

In This Issue...

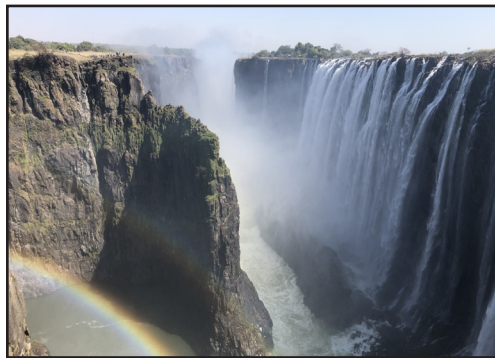
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Empowering voters. Defending democracy.

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

## Message from the President

As many of you know, I recently returned from a trip to Africa. It was an amazing adventure covering nearly 5,000 miles over five weeks in six different countries. We witnessed amazing scenery,



Victoria Falls. Photographer Robin Muir

big game animals, birds of all kinds and colors, and a magnificent wildflower bloom that hadn't been seen in sixteen years. The beauty of the continent is undeniable. So is the poverty. It is truly a place of great contrasts, and I am still pondering all the experiences a long trip has to offer. If you ask, I'll wax poetic until your eyes glaze over!

One blaring lesson, though, was gratefulness. We are fortunate to live in a place with clean air and water, with facilities that function, roads that aren't a series of linked potholes, electrical grids that work all day, every day (with exceptions for inclement weather), and government that, for the most part, functions for the people and not to enrich the leaders of the party in power. We are not perfect (even though the goal was "a more perfect union"), but we are, overall, a very fortunate country.

So, I thank:

Catherine Freudenberg for taking the helm in my absence and steering us toward Club Express as our new website. Hopefully we can have this program up and running by the end of the calendar year.

Kim Abel and her merry band for putting together 11 forums for the upcoming general election. Three of these forums will be held in person and simulcast on Zoom. This is a new level of "challenging."

Maureen Cervinsky for putting together the program on Critical Area Ordinances as part of the Comprehensive Plan for Kitsap County's growth. Moderated by our own Amy Lawrence (professor of biology at OC) this event will be presented September 26, 6:30 p.m.

Maurie Louis and Leni Skarin for creating a Zoom committee to

attack the challenges of presenting hybrid forums and all the other events we broadcast. The cyberforce is strong with these two!

September 19 was National Voter Registration Day. A big shout out to all our units for recognizing and participating in this event with registration efforts at the Goodwill of Bremerton, and all our local libraries.

We are a busy bunch of ladies and gentlemen. To all our members, I extend the invitation to find the issue that you are passionate about, and then, find a way to address that passion. Join in with other members to register voters, participate in a forum, distribute our civics text, start, or participate in a study about an issue of importance. There is always room at the table.

*Robin Muir, President*

## Elisabeth Bondy Civics Scholarship Program

This committee had its first meeting on September 11 and began the development process for this program. We are doing outreach to other nonprofit organizations with similar programs and will make regular reports to the board and to members via the Voter. As we make progress in this program, we will need volunteers from Kitsap League members, especially in the areas of publicity, review of applications, and awarding of scholarships. Please think about participation in this program in any way you can. Our next meeting via Zoom will be October 9 at 1 p.m. Contact me with any questions or if you want to attend the meeting.



*Myra Howrey*

## The Forums Are Coming! The Forums Are Coming!

The Forums Team is down to the wire. Very excited to have three nights of Hybrid forums this year. Hybrid means an in-person forum which can be watched live on Zoom.

Being a local election cycle for our communities, there are many chances to be part of the events, contact [kimabellwvwa@gmail.com](mailto:kimabellwvwa@gmail.com) if you have any time to attend and help at the hybrid forums. You can also help by sending in questions on any of the forums below to [info@lwv-kitsap.org](mailto:info@lwv-kitsap.org) (put "Forum Question" in the subject).

**Here's the list of dates, times, and places:**

**Oct. 2, 6:30 p.m.:** Port Orchard City Council Pos. 1, 4, 5 and At-Large (Hybrid). Watch in person at Port Orchard City Hall or live on Zoom.

**Oct. 3, 6:30 p.m.:** Poulsbo City Council, Pos. 1 & 4 (Hybrid). Watch in person at Poulsbo City Hall or live on Zoom.

**Oct. 4, 6:30 p.m.:** Port Orchard Mayor (Hybrid). Watch in person at Port Orchard City Hall or live on Zoom.

**Oct. 4, 7:30 p.m.:** South Kitsap Fire and Rescue Commissioner, Pos. 3. (Hybrid). Watch in person at Port Orchard City Hall or live on Zoom.



New moderators train for fall forums.  
Photo provided by Kim Abel

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- Oct. 5, 6:30 p.m.: South Kitsap School District Bond issue (Zoom).
- Oct. 10, 6:30 p.m.: South Kitsap School Board, Pos. 1, 2, & 5 (Zoom).
- Oct. 11, 6:30 p.m.: North Kitsap School Board, Pos. 2, 4 & 5 (Zoom).
- Oct. 12, 6:30 p.m.: Bremerton City Council, Pos. 2, 4 & 6 (Zoom).
- Oct. 16, 6:30 p.m.: Bremerton School Board, Pos. 1 (Zoom).
- Oct. 17, 6:30 p.m.: Central Kitsap School Board, Pos. 2, 3, & 4 (Zoom).
- Oct. 18, 6:30 p.m.: Bainbridge Island City Council At-Large Position (Zoom).

*Kim Abel, Forums Chair*

## Welcome New Members!



League of Women Voters Kitsap welcomes **Barry** and **Laana** Fishman (SK) and **Diane Dalton** (NK). We look forward to meeting everyone at an upcoming event! As we approach the general election, Leaguers are busy with candidate forums, voter registration and, soon “Get out the Vote” initiatives. We welcome all new members to reach out to their Unit leads and see what activities might be available for participation.

## Board News: What’s Moving & Shaking!



After the last election, the Board began discussing ideas for how to better manage the LWVK business and what we could do to help bring members together. We learned through board member transitioning that so much of what we do and how we manage League business – all critical processes – are done via multiple manual processes, sometimes personal accounts, and rely on members to recall activities and safeguard important information. It can be cumbersome, inefficient, and just isn’t sustainable now that so much of what we do is electronic. Even the simple task of finding past communications relies on people to remember who might have it and then you hope they can find it. Imagine hunting through boxes to find the record that you are looking for – Ugh!



LWVK September presentation and all member social.  
Photographer  
Cat Freudenberg

The Board decided to explore Club Express, a website package that is offered to Leagues. The National League of Women Voters selected three companies to offer packages and Club Express is clearly the front runner. We invited Will Sanders from Club Express to come and provide an overview to the Board. We were impressed by what we heard, and the Board was unanimous in its decision to move forward.

Some of the highlights from the discussion was the ability of members to update their personal information real time, pay their dues and see their own account status, automate notifications, automate transfers between the Kitsap League and its upstream organizations, archive documents, and much more. While we can customize the layout, there is a consistent feeling that we are a part of a national organization. The websites are easy to navigate. If anyone is interested in hearing the Club Express presentation, it was recorded. Please contact Cat Freudenberg for the link.

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Prior to COVID, there was a lot more social interaction and teaming. The Board felt that we needed more opportunities to meet as a League, so the decision was made to host an All-Member meeting or event once per quarter. The first all-member social was held Saturday, September 2, following the Board meeting at the Pearl in Bremerton.

We invited guest speaker Equity Program Manager Jessica Guidry from Kitsap Public Health District to speak to the group. Ms. Guidry gave an excellent presentation, fielded many questions, and welcomed input from those in attendance. Once the presentation concluded, members were treated to an array of desserts compliments of the Board. **The next social will be December 2 – location and details TBD.**



LWVK September presentation and all member social. Photographer Cat Freudenberg

The LWVK also recently acquired its own OWL with tripod. This is something that was considered by the past Board but at that time most of the meetings were virtual. Now that we are seeing more hybrid meetings, the timing seemed right. This will enable the League to host more hybrid events to ensure that more can attend the many educational activities we host.

*Cat Freudenberg*

## In Memoriam



League member Shielda Trotter recently passed. Shielda was active in local issues, often writing to her local City Council to give her thoughts on agenda topics. She advocated for pedestrian safety and expansion of the senior center. Shielda was also a supporter of the Kitsap Humane Society, donating in support of Compassionate Care to ensure beloved pets could receive care. Shielda will be missed by all who knew her.

## Committee News

### *Early Education: 0 to 3*

The 0 to Three Committee had its first meeting of the 2023/24 year on September 14. Rosalind, Rhonda, Judie, and Karen were happy to be joined by our newer members Ursula Volwiler and Amy Groetsch. There was a lot to discuss concerning our priorities for the new year. We also strategized about how best to advance towards our eventual goal of having early brain development added to the high school health curriculum. At the same time, we continue to offer our PowerPoint presentation to welcoming organizations, and we will continue to keep abreast of new legislation. Our next two meetings will be on the third Tuesdays of October and November.

*Rosalind Renouard, Chair*

### *Membership Committee*

LWVK membership is currently 184, with the latest additions in August and September. There are approximately 50 current members who have yet to remit annual dues. One more notice will be sent by email as a reminder that they will be dropped from the roster with the caveat that they can rejoin at any time.

*Carol Larsen, Committee Chair*

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## Healthcare Committee Meeting September 8th

The Healthcare Committee will meet on Friday, October 13 from 12:30 to 2 p.m. and is open to all League members. This month we will explore the question, "What is a Membership Model of Health Care?" Amber Stokes, office administrator at Sound Family Health, will explain how a membership model works. As reimbursements to healthcare providers have been gradually reduced in the last decade, primary care providers are facing economic challenges to continue serving patients in the way they would like. Some are turning to membership models, some are giving up their independence and joining large healthcare systems, some are just cutting services and limiting the number of patients they care for. Are membership models a more sustainable option? Join us at our Zoom meeting to find out.

*Leni Skarin, Committee Chair*

## New League of Women Voters Yard Signs!

**Interested in a new nonpartisan yard sign that promotes voting and the League of Women Voters of Kitsap?** League member Rande Gjerstad designed this eye-catching sign to display in our yards. They are double-sided and measure 18" x 24" (standard yard sign size).

We'll be placing an order from Blue Sky in mid-September so that the signs will be ready for the fall election. The final price will be determined by how many we order, but the expected price is around \$13 each. If you would like one, please send an email to Alicia Vause ([aliciavotes@gmail.com](mailto:aliciavotes@gmail.com)).



## Unit News

### *Bainbridge Island Unit*

**New schedule for BI Unit meetings:** At our summer gathering at Delight's house, we decided to move to a less frequent meeting schedule and move to after-work hours to make our meetings more accessible to members (and prospective members) who work full-time. Generally, we will be meeting every three months, on the fourth Wednesday of the month, at 6:30 p.m. Our new meeting dates/times and Zoom info will be noted in the LWV-Kitsap calendar.

*Colette Crosby and Delight Willing, Co-Chairs*

### *Bremerton/Central Kitsap Unit*

The Bremerton Unit is in conversation with the Public Health Department about a presentation concerning the public health crisis on Martin Luther King Way and Broadway in Bremerton, at the October 21 unit meeting. Stay tuned for details. We meet on the third Saturday of the month, from 10 a.m. to noon, at the Kitsap United Way conference room, 645 Fourth St., Bremerton. Those wanting to attend remotely may join via Zoom.

During October our members plan to participate in the Bremerton Farmers Market on two Thursdays, October 5 and 12. We'll distribute the Blue Mailbox/Dropbox auditor signs on October 18 and 19. We are waving signs from 4 to 5 p.m. at three locations on October 27, 28, and November 1 to "Get Out the Vote" in Bremerton and Silverdale. Contact Candy Rankin, our Voter Services coordinator, if you are interested in helping with this important work.

We have several candidate forum team members. Katie Pratt, Riley Abel and Robin Muir will be the moderators for the Bremerton City Council (10/12), Bremerton School Board (10/16), and CK School

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Board (10/17). Other members are working behind the scenes to help make these local and other Kitsap League forums happen. Many thanks to Debi Barner, Linda Streissguth, Candy Rankin, Amy Groetsch (NK), Connie Marchant, Amy Waterman, Pat Troxell, and Betty Wiese (BI) for working behind the scenes on these public service events.

*Maureen Cervinsky*

### ***North Kitsap Unit***

NK Unit conducted voter registration activities in support of National Voter Registration Day. They set up a registration table at Kingston and North Kitsap high schools, and registered seven voters. During the registration activity, they met and talked with Natasha Fecteau-Minger, who is a parent of a Kingston High School student and a current school board candidate. New members Diane Dalton and Amy Groetsch helped at North Kitsap High School.

An NVR Day event at the Poulsbo Kitsap Regional Library had Evie Schwerin, Amy Groetsch and Barbara Paul stepping up to talk with interested patrons about League efforts. Maura Broderick and Evie Schwerin were scheduled for the Poulsbo Farmers Market September 23. On Friday, October 13, Amy Groetsch and Betsy Cooper are scheduled to meet with youth at Coffee Oasis for an open conversation about the upcoming election and voter registration.

Alicia Vause has used one of her many skills to create tablecloths to be used for future events. Hopefully they will arrive before our Candidate Forums. Meanwhile, posters announcing the forums are being distributed to units for distribution. Thank you to all for that effort.

*Carol Larsen, Interim Chair*

### ***South Kitsap Unit***

National Voter Registration Day on September 19 was observed at the Port Orchard Library with a voter outreach event organized by Becky Drotz. SK members Judy Arbogast, Kathy Campbell, Brenda McCormick, and Shirley Wall registered six new voters, and one registration form was taken home. On September 23, the SK Unit had a Port Orchard Farmers Market (POFM) voter outreach booth. The last POFM voter outreach booth of the season will be on October 7.

South Kitsap candidate and issue General Election Forums will occur in early October. For Zoom links, visit [www.lwv-kitsap.org/candidate-forums](http://www.lwv-kitsap.org/candidate-forums). Questions may be submitted up to two days in advance of a forum [www.lwv-kitsap.org/candidate-forum-questions](http://www.lwv-kitsap.org/candidate-forum-questions).

The SK Unit meets the second Tuesday of the month at 10:30 a.m. via Zoom. Our next meeting is October 10. Contact: Janet Stegemeyer, [jans@oz.net](mailto:jans@oz.net), 360-471-9470.

*Janet Stegemeyer*

## **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. The Voter team welcomes your feedback!

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## Mark Your Calendar

### Mon Oct 2, 2023

**6:30pm FORUM: Port Orchard City Council**

Where: (Hybrid) Port Orchard City Hall or Zoom

### Tue Oct 3, 2023

**6:30pm FORUM: Poulsbo City Council**

Where: Poulsbo City Hall, 200 Moe St NE, Poulsbo, WA

### Wed Oct 4, 2023

**6:30pm FORUM: PORT ORCHARD MAYOR (Hybrid)**

Where: (Hybrid) Port Orchard City Hall or Zoom

**7:30pm FORUM: South Kitsap Fire & Rescue Commissioner**

Where: (Hybrid) Port Orchard City Hall or Zoom

### Thu Oct 5, 2023

**6:30pm FORUM: South Kitsap School Board District Bond**

Where: ZOOM

### Sat Oct 7, 2023

**10am - 12pm: LWV-Kitsap Board Meeting (Hybrid)**

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

### Mon Oct 9, 2023

**1pm: Elisabeth Bondy Scholarship Planning**

### Tue Oct 10, 2023

**10:30am - 12:30pm: SK Unit Meeting**

Where: Zoom

**6:30pm FORUM: South Kitsap School Board**

Where: Zoom

### Wed Oct 11, 2023

**6:30pm Forum: North Kitsap School Board**

Where: Zoom

### Thu Oct 12, 2023

**6:30pm FORUM: Bremerton City Council**

Where: Zoom

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## **Fri Oct 13, 2023**

**12:30pm - 2pm: Healthcare Committee**

## **Mon Oct 16, 2023**

**6:30pm FORUM: Bremerton School Board**

Where: Zoom

## **Tue Oct 17, 2023**

**6:30pm FORUM: Central Kitsap School Board**

Where: Zoom

## **Wed Oct 18, 2023**

**6:30pm FORUM: Bainbridge Island City Council**

Where: Zoom

## **Sat Oct 21, 2023**

**10am: LWV CK/Bremerton Unit Meeting**

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

## **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: LWV CK/Bremerton Unit Meeting**

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

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