

June 2021 Calendar of LWV Events

Wed., June 2, 1:30 p.m.—Book Club—*How to Be an Anti-Racist* by Ibram X. Kendi
Virtual meeting. Link will be emailed.
If you are interested in joining Book Club contact Roz Shirack.

Mon., June 14, 2 - 4 p.m.—Board meeting—via Zoom

**Wed., June 16, 7 - 8 p.m.—Social Hour with New Members
and Longtime Members**

Virtual meeting. Link will be emailed.
Details on Page 2.



Sat., June 19, 1 p.m.—Great Decisions: *The Role of the WHO*
Virtual meeting. Link will be emailed.
Discussion leader: Kathleen West

Summer Events

Wed., July 7, 1:30 p.m.—Book Club—*Ordinary Grace* by William K. Krueger

Sat., July 17, 1 p.m.—Great Decisions—*Brexit and the EU*
Discussion leader: Jean Sherbeck

**Wed., August 4, 1:30 p.m.—Book Club—*Why Fish Don't Exist:
A Story of Loss, Love, and the Hidden Order of Life* by Lulu Miller**

Sat., August 21, 1 p.m.—Great Decisions—*The Future of Persian Gulf Security*
Discussion leader: Anita Owen

Making Democracy Work™

You are Invited to Social Hour for New Members & Longtime Members on June 16 via Zoom

Get a glass of wine or a cup of tea or coffee and join other new and longtime League members on Zoom for a Social Hour for new members and longtime members on Wednesday, June 16, from 7:00 to 8:00 p.m.



We will get acquainted, play a LWV game, and learn about activities of our Marion and Polk County League such as Voter Service, Observer Corps, and Great Decisions. We'll share information about our favorite way(s) to be involved and suggest how new members might participate in LWV and our community. (The information will be a good review for our longtime members.)



The Zoom link will be sent by our email master Sally Hollemon. If you have questions please contact Amy Vandegrift, Membership Chair, at vandebloom@gmail.com or 503-364-0492.

A SURVEY will be emailed to members to ask your views on future meetings. For members without email, please call Sally Hollemon, 503-391-8978, with your answers.

1. Our local League Fall Membership event is traditionally a brunch, which has been held at Roth's in West Salem for a number of years. We have scheduled the event for Saturday, September 18, from 10 a.m. to noon. Please indicate your preference below:

- I would prefer to attend a brunch at Roth's.
- I would prefer to meet in person with no meal, perhaps at Salem Library.
- I would prefer to meet via Zoom.

2. During the rest of the year our monthly meetings will be held on the 3rd Wednesday at 7 p.m.

- I would prefer to meet via Zoom.
- I would prefer to meet in person at Salem Library or other public venue.
- I would like our meetings to be recorded and posted on our Facebook page.

Comments:

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.

Annual Meeting 2021 Decisions

Seventeen members participated by Zoom in the Annual Meeting chaired by Diana Bodtker.

Program: The position statements on Community Schools and Manufactured Housing were deleted. Edits of the remaining position statements were approved as written in the Annual Meeting Workbook. The proposal to restudy the pros and cons of an appointed sheriff versus an elected sheriff was defeated on the supposition that our support of an appointed sheriff was unlikely to change.

New Study: The proposed study of “Health and Safety in Public Schools” was adopted contingent on getting a couple more volunteers by September 1 to serve on the study committee. Volunteers include Sally Hollemon as facilitator with Harmony Burrignt, Alice LaViolette and Jean Sherbeck. To volunteer please contact Sally at rhollemon@comcast.net.

Budget: The Budget was approved as written in the Annual Meeting Workbook.

Bylaws Change: Removal of the section on 501(c)(3) was approved since we didn't apply for that status.

Board for 2021 - 2022: The following were elected:

Main Contact & Program—Diana Bodtker

Secretary* & Voter Service Media—Deanie Anderson
Deanie would be happy to turn the job of Secretary over to someone else, especially to a newish member.

Treasurer—Elsa Struble

Membership—Amy Vandegrift

Voter Service Co-chair—Kathleen West

Website—Alice LaViolette

Off-Board: Publicity—Cindy Burgess



Diana B.



Elsa S.



Deanie A.



Amy V.



Kathleen W.



Alice L.



Cindy B.

Welcome New Member!

Megan Jensen

Observer Reports

Salem City Council Meeting (05/10/21)

Alice LaViolette, Observer



Alice L.

Main Points/Issues Discussed:

Accepted 3 reports from the Planning Division regarding requests to divide various undeveloped land parcels.

Planning Division presented an update on Multifamily Housing Development. The plan advances recommendations in the Housing Needs Analysis to address a projected 207-acre deficit of multifamily land (2,897 dwelling units) in Salem's portion of the urban growth boundary (UGB). The staff report outlines what has been accomplished, what is planned, and the progress toward eliminating the projected deficit. The following information was included in the report.

City Manager Steve Powers presented a report on the plan to end the sanctioned sheltering at Cascades Gateway and Wallace Marine Parks beginning June 1. There will be a City Council Work session on May 17 when staff will present a report on sheltering plans.

Mayor Bennett appointed 11 members to the Library Strategic Plan Steering Committee.

Decisions Made/Actions Taken:

Approved Consent Calendar consisting of 5 items relating to: Dedication of Public-Right-of-Way along 27th Avenue SE Between Kuebler Boulevard SE and Boone Road SE; Dedication of Public Right-of-Way on Kitsap Street NW; Dedicaton of Public Right-of-Way on Mildred Lane SE; Adopt the Woodmansee Park 2021 Master Plan Update; Approve the City and Urban Renewal Agency's financial auditing services 5-year contract to Grove, Mueller & Swank, P.C. a Salem-Based firm in the amount of \$91,550.00

By Special Order of Business, Councilor Nordyke made a Motion to direct the Salem Parks and Recreation Advisory Board to develop policy recommendations for usage and permitting of events at City parks. Approved by unanimous vote.

Pulled from the Consent Calendar by Councilor Anderson for vote: Increase General Fund expenditure appropriation authority in the amount of \$1,400,000 due to unanticipated City expenses caused by the ice storm. Motion was approved.

Approved the City and Urban Renewal Agency's financial auditing services 5-year contract to Grove, Mueller & Swank, P.C. a Salem-Based firm in the amount of \$91,550.00

Salem City Council Meeting (5/17/21)

Alice LaViolette, Observer

Work Session on Homelessness and Sheltering

This was a discussion on programs to reduce homelessness and increase sheltering. The discussion began with an overview and introduction by Councilor Hoy. Janet Carlson and Jan Calvin, from the Mid-Willamette Valley Homeless Alliance, gave an update and presentation on their work. MWVHA does not provide direct client care. Its purpose is to coordinate the "Continuum of Care Program" with other agencies, funded through HUD. Federal money is allocated based on performance /outcomes of the agencies rather than by need. One of the councilors asked for the HUD definition of "chronically homeless". Carlson stated it was a long definition but included the duration of homeless status, the cumulative times the client had been homeless and disability status.

Counselor Nordyke suggested that MWVHA explore the coordination of the Alliance member organizations to pool some of their funds to purchase a building for a shelter or something similar. There was extensive discussion on Resolution 2021-21, which will be voted on at the May 24, 2021 Salem City Council meeting. The resolution would ban camping in city parks but would not prohibit camping on sidewalks if it is out of the public right-of-way.

Gretchen Bennett, Liaison for Unsheltered Residents and Houselessness, City Manager's Office stated the city has 9.16 million dollars to use for homeless programs through December 2024. She mentioned several option packages the city is considering, such as purchasing private land for shelters or using city owned property, if the necessary improvements and zoning changes can be made.

Bryce Bishop, Planner, Community Development made a presentation on the need to amend zoning codes to allow for various types of shelters. He stated that the 4 types of temporary shelters are mini-villages/pallet huts; urban camping (tents); vehicle camping and warming shelters.

Salem City Council (05/24/21)

Alice LaViolette, Observer

Main Points/Issues Discussed:

Public Hearing and presentation on 2021 Annual Action Plan for Community Development Block Grant and HOME Funding and proposed amendments to 2019 and 2020 Annual Action Plans which would reallocate funds from canceled projects and unallocated funds from the prior year.

Public Hearing for exemption from competitive bidding process and authorization of an alternative contracting method for the Geren Island Water Treatment Plant Filter No. 2 Reconstruction Project. Council voted to adopt resolution No. 2021-20 in support of an exemption from the competitive bidding process.

Special Order of Business:

Council approved the adoption Resolution No. 2021-21 to extend the declaration of emergency related to COVID-19 until December 13, 2021 and rescind the allowance for camping in Cascades Gateway and Wallace Marine parks. Discussion centered on the method for removing current campers which will be through a controlled, planned process which may take several months to be accomplished.

Decisions/Actions Taken:

Approved Consent Agenda: Dedication of City Property as Public Right-of-Way on Lansing Avenue NE and Silvertown Road NE; Dedication of the Westerly 30 feet of Fairview Park as Public Right-of-Way for Lindburg Road SE; Dedication of City Property as Public Right-of-Way on Village Center Drive SE; Petition-initiated vacation of a portion of an alley and a portion of unopened right-of-way for 12th Street NE adjacent to the railroad northeast of D Street NE; Petition-initiated vacation of a portion of an easement over previously vacated George Street NW; Approved Intergovernmental Agreement Between the City of Salem and Oregon Military Department for Airport Compass Rose Recalibration Expenses

Council failed to adopt 2021 Geer Park Master Plan. Councilor Hoy made a motion that the plan be returned to staff for further consideration regarding parking spaces and size of dog park.

Council approved Real Estate Agreement with United Way of the Mid-Willamette Valley, Inc. for the sale of City surplus real property at 4396, 4408, 4432, 4446, and 4480 Market Street NE at a cost of \$20.00 per lot. Property will be developed for 40 – 50 low-income senior housing/tiny homes.

Salem City Council (5/24/21) continued

Council approved purchasing from a city-employee-owned business, Salem Mobile Mix, to provide backfill materials, ditch cleaning, and street excavation hauling services.

Council approved Sidewalk Cafe/On-Street Platform Program to add outdoor eating spaces in the downtown area. The new rules for on-street eating would go into effect in Sept. 2021.

City of Salem Zoning Subcommittee (04/20/21 and 05/27/21)

Amy Vandegrift, Observer

Main Points/ Issues Discussed:

The Committee is reviewing zoning proposals for the City as part of the updated Comprehensive Plan and the Climate Action Plan. The proposal from the City planners is to work along Salem's major transportation corridors. Six suggestions were presented to the Committee members that include increase maximum height of building, eliminate parking requirements, increase minimum density in mixed use zoning, establish minimum density in residential zones near the core and establish Neighborhood Hubs. Through planning and zoning the idea is that it will reduce greenhouse gas emissions.



Amy V.

Decisions or Actions Taken:

The City planning staff presented addition information on the first 3 proposals. The next meeting June 9th will be on the last three proposals and allow time for discussion. The committee is still learning and reviewing options.

Salem Area Mass Transit District (Cherriots) Board (05/27/21)

Janet Adkins, Observer

Main Points/Issues Discussed

1. Introduction of two new Board members appointed by the Governor (terms begin July 1), Sara Duncan and Ramiro Navarro Jr.

2. Covid related operations update and return to work plans: Full service levels and hours returned on May 2 including later evening hours; District will maintain mask requirement, reduced capacity seating, rear door boarding, cleaning protocols, and social distancing; Near future: installation of air purification system on all buses; return of employees to office from teleworking; return to fare collection on July 6 (fares all waived during pandemic).

3. Third quarter ridership and financial reports beginning to show recovery from drastic ridership and revenue drops due to the pandemic. Portion of revenue losses offset by federal and state funds.

4. Continued work on transportation options (in addition to transit) and community outreach.



Janet A.

Decisions or Actions Taken:

1. Authorize contract with MTM Inc for ADA Paratransit eligibility determination services not to exceed \$392,306.

Salem Area Mass Transit District (Cherriots) Board (05/27/21) continued

2. Authorize intergovernmental agreement with City of Salem for police services at the Downtown Transit Center not to exceed \$144,144.
3. Approve consulting contract with Keen Independent Research of \$99,875 for Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion program.
4. Adopt resolution establishing stipend for eligible board members.
5. Approve General Manager's annual work plan.
6. Accept third quarter performance and financial reports from staff.
7. Approve letters of support for city improvements on McGilchrist Avenue and for Salem for Refugees programs (coordinate with District for transit training).

LWVOR Convention Reports

LWVMPC delegates to the state League convention in May were Deanie Anderson and Diana Bodtker with Jaime Carleton as an observer.

Diana Bodtker: The business meeting took place over two days via Zoom. All the Oregon Leagues were represented except Linn County. President Becky Gladstone talked about the past year and thanked the many volunteers that had contributed to the work of the League. She said because of the success of remote meetings this past year there will be hybrid meetings in the future. This will make it easier for those who must travel long distances, often in bad weather, to attend necessary meetings.



Diana Bodtker

Treasurer Ruth Kistler gave the treasurer's report saying that although it was such an uncertain year LWVOR is in good financial shape. There was increased revenue and expenses were down due to a number of factors related to Covid-19 restrictions. Herman Yensen presented the budget, which is similar to last year's and includes funds to cover proposed studies.

Program: Sheila McGinnis gave the proposed program report. It included updating the childcare study, restudying election methods, doing a workshop on nuclear energy and the use of small modular reactors, and reviewing the language in our redistricting position.

The childcare informational update was adopted. Also adopted was an update to the election methods study to reflect new voting systems; this may result in a new position statement. The nuclear energy proposal was not considered necessary and was not adopted. The member agreement committee will be asked to review it for clarity. The LWV of Washington forestry position was adopted after making three changes that align better with Oregon forests and their uses.

Norman Turrill proposed a change to LWVOR Bylaws Article II, Section 1, that reads "because LWVOR has opted for 501(h) of the IRS Code, it cannot use more than 25% of its budget to attempt to influence legislation." The change was accepted by a unanimous vote.

The following resolutions were approved:

- Review all LWVOR positions.

(Continued on next page)

- All local Leagues should update their bylaws to be consistent with LWVUS diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI) lens.
- Back SJR 12, an amendment to the Oregon Constitution to ensure access to health care.
- Appoint a committee to investigate removal of investments in fossil fuels by LWVOR.

The slate of officers was accepted. Becky Gladstone will serve a second term as president.

- Guidance to the board:
- Improve volunteerism
 - Continue to provide hard copies of studies for members



Jaime Carleton

Jaime Carleton: I attended the convention as an observer. I attended Forestry (with Deanie Anderson) and Childcare workshops, both of which I enjoyed.

LWVOR has a new position on Forestry. The LWVOR Convention voted to concur with the LWV of Washington positions on forestry. Because many of the bills that our legislature will be reviewing during this session and in sessions to come concern forest management, timber taxes and wildfire policies, especially as they relate to our climate emergency, delegates to the Convention deemed it imperative that our League have policies in place so we can fully support what we believe to be best practices concerning these issues.

The League of Women Voters of Washington did two studies of forests that they completed in 1998 and 2000. After making three changes to the LWVWA position statements to better reflect Oregon's forests, the Forestry position statements were adopted. [The new Forestry position will be put on the LWVOR website.] The League of Women Voters, at the national, state and local levels, has strong positions advocating policies to sustain our resources and safeguard the environment.

The LWVOR Convention also voted to update the Childcare study. This is great news as our last childcare study was in 1985 and many things have changed since then. Information from the Childcare workshop will be included in a later *Focus*.

I appreciate the opportunity to have been an observer for LWVMPC.

I am also very happy to be part of our LWVOR Action Committee. I love writing and giving testimony. Our local League is awesome and so is our state leadership team. Together we make a difference.

**If you haven't yet renewed
your dues for 2021 - 2022,
please do so now.**

Dues form is on Page 9.



League of Women Voters of Marion and Polk Counties Membership through September 30, 2022

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 2020-21 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 or 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.

June 2021

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