaded 20 public education programs to our LWV-Kitsap YouTube channel. To view them, click on this link:

<https://m.youtube.com/channel/UCN-0VIBHRCMNdB01qSVDFO7w>

In December, we hope to add our Pocket Parks video to the collections. We invite you to tune in to YouTube, subscribe to our channel, and watch. Our next technological challenge will be to edit our work to produce short highlight videos. If you would like to help with this project please contact Maureen. Our next regularly scheduled meeting will be Dec. 21. — Maureen Cervinsky

LWV 101

We had two LWV 101 sessions in November and plan to set up more in December and January. New members will be contacted via email regarding dates and times, usually on a Saturday. Interested members are encouraged to contact Pam Hamon or Carol Larsen as to what dates and times are most convenient for them. — Pam Hamon

Coffee Oasis — Volunteers Needed

Are you interested in working with youth to encourage them to learn about our community and become educated voters? There are four Coffee Oasis sites: Kingston, Poulsbo, Bremerton and Port Orchard. In the past members of our League have met once a

month at Poulsbo, Bremerton and Port Orchard but had to discontinue due to COVID-19. We have been invited to re-connect through Zoom, but we need more volunteers. We are hoping to have at least three volunteers for each site. Our basic plan is to develop a questionnaire that Manager Jacob Wischoff will distribute to the youth asking what topics would be of most interest. We can then schedule programs accordingly. Suggested times are for one hour once a month starting at 3:30 pm. Besides setting up topics like how the electoral college works we could occasionally invite elected officials to join us.

Available days are pretty open now, but the sooner we can confirm the better. If you are interested please contact Pam Hamon or Judy Friedberg-Nerf with your best days and what site(s) you prefer. Hopefully we can develop the questionnaire by early December in hopes of starting in January. — Pam Hamon

Voter Registration/Get Out the Vote

The next Zoom meeting of the VR/GOTV Committee will be Wednesday, Dec. 2, at 10 a.m. This will be a time to

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Meet Some of Our New Members

■ **Anne Huey of Seattle:** Although Anne lives in Seattle, she wanted to join our League with a \$160 Jo Huey membership because Jo Huey (1909-1995), one of our founders and our first president, was her mother. Jo was short for Josephine. She and her husband, Jim, both teachers in North Dakota, moved to Washington state in the 1930s to attend graduate school at the University of Washington. Jim taught and became a principal and later superintendent of the Central Kitsap School District. Jo was always active in the community, and after founding the League with a group of local women worked to stop the mall in Silverdale and later to get Silverdale to incorporate as a city. While her projects were not always successful, her daughter says she never quit fighting. Her political decisions were always based on, "Do what's best for the people," according to Anne.



Jo Huey

If you see a picture of her, you may notice something unusual about Jo Huey. "She made all her own clothes, more or less without a pattern ... jackets, blouses, trousers, matching handbags," Anne recalled. "She made them fast, taking shortcuts of her own invention ... mostly in blues, purples and wine."

■ **Torie Brazitis of Bremerton:** Torie is a Kitsap County native who recently returned with her family to Bremerton after 12 years away in Washington, D.C., and Denver, CO. She works for the City of Seattle during the day and enjoys gardening, reading and learning to play piano in her free time.

She joined the League because "I am a nonpartisan person, and in honor of all the women before me who have fought for our right to vote."

■ **Amanda Rodgers of Bremerton:** Amanda is a lifelong Kitsap County resident who lives in Bremerton with her husband, stepson, and four cats. She'd never felt civically engaged, despite voting in most elections since legally able to do so. This year, though, with the pandemic, she felt the need to help, so she was hired as an elections worker for Kitsap County during the 2020 general election. She learned a lot about the ballot counting process and how Kitsap County works to be as transparent as possible when it comes to counting votes. After the job ended, she felt a need to do more, so she joined LWV Kitsap. She hopes to help educate voters and get younger generations interested in politics.

Before the election, Amanda worked for two years at the City of Poulsbo, and previously worked 11 years at Kitsap Regional Library. As of this month's publication, Amanda will have started her new position as a Secretary/Clerk 2 for the Kitsap Public Health District in the Environmental Services Division. When not working, Amanda enjoys reading, hanging out with her family, swimming, biking, running, and napping with her cats.

NEWS

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summarize and evaluate our voter service activities: our successes and where we could improve. Anyone interested in becoming a member of this committee is welcome to attend. Congratulations and thanks to all those members who participated in our many activities during this most important election. — Pam Hamon

"0 to 3"

The "0 to 3" Committee keeps moving along in its efforts to survey the early childhood picture here in Kitsap County. We have recently met with Kitsap Public Health to discuss its Head Start and Early Head Start programs. We plan to meet with Kitsap Community Resources in the near future. — Rosalind Renouard

Gearing Up for the Legislature

The 2021 legislative session is scheduled for Jan. 11 to April 25. This will be an especially difficult year for legislators because of the pandemic and resulting budget shortfall. To find out more about how our elected representatives plan to address these issues, plan to attend our legislative Meet and Greet — Budgeting During a Crisis, starting at 5 p.m. Dec. 10 on Zoom. So far, state Sen. Christine Rolfes (23rd District), and state Reps. Tara Simmons (23rd) and Jesse Young (26th) have agreed to attend. You will



Our glorious state Capitol building in Olympia.

have a chance to ask questions. Watch for a link to this event in your email.

The state League will present its Annual Action Workshop in two sessions this year, Dec. 5 and Dec. 12, both from 9:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. The first session will focus on Revenue — Why we need it and how to get it. The second session will feature breakouts on economic and social justice; criminal

justice and gun safety; education; and climate change, the environment and transportation.

Here is a link to register for the Action Workshop: [https://www.lwvwa.org/Action Workshops](https://www.lwvwa.org/Action%20Workshops).

What We're Reading

LWVK offers a peek into what we're reading. Here is what a member is reading:

■ **“The Truths We Hold: An American Journey”** by Kamala Harris, published in 2018, is an homage to all of her family, friends and others who helped her on her journey to her chosen vocation and avocation of helping others. Each step of the way she absorbs lessons, experiences and wisdom that she now will bring to the Vice Presidency. She summarizes her harvest in the last chapter, “What I’ve Learned.” It is an illuminating sharing during this 100th anniversary of the League of Women Voters.

— Kathleen Gallagher

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



LWVWA Affinity Groups

Affinity groups can be any cadre of people interested in a common topic. Mary Coltrane, Voter Services, has been connected with Voter Service Chairs for some time. Members are encouraged to form their own topic groups and let Linda Benson, LWVWA Membership chair, know who they are. She will make sure that they are connected with the correct Board Portfolio Director. This is a way to have discussions with members across the state on topics of mutual interest. Meetings are held by Zoom.

Affinity discussion groups that have been formed: Voter Service, Health Care, State Bank, Treasurers, Gun Safety, Webmaster/Communication, Responsible Journalism.

Contact Linda Benson, lbenson@lwvwa.org for information.

— Myra Howrey

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



DECEMBER 2020 Voter

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LWV Kitsap Committees and Current Chairs

Bylaws Review — Leni Skarin, leniskarin@gmail.com

Civics Education Subcommittee — Carol Larsen and Becky Drotz; clarsen88@gmail.com; drotz123@msn.com

Community Pocket Parks — Kathleen Gallagher; miley98370@yahoo.com

Diversity, Equity and Inclusion — Susan Griggs; susan.griggs0803@gmail.com

Early Childhood Education (0-3) — Rosalind Renouard; trenouard@msn.com

Housing — Rochelle Karlsen and Connie Syapin; sailorrochelle@gmail.com; csyapin@msn.com

Legislative Issue Liaison — Martha Burke; mburke2007@aol.com

LWV 101 — Pam Hamon and Carol Larsen; pchamon@icloud.com; clarsen88@gmail.com

Membership — Carol Larsen; clarsen88@gmail.com

Nominating — Susan Daniel; sdaniel537@aol.com

Planning — Maureen Cervinsky; mcervinsky@gmail.com

Publicity — Maurie Louis; maurie.louis@comcast.net

Social Media — Colette Crosby; colettecrosby@gmail.com

Technology — Maurie Louis; maurie.louis@comcast.net

Voter Registration and Get Out the Vote — Pam Hamon and Alicia Vause; pchamon@icloud.com; aliciavotes@gmail.com