

January 2022 Calendar of LWV Events

Wed., Jan., 1:30 p.m.—Book Club—*A Tale for the Time Being* by Ruth Ozeki

This is the Salem Reads book for 2022.

Virtual meeting. Link will be emailed.

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

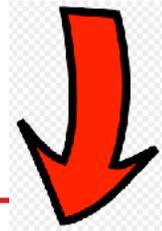
Mon., Jan. 10, 3 p.m.—Board meeting—via Zoom

All members are invited to attend board meetings. Contact Kathleen West at westh3@gmail.com for the link to the Zoom meeting.

Sat., Jan. 15, 1 p.m.—Great Decisions: *Climate Change*

Virtual meeting. Link will be emailed.

Discussion leader: Kathleen West



Wed., Jan. 19, 7 - 9 p.m.—Program Planning for 2022-23

Virtual meeting. The link will be emailed. Directions for Zoom accompany this *Focus*.

All LWVMPC members are encouraged to attend to share ideas.

Last year we did some editing of our position statements, so they should be okay to retain as is. See the statements at our website under Advocacy.

However, many of our position statements are a number of years old. Do we need an informational update on any of them to bring our knowledge up to date, especially to prepare ourselves to do local advocacy on an issue?

Is there a local issue that we need to study in preparation for developing a position statement on which to take action? What are you passionate about?

See Pages 2 and 3 for more information about preparing for Program Planning.

LWVMPC needs your input! If you don't have internet access, see Page 3.



Wed., Jan. 26, 4 p.m.—Voter Service planning meeting—via Zoom

Join us to help plan our 2022 Voter Service efforts. Details on Page 4.

Making Democracy Work™

Program Planning for 2022-23

Each January we hold an all-member planning meeting to gather suggestions for possible studies, updates, and advocacy for our local League for the next year (June 2022 - May 2023). In alternate years we do the same for the Oregon LWV and the national organization. This year it's the latter.

LWVUS: Continue our work in support of democracy. Our priority is passage of the John Lewis Voting Right Act. At this point, no input from local Leagues has been requested.

The national LWV website <www.lwv.org> has information on projects related to support of democracy: voting rights, expanding voter access, fighting voter suppression, money in politics, redistricting. Check it out.

LWVMP: To prepare for Program Planning, review our current position statements. They are synopsized in the current membership directory. The full positions are on our website under Advocacy.

Last year a small committee reviewed all our local position statements, and the members at Annual Meeting approved the changes, so this year we should be able to RETAIN all our current positions.

However, even though a position is still useful, there may be a new aspect to it that isn't addressed. You could propose a RESTUDY that concentrates on that aspect.

Another possibility is that the position statement is adequate but we need some current information about the situation in our community. In that case you could suggest an UPDATE.

Finally, is there an issue important to the community that is not covered by any position? (Take a look at the position statements of the Oregon LWV <<https://www.lwvor.org/lwvor-position-index>> and national LWV <<https://www.lwv.org/impact-issues>> as we can use them for local advocacy.)

If you're passionate about such an issue, consider suggesting a NEW STUDY.

To next page →

Definition of Terms

RETAIN: Keep position as is; no change.

DROP: Remove the position completely from our list. We may not use it for advocacy without a new study.

RESTUDY: Undertake a review of the position in order to potentially change it.

UPDATE: Study the position topic for informational purposes only, with no intention to update the position, only to update the knowledge base for the members.

NEW STUDY: Study a topic on which we have no local, state, or national position.

Salem City Club:
*Powering the Northwest: Balancing Our
Energy Needs with Resources
Now and in the Future*
Friday, January 7, at noon via Zoom webinar.
Speakers and registration at
<https://salemcityclub.com/page-953771>



Consider the following when proposing a new study:

1. What issues of importance are most critical in Marion and Polk Counties?
2. How could the issue give the League visibility and credibility?
3. Would the issue stir the imagination of our members and attract potential members, including individuals representing different viewpoints, ages, racial or ethnic identities or others who are underrepresented in the League?

Please keep in mind when suggesting an update, a restudy or a new study that a committee will be needed to do the research (reading, interviews of knowledgeable people), write up the report, and for a restudy or new study to prepare consensus questions to guide discussion of the topic.

Think about: Are you willing to lead the committee or at least to serve on it? Try to recruit other members interested in the same topic?

Write down your update, restudy or new-study suggestion being specific as to what you want the research committee to explore with an estimate of how long it will take (usually one year).

Other suggestions:

Are there speakers you would like to hear? on what topics?

Is there a group (or groups) we could team up with to work on a common cause?

Should we do advocacy on an issue on which we have a local, state or national position?

What do you want to happen in LWVMPC during the year of 2022 - 2023?

LWVMPC needs your input!

Plan to participate in the January 19th Zoom meeting. Directions on how to use Zoom accompany this *Focus*.

If you don't have internet access, you can write your suggestions and mail to Diana Bodtker



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.

Voter Service Volunteer Opportunity

We will begin planning our Voter Service projects for 2022 on Wednesday, January 26, at 4:00 p.m. via Zoom. **We'd like you to join the committee** to explore what is possible for LWVMPC members to do during this election season. Contact Kathleen West at kmcgwest@gmail.com for the link. And for more information about Voter Service or to volunteer without attending the January 26th Zoom meeting, contact Deanie Anderson at deanieha51@gmail.com or 503-363-7118.



NOTE: The League works to encourage citizens to become informed and vote, and Oregon's voting laws are designed to make voting as easy as possible while maintaining ballot security. Many other states are now moving in the opposite direction. The January-February issue of *The Atlantic* magazine has an informative article on voter-suppression laws titled "The Small Lie."

Child Care Restudy Volunteer Opportunity

As part of the Child Care Restudy for the League of Women Voters of Oregon, we are asking local Leagues to find out a little about child care in their area.

We would like volunteers from your League to interview principals from a few child care providers in your area.

If possible, interview at one school-age before- and/or after-care program and one program that accepts infants or toddlers or is a preschool program. We would welcome information from as many providers as you are willing to interview.

You may find programs in your area using the Find Child Care Oregon website at <https://stage.worklivesystems.com/parent/34>, which has an option to sign in as a guest. You can search for licensed and licensed-exempt centers and homes. Another way to find programs to interview is to contact local grade schools to see if they have before- and after-school care programs, ask any working parents that you know who they use, and check local message boards.

We would like to have the questionnaires returned to us by March 15, 2022.

The questions for the interviews are in the form of a checklist, which accompanies this *Focus*.

If you are willing to help with this project, please contact Amy Vandegrift. She can pair you up with another member if you wish and also can prevent duplication of sites.



News of our newest members:

Amy Vandegrift



Gail Dorr returned to Salem to live after years of moving around the county for her husband's job. She is new to the League although her mother, Thelma DeSart Wyers, helped found our local League and was the second president. Gail wants to keep abreast of issues of national importance, and having watched her mother, knew that League was a place to learn and understand current issues facing our county.

Laura Buhl is a returning member with a strong interest in land use and climate issues. She is pleased to support LWV and the LWVOR Action Committee's tracking of legislation around these concerns. She also likes the women focus of the organization even though our membership is also open to men. Most of her time is taken up with her work, but she continues to read the *Focus* and keep up with what LWVMPC is doing. She has been a member for about four years.



We all look forward to the time when we can meet in person. For now, I hope we can all meet on Zoom.



Election Info on LWVMPC Webpage

Alice LaViolette added the candidate filing dates to our League calendar. She also added a link to the 2022 Election Timeline that Janet Adkins put together for us. It is linked to our page under the menu tab "Voting/Elections." Here is a direct link to that page:

<https://leaguewomenvotersmarionpolk.org/elections/>

Highlights of comments by Rep. Moore-Green and Sen. Patterson

Two new local Oregon legislators spoke at our LWVMPCC meeting on December 18th.

Rep. Raquel Moore-Green began her discussion with the special legislative sessions of 2020, then continued with her priorities: Constituent Services (help with agencies, etc.), vaccine rollout, canyon fire victim help, and education.



Rep. Moore-Green worked on tele-health issues and served on the Joint Coronavirus Response Committee in the spring of 2020. She is vice chair of a House Behavioral Health Committee, and they hope to have some impact on the homeless population.

She has worked on several workforce bills and is interested in BIPOC issues. She related that her mother was from Puerto Rico and her first language was Spanish. She was also fluent in English but always returned to her native language when counting. Knowing this has made Moore-Green aware of the importance of providing services in culturally and linguistically appropriate ways. She keeps this in mind in policy making.

Another priority is broadband for rural areas. Rep. Moore-Green was impressed during last year's school closures during the pandemic with school district and private sector innovation and responsiveness including setting up WiFi hotspots at schools so kids could access remote learning. Kids being in school is very important to her.

Sen. Deb Patterson began her discussion with the December 13 special legislative session to extend Safe Harbor protection for renters to prevent eviction. She pointed out that many people are now back to work, but they can't pay six months of back rent. The legislature extended the time for federal money to be distributed to landlords to pay that back rent.



Sen. Patterson mentioned other issues dealt with during the recent special session. Money was provided to help local law enforcement to better deal with illegal cannabis growers, and funding was provided to help farmers across Oregon recover from the drought and prepare for future water issues. During the long legislative session early in 2021, funding was voted to staff two unused sections of the Oregon State Hospital at Junction City as part of investments of \$470 million in mental health, in addition to \$765 million for housing programs and \$9.1 billion for K-12 education. She was able to designate \$4 million in ARPA funds directly, including \$1 million to Monmouth-Independence Transit, \$300K for WOU bilingual teacher education, \$750K to Arches Inn to house homeless families and individuals, \$500K to Liberty House to provide support for children who are victims of sexual and physical assault, \$500K to the Center for Hope and Safety to house women and children leaving domestic violence, \$300K for the Willamette Career Academy for career technical education, and \$200K to the Boys and Girls Club for their new clubhouse on Lancaster, among other allocations.

She is especially interested in health care, and one of the bills she helped pass sets up a drug advisory board of health professionals to look at what might be done in Oregon to make pharmaceuticals more affordable. She spoke of attending a recent national meeting of the National Conference of State Legislatures; she was impressed with that organization as a resource and an opportunity to learn from colleagues across the country.

Observer Corps Reports December 2021

Salem City Council

12/06/21

Alice LaViolette



Main Points/Issues Discussed

City Manager Steve Powers announced his resignation/retirement date of Feb 28, 2022.

Public hearing was held on proposed City Ordinance 1321 which updates the Unified Development Code. Ten people spoke.

Decisions Made/Actions Taken

- Approved a resolution to initiate process to adopt amendments to the Salem Area Comprehensive Plan, Housing Needs Analysis, Changes to the Zoning Map, Transportation Plan, and Salem Revised Code. Public Hearings on these changes will take place in 2020
- Approved a Multiple Unit Housing Tax incentive application to exempt property taxes on 2-unit development at 227-229 Commercial St. NE
- Approved the donation of property adjacent to Fairview Park
- Approved a grant application for commercial air service development
- Approved a ground lease waiver for electric aircraft and automobile charging stations
- Approved purchase/sale agreement for property at 4730 Liberty Rd S.
- Adopted a resolution extending the declaration of emergency relating to COVID-19 until June 22, 2022
- Approved proposed amendments to Ordinance Bill No. 13-21 and advanced it to a second reading. Proposed amendments include allowing middle-housing¹ in residential zones; changes to zoning for child-care facilities; changes in limits to maximum occupancy within residential dwelling units; amends the Salem City Code covering managed temporary villages and emergency shelters; establishes new development and design standards for the downtown Central Business District; amends the Fairview Mixed-Use Zone; proposes changes to the tree preservation requirements of SRC Chapter 808 to provide for greater preservation and protection of trees; makes changes to standards for bicycle parking; proposes changes to the amount and types of poultry that may be kept in the city.
- Approved the first reading of the proposal to change City Council Ward boundaries, advancing the proposal to a second reading for enactment.

¹ Middle housing is a new zoning status, that came from a House Bill 2001 (2019). It only effects cities over 25,000 population. Here is the definition from the City of Salem website: HB 2001 requires large cities like Salem to allow a duplex on each lot that is zoned for residential use that allows development of a detached single-family dwelling. Salem must also allow other types of middle housing – triplexes, quadplexes, townhouses, and cottage clusters – in areas zoned for residential use that allow detached single-family dwellings. It means that someone could purchase a single family home and turn it into a duplex without the requirement of a public hearing or public notice. For more detail see https://www.oregon.gov/lcd/Commission/Documents/2020_12_Item-2-Attachment%20C_LMCMC_Commission%20Draft_final_120220.pdf.

Salem City Council

12/13/21

Alice LaViolette



Main Points/Issues Discussed

- Salem Public Art Commission annual report presentation
- Presentation and discussion on increasing solid waste rates in 2023 and adding 95-gallon container service. Public Hearing held. Testimony included request for “Pay-as-you-throw” option.
- Presentation and public hearing on updates to Unified Development Code
- Presentation of an assessment of Salem Police Department’s response to calls involving the threat of suicide. This assessment was the result of a court settlement from a case brought against the city in 2012. The assessment team looked at 660 responses from 2015 – 2019. Assessment found dispatch information occasionally lacked critical details; de-escalation and intervention techniques by communication personnel to be inconsistent; case report writing to occasionally be inconsistent. Findings from the report have been incorporated in trainings and best practices adopted by department personnel. As part of the settlement the report was made available to the public.

Decisions Made/Actions Taken

- Approved purchase 2.72 acres of wetland credits from the Mud Slough Wetland Mitigation Bank for the Salem Business Campus
- Approved intergovernmental agreement between City of Salem and the Salem Housing Authority to manage three homes on Marine Drive for affordable housing
- Approved update to the City of Salem Title VI Civil Rights Plan
- Approved appointments to 8 citizen committees
- Approved City of Salem’s priorities and policy statements for anticipated proposed legislation in the upcoming 2022 Oregon Legislative Session
- Approved annexation of 3.3 acres (14 lots) at Ash Grove Subdivision
- Approved amendment to Solid Waste Management Service Rates; voted to continue 2021 rates through 2022 and not begin 95-gallon container service
- Approved a motion to keep the record open on the proposed amendments to Salem Revised Code Title X (Unified Development Code) for further discussion and deliberation at Council’s January 10, 2022, meeting and make a decision at the January 27, 2022, meeting.
- Approved a grant agreement with Salem Housing Authority and Mid-Willamette Community Active Agency for staffing and programming for homeless population, funded by the State of Oregon ARPA funds.

Salem Area Mass Transit Board – Cherriots

12/16/21

Janet Adkins



Main Points/Issues Discussed

1. The technology and effectiveness of air purifiers being purchased for bus fleet
2. Strategic Plan consulting contractor choice
3. Anticipated federal funding for Oregon from Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act—\$200 million for transit and \$1 billion for highways (a portion of this is "flexible," i.e., can be spent on some non-highway projects)
4. Currently there is an "Online Open House" for the Cherriots Long Range Transit Plan. It will be available for viewing and survey participation until January 27 at <https://form.jotform.com/jlainvolve/cherriots-lrtp>.
5. Current openings for citizens on Citizen Advisory and Budget Committees
6. Increasing regular weekday service levels in January to 90% of pre-pandemic levels (had been at 80% this Fall)

Decisions made/Actions taken

1. Several appointments and reappointments to advisory committees were approved.
2. Authorized contract for purchase of Active Air Purifiers for fleet up to \$242,255; the cost is covered by federal 2021 Coronavirus Relief funds with no local match required.
3. Authorized contract for four replacement hybrid supervisor vehicles up to \$161,472 under Oregon pricing agreement. Cost is covered by Federal Transit Authority grant and 20% local match.
4. Authorized contract for strategic planning services with a transportation consulting firm for up to \$168,932.

HOW TO BECOME AN OBSERVER: In the absence of regular coverage of local governmental bodies by journalists, you can help keep all of us informed. Most councils, etc., hold their meetings online and/or record them for viewing.

Contact Amy Vandegrift or Alice LaViolette to let them know which council/commission/committee you want to observe and to answer any additional questions you might have. Our LWV board will send a letter on your behalf to the committee chair to let them know you are a regular LWV Observer.



BOARD HIGHLIGHTS of December 13, 2021

Deanie Anderson, Secretary

Present: Kathleen West, Elsa Struble, Alice LaViolette, Deanie Anderson, Amy Vandegrift, Diana Bodtker

- Treasurer Elsa Struble suggests an accounting team to address budget and financial issues. Kathleen Hersh of LWVOR will host a Zoom meeting in January for League treasurers to discuss problems and practices. Contact Elsa if available to participate.
- Several videos from an LWVOR workshop on Membership, Leadership and Diversity will be shown to League members in 2022.
- December LWVMPC meeting via Zoom—Celebrating the Season by Celebrating New Women Legislators. Board developed some questions to ask. Calls will be made to members to encourage them to participate.
- Website report—There are many useful items on the LWVOR website, such as Google calendar, former study reports and position statements, current action items, election information.
- Program Planning on January 19 via Zoom—A questionnaire and interest surveys will be developed by the board and sent out with the Zoom invitation link from LWVOR.
- New feature for *Focus* will be Member Opportunities—This month's *Focus* will include Outreach Circle, participation in LWVOR Childcare Restudy, Voter Service gathering on 1/26 at 4:00 p.m. via Zoom, Observer Corp participation, accounting team volunteer.
- Program Planning attendance will be encouraged and Board will reach out to membership through Focus article, e-blasts, emails.

Deanie's Plea for a Volunteer Secretary:

I've been serving as Secretary since September in addition to being Voter Service Co-Chair. But 2022 is an election year for Governor, the Legislature, and many local offices. Oregon was redistricted, so our Congressional districts have changed. Voter Service is the League's primary service to the community, and I want us to do a good job.

Therefore, I'm putting out this plea for someone to volunteer to serve as Secretary. The LWVMPC Board meets the second Monday of each month at 3 p.m. via Zoom. Being Secretary is a great job for a new League member because you hear about the activities the Board is planning and can give input into that planning. New ideas are needed and welcomed!

What does the Secretary do? Basically, she writes down the decisions made by the Board with enough explanation of each decision so it can be understood by someone who wasn't at the meeting. If the Secretary isn't sure what should go into the minutes or misses a key item, other board members are more than willing to help; just ask! (i.e.: What was that name again?) After the meeting the Secretary writes up the minutes for our file, emails them to the LWVOR office for the permanent record and to our webpage manager to post on the LWVMPC webpage.

If you are at all interested in becoming Secretary, please call me to ask any questions you may have.

Please volunteer!

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 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.

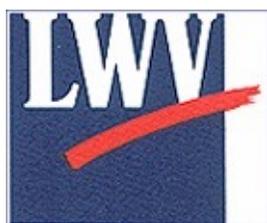


**LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS®
of Marion and Polk Counties**

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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