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Empowering voters. Defending democracy.

We envision a democracy where every person has the desire, the right, the knowledge and confidence to participate.

Message from the President

I don't know how many of you have had the pleasure of meeting our member Ardis Morrow, but those of you who have had the pleasure know she is a force of nature. Ardis has worked tirelessly to improve the lives of those who have been the victims of domestic violence. Through lobbying efforts that changed state law, helping to create Eli's Place (short term transitional housing), and her most ambitious project, Morrow Manor (long-term housing), Ardis has made a dramatic difference in our community. She also has a wit comparable to Mark Twain.

Which brings me to one of the best lines I've ever heard: "Anyone who thinks they are too insignificant to make a difference, has never spent the night alone with a mosquito." Just let that settle in for a second!



So, I guess this begs the question, how can we be the mosquito? In the past couple of weeks, I have been learning about the League's impact in the community, and that people are paying attention to our programs. I learned at our last board meeting that our own Pat Troxel joined the League because of our candidate forums. We were approached through our website about presenting at a meeting of the Women Attorneys of Kitsap County. They want to know more about our history and what we do as an organization because of our program "The Rule of Law and the History of the Electoral College." Earlier this week, I was having a conversation with a young neighbor — turns out she was a speaker at one of the Health Committee meetings on mental health. She wants to learn more about the League.

Leaguers are registering voters at Farmer's Markets, high schools, and at community events. Our reach and influence are greater than many of us imagine. We must continue to be present in the community, continuing the very important work of our organization. The programs we present, the forums we moderate, and the voters we register are all part of that work.

Every time we put on an event; someone is introduced to the League. Maybe we aren't making grand gestures, but we are making some waves. Let's keep up the good work — be the mosquito. We might need a T-shirt.

Robin Muir, President



National Council in meeting room at the Palms in Las Vegas.

National LWVUS Council Meeting 2023

In late June, Mary Coltrane, Beth Pellicciotti and Susan Daniel attended the National League Council in Las Vegas. Also present was former Washington State League president, Ann Murphy, who serves on the LWVUS nominations committee. A lot of networking and learning occurred among the 120 members from 43 states. LWV has a total of 850 local leagues, 46,905 individual members and 7,316 household members.

The gathering spaces looked a lot different this year than previous years. Attendees were a diverse group of folks from various ethnic backgrounds, races, gender preferences, and ages, including an inspiring teenager from Oregon.

Two topics were covered. First was the National League Moonshot, focused on the electoral college. More information about this will be coming in the fall. The second topic was the change in the structure of the membership dues. Dues will be paid directly to National and then National will pay the state and local leagues. The dues will be tiered, from \$20 to \$500, with the recommended amount being \$75.



Susan Daniel, left, with Dr. Deborah Turner, President LWVUS

Some attendees were very interested in establishing statehood for Washington, DC. DC has 700,000 residents, more than Vermont and Wyoming and DC residents pay more in federal taxes than 23 states. Yet, Americans living in DC have not had the right to vote in national elections since 1801. DC is a majority-minority community, making the right to have representation a racial justice issue.

The Council was held at the Palms Casino, which is not near the strip or other well-known Las Vegas venues. The food

was good, which is not always true at conferences. The meeting rooms were large and well furnished. The temperature in the meeting rooms was quite cool. Many of us wore extra sweaters or jackets. The casino was, well, a casino. To get from our rooms to the meetings, we had to walk past the gambling machines, smoke, and unreasonably loud music, not to mention the eye-catching people in various states of pool-side attire coming in from outside. A lot of sensory input for those of us coming from quieter places. The walk from a guest room to a meeting room and back was half a mile. Members could easily average walking 2 to 3 miles a day without leaving the hotel.



From left, Susan Daniel, LWV-Kitsap, LWVWA Development portfolio; Ann Murphy, former president LWVWA, LWVUS Nominations Committee; Mary Coltrane, LWVWA President; Beth Pellicciotti, LWVWA 1st Vice President.

The next LWVUS gathering will be the national convention in Washington, DC, on June 27, 2024.
Susan Daniel, LWV-Kitsap

General News

Welcome New League Member

The LWV-Kitsap welcomes Lou Baum (B/CK) and Natasha Fecteau Minger (NK) to the family.

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Save the Date! LWV-Kitsap All Member Social

The LWVK Board will be hosting an All-Member Social on September 2. The social will be at The Pearl on Oyster Bay, 550 Russell Road, Bremerton, WA 98312.

Board Meeting: 10 a.m.-11 a.m.

Guest Speaker: 11 a.m.-Noon; TBD

Member Social: Noon-2 p.m.; Bring your own lunch, the Board will provide a selection of desserts and beverages.

Sue Hughes, Thank You for Your Many Years of Service



After many years of service, Sue Hughes has decided that it is time to step away from the League. Sue was one of the first people that I met when I joined the League back in 2019. She took me under her wing to work with her and Barb Willock on the Voter. I felt so fortunate to work with these two women for their knowledge and years of experience. Sue's attention to detail was invaluable during the editing process.

When Sue stepped down from editing, she left big shoes to fill. Barb and I were thrilled when Katie Pratt stepped into those shoes along with Suzanne who joined to assist with content. Sue has continued to be supportive and encouraging to the Voter team. While she is retiring from League activities, she will remain a friend for life. We thank you and wish you all the best, Sue!

Catherine Freudenberg

Register Now for Equity-Themed Passport to 2033 Webinar



This is not a League event, but it may be of interest to LWV-Kitsap Members. It is hosted by the Puget Sound Regional Council. The PSRC is excited to host the next Passport to 2044 session on equity on August 22 from 10 a.m. to noon via Zoom. Presenters from PSRC and Race Forward will cover guidance and resources for incorporating equity into

local comprehensive plans. They have also developed a powerful new Legacy of Structural Racism Interactive Report (<https://storymaps.arcgis.com/collections/22286877bbcd4a648250fa074b5003ea>) that will be instrumental in helping local jurisdictions with these efforts. Register for the webinar here: <https://www.psrc.org/boards-committees/upcoming-meetings/meeting/passport-2044-webinar-series-equity-session-2-equity>.

Redistricting Reform

Note of Appreciation, LWVWA Resolution & Learning from Other States

Over the spring, LWV-Kitsap's Redistricting Reform Task Force made multiple presentations to Local League units about redistricting reform, why reform is needed, and the path forward. LWV-Kitsap's members voiced their support of redistricting reform, and a letter was sent to LWVWA. At the annual LWVWA Convention in May a resolution was approved, "Washington Deserves Better for 2031 Redistricting." Other local leagues joined in sending letters. Well done, LWV-Kitsap!

Among key points in "Washington Deserves Better for 2031 Redistricting:"

- The 2021 Washington State Redistricting Commission failed to be transparent, produce timely maps, have adequate public review, or produce district lines that reflected the stated interests of communities.

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- 40% of the people in Washington State do not identify with either major party and are not represented in the current Commission structure.

Clearly, we need to work on redistricting reform and the Washington State Redistricting Reform Task Force has been busy. We have met monthly, as have state subcommittees for fundraising and surveying. We are also monitoring legal decisions by the Supreme Court and state courts regarding redistricting, and

we have reached out to advocates for redistricting reform in other states to learn from them.

As part of our effort to learn from redistricting reform in other states we have met with Chris Carson and Helen Hutchison, LWVCA; Nancy Wang, Voters Not Politicians (VNP); and Dr. Toni Larson, LWVCO. Each of these states has successfully implemented an independent, people-focused redistricting commission. The process for this change was unique to each state, but what they have shared with our task force has helped to inform our path forward and has solidified what we all know: redistricting is foundational to democracy. These talks have been very motivating as they have shared their challenges and their victories. Speaking of motivation, if you have a chance, there is an excellent documentary about redistricting reform in Michigan, *Slay the Dragon*. It is available to stream on Amazon or Hulu or as a DVD through the Kitsap Library System (krl.org). If you haven't seen this, it is highly recommended.

While the statewide taskforce has been working hard, local task forces are looking to grow across the state and provide education about redistricting and motivate communities to support a people-focused redistricting commission. Please consider joining at the local and/or state level. You're welcome to participate as much or as little as your interest and schedule permit.

- For Kitsap County, please contact Carolyn Burger at carolyn4bi@gmail.com and she will put you on the email list.
- For the Washington Redistricting Reform Task Force, contact Alison McCaffree at amccaffree@lwwva.org to be added to her email list. The state task force meets the third Wednesday of each month at 2 p.m.

Carolyn Burger

League of Women Voters Kitsap Primary Candidate Forums

Forums team has busy month! School board races have sparked extraordinarily high interest around the United States this year, and Kitsap County is no exception. In advance of the August 1 primary election, our League held forums for board candidates in the North, Central, and South Kitsap school districts. More than 200 questions for the candidates were received from the public and League members. The forums were viewed live on Zoom by 267 people and then on YouTube and other platforms by more than 1,000.

A link to the forums is here: www.lwv-kitsap.org/candidate-forums/. The forums also are available



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to view online at BKAT, the local community access television station, at www.bremertonwa.gov/402/Bremerton-Kitsap-Access-Television-BKAT. Additionally, the forums were broadcast through BKAT on Comcast Channel 12 and Astound Broadband Channel 3 at various times on July 23 and July 30.

It takes a lot of volunteer effort to produce these forums. Fortunately, Kim Abel has stepped up to be our forums chair. Other members of the forums team include Catherine Ahl, Maureen Cervinsky, Janet Stegemeyer, Robin Muir, Maurie Louis, Leni Skarin, Ann Strosnider, Colleen Hogan Taylor, Myra Howrey, Rhonda Fairgrieve, Amy Groetsch, Betty Wiese, Candy Rankin, and Susan Daniel.

LWVK will have another series of forums in October before the November 7 general election that will feature other races as well as school boards. Times and dates will be posted on the League website. In the meantime, be sure to mail in or drop off your primary ballot by August 1.

Ann Strosnider

Committees

Early Education: 0 to 3

The 0 to Three Committee took the month of July off except for one event. Rosalind Renouard attended the Kitsap Public Health Maternal and Infant Health Forum held on July 20 in Bremerton.

The event featured six speakers (including Dr. James Hughes the Director of Kitsap Mental Health Services) from a variety of organizations that focus on maternal health — prenatal care, birth and the year following birth. It was particularly focused on how services and cooperation between entities involved in maternal health care can be improved. Some interesting facts are: 37% of births are paid by Medicaid; the number of OB/GYNs in Kitsap has declined (well below the state average); 48% of Kitsap mothers did not receive adequate prenatal care; there also is a greater need for lactation support; and minority groups had higher rates of premature birth as well as more infant deaths.

After the presentations, the speakers spoke about how improvements could be made. Some suggestions were to replenish the work force, to increase outreach, to have more collaboration among services, to push for greater health literacy, to request greater funding, and to work more closely with mid-wives and doulas.

There were 12 tables of attendees, each with a facilitator. After much discussion each table proffered its suggestions for how to improve maternal health care. Overall, it was a very interesting meeting and hopefully the suggestions made will prove quite fruitful. The 0 to Three Committee will next meet for our picnic on Tuesday, August 15.

Rosalind Renouard, Chair

Elisabeth Bondy Civic Education Scholarship Program

NEEDED: The Elisabeth Bondy Civic Education Scholarship Program Committee is looking for members to work on the development of this new program, which was adopted at our 2023 Annual Meeting. For information, contact Myra Howrey at mhowrey@hotmail.com or 360-621-2752.

Forum Committee

Many members tell us that they joined the League after watching a candidate forum. The Forums are one of the activities for which the League is best known. Creating a forum to ensure that questions are non-partisan and that the forum be conducted in a professional environment takes coordination and teamwork but, most of all, they require members to pitch in and volunteer to participate. There are planning sessions, it truly is a team. Everyone receives training and assistance.

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The Primary forums are behind us and now the preparations are underway for the General Election. Volunteers are needed! Can we count on you? If you want more information, please reach out to Maureen Cervinsky, Kim Abel, Maurie Lewis, Leni Skarin, or Janet Stegemeyer

Healthcare Committee

The Committee will not meet in August but will resume meeting in September; the next meeting is scheduled for September 9.

Leni Skarin, Chair

Membership Committee

The League values your membership which supports our important work to empower voters and defend democracy. Your dues pay for membership in the state and national League with just a small amount retained for our local League. **Membership begins on July 1 of each year.** For those members who join between April 1 and June 30, your dues are paid through the following fiscal year ending June 30, 2024.

As a reminder our by-laws state that members who have not responded by September 30 will be removed from the roster. Rejoining can occur at any time. Annual dues are \$60 for an individual and \$90 for a household. Refer to lwv-kitsap.org for remittance information and further options for basic membership amounts.

If you want to make a tax-deductible contribution to our Education Fund, please write a separate check.

ONLINE: Make checks payable to LWV-Kitsap or use PayPal, accessible through the “For Members” tab on our local website, LWV-Kitsap.org.

BY MAIL: LWV-Kitsap, PO Box 1524, Poulsbo, WA 98370

Carol Larsen, Membership Chair

DEI Committee

The DEI Committee is regrouping this summer, determining where we want to put our focus. Ideas include doing more “Voices of Kitsap County” webinars, looking further at accessibility issues, and pursuing areas of passion of committee members.

The “Voices of Kitsap County” highlighting the Suquamish Tribal community was held on June 16 with Leonard Forsman, the Suquamish Tribal Council Chairperson. We would like to have a webinar with the S’Klallam Tribe also.



The Chair of the S’Klallam Tribe, Jeromy Sullivan, recently passed away suddenly. According to his obituary, he was “a longtime advocate for the environment, cultural preservation and salmon recovery.” His obituary is available through *The Seattle Times*: <https://www.seattletimes.com/seattle-news/port-gamble-sklallam-tribal-chair-je-romy-sullivan-dies/>.

Information about the public comments on equity and racial discrimination that have been made at the North Kitsap School District has been shared with LWVK members and the NK unit, and information on the Kitsap Advocating for Immigrant Rights and Equality’s Justice for Students Campaign. If more information about this is desired, please contact Susan Griggs. (Email address below.)

Our next DEI meeting is scheduled for August 4 at 10 a.m. Please contact Susan Griggs to share ideas or get more information susan.griggs0803@gmail.com.

Susan Griggs, Chair

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Unit News

Bainbridge Island Unit

The Bainbridge unit had a lunch gathering on a beautiful Saturday in June. We discussed how we can get the Unit to be more active. Perhaps an issue has been the meeting time and the frequency of meetings. We decided on quarterly evening meetings and the first will be on Sept. 27 at 7 p.m. by Zoom. We will hear a report from Cat about Kitsap issues and plans. Caroline will give an update on redistricting plans for the state. And there can be input on whether this time is better, and we should continue it for the year. Please be there to share your opinions.

Other topics included whether we should hold a monthly county-wide meeting. And we pondered whether we should be working to change the “empty chair rule” which is a national requirement. There was discussion about a tendency perhaps to get off on other important issues that are not necessarily specific League issues.

There are no forums at our Unit level since no primaries are scheduled for Bainbridge Island.

Colette Crosby and Delight Willing, Co-Chairs

Bremerton/Central Kitsap Unit

Garrett Jackson, Planning Manager for the city of Bremerton, joined the LWV-Kitsap Bremerton/CK Unit on Saturday, July 15, to discuss the City’s Comprehensive Plan Update - Bremerton2044. The recording of this meeting is available on the League website and on our YouTube Channel: <https://youtu.be/JvKM7Ma5ObM>.



Why should you care about Bremerton’s Comprehensive Plan? Because getting this plan right will make an important difference in how well the entire county adapts to the growth that is coming to the peninsula.

The City has density, height, housing types, and climate goals. For information and to make comments, go to: <https://www.bremertonwa.gov/1300/Comprehensive-Plan-Update---Bremerton204>.

The next **Bremerton/CK Unit meeting** will be on Saturday, August 19, from 10 a.m. to noon, in person at the Kitsap United Way conference room, 645 4th Street, Bremerton. Watch your email for the Zoom link. Our guest will be Bremerton School District’s new superintendent, Dr. James Crawford, and Assistant Superintendent Iva Scott (Curriculum, Instruction and Assessment). Scott also was our guest at our January 15, 2022, unit meeting.

Dr. Crawford is a graduate of Bremerton High School, and we are pleased to take this opportunity to welcome him home. He has shared a piece of his compelling story with The Kitsap Sun, “Bremerton’s school board voted on Friday to choose its next superintendent from a group of three finalists.” <https://www.kitsapsun.com/story/news/2023/03/03/bremerton-high-alum-to-fill-school-superintendent-position/69967957007/>

Reminder: Bremerton/CK book group, led by Kathleen Cahall, will meet on Tuesday, August 29, at noon, at The Pearl on Oyster Bay, to discuss *Why We’re Polarized*, by Ezra Klein. For information, go to <https://www.lwv-kitsap.org/bremerton-ck-unit-page/>.

For information regarding the Bremerton/CK Unit, contact Maureen Cervinsky.

Maureen Cervinsky

North Kitsap Unit

In lieu of a regular meeting, unit members will meet for a potluck at Carol’s. See the LWVK calendar for information.

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South Kitsap Unit

In place of our regular meeting, an in person get together is scheduled for the SK Unit. See the LWVK calendar for more information.

The SK School District Director candidate forum on July 13 was successful with five of eight candidates who filed to run for Districts 2 and 5 participating. Over 50 questions were submitted although there was only time to ask ten. Candidates were courteous and gave illuminating responses. SK Unit members who worked on the forum included moderator Janet Stegemeyer, back-up moderator Rhonda Fairgrieve, timekeeper Susan Daniel, and candidate liaison Ann Strosnider. LWVK forums for the General Election will be held in the first two weeks of October. Volunteers are needed, especially timekeepers. Contact Kim Abel, forums chair, or Janet Stegemeyer if you can help.

The SK Unit had a successful Port Orchard Farmers Market Voter Outreach booth on July 15. Judy Arbogast, Rhonda Fairgrieve, Janet Stegemeyer, and Shirley Wall volunteered at the booth. Only one new voter registration was gathered, but there was a lot of engagement about voting, forums, etc. Small American flags were given to children. Future POFM Voter Outreach Booth dates are August 19, September 23, and October 7.

South Kitsap Unit: Except for August this year, the SK Unit meets the second Tuesday of the month at 10:30 a.m. via Zoom. Contact: Janet Stegemeyer, jans@oz.net, 360-471-9470.

Voter Team

Editor: Katie Pratt

Layout: Barb Willock

Content: Suzanne Schreiner and Cat Freudenberg

If you have questions or want to submit an article for a future issue of the Voter, please reach out to Cat or Suzanne.

Mark Your Calendar

Sat Aug 5, 2023

10 a.m.: LWV-Kitsap Board Meeting

Where: The Pearl on Oyster Bay, 550 Russell Rd, Bremerton, WA 98312

Tue Aug 8, 2023

4:30 p.m.: CK Social

Where: Evergreen Pizza, 1223 McKenzie Ave, Bremerton, WA 98337

Fri Aug 11, 2023

12:30 p.m.: Healthcare Committee

Where: Zoom

Tue Aug 15, 2023

10:30 a.m.: SK Unit Get Together (Manchester State Park)

11:30 a.m.: '0-Three' committee picnic (location TBD)

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Sat Aug 19, 2023

10 p.m.: LWV CK/Bremerton Unit Meeting

Where: United Way of Kitsap County, 645 4th St UNIT 101, Bremerton, WA 98337

Wed Aug 23, 2023

10 a.m.: Bainbridge Island Unit Meeting

Where: Zoom

Sat Sep 2, 2023

10 a.m.: LWV-Kitsap Board Meeting

Where: The Pearl on Oyster Bay, 550 Russell Rd, Bremerton, WA 98312

11 a.m.: ALL LWVK MEMBER Learning & Social

Where: The Pearl on Oyster Bay, 550 Russell Rd, Bremerton, WA 98312

Details: Bring your own lunch and come learn, mingle, meet, or get reacquainted with other League members. The Board will be providing beverages and desserts.

Fri Sep 8, 2023

12:30 p.m.: Healthcare Committee

Tue Sep 12, 2023

10:30 a.m.: SK Unit Meeting

Where: Zoom

Sat Sep 16, 2023

10 p.m.: LWV CK/BREMERTON UNIT MTG

Where: United Way of Kitsap County, 645 4th St UNIT 101, Bremerton, WA 98337

Tue Sep 19, 2023

10 a.m.: Committee Meeting

Wed Sep 27, 2023

7 p.m.: Bainbridge Island Unit Meeting **Note: NEW TIME!**

Where: Zoom

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