

The Kitsap *Voter*

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF KITSAP

AUGUST 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

AUGUST

Aug. 24: Forum Committee meeting, 10 a.m. via Zoom; contact Maurie Louis

Aug. 25: North Kitsap Unit meeting, 10 a.m., potluck luncheon at home of Martha Burke; contact Martha Burke

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

SEPTEMBER

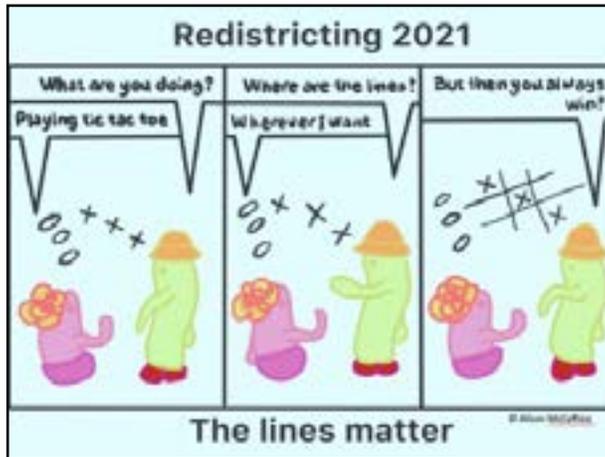
Sept. 1: DEI Committee meeting, 10 a.m. via Zoom; contact Susan Griggs

Sept. 4: LWVK Board meeting, 10 a.m., via zoom; contact Maurie Louis

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

See **CALENDAR** on Page 4

REDISTRICTING: Act NOW — Give Input Before September 30



Your Voting
Power Starts
Here!
Empower
Voters and
Defend
Democracy.

The once-a-decade redistricting process is under way in Washington state and the Redistricting Commission needs your input. Where the lines are drawn for Legislative and Congressional districts affects the voting power of Washington citizens for the next 10 years. LWV wants all citizens to have equal opportunity to have their voice heard. We believe that citizens who feel that their voice and their vote matters will become more informed and more active in government. How the congressional and legislative districts are mapped determines whether all communities are fairly represented.

See **REDISTRICTING** on Page 3

Cleanup at Future Emergency Housing Shelter



Photo by Judy-Rae Karlsen

More than 35 volunteers joined together over the weekend of July 31 to clean up the grounds of the property on Mile

Hill Road in South Kitsap purchased by Kitsap County to provide a temporary emergency housing See **CLEANUP** on Page 3

Introducing Voter Services Committee Co-Chairs

Hi everyone! We, Alicia Vause and Colette Crosby, are happy to be co-chairing the Voter Services Committee.

We both bring a lot of enthusiasm to this work and look forward to collaborating with all of you to encourage folks to register and vote!

Here are our bios.

Alicia: I've lived in Washington for most of my life. I grew up in Vancouver, WA, and went to college in Tacoma. After college, I spent 7 years in the California Bay Area before I eventually returned to my home state. I have lived in an old farm house on Bainbridge Island with my husband Nathan for the last 21 years.



While in California, I started working as a software developer at PeopleSoft. I was there for nine years, and my favorite job was on the User Experience team, where we focused on ways to make our programs easier to use. After my son Oliver was born, I spent several years being a mom. During this time, I began knitting with a passion, which eventually led to a job at the best yarn shop ever, Churchmouse Yarns & Teas. I established and ran its social media group on Ravelry, an online knitting platform, and later worked on Churchmouse's website.

These days my new passion project is democracy! Besides co-chairing the Voter Services committee, I maintain our local League's website and create most of the posters and handouts. I'm always trying to come up with fresh ways to support our League's commitment to empowering voters and defending democracy.

Colette: My husband Peter and I are relative newcomers to Bainbridge Island, having moved here in 2019 from the San Francisco Bay area. We were drawn here by family nearby, and by the desire to find a wonderful place to be as we enter into retirement (soon, but not yet). Our older son, Remo, followed us up here with his girlfriend last year, and they now live and work in Seattle. Our younger son, Ian, is out on the East Coast but he and his partner are now making "move out West" noises (yeah!).

Peter and I both worked in "Silicon Valley" as marketers for various software companies. Work took me around the world for a few years to places such as Canada, Brazil, the UK, Germany, France, India, Singapore, and Australia. I was inspired to join the League by my mom, who was a long-time member of the League and used to "drag" me to all the pre-election forums that were taking place nearby. From that experience I developed a profound respect for the League and its mission and am happy that I can now make a contribution. I have greatly enjoyed getting to know my fellow members and I am looking forward to the years to come.



Unit News

■ **Bainbridge Island:** We are happy to have Delight Willing join as co-chair of the Bainbridge Island Unit. She brings a lot of great energy and Colette is very grateful for her leadership!

The 10 a.m. Aug. 25 meeting guest speaker will be our own Alicia Vause who will intro-

duce us to all the features of the LWV-Kitsap website.

On Sept. 22 (new date!) at 10 a.m. we will join the other units to learn more about Public Banks, then have a quick half hour meeting on BI Unit activities.

Our speaker on Oct. 27 will be Phaedra Elliott, Executive Director of Housing Resources Bainbridge. She will update us

on housing needs on the Island.

We have no speaker for our November meeting (shout out if you have ideas!) but we will end the year with our meeting on December 15 (new date!) with Joe Clark, our new Chief of Police for Bainbridge Island.

We encourage unit members to contact us with other ideas for unit meetings.

— Delight Willing and Colette Crosby, Unit Co-chairs

■ **Bremerton/CK:** Ten members of the B/CK Unit met at Evergreen Park on Aug. 10 for the first of two discussion sessions about Kristin Eberhard's "Becoming a Democracy".

The second session will be at noon Tuesday, Sept. 14. Visit

See UNITS on Page 5

Volunteers Needed for Action Item on ‘Accuracy in the Educational Curriculum’

School boards are hearing from students that they have been shortchanged in their education because of insufficient presentation of accurate history of the United States. They have indicated that they have not been taught accurate American history from other perspectives besides those of the dominant white U.S. government.

School boards also are hearing from community members who are concerned that discussion of our country’s actions toward African and Asian Americans and Indigenous communities, (e.g., slavery, real reason for Civil War, Jim Crow, genocide of the indigenous communities, Japanese American concentration camps) will unduly bring guilt and low self-esteem to the white school children who didn’t do these actions.

Volunteers are requested to research the problem and consider how the LWVK can present a program to inform the public on this issue. Please contact Susan Griggs at susan.griggs0803@gmail.com to let her know if you would be willing to work on this topic.

— Susan Griggs

CLEANUP

From Page 1

shelter. Community organizations partnered to "adopt" the property and held the work party to start on improvements to the grounds of the building, including clearing out overgrown landscaped and parking areas. Partner organizations adopting the facility who joined the work party included Project Share, Port Orchard Helpers, Northwest Hospitality, the League of Women Voters of Kitsap Housing Committee, and the Port Orchard Homeless Action Team. Many neighbors of the property and residents of Port Orchard also helped.

“It is gratifying to see so many people

show up to help as a way to support this project and the vital resources it will provide our most vulnerable community members,” said Kitsap County Commissioner Charlotte Garrido, who joined the work party. “There is an urgent need to get this shelter open to give people currently unhoused a place to live where it’s easier to get them the services and resources they need.”

Thanks to Northwest Hospitality and Project Share for embracing the shelter project and initiating this facility adoption program. They gathered neighbors and friends to revitalize the property and its parklike atmosphere. This adoption program will continue and expand into the adjacent neighborhoods. The facility will be a beautiful place to live.

REDISTRICTING

From Page 1

The Washington Redistricting Commission received the official census data on August 12 and are busy at work drawing district maps. They then will share their maps probably mid-September. The commission will provide two weeks for residents to give input on these maps. ***It is imperative that the commission knows that the public cares how the maps are drawn.*** The official maps are due to the legislature on Nov. 15. There isn’t much time to make a difference!

Minority communities of interest need

allies to tell the Washington Redistricting Commission that it is important that they have a voice and have fair and effective representation in the legislature. League members are encouraged to speak up and let the Commission know that people who aren’t part of these minority communities ***care*** and want them to have elected officials in the legislature who will speak up and voice their concerns and vote for what they need.

The Washington Redistricting Commission is using modern technology to enable and encourage input. The website is friendly and inviting and includes translations into multiple languages. The site provides an array of ways to provide pub-

lic comments: testifying at a virtual public meeting; uploading video comments; submitting written testimony; emailing or mailing written comments; submitting voicemail; and uploading mapping suggestions. Commissioners intend to view, read and listen to all input received.

The League of Women Voters has created tools to help residents craft effective personal testimony. You can view training videos on the LWVWA Speak Up School website, lwvwa.org/speakup. In addition, you can look at draft maps that have been drawn by the LWVWA Redistricting chair, Alison McCaffree, at lwvwa.org/maps.

— Susan Griggs

Candidate Forums Update

Our League hosted five primary election candidate forums and all are now viewable from our website at www.lwv-kitsap.org/vid-eo-recordings/. We are in the middle of planning 10 general election candidate forums to be in October. These again will be via Zoom and the details will be provided as soon as available.

We need to invite the candidates to participate in these general election forums but when we went to the County Auditor’s website to see who the top two finalists are, the actual list of candidates wasn’t yet available. Only the vote count as of that day were available. We initially thought we could discern who the final candidates would be but in one race two candidates were separated by only 8 votes so we had to wait until the primary results were officially certified. This is a good story to share when you hear someone claim their vote won’t make a difference. All candidates I’m sure would strongly beg to differ.

— Maurie Louis, President, LWVK

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.

Committee News

Climate Solutions Committee

“Food: Too Good to Waste” is the title of the 7 p.m. Sept. 13 meeting, which will be via Zoom. Marty Bishop will lead a talk about the climate impacts of growing, transporting and wasting food. We will discuss how to reduce our carbon footprints and tread more lightly on the earth. Marty is a long-time composter and aspirational vegan, and is interested in all things related to the climate. Please join us for this important session. Contact Marty Bishop (martybishop@gmail.com) for Zoom access details.

— Marty Bishop and Anita Rose, Co-Chairs

DEI

DEI is planning a November webinar that continues our “Voices of Kitsap County” series with the Latinx community. There is a need to put together clips from each of the webinars to highlight the series. The committee wants to take part in the Kitsap Pride event set for July 2022. The Voter Suppression video made for the Juneteenth celebration will be publicized. DEI meets the first Wednesday of the month.

— Susan Griggs, Chair

Early Childhood Committee

The “0 to Three” Committee’s most recent meeting was in person at the Silverdale Waterfront Park on Aug. 12. We worked on the bookmark that we hope will be an important tool in support of early childhood organizations. We discussed ways to distribute the bookmarks to organizations where it could have the most impact.

We’re also looking into ways to educate the public perhaps using the University of Washington I-labs modules that so well describe the stages of child development, and we hope to schedule a meeting with UW early childhood scientists to discuss how to best use them.

We recently learned that Kitsap County’s three Commissioners soon will have the opportunity to decide how to use the American Rescue Plan Funds and we’re pleased to learn that some of these funds can be used to support Home Visiting. Quoting from the Treasury Interim Final Rule, “**Providing Healthy Childhood**

Environments”, children’s economic and family circumstances have a long-term impact on their future economic outcomes. Increases in economic hardship, material insecurity, and parental stress and behavioral health challenges all raise the risk of long-term harm to today’s children due to the pandemic. Eligible services to address this challenge include “home visiting programs to provide structured visits from health, parent educators, and social service professionals to pregnant women or families with young children to offer education and assistance navigating resources for economic support, health needs or child development”.

Home visiting, as carried out by the Nurse Family Partnership and the Early Head Start agencies here in Kitsap, provide very important services to new parents in underserved communities that are suffering the most from the pandemic and these funds would greatly benefit this work.

Health Care Committee

In July, the Health Care Committee drafted learning objectives for our Spring 2022 public health education program on access to end-of-life and reproductive health services in Kitsap County. We discussed our planning process for future events and identified guest speakers to invite to future committee meetings.

In August, the committee discussed with Rachel Hextema, End of Life Washington, the current status of end-of-life care and gaps in services.

At both the July and August committee meetings, members received updates on other LWV and local health initiatives.

The Health Care Committee meets from 12:30 to 2 p.m. on the second Friday of the month. For information, contact Leni Skarin or Jessica Guidry.

— Jessica Guidry, Co-Chair

Housing Committee

The committee has been busy helping arrange the Mile Hill clean-up project. Additionally, the committee is seeking members to join the Welcome Home Basket project team!

Over the next few months team members will work on logistics around shopping, assembling, and transporting goods for delivery to Pendleton Place

in early 2022.

Contact Rochelle Karlsen at (360) 728-6222 or sailorrochelle@gmail.com.

—Rochelle Karlsen, Co-Chair

Observer Corps 101

A virtual meeting will be at 2 p.m. on Monday, Sept. 20, at 2 p.m. to organize our Observer Corps Team. It will be hosted by Martha Burke and Carol Larsen (clarsen88@gmail.com). Please RSVP to Carol to receive the zoom link information.

— Carol Larsen

Program Planning Committee

To All Members: Join an important discussion concerning the creation of the Washington State Public Bank. You are invited to join us at 10 a.m. on Sept. 22 via Zoom to hear a presentation by members of the Whatcom County League of Women Voters Stoney Bird, Ruth Fruland, and Dick Conoboy on Senate Bill (SB)5188.

This bill establishes a public bank funded by local, state, and tribal governments. As proposed in SB5188, the institution would not be a lender for the general public. Rather, the membership will be comprised of government entities. This bank would be a source for funding infrastructure projects within the state.

Five years after its formation, the goal is to “direct 35 percent of its lending to support housing in low-to moderate-income areas.” The League of Women Voters of Washington has taken a position in favor of SB5188.

Please join us for this important discussion! Contact Robin Muir for Zoom and Dial-In access information.

— Robin Muir, Chair

CALENDAR

From Page 1

Sept. 10: Healthcare Committee meeting, 12:30 p.m. via Zoom; contact Leni Skarin or Jessica Guidry

Sept. 11: Voter Registration and Education Outreach, Port Orchard Farmers Market, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.; contact Janet Stegemeyer

Sept. 13: Climate Solutions Committee meeting, 7 p.m. via Zoom, Food Waste and Its Impact on **See CALENDAR on Page 5**

Membership Dues

Our fiscal year begins on July 1 of each year. Annual dues of \$60 are due at that time. If you have yet to remit payment please do so as soon as possible. If you have questions or have interest in a scholarship, please contact Carol Larsen (clarsen88@gmail.com).

— Carol Larsen, Chair

Welcome Home Baskets for Pendleton Place

The Housing Committee is seeking donations to provide basic kitchen and bath items for the new residents of Pendleton Place, Kitsap County's first permanent supportive housing apartment complex. Several members have asked what the cost is for one basket and we estimate a \$100 donation buys a complete Welcome Home Basket! Any donated amount is very appreciated.

You can shop online on the "Pendleton Place" Amazon Wish List registry: www.amazon.com/hz/wishlist/ls/19A4911ELN-Y4O?ref_=wl_share. Or let us shop for you! Donate at www.kitsapmentalhealth.org/register/donate-online/ and select "Pendleton Place Welcome Baskets."

If you prefer to pay by check, make your check payable to Kitsap Mental Health Services and note "Pendleton Place Welcome Baskets" in the memo line. Mail to:

Kitsap Mental Health Services

Attn: Donations

5455 Almira Drive NE

Bremerton, WA 98311

The deadline for donations and purchases is Dec. 31. For information about Kitsap Mental Health Services or Pendleton Place, visit www.kitsapmentalhealth.org. Questions about donating? Send an email to ppbremertonwa@gmail.com. Thank you for your support!

— Rochelle Karlsen, Housing Committee Co-Chair

CALENDAR

From Page 2

Climate Change; contact Marty Bishop

Sept. 14: Bremerton/CK Book Group: Becoming a Democracy, noon to 2 p.m. at Evergreen Park; contact Kathleen Cahall

Sept. 18: B/CK Unit meeting, 10 a.m. at Kitsap United Way, Bremerton, and via Zoom; contact Maureen Cervinsky

Sept. 20: Planning Committee meeting, 10 a.m. via Zoom; contact Robin Muir

Sept. 22: Community Bank Presentation, 10 a.m. via Zoom

followed by SK, NK, BI unit meetings; contact Robin Muir

Sept. 23: Voter Registration, Bremerton Farmers Market at Evergreen Park, 4 p.m. to 7 p.m.; contact Candy Rankin

Sept. 28: National Voter Registration Day

Sept. 30: Voter Registration, Bremerton Farmers Market at Evergreen Park, 4 p.m. to 7 p.m.; contact Candy Rankin

OCTOBER

Oct. 2: Voter Registration and Education Outreach, Port Orchard Farmers Market, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.; contact Janet Stegemeyer

Oct. 2: LWVK Board meeting,

UNITS

From Page 2

the League's webpage, "About Us," unit description to link to information regarding the meetings.

For those who are fully vaccinated and ready to assemble in-person, our unit is resuming in-person meetings. Starting Sept. 18, at 10 a.m., the B/CK Unit will gather at the United Way of Kitsap, 645 Fourth St., Bremerton. A Zoom link also will be provided for remote access. Our guests in September will be Elizabeth Blandin and J.D. Sweet who will discuss their "cultural competence" work in the public schools. They are looking forward to a question-and-answer format so members are encouraged to submit some questions in advance. For more information, contact Maureen Cervinsky (mcervinsky@gmail.com).

— Maureen Cervinsky, Chair

■ NK Unit: The August NK

10 a.m., St. Paul's Episcopal Church, Bremerton; contact Maurie Louis

Oct. 4: Candidate Forum, Poulsbo City Council, 6 p.m. via Zoom; contact Catherine Ahl

Oct. 4: Candidate Forum, Central Kitsap School Board, 6:30 p.m. via Zoom; contact Robin Muir

Oct. 4: Candidate Forum, North Kitsap School Board, 7:30 p.m. via Zoom; contact Catherine Ahl

Oct. 5: Candidate Forum, Bremerton Mayor, 5:30 p.m. via Zoom; contact Linda Streissguth

Oct. 6: DEI Committee meeting, 10 a.m. via Zoom; contact Susan Griggs

Oct. 6: Candidate Forum, Bremerton Municipal Court Judge, 5:30 p.m. via Zoom; contact Linda Streissguth

Unit meeting and potluck will be from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Aug. 25 at the home of Martha Burke. Bring a dish of your choice to share. RSVP to Martha (mburke2007@aol.com). Parking is limited so carpool when possible.

— Martha Burke, Chair

■ **SK Unit:** SK Unit members usually meet at 10 a.m. the second Monday of each month via Zoom. A celebratory in-person meeting at the Soroptimist Overlook Pavilion at the Port Orchard Waterfront Park was held on Aug. 9. Main topics were Housing, Diversity, Equity and Inclusiveness, Environment, and Voter Outreach, including strategies to engage young voters.

The next SK Unit Zoom meeting will be at 11:15 a.m. Wednesday, Sept. 22, which is timed to follow the League Zoom presentation on Public Banks at 10 a.m. Questions? Contact Janet Stegemeyer, Chair.

Oct. 7: Candidate Forum, Bremerton City Council, 5:30 p.m. via Zoom; contact Linda Streissguth

Oct. 8: Healthcare Committee meeting, 12:30 p.m. via Zoom; contact Leni Skarin or Jessica Guidry

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

Oct. 11: South Kitsap Unit meeting, 10 a.m. via Zoom; contact Janet Stegemeyer

Oct. 11: Climate Solutions Committee meeting, 7 p.m. via Zoom, guest speaker Dr. James Conca, geochemist and energy scientist, speaker, and author presents "A Scientifically Achievable Green New Deal"; contact Marty Bishop

League of Women Voters
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AUGUST 2021 Voter

In this issue:

- ▶ Redistricting
- ▶ Emergency Housing Cleanup Update
- ▶ Introducing Voter Services Co-Chairs
- ▶ Unit News
- ▶ Candidate Forums Update
- ▶ Committee News

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;
jessicafguidry@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