



The Kitsap

Voter

THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF KITSAP

SEPTEMBER/OCTOBER 2009

8 Forums Coming up; Your Help Needed

We don't have the excitement of a big presidential election this year, but we do have lots of important local races for school board, city councils, port commissioners and mayors.

The League of Women Voters of Kitsap will host 8 candidate forums before the Nov. 3 general election. It's a lot of work to find places to hold the forums, confirm that the candidates will attend, line up moderators and publicize the events.

Ann Smith, this year's Voter Education Chair, has borne most of the burden. She organized four pre-primary forums, with the one on Bainbridge Island drawing a standing-room-only crowd of more than 200. The others had respectable turnouts as well, with excellent questions and enthusiastic audiences.

Your League needs your help to make this next batch of forums a success. First, please attend as many as you can. It's a great chance to improve the League's visibility in the community and to interact with your neighbors and the candidates.

Second, volunteer to help out. Some of the jobs include:

- ♦ **Greeters:** Welcome attendees and candidates as they come in.
- ♦ **Question coordinators:** Pass out and collect index cards so audience members can submit their written questions for the candidates.
- ♦ **Timers:** Make sure the candidates stay within their allotted time when they answer questions.

To volunteer for any of these duties, please call Ann Smith at (360) 871-3993 or e-mail her at smith9797@wavecable.com.

Bremerton School Board Candidate Forum

Monday, Sept. 21 7 p.m.
Norm Dicks Government Center
345 6th St.
Bremerton

TV Coverage

For information call: (360) 871-3993

Bainbridge Island City Council Candidate Forum

Monday, Sept. 28
7 p.m.
City Council Chambers
280 Madison Ave.
Bainbridge Island
TV Coverage

For information call: (206) 842-5360

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Know Your Candidates - Attend Fall Forums

Poulsbo Mayor and City Council Candidate Forum

**Tuesday, September 29
7 p.m.**

**City Council Chambers
19050 Jensen Way NE
Poulsbo
TV Coverage**

Port of Bremerton Candidate Forum

**Monday, October 6
7 p.m.**

**Norm Dicks Government Center
345 6th St.
Bremerton
TV Coverage**

Bremerton Mayor and City Council Candidate Forum

**Monday, October 12
7 p.m.**

**Norm Dicks Government Center
345 6th St.
Bremerton
TV Coverage**

Port Orchard City Council Candidate Forum

**Thursday, October 15
7 p.m.**

**City Hall
216 Prospect St.
Port Orchard**

Central Kitsap School Board Candidate Forum

**Monday, October 19
7 p.m.**

**Wright Admin Building Gym
9210 Silverdale Way
Silverdale**

Ballot Issues Forum General Meeting

**Wednesday, October 21
9:30 a.m.-Noon**

**Eagle's Nest
1200 NW Fairgrounds Rd.
Bremerton**

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President's Message

Welcome to the 2009-10 League year. Your new Board started monthly meetings in June, and we decided to again concentrate on Voter Service through October. Ann Smith has done an outstanding job, scheduling four Primary Election Candidates' forums - three in Bremerton and one on Bainbridge Island - during July and August, and eight General Election ones during September and October. Please contact Ann and volunteer to help with these forums.

In November we'll have an opportunity to meet with our state Legislators to find out what the 2010 session will bring and to give our input. We hope to have meetings dealing with funding and budgeting of the county, cities or school districts, and health care in the spring. However, this depends on you. We need volunteers to help plan these meetings. Contact Loretta Payne and offer to help.

The Board has decided to do a phone survey in September of all our members to find out your special talents and interests. You can help by returning any phone message you might receive and being willing to help with our activities and issues so LWV Kitsap can continue to be a voice in the community.

Remember to pay your dues before the end of September.

Must-See TV

Look for a rebroadcast of the seven-part PBS documentary "Unnatural Causes... is inequality making us sick?" in October. Dr. Scott Lindquist, Kitsap County Health District director, highly recommends this program for those who want to more fully understand why we have a health care problem.

News from LWVUS

National Popular Vote

As a result of the study and consensus by members, the LWVUS Board adopted the following statement of position: The LWVUS affirms its support of the direct election of the president and abolition of the Electoral College, but the LWVUS has no position on the National Popular Vote Compact as studied in 2008-2009.

Communications during suspension of The National Voter magazine

The LWVUS will create a one-page, double-sided update twice a year to mail to all League members who have not given their e-mail addresses. The piece will contain short summaries of League's main accomplishments in core areas and will point members to the website in order to find more in-depth materials and information. In addition, regularly scheduled electronic communications will include: Weekly Leaders' Update and the LeagueVoice. To sign up for these, go to www.lwv.org.

Changes to the LWVUS website

A few changes have been made to the Members section of www.lwv.org, and you will likely see other changes in the coming months. The League is working to make the website more user-friendly and informative. The "Tools for Leaders" section has been renamed the "[Leaders Section](#)." Also, in order to optimize the usefulness of the resources in "For Members" section of the website, we are asking for your input. Please take a moment to complete a [survey](#) and tell us how you use this section of the website and what type of information is most helpful to you.

Support Voter Education

One Call For All – Bainbridge Foundation

Bainbridge Island members (and other interested leaguers from across Kitsap County) can help support the League of Women Voters Education Fund by making donations to the One Call For All drive in October. Your generosity will help support our efforts to conduct candidate and ballot issue forums and update They Represent You each year. Watch for your Red Envelope from the Bainbridge Foundation – One Call For All in October or go to their website at: www.bainbridgefoundation.org. The LWV Education Fund is under the "Designated Funds Only" section.

Getting from Here to There

Transportation Committee seeks members

The major issues in transportation this year for Kitsap citizens will be public transportation; access to service and cost. How we get from here to there by ferries, transit or other means and at what cost is uppermost in the minds of most of us who use these services and for those who would like to use them but find that they cannot because of lack of service at the needed time or place and the cost is higher than one can afford.

We need to reactivate a working transportation committee in which each individual can be responsible for monitoring and reporting back on what is happening in at least one area of public transportation in Kitsap. We need to look at decline in service, overall cost and who pays and how? Only then will we be able to lobby effectively. There are many opportunities for each of you who are interested in joining Margaret and Luella in this endeavor. Give us a call or send us an e-mail.

Luella Wells, (360) 598-3267, lawells@wavecable.com

Margaret Colony, (360) 588-3073, mcolony@wavecable.com

Reaching Out

Membership Committee Needs New Blood

The membership Committee needs members. Last year, under the capable leadership of Annamarie Laveri, we worked on a new Membership Handbook. This needs to be reviewed and finalized for Board approval. Other needs that the committee will address are: different types of membership, how to best introduce League to new members, and increasing membership strategies. Please contact Pam Hamon, new Membership Chair, at pchamon@msn.com if you are interested in helping with this project. This is an especially good committee for new members as their perspectives are most pertinent to our goals.



Catherine Ahl



Ann Smith



Barbara Linsert



Ann Rudnicki



Myra Howrey



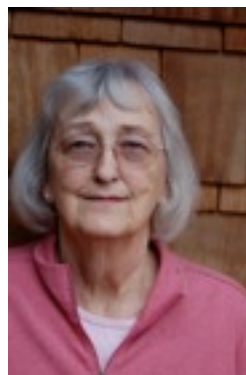
Pam Hamon



Loretta Payne



Ellen Fisher



Judy Matchett

Meet Your 2009 - 2010 Board Members

President: Catherine Ahl

Catherine, your President, is also Education Chair for LWWVA. She enjoys lobbying the Legislature and takes great pride in the Civics Education bill passed this year. Prior to moving to Kitsap County in 1995, she was a volunteer lobbyist, Education Specialist, and Director of Government Relations for the National Military Family Association. In 1999 she was elected to the NK School Board and served for 8 years. After 30 years of traveling the world with her Naval officer husband, John, she enjoys spending most of the time at home on the Hood Canal and working in her yard.

1st Vice President: Ann Smith

Ann Smith is serving as Voter Service Chair and 1st Vice President. Originally from Connecticut, Ann spent much of the 60s as an English teacher in Turkey where she met and married her husband, Chris. After moving to Kitsap in 1976, she taught history at South Kitsap High School until her retirement in 2001. The Smiths have two children and their families here in Kitsap. Ann loves reading, playing with her five grandchildren, cooking from Chris' huge vegetable garden, and traveling abroad — especially back to Turkey.

2nd Vice President: Barbara Linsert

Barbara is responsible for Administration on the board this year. That primarily means developing Policies and Procedures for the Kitsap League to serve as guidelines for our actions. Barbara retired as Senior Vice President of Lending from Seattle Metropolitan Credit Union in December 2006. She was at the credit union for 15 years; prior to that she worked for various financial institutions in Seattle and elsewhere in mortgage lending. She lives in Poulsbo, just up the hill from Central Market. She and her husband, Dick, enjoy walking, hiking, and traveling; in addition, Barbara loves to read, and enjoys yoga and doing research for their trips on the Internet.

Secretary: Ann Rudnicki

Ann Rudnicki, Ph.D., has more than 30 years experience in working with youth and families and providing leadership to youth programs, especially runaway, homeless, and at-risk youth. She has been actively involved in policy development and advocacy for youth. She has conducted research on issues related to youth and youth programming locally, as well as abroad in Russia.

Treasurer: Myra Howrey

Myra will be serving as Treasurer and will also be in charge of Member Records this year. She originally joined league in Longmont, Colo., in 1973 and then in Kitsap County in 1979, and has served in several positions of leadership at the local level and also on the state board. Myra has been employed at Helpline House on Bainbridge Island as Business Manager since 1995. She and her husband, Jerry, live in Suquamish and have three children: Alison who lives in Wausau, Wis., with her husband and two children; Austin in Bellingham; and Adam in Seattle.

Communications: Ann Strosnider

Ann Strosnider will be serving as Voter editor and communications manager this year. She worked as a reporter and editor for the Kitsap Sun, the Tacoma News Tribune and other newspapers for more than 20 years before retiring in 2007. Before getting into journalism in the late 1970s, she taught at South Kitsap High School for five years. She and Bruce, her husband of 40 years, live in Southworth near the ferry dock. Ann enjoys gardening, photography, travel and working out at the gym.

(Continued next page)

Meet the Board (continued)

Program Chair: Loretta Payne

Loretta will be serving as the CK unit leader and Program Chair this year. She is fairly new to the League and Kitsap County. She returned to Washington in May 2008 after working overseas since 1989. She spent 12 years in Bangladesh and another 5 in Rwanda and Sierra Leone. Although she worked mostly for CARE, most recently she was the Country Director for International Development Enterprises in Bangladesh. Her background is in agriculture and agriculture economics, and she worked as a program manager to increase farmer incomes through private sector development, improved government accountability, sustainable agriculture, and water resource management. She is recently married to Jim Byrnes of Seabeck and together they have 8 children--only 3 at home. She enjoys hiking, camping, rollerblading, scuba diving, dancing and most recently pilates.

Membership & More: Pam Hamon

Pam has been a member of the LWV since the early 1970s. She has been Administration of Justice Chair, First Vice President, Civics Committee Chair, Program Chair, North Kitsap Unit Leader and currently is Membership Chair, Unit Coordinator & Leader and Health Care Committee Chair. She and her husband, Charlie, moved to Washington in 1968 and Kitsap County in 1973. She worked for the Central Kitsap School District helping to develop their community school program for 2 years, was a co-director/founder of Kitsap County Project Family (a child abuse prevention program) for 15 years and for 3 years worked at the Kitsap Health District as their public relations person for the First Steps peri-natal care program. She moved to Brussels, Belgium in 1995 and lived there for

5 years while her husband worked for the NATO Health Clinic. She enjoys tennis and volunteering at Suquamish Elementary School.

Transportation: Luella Wells

Luella will be serving as Transportation Chair. She also serves in the same capacity for the State League and is on the lobby team in Olympia. She represents LWV at the Puget Sound Regional Council's Transportation Board. She has been a member of League for over 30 years and before retiring to Washington state, she served in a number of roles, including President, for the Dane County LWV in Madison, Wis., after which she was elected and served on the Dane County Board of Supervisors. Over the years, she has done consulting work for a number of public agencies, putting her Master's Degree in Urban and Regional Planning to good use.

Archives: Ellen Fisher

Ellen is serving as Archives portfolio chair and is working to make our archives more complete, accessible and safely stored. She worked for 30 some years mainly as a fourth grade teacher retiring in 2000. Earlier she volunteered through the Junior League, the schools, her church and on a park district trails committee. She loves reading including reading aloud to her 5 youngest grandchildren adopted 8 years ago. Hiking is another joy. She and her husband, Don, of 50 years enjoy traveling.

Natural Resources: Judy Matchett

Judy joined the Seattle League more than 50 years ago. She transferred her membership to Kitsap when she and her husband moved to their home on Hood Canal in 1989. Land use, water and transportation issues are among her interests. She has served as Natural Resources chair since 1995.

Matchetts Honored

Longtime League member Judy Matchett and her husband Bill of Seabeck are the recipients of this year's Mother Earth Award by the West Sound Conservation Council.

Each year, the council honors an individual or organization that demonstrates a love for Mother Earth.

Judy was appointed to the Kitsap County Open Space Committee in 1993 and has remained on the board, now called the Kitsap County Parks and Recreation Advisory Board. Bill and Judy were founding members of the West Sound Conservation Council. They are life members of the National Audubon Society and are active with Kitsap Audubon.

Judy was honored last year for her more than 50 years of membership in the League. She joined in Seattle in the 1950s.

**Please pay your dues
Deadline: Sept. 30**

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 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.



LWV Kitsap members who attended the state convention in Tacoma in May included, above, from left, Ann Smith, Kim Abel, Catherine Ahl, Barbara Linsert, Myra Howrey, Ann Rudnicki and Pam Hamon. At right, Sue Lean dressed as a suffragette to promote the exhibit commemorating women's right to vote at the Washington State History Museum.

Kitsap Leaguers share thoughts on attending state LWV convention

Pam Hamon

This was my first state convention even though I've been a member of League since the 1970's. I only wish I had attended one earlier. ...The many different ideas offered, the orderly agenda, the informative workshops and an address by Senator Cantwell all added to the experience. Getting to know my fellow Kitsap League Board members was also enriching. Have to say the workshop on Communications and the Effective Use of Technology made the biggest impact on me. Talking about Facebook, Twitter and other technologies I never heard of was mind-boggling. The look on the faces of the awestruck gray-haired ladies in the audience was priceless!

Catherine Ahl

The part I most enjoy about state convention is the process. This was the fifth convention I've attended, and I've been involved with the process of getting not-recommended studies approved and resolutions passed. It made me appreciate the effort of LWV of Tacoma-Pierce County this year to gain approval for the not-recommended study of Conservation Districts. A caucus was held, individual members were persuaded (maybe it's the lobbying I enjoy), while understanding the complicated process of League, which led to success. The process has been established for good reason and makes us a stronger organization.

Barbara Linsert

At the LWV Kitsap Annual meeting, I learned that our League is having a hard time raising money and gaining new members. At the state convention, I learned that the state is having the same problems. BUT, I also learned, from our Washington League's liaison with the LWV-US, that these are common problems among leagues, and that both the state League and the national League have some "best practices" that we can try in an effort to improve our ability to attract new members and donations.

Myra Howrey

I was not an 'official' LWV Kitsap delegate, as I attended the recent state convention as a representative of the state board - and also participated in the planning of the meeting. I have been to many state conventions over my years as a League member. What I always look for is the opportunity to network with other local League members, to learn from the experiences of others and to meet people from across the state. You often leave convention energized and ready for the upcoming league year and this convention was no exception. What I really enjoyed this year was the opportunity to get to know our Kitsap delegation in a more personal way, which is most helpful because so many of our new board members are also new to our League.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

SEPTEMBER

Sept. 15: Membership Committee Meeting, 10 a.m., Barnes & Noble
 Sept. 21: Bremerton School Board Candidate Forum, 7 p.m., Norm Dicks
 Sept. 23: Health Care Committee Meeting, 10 a.m., Pam Hamon's
 Sept. 28: BI City Council Candidate Forum, 7 p.m., BI Council Chambers
 Sept. 29: Poulsbo City Council & Mayor Forum, 7 p.m., Council Chambers

OCTOBER

Oct. 1: Deadline for November Voter
 Oct. 6: Port of Bremerton Candidate Forum, 7 p.m., Norm Dicks
 Oct. 7: Board Meeting, 1-3 p.m. Poulsbo Library
 Oct. 12: Bremerton Mayor & City Council Candidate Forum, 7 p.m., Norm Dicks
 Oct. 14: Membership Committee Meeting, 10 a.m., Barnes & Noble
 Oct. 15: Port Orchard City Council Candidate Forum, 7 p.m., PO City Hall
 Oct. 19: CK School Board Candidate Forum, 7 p.m., Jenne Wright Building
 Oct. 21: Ballot Issues Forum & General Meeting, 9:30 a.m.-noon, Eagle's Nest
 Oct. 27: CK Unit Meeting, 9:30 a.m., location TBA
 Oct. 28: BI Unit Meeting, 9:30 a.m., Myrna Casad's

NOVEMBER

Nov. 3: General election ballots due
 Nov. 18: Meet with our Legislators, 9:30 a.m.-noon
 location to be announced in the November Voter
 Nov. 21: LWVWA Action Workshop in Bellevue

Something New Blog to Begin

Beginning at about the time you receive the Voter in the mail, you should be able to find our new blog at Kitsapsun.com. If you look under the Blogs heading, you will see, down below the many staff-written blogs, a number of reader-produced blogs.

Ours will focus on League-sponsored activities, such as the many candidate forums we have coming up. We can also use it to publicize our positions on topics in the news. We hope this new media approach to communication will increase our visibility in the community and help us attract new members.

If you have any thoughts or ideas on the blog, please contact Ann Strosnider at astrosnider@mac.com or (360) 471-6184. Or go directly to the blog and post your comments there.

League Contacts

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Secretary	Ann Rudnicki	(360) 895-2746	annrud@q.com
Treasurer	Myra Howrey	(360) 621-2752	mhowrey@hotmail.com
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North Kitsap	Pam Hamon		
Central Kitsap	Loretta Payne		
South Kitsap	Ann Smith		



*Ann Strosnider
Voter Editor & Blogger*

OCTOBER

2009

Sunday Monday Tuesday Wednesday Thursday Friday Saturday

FALL FOCUS: VOTER EDUCATION				1	2	3
Sept. 21: Bremerton School Board Forum Sept. 28: Bainbridge Island City Council Forum Sept. 29: Poulsbo City Council and Mayor Forum				Deadline for November Voter		
4	5	6 Bremerton Port Commissioner Forum	7 Board Meeting	8	9	10
11	12 Bremerton Mayor and Council Forum	13	14 Membership Committee Meeting	15 Port Orchard City Council Forum	16	17
18	19 CK School Board Forum	20	21 Ballot Issues Forum and Public Meeting	22	23	24
25	26	27 CK Unit Meeting	28 BI Unit Meeting	29	30	31

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Sept./Oct. 2009 Voter

Look inside for:

- Fall Candidate Forum News**
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