

# THE VOTER

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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

I'm not sure what motivated you to join the League of Women Voters, but for me, it was the desire to make a difference locally and hope that small difference might resonate with others. I went to League events and volunteered to register voters at Olympic College, and, in the process, met a lot of very interesting women. Smart women. Women who had dedicated their lives to making the world a more beautiful place (like Miss Rumphius in the story book). And I am the better for having met them.

According to our records, there are over 150 members in our Kitsap League, and many of you have been busy registering voters, attending Resource Fairs, visiting local high schools, and participating in forums. I am very appreciative of all the time and energy you all devote to League activities. Unlike a football team, however, we do not have back up teams. We are one deep in all our positions, which means if one of us decides to run off to Fiji, there is no one readily available to take the ball and run with it. This is a challenge the board is trying to work on, so if you are willing to help in a particular area (not asking for a lifetime commitment here), please let us know.

We have been asked by the **Kitsap County Historical Society** to create an exhibit about the history of the League in Kitsap County. If you are interested in helping to create this exhibit, please let me know. The exhibit must be completed by the end of March. We are also in need of four to six people to count ballots for the **Conservation District** from 1:45 to 4 p.m. on March 29th. Let me know if you would like to participate. I understand that there might be pastries! Amy Waterman is spearheading a committee to look at housing insecurity and meeting basic needs in Kitsap County. As this is a countywide issue, she would like to have committee members that represent each of our four units.

Speaking of units, make sure to check out what all the units are doing; this is another way to find ways to participate in person. Building relationships with other League members is a benefit of taking part in a day of voter registration, or one of the myriad other things we do as a League. All activities are open to all League members, regardless of Unit. Please join us — actively.

One last thing — our **Annual Meeting will be held on May 18 at the Eagle's Nest at the Kitsap County Fairgrounds**. Final details are being worked out, but please save the date. This is the meeting where we decide the program we will focus on for the next fiscal year. We would love to SEE you there.

In League,  
*Robin Muir, President LWV-Kitsap*

## Remembering LWVKUS President Deborah Turner



Deborah Turner, MD, JD, served as the 20th president of the League of Women Voters of the United States (LWVUS) and chair of the Board of Trustees of the League of Women Voters Education Fund (LWVEF). She was elected board president at the 55th National Convention of the League of Women Voters in June of 2022 and served until her passing in January 2024.

Dr. Turner joined the Des Moines Metropolitan League in 2010 and became president in 2011 when the League was at risk of disbanding. She served in that role until 2015 helping revitalize membership and focus the board leadership. At the same time, she also served on the LWV

Iowa board as the state vice president from 2011 to 2015, becoming co-president in 2015. In her dual roles with state and local Leagues, Deborah has provided leadership to strengthen relationships between local leagues and the state Board. (Obituary continues [Dr. Deborah Ann Turner Obituary - The Des Moines Register](#))

"I met Dr. Deborah Turner at the National Council in Las Vegas in June 2023. Besides seeing her share her leadership style and wisdom during a three-person interview panel, I got to interact with her when we were in the same small discussion group during lunch. Dr. Turner was impressive. She was calm, friendly, and engaging. She was the kind of leader who trusted others to do their jobs well and so they did. She was a steady hand at the helm of League of Women Voters. I'm glad I got to meet her. She will be missed." - Susan Daniels



Photo: Susan Daniels, "When I asked Dr Turner if I could have a picture with her, look who she put first. That was her leadership style."



### National Convention

The League of Women Voters (US) will hold its annual convention in Washington, D.C. from June 27-30, 2024. Our local League will have allotted four voting delegates. The event will be held in person, and virtually. Our state League is hoping to send as many delegates as it is allotted to support the position on Local News that will be presented for national concurrence.

Registration for the in-person event is \$550, virtually will be \$125. Hotel rooms are \$239/night and flights are around \$750. The total cost to attend in person will be approximately \$2300. The State Board has voted to allow reimbursement from our Education Fund for 60% of the cost.

Time at the Convention will be an opportunity to see how the National League functions, as well as

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providing an occasion to meet other local League members to learn what they are doing to support League positions.

If you want to attend, either in person or virtually, please let Robin Muir ([sumuirhom@gmail.com](mailto:sumuirhom@gmail.com)) know as soon as possible. Registration already is open.

## Elisabeth Bondy Scholarship

The Elisabeth Bondy Scholarship committee has been hard at work developing the application format and publicity/outreach activities. The application and scholarship information are “live” on our website, and we will also be promoting the opportunity to county high schools, trade schools, Olympic College, and any other place we can think of, including social media outreach.

Next steps include selecting judges and developing judging criteria. Please feel free to share this poster and information about this program to anyone who might be interested.

*Myra Howrey*



## Committee News

### Forums Committee

The 2024 election cycle has begun. On February 13, most school districts had measures on the ballot. March has the Presidential Primary ballots and party caucuses (good info on the whole process in Washington State is found at <https://www.sos.wa.gov/elections/voters/helpful-information/presidential-primary-faq>). You should have received your ballot and Voter's pamphlet. If not, contact the Kitsap County Auditor's office as ballots are due on Tuesday, March 12.

Our Forums committee is watching the month of May closely as May 6 - 10 is filing week for candidates and then the fun begins. Primary elections occur in August, ballots due by August 6. Therefore, primary candidate forums for State Representatives and senators, and District 1 and 2 County Commissioner seats are possible in July.

To make this all happen, planning starts now. Are you ready? Please join us to make this election season a memorable one! Contact Kim Abel, Forums Chair, [kimabellwvwa@gmail.com](mailto:kimabellwvwa@gmail.com) to get added to the notifications list.

### Healthcare Committee



The Healthcare Committee will not have its regular monthly meeting on the second Friday in March because a special meeting of the Kitsap County Healthcare Continuum Stakeholders will be held in person at the Norm Dick's Government Center in Bremerton on March 8 from 10am to noon. The

purpose of that meeting will be to hear from the researchers on the Johns Hopkins University (JHU) team about the Kitsap County healthcare system assessment they conducted under a contract with the Kitsap Public Health District (KPHD). If anyone is interested in the stakeholders' meetings, contact Healthcare Committee chair, Leni Skarin. Also, a video of the last quarterly meeting of the Stakeholders in December, which included many updates about current local activities to increase the healthcare work force, can be viewed at the following link: [Kitsap Healthcare Continuum Stakeholder group Zoom Dec 2023 - YouTube](#).

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The JHU report will be presented earlier that same week in March on Tuesday, March 5 at the KPHD Board meeting at 10:30 a.m. Anyone interested in listening to that presentation can attend in person at the Norm Dick's Government Center in Bremerton. Also, Health Board meetings will broadcast live on Comcast channel 12, WAVE channel 3, and on the BKAT website at <https://www.bremertonwa.gov/402>. A video recording of the meeting will be made available at <https://kitsappublichealth.org/about/board-meetings.php>, typically within 48 hours of meeting adjournment. For information, reach out to Leni at [leniskarin@gmail.com](mailto:leniskarin@gmail.com).

*Leni Skarin, Healthcare Committee, chair*

### ***Early Education: 0 to 3***

The committee only has a few things to report, mainly we've been busy working on the redesign of our flyer to include maternal services (thank you, Alicia) and the reworking of our PowerPoint Presentation. We have even added an extra in-person meeting on March 14, at either the Poulsbo or Silverdale libraries - yet to be determined — to work on the presentation. Our next scheduled zoom meeting is on March 19, at 10am. Please contact Rosalind for more information and zoom details.

*Rosalind Renouard, Committee Chair*



## **League of Women Voters US Webinars**



### ***Empowering Democracy: The Impact of Absentee Ballots and Drop Boxes***

Join the LWVUS Advocacy team for an exploration into the positive impact of mail-in ballots, drop boxes, and the communities that thrive with these accessible voting solutions. In this webinar, hosted by LWVUS Advocacy, we will celebrate the empowerment of democracy through the lens of inclusive voting practices. Discover the benefits of mail-in ballots and drop boxes, learn about success stories from various communities, and gain insights into fostering a more connected and engaged electorate. Together, we'll explore how these innovative voting methods contribute to a stronger democracy and create a more accessible and inclusive voting

experience for all. **Thursday, March 7, Noon to 1 p.m.** (default is EST, be sure to change the time to your device time). Register: [Personal Information - Empowering Democracy: The Impact of Absentee Ballots and Drop Boxes \(cvent.com\)](https://www.cvent.com/event/empowering-democracy-the-impact-of-absentee-ballots-and-drop-boxes)

### ***Redistricting Part II: Looking Ahead to 2030***

As we are almost five years out from the next US Census and subsequent redistricting cycle in 2030, LWVUS's Advocacy team invites you to learn more about what current opportunities we are seeing in states for reform. During this session, we will review findings from the CHARGE Hub's redistricting report card, look at current Census reform efforts, and review what existing state-level reforms are in play this calendar year. **Thursday, March 21, Noon-1pm** (default is EST, be sure to change the time to your device time). Register: [Personal Information - Redistricting Part II: Looking Ahead to 2030 \(cvent.com\)](https://www.cvent.com/event/redistricting-part-ii-looking-ahead-to-2030)

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## News You Can Use from Around the County

### **VOLUNTEERS NEEDED FOR FRIDAY, APRIL 5th – COFFEE OASIS**

Jessi Ramsey (Bremerton Youth Program Manager) at the Coffee Oasis has asked the Bremerton League to come speak about the importance of voting and answer any questions the youth and young adults may have about registering to vote and the importance of voting.

Amy Waterman will attend and is looking for one to two more volunteers who are more familiar than she is with voting and registering to vote in Washington.

**Location:** 822 Burwell St. in Bremerton. The area where they do training is behind the coffee shop, up the stairs with the mural.

**Time:** 2:30 — 5 p.m.

**Format:** Jessie suggests we bring handouts and other interesting materials and be ready to have conversations. She does not think a presentation is needed as people tend to get distracted easily. She said that anything we can share to get them interested in voting would be fantastic.

**Note:** Friday is the busiest day at the Coffee Oasis Drop-In Center. The hours are between 2 and 5 p.m. Jessie suggests we show up around 2:30 p.m. as most people come in around 3 or 3:30 p.m. on Friday. For information or to volunteer, contact Amy Waterman.

*Maureen Cervinsky*

## **PSE Bill Discount Program**

Income-eligible customers can now reduce their PSE energy bills by up to 45% a month through the Bill Discount program. Applying for the program is easy. It only takes a few minutes to fill out the online application. No income documentation or social security number is required to apply. Program participants will get an automatic discount on their energy bills every month plus up to \$1000 grant through PSE Help.

To see if you are eligible before applying, just go to [pse.com/discount](https://pse.com/discount). By answering three questions, using the program's widget — household size, county of residency and household income — you will instantly learn if you are eligible for an energy discount. For more information reach out to Maria Dozeman, Outreach Manager, Kitsap County and Vashon Island at 206-502-3256 or visit [PSE | Assistance programs](#).

*Carol Larsen*

## **Unit News**

### ***Bainbridge Island Unit***

Maurie Louis has volunteered to be the next BI Unit lead. Thanks to Colette and Delight for stepping up when their unit needed them. Maurie is hoping the BI unit members will get together as much as possible. They will likely have Zoom meetings as well as meetings in the library or maybe the relatively new Fire Station. Maurie also plans to have Meet & Greets with local guests and lots of simple get-togethers. She is very up to enjoying coffee klatches (or London Fog klatches), or maybe sharing some pizza downtown, or perhaps a nice beer or glass of wine during happy hour. One get-together could be on a Tuesday morning and another on a Thursday afternoon or maybe a Saturday evening. Whatever works!!! Maurie says, "Who knows what great ideas might spring up when a group of creative minds casually converse over some good food." In March, Maurie will be calling each unit member to hear their personal take on things.

*Maurie Louis, Unit Chair*

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## ***Bremerton/Central Kitsap Unit***

Our March guest speaker at our next meeting will be Jill Stanton, Executive Director, Bremerton Housing Authority.

In a recent survey of B/CK unit members, homelessness was the topic of most interest for our book group. We chose “*So You Want to Solve Homelessness: Start Here*,” by Andrew Hening, for our spring book. Discussion is scheduled for Wednesdays: March 27 and April 3, 2 p.m. at the Pearl Community Room, 550 Russell Road, Bremerton.

All League members and friends are invited to participate.

Additionally, Kathleen suggests “*Homelessness Is a Housing Problem*” by Coburn and Aldern, for those who want more depth/data. If you are really into this topic, here are two more books: “*Evicted*” and “*Poverty*,” both by Matthew Desmond. These issues are related to homelessness, both are well-written (“*Evicted*” won a Pulitzer) AND the author will be presenting at Seattle Town Hall on March 28. There also is a Zoom option. Both options require a ticket purchase at <https://lectures.org/event/matthew-desmond/>. For information, contact Kathleen Cahall.

A recording of our conversation with Katie Seiple, LICMSW, Bremerton School District School, Students, and Family Liaison is available on our YouTube Channel at <https://youtu.be/-Gfo14B3wN8>. Candy’s notes also are available on our B/CK Unit web page.

Katie discussed her work with families and students at Armin Jahr Elementary School. The Bremerton School District has five school social workers and she shared how they work to support the school counselors with special emphasis on supporting children and families experiencing homelessness. Katie also shared information about her work with Coffee Oasis.

Our B/CK is busy attending resource fairs and voter registration events. Thank you to Candy Rankin, Connie Marchant, Raejean Bridges-Avalos, Amy Waterman, Debbie Klabo, Charlie Mackall, Susanne Schreiner, Robin Muir, and Debi Barner for volunteering to help.

- January 24th: The Bremerton Salvation Army hosted Kitsap Project Connect
- February 1st: Bremerton High School during lunches
- February 24th: NW Hopeful Horizons hosted Kitsap Community Resource Fair, at Bremerton’s Our Savior Lutheran.
- February 28th: Barker Creek Community School’s Leap into Your Future resource fair—including two 20-minute presentations about *Why We Vote*.
- March 19th: Kitsap Youth Rally for Human Rights will be held from 8am-1pm at Olympic College, Bremerton.

*Maureen Cervinsky, Unit Chair*

## ***North Kitsap***

We will meet on Monday, February 26, 10:30 a.m. at the Poulsbo library community room. Bring your thoughts and ideas. We will talk about the Initial Proposal for LWV-K 2024-2025 Program Regarding Homelessness in Kitsap County — Amy Waterman, *Know Your County* booklet created by CK/Brem Unit, LWVWA Legislative Action Newsletter opportunities, and your thoughts and ideas.  
*Carol Larsen, Interim Unit Chair*

## ***South Kitsap Unit***

The SK Unit meets the second Tuesday of the month, usually at 10:30 a.m. via Zoom. Our next meeting on March 12 will be in-person at the Port Orchard Library’s meeting room, 87 Sidney Ave., at  
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10:15 a.m. Contact: Janet Stegemeyer, jans@oz.net, 360-471-9470.  
*Janet Stegemeyer, Unit Chair*

## **Voter Team**

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! As we are working with a short deadline, please send your Voter content in article format — if you want like assistance, please reach out to Cat prior to the 21st, she is happy to help!

Editor: Katie Pratt

Layout: Barb Willock

Content: Cat Freudenberg

## **Mark Your Calendar**

### **Sat Mar 2, 2024**

10am - 12pm: LWV-Kitsap Board Meeting

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

### **Fri Mar 8, 2024**

12:30pm - 2pm: Healthcare Committee

### **Tue Mar 12, 2024**

10:15am: SK Unit Meeting

Where: Port Orchard Library

### **Sat Mar 16, 2024**

10am - 12pm: LWV CK/Bremerton Unit Meeting

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

### **Mon Mar 25, 2024**

10:30am - 11:30am: N Kitsap Unit Meeting

Where: Kitsap Regional Library Poulsbo

### **Sat Apr 6, 2024**

10am - 12pm: LWV-Kitsap Board Meeting

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

### **Tue Apr 9, 2024**

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

Where: Zoom

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## **Fri Apr 12, 2024**

12:30pm - 2pm: Healthcare Committee

## **Sat Apr 20, 2024**

10am - 12pm: LWV CK/Bremerton Unit Meeting

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

## **Mon Apr 22, 2024**

10:30am - 11:30am: N Kitsap Unit Meeting

Where: Kitsap Regional Library Poulsbo

## **May 18, 2024 - SAVE THE DATE!**

LWVK Annual Meeting

Where: Eagles Nest, Kitsap Fairgrounds, Bremerton

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