



The Kitsap *Voter*

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF KITSAP

JULY 2021

Mark Your Calendar

JULY

July 21: North Kitsap Unit meeting, 10 a.m. via Zoom; contact Pam Hamon

July 21: BI Unit meeting, 10 a.m. via Zoom; contact Colette Crosby/Delight Willing

July 26: Testify at Redistricting Commission, 7 p.m. via Zoom. Pre-register at redistricting.wa.gov; contact Susan Griggs

July 31: Voter Registration and Education Outreach, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Port Orchard Farmers' Market; contact Janet Stegemeyer

AUGUST

Aug. 3: Primary Election

Aug. 4: DEI Committee meeting, 10 a.m. to noon via Zoom; contact Susan Griggs

Aug. 7: LWVK Board meeting, 10 a.m. to noon, St. Paul's Episcopal Church, Bremerton; contact Maurie Louis

Aug. 9: South Kitsap Unit meeting, 10 a.m., location TBD; contact Janet Stegemeyer

Aug. 12: Observer Corp 101, 5 p.m. via Zoom; contact Carol Larsen

Aug. 13: Healthcare Committee meeting, 12:30 p.m. via Zoom; contact Leni Skarin or Jessica Guidry.

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LWVK Wins Convention Awards

LWVK was honored to receive two of the three "Local League Awards" and co-recipient of the 'Dorothy Roberts' award.

The Dorothy Roberts Award is presented to a person who shows a commitment, dedication, and passion for the mission of the state League. Our League member Catherine Ahl shared this award with Ann Murphy of the Spokane Area.

The first award in the "Community Connection" category, was for "DEI Engagement and Education." Clark said, "This program had two main thrusts: engaging underrepresented communities and educating league members and the public

about diverse communities." Kitsap Leaguers did such activities as a complete census count, running Speak Up School sessions, compiling a resource directory listing organizations that serve diverse communities, and producing a series of Zoom webinars, "Voices of Kitsap," that focused on several minority communities. Recognition was given to Ann Strosnider, Leni Skarin, Jeannie Allen, Susan Griggs, and Rhonda Fairgrieve.

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Juneteenth Celebration



Derek Kilmer, second from right, is shown with LWV-K members, from left, Judy Arbogast, Anita Rose, Jeannie Allen, Martha Burke, Susan Griggs, and Kathleen Gallagher. Eighteen League members participated in the Juneteenth Celebration on June 19. Photo by Janet Stegemeyer

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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.

President's Corner

New League Year Brings New Slate of Board Members

The new 2021-2022 Board of Directors met for the traditional board retreat where we talked about the role of the board as a whole and the role of the board members.

During the discussion it became clear we needed an organization chart to facilitate the discussion. We also realized it would help to have in front of us a list of active committees. With these in front of us we checked if every committee has a presence on the board. For most of the committees, the chair of the committee



Maurie Louis

happens to have been elected to the board. For those committees without a presence on the board it was agreed that one of the board members will be a board liaison

to that committee. They will attend the committee meetings and be the communications channel between the committee and the board.

One of the committees that had no presence on the board is the Publicity committee with Rochelle Karlsen as Publicity chair. It was decided that publicity is such a broad

sweeping assignment and critical for promoting all of our public and members only programs it would be better if Rochelle actually was a board member.

The League's bylaws state that a director can be appointed by the board for a term of one year. It was moved, seconded and unanimously passed that we invite Rochelle to be an appointed board member. I called Rochelle with the invitation which she graciously accepted. The organization chart and active committee list will be posted in the Members section of our website in a few weeks.

Candidate Forums Update



One screen shot of Bainbridge Island's City Council North and Central forum on July 14 are, from top, Ron Peltier; Anita Rockefeller, moderator; Sal DeRosalia; middle, Joe Deets and Dennis Miller; and bottom, Lisa Mandelkor and Rasham Nassar. Not shown is Clarence Moriwaki.

The League thanks all the candidates for participating in the primary election forums held in July. We recorded all of our forums as did Bremerton Kitsap Access Television. Our recordings can be viewed from our website at lwv-kitsap.org. BKAT will televise their forums recordings at multiple times on multiple dates on Comcast channel 12 and WAVE Broadband channel 3. You can find these dates and times on our website as they become available.

In Memory of Sharon Shrader

Sharon Lee Shrader, five-term Kitsap County Treasurer, long-time civic and political activist, mentor to many, remarkable cook and hostess, and long-time member of the Kitsap League of Woman Voters, died June 30. Sharon's political career was ignited when the Port of Browns-ville commissioners proposed conversion of the recreational marina into a commercial space and tank



Sharon Shrader

farm. Most of the community was against the proposed development and this prompted Sharon to run for port commissioner in 1972. She won and led the successful fight to keep the Brownsville Marina devoted to recreation.

In 1984, Sharon was appointed county treasurer and went on to be elected to this position to serve 4 1/2 terms in 2000.

Following retirement in 2002, she was appointed to serve on the Housing Authority and her tenure saw

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League Members Asked to Testify on Redistricting

The Washington State LWV Speak Up School Committee is asking all League members to testify to the Washington Redistricting Commission so politicians understand that the way the state is redistricted matters to the general public. The state committee is asking League members to send in written testimony or go to public outreach meetings and testify via Zoom to the Commission. The WA Redistricting Commission has made available several different ways to testify (voice mail, email, comment, etc.) at its website: redistricting.wa.gov. The next public outreach meeting for the 6th Congressional District will be from 7 to 9 p.m. Monday, July 26. It is important to register at the redistricting website at least 24 hours in advance (although sometimes it is possible to register six or seven hours ahead of time; please check).

The LWVWA Speak Up School recommends using one or more of the following points for your testimony (in order of LWVWA

priorities):

- Keep tribal reservations and their historic lands and ethnic population together in one district (as requested by Indigenous peoples);
- Support Black, Indigenous, and People of Color communities so that they have more representation in the state, and support having a greater number of districts comprised of majority BIPOC communities. Keep each “community of interest” together.
- Keep each “community of interest” together (however you define it, and indicate how you define it);
- Don’t split defined groups and/or cities unless absolutely necessary (such as Edmonds has too many people to keep in one district);
- Put areas of future population growth with their core cities; or
- Make your district easier for a representative to travel.

In Kitsap County we recommend that League members indicate that they would like Bremerton to be in one legislative district as the individuals in Bremerton do not

bers’ interests.”

The planning committee hosted and recorded a student-led webinar, Voting 101: Becoming an Informed Voter, as well as co-sponsoring with Olympic College a webinar on Plastic: The Big Picture, Local Insights and What You Can Do.” Maureen Cervinsky and Ann Strosnider were recognized for their leadership in these projects.

Concluding the awards ceremony, Amanda Clark said, “The amazing work you have all done in the past year is awe-inspiring, but more than that, it proves the vitality of the League and its importance to the community.”

— Janet Stegemeyer

feel that they are well represented. Additionally, the communities that have a greater percentage of people in Bremerton than in other areas of the county, as also is the case with the low-income community, do not feel they are represented on the whole. This is one of the reasons LWV-K members sent postcards to areas of Bremerton asking them to vote in the 2020 primary and 2020 election.

In your testimony, it is good to remind the Commissioners that they are to provide fair and effective representation for ALL PEOPLE in Washington according to state statutes. Statutes say not to split political boundaries including county, city and other municipalities to the extent possible,

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MARCH

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Submitted photo

Janet Stegemeyer, Emily Randall, Judy Arbogast, and Pam Hamon. The League was represented by 18 members at the event.

LWV-K members went to the 19th Annual Bremerton Juneteenth Monumental March and Freedom Festival on June 19. Speeches at Norm Dicks Government Center were followed by a March to Bremerton’s Evergreen Park, where LWV-K members registered voters, informed others about WA Redistricting and Voter Suppression. Eighteen League members contributed to this event.

AWARDS

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The second award, in the “Effective Member Engagement and Recruitment” category, was for “Building Democracy and Reaching Out to Youth.”

Clark stated, “Member engagement in 2020 focused on Get Out the Vote. Because many of their membership, including 39 new members, indicated that voter services and registration was their primary interest, activities focused on these services.”

Clark continued, “The other prong was to gain visibility and future membership with youth as well as to engage the mem-

Committee News

Climate Solutions

The LWVK Climate Solutions Committee invites you to join us at 7 p.m. on the second Monday of each month for talks with expert environmentalists. There will be a Q&A session after each seminar/webinar. Our next meeting will be at 7 p.m. August 9 on Zoom. (In-person meetings may be held in the future.)

—Anita Rose

DEI

The DEI Committee will continue to provide webinars on Getting to Know Our Community, with the intention of interviewing members of the Latinx and the Indigenous communities next. The committee desires to advocate for equity in Kitsap jurisdictions and assist other League committees and units to use a DEI lens as they plan events. DEI is gathering individuals who are willing to be Liaisons to different non-government community organizations so that the League gets to know the diverse communities and is more aware of what is going on in the county. DEI next meets virtually from 10 a.m. to noon, Wednesday, Aug. 4.

— Susan Griggs

Healthcare

The Healthcare Committee has co-chairs for the 2021-2022 year: Leni Skarin and Jessica Guidry. The committee will meet monthly by Zoom from 12:30 to 2 p.m. on the second Friday of each month, beginning the new time with the August 13 meeting. In response to the interest of members at the January 2021 Program Planning meeting, the Healthcare Committee will focus this year on planning a public education meeting for the spring of 2022 on the topic of access to comprehensive reproductive healthcare and end of life care in Kitsap County. We will host monthly speakers

to learn more about the multiple aspects of the topic and to determine who would be the best presenters on a panel for the public education program. In addition, the committee will hear from speakers who can address the specific access to care issue of racial disparity as a public health crisis. Our monthly meetings are open to all LWVK members, and speakers will be announced as soon as they are confirmed. Several members of the committee also will work with the Public Hospital District project recently approved unanimously at the LWVWA convention, and report regularly to the committee and to the board. For information about speaker presentations, both future and past, contact Leni or Jessica.

— Leni Skarin

Program Planning

The Program Planning Committee is responsible for coordinating educational events for League members as well as the general public. We also host the annual "Meet and Greet" in December with members and local elected officials. Our meetings are from 10 a.m. to noon the third Monday of each month. The next meeting is July 19th, and will feature Joe Rutan and Jeff Shea Chief Engineer and Traffic Engineer, respectively, for Kitsap County. All are welcome.

— Robin Muir

Housing Co-Chair Needed

Do you have a passion for advocating for affordable housing and people experiencing homelessness? Do you want to be more involved in housing issues in Kitsap? Here's a great opportunity for you. The Housing Committee needs a new co-chair.

Responsibilities include:

- * Schedule quarterly meetings; provide agenda, minutes, and action items.
- * Attend monthly LWVK board

meetings on the first Saturday of each month from 10 a.m. to noon at St. Paul's Episcopal Church in Bremerton.

- * Keep committee and League members apprised and encourage support/comment of applicable pending bills and legislative actions during session.
- * Share information with committee and League members about affordable housing and homelessness in Kitsap. Seek opportunities to support nonprofits, county, and other partners on housing solutions.
- * Advocate for those living with housing insecurity by becoming involved and apprising committee and League members of ongoing issues and initiatives in Kitsap.
- * Seek opportunities/topics to educate the community about housing insecurity and solutions in Kitsap.

If you'd like to discuss this great opportunity, contact Maurie Louis. — Rochelle Karlaen

Legislative

The Legislature is not in session for the summer but the Governor may call a special session in the fall to complete work on the transportation capital budget. If this session is called the Legislature will seek to identify a funding mechanism to pay for capital improvements. The next regular session will be a "short" 60-day session and begin in January. — Martha Burke

Early Childhood

After the approval of its report by the LWVK Board, the "0 to Three" committee has started to think in terms of creating an action oriented agenda. A letter to the editor submitted to the Kitsap Sun detailing the importance of early child care was our initial step.

The letter was published on June 25 in the Kitsap Sun and on July 2 in the Bainbridge Islander. Presently we are working on a bookmark/information sheet

enlarging on this concept that could be useful as an educational tool in many other settings.

TESTIFY

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and districts should be compact and encourage electoral competition, not favoring incumbents or party interests.

For information, contact Susan Griggs at (509) 668-2888.

— Rochelle Karlsen

(Editor's note: The 2017 LWV Washington report on redistricting can be found on the LWV WA website. The report provides a history of the League's key role in improving Washington State's redistricting process)

Unit News

■ **SK Unit:** Nick Bond, Port Orchard's Community Development Director, was our guest on July 12, speaking about the future South Kitsap Community Events Center and the Imagine Port Orchard program: www.imagineportorchard.com/.

SK members will be at the Port Orchard Farmers Market on July 31, Sept. 11, Oct. 2 and 9, to register voters and hand out voter educational materials. The unit meets from 10 a.m. to noon the second Monday of the month; the next Zoom meeting will be Aug. 9. Contact Janet Stegemeyer for information.

— Janet Stegemeyer

■ **NK Unit:** The NK Unit will meet via zoom at 10 a.m. on Wednesday, July 28. Pam Hamon is the Unit leader.

■ Bainbridge Island:

The Bainbridge unit had its first in-person gathering on June 30 at the home of Maurie Louis with 16 in attendance.

We introduced ourselves,

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Annual Dues Reminder

Annual dues payments are here once again. Thank you to those who have sent in payment. If you have yet to send in your remittance, please do so by check or using the renewal option in the Members Only section of our website lwv-kitsap.org. The basic amount remains at \$60 with additional donations welcome. Members who have not paid by September 1 will be dropped.

Donations Needed for Pendleton Place

Would you like to help provide items for the Welcome Home Baskets for Pendleton Place? Donations are needed to provide basic kitchen and bath items for the new residents of Kitsap County's first permanent supportive housing apartment complex. A \$100 donation will pay for one complete Welcome Home Basket. You can shop online on the "Pendleton Place" Amazon Wish List registry: www.amazon.com/hz/wishlist/ls/19A49I1ELNY4O?ref_=wl_share. Or we'll shop for you! Donate at www.kitsapmentalhealth.org/register/donate-online/, and select "Pendleton Place Welcome Baskets." The deadline for donations and purchases is December 31. Questions? Contact Rochelle Karlsen at (360) 728-6222 or sailorrochelle@gmail.com.

UNITS

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completed a brief survey, and decided on major areas of interest for the upcoming months. The topic that got highest interest is affordable housing. Also of interest were sources and uses of public financing on Bainbridge, learning more about public banks, and the current status of the new police station/court.

The unit plans to meet at 10 a.m. on the fourth Wednesday of the month and will have both in-person and zoom meetings. Delight Willing and Colette Crosby are co-chairs.

■ **Bremerton/CK:** The regular B/CK Unit meeting for July was cancelled.

B/CK members will register citizens to vote at the Bremerton and Silverdale Farmers Market during July. Unit members will be discussing "Becoming a Democracy" by Kristin Eberhard from noon to 2 p.m. August 10, and September 14 at Evergreen Park picnic areas 5 and 6. Be sure to bring a lunch and invite a friend.

The next regular Unit meeting will be at 10 a.m. Saturday, August 21, at the home of John and Maureen Cervinsky. We'll set up a Zoom component for those wishing to meet remotely. — Maureen Cervinsky

SHRADER

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redevelopment of West Park from a collection of World War II duplexes for low-income residents to the development it is today.

Sharon's leadership and policy expertise has been felt by many organizations including League of Women Voters of Kitsap.

A public celebration of her life will be from 1 to 4 p.m. Wednesday, Sept 8, at Hood Canal Vista Pavilion, 4740 View Drive, Port Gamble.

Website and MailChimp Training

Volunteers always are needed. Two areas particularly in need of volunteers are website and MailChimp support. Our website was created by Alicia Vause using WordPress, a very easy and user friendly tool. MailChimp is the tool we use to design spiffy emails to send to our members and more than 800 email addresses across Kitsap County.

Many feel these two areas to be somewhat intimidating but they truly are easy to pick up. Alicia has offered to give hands-on training to any member willing to give it a try. Two members already have signed up.

Following her example, I am offering hands-on training to any member volunteering to help with the MailChimp emailing tool. I also have one member signed up.

If you are willing to step up and volunteer in one or both of these areas, contact Alicia at aliciavotes@gmail.com or me at maurie.louis@comcast.net. — Maurie Louis

CALENDAR

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Aug. 16: Climate Solutions Committee meeting, 7 p.m. via Zoom, guest speaker Kurt Smithpeters presents how advanced nuclear energy can help protect the planet; contact Marty Bishop

Aug. 16: Planning Committee meeting, 10 a.m. via Zoom; contact Robin Muir

Aug. 21: B/CK Unit meeting, 10 a.m.; contact Maureen Cervinsky

Aug. 25: North Kitsap Unit meet-

ing, time TBD, potluck luncheon at home of Carol Larsen; contact Pam Hamon

Aug. 25: BI Unit meeting, 10 a.m.; contact Colette Crosby/Delight Willing

SEPTEMBER

Sept. 4: LWVK Board meeting, 10 a.m., St. Paul's Episcopal Church, Bremerton; contact Maurie Louis

Sept. 8: Housing Committee meeting, 10 a.m., location TBD; contact Rochelle Karlsen.

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
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JULY 2021 Voter

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LWV Kitsap Committees and Current Chairs

Climate Change Solutions — Anita Rose and Marty Bishop;
inedarose2@gmail.com; martyl.bishop@gmail.com

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

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

Healthcare — Leni Skarin and Jessica Guidry; leniskarin@gmail.com;
jessicaguidry@hotmail.com

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

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

Membership — Carol Larsen; clarsen88@gmail.com

Nominating — Sue Hughes; suhughes111@comcast.net

Program Planning — Robin Muir; sumuirhom@gmail.com

Publicity — Rochelle Karlsen; sailorrochelle@gmail.com

Voter Services — Colette Crosby and Alicia Vause; colettecrosby@gmail.com;
aliciavotes@gmail.com

Voter Editor — Sue Hughes; suhughes111@comcast.net