

The Kitsap *Voter*

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF KITSAP

FEBRUARY 2021

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

JANUARY

Jan. 22: DEI Zoom webinar, 4 p.m.,
on Deconstructing Barriers for Full
Participation of Diverse Communities;
contact Susan Griggs

Jan. 27: NK Unit meeting via Zoom,
10 a.m. to noon; contact Pam Hamon

FEBRUARY

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

Feb. 6: LWVK Board meeting via
Zoom, 10 a.m. to noon; contact Ann
Strosnider or Leni Skarin

Feb. 8: SK Unit meeting, 10 a.m. to
See **CALENDAR on Page 2**

Join Us for Program Planning Feb. 3



Photo by Janet Stegemeyer

Last year, we met in person at the Poulsbo Library to do Program Planning. This year it will be on Zoom on Feb. 3.

League of Women Voters of Kitsap is inviting you to its Annual LWVK Program Planning meeting to decide what issues we and the state should focus on in one way or another during the 2021-22 League year.

League members are encouraged to discuss ideas during January unit meetings. Please send all ideas to Ann Strosnider and Leni Skarin by Jan. 29. Leni has sent a template to unit leaders to aid in preparation of proposals.

Some of the ideas we have heard about so
See **PLANNING on Page 2**

Topic: Annual Program
Planning Meeting
for LWV Kitsap

Date: Feb. 3

Time: 5 p.m.

Join Zoom Meeting:
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81613459936>

Meeting ID: 816 1345 9936

Passcode: Planning

Dial in: 253 215-8782

Meeting ID: 816 1345 9936

Dial in Passcode: 55270453

Save the Date: May 19

What: LWVK Annual
Meeting on Zoom

Time: Business meeting,
9:30 a.m.; keynote
address, 12:30 p.m.



Justice Raquel
Montoya-Lewis

We are pleased to announce that Washington Supreme Court Justice Raquel Montoya-Lewis will be the keynote speaker for our annual meeting. She was appointed to the Washington State Supreme Court by Gov. Jay Inslee in December 2019 and took the oath of office on Jan. 6, 2020. She was

See **ANNUAL on Page 2**

Guest Column by Martha Burke

1960s Idealism Still Guides Her

I'm a child of the '60s. Though I was born in New York City, I actually grew up in northern Virginia, but since my dad was an Army officer, we also lived in Germany for two tours of duty. A baby boomer, I was in high school during the first civil rights movement, and in college at the height of the Vietnam War. I went to college at an old, small, liberal arts college called Dickinson, in Carlisle, PA. We marched to the Army War College conveniently located outside of town to protest the war.

Dickinson was known for its international studies, and I spent part of my junior year studying in Brussels, Belgium. I thought maybe I would go into that as a career, but



Martha Burke

it was not easy for a woman to enter the Foreign Service then. Instead, I followed a young man I had met while studying in Brussels who was from Washington state and went to graduate school at the University of Washington in what was later known as the Evans School. I specialized in Environmental Management, and that is more or less what I focused on for my career, at the federal level, working at EPA, and at the local level, working ultimately at the City of Seattle, as an analyst and planner.

It was interesting work, addressing some of the environmental problems we faced then, and actually still do. I helped develop the regulations implementing the Clean

Water Act for EPA and helped design the first Shoreline Management Plans for King County, among other things.

Yet as I look back, it still seems like there is much left to do. Remember how we weren't going to trust anyone over 30? We were the counter culture. It seems like we are still fighting a lot of the same battles. But the League has been a real warrior in those efforts. This last election is an example. I am very proud of all we did to fight misinformation and educate and encourage voters, and many members serve as examples to me of what we can accomplish. So I am a proud member since 2017 and hope to continue.

Just a little more about me — I have two lovely daughters who live relatively nearby so I get to see them occasionally, and as far as hobbies, I like hiking though bad knees limit that somewhat.

PLANNING

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far: reviving our League's Climate Change Committee; bringing Kristin Eberhard, author of "Becoming a Democracy" to Kitsap to speak to us and inspire us; discussing and possibly purchasing copies of "The State We're In" for local schools; learning more about the techniques used by Stacey Abrams and Fair Fight to increase voter turnout in Georgia; and proposing that the state League do a study of CHI Franciscan and the consolidation of hospitals in our state.

ANNUAL

From Page 1

elected to the court this past November. Justice Montoya-Lewis is an enrolled member of the Pueblo of Isleta and a descendant of the Pueblo of Laguna, two federally recognized tribes in New Mexico. She is the first enrolled member of any tribe to sit on a state supreme court in the U.S. and the second Native American to sit on a state supreme court.

— Maureen Cervinsky

CALENDAR

From Page 1

noon via Zoom; contact Janet Stegemeyer

Feb. 8: Health Committee meeting, 2 p.m. via Zoom; contact Pam Hamon

Feb. 9: Special Elections: South Kitsap School District levy renewal and Bainbridge Island, tech levy renewal and operations levy renewal

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

Feb. 13: DEI Committee meeting via Zoom, 10 a.m.; check with Susan Griggs because day may change

Feb. 15: Planning Committee meeting via Zoom; 10 a.m. to noon; contact Maureen Cervinsky

Feb. 20: CK/Bremerton Unit meeting, 10 a.m. to noon via Zoom;

contact Maureen Cervinsky

Feb. 22-26: virtual Democracy Lobby Week 2021; see lwvwa.org to register and for information

Feb. 24: NK Unit Meeting via Zoom, 10 a.m. to noon; contact Pam Hamon

Feb. 27: DEI Zoom Webinar, 10 a.m.: Redistricting 101, Statewide and Local, with Alison McCaffree of the state League and Kitsap County Auditor Paul Andrews or Deputy Auditor Daryl Daus

LOOKING AHEAD

March 27: Climate Change and Your Health, Zoom Webinar, 10 a.m.

April 21: Plastics: Global Issue, Local Insight, 5 p.m. Zoom Webinar

May 19: Mark Your Calendar for our League's Annual Meeting beginning at 9:30 a.m. on Zoom

Making the Most of a Difficult Year

Our League had a very successful voter registration and get-out-the-vote year even with the restrictions of the COVID-19 pandemic. We had 83 members participating in some way with an additional 14 helping to write the 3,395 postcards to those living in three low-turnout precincts. We started our efforts last spring by going to all the high schools to register and pre-register students. Staff from the Auditor's Office joined us. Then the pandemic hit. Because we couldn't return in the fall, we asked each school to put voter registration information on their websites. At the suggestion of Fishline we put 1,500 voter registration flyers in both Spanish and English in the grocery bags of all the county food banks.

Alicia Vause and Cynthia Shick organized a button design contest at the Bainbridge Island library. The rainbow design won, and we ordered 1,000 buttons. Alicia also designed a Voter Registration bookmark and we ordered 1,500. Both have been very popular and were distributed in a variety of ways. Alicia and Cyn also wrote "Talking To Voters," which advises our volunteers on how to best interact with reluctant voters.

At the auditor's request we



designed and posted signs at all 96 blue USPS mailboxes in Kitsap County encouraging people to vote early or use drop boxes. With the approval of the auditor, Alicia designed the signs and each unit distributed them. The auditor later credited the League with helping to encourage voters to get their ballots in early and presented us with a certificate recognizing our contribution.

Two weeks before each of the three elections (presidential primary, regular primary and the general election) each unit held signs and banners to encourage early voting. We also had tables at all of the farmers markets where we regis-

tered and educated voters. This turned out to be more successful than we had expected. We also developed a list of 120 faith communities asking them to put voter registration information on their websites and in their newsletters and bulletins.

We promoted VOTE411 and held virtual candidate forums. New member RuthAnn Krussel ordered and paid for 30 "Just ... Vote!" T-shirts. Washington State Ferries agreed to put voter registration information on their TV screens. Our website, Facebook, Instagram and Twitter sites were constantly full of voting information.

— Pam Hamon

Board Snippets

From Jan. 2, 2021

■ Carol Larsen is creating an inventory of materials to be placed in the storage unit by contacting members and asking them to list items they would like to store.

■ Treasurer Karen Faye will set up a meeting of the Budget Committee with the Kitsap Community Foundation to look at investment opportunities.

■ We discussed ways to involve non-members in our work. Maurie Louis brought up the idea of a Friends of the League group, such as many nonprofits have. She will bring a proposal to this effect to our next meeting.

News

We Now Have a Storage Unit

A storage unit has been procured to house

materials used for voter registration activities. It is in Silverdale, Randall Way LLC, 3442 NW Randall Way, 360 698-8080. The unit number is B1025 and the gate code is *1524#.

It is suggested that anyone with materials needing to go into storage contact their Unit leader, who will arrange for transportation to the storage unit.

If you have questions, please contact Carol Larsen.

Do Postcards Matter?

It seems an eternity since our League gave so much effort to bring the message that Every Vote Counts. We can be proud of our part in the huge turnout at the November General Election. We had so many members involved in the GOTV effort, including 50 or more who completed and mailed more than 3,000 postcards to registered voters in three precincts in Bremerton with known low voter turnout rates. Kudos to Maurie Louis, the League's publicity chair and primary organizer of the postcard campaign, who wants to thank all of the League members, as well as the handful of non-member community volunteers, for their time, patience, and determination to Get Out the Vote.

Results from Kitsap County Auditor data:

The postcards helped make a dif-

ference, with a 10 percent increase in registration in the three months before the election in the postcard precincts, while Kitsap County as a whole had just a 6 percent increase.

The three precincts we counted as controls (no cards) saw an 8 percent increase in new registrations.

We need to consider the postcards as part of the whole GOTV effort, which was phenomenal over the summer and fall.

Before Pennsylvania's 2016 election, 2 million postcards were sent



Photo illustration by Ann Strosnider
League members volunteered to write postcards to be sent to residents of three Bremerton precincts with known low voter turnout rates.

to unregistered people. They got a 1 percent increase in registrations, which they labeled as significant, and helpful because of the voter information.

Our other goal is to educate voters. Our cards with all of the voter information on them were valuable as well.

The voter percentages in the postcard precincts averaged 75 percent of registered voters casting a ballot in November compared to 74 percent of those with no postcard. Kitsap County reported an 84 percent turnout as a whole in this last election.

We still have more work to do, but so many more voters turned out after the increase in registrations. Postcards are expensive in Ed Fund dollars and personal time. There are times when it is justified in getting out the message that Every Vote Counts, and this was one of those times.

— Karen Faye

Unit News

■ **South Kitsap:** SK Unit members meet the second Monday of each month via Zoom at 10 a.m. The January meeting focused on Program Planning, upcoming events, and how the League can help restore public faith in our electoral system. The Feb. 8 meeting will include a discussion of nonpartisanship as a League core value, with reference to the Nevada State LWV controversy over partisanship and redistricting. Contact Janet Stegemeyer for information or to suggest topics.

■ **Bremerton/CK:** The B/CK Unit meets on the third Saturday of the month. Our next Zoom meeting will be Feb. 20

at 10 a.m. Our unit has decided to dedicate our February and March meetings to following the Washington State legislative session. Raejean Bridges-Avalos will be following the Democracy issues with special attention to redistricting and the census. Janice McLemore will follow establishing fair revenue and budget. Debbie Klabo will follow and report back regarding behavioral health issues. Unit members are encouraged to choose a League issue of interest to them, keep abreast of the legislative developments, and bring their observations to the February and March unit meetings. Rep. Drew MacEwen, 35th District, has tentatively agreed to join in a unit meeting during

the legislative session. We are developing questions for him and welcome suggestions. For information, contact Maureen Cervinsky.

■ **North Kitsap:** The NK Unit meets via Zoom the fourth Wednesday of the month at 10 a.m. We will finalize our proposals for the Program Planning meeting Feb. 3 at our Jan. 27 meeting. We will continue to update on legislative, DEI and health issues at our Feb. 24 meeting. Contact Unit Leader Pam Hamon for information.

Committee News

Membership report

New members have been added

to our roster recently, bringing the total to date to 213. Chris Christensen of Bainbridge Island joined as well as a new student, Emma Jones of Kingston. If you have expressed your intention to continue your membership and still need to remit dues payment, please contact Carol Larsen ASAP as we need to send in our "Per Membership Payment" (PMP) to LWV-National on Jan. 31. To further explain, we are required to send approximately \$50 for each name on our roster at this time.

— Carol Larsen

Voter Services

Pam Hamon has announced that she will end her highly successful stint as chair of

See NEWS on Page 6

Catching Up With the State League

Many of us enjoyed visiting the state Legislature last year to learn about key issues and lobby our legislators in person. This year the events will be online. You can register at the state League website, lwvwa.org. Details are still being worked out, but the activities will include meeting with legislators to advocate for bills that protect our democracy. You also will:

- Hear from legislators and guest speakers
- Learn about critical democracy issues and bills
- Be trained by professional lobbyists
- Meet with your state legislators
- Network with others from your area

Update on SB 5395 - Comprehensive Sexual Health Education Opponents to SB 5395

tried to qualify an anti-sex education Initiative to the Legislature (I-1109), but according to the Secretary of State's office, they turned in no petitions by the Dec. 31 deadline. This means that SB 5395 is safe and sound for the current legislative session, and that we can turn our attention toward ensuring strong, high-quality implementation of our new and hard-fought comprehensive sexual health education law.

— Catherine Ahl



Democracy Lobby Week, Feb. 22-26

Legislative Session Begins

The Legislature convened for the 2021 session on Jan. 11 under tight security, reflecting the tension following the attack on the nation's Capitol and on the governor's mansion in Olympia. The remainder of the session will be primarily conducted remotely using Zoom to reduce the risk from covid. Nevertheless, things are progressing rapidly; bills are being "dropped" (introduced), and hearings are being scheduled. Gov. Inslee has proposed his budget and laid out his priorities. The pandemic has wreaked havoc on that budget, punching a \$3.3 billion hole in revenues due

'Becoming a Democracy'

Maurie Louis reports that Maureen Cervinsky's setting the state League up with access to our webinar plugin was



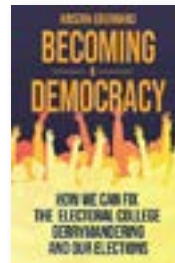
Kristin Eberhard

a lifesaver for the LWVWA and its book event. It featured Kristin Eberhard, author of "Becoming A Democracy."

Our plug-in allowed more than 200 people to view the webinar. If you missed it, you can view it at: https://us02web.zoom.us/rec/share/bPhcthxY8XfR_joSAqYa8s_kN4lspodmO2F59wxX_WfI12ugQk_gY-cA1pC7oX994.fw56hmmDoLbeUHo6
Passcode: 4\$DP8EG\$

What We're Reading

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



■ **"Becoming a Democracy: How We Can Fix the Electoral College, Gerrymandering, and Our Elections"** by Kristin Eberhard, Director of Democracy at Sightline Institute, is just being released. Eberhard is a member of LWV-Oregon, and her book is a field guide with 10 practical ideas for making our elections free, fair, and secure. Systemic voter suppression can be stopped. The filibuster can be eliminated. The National Popular Vote Interstate Compact can make Electoral College votes reflect the popular vote winner. And we don't need a constitutional amendment or a new Supreme Court to accomplish these goals! Eberhard's ideas reflect the work

LWV does across the country.

The Kindle version of the book is now available on Amazon; print and audio versions may be preordered. Through the in-house publisher bookbaby.com, Leaguers are invited to use the discount code LWV25 for 25% off the book: <https://store.book-baby.com/websearch/index.aspx?searchterms=Becoming+a+Democracy+by+Kristin+Eberhard>. — Janet Stegemeyer

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

to unemployment, closed businesses, and health care expenditures needed to fight the virus. In addition to fighting the virus and endeavoring to protect and support the economy, Inslee's priorities include protecting programs to deal with education, climate change,

SESSION

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homelessness and racial and economic inequity. To help fund these needs, the Governor is proposing again a capital gains tax on the sale of stocks and other assets that could raise \$3.3 billion starting in the second year of the biennium.

This is a “long” session

NEWS

From Page 4

Voter Services, including Voter Registration and Get Out the Vote, in May of this year. Fortunately, Colette Crosby and Alicia Vause have stepped up to fill those big shoes and will be looking for committee members. As Colette says, we might not think of 2021 as a key election year, but we do have special elections in the SK and BI school districts on Feb. 9 as well as a primary on Aug. 3 and a General Election on Nov. 2. We’ll also, as ever, be looking to help folks register to vote, and driving GOTV programs. If you are interested, please contact Colette or Alicia.

Housing

The Housing Committee is again collecting items for hygiene kits to distribute to individuals without stable housing. LWV member Connie Waddington has volunteered to assemble kits. During the Covid pandemic donations

— more than 100 days — but things still will move fast.

If you have issues or legislation that you are interested in, please let Martha Burke, our legislative liaison, know, so she can work with the League’s Action Chairs to follow them, and keep you informed of when to take action.

— Martha Burke

should be sent directly to her. We appreciate your help in providing these kits to those in need in Kitsap County. Hygiene kit needs:

- Deodorant
- Kleenex
- Hand wipes
- Combs
- Snacks

— LWV Housing Committee

Health

The Health Committee is still in need of a chair. Contact Pam Hamon or our co-presidents if you are interested. The committee meets via Zoom the second Monday of the month at 2 p.m. Concerns about access to complete reproductive health and end-of-life services continue as the main topic of discussion. Several members attended the LWVWA Health Affinity group meeting on Jan. 16. New committee members are welcome.

— Pam Hamon

‘0-3’

The “0 to Three” Committee has again been hampered by Covid-19. However, the committee has recently learned

from Matthew Richardson, Government Affairs Manager Northwest of the Nurse Family Partnership Service Office, that there are two important funding bills — SB5092 Early Learning and HB1094 Operating budget 2021-2023 — being considered by the Legislature. Since Covid19 has severely affected the work of home visiting services even though they’ve carried on virtually, Gov. Inslee has proposed an increased investment of \$5.6 million in these services that are so critical to early education, particularly to children of the most vulnerable families.

It would be helpful if the league and/or individual members could lend their support to these two funding bills.

Diversity, Equity and Inclusion

The DEI Committee will temporarily pause its webinars on the Diverse Communities of Kitsap County in order to prepare for the Redistricting Public Hearings, which are expected to be held in May and/or June of 2021. DEI will be presenting a Zoom public meeting at 10 a.m. Feb. 27 on Redistricting 101: Statewide and Local. This public meeting will include a presentation by Alison McCaffree of the state League on the way Washington redistricts legislative and congressional districts. She will be followed by a presentation by our county auditor or deputy auditor on how local jurisdictions are redistricted. Watch for a link for this event in your email.

In March, the DEI committee is hosting a Speak Up School to help state residents acquire the



Allison
McCaffree

optimum skills and confidence to effectively testify at the Redistricting Commission’s Public Hearings and/or other public

hearings. The DEI committee continues to need additional League members who will coach residents as they refine their testimonies and prepare to testify. Please contact Susan Griggs and/or another DEI committee member in order to indicate your willingness to help residents. There will be a coaching training session for anyone who wants like it.

If you are interested in being on the DEI committee or the Speak Up School Planning Team, please feel free to contact Susan Griggs. DEI meetings are held on the second Saturday of the month at this time, although a more convenient time for members is being considered.

Planning

The Planning Committee meets on the third Monday of the month. Our next Zoom meeting will be Feb. 15 from 10 a.m. to noon.

Our February public education program is a collaboration with DEI regarding redistricting. Allison McCaffree will join with Paul Andrews, Kitsap County Auditor, and Daryl Daus, Deputy Auditor, to discuss redistricting in Washington State and Kitsap County. The Zoom webinar will be held on Feb. 27, at 10 a.m. For more information regarding the Planning Committee, contact Maureen.

— Maureen Cervinsky

Non-League Items of Interest

Local Journalism

David Nelson, editor of the Sun, mentioned his League-sponsored conversation with UW Professor Jevin West in a Jan. 10 announcement of a new effort by the newspaper to support local journalism. The Kitsap Sun Journalism Fund will be accepting donations that will go toward a new reporting position (or positions) to cover state government and local education. Donations may be made through the Kitsap Community



Foundation at www.kitsap-foundation.org or by sending a check to P.O. Box 3670, Silverdale, WA 98383. You also will be able to donate through this year's Kitsap Great Give on April 23, in which LWVK also will participate.

Cyber Security

Janet Stegemeyer reported last year on a workshop she attended sponsored by the USC Election Cybersecurity Initiative. She now receives its newsletter, which is filled with interesting articles about election security, controlling misinformation and voting during a pandemic.

To find out more about the initiative and to sign up for the newsletter, visit www.election-security.usc.edu.

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.

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 lwv-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.

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



FEBRUARY 2021 Voter

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- ▶ Save the Date for Annual Meeting
- ▶ Recap of VR/GOTV Efforts
- ▶ Board Snippets
- ▶ New Leaders for Voter Services
- ▶ Non-League Items of Interest

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; rrenouard@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