

LWV-Kitsap Bremerton/CK Unit Meeting Notes--Saturday, June 18, 2022

Kitsap United Way Conference Room/Zoom

In Person: Maureen Cervinsky, John Cervinsky, Connie Marchant, Raejean Bridges-Avalos, Kathleen Cahall

Via Zoom: Debi Barner, Kathleen Gallagher, Pat Troxell, Gail Sackman, Candy Rankin

Telephone Tree:

Maureen asked if some members would be willing to be part of a telephone tree for our unit, to help pass along important information and upcoming events & hopefully allow others to feel more connected.

Volunteers: Gail, Debi, Candy, Pat **If you would like to help, please contact Maureen.**

Canopy for Farmers Market:

In lieu of the bulkier, more complicated to use canopy that Maureen & John purchased and brought to use at Farmers Markets last year, Maureen recently bought a lighter version, supposedly a one-person operation for putting up & taking down. The Market does require 25-lb. weights upon each leg of the canopy, for safety's sake. Debi, who is one of those doing voter registration on July 14 & July 21, said she would arrive a bit early to see how to operate the canopy & be able, with others' help, to take everything down & bring it back for the following week.

Special Unit Meeting Thursday, June 23, 6:30PM

Conversation with David Nelson, Kitsap Sun Editor:

The State of Local News in Kitsap County

David talks with a number of organizations and has a formal presentation that he will initially give to our group, then he will be happy to answer questions. We spent some time today generating questions for David, which Maureen will send to him at the beginning of this week.

Kathleen Cahall spoke about ADFontesMedia.com, which publishes a Media Bias chart, rating where news organizations lie on the political spectrum, as well as their News Value & Reliability--it ends up looking like a bell curve.

[https://adfontesmedia.com/static-mbc/?](https://adfontesmedia.com/static-mbc/?utm_source=HomePage_StaticMBC_Button&utm_medium=OnWebSite_Button)

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SAVE THE DATE: THURSDAY, AUGUST 25, 10:30AM-1PM @ POULSBO LIBRARY!

This League-wide meeting, held by the Voter Services Committee, will be an opportunity to meet other League members face to face & learn about getting involved in voter outreach activities before the November election. Probably a potluck lunch. More details later.

From Pam Hamon, co-coordinator of the VS Committee:

Suggested Fall Voter Outreach Activities:

National Voter Registration Day: September 20th (Olympic College and other places)

Vot-ER: We have joined this organization, LWVUS is a member, to focus on reaching out to health care providers to ask their patients if they are registered to vote. The desk people or medical provider will be given lanyards with badges that have a QR code on them so patients can register right away. The badges will

have LWV Kitsap on them, but it will be a different QR code than ours. The difference is that Vot-ER can track how many registrations we get through them. August is Civic Health Month.

Schools: Becky Drotz & her team will set this up, hopefully schools will be open in the fall

Ferries: Julie Shryock is in the process already setting things up with Washington State Ferries

Libraries

Farmers Markets

Churches contact information

Teen Centers

Blue Mailboxes: Post signs next to or near blue mailboxes with the date ballots should be in mail

VOTE NOW sign holding

Post flyers

Social media information

Deliver "Your Vote" newspapers (Spokane Spokesman-Review) with lots of voting information - senior citizen centers, cafés, schools, pot shops, stores, any place that will take them. Our League has 100 copies.

OTHER IDEAS - please let us know of your other ideas.

B/CK Unit Summer Book Group:

Kathleen Cahall has once again volunteered to lead a book discussion for our unit. We will be discussing *The Border Within: The Economics of Immigration in an Age of Fear* by Tara Watson & Kalee Thompson. Kathleen said she really values the authors' research- and fact-based approach, detailing facts about our government's immigration policies, while also including real-life personal stories of immigrants. Goodreads calls it "an eye-opening analysis of the costs and effects of immigration and immigration policy, both on American life and on new Americans." Kathleen has been volunteering to teach English to immigrant groups through the Literacy Council & other organizations.

Published January 17, 2022, the book is available in hardback & as an e-book.

Our Book Discussion Dates: Tuesday, August 30 @ Noon AND Tuesday, Sept. 13 @ Noon

Bring a brown bag lunch. Probable location: Pearl on Oyster Bay Community Room (unit member Pat Troxell's residence), off Kitsap Way in west Bremerton.

Highlights from LWVWA Council:

Kathleen Gallagher, Debi & Maureen were delegates to the League's state Council in Everett June 10-12.

From Maureen:

--State and National Leagues are umbrella organizations for the 700+ local Leagues.

--LWVUS wants to change the registration process, so they would collect memberships and fees at the national level and distribute the registrations and money to the state & local leagues.

--At the State level, many different kinds of committees exist that are always looking for new members.

LWV-Kitsap's Susan Daniel (SK) is a new director of LWVWA, elected at the June Council. Myra Howrey (BI) of LWV-Kitsap has served as LWVWA treasurer.

--To access member-only content on the LWVWA website, you can create your own unique log-in with your email address and a password. You will find all sorts of resources, including the PowerPoint presentations (and possibly the videos) of featured speakers at the recent Council.

--Maureen was moved by a powerful presentation from Vicki Lowe, Executive Director, American Indian Health Commission. Lowe spoke about tribal sovereignty, all the treaties that have been broken by the U.S. government, her appreciation of LWVWA involvement and support. When a non-tribal person buys gas from a tribal concern, loses money at a tribal casino, that person is paying taxes to the tribe, the proceeds of

which go to the community's education, health care & other vital services. Vicki has participated in an Inter-Tribal Canoe Journey, an annual event in which Pacific Northwest Tribes travel the ancestral highways of their cultures. Maureen said some of the content of Lowe's PowerPoint presentation will be helpful for the history timeline of our unit's Update KYC project.

From Debi:

--Debi feels like she's still building background knowledge on how the League works & is still learning so much. She said everyone at Council was purposely directed to sit at different tables in order to meet new people from other local leagues. Debi felt everyone was kind and open. One woman at Council said: LWV is a sleeping giant. Debi is not sure how many people really know about LWV and its outreach. Bringing more diversity into the League would reap great benefits to all.

--A LWVUS national program using [VOTE411.org](https://www.vote411.org) postcards encourages recently graduating seniors to be empowered to begin the rest of their lives as a voter. The postcards direct the recipient to the website, which has links to Register to Vote, Verify Voter Registration, Find What's on Your Ballot. Anyone can download the postcards from the LWVUS website: <https://www.lwv.org> & share them via email, social media or however you usually connect with the graduate(s).

--Debi talked about a presentation from the Council's first speaker, Nicholas Lovrich, Professor of Political Science, Washington State University. He spoke passionately about polarization and incivility. He is really worried about the level of discord in our country, referencing the Civil War, and stating we're not done yet. Lovrich is one of four editors of a book published by WSU Press in 2021 entitled *Outside Looking In: Lobbyists' Views on Civil Discourse in U.S. State Legislatures*. These researchers conducted a survey of registered lobbyists and public agency legislative liaison officers in all 50 states, receiving over 1,200 completed surveys. Using a variety of lenses, they present unique perspectives on civil discourse in state legislatures, revealing both regional and national insights. Debi said the plan is to next do the same at the congressional level.

From Kathleen:

--Kathleen is very glad she participated in Council, felt the speakers' presentations were very meaningful, and she appreciated sitting with different people unfamiliar to her, unexpectedly feeling a kinship, as if she did know them.

--She attended a DEI breakout session, very interesting discussion. She recognized a tension between those who would like LWV to look different in its physical makeup of individuals, as opposed to those who feel it's better to stay with the status quo and instead seek partnerships with other organizations who are working with DEI and find ways to support them. One person's take on it: if we are going to be representative of everyone, we need to be open to asking someone with purple hair to join, for example. Kathleen feels that the more diverse the group, with a wide range of experiences to share, the better. At the DEI session, they also discussed the fact that League of Women Voters does not mention men in its name, even though men are welcome to join; dropping men entirely from membership was also discussed.

--Speaking to diversity, Maureen spoke up at the main gathering about changing the culture of our organization to welcome a greater diversity in our membership. She said LWV's emphasis on resumes and credential could easily be off-putting to women who might have great ideas and provide fresh perspectives to our organization. She said we need to emphasize what we stand for and the work we are doing rather than members past accomplishments.

From Pat:

--Pat was not able to attend Council, in great part because it was not initially clear if there would be any video component to the proceedings. Pat said, as a severely disabled person, she sees LWV tending to be

stuck in their way of doing things, not really seeing themselves as a privileged group. She counts her disability as a blessing, in that it helps her really see and relate to people all the time who are different. She said it's important for LWV to open up to people who are different from the majority of the membership and think ahead about others not like them when doing planning. She is pleased to be hosting the Board's upcoming retreat at her residence's community room.

Update on Know Your County Project:

Raejean said current KYC group will meet two more times in June, take July off for family time, and pick up again in August. They both realize that this is a bigger project than they originally thought it would be. They are concentrating most heavily at the moment on county government and using the format of the county flowchart as the template. For those sections where the updated information has already been inputted and verified, Maureen will create a hot-link to that county office and its info. It will continue to be a working document, but with some information already available. The goal is to fill in all the county office boxes by the end of June. Raejean will generate a list of areas for which they still need some assistance verifying the current information. They look forward to getting the online version fully up and running. To see the template for Kitsap County elected and appointed officials go to: <https://www.lwv-kitsap.org/know-your-county-revision-files/>

NO UNIT MEETING IN JULY--Some of us expressed an interest in participating in Kitsap Sun reporter Josh Farley's interactive Story Walk in Port Orchard on that date, beginning at 10am at 715 Bay Street. Parking will be at a premium, so we can contact one another and set up some carpooling.

Coming Up This Fall:

- Possible followup of our book discussion this summer with an invitation to KIAC (Kitsap Immigration Assistance Center)
- A member of LWV-K's Protect Our Democracy Committee will be coming to our October meeting with a presentation about the state's Open Meetings Act and holding public officials accountable for following the law
- Possible guest Josh Farley to speak with us

Submitted by Candy Rankin