

April 2021 Calendar of LWV Events

Wed., April 7, 2 p.m. — Book Club— *The Overstory* by Richard Powers

Virtual meeting. Link will be emailed.

If you are interested in joining Book Club contact Roz Shirack, rozshirack7@gmail.com.

Mon., April 12, 2 - 4 p.m. — Board meeting—via Zoom

Sat., April 17, 1 p.m. — Great Decisions: *The Arctic*

Virtual meeting. Link will be emailed.

Discussion leader: Sharon Krimmel

Wed., April 21, 6 - 8 p.m. — Discussion & Consensus:

Agricultural Chemicals

Virtual meeting. Link will be emailed.

Study report will come from LWVOR soon.

Details on Page 2.



Voter Service questions needed

Deanie Anderson, Voter Service Co-chair

We will be conducting interviews of the Salem-Keizer School Board candidates for the May 18 election and will need questions to ask them. Please send your suggestions to Deanie Anderson, by April 15. (See the list of candidates on Page 3.)

Making Democracy Work™

**LWVOR Study:
Agricultural Chemicals
Discussion and Consensus
Wednesday, April 21, 6 p.m.**

Among the states Oregon is second only to California in the number of different agricultural products raised and processed. Eighty percent of these products are sent out of state. There are 38,500 Oregon farms and 1 in 12 residents is employed in agriculture. Eight billion dollars a year are contributed to the Oregon economy by agriculture.

Everything—from alfalfa to strawberries to Christmas trees—is treated with some form of pesticide and/or factory-produced fertilizer. The Oregon Department of Agriculture regulates the sale, use and application of these chemicals with the stated purpose of protecting people and the environment while maintaining their availability for beneficial uses. But are these regulated chemicals safe for our air, water, soil and ourselves?

You will soon receive your copy of the LWVOR study report on agricultural chemicals. Read the study and be ready to discuss this important topic on Wednesday, April 21, at 6 p.m. via Zoom.



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.

Be a Delegate/Observer at LWVOR Convention

The online state LWV convention will be May 10 - 16 with two to four events per day. Caucuses will be May 10, 11, and 12. As this will be a virtual event, there are no registration fees. All League members in Oregon are encouraged to register as observers when the convention information comes from LWVOR.

In addition, our local League is entitled to three delegates. Delegates get to vote! Would you like to be a delegate? Contact Amy Vandegrift to volunteer.



Candidates for Salem-Keizer School Board

Candidates have to live in the zone in which they run, but voters vote for a candidate for each zone.

Zone 1 (West Salem)

Oswaldo Avila - Grant administrator at Oregon's Higher Education Coordinating Commission, and a former bilingual academic advisor at Western Oregon University

Richard Riggs - Regional director for Oregon State University extension service, former Chemeketa Community College Board of Education member

Ross Swartzendruber - Sheep farmer, former owner of Black Sheep Advertising

Kari Zohner - Realtor, substitute teacher and former coach in Salem-Keizer School District

Zone 3 (South Salem)

Ashley Carson-Cottingham - Deputy director, Oregon Office of the Long-Term Care Ombudsman, former candidate for Marion County Commissioner in 2020

Linda Farrington - Retired nurse, former member of the Salem-Keizer School District budget committee

Zone 5 (Southeast Salem)

Jesse Lippold Peone - Current school board member, real estate broker

Karina Guzman Ortiz - Partner engagement specialist at Oregon Department of Education, Early Learning Division and former Salem-Keizer School District substitute teacher

Michael Slagle - Aerospace inspector and manager at Westpro Lab, Salem football and basketball official

Zone 7 (North Salem)

Maria Hinojos Pressey - Operations director, Pineros y Campesinos Unidos del Noroeste (PCUN)

Liam Collins - Vehicle acquisition manager, Enterprise Holdings

Salem City Club

Friday, April 9, at noon— *The Secret's in the Soil*—Linda J. Brewer, Senior Faculty Research Assistant in the Oregon State University Department of Horticulture, will introduce listeners to the science of the soil and the role it plays in sustaining life, water management, carbon sequestration, antibiotics, nutrient cycling, and infrastructure support.

Friday, April 16, at noon— *Our Willamette River Demands Our Attention* with a speaker from Willamette River Keepers.

Friday, April 30, at noon— *From Auditing to Re-Districting* with Shemia Fagan, Oregon Secretary of State, on the work of her agency.

To register for the program go to <https://salemcityclub.com/events>. There is a \$5 charge for non-members of City Club.

[VOTE411.org](https://votef411.org)

Janet Adkins entered the candidates for school boards, special districts, and levy measures into [VOTE411.org](https://votef411.org). There are a lot of these! Thank you, Janet!

Marion County has:

- 56 school board candidates for their ten school districts
- 72 candidates for 23 special districts - all but a few are unopposed
- 6 city, school or special district levy measures

Polk County has:

- 18 school board candidates for their four school districts
- 32 special district candidates for 12 special districts
- 1 city levy measure (Monmouth)



Observer Corps March 2021 Reports

Salem City Council (03/08/2021)

Roz Shirack, Observer

Main Points/ Issues Discussed:

I observed only the agenda item for Our Salem Vision, the update of the Salem Comprehensive Plan. The Vision document includes high level goals and plan map that shows locations of various uses (single family & multi-family residential, retail and office commercial, multi-uses, industrial, parks, etc.). There was little discussion and no changes proposed because Council has already had several work sessions over the last 2 years on this topic. Going forward, there will be weekly public meetings to work on the policies to implement the plan. Contact Eunice Kim at ekim@cityofsalem.net to participate. The Our Salem Vision, map, and all related documents can be seen at

<https://cityofsalem.us1.listmanage.com/track/click?u=9c537ef0aeb7914e4fe4f6d5c&id=b8d744e263&e=5cea1fc6fb>

→ → →

Decisions/Actions Taken:

Council voted unanimously to accept the proposed Our Salem Vision. This gives staff the OK to move forward to develop policies and development/zoning codes to carry out the Vision. Final adoption will be near the end of 2021.

Salem Housing Authority (03/08/2021)

Alice LaViolette, Observer

Main Points/Issues Discussed:

SHA members considered an intergovernmental agreement with Oregon Housing and Community Services that will allow SHA to administer a landlord compensation fund. The fund will be used to compensate landlords for 80% of past-due rents of qualified tenants. This covers rents not collected after April 1, 2020. The agreement will allow SHA to hire a limited-duration accountant to administer the funds. Compensation requests go directly to Oregon Housing and Community Services staff. SHA will verify land ownership and submit the request for payment and verify that payment is received by landlords. This program will help vulnerable people in Salem remain in their homes.

SHA members considered a resolution to allow SHA to apply for funds from Oregon Housing and Community Services and other private or public sources to develop Sequoia Crossing, a 60-unit affordable housing project to be built at 3112-3120 Broadway NE. Project will provide permanent supportive housing and will partner with Arches for onsite client wrap-around services.

Decisions/Actions Taken:

Both proposals listed above were passed by SHA committee members.

Salem Area Mass Transit (Cherriots) Board (3/25/21)

Janet Adkins, Observer

Main Points/Issues Discussed:

General Manager reviewed direct bus access to Covid-19 vaccine sites in Marion and Polk counties (no fares are being charged currently) and recent eligibility of transit staff for the vaccine.

Staff briefed the Board on restarting the planning process for a South Salem Transit Center. Previous planning was shelved in 2016 when Walmart did not agree to sell a portion of their parking lot for the project. The District decided not to pursue an eminent domain process to obtain the property at the time. Under the new timeline, site identification and determination of needs and functional aspects is expected to take a year. A feasibility study, preliminary public and stakeholder input, and reimagining of various "mobility hub" (including transit) models is underway. State and Federal Funding is anticipated.

As an element of the General Manager's work plan, the Board committed to continue their Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion planning with final selection of a consultant this month; the plan applies to equity in staffing and services.

The Board also committed to the District's Climate Action Plan, which will be written in conjunction with the City of Salem and Keizer's climate plans. Significantly enhancing transit is anticipated to be a part of the City of Salem plan.

Decisions/Actions Taken:

Board unanimously approved the General Manager's Fiscal Year 2022-2024 Work Plan including the elements outlined above as well as Facilities review and ridership analysis.

Observer Corps Needs Your Help

Are you interested in what is going on in our community? LWVMP invites you to join Observer Corps. Help us all stay informed as our local elected and appointed officials make decisions about our schools, public health, environment, libraries, public safety, etc. Many public meetings are recorded, allowing you to watch them at your convenience. Our online form makes reporting easy and convenient. Please contact Amy Vandergrift or Alice LaViolette and we can help you get started.



Cyber Risk to the Electric Grid



The electric grid in the U.S. has been connected to the internet to make access easier for the operators. However, that also risks hacks to the distribution system. A short article with more detail is at <https://thehill.com/policy/energy-environment/543831-government-watchdog-energy-department-must-address-cyber-threats-to>. Thanks to Deanie Anderson for this link as a follow-up to our recent LWVOR study of Cybersecurity.

Survey: Transportation Options in Salem

Salem is asking residents to weigh in on which strategies to include in a climate action plan. Since we studied Public Transit several years ago, we have the information to thoughtfully answer the survey questions. **Access the survey.**



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

League of Women Voters® of Marion and Polk Counties

Half-year membership through September 30, 2021,

for **NEW** members *only*

Membership in the League of Women Voters is open to all women and men 18 years of age and older. Membership includes email subscriptions to local, state, and national League publications.

Name(s) _____ Date _____

Phone
(H) _____ W) _____ (Cell) _____

E-mail _____

Address _____

Zip _____

Yes, I want to join the League. I am enclosing:

- \$ 32.50 for Individual Membership
- \$ 15.00 for each additional Household Member, or Limited Income Member
- Student members are free.
- \$6.50 extra to receive printed newsletters through the mail**

\$ _____ **TOTAL to LWVMPC** (not tax deductible)

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

or

Pay online at <http://LWVmarionpolk.org>

Click on *Join* to pay your dues.



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

3335 Crestview Dr. S
Salem, OR 97302-5908

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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