

The Kitsap *Voter*

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF KITSAP

JANUARY 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

DECEMBER

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

JANUARY

Jan. 2: LWVK Board meeting, 10 a.m. to noon via Zoom; contact Ann Strosnider or Leni Skarin

Jan. 9: Deadline for February Voter. Please have all material to Ann Strosnider by 5 p.m.

Jan. 11: Legislative Session begins via Zoom

Jan. 11: SK Unit meeting, 10 a.m. to noon via Zoom; contact Janet Stegemeyer

See **CALENDAR** on Page 2

Action Workshop Focuses on Legislative Priorities

There is a lot to be said for having the League's Action Workshop on Zoom. We had to forgo chatting over coffee and shifting chairs for breakout sessions, but it enabled us to hone in on what the Legislature's priorities will be in January. The legislators themselves will conduct their business on Zoom for this session, which will force them to focus on those priorities.

There will be fewer bills introduced, and all hearings will be conducted online. People, including League members, will be able to testify without having to go to Olympia, but their testimony will need to be succinct.

The direction to the House is that bills focus on a few priorities, including pandemic response, economic recovery, health care, child care, police accountability, and climate change.

First and foremost, the Legislature will need to find a way to close a budget gap of over \$2 billion of lost revenue due to the impact of covid. Even before the virus hit, the



Sen. Joe Nguyen



Rep. Noel Frame

effect of income inequality was being felt in lack of affordable housing, food instability and accessible health care.

Washington has one of the most regressive tax structures of any state, where poor fam-

ilies spend almost 18 percent of their income on taxes, compared to less than 3 percent for those in the top percent income bracket.

As Sen. Joe Nguyen, one of the keynote speakers, put it, Washington State is home to some of the richest people in the world but still has some of the most serious problems of income inequality, lack of affordable housing and homelessness.

Minority groups are more likely to fall into low-income groups and so are more impacted by this inequity. How to address that was the focus of the keynote panel that included Sen. Nguyen of West

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Guest Column

From Lawrence Livermore to Bainbridge Island

Hi everyone.

I first want to say “we’re all in this together,” and I hope that soon the pandemic will be far behind us.

Both of our kids graduated from The Evergreen State College just outside of Olympia. Whenever we came up here to visit them, Steve and I spent a few extra days driving around deciding where we would move to when we retired. We moved to Bainbridge Island in November 2011. (2011 was my breast cancer year. I have a very clean bill of health and soon it will be 10 years!!!)

I was born in and lived at a lot of places in California. In 1965, we moved to a 400-acre sheep ranch in Lovelock, Nev., which is about

70 miles east of Reno. In 1974, I graduated from the University of Nevada, Reno, with a B.S. degree in Information Systems (computer programming). I started working at the Lawrence Livermore National Lab in Livermore, Calif., that November.



Maurie Louis

I retired from the lab in 2008. In the middle of that 34-year stint I went to night school and received a J.D. in law in 1998. I never practiced law but thoroughly enjoyed the five-year journey to the degree.

My current hobbies are basically reading, simple hiking and the League. I was well into duplicate bridge before the Covid hit and hope to get back to that soon. I miss all the people.

Steve, a UC Berkeley grad, and I

both started working at the Lab in 1974 but didn’t meet until 1978. We both individually joined the lab’s bowling league, which is where we met. We married in 1980 and had Brian in 1981 and Erin in 1984. I retired in 2008 and Steve in 2009. Brian lives in Arcata, Calif., and Erin lives with her wife Christie in Olympia. (They had a Covid wedding in June.)

Prior to Covid I was working mainly on getting our League well situated with our own audio/visual system. It is my hope that the pandemic will end, and we can resume live events so that I can continue improving these capabilities. Part of this project is to make sure there are at least two League members knowledgeable with each part of the A/V package so there are as few single points of failure as possible.

Unit News

■ **Bremerton/CK:** The Bremerton/CK Unit meets on the third Saturday of the month. Our next Zoom

meeting will be at 10 a.m. Jan. 16. We will work on recommendations to submit to the Wednesday, Feb. 3, Program Planning Meeting. We’ll also decide on what new avenues

Board Snippets

From Dec. 3, 2020

■ We met at 6:30 p.m. on a Thursday instead of our regular Saturday meeting because of the state League Action Workshops being held on Dec. 5 and 12.

■ Colette presented a draft Content Management Policy for LWVK. The goal is to maintain timely and compliant digital content on the League’s public platforms. We need to ensure that our content does not contain images, photos or video segments that are owned by others unless we have written permission to use them. The draft will be posted on our website; anyone who

has suggestions for changes, please email them to Colette Crosby, Ann Strosnider and Leni Skarin.

■ The board voted in favor of having Carol Larsen secure a heated storage space in Silverdale. The cost for a 10X10 or 10X15-foot space is expected to be from \$182 to \$285 per month, depending on what is available. We will probably need to build shelving, which Charlie Hamon has volunteered to do. This is where we can store signs, banners, registration materials and other League items. We may put out a call for file cabinet donations once we have the space lined up.

■ Current membership is 210.

to explore in our goal to better understand our local government. If you missed the Kitsap Regional Library tour by Carina Woods, it’s available on YouTube at https://youtu.be/sycy_cUB38Y. For information, contact Maureen Cervinsky.

■ **North Kitsap:** The NK Unit will meet via Zoom at 10 a.m. on Wednesdays, Dec. 23 and Jan. 27. We will talk about our unit’s proposals for the Feb. 3 Program Planning meeting.

We also will discuss the Action Workshops, Meet and Greet, Poulsbo’s equity proposals and upcoming events this winter. Reminders will be sent out to all members. Contact Pam Hamon if you have a topic you wish to put on the agenda.

■ **South Kitsap:** SK Unit members meet the second Monday of each month via Zoom at 10 a.m. The December meeting was cancelled. Janet Stegemeyer will be the

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CALENDAR

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Jan. 11: Health Care Committee meeting, 2 p.m. via Zoom; contact Pam Hamon

Jan. 16: CK/Bremerton Unit meeting, 10 a.m. to noon via Zoom; contact Maureen Cervinsky

Jan. 18: Planning Committee meeting, 10 a.m. to noon via Zoom; contact Maureen Cervinsky

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!)

Local Legislators Prepare for January Session

Participating in our Dec. 10 Meet and Greet were Sen. Christine Rolfes and Rep.-elect Tarra Simmons of the 23rd Legislative District, and Sen. Emily Randall and Rep. Jesse Young of the 26th District. They discussed ‘Budgeting During a Crisis’ with an audience of 38 League members on Zoom. Rolfes chairs the powerful Ways and Means Committee, where she will have a key role in writing the budget during an especially difficult year.

It was clear from our representatives that these are the top three budget needs for 2021:

- Public health and the emergent needs related to the coronavirus response: Emphasis on equitable pathway toward health care access and mental health assistance
- Education and getting kids back in school
- Economic recovery and development, including a rescue package for families and businesses

During the question-and-answer portion, members submitted questions to the Zoom Coordinator and the representatives took turns



Sen. Christine Rolfes



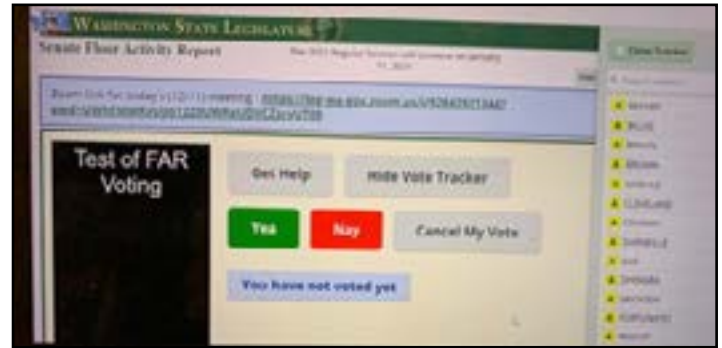
Rep.-elect Tarra Simmons



Sen. Emily Randall



Rep. Jesse Young



Sen. Rolfes shared an image showing how the state Senate will vote in 2021. The legislative session will be virtual.

responding. The category of questions was varied. We heard discussions concerning:

- ▶ The current \$2 billion in the state’s revenue stabilization fund, known as the “rainy day fund,” which can go toward next year’s budget needs
- ▶ Tax reform and tax models to help businesses and create a more equitable system of tax collection
- ▶ CHI Franciscan hospital system’s mergers with local hospitals and what this means for patients’ access to care
- ▶ Polarization of the political response to the covid crisis, particularly disagreement with Gov. Inslee over the latest shutdown of businesses

Martha Burke moderated the Meet and Greet, with Colette Crosby serving as Zoom Coordinator and Leni Skarin providing backup. — Sonia Scaer

Committee News

DEI Committee Attends Human Rights Conference

We attended the 30th Kitsap County Annual Conference for Human Rights virtually this year. Our DEI Committee presented an afternoon session on “Pursuing a Greater Voice for Disenfranchised Communities” by Susan Griggs, Jeannie Allen and Leni Skarin. It really segued well into the presentations about human rights, from minority Voice to be Heard into Speak Up school training. Jeannie attended the Compassionate Listening Circle where everyone shared their stories.

She found everyone to be so genuine and empathetic with others’ stories. “Reflecting on Language and Disability” gave her new perspective on the subject that she has not paid much attention to. Happy Hour performance was also very touching with their poems and prose.

County Commissioner Charlotte Garrido was very impressed with the DEI presentation and after the conference called Ann Strosnider for Susan Griggs’ contact information.

DEI continues in 2021 to have an aggressive stance toward combatting racism and taking down barriers so that all persons can take part equitably in the democratic process. The DEI Series of

webinars on Voices of the Kitsap Community will continue with a webinar at 4 p.m. Friday, Jan. 22, on Deconstructing Barriers for Full Participation of Diverse Communities. Our panelists will be Patrick Woo-Ching from Voices of the Pacific Island Nations, Virgil Valdez or a designate from Filipino American Community Center, and Joyce Nishimura or a designate from the Bainbridge Island Japanese American Community.

Then, DEI and the Planning Committee will provide a webinar on the Basics of Redistricting at 10 a.m. Saturday, Feb. 27. We will discuss the process Washington uses for mapping the Congressional and

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Get Your Ideas Ready for Program Planning

We have set our annual Program Planning meeting for Feb. 3. Last year we had a highly productive and enjoyable meeting at the Poulsbo Library, with snacks, and with many members participating and proposing exciting projects. This time, of course, it will be different. We invite everyone to attend the Zoom meeting from 5 to 7 in the evening.

The purpose of this event is for all members to share ideas about what our League might want to work on in the 2021-22 League year. (beginning in June 2021 after our Annual Meeting). We call this the Program of Work.

Your ideas could be for any type of project, from a public meeting to an in-depth study to formation of a new

committee. You might find inspiration for local League projects by going over some of the main subject areas of the recent state League Action Workshop: revenue and tax reform; public health and health care reform; economic and social justice; criminal justice and gun safety; civics texts and education; and climate change, the environment and transportation.

In addition, consider these questions:

- How much member interest is there in the issue?
- Is this a crucial time for the issue?
- Will the League's involvement make a unique impact? Will it increase the League's visibility?
- Will this action or program engage League members and the larger com-

munity? Might it help us attract new members?

■ Are there people willing to help out with this project?

We ask that local units and committees who have program ideas forward them to Ann Strosnider and Leni Skarin by Jan. 29. This way, we will be able to share them with members ahead of the Feb. 3 meeting. We also will take suggestions from the floor on Feb. 3.

In addition to local planning, we are asked to discuss proposals for the state League at our February meeting.

All planning ideas for local meetings should be in keeping with League positions.

For local positions, see our website under About Us; for national positions see lwwv and for state positions, lwwva.

— Ann Strosnider

Briefs

Video Editors Needed

In response to the challenges of producing public education programs in the time of the pandemic, the good news for our League is that we are adapting adroitly to social media. As reported in the December Voter, we are producing and broadcasting virtual programs for the Kitsap community that address their needs and concerns and are making them available on YouTube. The bad news is that, for viewers, the average time of engagement in these important and informative programs is from 5 to 10 minutes.

What to do? We hope to find a few individuals who are interested in reviewing our programs and editing them to produce shorter videos or clips to make important information easily accessible to concerned viewers.

As an example, please view this 30-minute excerpt [https://](https://youtu.be/XuJvv1VdVkM)

youtu.be/XuJvv1VdVkM from our March 23, 2019, program about the opioid use disorder in Kitsap County. The opioid crisis remains a public health threat that has been overshadowed by the immediacy of the pandemic. Dr. Caleb Banta-Green's presentation about the origins and treatment options for those suffering from the disorder remains relevant. If you like to edit videos or would enjoy reviewing our current list and suggesting outtakes, please contact Maureen.

Planning Committee Lines Up Programs

The Planning Committee

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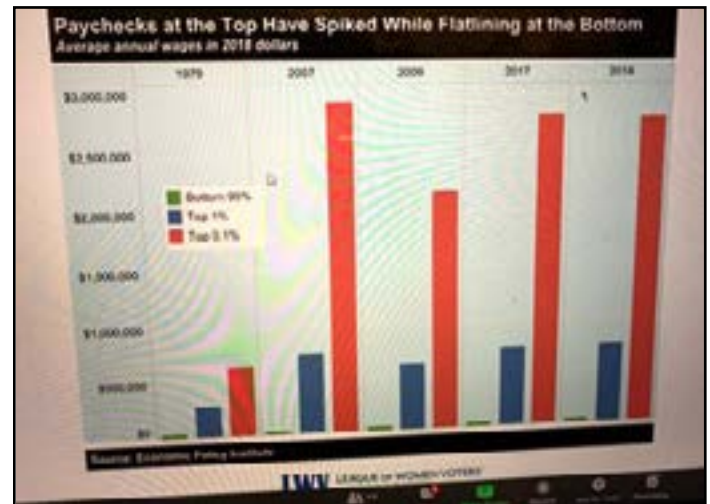
NEWS

From Page 2

new SK Unit Leader for six months, so contact her if you'd like to attend an SK Unit meeting. We will discuss nonpartisanship as a League core tenet at our Jan. 11 meeting. We also will discuss ideas for Program Planning for 2021-22.

ACTION

From Page 1



This chart shows increasing income disparity between those at the top and those at the bottom of the ladder.

Seattle and Rep. Noel Frame of Seattle, Chair of the Tax Structure Work Group.

Increases in sales or property tax worsen the inequities, and B&O tax increases without changes in structure hurts small businesses. Better choices, according to the panelists, are to include a tax where more comes from those who can afford it most; e.g., a capital gains tax and removal of inappropriate tax exemptions, while adjusting the B&O tax.

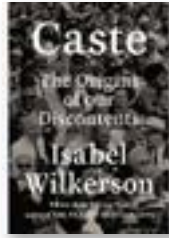
— Martha Burke

What We're Reading

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

■ **“Caste — The Origins of Our Discontents”** by Pulitzer Prize winner Isabel Wilkerson. This is a well-documented and thorough discussion of the caste system in our country and how it compares to the Indian and Nazi Germany's systems. — Pam Hamon

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



BRIEFS

From Page 4

meets on the third Monday of the month. Our January Zoom meeting will be from 10 a.m. to noon Jan. 18. Please join us in this important work. For more information, contact Maureen Cervinsky.

We have several programs lined up for this spring, so be sure to mark your calendar:

■ Saturday, Feb. 27, 10 a.m.: We are collaborating with DEI on a Zoom program about how redistricting will work in Washington with a PPT about the League perspective from

DEI chair Susan Griggs, and in Kitsap County with a presentation from the Kitsap County Auditor's office.

■ Saturday, March 27, 10 a.m.: Dr. Kristie Ebi from the University of Washington will present her program on “Climate Change and Your Health” at a Zoom webinar. We hope to include someone from Washington State Department of Health, Office of Environmental Public Health Science

■ The week of April 19 we plan to join in the virtual Earth Week Celebration at OC with a program on Plastics.

— Maureen Cervinsky

COMMITTEES

From Page 3

Legislative districts and then have the Kitsap County Auditor talk about how local districts are drawn.

DEI is planning a local Speak Up School to be held virtually in Kitsap County in March. This school is geared for all residents in the county with the express purpose of getting as many residents as possible to testify at the Redistricting Commissioner's Public Hearings in May and/or June of 2021, especially residents from diverse communities who have traditionally had less of a voice in the democratic process. This school will help residents to feel comfortable

and skilled in giving testimony at a public hearing.

The DEI committee usually meets at 10 a.m. on the second Saturday of the month. Our next meeting is planned for Jan. 9. Contact Susan Griggs to get the Zoom link.

— Susan Griggs

Health Care Committee: New Chair Needed

Pam Hamon will arrange a Zoom meeting for the Health Care Committee at 2 p.m. on Monday, Jan. 11. We still need a chair until Jessica Guidry can return. The Planning Committee wants to have a general meeting on health in March. Anyone wanting to join the committee please contact Pam Hamon.

0-3

The ‘0-3’ group has been exploring numerous resources focused on research in child development, early childhood education programs and effective services available to families. Some of the educational resources we've been exploring include:

■ Institute for Learning & Brain Sciences (I-LABS): University of Washington

■ Zero to Three

■ Center on the Developing Child: Harvard University

■ Kitsap Interagency Coordinating Council Headstart/ECEAP

Although the pandemic has impacted our ability to meet

with local agencies we continue to try and connect with them via Zoom.

If you're interested in learning about services and programs supporting children and families in Kitsap County please reach out to the ‘0-3’ committee members and join us! — Rosalind Renouard

Voter Registration/ Get Out the Vote

The committee met on Dec. 3 for a final wrap-up of our 2020 activities and our proposals for the future.

All elections are important and 2021 will focus on local elections.

Anyone interested in joining this committee please contact Pam Hamon.

ON THE WEB

Find our local League news, meeting notices, publications, and reminders on our Facebook page or website, www.lwv-kitsap.org. Be sure to ‘like’ us on Facebook.

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



JANUARY 2021 Voter

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- ▶ Preparing for Program Planning
- ▶ DEI Presentation at Human Rights Conference
- ▶ Guest Column by Maurie Louis
- ▶ Board Snippets

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