



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 27: Climate Solutions Committee business meeting, 7 p.m. via Zoom; Marty Bishop

Dec 29: North Kitsap Unit meeting, 10 a.m. via Zoom; Pam Hamon

JANUARY 2022

Jan. 1: LWVK Board meets, 10 a.m. via Zoom; contact Maurie Louis

Jan. 4: Climate Solutions Book Club, 7 p.m. via Zoom; contact Marty Bishop

Jan. 5: DEI Committee meeting, 10 a.m. via Zoom; contact Susan Griggs

Jan. 10: South Kitsap Unit meets, 10 a.m. via Zoom; contact Janet Stegemeyer

Jan. 10: Voter Services committee meeting, 2 p.m. via Zoom; contact Alicia Vause/Colette Crosby

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It's Feeling Festive at Mile Hill!



Photo by Randy Stegemeyer

LWVK Housing Committee member Janet Stegemeyer adds some holiday cheer to the Mile Hill supportive housing facility project in Port Orchard.

State Redistricting Process Needs Reform!

According to WA State law, the Redistricting Commission was required to submit new congressional and legislative maps by midnight on Nov. 15 or the State Supreme Court would draw the maps. The Supreme Court reported the commissioners voted shortly after midnight (on Nov. 16) to approve the maps and submitted them a few minutes later. Thus, the Commission failed to meet the statutory deadline. The Supreme Court, however, decided that the commissioners "substantially complied" with statutory deadlines and declined to adopt a new redistricting plan for Washington.

Actions by the WA Redistricting Commission suggest the redistricting process needs reform. The Commission was not transparent. The Washington Coalition for Open Government has sued the Commission because of its disregard of public transparency laws specified in the Open Public Meeting Act. Nothing substantial was shared with the public prior to the maps' submission. Further, the Commission meeting on Nov. 15 was in recess practically all night. The Redistricting Commission needs to be instructed on the Open

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Get Your Ideas Ready for Program Planning

We have tentatively set our annual Program Planning meeting for Feb. 2. It will be either a Zoom meeting or perhaps a hybrid Zoom and live. We will get the finalized date, time, location and Zoom information to you as soon as it is finalized.

The purpose of this event is for all members to share ideas about what our League might want to work on in the 2022-23 League year (beginning in June 2022 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 that have been discussed like Redistricting Commission reform; revenue and tax reform; public health and health care reform; 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 community? 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 Maurie Louis by Jan. 29.

This way, we will be able to share them with members ahead of the Feb. meeting. We also will take suggestions from the floor during the meeting.

In addition to local planning, we are asked to discuss proposals for the National 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 lwwus and for state positions, lwwwa. — Maurie Louis

Meet Linda Streissguth, Member since 2014

Linda Streissguth joined the League, convinced to do so by Sharon Shrader, long time League member who we lost this year. Linda was attracted to the nonpartisan stance of the League and enjoys studying meaningful issues in depth and developing the best strategy for resolving the problem. She became a member in 2014 and has contributed to our work including moderating candidate forums.

Linda was born in Burlington, WA and began working early picking berries and bulbs, as well as working in the canneries and shipping plants. She enjoyed a long-term career with Puget Sound Energy where varied opportunities took her around Puget Sound and included experience in real estate, land use and environmental planning, community service and government relations. Linda appreciated PSE's commitment to serving the community and it was through their encouragement and support that she served on numerous boards and commissions such as Bremerton Planning Commission,

Bremerton Housing Authority and the Harrison Medical Center Board. She was appointed to the Kitsap County Board of Commissioners in 2014 and in this capacity promoted the value of long-range planning.

She now works part-time in real estate in Arizona where she and her husband, Kent, a physical therapist, live part-time. Their kitties Binkie and Gracie keep the couple company. Linda loves golfing, gardening and flower arranging. She and Kent are travelers; and Linda, always the planner, is typically organizing three different trips at the same time.

During the interview we talked about family and Linda shared that her dad died when she was in her teens. He never was able to enjoy the future adventures he dreamed about. This loss led Linda to adopt the motto: "Live Life with No Regret" – Never say what could have been.

When you have the opportunity to get to know Linda, you'll find she is a delightful person and a valued LWVK member. — Sue Hughes



Linda Streissguth

Enhance Your Advocacy Skills

Ready to ACT (Action Coffee Time) once the 2022 legislative session begins? On Monday, Jan. 3, 10 a.m. grab that second cup of coffee and join other LWV members statewide for the first ACT via Zoom session! The group will meet from 10 to 11 a.m. Mondays, beginning Jan. 3 through March 14. The purpose of these discussions is to provide the background needed on a wide array of relevant topics to help you become a great Citizen Advocate. Email League member, Carol Sullivan, carolosully@yahoo.com to join the group. — Carol Larsen

Action Workshop 8

The Washington State League conducted a virtual Action Workshop on Dec. 4 in preparation for the upcoming legislative session (Jan. 10 to March 10, 2022) Thank you to the Kitsap League members who participated. In addition to hearing from our lobby team and key legislators, there were breakout sessions that provided an opportunity to focus on certain topics including housing, climate change, transportation and revenue. A meeting will be scheduled to determine how best to track and advocate for the priority issues and legislation of interest to our League. Details to follow. — Martha Burke

Committee News

Diversity, Equity and Inclusion

The DEI Committee is committed to advocating for diversity, equity, and inclusion in our governmental institutions and with the public. We do this by providing public educational programs, by considering ways to promote equity, and by following laws that address these issues. We have one more “Voices of Kitsap County” webinar planned for the spring to help the public understand better the Indigenous communities, predominately the Suquamish and S’klallam Tribes. The committee is putting together a proposal to change the LWVK governmental position to include DEI. A program of action is being considered for next year to present a workshop every other year on “How to Write and Present Testimony” using the materials from the Speak Up School. Another program of action under consideration is collaborating with the Washington Attorney General’s Office to have a workshop to teach the League members, the public, and governmental entities what is required by the Open Public Meeting Act.

DEI meetings are from 10 a.m. to noon the first Wednesday of the month. Contact Susan Griggs at Susan.griggs0803@gmail.com for information.

Early Childhood

The “0 to Three” Committee has received its printed bookmarks and is considering

REDISTRICTING

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Public Meeting Act and comply with the requirements.

In addition, the Seattle Times reports that a staffer working with the state Senate democrats, has many concerns about how the maps were drawn up and found there was no written or restated agreement on the maps prior to the vote by the commissioners (www.seattletimes.com/seattle-news/politics/lawsuit-washington-redistricting-commission-violated-open-meetings-law/).

Another concern about the Commission’s maps is the legislative map may not comply with the federal Voting Rights Act especially in the Yakima Valley. While the individual commissioners’ maps kept

En!ghten-Kitsap Community Forum

En!ghten-Kitsap County Forum welcomes Kirk Hanson, Director of Forestry for Northwest Natural Resource Group on Jan. 21. He will discuss principles of Ecological Forestry that his organization has been developing to help forests in the Pacific Northwest adapt to a changing climate.



Kirk Hanson

By highlighting the myriad forests NNRG manages across the region, Hanson will share examples of forest management strategies that provide alternatives to conventional industrial plantation forestry that has been the standard in the Northwest for decades. Details regarding this Zoom meeting can be found at enlightenkitsap.org.

— Barb Willock

various places to distribute them. There are many that come to mind immediately (e.g. libraries, maternity wards) but we also know there are many organizations that work with low-income disadvantaged people here in Kitsap County that we know very little or nothing about and may be good distribution venues.

We’re also aware that many League members are engaged in various charitable activities, so the committee would like to ask those members for help. If you know of a charity or specialized agency that has

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communities of interest together overall, the final map does not. The map minimizes the voice of many Latino communities.

Locally, there is a concern about the final redistricting map of the legislative districts. All the commissioners heard requests by Kitsap County testifiers that Bremerton should be kept in one legislative district and each of them drew Bremerton substantially in one district in their individual maps. However, the final map has Bremerton in two legislative districts, LD 23 and LD 26, with the dividing line between 11th and 15th Streets and Kitsap Way up to State Route 3, with all areas south and west of those roads in LD 26.

Many public concerns were addressed when individual maps were drawn but were disregarded when the final map was

CALENDAR

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Jan 10: Climate Solutions Committee meeting, 7 p.m. via Zoom, with speaker Martin Gibbons on “Effects of Climate Change in Washington and Recent Progress in Climate and Energy Legislation”; Marty Bishop

Jan. 12: Housing Committee meets, 10 a.m. via Zoom; Rochelle Karlsen

Jan. 14: Healthcare Committee meets, 12:30 p.m. via Zoom; Leni Skarin, Jessica Guidry

Jan. 15: Brem./CK Unit meets, 10 a.m. via Zoom; with guest speaker Iva Scott, Bremerton School District Assistant Superintendent; Maureen Cervinsky

Jan. 17: Planning Committee meets, 10 a.m. Zoom; Robin Muir

Jan. 18: “0 to 3” Committee meets, 10 a.m. Zoom; Rosalind Renouard

Jan. 18: Climate Solutions Book Club, 7 p.m. Zoom; Kathy Campbell

Jan. 24: Climate Solutions Committee Business meeting, 7 p.m. Zoom; Marty Bishop

Jan. 26: Bainbridge Island Unit meets, 10 a.m. Zoom; guest speaker DeWayne Pitts; Colette Crosby/Delight Willing

Jan. 26: North Kitsap Unit meets, 10 a.m. Zoom. Guest Dr. Laurynn Evens, North Kitsap School District Superintendent; Pam Hamon

completed. The legislative districts are not very compact with their shape accommodating where current legislators reside. The Commission also did not honor the request of the Colville Nation.

This fiasco suggests the redistricting process needs both statutory and constitutional reform. The Commission needs to be transparent and follow the Open Meetings Law. The composition of the Commission and how commissioners are selected must be amended so that the Commission does not focus on political advantages, adheres to existing law and is not allowed to ignore the public’s concerns.

The LWVWA tried to have legislation reforming the process passed prior to 2021 but the Legislature declined to act. LWVWA will continue its efforts to push legislators to enact necessary reforms.

League of Women Voters
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DECEMBER Voter

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Unit News

■ **Bremerton/CK:** The Bremerton/CK Unit did not meet in December. The next meeting will be a hybrid meeting at 10 a.m. Jan. 15. Iva Scott, Bremerton School District's assistant superintendent, will be the guest. The in-person gathering will be at Kitsap United Way, 645 Fourth St., Bremerton. A Zoom invitation will be available for those wanting to meet remotely; contact: Maureen Cervinsky.

COMMITTEES

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contact with the population we would like to reach, let Judie Kasnick or Rhonda Fairgrieve know.

The Committee continues

working on its power point presentation and hope to have it ready for prime time very soon. Two of our members have had to resign, so we welcome new members who have an interest in promoting the importance of early child care and learning and/or have communication skills.

With the Build Back Better bill and what it could mean for Early Child Care being debated in Congress, this is a critical time for parents and children.

— Rosalind Renouard

Health Care

At December's Health Care committee meeting, Carrie Patricia from MultiCare Health Systems answered questions about their hospice services. A video of the recording for this presentation will be posted on the LWVK website.

The next meeting will be at 12:30 p.m. Jan. 14 with Jessica Guidry, Equity Program Manager at the Kitsap Public Health District. She will give information about implementation of the District's resolution declaring "Racism as a public health crisis." Contact Jessica Guidry or Leni Skarin.

Housing Committee

The Kitsap County Board of Commissioners is considering adopting a new sales tax (1/10th of 1%) to fund affordable housing and related services. The Housing Committee is analyzing the pros and cons of this additional tax and will present the Committee's findings and recommended LWVK position to the Board for action. Written testimony can be provided until Dec. 31.

The Kitsap County Board of Commissioners is scheduled to make a decision on Jan. 10, 2022. Information is on the Board of Commissioners website. — Sue Hughes

Climate Solutions

Ted Larson Freeman gave a comprehensive presentation on Dec. 13 about federal climate legislation. He spoke on provisions in the infrastructure legislation signed into law by President Biden. The recording of this talk will be available soon on the League's website. Martin Gibbins, LWVW's Climate Advocacy chair, will be the speaker on Jan. 10. He will talk about climate change in Washington and current climate and energy legislation. For a link to the presentation, contact Marty Bishop.