

# *The Voter*

March 2022

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## A Moment



*Moment of Silence*

*Created by Maurie Louis*

As we work to empower voters and defend our democracy, we honor the casualties in Ukraine  
with a moment of silence.....

Our hours of watching and reading all we can about what is happening in Ukraine have spawned questions, soul searches, and reflections. Often in these reflections we see personal inspirations and commitments. Here are a few reflections our League members have shared, including my own.

“Citizens in Kyiv are fighting and dying to save their freedom and democracy. We are watching the destruction - live. Seeing the determination of Ukrainian President Zelenskyy and the Ukrainian people inspires me to do whatever I can to save our own democracy from forces in our communities that are undermining it. The Ukrainian citizens have inspired me to work harder.” -*Maurie Louis*

“In Ukraine today, we are watching a bully trying to control and dominate an independent nation. In this country, too, we see bullies attempting to dominate our citizens with their aggressive stands against voting for all. Lies have convinced some Russians that the war is not happening. Lies also convince many in our country that voting has been corrupted and therefore voting rules must be so tightened that it becomes very difficult for many citizens to vote. Together we must support full and fair voting rights for all states and we must support the Ukrainians in their hours of need. We cannot allow bullies to win!” - *Delight Willing*

“As we watch the daily destruction in Ukraine, and know it to be a reality, a segment of the Russian population continues to believe that there is no war. These people maintain this belief in spite of incontrovertible evidence to the contrary that is provided by their own relatives. It is not lost on me that in the United States, we have a very vocal segment of our population that continue to believe "The Big Lie" along with other conspiracy theories in spite of incontrovertible evidence to the contrary. It is truly terrifying to see how lies and deceit can corrupt so absolutely, and so quickly. We must continue to shed light on the truth, call out the lies, and fight for our own democracy and those around the world”. - *Robin Muir*

“I traveled to Ukraine in a teacher exchange in 1998. At that time in Western Ukraine, Ukrainian and English were the two languages taught in many schools. Most of the people emphasized speaking Ukrainian and learning Ukrainian history over Russian. Ukrainians have experienced democracy and do not want to go backwards.” - *Judy Arbogast*

“At a time when we've been watching U.S. democracy get chipped away bit by bit with a surprising number of Americans complacent about it or in denial, the shock of seeing Ukraine's democracy blatantly attacked by Russia's authoritarian war machine seems to have awakened U.S. citizens and the rest of the free world to acknowledge that "Empowering Voters" and "Defending Democracy" are vital slogans and actions. In the months ahead, League members may find audiences more receptive to warnings about attacks, both foreign and domestic, on democracy.” -*Janet Stegemeyer*

“Watching the documentary, *Winter on Fire* (Netflix), has helped me understand the fierce determination of the Ukrainian people. In 2014, they ousted the authoritarian leader and Putin puppet, Viktor Yanukovich, and established a democracy in Ukraine. No wonder that the Ukrainian people are fighting so courageously now to save that very democracy. They deserve all the support they can get. ‘*The consequence of losing a democracy is generations long,*’ David Pepper.” -*Susan Daniel*

“When a totalitarian government represses its people, it is a concern that we can do little to alleviate. When a totalitarian state attacks its neighbor and attempts to terminate its democratic government, it is a violation of international law and a threat to democracy everywhere. We can respond in many ways. We can provide aid to those refugees fleeing violence, we can provide

support to the resistance by brave citizens determined to remain free and independent, and we can work to protect democracy in our own country. For me, I will do all three of these actions. Watching the courageous people of Ukraine, I know that I must do all I can to keep our democracy functioning, our elections secure, and our citizens free to vote without intimidation.”  
-Leni Skarin

“While we are worlds apart, we are profoundly connected with suffering Ukrainians as we pray and cry together. Tears in sympathy may be cathartic but I believe actions are needed. If you are able, it is important to donate to relief organizations that you trust. However, giving money while helpful is but a short-term solution. I believe the world needs a more enduring way forward and that is by disrupting the bonds of oppression whenever and wherever we encounter them. I believe cosmic change begins with each of us and love grows exponentially. Today, there are “wars” oppressing people in my county, state, and country every day. By staying informed and taking actions against oppressors wherever I find myself and together in community with other believers, I believe we are changing the dynamics in the struggle for a free and equitable life for all. Think globally and act locally with the light of peace and the love of humanity to guide us.” -Kimi Kinoshita

Many of us are wondering what we in Kitsap can do to help. Here are just a few places one can contact. (These are not listed as League of Women Voters Kitsap recommendations.)

- The **Lutheran Community Services Northwest** (<https://lcsnw.org/>) is quite active in preparations for Ukrainian refugees. *Bremerton has a local office with a website at <https://lcsnw.org/office/bremerton>.*
- **Empact Northwest** (<https://www.empactnorthwest.org/>) “On Tuesday morning, the Kitsap-based nonprofit Empact Northwest deployed an assessment team to aid the Ukrainian refugees pouring out of the country. The team left for Warsaw, Poland, and will work primarily at the border between Poland and Ukraine,” Peiyu Lin Nathan Pilling, [Kitsap Sun](#) (Their mailing address in Kingston is PO Box 542 Kingston, WA 98346.)
- **Ukraine Take Shelter and Aid for Ukraine** “Two Washingtonians - one a teen from Mercer Island, the other a man from Bainbridge Island - asked themselves what they could do to help. Their answers were vastly different: One started writing code, the other flew immediately to Poland,” Christine Clarridge, [Seattle Times](#).
- **International Rescue Committee**. Learn how the [IRC](#) responds to an emergency like Ukraine.

NOTE: This article was written on March 9. We have no way of knowing what will have transpired by the time the March Voter is published.

Maurie Louis

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## Legislative Session Ends

The short but successful 2022 session ended on Thursday, March 10. The Legislature passed a transportation budget that includes funding for four new ferries, and a supplemental budget that provides more funding for schools as well as other priorities. Laws were passed to provide charity health care, climate action, and restricts the possession of weapons near schools and municipal buildings. Thanks to Kitsap League members who lobbied for many of these changes. Martha Burke, Legislative Liaison

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Photographer: Judy-Rae Karlsen

## Veterans' Memorial Park Campers and Cleanup

**TRIGGER WARNING:** graphic and sad details about a person/people experiencing homelessness and living in deplorable conditions.

Today, March 6, I walked through Veterans' Memorial Park in Port Orchard where several people have been camping in recent months. The county hired a contractor to clean up trash beginning yesterday through noon tomorrow, and volunteers with Northwest Hospitality also helped yesterday. It's a monumental task.

I spent a lot of time walking and talking with Lisa, a 50-year-old woman who is living in the park on her own. Lisa does not have a job or transportation. When she left her camp one day to get food, a man with mental/behavioral issues went into her tent, stole things, and urinated all over the tent and her clothing. She can no longer stay in the tent at night because of the rats crawling all over her, as they are keenly attracted to human urine. Last night she slept miserably in a dugout at the high school with only the clothes she's wearing because she couldn't take the rats anymore, and she thought it might be warmer. She doesn't even have a blanket. She hasn't had a shower in days. She has no fresh water and no dry clothes. Her camp is down a steep, slippery path where she can be further away from the other campers, at her choice. It's littered with debris from previous campers and her own items, most of which are unusable. I asked her if she had a phone, and she did. I asked her if she knew she could call 211 to ask for help and find out what options there are for her. She had no idea. I learned later this afternoon that she called 211, and they are bringing her a tent and a sleeping bag.

This is just one of the stories of the many human beings living in the woods in Veterans' Memorial Park. We can never do enough. This is such a complex issue in our community and across the country. If you've written to our county commissioners in support of creating affordable housing and building emergency shelters, thank you. Thank you for reading if you've gotten this far, and thank you for everything you do for the underserved in our community.

Here is what I posted on Facebook.

Just walked through the homeless camps at Veterans' Memorial Park in Port Orchard, which is a half mile away. There's a park cleanup this weekend. Spent some time talking with one of the women living there on her own under appalling conditions. What can we do to find solutions for people with no home? No human being should have to sleep in the woods in the rain and cold in a soggy tent (with luck), without food and fresh water and dry clothing, with rats running all over them. And yes, it's obvious there have been little children living in this hellhole. There were piles of toys, used diapers, clothing, and tiny shoes.

Rochelle Karlsen, Housing Chair

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Photographer: Judy-Rae Karlsen



## **Help Wanted! Zoom Scheduler**

Odds are high that Zoom will remain with us after the pandemic is well behind us. Consequently, we need League members willing to learn how to schedule Zoom meetings using the League's version of Zoom. It's very easy to do, taking about 15 minutes to schedule a meeting and email the Zoom link to whomever requested that the meeting be arranged. We get on average three requests a month. Please consider helping. Contact Maurie Louis or your unit lead to learn more about it. [maurie.louis@comcast.net](mailto:maurie.louis@comcast.net)

Maurie Louis, President

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## **Not Receiving Emails?**

Not receiving emails from LWVK? We are learning that several League members are not receiving League emails that we know were successfully sent. It is a good practice to routinely check your SPAM folder. We've also discovered that, if you are using Gmail, it automatically places what it perceives to be promotions into a Promotions folder. This means you don't see some messages in your Inbox. You can always look in your "Promotions" folder to see if it contains anything important or you can do the following to prevent this from happening 1) Go to

your Gmail; 2) Click on the gear icon in the upper right to get to "Settings". 3) Click on the "Inbox" tab. 4) Make sure the "Promotions" box is UNCHECKED. Contact Maurie Louis if you would like some help. maurie.louis@comast.net

Maurie Louis, President

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## **My Friend, Kim Abel**

The best fringe benefit in joining the League is meeting wonderful people and forming friendships. Kim Abel is my friend and here is her story. Kim grew up in the Yakima Valley, earned a degree at the University of Washington in Environmental Geography (i.e., Land Use) and then a Law degree at Lewis and Clark in Oregon. Kim married Bob and together they moved to Southern California when Bob accepted a job as a rocket scientist. Kim was employed as the Hearings Board attorney member and Chair at the South Coast Air Quality Management District. Kim's first son, Kellen, arrived followed two years later by son, Riley. Kim devoted her time to being a mom. The family returned to Washington after 10 years in California and settled in Port Orchard.

Kim remembered her mom talking about League and decided to attend the Kitsap League's Fall Luncheon. She was intrigued by the like-minded and passionate League members she met, their organizational skills, and the League's mission. Kim joined and some of her initial projects were helping update "Know Your County" and developing a Sustainability baseline for the County. These very ambitious mini studies involved establishing a benchmark (for example, the number of returning salmon in a certain year) and then years later, the number of returning salmon to determine if and why the number has increased, decreased or remained the same. Kim says what really "hooked her in" was serving on the local board and later her six years on the State Board (she was president her last four years). One of Kim's favorite League assignments was being a candidate forum moderator. This very busy woman also found time to serve as the mayor of Port Orchard for four years. She is currently employed by Olympic College and works in Public Records and Policy Development.

Kim is a lover of all things' family. In fact, Kim and Bob celebrated their 40th wedding anniversary last fall. One of my favorite stories is a study of donuts Kim arranged with her then seven- and nine-year-old sons. The boys developed a scoring grid and decided on five donut shops in Seattle to visit. They stopped after three shops as the sugar buzz got the best of them and declared Top Pot on Capitol Hill the winner. Kim is also a great gardener and cook and enjoys reading fiction. The family spends a lot of time playing on the Washington

Coast, flying kites, digging razor clams and watching the weather go by.

Two of my best years in League was serving as the State League secretary while Kim was Board President. She is clearly an accomplished leader, has a wonderful, happy disposition and sense of humor and it is an honor to call Kim my friend.

Sue Hughes, Voter Editor

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## **League of Women Voters Washington Affinity Discussion Groups**

You can think of these groups like a book club. A group of people who share a common interest in a topic and who get together periodically to discuss and share ideas. Each group decides how often they meet and one person is needed to take responsibility to schedule the meetings. League members can join when it's convenient for them and participate as much or as little as they like. The following are the existing groups and lead contact.

Criminal Justice: Deb Carstens, [dcarstens@lwvwa.org](mailto:dcarstens@lwvwa.org)

Gun Safety: Pat Griffith, [pgriffith@lwvwa.org](mailto:pgriffith@lwvwa.org)

Health Care: Kim Abbey, [kabbey@lwvwa.org](mailto:kabbey@lwvwa.org)

Membership Development: [lbenson@lwvw.org](mailto:lbenson@lwvw.org)

Observer Corps: [lbenson@lwvwa.org](mailto:lbenson@lwvwa.org)

Public Bank: Ruth Fruland, [rfruland@lwvwa.org](mailto:rfruland@lwvwa.org) and Stoney Bird [sbird@lwvwa.org](mailto:sbird@lwvwa.org)

Responsible Journalism: DeeAnne Finken, [dfinken@comcast.net](mailto:dfinken@comcast.net)

Treasurers: Myra Howrey, [edfundtreasurer@lwvwa.org](mailto:edfundtreasurer@lwvwa.org)

Webmaster/Communication: Deloris Irwin, [deloreslww@gmail.com](mailto:deloreslww@gmail.com)

If you would like to create a new group, contact Linda Benson, [lbenson@lwvwa.org](mailto:lbenson@lwvwa.org) for help with getting started.

Carol Larsen, Membership Chair

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## **Committee and Unit Reports**

### **Climate Solutions Committee**

On March 14 Ingrid Archibald, SAFE Cities Field Organizer at Stand.earth, gave a presentation about transitioning to electricity. We know that burning gas in our homes for heat and cooking adds to greenhouse gases that are warming the planet. Ingrid presented a plan for making our communities safer by limiting new gas infrastructure.

On March 22 we will discuss the prologue and first section of Katharine Hayhoe's book, *Saving Us*. In addition to being a climate scientist, Katharine has made communicating about climate change her mission. The book discussion will be on zoom at 7 p.m. Contact Anita Rose or Marty Bishop for the link and more information.

We are planning a Climate Roundtable with elected officials and a representative from the Suquamish Tribe on April 13 at 1 p.m. We hope you can join the meeting to see how Kitsap is planning for the challenges of climate change.  
Marty Bishop, Co-Chair

### **Early Childhood Committee**

The 0 to Three Committee has had a busy month preparing its power point presentation and then presenting it to the Bainbridge Island, North Kitsap Interfaith Council on March 3rd. We held several meetings to prepare for the presentation and one critiquing it. Also, with the help of Alicia Vause and Ellen Konopaski, our flyer was translated into Spanish. At the presentation, we were able to send, via Zoom chat, both flyers and other early learning material to the Interfaith Council members. We are also continuing to distribute our bookmarks and flyers and would very much welcome suggestions from the membership. We look forward to making the presentation to other organizations in the near future.

Rosalind Renouard, Chair

### **Housing Committee**

The Kitsap County Board of Commissioners unanimously approved the 1/10th of 1% sales and use tax increase for affordable housing and related services on January 10. This new tax supported by the LWVK amounts to \$17.00 annually per resident and will be leveraged to increase overall revenues. The Commissioners are heavily leaning toward establishing a Citizen Advisory Committee (CAC) similar to the behavioral tax CAC to review proposals submitted by the community and make recommendations to the Board of Commissioners for funding. The Commissioners will grant monies strategically and carefully monitor funded projects to ensure promised outcomes are

achieved. The Housing Committee will periodically provide progress reports.

The preparation of Welcome Home Baskets for the 72 new residents of Pendleton Place is tentatively scheduled for the last week of March. The opening of the complex has been slightly delayed. Those who have volunteered to assist in assembling the baskets will be notified when a firm date is set.

The Housing Committee fully supports the County's creation of the emergency homeless shelter on Mile Hill in Port Orchard to help some of Kitsap's most vulnerable people. The County has received quite a bit of negativity and criticism from some of the residents who live near the building. If League members are in support of this project, it could be helpful for the commissioners to hear your positive comments. You can send an email that will reach all three of the county commissioners at [kitsapcommissioners@kitsap.gov](mailto:kitsapcommissioners@kitsap.gov)

The Housing Committee is still in need of a new chair. If you're interested, please send Rochelle Karlsen an email at [sailorrochelle@gmail.com](mailto:sailorrochelle@gmail.com).  
Rochelle Karlsen, Chair

### **Bremerton/Central Kitsap Unit**



Marlaina Simmons, Networks Coordinator for Kitsap Strong, attended the February 19 Unit meeting. [Kitsap Strong](#) is a multi-pronged community initiative to improve the health and well-being of all children, families, and adults in Kitsap. The organization was created in 2014 out of Kitsap County Health Priorities. It is a coalition of more than 110 organizations in Kitsap County, a group of community leaders whose shared agenda is to work toward preventing and overcoming childhood trauma by building a culture of empathy, equity, and connection. A video of Marlaina's talk can be found on the League's website.

Our March 19 meeting featured Monica Bernhard from Kitsap Mental Health Services who provided an overview of available behavioral health services and a report on Pendleton Place. Please contact Amanda Rodgers for more information at [arrodgers@gmail.com](mailto:arrodgers@gmail.com)  
Amanda Rodgers, Unit member

### **North Kitsap Unit**

The North Kitsap Unit will be meeting on Wednesday, March 23 via zoom at 10 a.m. We will be updating ourselves on the many activities of our local League. Dr. Laurynn Evans, Superintendent of Schools for the North Kitsap School District will be our guest on April 27. She will be answering a number of questions that were sent to her beforehand. For more information contact Pam Hamon.

Pam Hamon, Unit Lead

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## “Mark Your Calendar”

### **March 2022**

Mar 21: Planning Committee meets, 10 a.m. via Zoom; Robin Muir

Mar 22: Climate Solutions Book Club, 7 p.m. via Zoom, discusses “Saving Us: A Climate Scientist’s Case for Hope and Healing in a Divided World” by Katherine Hayhoe; Marty Bishop

Mar 23: Bainbridge Island Unit meets, 10 a.m. via Zoom, guest Blair King, COBI City Manager; Colette Crosby/Delight Willing

Mar 23: North Kitsap Unit meets, 10 a.m. via Zoom; Pam Hamon

Mar 28: Climate Solutions Committee business meets, 7 p.m. via Zoom; Marty Bishop

### **April 2022**

Apr 1: DEI Committee meets, 10 a.m. via Zoom; Susan Griggs

Apr 2: LWVK Board meets, 10 a.m. via Zoom; Maurie Louis

Apr 6: Housing Committee meets, 5 p.m. via Zoom; Rochelle Karlsen

Apr 8: Healthcare Committee meets, 12:30 p.m. via Zoom; Leni Skarin/Jessica Guidry

Apr 11: SK Unit meets, 10 a.m. via Zoom; Janet Stegemeyer

Apr 11: Voter Services committee meets, 2 p.m. via Zoom; Alicia Vause/Colette Crosby

Apr 13: Climate Solutions Committee public webinar, 1 p.m. via Zoom, “Kitsap Climate Roundtable.” Panelists: Kitsap County commissioners Charlotte Garrido and Rob Gelder, Bainbridge Island mayor Joe Deets, Poulsbo mayor Becky Erickson, Bremerton mayor Greg Wheeler, Suquamish Tribe chairman Leonard Forsman; moderated by Martin Gibbins, LWVWA Climate and Water Issues chair; Anita Rose

Apr 16: Bremerton/Central Kitsap Unit meets, 10 a.m., hybrid via Zoom and Kitsap United Way conference room, “OC Earth Week” with guest Amy Lawrence, Olympic College Environmental Studies instructor; Maureen Cervinsky

Apr 18: Planning Committee meets, 10 a.m. via Zoom; Robin Muir

Apr 25: Climate Solutions Committee business meets, 7 p.m. via Zoom; Marty Bishop

Apr 26: Climate Solutions Book Club, 7 p.m. via Zoom, discusses “Saving Us: A Climate Scientist’s Case for Hope and Healing in a Divided World” by Katherine Hayhoe; Marty Bishop

Apr 27: Bainbridge Island Unit meets, 10 a.m. via Zoom, “0 to Three” committee presentation; Colette Crosby/Delight Willing

Apr 27: North Kitsap Unit meets, 10 a.m. via Zoom, guest Dr. Laurynn Evans, superintendent of schools for North Kitsap School District; Pam Hamon

Apr 28: Bremerton/Central Kitsap Unit meets, 6:30 p.m. via Zoom, guest Karen Goon, Kitsap County Administrator; Maureen Cervinsky

### **May 2022**

May 4: Housing Committee, 5 p.m. via Zoom; Rochelle Karlsen  
May 6: DEI Committee meets, 10 a.m. via Zoom; Susan Griggs  
May 7: LWVK Board meets, 10 a.m. via Zoom; Maurie Louis  
May 9: SK Unit meets, 10 a.m. via Zoom; Janet Stegemeyer  
May 9: Voter Services committee meets, 2 p.m. via Zoom; Alicia Vause/Colette Crosby  
May 13: Healthcare Committee meets, 12:30 p.m. via Zoom; Leni Skarin/Jessica Guidry  
May 16: Planning Committee meets, 10 a.m. via Zoom; Robin Muir  
May 17: “0 to 3” Committee meets, 10 a.m. via Zoom; Rosalind Renouard  
May 21: Bremerton/Central Kitsap Unit meets, 10 a.m., hybrid via Zoom and Kitsap United Way conference room; Maureen Cervinsky  
May 23: Climate Solutions Committee business meets, 7 p.m. via Zoom; Marty Bishop  
May 24: Climate Solutions Book Club, 7 p.m. via Zoom, discusses “Saving Us: A Climate Scientist’s Case for Hope and Healing in a Divided World” by Katherine Hayhoe; Marty Bishop  
May 25: Bainbridge Island Unit meets, 10 a.m. via Zoom; Colette Crosby/Delight Willing  
May 25: North Kitsap Unit meets, 10 a.m. via Zoom; Pam Hamon

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