

Dear Friends:

Due to the on-going outbreak of the Corona Virus in our communities, many aspects of our lives have been turned upside down and will be for the foreseeable future. The League—your League—has not been spared. As you will see on our Calendar, the Board has cancelled our April Unit meetings and also our May 2 Climate Change Forum. Most other May activities are listed as Tentative. Please check in on the [League Website](#) for the latest updates to our schedule.

If you are working on a project with a small group, please check in with your leader to see if your group is meeting and how. We know some groups are meeting on line from member's homes using Zoom. The most recent LWVWA newsletter includes information on how your group can set up Zoom for remote meetings and gives local Leagues permission to use the [State's Zoom account](#).

Our latest information is that State and National elections will happen as scheduled so there will be a continued need for the pre-election work that the League does - Candidate Forums, Issue Forums, Vote 4-1-1, and more. No doubt these activities will take on new forms if social-isolation orders remain. We will stay in touch with you; please continue to stay in touch with us. All the Best

Ginny Peterson—Editor

In Honor of 100 years of Votes for Women,
ERRATA— *In our March issue, your editor gave you incorrect directions for signing up on Instagram. To sign up and enjoy Lydia Zepeda's Woman of the Week Feature. Here are the correct Instructions:*

- ◇ Download the Instagram App to your telephone.
If you have an Android phone, go to "Play Store"
If you have an iPhone, go to the "App Store"
- ◇ Once you have done the Instagram download, you can follow the League's account by searching for "LWVTPC". Click on "Follow" then "Like" and comment on LWVTPC posts.
- ◇ *Share this with your friends so they can follow our Women of the Week too!*

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In the Units

All April Unit Meetings Have been Cancelled. As our community moves forward, events and meetings on the calendar for May and beyond may be cancelled or rescheduled as well. We will continue to stay in touch with you as our ability to meet evolves.

Discussion Meetings on the Shelter and Homelessness Study, originally scheduled for mid-March, were cancelled in compliance with the Governor’s ban on large public meetings. This study is an update of the 2008 & 2009 housing study. Our consensus discussions will allow our League to take a more comprehensive position from which we can engage in political action on Homelessness and Housing in our community. Discussion meetings will be rescheduled once we have confidence in our continued ability to meet. To vote on these questions, members must affirm that they have read the whole Shelter Study. Members were emailed copies around the beginning of March, and for those who don’t have email, they were mailed via USPS. This time of self-isolation might be an opportunity to read it. The Study is also available on our League website http://www.tacomapiercelwv.org/Going_On_Now.html.

Historically, Our Annual Meeting has been held in June. Assuming that the League will be back to its regular schedule by then, our Annual Meeting will take place on Saturday, June 6. Per our bylaws, a Meeting Booklet with information about the issues expected to come before the gathering will be mailed to members in advance. All members are invited to attend. As usual, there will be no Unit Meetings in June.

When and Where Do Pierce County Units Meet?

Below are the regular times and locations of our 5 monthly Unit Meetings. Except in “Member Choice” months, all Units have the same programming. League Members are welcome to participate in any of the Unit meetings.

| | | | | |
|--|---|--|---|---|
| <p>Virtual Unit Meeting Meet with us from your home or wherever you get your wifi connection</p> <p>2nd Wednesday 6:30—8:30 pm</p> <p>https://zoom.us/j/5999586476</p> <p>Contact: Alison McCaffree alison.mccaffree@stanfordalumni.org</p> | <p>Tacoma Unit</p> <p>2nd Thursday 1:00-3:00 pm</p> <p>N. Tacoma Police Sub-station 5140 N. 26th St. Tacoma</p> <p>Contact: Dorothy McBride mcbrid6@gmail.com</p> | <p>East Pierce Unit</p> <p>2nd Saturday 10:00 am—Noon</p> <p>Puyallup Library 324 S. Meridian Puyallup</p> <p>Contact: Paula Eismann peismann60@comcast.net</p> | <p>Merrill Gardens Unit</p> <p>3rd Thursday 1:00-3:00 pm</p> <p>Theater at Merrill Gardens 7290 Rosemount Cir North Tacoma</p> <p>Contact: Pat Olney patjolney@gmail.com</p> | <p>Gig Harbor-Key Peninsula Unit</p> <p>3rd Saturday 10:30 am -12:30 pm</p> <p>Hérons Key 4340 Borgen Blvd. Gig Harbor North</p> <p>Contact: Charlene Franz csffranz@yahoo.com</p> |
|--|---|--|---|---|

Welcome to our New Members

We're so Glad to have you with us!

Susan Dahl

Karen (Farishta) Lindsay

Juanita Wellington



Message from the President

Cynthia Stewart

This is a crazy, mixed-up, dangerous and fearsome time! The rampant coronavirus and emerging economic collapse are creating fear and anxiety among most of us. I hope that at this time, all of you are safe at home, not exposed to the virus, and taking the opportunity to do things that we don't normally do. In my case, I am reading more. Feel free to share your ideas for how to stay safe and sane on the League's Facebook page. I hope you and all of your family members remain virus-free.



Under more normal circumstances, we would be celebrating several important commemorations in April. These include Earth Day (4/22), Arbor Day (this year on 4/24) and National Volunteer Week (4/19-25). Each of these reflects League values and deserves our recognition - perhaps even in these strange times.

Take a look at Lucinda Wingard's article about gardening on page 6, and consider adding a tree where you can for Arbor Day as well as growing vegetables if you can. In the meantime, before we had to shelter-in-place, some extraordinary League work was happening. Shout-outs for their extraordinary volunteer work in the last few months to:

- ◆ Nan Peele and the volunteers who performed ballot-counting observations for elections just a month apart, February and March.
- ◆ The committee working on GoVOTE, which will generate strategies for our upcoming election turnout.
- ◆ The Climate Change Forum planning group, who put in a lot of work even though the event sadly had to be canceled because of the COVID-19 virus pandemic.
- ◆ The Shelter Study group, who rushed to meet deadlines that we then had to change, again because of the COVID-19 virus pandemic.
- ◆ Susan Eidenschink, who nearly unilaterally staffs our office.

It looks like life as we have known it is going to change substantially for the foreseeable future. We will meet electronically instead of in person. We won't be driving as much. We may find that this way of doing business actually contributes enough to reducing CO₂ emissions, and helps the earth so much while we protect ourselves, that we won't go back to how we used to work. There may be some value in the midst of this crisis!

The Board is currently planning the Annual meeting for June 6. The date we originally selected was taken by the state League for their biennial Council session. We will keep you all posted about whether or not we can do the Annual Meeting in person as usual or whether we need to come up with a creative alternative in order to meet our deadline per the bylaws.

In the meantime, know how appreciated you all are for your volunteer support of our League, and please, do what you can to stay healthy during these troubling times.

For local updates on the COVID-19 virus, see Pierce County Health Department, <https://www.tpchd.org/healthy-people/human-coronavirus>.

You can sign up there to receive email updates as well.



Hip-Hip-Hooray for our Award-Winning Volunteers!!

County Volunteer Ballot Processing Observers - Democrats, Republicans and Independents together - received this year's *Outstanding Volunteer Group Award* during the County Government's 42nd Annual Volunteer Recognition Brunch. They were nominated by County Council Chairman Doug Richardson. Sharon Wilhelm, 2019 Observer Coordinator, accepted the award on behalf of the League, [see Photo]

and was accompanied by Ruth Ann Hatchett, League Volunteer Coordinator, and Nan Peele, 2020 Observer Coordinator.



We also want to give a big Thank You to all the dedicated volunteers who participated in our beginning-of-the-Year events and community services. As the Corona Virus works its way through Washington, the League expects to continue doing what we do best, serving our community. Events and schedules will change with conditions on the ground, but we will adapt. *We have cancelled our April Unit meetings as well as the Climate Forum originally scheduled for May 2nd.* We may need to make other schedule changes as well. We believe elections will go on as previously scheduled, so we expect our Candidate Forums will go on too, within whatever constraints local governments apply. Please plan to work with us. Take a look at the opportunities below and let us know what you are interested in working on. Think about how you would like to help, then contact Volunteer Coordinator, Ruth Ann Hatchett at ruthann6257@msn.com

April

- **Join the new Get Out the Vote Committee:** Help plan and execute League's *Go VOTE* efforts. Now thru November
- **Data Entry on Washington candidates for League's 4-1-1 Website.** More info from Terri Baker.

Plan Now for Spring, Summer & Fall Opportunities:

Contact Ruth Ann for more information

- **League-Run Candidate Forums:** *Timers, Greeters, Set-up, Helpers needed:* Selected dates July thru October. We are hoping to work with the State League in hosting local Forums for State-wide Candidates.
- **Nonpartisan Ballot Processing Observers will be needed** for the August 4 and November 3 Elections. Pre-election training is required; *sign up now for July 13th training session. It's the only opportunity.* Sign up later for late July & August Work Shifts, plus October & November shifts for the Presidential Election.
- As we move forward, we expect to do more **Voter Registration**. We will need Volunteers. No dates on the schedule yet, but we will publish them when we have them. You can indicate your interest now by contacting Ruth Ann.
- **Additional League Office Volunteers are always Welcomed; Weekday afternoon shifts.** Contact Susan Eidenschink for information

League Calendar April—May 2020

| <i>April 2020</i> | | | |
|---|-------------|--|-----------------------------------|
| Thur Apr 2 | | No Book Club Meeting | <i>Join Us Thur, May 7th</i> |
| Wed. Apr 8 | 6:30—8 pm | Virtual Unit Meeting | See <i>In the Units</i> on page 2 |
| Thur, Apr 9 | 1 - 3 PM | Tacoma Unit Meeting | N. Tacoma Police Substation |
| Sat Apr 11 | 10– noon | East Pierce Unit | Puyallup Library, 324 S. Meridian |
| Wed April 15 | 2-4:30 pm | Board Meeting | At Home via Zoom |
| Thur Apr 16 | 1—3 pm | Merrill Gardens Unit Meeting | Merrill Gardens Theater, N.Tacoma |
| Sat Apr 18 | 10:30-12:30 | Gig Harbor Unit Meeting | Herons Key |
| Thur Apr 30 | 7-9pm | Puyallup Homelessness Workshop | Puyallup First Christian Church |
| <i>May 2020</i> | | | |
| <i>All May activities are Tentative</i> | | | |
| Sat May 2 | | Cancelled League Climate Change Forum | |
| Thur May 7 | | Book Discussion Group | University Place Library |
| Sat May 9 | 10– noon | East Pierce Unit | Puyallup Library, 324 S. Meridian |
| Wed May 13 | 6:30—8 pm | Virtual Unit Meeting | See <i>In the Units</i> on page 2 |
| Thur May 14 | 1-3 | Tacoma Unit Meeting | N. Tacoma Police Substation |
| Sat May 16 | 10:30-12:30 | Gig Harbor Unit Meeting | Herons Key |
| Wed May 20 | 2-4:30 | Board Meeting | League Office / Zoom |
| Thur May 21 | 1-3pm | Merrill Gardens | Merrill Gardens Theater, N.Tacoma |
| May 29-31 | | LWVWA Council Meeting | Ellensburg |

Save These Dates for League Events Still on the Schedule

Tacoma Pierce LWV Annual Meeting Saturday June 6th

National League Convention, Washington DC June 25—28

We'll keep you updated. Check the League Website for Changes.

Community Events of Interest: *Our Community Partners and their events are also affected by the Corona Virus pandemic. We will resume printing their events once they have been rescheduled.*

Let's Talk About Climate Change

by Lucinda Wingard

Agriculture and Food Supply (Part 1 of 2)

Eating healthy food while lowering carbon emissions— finding win-win solutions for agriculture

Abrupt lifestyle changes forced upon us by the COVID-19 pandemic makes it difficult to focus on climate change, but there's no less a climate emergency just because we're in a different type of global melt-down. Can we focus on two emergencies at the same time?

Can we still recall the winter's storms causing mudslides, broken infrastructure, and flooded homes and fields? Notice how meteorologists don't talk about "100 Year Storms" anymore. They're expected. This year of human plague will also feature weather extremes that will affect our food and farmers.

Facts: Agriculture and deforestation are responsible for nearly a quarter of global emissions of greenhouse gases. And yet the soil beneath our feet offers the greatest opportunity for sequestering the emissions that are driving us into extreme weather events that further degrade the soils. ([IPCC Special Report on Climate Change and Land](#))

Stories: So many League-ers already boast of their home-grown produce—ask them for more stories and consider becoming a "farmer" during this forced home detention, whether in pots, decks, or in your yard.

The farmer's first lesson is how vulnerable food plants are to weather and soil chemistry. So, should I choose costly irrigation systems or time-consuming hand watering? Do I need to test my soil and add bags of soil amendments? Last year, those choices made my raspberries the most expensive to be found on the planet. And I watched my bean plants sulk for weeks before deciding to grow, after which they suffered from a mystery pest visiting in the middle of the night.

We amateurs can turn to the same scientific advice offered to farmers. Maintain soil health and prevent unnecessary release of carbon dioxide: put away that rototiller, avoid pesticides and insecticides that kill beneficial "wildlife" underground, mulch, mulch, mulch. The long term effect will be more nutritious foods and carbon retention in the soil.
(IPM is Integrated Pest Management)

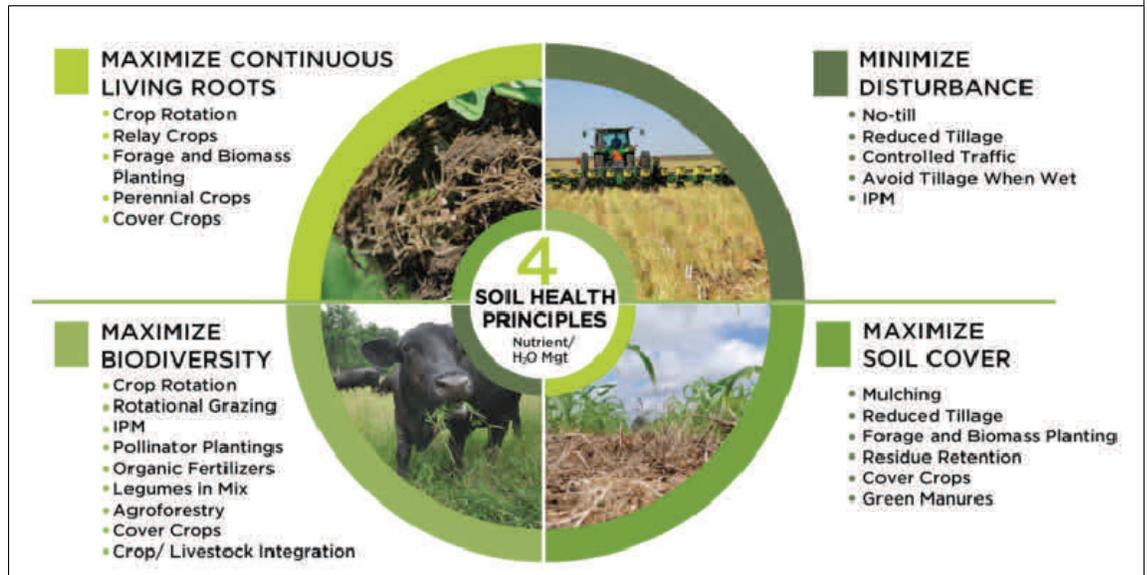


Image from USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service

Thankfully, when my garden fails, I can still resort to [open air farmer's markets](#) or sign up home deliveries from local farms. I'll share stories from those Pierce County farmers next month.

How to talk about climate change? Ask people about their gardens and tell them about yours!

More links of interest:

[Pierce County Fresh](#), [PCC Farmland Trust](#) (Apr 22, 2020, "Climate Change and Farmland, Building A Resilient Future For Washington" -- a town hall discussion to be presented on a digital platform), Pierce County