

January 2021 Calendar of LWV Events

Wed., 1:30 p.m.—Book Club—Give a short report of a book you've read outside Book Club.
Virtual meeting.

If you are interested in joining Book Club, contact Roz Shirack.

Mon., Jan. 11, 2 - 4 p.m.—Board meeting—via Zoom

Wed., Jan. 13, 6 - 8 p.m.—All-Member Meeting: LWVMPC Observation Corps

Zoom meeting.

Since our local newspaper no longer has a dedicated reporter who attends city council or other government meetings, we need to become the eyes and ears of our communities. Join our discussion to learn how to do that.

Details on Page 2.

Tue., Jan. 19, 9 a.m.—LWVUS Climate Webinar

Details on Page 4.

Tue., Jan. 19—Oregon Legislature convenes

Information on how to follow the legislative session is on Pages 5 and 6.

Sat., Jan. 23, 1 p.m.—Great Decisions: *Global Supply Chains and National Security*

Zoom meeting.

Discussion leader: Sally Hollemon

Wed., Jan. 27, 6 - 8 p.m.—Program Planning 2021: Planning for the Future in LWV

Zoom meeting.

What do you want to happen in LWVMPC this year of 2021 - 2022?

Details on Page 3.

Making Democracy Work™

LWVMPC Observer Corps

January 13, 6 - 8 p.m., on Zoom

Amy Vandegrift, Observer Corps Coordinator

What is an Observer Corps? What do Leaguers do as Observers? How we can rebuild our LWVMPC Observer Corps and why should we do it? These are the subjects for our January Unit meeting on January 13 from 6 – 8 p.m. on Zoom.

Our Democracy works best when we, the citizens, keep our elected and appointed officials on notice that someone is watching what decisions are being made and how they are made. An open and transparent government has been one of the fundamental missions of the League since it began 100 years ago.

At our meeting we will have people who have been Observers speak about their experience both as individuals and as representatives of their League on important topics. One of them, Jean Sherbeck, will talk about her experience as an Observer at Polk County Commission meetings.

Why do we need an LWVMPC Observer Corps?

A local journalist who spoke at Salem City Club a year or so ago said, “Communities that don’t have local newspapers have to accept a certain level of corruption in local government.” Since our local newspaper no longer has a dedicated reporter who attends city council or other government meetings, we need to become the eyes and ears of our communities and take action to assure that what is being done is conducted in an open and accessible way. We can report to each other and to our community.

Plan to attend our Zoom meeting on January 13 and learn how you can participate in this important role as a League member.



Balloons →

FOCUS

Focus is the newsletter of the League of Women Voters® of Marion and Polk Counties. Members subscribe through their dues, and membership is open to anyone 16 years of age and older.



Planning for the Future in LWV

January 27, 6 - 8 p.m., on Zoom

Diana Bodtke, Program Chair

This month the League of Women Voters of Marion and Polk Counties will be planning for our first year in LWV's second century. So let's make it a humdinger.

You will receive a Program Planning sheet closer to our January 27th Zoom meeting to help organize your thoughts. In the meantime look at our current positions at [LWVmarionpolk.org](https://lwvmarionpolk.org). Some are nearly 50 years old, which doesn't necessarily make them bad, but do they need rewording, updating, or additions to make them relevant today?

In addition, are there issues important to the community that are not covered by our positions? We cannot take League action on an issue unless we have a position on it reached after study followed by our members reaching a consensus.

Are there speakers you would like to hear? Is there a group (or groups) we could team up with to work on a common cause? What do you want to happen in LWVMPC this year of 2021 - 2022?

In alternate years we make recommendations to LWVOR or LWVUS. This is the year for us to make recommendations to LWVOR. Look at the state positions at <https://lwvor.org/full-lwvor-position-index>. Think about what is going on in our state. What do you think should be the LWVOR emphasis in the next two years of 2021 - 2023?

Watch for the planning sheet coming later this month.

LWVUS Climate Webinar on January 19

Deanie Anderson, Member of LWVUS Climate Team

The League of Women Voters U.S. Climate Team, Renewable Energy Group, invites you to attend a presentation by Dr. Martin Keller, director of the National Renewable Energy Laboratory (NREL) and president of the Alliance for Sustainable Energy. Dr. Keller will speak on the state of renewable energy research and capacity in the United States, followed by a Q&A session.



Date: January 19, 2021

Time: 9:00 a.m. PST

REGISTER at <https://register.gotowebinar.com/register/7483994530844944908>.

Also, visit the LWV US Climate Team website <<https://lwvc.org/national-lwv-climate-teams>> to learn more about the League of Women Voter's national effort on climate.

Quote: "We can no longer look at climate change as a second-tier issue, relegated to something confined to the environmental community. It must drive our policy and our politics in every realm and in every constituency."
— Governor of Washington Jay Inslee

Salem City Club topics for January

Fri., Jan. 8, noon - 1:30 p.m. — *Courts During COVID & Other Timely Topics*

Speakers: Chief Justice Martha L. Walters (pictured at right),
Justice Lynn R. Nakamoto, and Justice Adrienne C. Nelson

Register at <https://salemcityclub.com/event-4081501>

Friday, January 22, noon - 1:30 p.m. — *Wildfire, Water and Salem: What's Coming Downstream?*

Hear what engineers have learned and what Salem is doing to protect the water we drink.

Register at <https://salemcityclub.com/event-4096163> (when available).



Cost for each program is \$5 for non-City Club members.

Get Ready for the 2021 Oregon Legislative Session

Alice LaViolette

The Oregon Legislature kicks off its biennial “long” session this month. Legislators will be in Salem January 11 – 15, for Organizational Days. This is the time that members-elect are sworn in as legislators, committee memberships are announced, and bills are introduced. The 2021 Legislative Assembly is currently scheduled to convene on Tuesday, January 19, 2021.

The Oregon Legislative Website and the Oregon Legislative Information System (OLIS) have made it very easy to keep up-to-date with bills, committee hearings and individual legislators. These sites are important tools for staying informed and can also be used to submit your feedback on proposed legislation.

If a bill is introduced that is of special interest to you, you may want to track its progress through committee hearings and, possibly, to a floor vote. First, find out the bill number and which committee will sponsor the bill by using the OLIS (Oregon Legislative Information System). The blue banner at the top of the page has link to “bills” in the upper right. You can search for the text of the bill by number, by the bill sponsor or by words that appear in the bill. Be sure to limit your search results to the 2021 Legislative Session.

Once you have the bill number, you can sign up for an email alert (GovDelivery) whenever there is a work session or hearing scheduled for the bill. You can watch these public meetings from the Oregon Legislative Website. Just click on the link labeled, “Video: Watch Capitol Meetings”, on the right side of the page. These meetings are recorded, so that you can watch them at your convenience. These helpful links are also located under the tab labeled “Citizen Engagement” at the top of the screen.

GovDelivery is the email system used to keep citizens informed of bills as they move through the legislative process. Sign up to receive alerts on committee meetings/agendas and newsletters from legislators. It is easy to select what topics you want to follow. You will first have to sign-up by entering your email address in the sign-up form and then click on the “submit” button. On the next page a list of topics will appear: Senate, House and Joint Committees; a list of Task Forces; a list of Senators; a list of Representatives; a list of House Bills and a list of Senate Bills. Check the box next to any and all of your interests and then click the “Submit” link at the bottom of the page. You are now signed up to receive email updates on these topics. Each email will have a link at the bottom for “Subscriber Service Options”. These options allow you to change the topics you are following or to delete your profile and cancel your alerts.

Links to Web Sites:

Oregon Legislative Website: <https://www.oregonlegislature.gov>

OLIS (Oregon Legislative Information System): <https://olis.oregonlegislature.gov/liz/201911>

Legislative Audio and Video recordings: https://www.oregonlegislature.gov/citizen_engagement/Pages/Legislative-Video.aspx

GovDelivery: <https://public.govdelivery.com/accounts/ORLEG/subscriber/new>

Stay Informed on State Government News via e-Clips

Alice LaViolette

Keeping up with state and local news has become harder as newspapers have ceased printed editions or been sold to larger corporations that don't cover local issues.

For several years Reference Librarians from the State of Oregon Library (aka Oregon State Library) have published a daily online news resource that collates articles from news sources from around the state. Topics are focused on the activities of Oregon state agencies, Oregon Legislature, statewide issues/trends, public policy and demographic trends.

This service is called e-Clips and is available to the general public by either going to the web page or by signing up for a free email subscription. A daily edition of e-Clips is updated each day by about 10:00 a.m. Each entry contains the headline and first paragraph of the article from the original resource and links to the full article.

To read the e-Clips blog, just bookmark the site for easy access. You can also sign-up to have a daily summary sent to your email. This is an easy way to keep up to date on the business and activities of our state government.

e-Clips blog: <https://statelibraryclips.wordpress.com>

e-Clips subscription: <https://statelibraryclips.wordpress.com/subscribe/>



League of Women Voters of Marion and Polk Counties
Membership through September 30, 2021

Membership in the League of Women Voters is open to all women and men 16 years of age and older. Membership includes subscriptions to local, state, and national League publications, many of which are sent by e-mail and all of which are supported by your local dues.

Name(s) _____ Date _____

Renewing members, please add below any information that is different from what's in the 2019-20 directory. If you've mislaid your directory, contact Elsa Struble at gstruble@willamette.edu, 364-3929.

New members, please complete the following contact information.

Phone (H) _____ (Cell) _____

E-mail _____

Address _____ Zip _____

Yes, I want to join the League: _____ as a *new* member. _____ as a renewing member

I am enclosing:

___ \$ 65 for Individual Membership

___ \$ 30 for each additional Household Member, Student or Limited Income Member
(Those with limited income may also contact Amy Vandegrift or Elsa Struble about scholarships)

___ \$ 90 for a single Supporting Member

___ **\$15 extra to receive printed newsletters through the mail**

\$ _____ Contribution to LWVMPC budget (not tax deductible)

\$ _____ TOTAL to LWVMPC (not tax deductible)

\$ _____ Contributions to LWV of Oregon are now tax deductible. Write a separate check payable to LWVOR and *send it to* Treasurer Elsa Struble; she will forward it to the state League and the amount will be held for us to use for our educational projects or per-member payments owed the state League. (Checks sent to the LWVOR office will not benefit our local League but directly benefit the state League, another good cause.)

Mail check(s) & form to Treasurer Elsa Struble, 210 18th St. NE, Salem, OR 97301

For further member information, contact Amy Vandegrift at 503-364-0492, vandebloom@gmail.com or Elsa Struble at 503-364-3929, gstruble@willamette.edu

Join online HERE.



**LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS®
of Marion and Polk Counties**

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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED



Making Democracy Work™

The League of Women Voters®, a nonpartisan political organization, encourages informed and active participation in government, works to increase understanding of major public policy issues, and influences public policy through education and advocacy.

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