

April 2022 Calendar of LWV Events

Wed., April 6, 1:30 p.m.—Book Club

In Order to Live: A North Korean Girl's Journey to Freedom by Yeonmi Park

Virtual meeting. Link will be emailed.

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

Thur., April 7, 1:00 - 2:30 p.m.—New interest group: *Civic Education and Engagement*

Home of Anita Owen.

Details on Page 3.

Mon., April 11, 3 p.m.—Board meeting—via Zoom

All members are invited to attend board meetings.

Minutes are on the LWVMPC webpage under Board Minutes.

Sat., April 16, 1 p.m.—Great Decisions: *Outer Space Policy*

Virtual meeting. Link will be emailed.

Discussion leader: Patty Davenport

**Wed., April 20, 7 p.m.—Marge Easley, LWVOR Action Committee,
on *Gun Violence Prevention Efforts***

Virtual meeting. Link will be emailed.

Biographical information on Marge Easley is on Page 2.



Marge Easley

Save the date: Wed., May 25, from 4-6 p.m.: Annual Meeting

We are planning an in-person Happy Hour get-together

but will change to a virtual meeting if Covid is still spreading.

If you have skill in hosting a Zoom meeting at an in-person meeting,
please contact a Board member.

Marge Easley to Speak on Gun Violence Prevention Efforts

Marge Easley, LWVOR Gun Safety Portfolio Chair, will speak about efforts to prevent gun violence at our meeting on Wednesday, April 20, 7 p.m., on Zoom. The link will be emailed near that date.



Marge Easley has held many leadership positions with the League of Women Voters over the last thirty years, including state president from 2007 to 2011, Clackamas County co-president from 2014 to 2015, and currently Clackamas County Action Chair.

She is also a member of the LWVOR Action Committee, advocating on gun safety, rights of incarcerated people, and land use issues.

During election season she moderates League forums and interviews local and statewide candidates for Tualatin Valley Cable Television.

Marge was one of the co-authors of the updated edition of *More Power than We Knew: A History of the League of Women Voters of Oregon* and the co-host of the state League's 100th anniversary celebration at the Salem Convention Center.

In addition to her League work, Marge also loves to ski, hike, and help edit her husband Warren's mystery series. A retired teacher and a Pennsylvania native, Marge lives in the Stafford area outside Wilsonville.

NOTE: Marge's article on Gun Violence Initiative Petitions is on the next page.

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.

Gun Violence Initiatives

Marge Easley, LWVOR Gun Safety Portfolio Chair

There are two initiative petitions being circulated to reduce gun violence—IP 17 and 18. Although the League has a policy of not taking a stand on initiatives before they reach the ballot, the following information may be of interest to members.

Initiative Petition 17: Requires permit to acquire firearms; police maintain permit/firearm database; criminally prohibits certain ammunition magazines

Initiative Petition 18: Prohibits manufacturing/possessing/transferring many semiautomatic firearms; criminal penalties; exceptions require firearm registration, restrict use

Detailed summaries and complete texts of the initiatives can be found [here](#).

Also on that page is a link to a single-signature petition that can be downloaded and signed from home. If—as an individual and not on behalf of the League—you'd like to help in any way with the signature-gathering effort, you can sign up [here](#). If needed, online trainings are available. Contact me at marge.easley@frontier.com with any additional questions.

The national League holds a monthly online Gun Violence Prevention presentation and discussion, with speakers provided by the Center for American Progress, an independent nonpartisan policy institute. Members with an interest in this issue can add their names to the contact list by sending an email to marylewisgrow@gmail.com with a request to join the LWVUS GVP Group.

New Interest Group on Civic Education & Engagement

Anita Owen

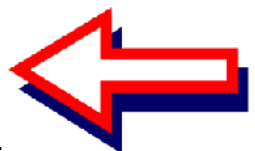
Our democracy is in great danger in the United States.

I propose that our LWVMPC start an interest group to discuss how we can help to empower and educate our citizens with a greater sense of responsibility for civic culture and with the tools to contribute toward improving our democracy so that it works optimally for all.

There are so many factors to discuss: civility and cooperation, truth and misinformation, how to empower citizens to realize their importance to the country's success. We could also discuss Civics Ed. in the schools. There are good resources to help us. Of course, we can't do everything, so let's get together and begin our discussion of what we can do.

I invite you to meet with me on **Thursday, April 7th, at 1 p.m. until 2:30.**

Please join me in figuring out what we can do to help to improve our democracy.

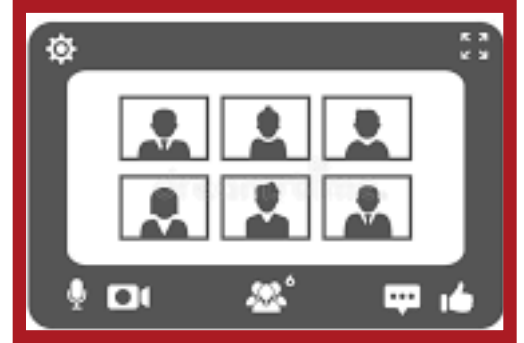


Voter Service Activities

Deanie Anderson, Voter Service Co-chair

Thanks to the volunteers who attended the candidate question brainstorming session and to Tomika Dew for being our scribe. Thanks also to members of LWVMPC, Salem City Club and AAUW for volunteering to be interviewers.

Questions from this gathering, from Neighborhood Associations and from AAUW will be used for the candidate interviews for the races for Salem mayor and city council and for Marion and Polk County commissioners. The interviews will be conducted virtually on March 29 - April 1 and produced by Capital Community Media (CCM). The CCM program “Your Vote Counts” will be shared with KМУZ radio and the League’s VOTE411. The CCM viewing schedule will be announced after April 18.



Primary Election Day is May 17. Remember to vote and encourage others to vote!

Become a Delegate or Observer

LWVOR Council—May 13-15 held virtually

Delegates vote on the budget and election of officers and attend workshops of interest. The workshops will begin on May 9. Details will be available soon at LWVOR.org.

LWVUS Convention—June 23-26 in Denver

Attend either in person or virtually. The Convention will be a fully hybrid experience with combined experiences for in-person attendees and virtual attendees as well as unique experiences for each audience.



Why attend? Delegates vote during plenary sessions on official League business such as budget, program and election of officers. In addition, there will be opportunities to network and engage with fellow League members from all areas of the country, participate in large and small group trainings and educational sessions, and hear from League leaders and outside speakers.

Attending a national convention gives one a broad view of what the League is doing and an opportunity to hear and meet outstanding League leaders.

Details of the workshops, etc., will be available soon at LWV.org and in the League Update.

To volunteer to be an observer contact a board member.

Observer Reports

Cherriots – Salem Area Mass Transit Board – 02/24/22

Janet Adkins

Main Points/Items Discussed

1. Preview of contact-less fare system using refillable debit-type transit cards and smart-phone app. Benefit of giving lower-income frequent riders discounted fares by its fare capping system.
2. Inductor charging system for electric buses at Keizer Transit Center – magnetic field in pavement instead of a traditional plug-in system.
3. Quarterly ridership numbers coming up from pandemic.
4. Large share of federal grant funding for the projects approved at the meeting.
5. Quarterly financial report revenues exceeding anticipated (budgeted) amounts.
6. Van Pool successes using 10 vans; example is Meduri Farms employees in rural Dallas.



Decisions Made/Actions Taken

Authorized expenditures:

1. Fast bus chargers for Del Web yard using Washington State Pricing Agreement; cost is up to \$1.09 M, about 80% federally funded.
2. Contactless Fare Payment System - 5 year contract - up to \$784 K - over 80% federally funded
3. Four smaller buses for regular route service - \$602 K - over 80% federally funded. Currently smaller buses used for regional service and Cherry-Lift (ADA specific) service.
4. Inductive bus for Keizer Transit Center - \$518 K - 85% federally funded

Approved: District participation in American Public Transit Association Racial Equity Commitment Pilot Program; the program is aimed at employees and customers

Accepted: Quarterly Reports on Ridership, Financial, and Transportation Options

Cherriots: Salem Area Mass Transit Board 03/24/2022

Janet Adkins

Main Points/Items Discussed

1. Proposed Climate Action Plan process and implementation steps taken to date including: transition to renewable CNG fuel, reuse of 80% of bus wash water, hydraulic oil leakage reduction at maintenance yard, LED lighting, green design of transit centers, electric bus purchases.
2. First step in Climate Action Plan is a greenhouse gas emission inventory across all district operations; funds will be in next (2023) budget.
3. Congressional passage of 2022 appropriations bill includes \$6.3 M earmark for Cherriots electric buses.

Cherriots—03/24/22 (Continued from previous page)

Decisions Made/Actions Taken

1. Authorized contract with AKS Engineering for topographic survey services for various projects over the next 4 years (and renewable year by year for up to 7 years).
2. Adopted local proposed Climate Action Plan (Federal Transit Administration challenge) with a few wording changes for clarification.

Marion County Board of Commissioners—02/23/2022

Amy Vandegrift

Main Points/Items Discussed

Katrina Rothenberger of County Health Dept. gave update of the county's COVID-19 actions. The number of cases and hospitalizations are on the decline. Regarding wearing of masks in schools: The Health department feels it does not have a role to tell families they need masks; it is the school districts' responsibility. COVID caseload is dropping. The County Health Dept. will continue to work with long-term healthcare facilities regarding COVID. Staff who have worked on the pandemic will return to their pre COVID duties that include monitoring STDs and HIV Aids in the county and providing resources for treatment and education.



Decisions Made/Actions Taken

Commissioners approved:

1. An OLCC application for The Farm on Gold Hill, Silverton
2. The refund of property taxes to three organizations
3. Revising County Administrative Policy to charge employees who use electric parking spaces an additional parking fee
4. A contact with Oregon Health Authority for Public Health Emergency Preparedness and Response to build capacity of the department
5. Use of HIV Early Intervention and Outreach Services fund from Oregon Health Authority to provide education and resources to people with HIV/Aids

Marion County Board of Commissioners—03/02/2022

Amy Vandegrift

Main Points/Items Discussed

Public Comment was made by people who live on Kenwood Street regarding the condition of their local road. Many small subdivision roads are considered private and are not maintained by the Marion County Road Department. The homeowners were asking for



support to fix their road.

(Continued on next page)

Marion County Commissioners—03/02/2022 (Continued from previous page)

March was proclaimed Problem Gambling Awareness Month. 1% of Oregon Lottery Funds go for prevention and treatment work. 2.6% of Oregonians have a gambling problem and 5% are at risk.

Decisions Made/Actions Taken

- The Commissioners and staff will meet with the Kenwood Street homeowners to find a resolution to their road problems.
- Sandy Butler was appointed for a four-year term to the Marion County Local Alcohol and Drug Planning Committee.
- The Commissioners approved:
 - Distribution of Oregon State Forestry timber revenues (\$530,176.91) to the taxing district in Marion County
 - A contract for new security equipment and doors for the Marion County Jails
 - Purchase of one Elgin Broom Bear sweeper to replace the current equipment.

Marion County Board of Commissioners—03/09/2022

Amy Vandegrift

Main Points/Items Discussed

The Board appointed Richard Massey to the Marion County Planning Commission, term ending February 26, 2026.

There was a good presentation from partners in the Marion County Re-entry Initiative that has been in effect for over 10 years. Jessica Howard, President of Chemeketa Community College, said our Re-entry Initiative is a unique and valuable program, one she has not encountered in her work before.



Decisions Made/Actions Taken

- The Board approved accepting \$100,000 from Oregon Business Development Department to use for the Santiam Canyon Wildfire Recovery Program.
- The Board approved the continuing collaborative Memorandum of Understanding for the Marion County Re-entry Programs. Several County departments, Sheriff, DA, Housing, Health all work with external partners such as Mid-Willamette Valley Community Action, Chemeketa Community College, Family Building Blocks, Liberty House and others. Together they coordinate efforts to assist released prisoners so they can make a successful transition in everyday life and not return to criminal activities.
- The Board approved revision to the Marion County Administrative policies concerning Driving on County business and Protected Leave.
- The Board approved funds from Oregon Youth Authority for the processing of expunctions of juvenile records in accordance with new Oregon Law. The expunctions are automatic rather than by request. The funds will help the Juvenile Department with administrative processing costs.



(Continued on next page)

Salem City Council—03/14/2022

Alice LaViolette

Main Points/Items Discussed

Kristen Rutherford, interim City Manager, reported:

- Iwo Jima mural (pictured at right) has been accepted as public art by the Art Commission
- Seven applicants for the Ward 8 vacancy
- City Council meetings will remain on Zoom until the city can upgrade equipment for hybrid meetings
- the Reawaken Event has been moved to the Keizer Stadium on April 1 & 2.

Courtney Knox Bush from City Manager's Office presented a staff report of additional information on a civilian led mobile crisis response unit.

Decisions Made/Actions Taken:

- Approved 17 changes to the Community Development fees document.
- Approved extension of Logistics St SE over public right-of-way land.
- Approved funding of improvements to Brown Road Park in NE Salem (playground, picnic area, etc.).
- Approved plan to make improvements on 2nd St NW (sidewalks, curbs, lighting, sewer, etc.).
- Approved lease amendment for additional retail space to Salem Cryo LLC in Liberty Parkade.
- Approved motion by Councilor Phillips to adopt plan to acquire a public right-of-way, by imminent domain if necessary, to add bike lane and left-turn lane at Hilfiker Lane SE / Commercial Street SE.
- Approved adoption of the City Council 2022 Policy Agenda.
- Approved motion by Councilor Vanessa Nordyke to waive the fee for the 2021 use of the Gerry Frank - Salem Rotary Amphitheater by the Indigenous Now organization.
- Approved motion by Councilor Jose Gonzales directing city staff to create an alternative process that will allow Salem residents to obtain speed humps for neighborhood streets if certain criteria are met.
- Approved motion by Councilor Chris Hoy to allocate \$475,000 from the State sheltering grant to pay for a team of city staff to clean the areas of unmanaged sheltering locations and help the unhoused find suitable housing alternatives. This will be a short-term program.
- Approved grant of \$230,000 to the Center for Hope and Safety to provide kitchenettes in shelter units at the Center for Hope and Safety's Mosaic location.
- Approved motion by Councilor Hoy to re-open the record for public comment and deliberation on a revised application by the Meyer Farm housing subdevelopment. Record will be open until March 28, when council will vote again.

Salem City Council—03/21/2022 – Special Meeting

Alice LaViolette

Special Order of Business: Councilors planned to interview 4 finalists for the position of interim Councilor of Ward 8. Applicants: Jesse Barton, Chris Cummings, Martin Hepp, and Micki Varney. Three candidates appeared for interview (Barton, Cummings, Varney). Council voted unanimously for Micki Varney as interim Councilor.

Salem Public Library Advisory Board—03/09/2022

Barbara Sellers-Young

Main Points/Items Discussed

The first round of interviews was completed for Librarian the week of March 4th. Interviews of finalists for the new Library Director will be held on March 17. To view: <https://www.cityofsalem.net/Pages/public-welcome-at-city-librarian-interviews-march-17.aspx>

The budget document was presented and accepted. Salem Reads was a success with more than 500 participants.



Decisions Made/Actions Taken

Moved forward, by Chair Lois Stark, a proposal to the City Council Bond Committee for two more branch libraries to be on the November ballot.

Salem-Keizer School Board—03/08/2022

Kathleen West

Main Points/Items Discussed

All School Board members were present.

- Board Chair Avila told how district is supporting Ukrainian students. Superintendent Christy Perry spotlighted Shaylyn Hough, North Salem student, for mentoring refugee students.
- Parrish Middle School's Paxton Patterson Lab offers career modules for students. All middle schools have this Lab now.
- Stevens Middle School is an AVID Demonstration School & Site of distinction. (AVID's mission is to close the opportunity gap by preparing all students for college readiness and success in a global society.)



Superintendent's Report:

- Bonus for substitutes who need to continue volunteering.

- Music in the Schools highlighted high school enrollment; W. Salem Band recognized for excellence, 100+ students chosen for music festivals. McKay High School violinist played for the Board.
- Supt. Perry talked about district's COVID policies.
- She introduced Community Oversight co-chairs who gave the annual CBOC Report [Community Bond Oversight Committee]. There have been wonderful upgrades to Scott Elementary, South Salem High School, Auburn Elementary and McKay High School. More to come!

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Salem-Keizer School Board—03/08/2022 (Continued from previous page)

Decisions Made/Actions Taken

- Nancy MacMorris-Adix and Lora Million were appointed to the Budget committee.
- Board unanimously passed modified Resolution to give 5-year tax exemption to multiple unit housing plan.
- Board approved Bonuses and Licensed contracts for next year.
- Howard Charter School Contract Renewal discussion. Board will continue this discussion at next Board Meeting, April 12.



Happy Spring!

Defusing Contentious Conversations—Highlights

Notes by Sally Hollemon

Dr. Terry Busch, PhD, who leads workshops on “Defusing Contentious Conversations,” opened his recorded talk by explaining the difference between argument and conversation. Argument has the goal to win. Conversation has the goal to understand each other. He explained the CAPP Strategy for having a conversation.



Dr. Terry Busch, PhD

Clarify—To show you are listening: “If I understand you correctly, you _____ (paraphrase the key idea of the first speaker) _____.”

Agree—Find some area of agreement. For example: “We agree that _____ is a serious issue.”

Pivot—Ask the other person for permission to state a different view. For example: “I have a different view. May I share it with you?”
Don’t progress with the conversation until the other person agrees to listen to your perspective.

Sometimes you have to go through these three steps (clarity, agree, pivot) several times before you get agreement to explain your viewpoint.

If the other person isn’t interested in hearing your view, exit the conversation (“There’s no point in discussing this further.”) and let the other person have the last word (“I told you I was right.”). If he doesn’t get the last word, he will continue to argue.

However, if you do get agreement to give your point of view, move on to Perspective.

Perspective—Use “I” statements: “The way I look at (this issue) is _____.”
or “I’ve done some reading on this topic. May I tell you about that?”

If you get agreement to continue the conversation, the two of you can exchange experiences and other information you’ve gathered from various source, always listening to each other.

The purpose of CAPP is not to win. The purpose is to understand each other’s point of view.

To listen to the video of Dr. Busch’s presentation at the LWWOR Fall Workshop, click on this [LINK](#).



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

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April 2022

Be a Delegate or Observer to Convention.....	4
Calendar.....	1
Diffusing Contentious Conversations.....	11
Gun Violence Initiatives.....	3
Marge Easley to speak on Gun Violence.....	2
New Interest Group on Civic Education.....	3
Observer Reports.....	5
Voter Service.....	4

