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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.

President's Corner

It really does take a village! LWV-Kitsap just completed its 11th candidate forum for the November 7th general election. Thirty-one League members participated in putting on these forums (Thanks, Maurie, for gathering the data). Those eleven forums represent a lot of time, talent, effort, and hours of work to be successful. My sincere thanks to all of you.

Now, let's talk about the kids. You know, the future of our nation. It is thrilling to me to note that the youth of Kitsap County are becoming engaged in our local elections. All five of our local school districts will be electing directors to the school boards, and the kids are taking notice.

North Kitsap students spent several hours honing questions for the North Kitsap School Board Candidate forum under the guidance of their civics teacher. When our moderator, Catherine Ahl, mentioned that students had crafted several of the questions asked, the candidates were quite enthusiastic.



South Kitsap students produce a morning news program. In one of their broadcasts, they mentioned the League of Women Voters, and the upcoming forums. Making this a part of the news the students chose to include tells me they are paying attention. Shout out to Janet Stegemeyer for sending out news releases to the schools.

A Central Kitsap journalism student has contacted the League: "I am a student journalist for the Cougar Chronicles at Central Kitsap High School. I'm currently working on a story about civic engagement, voting resources, and other organizations around the region as the general election season is a year away. Your role and input as a nonpartisan organization to facilitate and encourage civic participation would be of great value to the story." I'll be having a conversation with this reporter next week. Can't wait to meet this kid!

On October 17, a Youth Forum was held by Kitsap County Commission on Children. Debi Barner, Debbie Klabo, Charlie Mackall, and Victoria Hilt were on hand to register new voters. Attendance was sparse, but the conversation was quite good according to attendees. Civic participation, no matter the numbers,

is good.

The real news here is that the kids are watching and listening. This is an opportunity for our League to answer questions and provide information. And maybe, have students host a forum, under our guidance. Just sayin’.

Robin Muir, President LWV-Kitsap

Elisabeth Bondy Civics Scholarship Program

The Bondy Scholarship Committee met on October 9 and began the task of identifying and dividing up the tasks needed to move this program forward. We have decided that our target groups will be both high school seniors and adults for post-secondary education and we have a dedicated funding stream with the Elisabeth Bondy bequest.



The committee members decided to form three sub-committees as follows:

1. Application requirements – To develop parameters and guidelines for the application process. The proposed timeline for board approval of the application requirements is the January 2024 board meeting.

2. Publicity – To strategize how to make this opportunity known to local high schools and to the public. The proposed timeline for this process is to have all relevant information finalized and be ready to ‘go live’ in February 2024.

3. Review and Judging – This committee will work on the development of judging criteria with an estimated timeline for scholarship awarding by May 2024.

The next meeting of this committee will be December 6 at 1pm via Zoom. As I have said previously, we will need volunteers for all aspects of this program, so please consider which of these sub-committees might interest you and let us know. We will also be reaching out to members who we feel are uniquely qualified to help.

Myra Howrey

Voter Services Highlight

LWVK voter registration at South Kitsap High School during their four lunch periods was a success on October 10-11! Twenty-two registrations were gathered, plus hundreds of students took home bookmarks with online voter registration information: <https://olvr.votewa.gov/>.

LWVK also held high school voter registration drives on September 19, National Voter Registration Day, at Klahowya Secondary School, Olympic High School, Central Kitsap High School, and North Kitsap High School. Becky Drotz organized all the high school voter outreach events.



L to R:
Jeannie Allen, Janet Stegemeyer, Becky Drotz, and Naomi Truitt.

The Forums: It’s a Wrap!



The League of Women Voters Kitsap would like to thank all the members that participated in the planning, coordinating, hosting, and operation of the 2023 primary and general election forums. It literally takes a small army to do this, and we are so appreciative to our members that make these forums possible. Besides our members, the League is appreciative of the personnel from BKAT

and the facilities where the live events were held.

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Board News: What's Moving & Shaking!

Besides all the general business activities, the Board has been busy planning the all-member social scheduled for December 2 from 11:30 a.m. to 2 p.m. We have secured Kitsap Park Bob Oke Long Lake Community Building in Port Orchard for the occasion and are in discussion with a caterer. The theme for this event is **"BRING A FRIEND!"** The Board feels strongly about providing opportunities for members to get together, mingle, talk about their passions, brainstorm, and share committee activities. This is an opportunity to talk about what we would like to focus on in 2024. Watch for more information with details and the RSVP information; but for now, mark your calendar!



Join us for the first steps toward a citizen-focused redistricting commission in Washington!

On November 18, the Washington State Redistricting Task Force is presenting: Step Up! To Redistricting. This is a two-hour training that will give you the basics of why redistricting reform is essential in Washington and how you can help. Be part of making truly independent line drawing a reality.

Step Up! To Redistricting

Date: Saturday, November 18, 2023

Time: 10 a.m. – noon

Who's invited: Anyone who wants to see Washington State put people over party.

Zoom Registration Link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZluf-qurTlvHdKzZr8LJIM7hsjm-klccuhdG>

In early 2023, the LWVK Redistricting Reform Task Force was formed under the umbrella of the Protect Our Democracy Committee (POD) Committee. As we move forward this group will be renamed a Local Area Action Team. We may collaborate with members in Jefferson, Clallam, and Mason counties for presentations to local organizations and to brainstorm. Local Area Action Teams are starting in every corner of our state. The training topics for November 18 will include local team development, redistricting reform talking points, community outreach strategies, the latest on the new legislative maps, and much more. Please register and join us to learn more about this movement!

Carolyn Burger

Committee News

Early Education: 0 to 3

At our September meeting, we discussed how to reach out to men's groups with our PowerPoint presentation as we continue to look for organizations to whom to tell our early learning story. We are always looking for ways to share our information and would welcome suggestions from LWV-Kitsap members. This past month we held two Zoom meetings. The first was a very productive and interesting meeting with Amelia Bachleda, the UW I-LABS outreach person, and the next day we held our regular meeting.

We also reached out to Kitsap assistant principals about including early brain development in the high school health curriculum. The Bremerton School District has expressed a strong interest in the idea.

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Save these Dates!

Get ready for League
advocacy at the
Legislature in 2024

*Agenda and
Registration Details
for both virtual events
coming soon!*

Annual League of Women Voters Action Workshop

**Saturday, December 2, 2023
9:00 am – 3:00 pm**

Meet with Lobby Team members
to learn about the issues coming
up in the 2024 legislative session

League of Women Voters & Fix Democracy First Democracy Lobby Week

**Monday, January 22 - Friday,
January 26, 2024**

6:00 – 8:00 pm nightly
plus

Opportunity to meet with
Legislators during the week



Committee member Ursula Volwiler attended the Kitsap Community Baby Shower. At this event numerous organizations in Kitsap that assist parents of newborns and young children presented their information to new parents. During the event, Ursula gave out LWVK bookmarks and flyers. She also contacted several people active in the field. Martitha May of KIAC, Nancy Acosta of Kitsap Public Health and others who wish to collaborate and join forces with the Committee to further the knowledge about early child brain development.

Rosalind Renouard, Chair

Membership Committee

Thank you to the many members who have remitted their 2023-24 annual dues. For those who have the intention of continuing membership but have yet to send in payment, please do so now.

As many of you know each local league is held accountable for a per membership payment (PMP) at the end of each calendar year. That remittance amounts to nearly \$50 for anyone on our roster. If your intention is to discontinue membership at this time, please let me know. You can rejoin at your leisure.

My goal is to have an accurate roster reflecting current paid members. I have sent email reminders and now am calling those whom I have yet to hear from regarding their intentions. Scholarships and partial payments are available for anyone interested. Just let me know. Confidentiality is a priority. Thank you in advance for your response. Please contact Carol Larsen at Clarsen88@gmail.com or 360-265-8132.

Carol Larsen, Committee Chair

In Memoriam

Shirley Grapek Haight

Shirley Grapek Haight passed away September 3, 2023, of natural causes at age 101. Born in 1922, she spent her life living in many places, most recently on Bainbridge Island. She remained active in local politics throughout her life, working for community activities and especially with the League of Women Voters. While living in Urbana, Illinois, in the 1970s, she ran for County Clerk (“Get it straight with Haight” was her slogan). While retired to Bainbridge Island, Shirley served as President of the Kitsap League of Women Voters.



An unmistakably optimistic person, Shirley’s positivity had a wonderful effect on those who knew her and her family. Shirley and Gil spent their last years since 1989 on Bainbridge Island and in Seattle. For the complete obituary visit: [Shirley Haight Obituary \(1922 - 2023\) - Legacy Remembers.](#)

Sherri Appleton

Former Representative Sherry Appleton passed away while cruising through the Panama Canal, having a good time making some new friends.

In 1985, Appleton was elected as a Poulsbo City Council member and served on the city council for two terms. Before stepping into politics, Appleton worked for 22 years as a field site secretary for Westinghouse Electric Corp. until moving to Poulsbo with her husband, Ron, in 1982. Ron died in 2006.

While in office, Appleton had the courage to publicly support some unpopular concepts such as the creation of a state income tax, which she believed would make our taxing structure in this state much fairer. Among her accolades, the Washington State Sierra Club declared that she had a near perfect record on environmental matters. And in 2018, the Washington state chapter of the Humane Society awarded her the Humane Legislator of the Year. She also was a long-standing League of Women Voters.



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Interim co-executive director of Kitsap Humane Society (KHS) Jamie Nocula said Appleton had a rich history of supporting the organization, which can date back to her first donation in 1995. Through securing state fundings and changing laws, Appleton helped KHS grow in the beginning of and expanded its services to the community.

Unit News

Bainbridge Island Unit

The Bainbridge Unit will host Jim Hopper, Executive Director, and Dana Binnendijk, Community Impact Officer, of the Bainbridge Community Foundation on November 15 at 7pm. They will discuss the recently released *State of the Sector 2023 Community Report*. This report is an analysis of the community's needs and opportunities using publicly available data as well as data collected by Bainbridge Community Foundation. The presentation has three components:

1. A new framework detailing 10 characteristics for a sustainable and supportive community.
2. An analysis of each of the 10 characteristics, using local, state, and national data.
3. A description of how nonprofits are supporting our community in these areas.

The Report is available at [State of the Sector Report-2023_WEB.pdf \(bainbridgecf.org\)](#)

This meeting will be by Zoom. The Zoom link will be placed on the LWV-Kitsap website and invitations including the link will be sent to all Bainbridge Unit members. Members of other units are always invited to join us!

Colette Crosby and Delight Willing, Co-Chairs

Bremerton/Central Kitsap Unit

On November 18, Amy Peloff, Administrative Director, League of Women Voters of Washington, will join our unit meeting remotely and give us a guided tour of the LWVWA webpage. If you have not met Amy, you will find her to be a knowledgeable presenter with a great sense of humor. This should be an enjoyable way to decompress from a very busy election cycle and celebrate our good work.

While we hope the tour will give our new members an opportunity to get acquainted with the state League, many of our "veteran" members may not be familiar with all that LWVWA has to offer. Amy sent instructions on how to create an account with LWVWA, which are posted on our Bremerton/CK Unit webpage at <https://www.lwv-kitsap.org/bremerton-ck-unit-page/>. Amy's tour will be a great opportunity for us to connect with the state League and learn about the wonderful programs and resources they offer.

The Bremerton/CK Unit meetings are hybrid and are held in-person, on the third Saturday of the month, at the Kitsap United Way conference room, 645 4th St, in Bremerton, from 10 a.m. to noon. Those wishing to attend remotely may join via Zoom. For more information, contact Maureen Cervinsky.
Maureen Cervinsky, Chair

How to Log into the LWVWA Website

Created by
Amy Peloff,
Administrative Director,
League of Women Voters of Washington



North Kitsap

The NK unit meets the 4th Monday of each month at 10:00 am in the Poulsbo Library community room. By the time this Voter is distributed we will have had the October meeting. It is proposed that

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we discuss the forums, any upcoming events, committee updates and voter outreach efforts throughout the county. The meeting is planned as a hybrid using the newly purchased OWL device. More on that in the next Voter. If you have yet to renew membership by remitting dues of \$60, please do so as our PMP is coming upon us very soon. For more information or questions, contact Carol at clarsen88@gmail.com.

Carol Larsen, Interim Unit Chair

South Kitsap Unit

There were five South Kitsap candidate and issue General Election Forums were October 2-10. To watch any of the Zoom recordings, visit www.lwv-kitsap.org/candidate-forums. SK Unit members who worked to make the forums a success include Kim Abel (Forums Chair), Riley Abel, Susan Daniel, Rhonda Fairgrieve, Mara Schmerfeld, Liz Sebren, Janet Stegemeyer, and Ann Strosnider.

A Voter Registration and Pre-registration Drive at South Kitsap High School on October 10-11 was organized by Becky Drotz. Twenty-two registration forms were filled out and turned in to the county auditor. Hundreds of bookmarks with a QR code and link to registering online were handed out to students. Leaguers Jeannie Allen, Mara Schmerfeld, Janet Stegemeyer, and Naomi Truitt assisted Becky Drotz in signing up new voters.

The SK Unit meets the second Tuesday of the month at 10:30am via Zoom. Our next meeting is November 14. There will not be a December meeting. Contact Janet Stegemeyer at jans@oz.net.

Janet Stegemeyer, Chair

Voter Team

Editor: Katie Pratt
Layout: Barb Willock
Content: Cat Freudenberg

If you have questions or would like to submit an article for a future issue of the Voter, please reach out to Cat. The Voter team welcomes your feedback!

Mark Your Calendar

Sat Nov 4, 2023

10am: LWV-Kitsap Board Meeting

Where: The Pearl on Oyster Bay, 550 Russell Road, Bremerton

Fri Nov 10, 2023

12:30pm: Healthcare Committee

Tue Nov 14, 2023

10:30am: SK Unit Meeting

Where: Zoom

Sat Nov 18, 2023

10am: CK/Bremerton Unit Meeting

Where: United Way of Kitsap County, 645 4th St., Unit 101, Bremerton

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Sat Dec 2, 2023

11:30am-2pm: All Member "Bring a Friend" Social

Where: Bob Oke Long Lake Community Building, 5100 Long Lake Road SE, Port Orchard,

Fri Dec 8, 2023

12:30pm: Healthcare Committee

Tue Dec 12, 2023

10:30am: SK Unit Meeting

Where: Zoom

Sat Dec 16, 2023

10am: CK/Bremerton Unit Meeting

Where: United Way of Kitsap County, 645 4th St., Unit 101, Bremerton

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