

Webpage: <http://LWVmarionpolk.org> or  
[www.leaguewomenvotersmarionpolk.org](http://www.leaguewomenvotersmarionpolk.org)

Facebook:  
<https://www.facebook.com/>

## November 2022 Calendar of LWV Events

**Wed., Nov. 2, 1:30 p.m.—Book Club—***The Four Winds* by Kristin Hannah

Hosting and refreshments: Kathy Patterson at Deanie's house  
If you are interested in joining Book Club, contact Roz Shirack.

**Tue., Nov. 8—General Election**—Ballots must be received or postmarked by this date.

**Wed., Nov. 16, 7 p.m.—***Salem's Climate Action Plan*

This meeting will be held via Zoom; the link will be  
emailed to members.

**Speaker: Heather Dimke, the City of Salem  
Climate Action Plan Manager**

See Page 2 for details.



**Sat., Nov. 19, 1 p.m.—Great Decisions: Myanmar and the Association of Southeast Nations**

Virtual meeting; link will be emailed.

Discussion leader: Cindy Condon

Video: Kathleen West

**Mon., Nov. 21, 3 p.m.—Board meeting**—via Zoom

All members are invited to attend board meetings.

Contact Kathleen West for the link to the Zoom meeting.

Minutes are on the LWVMPC webpage under Board Minutes.

### **[VOTE411.org](http://VOTE411.org) for Election Information**

At **[VOTE411.org](http://VOTE411.org)**, LWV's award-winning one-stop-shop for election information, enter your address to see candidates' answers to LWV-posed questions and explanations of ballot measures.

***Making Democracy Work™***

# Salem's Climate Action Plan

**Heather Dimke, the Climate Action Plan Manager** for the City of Salem, will discuss Salem's Climate Action Plan on Wednesday, November 16, at 7:00 p.m. This will be a Zoom event. As always, guests are invited.

A subcommittee of the Salem City Council (Councilors Gonzalez, Hoy, and Phillips) led a 41-member Task Force that received input from multiple stakeholders and Salem residents for eighteen months to produce the final Climate Action Plan. This plan was accepted by City Council in February of 2022. You can read the plan at <https://www.cityofsalem.net/community/natural-environment-climate/climate-action-plan-for-salem>.



**Heather Dimke** is the Action Plan Manager for the Salem's Climate Action Plan. She has a BS in Natural Resource Management from Oregon State University and began working for the City of Salem in a seasonal capacity the summer after graduation. She was hired permanently in 2006 and spent the next 14 years with the City's Stormwater Services Section, coordinating regulatory programs associated with surface and stormwater runoff and conducting public outreach and engagement before transitioning to the Public Works Director's Office in 2017. Since 2017 she has served as the Public Works Public Information Officer, Accreditation Program Manager, and staff liaison to the Salem Public Art Commission.

## The Oregon Global Warming Commission

The Oregon Global Warming Commission is a 25-member advisory group created by the 2007 Legislature through House Bill 3543. Members are appointed and directed to develop long-term policy recommendations to prepare for, adapt to, and combat climate change. Take a look at the commission's webpage at <https://www.keeporegoncool.org> for more information, including the reports sent to the legislature as resources to deal with climate change and the option to join the online conversation.



### **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.

## AAUW invites LWV to “Tree Planting in a Salem Park”

League of Women Voters members are invited to attend the AAUW Salem Branch City Climate Action Tree Planting kickoff on Thursday, November 3, from 5:00 – 6:30 p.m. at the Salem Public Library in Anderson A.

Following a half-hour social time with refreshments, City of Salem Parks and Recreation Services employees Milan Davis, Urban Forester, and Jennifer Mongolo, Natural Resources Planner, will speak and answer questions about the Salem tree plantings.

AAUW Salem Branch, in collaboration with the City of Salem Parks and Recreation Services, has created a tax- deductible fund for the purpose of increasing the Salem tree canopy. Members of the League of Women Voters are invited to join in learning about this project and contributing to the tree-planting fund.

No shovel is needed; Salem Parks and Recreation staff will do the planting. Stephens-Yoshikai School Park in Northeast Salem has been chosen as a place to begin planting a grove of trees. This park was chosen because the area is in dire need of tree crown but there are virtually no trees around this park. Two schools adjoin the park— Stephens Middle School to the north and Stephens Elementary School to the south—and a neighborhood to the east that will all benefit in many ways from the trees and the canopy they provide.



The first ten trees to be planted will be Oregon White Oak and Cascaras in the eastern corner of the park where it connects to a “wildlife corridor” where a few other mature trees, including a large Oregon White Oak, are growing. Five-foot trees will cost about \$100 per tree. For every five trees paid for by donations, the City of Salem will plant another five trees. Trees are usually planted in groups of ten.

### **You can make a tax-deductible donation:**

Checks only. Memo line: Project # 589921

City of Salem Parks Operations

Attention: Jennifer Keller

1460 20<sup>th</sup> St. SE, #14

Salem, OR 97302

## Brunch in the Park

Almost 30 members and guests came together in person for the first time since before the Covid pandemic. A pavilion in Willamette Mission State Park provided fresh air and shade on a lovely fall day.



Amy Vandegrift (right) invites attendees to the brunch table.



Kathleen West & Linda Kirsch at the brunch table.



Marta White, Janet Adkins, and Rebecca Lerback



Bill Burgess and Barbara Sellers-Young in a serious discussion; Willie Richardson in another conversation.

Attendees listen to explanations of LWV projects in which members may participate.



## More pictures from the LWV Brunch in the Park



Micki Varney,  
member of  
Salem City Council



Deanie Anderson (front center) ↑ speaks about Voter Service.



Tomika Dew  
(standing at  
right)  
talked about the  
book group.



Alice LaViolette (standing) described  
the information available on the  
LWVMPC webpage.



At the end of the meeting  
Joan Harmsen (at left)  
spoke spontaneously about  
how important the League is  
to her for friendships and  
information. "I've learned  
so much!" she concluded.

## Voter Service— Voter Registration

Diana Upton and Alice Phalan

On October 10th League members Diana Upton and Alice Phalan spent the afternoon at Chemeketa Community College to register voters. Students and staff at the college were very receptive to the League with some people warmly thanking the two for their efforts. Approximately 60 students stopped to review our materials; 25 needed voter registration information and many also took cards regarding [VOTE 411.com](http://VOTE411.com). One student—a Syrian refugee whose family Alice had taught to speak English and who is a very recent U.S. citizen—was thrilled to learn that she and her family could now vote in upcoming elections.

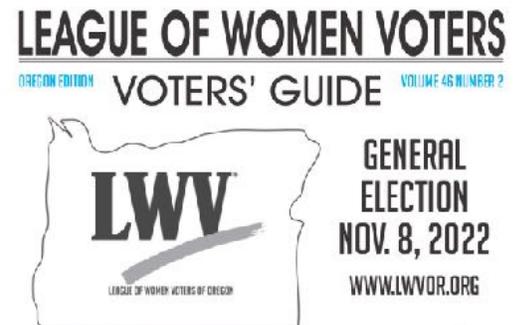


## Voter Service— Voters' Guides Distributed to the Community

Kathleen West, Voter Service Co-chair

We got 2000 English and 1000 Spanish LWVOR *Voters' Guides* which arrived a few days before the ballots went out.

Many thanks to Alice LaViolette, Lois Derouin, Linda Kirsch, Claudia Carmichael and husband, Alice Phalan, Cindy Burgess, and Kathy Patterson. All these wonderful members helped me deliver *Voters' Guides* to libraries in cities in both counties as well as to retirement homes, senior centers, the Yakima Farmers Clinics in Salem and Woodburn, Mano a Mano, Lifesource, Salem Transit, public and private high schools, Chemeketa Community College and the County Clerk's offices in Marion and Polk Counties. Deanie Anderson and Cindy Burgess took *Guides* to their churches.



This team is invaluable and greatly appreciated. Our League does such important work.

### Membership

#### Welcome New Member:

Nancy L. Thompson

### Join the League of Women Voters

**Dues: \$ 65 for Individual Membership**  
\$ 30 for each additional Household Member, Student  
or Limited Income Member  
\$ 90 for a single Supporting Member  
**\$15 extra to receive printed newsletters through  
the mail**

Dues are not tax deductible.

Join online [HERE](#).

# LWV Observer Reports for October

## Marion County Commissioners—09/28/2022

Amy Vandegrift

### Decisions Made/Actions Taken

The Board appointed Collen Busch and Rebecca Turner to the Marion County Fair Board. They also changed several job classifications for Human Resources and approved a conditional-use permit for JaDontae Evans.



Commissioners voted to bring the County's Construction Erosion and Sediment Control regulations into compliance with state and federal law for construction on property of 1/4 acre. Commissioners approved a new contract with Republic Services to use the Salem-Keizer Transfer Facility.

## Marion County Commissioners—10/12/2022

Amy Vandegrift

### Decisions Made/Actions Taken

Commissioners, by proclamation, declared Oct. 16 - 22 as National Hands and Words are not for Hurting Week in Marion County. After a presentation on the importance of flu shots, Commissioner Cameron received a shot. Commissioners approved a conditional use permit for Allied Rock LLC.

Commissioners approved \$320,645 for additional Santiam Canyon Wildfire Recovery; the funds will support a regular sheriff deputy patrol in the Detroit-Gates area. Also approved was an additional \$200,000 for Marion County Jail pharmaceutical services for a new total contract of \$638,996.83. The medical needs of those in jail increased during the COVID pandemic.

## Marion County Commissioners—10/05/2022

Amy Vandegrift

### Issues Discussed

The United Way 2022 presentation of Employee Campaign kicked off. Tim Glisson presented information about Marion County's Community Development Block Grants (CDBG) and HOME Investment Partnerships (affordable housing, HUD funded.) As part of the consent calendar the Commissioners approved Substantial Amendment #2 to the 2021-22 Annual Action Plan under the CDBG and HOME Investments Partnership.

### Decisions Made/Actions Taken

Commissioners approved \$3,300,000 for the Emergency Rental Assistance Program under the ERA2 Grant Award from the U.S. Dept. of Treasury; the purchase of 14 light-duty fleet vehicles from Withnell Dodge 9 (\$627,261); a 2022 Caterpillar 906 Loader and 950M-BR Wheel Loader (\$507,328) from Peterson Machinery; and the annual recertification of Marion County's participation in the Community Rating System for FEMA.

## Salem City Council—10/10/2022

Alice LaViolette



### Issues Discussed

Three proclamations were read: Indigenous Peoples Day, National Community Planning Month, White Cane Day.

Two people were appointed to serve on the Salem Human Rights Commission—Gregory Azure and Hope Strayer. Council heard the first reading of a proposal to amend SRC Chapter 97, covering Human Rights, which would add housing status as a protected class. The amendment was recommended by the Salem Human Rights Commission.

Council approved first reading of an amendment to SRC 2.825 related to the Multiple-Unit Housing Tax Incentive Program, which would encourage future applicants for the program to include an affordable housing component.

### Decisions Made/Actions Taken

Items on consent calendar were all approved:

- Transfer of funds, up to \$300,000, from 2023 budget for the Navigation Center renovation project
- Request to vacate an unused 137-foot-long section of Cross Street SE just west of 20th Street SE

There was much discussion during the public hearing on the proposed rezoning of properties on Commercial Street SE, roughly between Superior Street S and McGilchrist Street SE, to Mixed-Use II (MU II). MU II prohibits motor vehicle sales/service, except by conditional use only. If this zoning was adopted, with a conditional use exemption, the current automobile businesses in this location would not be allowed to build back any buildings lost to damage. The conditional use permit would revert to MU II, which prohibits this use. Discussion focused on using a “surgical” approach to the zoning change, which would allow some properties to be zoned Mixed-Use III and others Mixed-Use II. A motion was made by Councilor Nishioka, seconded by Councilor Phillips, to continue the public hearing to a date in the future, asking staff to come back at that time with some prepared language regarding MU III on the two properties discussed – Hoyt Street SE to McGilchrist SE. Motion passed.

City staff presented a report on a proposed expansion of Salem Airport for the possibility of commercial airline flights in the future. Some improvements are required by TSA. A motion was made by Councilor Hoy, seconded by Councilor Phillips, for staff to provide Council by the October 24, 2022, meeting with funding options to support obtaining designs for the necessary improvements to the airport to support commercial air service. Motion passed.

## Salem-Keizer School Board—10/11/2022

Kathleen West

### Items Discussed

Superintendent Perry shone the Spotlight of Success on:

- Tanya Langen for her excellent teaching of German at South Salem High School.
- The Anahuac Farm, a community-based organization in Turner that students can visit to learn about indigenous

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FOCUS



Mexican people and their culture and to plant indigenous *milpa* seeds (corn, squash and beans).

- The Community Transition Program for its Safe Schools focus. This program helps district schools be welcoming, safe and protective for all students, including those with disabilities, and will intervene to help when needed. Student Simeon Garcia was featured. This program helped him succeed in his job at Safeway. He feels more independent, can budget and is closer to graduating.

Superintendent Perry also talked about

- Indigenous People's Day. Over 200 attended a Mexican fiesta at Yoshikai Elementary School that featuring art, food and the Baile Folklorico.
- Crystal Apple Nominations are open to nominate exceptional teachers and support staff.
- We have 42 new refugees in our schools, and Salem is approved for more than 250 more families. These students need extra help and support.

Salem- Keizer is out of compliance in P.E. standards with 150 minutes in grades K-5 instead of the required 180 minutes. Many schools have only one gym, which makes compliance a challenge.

Hank Harris led discussion of hiring standards for the new District Superintendent search. The timeline is two weeks from engagement. 70 or more groups might need sessions to voice their expectations by October 25th. An online survey will be posted for students, parents and community to respond to New Superintendent criteria by Nov. 16. By Nov. 28th the Board will get feedback from the public, and on Dec. 5th the search for a new superintendent will start.

### **Decisions Made/Actions Taken**

1. The Purple Hands Pledge was renewed. "Hands and Words are not for Hurting Myself or Others" was said out loud by all Board Members. County District Commissioner Kevin Cameron joined by Zoom in support of this valuable program. He still wears the bracelet he got from this program and has given a few away. October 16-22 is Purple Hands Pledge Week. This passed unanimously!
2. Approval of Board Goals 2022-2023. These goals & strategies, which incorporated all board members' input, will be used as the Board's path forward. Members voted Yes, except a No vote from Director Heyen.
3. Director Danielle Bethell has resigned her position as of October 10, 2022. The Board declared a vacancy. The remaining board members will appoint a new member to complete the term from the present to June 20, 2023. The new member needs to be an elector and live within Zone 6.

### **Salem Public Library Advisory Board— 10/12/2022**

*Alice LaViolette*

#### **Items Discussed**

Kate Van Ummersen, Executive Director of the Library Foundation gave a report of their activities.

- The Foundation is a 501c3 nonprofit that raises money through gifts and endowments. They budget about \$80,000 per year for library programs and activities such as Baby Kits, e-books, staff education, patron-use



- computers, etc. They now are funding the “Library of Things” through a \$43,000 grant from the Dept. of Environmental Quality. These are reusable items such as sewing machines, cooking equipment, tools, etc. that can be checked out. They also fund the annual Salem Reads program.
- The 2023 book will be *Born a Crime* by Trevor Noah. There will be 25 different Salem Reads community programs with a budget of \$35,000-40,000.
  - They also fund annual Sprinkles Grants. These are small grants that fund initiatives/suggestions proposed library staff. Any staff member may apply for the program.

Carol Voeller gave a Friends of the Library report. The Fall book sale will be Nov. 17 - 20. Sunday will be “bag day” when shoppers can fill a grocery bag with books for \$4.

Kim Carroll, City Librarian, gave the Librarian’s Report (attached to the agenda) which included an update on the 2022 - 27 five-year strategic plan. The plan will be presented to City Council on October 24 for approval. The next step is called the “Get Moving” phase. Staff teams will be formed to guide the plan initiatives to meet objectives. Progress will be reported to the Advisory Board.

**Decisions Made/Actions Taken**

The board voted to approve the 5-year Strategic Plan. Lois Stark is retiring as Board Chair but will remain a board member. Election of officers was held. The new officers are Chair Francine Boulosa, Vice Chair David Levy, and Liaison to the Library Foundation Gretchen Coppedge.

**Woodburn City Council—10/10/2022**

*Rebecca Lerback*

**Issues Discussed**

City Administrator and City Attorney Annual Performance Evaluations: At the September 26, 2022, City Council meeting, three Council members wanted to delay the performance reviews until they received training on how to conduct them. Three other Council members stated they were ready to conduct the reviews and didn't want any further delays. Tension arose between the two groups; the three who were ready to do the evaluations walked out of the meeting, preventing further action. The remaining Council members determined that they would table the reviews until early 2023 when a new Mayor and City Council are in place. In the meantime, the current Mayor will investigate training options.



**Decisions Made/Action Taken**

Council Bill No. 3199—The City Council was asked to adopt a resolution to extend and provide municipal sewer services to the Woodburn Church of the Nazarene, which is located outside the corporate city boundaries. Road construction related to the new Amazon facility has encroached upon the church's septic system. The City Council adopted the resolution.

(Continued on next page)

## Woodburn City Council (Continued)

American Rescue Plan Act Agreement (ARPA) with Immanuel Lutheran Church for the Community Meal Program—The City Council was asked to approve this agreement through July 31, 2024, which it did.

Utility Assistance Program: Additional Funding—The City Council was asked to sign an agreement with LoveINC of North Marion County for the administration of the Utility Assistance Program for Fiscal Years 2022 - 2023 in the amount of up to \$25,000 annually. The Council agreed to sign the agreement.

First Amendment to ARPA Funded Services Grant Agreement with Liberty House—The Council was asked to authorize the City Administrator to sign an amendment to the ARPA Funded Services Grant Agreement with Liberty House to increase the amount of grant funding with an additional one-time payment of \$120,000 to expand the scope of Project Services provided to the city and its residents. The Council authorized this action.

## Salem Area Mass Transit District—10/27/2022

*Janet Adkins*

### Issues Discussed

1. Welcomed new board member Bill Holmstrom.
2. Explained the need and process for obtaining engineering services for small district projects.
3. Reported steady increase in transit boardings, including weekday, weekend, Cherry Lift, regional, and new holiday schedule over 2021. (In most cases ridership is not up to 2020 levels. Service levels are currently 90% of pre-pandemic service levels.)
4. Reported an 82% increase in youth ridership in September and October (to date of meeting) over the same period last year due to the start of free youth rides policy.



### Decisions Made/ Actions Taken

1. Authorized contract with Mott MacDonald for general engineering services for small projects up to \$233,750 over seven years.
2. Authorized contract with Gillig LLC for a third inductive charger pad for electric buses at Keizer Transit Station at a cost of up to \$311,000. This is funded by federal and state grants and local match.
3. Amended contract with TransPro Consultants for work as follow-up to Strategic Plan development for up to \$246,277. Amendment was contemplated at the time of the original contract.
4. Accepted the FY 2022 Performance Report, which includes ridership increases and service changes to match demand. Data was provided on each route and type of service.
5. Accepted the first quarterly report on the Strategic Plan. It highlighted initial progress on the roll out of the Strategic Plan and involvement of staff and community, including progress on development of TransDASH, an interagency dashboard, and a survey of the current state of equity for DEI program.



**League of Women Voters  
of Marion & Polk Counties**

3335 Crestview Dr. S  
Salem, OR 97302

Return receipt requested.

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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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