

The Voter

May 2022

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Welcome Home to New Residents at Pendleton Place



Photo credit: Susan Daniel Assembling baskets and goods for new residents, soon to arrive!

Welcome Home Baskets were assembled by several League volunteers in March for the 72 new residents of Pendleton Place, Kitsap County’s first supportive housing complex opening in Bremerton. Susan Daniel and Barb Willock volunteered to co-

coordinate this final piece of the project, that was a year in the making, on behalf of the Housing Committee. Assisting were Carol Larsen, Marty Bishop, Barbara Paul, and Martha Burke. A little more than \$8,200 was raised from the generosity of League members, friends and family, Bremerton Rotary Foundation, Olalla Valley Vineyard and Winery, and 100 Who Care, Kitsap. The Housing Committee was able to purchase more than 3,500 items, which included kitchen and bathroom waste cans and a laundry basket filled with various cleaning and hygiene supplies, dish towels, hot pads, and even a toaster and a cutting board. To reduce the use of plastic bags, several League members created 72 tote bags to hold some of the items. Thanks to Robin Muir for spearheading this effort, along with sewists Annette Lozon, Amanda Rodgers, Ellen Wixted, Carole Larsen, and Joan Spencer for donating their excellent sewing skills. Also special thanks to Sue Hughes, who created 72 stationery bags containing envelopes and stamps, pens and notepaper, and Judy-Rae Karlsen for having 72 welcome letters from the League printed. As the baskets were assembled in the gathering room at Pendleton Place, employees delivered them to the apartments. The new residents will begin occupying their new home the week of May 16. A huge THANK YOU to everyone who supported this project! (Editor's Note: I doubt the success of the Welcome Home Baskets Project without the dedication, compassion and hard work of Rochelle Karlsen, Chair of the LWVK Housing Committee. Thank you Rochelle!)



Photo credit: Susan Daniel. Display of dinnerware. Center: Barb Willock, Carol Larsen, Marty Bishop, Barbara Paul, Martha Burke and Susan Daniel. Bedroom ready for new resident.

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League of Women Voters of Washington - 2022 Council

Everett, WA 98201

3105 Pine Street

Delta Hotel

June 10 - 12

[Register Now!!!](#)

The League of Women Voters of Washington's 2022 Council is all set to happen! For this in-person event, masks, vaccine cards, and social distancing (six seated at tables designed for ten) are required. The hotel's air filtration system brings in fresh outside air through frequently changed filters. *Come see what our neighbors in Snohomish/Skagit love about where they live!*

Registration: The \$150 fee includes a Friday pizza party, Saturday lunch and dinner, and beverage breaks Saturday and Sunday. The LWVWA Ed Fund is paying for the conference space, tech, and so on. ***Our Kitsap League will reimburse the registration fee for eight members. As of May 11, there were still reimbursable slots available. Contact Maurie Louis to see if any of those spots are still open.***

Business: Among several other business items, the new state officers and board of directors will be voted in and actions to take going forward will be identified. A full Council Agenda can be found on this website: www.lwvwa.org/Council-2022.

Delegates: The Kitsap League is allotted eight votes in any voting matter. Voting members will have the distinguished title of "delegates." There are no special requirements to be a delegate, and new members are very welcome to be delegates. If we don't have eight members attending, we won't be able to cast our full allotment of votes.

Discussions: Panels and roundtable discussions will be held on the topics of non-partisanship, candidate forums, networking, brainstorming strategies, DEI, civics education, energizing new and long-term members, the environment, and legislative advocacy.

Caucuses: Caucuses are informal gatherings outside of the regular business meeting times (after the evening program) and are often on topics of general interest where one would like to see a task force created, a committee convened, or a toolkit developed. An early request will mean that one's caucus can be listed on the Council Website. Otherwise, the information will be announced and posted on the Information Board at the Council. Each caucus organizer usually holds such sessions in their own guest room or in common areas of the hotel.

Display Tables: In the spirit of re-connection, local Leagues, committees, and other groups can set up and staff display tables for attendees to learn more about their work. Potential display table ideas include sharing a program that they are proud of, recruiting for a project, or selling items from their League.

Guest Speakers: The Saturday guest speaker will be **Nick Lovrich**, co-author/editor of [*Outside Looking In: Lobbyists' Views on Civil Discourse in US State Legislatures*](#). The Sunday guest speaker will be **Jessica Rohloff**, LWVUS board member and Washington liaison, who will give a full report on what's happening at the national level, particularly as it affects local Leagues.

Lodging: To reserve a room at the **Delta Hotel**, you must [use this link to get our group rate](#) for June 10-12: **[Register Now!!!](#)** The room rate is \$139 for either a King Bed with Sofa bed or Two Queen Beds plus taxes. This does not include breakfast. There are a limited number of rooms available at this rate. It's quite common that members share a room.

The Council Agenda and full details about the 2022 Council as well as a list of additional lodging locations can be found on the state League's website at www.lwvwa.org/Council-2022. **[Register Now!!!](#)**

Carpooling: Carpooling is available. Contact Maurie Louis maurie.louis@comcast.net.

Please let Maurie Louis know if you plan on attending the 2022 Council.

Maurie Louis, President LWVK

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VOTE411 - Questions for candidates Due This Month!

VOTE 411 is the national League's website that will list all the candidates running for office in our area, with all candidates asked the same questions. The filing period for this upcoming election ends on May 20, and this year all of our Representatives, at both the state and federal level are up for election. In addition, one US Senator, State Senators in the 26th and 35th Legislative Districts, and one County Commissioner will all be on the ballot.

The State League is putting together Our State's Vote411 and asked that we submit questions for candidates running in our area. Please submit questions by May 31 to Martha Burke for any of the candidates that you would like to see answered. More information, in particular candidate information, can be found on the WA Secretary of State's website and the Kitsap County Auditor's website.

Martha Burke

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Women's Reproductive Rights

When news surfaced regarding a possible change in position coming from the US Supreme Court, you couldn't turn on the news or read an article without seeing an opinion or article discussing women's reproductive rights. The League of Women Voters urged senators to support S4132, the Women's Health Protection Act that would codify a woman's right to reproductive choice, including access to abortion services. However, the Act failed to pass with a 49-51 vote in the Senate. No doubt this will be an important topic to many during the mid-term elections and beyond.

The LWV encourages members to contact their representatives and urge their support and continued efforts to protect women's health. The League of Women Voters of the United States President Dr. Deborah Ann Turner and CEO Virginia Kase Solomon issued a statement following the defeat of S4132 that said in part, "It is critical that our elected leaders in Congress balance the judicial branch and protect women's health at all costs. We call on the Senate to stop playing politics with the lives of women. We remain steadfast in our call to amend or eliminate the filibuster to ensure the Senate's ability to protect reproductive freedom and healthcare in this country." Read the complete statement here, [Senate Fails to Pass Women's Health and Protection Act | League of Women Voters \(lwv.org\)](#)

Catherine Freudenberg

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Maurie Louis, Wonder Woman



Photo credit: Left photo taken by Maurie Louis and right photo of Maurie taken by Steve Louis

Our wonderful League of Women Voters Kitsap President was born in Northern California but grew up on a 400-acre sheep ranch in Lovelock, Nevada. Maurie was active in 4H and won the Nevada State Livestock judging competition. Maurie went on to earn a Bachelor of Science degree in Business/Computer Programming and used this knowledge during her career at Lawrence Livermore Laboratories in Livermore, CA. While advancing at Livermore Labs Maurie met her husband, Steve, had two children and earned a J.D. from JFK University. Whew!

Maurie is a breast cancer survivor. She completed her treatment and then Steve and Maurie moved to the spectacular Pacific

Northwest - Bainbridge Island - in 2012. Maurie joined the Island's Women's Club first serving as League member Kimi Kinoshita's Vice-President and then as President. Maurie became a Leaguer and true to form jumped in with both feet and has served on both the local and State boards. Maurie is the force behind the League's Suicide Prevention Initiative that evolved into the Kitsap Community Suicide Prevention Coalition. She is credited with many other LWVK successes and graciously agreed to assume the huge job of LWVK president in 2021. We are lucky to have such a smart, kind, patient and tireless leader.

In her spare time??? Maurie is passionate about preserving and planting trees on her six acres. She also grows gorgeous roses, loves to read and is an avid Mariners and Seahawks fan. Although Maurie, as a native of Northern California, should be a 49er and S.F. Giants diehard, I guess she is entitled to a couple of flaws.

All I talk with have nothing but praise for our President. She is called a saint, a jewel, and a friend. Again, we are extremely fortunate to have Maurie lead our way.

Sue Hughes

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Mentoring with League Members

Mentoring is defined as “an experienced person who trains and counsels”. I would suggest a softer version might be someone who stands alongside another to welcome and advise. To provide an outstretched hand to our fellow League members consider making a phone call to personally invite them to a League event, unit meeting, voter registration opportunity or just a conversation over coffee. This effort may go a long way to engage one of the 175 members we have on our roster. Many lifelong friendships have started with a simple phone call. You are welcome to contact me with any questions. My phone number is (360) 265-8132, clarsen88@gmail.com

Carol Larsen

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Message from Editor

I am stepping down this month as the LWVK Voter Editor. On behalf of the Voter team – Maurie Louis, Barbara Willock, Cat Friedenbergh and me – I sincerely thank all of you contributors of news and thoughtful analyses of issues and challenges to our democracy. It is vital we stay informed, and I hope the Voter will continue to play a role in helping all of us keep abreast of our League's and our communities' activities.

In League, Sue Hughes

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Observer Corp - Important NOW More Than Ever

Open Public Meeting Act of 1971 (OPMA)

At a recent Diversity, Equity and Inclusion (DEI) committee meeting a discussion was held on the **Open Public Meeting Act of 1971 (OPMA)** and videos prepared by the **Washington Coalition for Open Government (WASHCOG)**. After viewing the videos and other content from WASHCOG and WA Attorney General's websites, it became clear our participation in the League's Observer Corp is of paramount importance as we navigate the crises facing our nation and preserving our democracy. Please take a moment to watch and review the AG's PowerPoint and the WASHCOG videos to learn how you can be a voice. www.washcog.org www.atg.wa.gov (video being updated at present, will be available soon)

WA AG's OPMA PowerPoint is available for review [here](#):

Please join Observer Corp by contacting Martha Burke or Carol Larsen.

Carol Larsen

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Photo provided by Martin Gibbins, LWVWA

Climate Change Adaptation for Bird Houses

As the globe creeps further into real climate change, the resulting instabilities will push some weather colder than average and some hotter. We must both mitigate this by reducing our greenhouse gas releases and also adapt to it. This goes for wildlife as well. In June of 2021 our region experienced a heat dome with temperatures well above average. I realized that the tree swallow chicks in our bird houses were at risk from the direct solar heat added to the ambient heat. So, I improvised cardboard sun shades, and carefully attached them while the parents circled around, very unhappy at the intrusion. Nevertheless, the parents stayed and the chicks fledged a few weeks later.

We probably won't have such high temperatures every year (yet), but I wanted to get ahead of the issue, so I added permanent sunshades to each house this spring. The extra cover should also mitigate against radiative heat loss at night. Protecting wildlife

as well as human life is why I work against climate change.
Martin Gibbins, LWVWA
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Help Wanted! Zoom Recordings Helper

We are still in dire need of a member to learn how to help Maurie Louis with our Zoom recordings. This involves adding a slide at the beginning and end of each recording using a very simple tool that is very easy to use. This would take about 30 minutes. The job also involves downloading the recording from our Zoom recordings to your computer and then uploading the new version to our YouTube channel. These last two tasks are extremely easy but involve some "hurry up and wait" time, about 45 minutes waiting for the download and the upload to happen. Please call Maurie to learn how you can help. (925) 640-9002
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Committee and Unit Reports

Climate Solutions Committee

On April 13 the Climate Solutions Committee hosted a roundtable called "Climate Change in Kitsap County: What Are We Doing Here?" Our panelists were elected officials from Kitsap and included mayors, a commissioner, and a Tribal Elder. Martin Gibbins, Climate & Water Issues Chair with the LWVWA moderated the well-attended discussion. A recording of the event is available on the website.

On May 23 (World Turtle Day!) we will have our business meeting to discuss plans for the summer. This meeting is on Zoom at 7 p.m. On May 24 we will be covering Section 2 of *Saving Us* by Katharine Hayhoe. You are welcome to join even if you have not read the book. Ms. Hayhoe's purpose is to empower us to have meaningful conversations about the climate.

On Monday, June 13 at 7 p.m. Greg Williams, with Sunergy Systems, will be presenting a talk about solar power. Learn how the latest advances in solar technology can help you save on your electric bills. In 1980, Greg graduated with his Engineering degree and began his Solar career in Northern California and is one of the most experienced solar consultants in Washington. He has a genuine passion for Solar and is a patient educator with expert engineering skills. Greg and his wife installed their own

solar electric and hot water systems on their Kitsap home and have been enjoying clean energy for years.

For Zoom linkage information and to preregister for any of these sessions contact Marty Bishop or Anita Rose. Marty Bishop and Anita Rose, Co-Chairs

Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Committee

What is the Open Public Meeting Act? Do government officials in our county follow this Act? Who makes sure that board members, City Council members and other officials follow the law? Was that just a fluke that the WA Redistricting Commissioners failed to follow this law when they made their decisions as to how to redistrict our state?

Have you realized that we, the public, are the ones that make sure that our government officials follow the law? The DEI committee has come to the realization that we, the public, are the ones who need to hold our government officials accountable for following the law, and it is hard to do that unless we know the law.

Our DEI committee is planning to have education forums about the Open Public Meeting Act. Then, we want to have more League members take part in the Observer Corp so that we will be at government meetings and assure the officials are following the law. A subcommittee has been formed to plan upcoming events. More information will be announced in the coming months.

The DEI Committee is also planning to offer a Testifying 101 training so that members of the public will feel more comfortable testifying, for example, at a school board or City Council meeting and sharing their opinions and expectations. We want to have this training available in the fall.

Another item that the DEI Committee is looking at is Factual Evidenced-Based History. At a #Students Direct Equity meeting earlier this month, students indicated that they need to know their roots to know themselves. In addition, if they don't see themselves represented in the history that they are being taught, it is hard to do as well as they could in the courses that they are being taught. The history that is being presented needs to tell the good and the bad about what our forefathers did in order that we don't repeat the bad things that they did. For this reason, the committee would like to develop letters for League members to write to their school board to encourage Factual Evidenced-Based History and to write to the teachers in their school district to encourage them to teach this history.

The committee will be working with the Planning Committee to put together a webinar in our Voices of Kitsap County series with our Indigenous Neighbors in January of 2023. The LWVWA DEI Committee is putting on a workshop at Council in June on what are the barriers and the strategies for encouraging more participation in League by members of diverse communities in order that the League will become more inclusive.

The next DEI meeting is Friday, June 3 at 10:00 a.m. by Zoom. Contact Susan Griggs at susan.griggs0803@gmail.com for the link or check on the calendar at the member section of the LWVW website.
Susan Griggs, Chair

Early Childhood Committee

The 0 to Three Committee has been busy these past few weeks starting with a PowerPoint presentation made to the Bainbridge Island and North Kitsap Units on April 27. Then a couple weeks later on May 9, we spoke to the South Kitsap Unit. From the committee's point of view, these were very productive meetings. Not only were we able to tell the members about our work, we received many worthwhile suggestions that we intend to pursue.

We are continuing to build upon and increase our connections with local agencies and organizations such as St. Michaels social work department and Kitsap OBGYN clinics through the distribution of our bookmark and flyers in English and Spanish. The Nurse Family Partnership's Spanish speaking nurses were particularly pleased with the translated flyer.

In the near future we plan to discuss our concerns and goals with the Kitsap Strong, Peninsula Early Childhood Coalition, and with the Kitsap Regional Library, Sylvan Branch. We hope these will be productive meetings that will lead to furthering our outreach. We were also invited by Susan Griggs to speak at Judge Tracy Flood's Vital Communication Meeting to Bremerton Housing Authority and other Kitsap agencies. We are presently working on this project.
Rosalind Renouard

Bainbridge Island Unit

The Unit will meet on May 25 at 10 a.m. for a Zoom meeting with Tracy Flood, newly elected municipal court judge for Bremerton. Tracy will share some of her experiences to date as a municipal judge and will explain how that court operates and how it differs from other courts in our judicial system. After Tracy talks about her role, questions from the members will be welcome. If you wish to participate, please contact Colette Crosby for Zoom meeting information.
Colette Crosby, Co-Lead

Bremerton/Central Kitsap (B/CK) Unit

The B/CK Unit meeting on May 21st, at 10AM, coincides with the Bremerton Armed Forces Day Parade. This will make the in-person meeting at the Kitsap United Way conference room, 645 4th Avenue, Bremerton, more difficult to attend in-person as it is at the end of the parade route. Maureen plans to walk to the conference room to conduct the meeting. Anyone interested in meeting in-person is welcome. As always, members may attend via Zoom.

The subjects of the meeting will be a discussion of B/CK Voter Services activities for the 2022 election cycle, a debrief on the Annual Meeting, and a look at the Know Your County revision extended outline. Plans will be made for our summer unit activities. For more information contact Maureen Cervinsky.
Maureen Cervinsky, Lead

South Kitsap Unit

At the May 9 meeting, Rhonda Fairgrieve, Rosalind Renouard, and Judie Kasnik reported on the Early Childhood Committee's (Zero to Three) work. The SK Unit meets the second Monday of the month except for December. The next Zoom meeting will be June 13 at 10 a.m. Contact Janet Stegemeyer for information.

Janet Stegemeyer, Unit Lead

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“Mark Your Calendar”

Note: Dates and times subject to change. Check the LWVK calendar on website for most current information.

May 2022

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, guest Dr. Laurynn Evans, superintendent of schools for North Kitsap School District; Pam Hamon

June 2022

Jun 3: DEI Committee meets, 10 a.m. via Zoom; Susan Griggs

Jun 4: LWVK Board meets, 10 a.m. via Zoom; Maurie Louis

Jun 10: Healthcare Committee meets, 12:30 p.m. via Zoom; Jessica Guidry

Jun 13: SK Unit meets, 10 a.m. via Zoom; Janet Stegemeyer

Jun 13: Voter Services committee meets, 2 p.m. via Zoom; Alicia Vause/Colette Crosby

Jun 18: Bremerton/Central Kitsap Unit meets, 10 a.m., hybrid via Zoom and Kitsap United Way conference room; Maureen Cervinsky

Jun 20: Planning Committee meets, 10 a.m. via Zoom; Robin Muir

Jun 21: “0 to 3” Committee meets, 10 a.m. via Zoom; Rosalind Renouard

Jun 22: Bainbridge Island Unit meets, 10 a.m. via Zoom; Colette Crosby/Delight Willing

Jun 22: North Kitsap Unit meets, 10 a.m. via Zoom; Pam Hamon

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

Jun 28: Climate Solutions Book Club, 7 p.m. via Zoom; Marty Bishop

July 2022

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

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

Jul 8: Healthcare Committee meets, 12:30 p.m. via Zoom; Jessica Guidry

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

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

Jul 16: Bremerton/Central Kitsap Unit meets, 10 a.m., hybrid via Zoom and Kitsap United Way conference room; Maureen Cervinsky

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

Jul 19: "0 to 3" Committee meets, 10 a.m. via Zoom; Rosalind Renouard

Jul 26: Climate Solutions Book Club, 7 p.m. via Zoom; Marty Bishop

Jul 27: Bainbridge Island Unit meets, 10 a.m. via Zoom; Colette Crosby/Delight Willing

Jul 27: North Kitsap Unit meets, 10 a.m. via Zoom; Pam Hamon

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