

LWV LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS®
OF CLALLAM COUNTY

The Voter

July-August Newsletter

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From Your President



I'm guessing that none of us will ever forget the year 2020: a year that will live in infamy! But we League members are rolling up our sleeves to continue moving forward in this unprecedented time. The Clallam County League is alive and well, thanks in large part to outgoing president's Linda Benson's leadership. She is my mentor and friend.

We started planning for 2021 at the board retreat this past weekend and one thing for certain remains true: our League is a critical part of the election process, and our online [Candidate Forums for the primaries in July](#) and then the general

election this fall will be a focal point. Thank you, Anji Scalf, for taking on a dual role as co-Vice President and Chair of Voter Services to make these forums a 'virtual' reality.

I am privileged to be representing you as president. You have long been heroes of mine, and I thank you for letting me learn from you, share this experience with you, and help make our country a place of Diversity, Equality, and Inclusion.

We have taken a formal stand against racism. We are celebrating the centennial of women's right to vote. We are voices of reason, and we are proud to be a part of an organization that is respected...and respectful. Let us not lose sight of what we stand for, what we have accomplished, and what we are striving for.

~ **Rebekah Miller, LWVCLA President**



[Welcome, New Members!](#)

Seventeen individuals have joined the League since January 1st! Please welcome these new members when we are able to gather together in person again: Anna Maurer; Bernadette Ronan; Bill Buchan; Carole Calderwood; Dawn Brown; Ellen Sukolsky; Ian Nickel; Jen Ruiz; Jim Stoffer; Judith Burr-Chellin; Lacy Hennessey; Leslee Francis; Dr. Monica Dixon; Pat Tomlin; Rose Miriam; Samantha Benedict; and Victoria Rockholt.



[Attend Zoom Candidate Forums](#)

LWVCLA is presenting three **online ZOOM public forums** to help voters become better informed about the candidates for local elections. We request that League members and all voters email their concise questions for the candidates to us in advance – **by 5 PM the day PRIOR to each forum** – to info@lwwcla.org with the subject line **Question for Candidate Forum #1, #2, or #3**. Questions will also be taken during these online events. When submitting forum questions via email, please include **your full name**.

During each forum, candidates will be asked to provide their qualifications, state why they are running, state their goals for the office (if elected), and answer citizen questions. The forum schedule, candidates (in order of their filing date), and ZOOM forum access links and information are provided below. They can also be accessed directly via the [LWVCLA website](#), along with recordings of each forum.

Forum #1: PUD District 2 Candidate Forum July 16th at 6:00pm

Join Zoom

Meeting: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83835982383?pwd=S2YxK042OGJYMnFvOFI6ZDBESnFoQT09>

Meeting ID: 838 3598 2383 | **Password:** 602682 | **Dial by your location:** +1 253 215 8782 Tacoma

Candidates:

1. Marty Michaelis – Declined
2. Patti Morris – Confirmed
3. Neil Knutson – Confirmed
4. Rick Paschall – Confirmed

Forum #2: Legislative District 24 Position 1 Forum July 23rd at 6:00pm

Join Zoom

Meeting: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83918661039?pwd=R0RKS212czkvV2FNL0tNQ3dMaINBQT09>

Meeting ID: 839 1866 1039 | **Password:** 893997 | **Dial by your location:** +1 253

215 8782 Tacoma

Candidates:

1. Mike Chapman – Confirmed
2. Daniel Charles Svoboda – Confirmed
3. Sue Forde – Declined

Forum #3: Legislative District 24 Position 2 Forum July 30th at 6:00pm

Join Zoom Meeting:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83692538571?pwd=T2ZPNVpnZ0dJVjYxcEE5SUIRaGxUUT09>

Meeting ID: 836 9253 8571 | **Password:** 650097 | **Dial by your location:** +1 253 215 8782 Tacoma

Candidates:

1. Brian Pruiett – Confirmed
2. Steve Tharinger – Confirmed
3. Darren Corcoran – Declined
4. Jodi Wilke – Confirmed

Committee Work

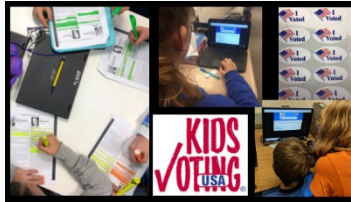
- **Centennial:** We will determine at a later date when/what our Centennial Finale - including the raffling off of our Centennial quilt - will be/look like, depending on how COVID plays out. **A BIG THANK YOU to all on this Committee and other League members** who shared their time and talents to make the events we did have, a success - the *Miss Lillian* and *Quilters* plays at OTA, *Shattered Ceilings* at Peninsula College, the beautiful quilt, the educational and enlightening Powerpoint *Women's Suffrage and the Struggle for Inclusion*, and all of your volunteering. Seems like ages ago...we didn't know how good we had it. Now we do and we are looking forward to better days ahead and an in-

person celebration at some point. How wonderful that will be! For those interested, [movies on CDs related to the Suffragist movement are available for members to borrow.](#)

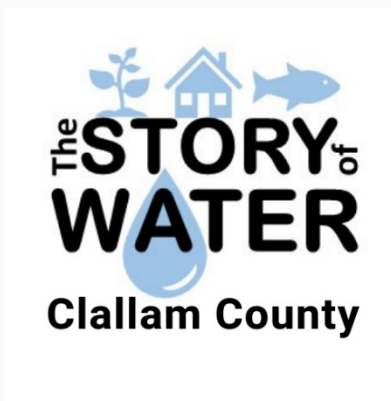


- **Communications:** We welcomed two NEW members, Kathy Moore and more recently, Jen Ruiz. Thanks to Kathy, the League is now on Instagram at [lwwofclallamcounty](#). Check it out! Jen has expressed interest in communicating voter registration opportunities to the community and we are looking forward to her participation. **THANK YOU**, League members, for participating in the recent Membership Survey. We received great feedback from you that we will put to good use.
- **Education:** [Kids Voting USA](#) update: We were disappointed to hear that the State League decided not to take over **Kids Voting USA** and make it available to all students and Leagues in Washington. They felt the challenges were: paper ballots vs. on-line voting; the agreement requirements of Kids Voting USA; and sustainability. After hearing this, we wrote a grant for State Education Fund money to cover the \$600 yearly cost here in Clallam County. That grant was denied. At the time of this writing, we have not been invoiced by **Kids Voting USA**. Bonnie will contact the lead KVUSA person to see if she can do curriculum writing work again this year to cover this year's \$600 fee. We plan to continue the program for the 2020-21 school year and hope to include more teachers in Clallam County although the teacher workshops will need to be offered via zoom this fall. The education committee will meet via zoom later this summer to discuss if and how we'll be able to keep the program going in Clallam County in the future. In other Civics Education news, a new League-sponsored Washington State History textbook for 4th grade is progressing according to

schedule and we hope to get information out to schools in Clallam County as soon as it's available. Please take a moment to check out the fantastic [Kids Voting USA](#) program and share with interested schools/teachers.



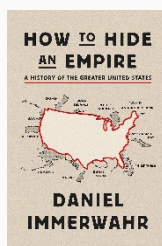
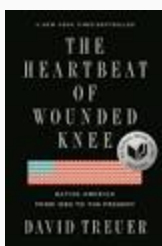
- **Environment Committee:** We are looking for a member to head up this Committee. This team studies local water, sustainability, climate change issues, and creates educational outreach programs for the public. Interested? Click on the ***Get Involved!*** button at the end of this newsletter to let us know. Post COVID, we plan to continue with our collaborative outreach program [*The Story of Water*](#), designed to educate our local community about the water challenges facing Clallam County in maintaining a healthy and sustainable water supply for personal, agricultural and business consumption. the film and video recordings of presentations can be found on [*The Story of Water* webpage.](#)



- **Healthcare:** Affordable healthcare for all, local availability of all legal services (reproductive health care), end of life and mental health services, and maintaining OMC as public, secular hospital is the focus of this Committee. In August we'll hold a Zoom meeting with these (tentative) agenda items: teeing up healthcare access questions to ask candidates

during the League's fall election forums; re-starting our individual meetings with each OMC Board member; and asking Clallam Public Health Officer Unthank if there is a role the Committee could play in supporting her current efforts re: COVID.

- **Voter Services:** We've been super-busy planning for, setting up, and facilitating virtual Candidate forums via Zoom. As soon as the forum recordings are available for viewing, we'll post them on the [Candidate Forums page](#) towards the end of July. Just this weekend Susan Hillgren of [The Answer For Youth \(TAFY\)](#) contacted the League to ask for their assistance in registering people to vote. If you are interested, please click on the **Get Involved!** button at end of the newsletter to let us know.
- **Welcoming:** Glad to report that our Committee is no longer a one-man band - we've had two more members join our committee - Marjorie Whitmore and Nell Clausen. Although we are missing the personal contact with new members at this time, we now have [an online LWV orientation](#) that allows us to welcome and educate new members in this time of COVID. **Note:** Members have to log on to the **Member's Only** section of the website to access the link to the online orientation. On June 26 we presented our first Zoom orientation with new members Ellen Sukolsky, Monica Dixon, Francis Leslee, Pat Tomlin, Jen Ruiz, Bill Buchan, and Elizabeth Althair. There were a few glitches but we are happy to report that it mostly went well. We'll be even happier in the future to return to our usual in-person coffee-house and muffin orientations.



[Book Club Selections](#)

After a many-months hiatus, the LWV Book Group will meet virtually via Zoom on July 14th, with Margie Whitmore leading us in a discussion of [The Heartbeat of Wounded Knee](#) by David Treuer. In this time of heightened awareness of the

injustices suffered by non-whites in the United States, it was good to broaden our focus. This book shattered many myths about Native American life, presenting instead a narrative of survival, resilience and resourcefulness. The author's research delves into the earliest presence of Indians on the North American continent, and then focuses on the story of what Indian lives, struggles, and accomplishments have been in the years since the 1890 massacre of Lakota Sioux at Wounded Knee Creek in South Dakota.

The book selected for discussion at our September 8 meeting is [How to Hide an Empire](#) by Daniel Immerwahr. Most nations do not own territory in other countries. Russia has 9 bases abroad. The United States currently holds 800 properties around the world. Our meeting location (Sunland or virtual) will be determined later.

For further information, contact Vicci Rudin, Book Group chair at rudin@olypen.com or 360-457-2860.

Lt. Governor Debate July 15th

There's a very real possibility if Joe Biden wins the Presidential election, that Governor Inslee may be appointed to a post in his cabinet. For that reason alone, you may wish to watch the recording of the virtual debate between candidates in the primary race for Lt. Governor. (Here's the link <https://www.tvw.org/watch/?clientID=9375922947&eventID=2020071034>)

This event will also be shown at [TVW](#).

The debate will follow a nonpartisan and impartial format, with candidates given equal time to respond to a set of screened questions. The questions will touch on a variety of topics of interest to Washington State voters, such as the state's public health and economic response to COVID-19, the candidate's legislative priorities, and the candidate's preparedness to accede to the governorship in case of a vacancy.

Date: Wednesday, July 15, 2020

Time: 7:00 – 8:30 PM PST

Candidates:

[Marko Liias](#)

[Ann Davison Sattler](#)

[Denny Heck](#)



[Nat'l Voter Registration Day](#)

On July 16, the National Voter Registration Day team will be organizing a primer for National Voter Registration Day 2020 partners on how to work with local election officials and access [#TrustedInfo2020](#) materials for a successful [National Voter Registration Day on September 22](#) and beyond.

You'll hear from speakers representing election officials across the country, as well as local election officials and community groups that successfully partnered on a National Voter Registration Day event last year. **Speakers include:** Amy Cohen, Executive Director, National Association of State Election Directors (NASED), and Maria Benson, Director of Communications, National Association of Secretaries of State (NASS)

If you are interested in registering voters on September 22nd (or beyond), consider participating in the **FREE WEBINAR: *Partnering with Election Officials for Voter Registration Success***. **Date/Time:** Thursday, July 16, 11 am – Noon. [RSVP HERE!](#)

[Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion](#)

Are you familiar with the League's [Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion \(DEI\)](#) policy?

There shall be no barriers to full participation in the League on the basis of gender, gender identity, ethnicity, race, native or indigenous origin, age, generation, sexual orientation, culture, religion, belief system, marital status, parental status, socioeconomic status, language, accent, ability status, mental health, educational level or background, geography, nationality, work style, work experience, job role function, thinking style, personality type, physical appearance, political perspective or affiliation and/or any other characteristic that can be identified as recognizing or illustrating diversity.

At first glance, we might think that Clallam County is not very diverse; however in re-reading the above paragraph, we realize that the diversity realm is really quite wide. How can we, as individuals and as a League include and welcome them?

Visit the [DEI page of the LWVCLA website](#) to find continuing learning resources on this fascinating subject.

DEI is central to the League's current and future success in engaging **ALL** individuals, households, communities, and policy makers in creating a more perfect democracy.



[Standing Up, Speaking Out](#)

Several mask-wearing Clallam LWV members demonstrated along with other community members at June rallies in Sequim to stand up for Black Lives Matter and to call for police reform in our country. Some members carried signs encouraging online voter registration, others distributed business cards with the LWVCLA logo and a [VoteWA.gov](#) QR code. The Communications committee has

many of these left - if you would like us to mail some to you for handing out to others - especially young people - send us a message by clicking the **Get Involved!** button at the end of the page below. Include your mailing address.



[Meet Dr. Deborah Ann Turner](#) [20th Board President of the LWVUS](#)

“Deborah Turner’s commitment to advancing voting rights and her dedication to democracy reform make her the right leader for our national board of directors,” said Virginia Kase, CEO of the League of Women Voters. *“As a medical doctor and an attorney, Deborah’s experience and vision will shape our work for the next two years. The League is preparing for the election of our lifetime and our membership is fortunate to have such an accomplished woman directing our focus.”*

A League member for more than a decade, Dr. Turner spent the last four years on the national board of directors, where she advanced the League’s commitment to Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion as chair of the DEI Committee. Hailing from Iowa, she now calls Omaha, Nebraska home.

“I see my role as President as a tremendous honor, an important opportunity, and a great responsibility,” Dr. Deborah Ann Turner told more than two thousand League members Saturday in her Convention remarks. *“The League is at the intersection of democracy, social justice, and civil rights and it is through that lens that we seek to advance voting rights in this country.”*

We are excited to see what the future brings with this impressive woman at the helm!



Aging in Place during the Pandemic

Our own Bertha Cooper recently authored [**Old and On Hold, Aging in Place during the Pandemic**](#). Offering an overview of why we are vulnerable, what could happen, what we can do to take care of ourselves, the book recognizes that we are still vital contributing members of our community and world. Amazon review: *Written for active vulnerable elders by a vulnerable elder, this book provides unique perspective on the meaning, adjustment, and management of "stay at home." Others made vulnerable by a pandemic will find support, practical guides and relevance in managing life disrupted by an invisible threat and a nation struggling to save itself.*

Membership Engagement Opportunities

There are so many ways to become more engaged in your League. You can register voters, take a role in local candidate forums, collect ballots, and more. Check out the current opportunities below and if interested, click on the **Get Involved!** button below to let us know. We'll get back to you with more details on the activity, event, or committee in which you are interested.

- **Help citizens register to vote.** Susan Hillgren of [**The Answer For Youth \(TAFY\)**](#) contacted the League this past weekend to ask for assistance in registering people to vote. If you are interested, please click on the **Get Involved!** button at end of the newsletter to let us know.

- **Voter Services is looking for members to take on a role** at upcoming fall Candidate Forums. We need moderators, question-wranglers, timers, and tech support backup people. If you feel comfortable with Zoom (or with learning Zoom - (we will hold a training/practice session or two), please step up to assist so we can insure this core service to our community can continue.
- **[National Voter Registration Day](#)** is September 22 this year. The League is interested in putting together an effort that day to register voters at Peninsula College and/or at the Lower Elwha Klallam Tribal Center that day. If you are interested in heading up or participating in this effort, let us know. We will provide the materials, info, table, and chairs.
- **Environment Committee** - We are looking for a member to head up this Committee. This team studies local water, sustainability and climate change issues, and creates educational outreach programs for the public.
- **Send Me Voter Registration Reminder Cards** - To have these business cards mailed to you to distribute to your family members, neighbors, and community, and especially to high school students 17 or older, click on the ***Get Involved!*** button below to send us an email. Include your mailing address.



- **Email Nancy Field** nefield@seanet.com, our Healthcare Committee chair, with your **healthcare-related questions about local, state or national policy issues** that you would like to have asked during the fall local primary forums.

[Get Involved!](#)



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We hope you enjoyed the new format of ***The Voter***.

We plan to publish bi-monthly in:

July - September - November - January - March - May

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