



The Voter

December 2022

Table of Contents

Paying Attention to Accessibility	2
Member Spotlight: Barb Willock.....	4
Early Education: 0 to Three Committee.....	5
Healthcare Committee.....	6
Voter Registration.....	6
DEI Committee Report	7
What Are the Units Up To	8
Bainbridge Island Unit.....	8
Bremerton/ Central Kitsap Unit.....	9
North Kitsap Unit.....	9
South Kitsap Unit	10
Community Events	10
ERDs On Healthcare In Washington.....	10
MEET & GREET With The LWVWA Nominating Committee.....	11
Mark Your Calendar	11



Paying Attention to Accessibility

When Planning Internal League Programs

Ann Pyles with Pat Troxell

As a member of the Diversity, Equity & Inclusion Committee of the LWV-Kitsap, I volunteered to interview League member Pat Troxell. We wanted to alert League members about the importance of paying attention to Accessibility when planning internal and external League programs. To practice inclusion in our lives, our communities, and the organizations we belong to, we need to assure that those with mobility issues, health challenges or special needs can engage in our programs. Pat's lifetime of experience gives us a unique perspective on accessibility.

Pat has used a wheelchair since she was five-years-old due to contracting Polio. She has experienced many problems with efficient and affordable public and private transportation services in Kitsap and is very interested in this topic. After her husband's unexpected death, she realized she needed to finish her college education to support her daughter, 13, and her nephew, 8, for whom she had custody. Pat then experienced being discriminated against in educational opportunities, which resulted in her filing a complaint, which rectified the situation.

This education enabled Pat to win a co-op position at the Naval Base at Keyport (at that time it was called NUWES). In this position, she worked her way up to a GS 11 Computer Programmer System Analyst. At Keyport, she worked as the Chair of the Advisory Committee for Employees with Disabilities. This position helped her develop the Equal Employee Opportunity (EEO) policy and programs for employees with disabilities for their workforce.

After working many years at Keyport and after her kids were raised, she earned her master's degree at the UW School of Social Work. That is where she learned more about government policy when she interned at the King County Office of Civil Rights and Compliance in the Americans with Disabilities (ADA) Office. This experience inspired her to pursue working on WA State policy on people with disabilities, so she moved to Olympia where she volunteered with the Governor's Committee on Employment of People with Disabilities. After a year in Olympia, Pat returned to Kitsap, taught a quarter at a WWU satellite office and worked as a hospital social worker. She has also done Accessibility Audits for Target and others.

For Ann, "I think about this topic quite often because we have an adult child who uses a wheelchair and has other health challenges. Below are a few areas that Pat and I explored and wanted to highlight for our League members to pay particular attention to when planning a program, event or in their personal lives."

Kitsap Access is a shared ride service for people with disabilities who qualify for it, to transport people to most of Kitsap locations and arrange connection to transportation services in other counties. Paratransit service in Kitsap County is for medical purposes. Both agencies are in compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act. Many individuals who use mobility devices or can't use the lift on the routed bus system, or their destination is not near a routed bus-stop can pay a modest fee to be transported. There is a registration process required and the days/hours of availability vary greatly depending upon where you live in the county and where you want to go. There is no service on Sundays. When planning an event can your members or the individuals you want to attend get to your event? I have talked to Access and they suggest calling them to see if they can provide transportation to this event on your chosen date and time. Is your in-person event located in a place that has an accessible entrance and elevators if needed? Are the doors light enough to open, open automatically or have buttons at reachable levels for a person in a wheelchair? Is there accessible handicapped parking for cars or mobility vans with cleared ramps up to the sidewalk that are not too sharply angled. Always remember to leave ample access on both sides of a mobility van for access by a person using a mobility device. Leave a minimum of 8 feet open on the passenger side of a mobility van with a side access ramp and never park blocking an access cutout to the sidewalk.

There are a few individuals that have their own mobility vans. But they can no longer drive them nor have family or caregivers who can drive them. One idea is to have a cadre of drivers available to use their own vans or other individuals with access to a mobility van and the training to fasten the required tie-downs, to drive those that need this service to our events.

If your program is on Zoom, always set up the meeting with the ability to engage closed captions by those with hearing challenges and/or if there is a lot of background noise in the meeting room. The most accurate closed caption translations seem to take place if the speaker is using a good quality microphone and there is little capture of meeting room background noise. Encouraging members to learn sign language or recruiting members who can translate sign language to do so at meetings. Pat mentioned the fact that even though she has been permanently disabled since she was a child, she still needs to renew her Disabled Parking Placard, for a fee, every 5 years even for her van with a permanent Disabled Person license plate, as well as the tag. This is an extra burden. Maybe this is something the LWV could help remedy.

[Back to Top](#)



Member Spotlight: Barb Willock

Barb Willock and her husband, George, moved to Southworth in 1978. George is a Kitsap native and his parents lived in Manchester, so for him it was returning to his roots. Before their move to Kitsap, they had resided in the Northgate area since their marriage.

Barb learned about the League from friend, coworker and neighbor, Ann Strosnider. At that time, Ann was the editor of the Voter. Both Ann and Barb had worked for the Kitsap Sun newspaper. Barb was employed by the Sun as a page designer and copy editor. When Barb retired in 2011, Ann encouraged her to join the League and become part of the Voter team. She liked that the League took a nonpartisan stance and loved the League's mission to educate the public on issues. Barb has remained active in the League and continues to be a valuable contributor and voice on the LWVK's Voter.

Although not a Pacific Northwest native, Barb grew up in the Seattle area. She describes her parents as conservative. During a discussion with her mother, she learned that her mother had never voted because she "didn't want to cancel her husband's vote." Barb's 20-year career in the newsroom precluded her from being actively involved in politics, but it was something she was interested in and looked forward to being able to participate in one day.

Before her career in media, Barb worked as clerical support for a stock brokerage house and other firms before beginning college. She was 33 when she enrolled in college and studied fiber arts at the University of Washington, eventually earning a master's degree in weaving. Having creative talent, it is easy to see how those skills were so beneficial in her career in media and on the Voter!

Barb and her husband have been married for almost 50 years, their "kids" have been the four-legged variety, most recent being Miniature Schnauzers, but it's been a few years since their last pet. As an avid reader, Barb belonged in a coed book group with her husband for more than 25 years. She now is a member of a woman's reading group, which has been going for about 20 years. Barb loves cooking and knitting. She recently parted with her large loom and focuses most of her attention on knitting these days.

In the coming year, Barb plans to hone new skills with the online Voter format. After using the InDesign program for many years, she's now busy learning the new online tools. She remarked that it's not as easy learning new things but she intends to persevere!

Catherine Freudenberg, Voter Team

[Back to Top](#)



Early Education: 0 to Three Committee

The 0 to Three Committee members have had a busy month. Chair Rosalind Renouard was invited to *Coffee with the Director* of the Kitsap Regional Library on November 8 at the new Silverdale library. Attendees had a chance to not only learn about Director Jason Driver's working life journey to his appointment, but also to learn about the KRL system.

The meeting gave Rosalind a chance to speak with Director Driver about the committee's work and was pleased in turn to learn that he was very knowledgeable about the critical importance of early learning. Although she did have an opportunity to tour the spacious new Silverdale Library, she was unable to meet the Youth/Children's Librarian Aleah Jurnecka. She has since written her and sent her the English and Spanish flyers.

The committee met on November 8 to work on its presentation to the Delta Kappa Gamma teacher's sorority; and, subsequently met with the members on November 15 at Poulsbo High School. The PowerPoint presentation went well. Committee members felt that the question-and-answer period was fruitful, learning and gaining insight from hearing the presenters, as well as the audience's, viewpoints. A lot of good suggestions were made by the audience that we plan to follow up on.

The Committee next meets on December 12 at 1 p.m. to discuss the upcoming legislative session as it applies to early childhood and to follow up on individual items of research each member took on. The meeting will be held via zoom. Contact Rosalind at rrenouard@msn.com for information.

Rosalind Renouard, Committee Chair

[Back to Top](#)



Healthcare Committee

The Healthcare Committee plans a presentation about Public Hospital Districts at the January meeting. All members are invited to attend the information session that will be presented by members of the LWVWA committee for the Public Hospital District civics education project. Please mark your calendars for that Zoom meeting on Friday, January 13, from 12:30 to 2 p.m.

It is with regret that Jessica Guidry has decided to step down as chair of the Healthcare Committee because of her professional and family obligations. Leni Skarin will serve as interim chair while new leadership is sought. Our deepest appreciation to Jessica for her years of leading this very busy committee. If you have questions or have an interest in joining the Healthcare Committee, contact Leni at leniskarin@gmail.com. Leni Skarin, Interim Committee Chair

[Back to Top](#)



Voter Registration

Our summer/fall 2022 voter registration effort was another success. Fifty-nine volunteers, including some non-LWV members, turned in 63 Voter Registration forms to the Auditor, gave out more than 59 VR forms to take home and had 29 changes of address or name forms returned. We participated in 18 different locations. The QR code was popular but hard to document. We posted signs at all the county USPS blue mail boxes encouraging people to mail ballots by October 31. Many thanks to the Unit leaders and all those who participated.

The VR Committee cancelled our November 14 meeting and will meet via zoom on

Monday, December 12, at 2 p.m. to discuss plans for Temperance and Good Citizenship Day on January 17 when high schools must encourage their students to register to vote. The zoom connection will be sent out. Please contact Pam Hamon or Julie Shryock if you want to join the committee.
Pam Hamon and Julie Shryock, Committee Co-Chairs

[Back to Top](#)



**DIVERSITY, EQUITY
& INCLUSION**

DEI Committee Report

The DEI committee meets on the first Friday of the month (next one is on January 6, 2023) at 10:00 am. All interested persons are invited to attend (DEI League members, other League members, or non-League individuals because everyone's input is valuable).

We are planning our January webinar, which is the last scheduled one in our series, Voices from Kitsap County. This one is on the Indigenous Community.

Did you know that we have two Indigenous tribes in Kitsap County (the Suquamish and Port Gamble S'klallam tribes)? Did you know that they are sovereign nations? What exactly does this mean? How do sovereign nations within the United States function - with the federal government, the state government, and the county government? Some of these questions can be answered by the Port Madison Dialogues, which was put on in collaboration between the county commissioners and the Suquamish Tribe. The first three of the four dialogues can be assessed at: <https://bit.ly/PortMadison>.

In addition, the County Commissioners' website provides the following links to the different sessions:

[Session 1: Since Time Immemorial: Early History](#)

[Session 2: Tribal sovereignty and governance](#)

[Session 3: Current issues facing the Tribes](#)

The focus of the DEI webinar will be on “How can League Members be Better Allies?” We will be asking questions that will illuminate the issues which the two tribes want to bring up to the legislature so that we can become more aware of the issues and how the tribes view these issues.

Please share with Susan Griggs, Jeannie Allen, or any other member of the DEI committee the questions that you would like to have answered at the webinar. In addition to this webinar, the DEI committee tries to keep up with what is going on in the county – the concerns of the non-white students in their school districts, the concerns of the diverse communities with the judicial system, and any other issues that committee members are aware of.

To learn more about the DEI committee, contact Susan Griggs at susan.griggs0803@gmail.com or 509-668-2888.

[Back to Top](#)



What Are the Units Up To

Bainbridge Island Unit

On October 26, the Bainbridge Unit welcomed David Harrison, Senior Lecturer Emeritus from the Dan Evans School of Public Policy at the University of Washington. David talked to us about the local taxing districts that take so much of our money through our property taxes. He noted that much more money goes to these districts than goes to the actual City of Bainbridge Island. It's interesting to see how our money is divided among these different organizations. To see David's presentation, go to the League of Women Voters Kitsap website at lwv-kitsap.org.

The Bainbridge Unit's next meeting is on November 30 at 10 a.m. by zoom. Like each of the Kitsap units, we will follow the consensus process for discussion and decisions on the Shoreline Management Act. All materials have been sent out, but if you need anything, contact Maurie Lewis. The whole consensus process is at the heart of the League of Women Voters. Only by going in through this process can we participate in lobbying or other pressure activities on governmental issues. It is of critical importance that we study the issues and then make ourselves known so we can be active as the planning process goes further at the state level. This is a critical issue

throughout all of Puget Sound, but particularly on Bainbridge Island, which has so many miles of shorelines. We need to know our positions and then let these positions be known at the state level. Please read the Shorelines Management Act and look at the nine questions we will discuss. Be prepared for our meeting on November 30. It will be an interesting discussion!

No meeting is planned for December. Have a good holiday season and we will see you on January 26.

Delight Willing and Colette Crosby, Unit Leaders

[Back to Top](#)

Bremerton/ Central Kitsap Unit

Bremerton/CK Unit dedicated our November meeting to the Shoreline Management Act study, with Kathleen Cahall leading the discussion. Betsy Cooper attended as a consultant and resource person; Candy Rankin took notes; Denise Justice was the Zoom host; and Connie Marchant took care of hospitality. We addressed all of the questions and reached consensus on all but one question. We are not meeting in December. Our January meeting will be with the Bremerton and Kitsap County Housing Authorities' CEOs.

Maureen Cervinsky, Unit Leader

[Back to Top](#)

North Kitsap Unit

The North Kitsap Unit will meet Monday, November 28, at 10:30 a.m. at the Poulsbo Library to answer the Shoreline Management Act study questions. A zoom connection will be available. We plan no December meeting unless we cannot complete the consensus questions in November.

In that case, we will meet on Monday, December 26, to complete them. Otherwise, our next hybrid meeting will be Monday, January 23, when we will discuss plans for the spring and update ourselves on the various committees.

Pam Hamon, Unit Leader

[Back to Top](#)

South Kitsap Unit

South Kitsap Helpline Executive Director Jennifer Hardison was the guest speaker at the November 8 South Kitsap Unit Zoom meeting. Sue Hughes also presented information about the upcoming League survey on how to enhance LWVK. The SK Shoreline Study Consensus discussion was held November 15 with Betsy Cooper attending our Zoom meeting to answer questions. The SK Unit meets the second Tuesday of the month at the new time of 10:30 a.m. via Zoom. Because of the holidays, there will be no December meeting. The next unit meeting will be January 10. Contact: Janet Stegemeyer, 360-471-9470.
Janet Stegemeyer, Unit Leader

[Back to Top](#)

Community Events

ERDs On Healthcare In Washington



**THE EFFECTS OF
THE ETHICAL
AND RELIGIOUS
DIRECTIVES
(ERDS) ON
HEALTHCARE
IN
WASHINGTON**

A large percentage of all hospital beds in Kitsap County are now controlled by a medical system that refuses to offer its patients access to equitable, affordable, and comprehensive healthcare. Attend this informative presentation to learn what you can do to advocate for yourself as a patient and for your loved ones.

Wednesday, November 30 7:00 – 9:00pm

Location:
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87443837291?pwd=aW9VaUJlWlMyUW1GTmozbg1ldlZzQT09>

Promoted by Climate Solutions Committee, Marty Bishop Chair

[Back to Top](#)

MEET & GREET With The LWVWA Nominating Committee

You are Invited...

To a **Meet & Greet** with the LWVWA Nominating Committee to learn about and discuss leadership opportunities on the LWVWA Board of Directors.

On December 8th at either

Noon | [Zoom Information](#)

OR

6:30 p.m. | [Zoom Information](#)

If you have thought about leadership at LWVWA, this is for you!

Join us for this informal meeting—the Nominating Committee will discuss the nomination and application process and be available to answer your questions.

Learn more about the Nominating Committee process [here](#).

We look forward to seeing you on the 8th!

Shelley Ann Jones, Chair (LWV Pullman) - (509) 432-3428 - sjones@lwvwa.org

Amanda Clark (LWV SEA/KC) - (206) 920-2443 - amandac5@comcast.net

Kathy Sakahara (LWV SEA/KC) - (206) 261-7797 - ksakahara@lwvwa.org

Mary Coltrane (LWV SEA/KC) - (206) 949-8566, - mary.coltrane@lwvwa.org

Beth Pellicciotti (LWV Spokane) - (219) 688-7263 - bpellicciotti@lwvwa.org

[Back to Top](#)



Mark Your Calendar

These events and dates come from the League's calendars displayed on our website. The events that are open to the public appear on the [Public Calendar](#) linked to

from our home page at <https://www.lwv-kitsap.org/>. Events that are for members only appear on the Members Calendar that is displayed in the For Members section of the website. (This calendar also shows the events open to the public.) Go to the appropriate calendar to get the most up-to-date information, including Zoom links. If you are an event's organizer use the members only [Request a change or addition to the LWVK calendar](#) form to add/modify/delete your event.

Purple means PUBLIC

Fri Dec 2, 2022
10 a.m. DEI Committee

Sat Dec 3, 2022
10 a.m. LWVK Board Mtg

Thu Dec 8, 2022
Noon or 6:30 p.m.
Meet and Greet LWVWA Nom. Cmt.

Fri Dec 9, 2022
12:30 p.m. Healthcare Committee

Sat Dec 10, 2022
9:30 a.m. Lobby Team Action Workshops

Mon Dec 12, 2022
1 p.m. "0-3" committee meeting
2 p.m. Voter Services meeting

Tue Dec 13, 2022
10 a.m. SK Unit Meeting

Mon Dec 19, 2022
10 a.m. Planning Committee

Mon Dec 26, 2022
7 p.m. Climate Solutions Business

[Back to Top](#)

Wed Dec 28, 2022
10 a.m. BI Unit Meeting

Fri Jan 6, 2023
10 a.m. DEI Committee

Sat Jan 7, 2023
10 a.m. LWVK Board Mtg

Mon Jan 9, 2023
2 p.m. Voter Services meeting

Tue Jan 10, 2023
10 a.m. SK Unit Meeting

Fri Jan 13, 2023
12:30 p.m. Healthcare Committee

Mon Jan 16, 2023
10 a.m. Planning Committee

Tue Jan 17, 2023
10 a.m. '0-Three' committee meeting

Sat Jan 21, 2023
10 a.m. Bremerton/CK Unit Meeting

Mon Jan 23, 2023
10:30 a.m. NK Unit Meeting
7 p.m. Climate Solutions Business

Wed Jan 25, 2023
10 a.m. BI Unit Meeting