

## February 2022 Calendar of LWV Events

**Tue., Feb. 1—Oregon Legislature convenes for short session.**

See Page 2 for suggestions on making your views known.

See the LWVOR *Legislative Report* for topics which are followed by LWVOR volunteers and for their Action Alerts. *Legislative Reports* are emailed to LWV members.

Express your opinion to legislators as an individual, not as a League member.

**Wed., Feb. 2, 1:30 p.m.—Book Club—*Every Day is a Gift* by Tammy Duckworth**

Virtual meeting. Link will be emailed.

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

**Wed., Feb. 2, 4:30 p.m.—Voter Service planning meeting**

Virtual meeting. Link will be emailed.

Contact Deanie Anderson to let her know you are interested in helping with Voter Service events, such as ballot-measure research or editing, ballot-measure pro-con presentations, arranging or assisting at candidate forums in person or on community cable TV.

**Mon., Feb. 7—Please fill out your Program Planning survey and return it by this date.**

**Sat., Feb. 12, 1 p.m.—Great Decisions: *Putin's Russia—Russia & the U.S.***

Virtual meeting. Link will be emailed.

Discussion leader: Sally Hollemon

**Mon., Feb. 14, 3 p.m.—Board meeting—via Zoom**

All members are invited to attend board meetings.

Minutes are on the LWVMPC webpage under Board Minutes.

**Wed., Feb. 16, 7 p.m.—*The Arizona Recount & Reporting on Government*  
Julia Shumway, Journalist at the Oregon Capital Chronicle**

The Zoom link will be emailed.

Biographical information is on Page 3.

Julia Shumway



## How to Contact Your Legislators

One of the most important tools in your advocacy kit is knowing how to talk to a policymaker. You don't have to be an expert—what makes you powerful is your connection to the issue. Telling a legislator or staffer a personal story is more memorable than reciting copied text.

Often, calling the legislator's office is the simplest way to contact your legislator. For local officials, find contact information on city or county websites. For Congressional representatives, call the Congressional switchboard (202-224-3121) and share your zip code to be connected.

You will most likely reach a staffer who keeps track of constituents' positions and who will summarize your call to give to your legislator. You may also get a voicemail box where you should leave a message that a staffer will listen to later. If you're calling about a bill, be sure to mention its number along with your opinion.

Emails are another tool to tell your story and are preferred over letters since both the Oregon Legislature and Congress are trying to reduce the use of paper.

Find your Oregon legislator on the Oregon Legislature's webpage: <https://www.oregonlegislature.gov>. Click on "Bills and Laws" and then on "2022 Regular Session" to see the list of bills filed for this session. Since it's a short session, each legislator was allowed to file only two bills.

Members of Congress each have a webpage from which you can send an email.

Once the pandemic is over, make an appointment to meet your legislator or member of Congress at their local office, where they tend to be more accessible, or attend a scheduled town meeting.

And when you contact your legislator or member of Congress, please speak as an individual, not as a member of the League. This is to ensure consistency in expressing the League's position on a specific issue.



### **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.

# The Arizona Recount & Reporting on Government

**Julia Shumway**, as a reporter at the *Arizona Capitol Times* last year, reported on the tangled efforts to audit the presidential results in Arizona. She is now a politics reporter at the *Oregon Capital Chronicle*\* and will tell us about her experience reporting on the Arizona audit as well as on reporting on the Oregon Legislature.



Julia Shumway

Julia earned her Bachelor's Degree in Journalism from the Walter Cronkite School of Journalism and Mass Communication at Arizona State University. After graduation she reported on government and politics in Iowa and then for the Associated Press in Nebraska. She worked for *The Bulletin* in Bend for almost two years before moving to the *Arizona Capitol Times*. While there she helped lead the 120-year-old daily newspaper as it transitioned to becoming a bold, risk-taking, digital-first publication, spending innumerable hours in the newsroom working on developing the website and social media strategies. In her spare time Julia identifies as a bookworm, a lover of national parks, and a cat mom.

\* The *Oregon Capital Chronicle*, founded in 2021, is a professional, nonprofit news organization. Its focus is on deep and useful reporting on Oregon state government, politics and policy. Staffed by experienced journalists, the *Capital Chronicle* helps readers understand how those in government are using – or abusing – their power, what's happening to taxpayer dollars, and how citizens can stake a bigger role in big decisions.

## Member OPPORTUNITIES to participate in LWV

- **ALL members:** Please respond to the member preference/program survey by Mon., Feb. 7.
- On February 2 at 4:30 p.m. on Zoom we'll hold a **Voter Service** Education informational gathering to begin planning for a BIG 2022 election year. Sally will forward the Zoom invitation from Kathleen West. If you are interested in helping with Voter Service but can't attend the February 2 meeting, please let Deanie Anderson know so you can receive information about the options for helping.  
Voter Service projects include ballot-measure research or editing, ballot-measure pro-con presentations, arranging or assisting at candidate forums in person or on community cable TV.
- Interviewers are needed for the Restudy of **Childcare**. The LWVOR committee has prepared a questionnaire which was sent with the January *Focus* and can be resent. If you are willing to do one or more interviews of childcare facilities, please contact Diana Upton.
- **Observer Corps:** Listen to virtual meetings of a government agency of your choice at your convenience and fill out the report form on our webpage. Contact Amy Vandegrift.
- We need someone to attend a monthly **phone conference** call from LWVOR on **MLD** (Membership, Leadership, Development), take notes on the suggestions shared by other local Leagues, and pass the ideas on to the LWVMPC Board.

# Membership News

Amy Vandegrift, Membership Chair

**Welcome to our new member Marta White.** Marta joined LWV because she admires our stand on fair and equitable voting rights for all citizens. She hopes to help with Voter Service. For the past sixteen years she was a middle school math teacher in the Salem/Keizer school district and retired this past year. She is married with grown children. She has lived in many places as her husband's job in the military kept the family on the move. She looks forward to meeting members in person (one of these days) but in the meantime is meeting with us on Zoom.

## Membership thoughts for this month: Keeping informed and active

In September 2021, I wrote about the many ways of being a League member. You can jump right in and serve on our Board; for example, we need a Secretary to take over from Deanie. You can pique your curiosity, use your research skills, work with others on a local study or help with Voter Service. On your own time you can be an LWV Observer of one of our local governmental councils and provide information on what is going on in our community. (As a League Observer I've enjoyed watching the Marion County Commission deal with COVID19, wildfire recovery and constant road work.) Or just keep yourself informed by reading the *Focus*, our League's monthly newsletter.

This month I want to share additional ways to be a member, keep yourself informed and perhaps extend your involvement.

We get amazing information from our state LWVOR Board and our national LWVUS; these informative emails are sent to all members with email. They contain a wealth of information in an easy-to-access form.

➡ The *Voter* newsletter from the Oregon LWV is a quarterly email that updates members on LWVOR studies, Voter Service and VOTE411 (which includes candidate and ballot-measure information before elections), what other local Leagues are doing, updates on Program studies and ways you can be involved at the state level.

➡ The *Legislative Report* from LWVOR is emailed to all members weekly during legislative sessions. It includes information about bills that the LWVOR Action Committee members are following (issues on which the League has a position and can do advocacy). If you have a passion for an issue that LWV supports, volunteers are needed to help follow legislative committee meetings and hearings, which are currently virtual due to the pandemic. To volunteer contact Alice Bartelt at [alicebartelt@comcast.net](mailto:alicebartelt@comcast.net).

➡ The *Legislative Report* also includes Action Alerts in which members are asked to contact their state legislators on an issue that LWVOR supports or opposes.

➡ The *President's Letter* from LWVOR President Becky Gladstone is a monthly email about the work of the LWVOR.

➡ The LWVOR website <https://www.lwvor.org/> provides information about the state LWV, including programs, the calendar, current and back issues of the *Voter* and the *President's Letter*, and past studies as well as state position statements. I recommend checking it out.

➡ From the national LWV comes the *League Update*, a bi-weekly email that fills you in on our national efforts on such things as voting rights, health care and other issues that the League is working on at a national level.

**The League has always believed that to be a good citizen you need to keep informed, be active and involved in your government. Democracy is participatory.**

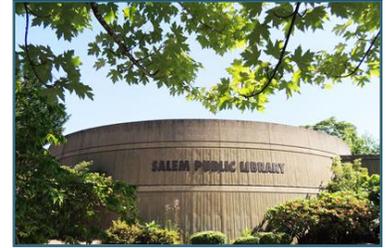
# Observer Reports

## Salem Public Library Board—1/12/2022

Barbara Sellers-Young

### Main Points/Issues Discussed

Recruitment for a new City Librarian. The development of a five-year strategic plan will begin in March. The board strongly recommends the establishment of branch libraries in the northeast and south/southeast of Salem.



### Decisions Made/Actions Taken

The strategic plan will consider equitable access to the Library building, services beyond the building to reach more of Salem, the purpose of the collection and collection development policy, and the context of community need and organizational capacity at the Library and within the City organization.

## Salem City Council—1/10/2022

Alice LaViolette

### Main Points/Issues Discussed

- Public hearing on Planning Commission approval of subdivision at 4540 Pringle Road. Presentation and discussion of trees slated for removal. Council requested city staff do additional investigation and report on significant trees discussed.



Old Salem City Hall

- Staff report on micro-shelter Village of Hope, 2640 Portland Road NE: State environmental restrictions prevent its use after May 15, 2022. A new location needed and a 2nd location is recommended. Cost to replace Village of Hope and add new site is \$888,000 to \$1,656,000, per site, for 12 months of operation.

### Decisions Made/Actions Taken

- Elected Chris Hoy City Council President
- Postponed making 2 appointments to Salem Planning Commission
- Approved a motion adding "housing status" as a protected class under SRC 97.085; change was recommended by the City Human Rights Commission.
- Approved agreements with Marion County for improvements to Center Street NE and Hayesville Drive NE
- Approved project to design and build a connecting trail between Skyline Trail and Joplin Court S
- Approved annexation of land at 3476/3480 Blossom Drive NE
- Approved appointment of Kristin Retherford as Interim City Manager effective 3/01/2022
- Requested a city staff report on the mobile crisis unit pilot program

(More on next page)

## Salem City Council – 1/18/22 Work Session City's Response to Unsheltered Emergency Activities

Alice LaViolette



### Main Points/ Issues Discussed

City staff presentation on FY 2022- 2027 spending on current programs and future programs for Navigation Center, Four Micro-shelter sites, Safe Park scattered sites and Homeless Rental Assistance Programs. Source of funds: State Grants, ARPA Funds (federal) and approximately \$5 million in unfunded programs that might be funded by county or state grants or non-profit partnerships.

Future unfunded program suggestions—Response Services (dedicated team of staff who would respond to problems M-F); Non-profit work program (unsheltered person works with someone from a non-profit in cleaning areas, etc.); Women Shelter Expansion; Cascade Gateway Park Shelter Bathroom rehabilitation/repair.

Councilors asked for goals and outcomes about people served, rather than by site locations, i.e., who are the target audiences and who are our partners in providing services to them?

2021 Point-in-Time Count showed 919 unsheltered within Salem. Current year-round bed count is 456. Additional capacity available occasionally in warming-shelters. Future additional beds will be available through Arches and the Navigation Center.

There is a 2-year waiting list for permanent supportive housing and the list is currently closed to new applicants. City staff receive calls daily from residents with problems that staff are unable to solve. Currently there are no available spaces to tow abandoned RV's/trailers and those that are parked illegally. Lots are full. It costs the city \$200,000 annually to contract with local towing services.

City Staff suggestion for “Preventing – Responding – Ending” homeless crisis:

- Create community sanitation response team and nonprofit work program/workforce development
- Maintain current beds and street outreach
- Increase number of beds open to all genders

Councilor Stapleton stated that, while pallet housing and emergency housing is good, if there are not more stable housing options available “down the road”, the process just becomes an endless cycle. She suggested that the Salem Housing Authority may need additional staff to handle increased requests.

Staff presented location options for one additional managed micro-shelter location that would replace the Village of Hope location (Portland RD/old DMV) when it is permanently closed on May 15, 2022. Council asked staff for their recommendation on future location. Staff said the NW Corner of Hood/ Front St. location and 1280 Center St. NE are, operationally, the preferred choices. The site at 2410 SE Turner Rd is 3rd choice. Councilor Hoy asked for staff to present a formal, written proposal to City Council at their next meeting. Staff reported there are 300+ people on the waiting list for micro-shelters.

**BECOME an Observer:** Contact Amy Vandegrift or Alice LaViolette and specify what governmental board you want to observe.

**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 \_\_\_\_\_

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)

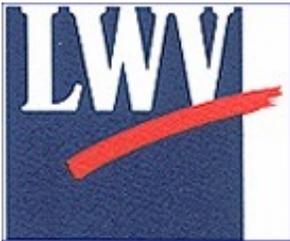
**\$ \_\_\_\_\_ TOTAL to LWVMPC** (not tax deductible)

\$ \_\_\_\_\_ 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](mailto:vandebloom@gmail.com)  
or Elsa Struble at 503-364-3929, [gstruble@willamette.edu](mailto:gstruble@willamette.edu)

Join online **[HERE](#)**.

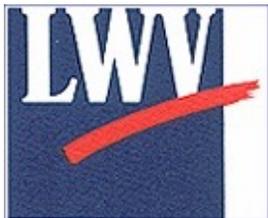


**LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS®  
of Marion and Polk Counties**

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.

**February 2022**

Arizona Recount.....	3
Calendar.....	1
How to Contact Your Legislators.....	2
Member Opportunities.....	3
Membership News.....	4
Dues form.....	7
Observer Reports.....	5