



The Kitsap

Voter

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF KITSAP

APRIL 2010

Underfunding of Schools in Washington State

Steps toward School Finance Reform

What about that Lawsuit?

Public Meeting

Tuesday, April 20 7-9 p.m.

Central Kitsap High School

3700 Northwest Anderson Hill Road, Silverdale

Speakers:

Isabel Munoz-Colon, OSPI Senior Budget Analyst

Tom Ahearne, lawyer for the Education Funding lawsuit

Come find out how much state funding will be cut from your local schools. Why are local levies necessary? What does the Washington Constitution say about funding education? What did the judge rule?

A community partnership with





President's Message

Members at the Local Program Planning meeting in January discussed many issues and made recommendations to the Board. We then spent two Board meetings discussing these ideas and voted to recommend establishing Poulsbo, Bremerton, and Port Orchard Municipal Government positions by concurrence with the Bainbridge Island Municipal Government Position in Brief. This will be voted on at the Annual Meeting on **May 12**.

Our speaker at the meeting will be Loretta (Payne) Byrnes, who will inform us about Bangladesh and her time living and working there.

Other ideas brought up at the Program Planning meeting were several involving updates/revisions to County Government Structure and Action under our Sustainability position, but the Board felt more information was needed before a specific proposal could be made. A water resources position based on the upcoming hydrology study by the City of Bainbridge Island was recommended, but it was felt we should wait until the study is released and then the BI members could decide the way to go forward.

Alone we can do so little; together we can do so much... Helen Keller

I hope all of you will give some thought about how you can help keep our local League functioning as it has for 47 years by volunteering your time to serve on the Board, helping with the candidate forums or voter registration, serving on a committee, or planning a meeting. Thank you so much to those who responded to our fund-raising letter. We have almost met our goal.

Upcoming Events

- April 7: LWV Kitsap Board Meeting
1-3 p.m. Poulsbo Library Upper Level
- **April 20: Public Meeting -**
7-9 p.m. Central Kitsap High School
Underfunding of Washington's schools; steps toward reform
Speakers: Isabel Munoz-Colon, OSPi Senior Budget Analyst
Tom Ahearne, lawyer for the education funding lawsuit
- April 27: CK Unit Meeting, 9:30 a.m. at Country Meadows Red Barn
- April 28: BI Unit Meeting, 9:30 a.m. at Esther Rizenthaler's
- April 28: NK Unit Meeting, 10 a.m. at Hal and Helen Hoover's condo in Kingston
- **May 12: Annual Meeting/Silent Auction**
Details in May Voter

New Members

Welcome, Sandy and Gene Bullock

We are most fortunate to have Sandy and Gene Bullock join us.

They moved to Poulsbo in 1999 from Bedford, MA, but grew up in Michigan. Gene's 94-year-old mother has lived with them for 25 years. With five children, seven grandchildren, one great-grandchild, and family scattered across the country, they spent five years circling the country in their motor home. The route and timing were planned around bird watching, from Belize to the Arctic Circle.

For the last five years they have been intensely active in Kitsap Audubon, Sandy as president and treasurer, and Gene as newsletter editor and conservation chair. In 2009 they received the annual Kingfisher Award for outstanding service.

They are avid environmental activists and citizen lobbyists, working through West Sound Conservation Council, a coalition of 10 area conservation organizations. They are also involved in planning and promoting the annual Great Peninsula Future Festival, a community service event organized around the theme of sustainability. This year's festival will be held at the Kitsap County Fairgrounds on July 31-August 1.

APRIL UNIT MEETINGS

Tuesday, April 27: Central:

CK Leaguers will meet at Country Meadows Red Barn, 12169 Country Meadows Lane NW, Silverdale (off Silverdale Way). Topic will be suggestions for topics and issues for next year's public meetings. The topic will be to discuss the outcome of the County Commissioners meeting and ideas for future general meetings. From 9:30 a.m. to noon.

Wednesday, April 28: Bainbridge

BI Leaguers are having a unit meeting at the home of Esther Rizenhaler. The topic is Wycoff Superfund Site/Pritchard Park. Charles Schmid, a member of the ABC Technical Advisory Group, is the speaker. 9:30 a.m.

Wednesday, April 28: North Kitsap:

Christy Cole, principal of Kingston High School, will be the guest at the NK meeting. Leaguers are having a unit meeting at Helen and Hal Hoover's condo in Kingston. All are invited. Please contact Helen if you plan to come: (360) 297-5727 or heladho@comcast.net. She will give you directions. 10 a.m.

Bucklin Hill Urban Forest Preserved by League Member

Kudos to Marge Thorne, who also co-founded Kitsap Hospice, for protecting her forested land in an urban area through a permanent conservation easement with the Great Peninsula Conservancy. As stated in the Conservancy's newsletter, "Protecting the native forest cover helps infiltration of water into the soil, while filtering pollutants before the water reaches Puget Sound. Scientific research also tells us that leafy neighborhood trees, like those in the Thorne urban forest, clean the air by capturing pollutants."

Thank you Marge for doing your part to protect the environment for future generations.

Silent Auction

What will you donate?

Don't forget to begin setting aside wondrous items for our Silent Auction. And please be thinking of that special service you wish to donate.

Stumped for ideas? May I suggest: antiques; garden items; a theme brunch, lunch or dinner — perhaps Italian, Greek, Mexican, Country French or all seafood. And books, books, books. Look for additional suggestions in the May Voter.

I thank you all in advance and look forward to seeing you May 12.

Margee Lynch
Silent Auction Chair



Frances Axtell

Photo courtesy of The Washington State Archives



Josephine Preston

Photo courtesy of The Library of Congress

Check it Out

New exhibit celebrates Washington's 'firsts'

Moving Forward, Looking Back:
Washington's First Women in Government
Office of the Secretary of State
Legislative Building, Olympia
On display now through December 2010

Information: www.heritagecenter.wa.gov or www.sos.wa.gov

Frances Axtell of Bellingham became a fierce proponent of Washington's minimum wage after she and Nena Croake became the first two women to serve in the state House of Representatives, back in 1913. Axtell went on to become president of the U.S. Employee Compensation Commissioner, helping to draft some of the nation's first labor laws.

Josephine Preston was just 14 when she began teaching in a one-room school house in Minnesota. She later taught in Washington state and became the state's first woman superintendent of public instruction in 1912, just two years after women won the right to vote in the state.

They are just two of the "first" women whose stories are told in a new exhibit on display at the Secretary of State's office in Olympia.

"I am honored to present this inspiring, educational experience to the people of Washington," said Secretary of State Sam Reed in introducing the exhibit. "It's a powerful reminder of what women have gone through to make major contributions in this state and country — and it is an inspiration as women continue to blaze new trails."

Women won the right to vote in Washington in 1910 — a decade before the country passed the 19th Amendment to allow women to vote nationwide. Two years later, Washington elected its first women to the State House. Today, Washington has a woman governor, two women U.S. Senators, and one of the largest percentages of woman lawmakers in the State House and Senate.

Next time you're in Olympia, stop by to learn more about these amazing women.

It's Time to Get Out the Count!

Adapted from the LWVUS website article "Census Overview"



Every election season, the League of Women Voters works to "Get out the Vote." This year it's time to "get out the count." In 2000, almost one in three households failed to return their census forms, leading to not only lots of extra work doorbelling by census workers but also holes in the final count. We can do better.

Article I, Section 2 of the U.S. Constitution mandates a headcount of everyone residing in the United States. The first census was conducted in 1790, and one has been carried out every 10 years since then.

The 2010 Census form, a short form with 10 questions that will take 10 minutes to complete, will be mailed to all households in early March. The census will count all residents living in the United States as well as ask for name, sex, age, date of birth, race, ethnicity, relationship and housing tenure.

Census data is important because it:

- ▶ impacts how more than \$300 billion per year in federal and state funding is allocated to communities for neighborhood improvements, public health, education, transportation and more;
- ▶ is also used to apportion seats in the U.S. House of Representatives and to redistrict state legislatures and;
- ▶ used to define legislature districts, school district assignment areas and other important functional areas of government.

The census is like a snapshot that helps define who we are as a nation. Data about changes in our communities is crucial to many planning decisions, such as where to provide services for the elderly, where to build new roads and schools, or where to locate job training centers. Getting an accurate count is critical.

From LWVUS

Plug into online services

Be sure to check LWVUS Online: www.lwv.org. You will find a Members Only section and a number of listservs that cover various topics, such as climate change, health care, public education and more. Sign up to receive information on your areas of interest.

Hear an inspiring essay

To hear the story of Genevieve Earle, social worker who became head of the Brooklyn branch of the LWV, go to This I Believe on Bob Edwards' Weekend at <http://thisibelieve.org/essay/16524/>.

State League

Share ideas with fellow Leaguers

Do you like to discuss issues with other League members? LWVWA Online Discussion List — lwvwatopics — is open to League members.

The idea is to share ideas and information and to ask questions. Topics of discussion have included ACTION Alerts, state board updates, initiative campaign updates, interesting reading and Internet sites. How to subscribe: send an e-mail message to lwvwatopics-requests@lwvwa.org with subscribe in the subject line.

How to post a message: lwvwatopics@lwvwa.org.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

APRIL

April 2: Deadline for May Voter
 April 7: LWVKitsap Board Meeting, Poulsbo Library 1-3 p.m.
 April 20: Public Meeting on School Finance
 Central Kitsap High School, 7-9 p.m.
 April 27: CK Unit Meeting
 April 28: NK Unit Meeting
 April 28: BI Unit Meeting

MAY

May 5: LWVKitsap Board Meeting, Poulsbo Library 1-3 p.m.
 May 12: Annual Meeting and Silent Auction
 May 22-23 LWVWA Council, Bellingham

League Contacts

President	Catherine Ahl	(360) 697-7924 cathahl@hotmail.com
1st Vice President/Voter Education	Ann Smith	(360) 871-3993 smith9797@wavecable.com
2nd Vice President/Policies&Procedures	Barbara Linsert	(360) 779-5553 blinsert@comcast.com
Secretary	Ann Rudnicki	(360) 895-2746 annrud@q.com
Treasurer	Myra Howrey	(360) 621-2752 mhowrey@hotmail.com
Membership Chair	Pam Hamon	(360) 598-3508 pchamon@msn.com
Program Chair	Loretta Byrnes	(360) 509-2695 Lpayne43@hotmail.com
Communications/Voter Editor	Ann Strosnider	(360) 471-6184 astrosnider@mac.com
Natural Resources	Judy Matchett	(360) 830-4154
Archives	Ellen Fisher	(206) 842-3548 ellenfishc@gmail.com

Unit Leaders

Bainbridge Island	Madelyn Fox	(206) 842-5360 madelyn.fox@gmail.com
North Kitsap	Pam Hamon	
Central Kitsap	Loretta Payne	
South Kitsap	Ann Smith	

Update Your Contact List

Sandra and Gene Bullock 1968 NE Lind Court Poulsbo, WA 08370 Tel: 360-394-5635 Email: genebullock@comcast.net	Poulsbo, WA 98370
Adele Bonciolini 19360 Viking Ave. NW #311	Phyllis Summers 12155 Country Meadows Lane #102 Silverdale, WA 98383 360-692-5151

Clip & Mail

Join the League Or Make a Donation

Name _____

Address _____

Phone _____

e-mail _____

Membership Levels

___ \$50 Basic

___ \$75 Household

(2 or more members at the same address)

___ \$100 Carrie Chapman Catt Member

___ \$150 Jo Huey Member

___ \$30 Student Member

___ \$30 Non-member local newsletter subscriber

\$___ Donation to Operating Fund*

\$___ Donation to Education Fund+

Please make checks payable to LWV Kitsap

Send to:

LWV Kitsap

PO Box 1524

Poulsbo, WA 98370

* Dues & donations to the Operating Fund are not tax-deductible.

+ Donations to the Education Fund are tax-deductible.

APRIL

2010

Sunday Monday Tuesday Wednesday Thursday Friday Saturday

28	29	30	31	1	2 May Voter Deadline	3
4	5	6	7 LWV Kitsap Board Meeting	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20 Public Meeting on School Finance	21	22	23	24
25	26	27 CK Unit Meeting	28 NK Unit Meeting BI Unit Meeting	29	30	1

**League of Women Voters
of Kitsap County, WA
PO Box 1524
Poulsbo, WA 98370**



PERMIT NO. 119
NON-PROFIT ORG
U.S. POSTAGE PAID
POULSBO, WA 98370

*FORWARDING & RETURNING POSTAGE GUARANTEED
ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED*

**April 2010 Voter
Look inside for:**

- Public Meeting on Education**
- President's Message**
- New Member Profiles**
- Census Overview**