

January 2023 Calendar of LWV Events

Wed., Jan. 4, 1:30 p.m.—Book Club— *The Soul of America* by Jon Meacham

Mon., Jan 9, 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., Jan. 21, 1 p.m.—Great Decisions: *Energy Geopolitics*
Virtual meeting. Link will be emailed.
Discussion leader: Sally Hollemon

Saturday, January 28, 10 a.m. - 1 p.m.
Program Planning: *The League in 2023 and Beyond*
Salem Public Library in the Anderson Room (lower level)
This is an in-person, all-member meeting. Yay!
Please read the information on Page 3 and plan to attend.



Making Democracy Work™

Volunteer to Interview a Legislator

Deanie Anderson, Voter Service Co-chair

It's time to set up legislative interviews with the legislators representing our area.

Four questions have been prepared and a list of elected officials is available from which to select.

Members select a legislator, contact them for an appointment in person, on the phone or on Zoom for discussion. It is best if two people do the interview together so one can ask the questions and the other take notes.

We will do these interviews from the 3rd week of January until early February.

We will collect and share our notes only with the LWVOR Action Committee. The purpose of the interviews is to assist the Action Committee members in lobbying our legislators.

If you would like to help with these interviews—which are informative and pleasant to do—please email Deanie Anderson.



Oregon State Capitol News:

The 82nd Oregon Legislative Assembly begins its long session on Tuesday, January 17, and it will be the state's first on-site legislative session since February 2020.

But we're not completely back to normal, yet.

Construction is underway to make critical safety and accessibility improvements to the historic building, and we're operating with about 30% of our regular square footage.

Visitors can expect to enter through new security check points at the Capitol's south (State St.) doors—the building's only current public entrance. A construction wall along the south side of the Galleria will prevent access to the historic building, but the public will again be able to access onsite committee meetings in the hearing rooms along the south corridor, in addition to the wings, which house legislator offices.

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.

Program Planning: The League of the Future: 2023 and Beyond

Program Planning is a January event during which LWVMPC members share ideas and recommend whether to

- retain, drop, restudy or update our current local League positions,
- adopt a new study on a topic of interest and importance in our local area, and
- identify topics on which we'd simply like to learn more.

This year our Program Planning meeting will be Saturday, January 28, from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. in the Anderson Room at the Salem Public Library.

Please review our current positions to see if they are still useful. The short versions are in our membership directory. The full position statements are on our website at lwvmarionpolk.org under League Library.

If a position statement doesn't cover some aspect of an issue, a study of that aspect may be in order. And, since most of our positions are old, we may simply want to update our knowledge of the relevant issues without intending to change the position.

We can also use state or national positions on which to base advocacy. Links to those are listed on our Positions webpage.

Now for the fun part.

What topics do you want to know more about? For example, how can we as League members promote civil discourse in a context of mis- and disinformation? Are there social policies or areas of climate change that need to be the focus of an informational program/discussion or a focus of a study? What areas of Voter Education should the League be involved in during the 2024 election cycle?

Following are some suggestions:

Communication: Civic Education, Civil Discourse, Mis- and Disinformation, 21st Century Media—Social, Digital, Print

Social Policy: Health, Guns, Social Justice, Mental Health, Homelessness, Child Care

Climate Change/Sustainability: Water Quality, Forest Fires, Carbon Footprint, Ecological systems

Voter Education: Youth Engagement, Mock Elections, Vote 411, 2024 Elections

Join with other members on January 28 to plan for our League's future!

Definitions 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.

Oregon Ballot Measures Won by Various Percentages

If you wondered how close the vote was on the four Oregon statewide ballot measures, here's the info as reported by *The Wolf* and forwarded by Deanie Anderson.

Measure 111: Right to Healthcare Constitutional Amendment

Yes—944,215 votes—50.74%
No—916,560 votes—49.26%
That's a margin of 1.48 percent.

Measure 112: Remove Slavery as Punishment for Crime from Constitution

Yes—1,039,354 votes—55.64%
No—828,633 votes—44.36%
That's a margin of 11.28 percent.

Measure 113: Exclusion from Re-Election for Legislative Absenteeism Initiative

Yes—1,282,066 votes—68.3%
No—593,876 votes—31.66%
That's a margin of 36.68 percent.

Measure 114—Changes to Firearm Ownership and Purchases Requirements Initiative

Yes—969,258 votes—50.71%
No—942,294 votes—49.29 %
That's a margin of 1.42 percent.

Action: Covanta and Coffin Butte Pollution

Beyond Toxics is a group of knowledgeable people tackling pollution in Oregon. The website is <https://www.beyondtoxics.org>. They are looking at Covanta and Coffin Butte pollution problems—see article in their fall newsletter at https://www.beyondtoxics.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/11/Fall-2022-Newsetter_pp1-11.pdf —and want to add some regular people in our area who may be interested in joining their monthly meetings. They are looking for energized people to help make a difference. If that describes you, please contact Lisa Arkin, Executive Director of Beyond Toxics, at her direct number 541-543-2465 or the office at 541-465-8860. The offices are in Eugene and Phoenix, so check with her on where meetings are held.



Observer Reports for December

Polk County Commissioners (Work Session) – 12/06/2022

Jean Sherbeck

All three commissioners were present.

Department Update – Noelle Carroll, Public Health Director

Ms. Carroll's update covered all aspects of the Public Health Department functions, including Behavioral Health, Public Health (nurses, vaccinations, etc.), After Hours crisis team, Developmental Disabilities. She described how each sector is funded and how difficult it is to maintain staffing. There are currently 17 vacancies in the system, and some positions receive no applications. Behavioral Health counselors are seeing 70 – 80 clients presently; the optimum case load is 50. Several experienced staffers are due to retire soon, and it will be very difficult to replace them with experienced people. The department is doing the best it can to serve the community under these limiting circumstances. The Commissioners thanked Ms. Carroll for her leadership.



Polk County Commissioners – 12/07/ 2022

Jean Sherbeck

Commissioner Pope was absent.

Public Safety Levy Re-authorization –

Greg Hansen, Administrative Officer, presented his recommendation to the Board as follows:

- To place a Local Option Tax (operating levy) measure on the May 16, 2023, ballot; the amount not to exceed \$0.495/\$1000 assessed value for five years. As part of the measure the county would eliminate the final year of the 2019 public safety operating levy.

Sherriff Garton and DA Felton were not able to be present but had shared their approval of Mr. Hansen's recommendation. Commissioners Gordon and Mordhorst supported this recommendation, and public outreach and hearings will follow.

Polk County Commissioners (Work Session) – 12/12/2022

Jean Sherbeck

All commissioners were present.

Mr. Hansen, Administrative Officer, presented the Budget Calendar for the FY 2023 – 2024: April 4 – 6, 2023 for hearings; May 17 for approval; June 28 for adoption of the budget.

(Continued on next page)

Polk County Levy Discussion

Sheriff Mark Garton, and District Attorney Aaron Felton were present to affirm that they are in support of the 2023 Public Safety Levy as proposed by Mr. Hansen since the levy maintains the current staffing levels in both departments. The three commissioners also agreed with the proposal and everyone agreed that several Public Safety Levy meetings should be held in the evening so more members of the public can attend.

Polk County Commissioners - 12/14/ 2022

Jean Sherbeck

Commissioner Pope was absent.

There were two Length of Service Awards, and two Reclassifications of an Employee measures. All motions were passed unanimously by the Board.

Polk County Commissioners (Work Session) - 12/20/2022

Jean Sherbeck

All commissioners were present.

Department update – Sheriff Mark Garton reported recent activities with the community:

- Shop With a Cop activity with 81 kids from several communities, made possible by \$10,000 in donations from several sources. There were also toys for jail inmates to choose for their children.
- A Talk With a Cop activity with citizens.

Sheriff Garton also reported:

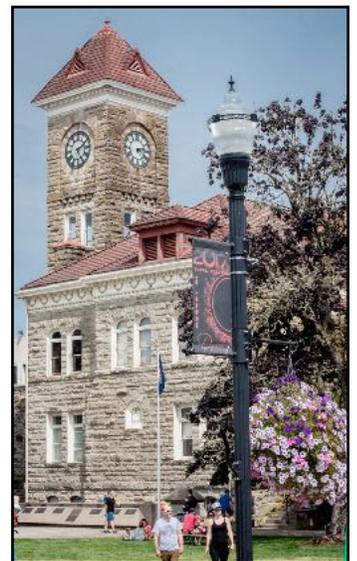
The department is down four staff positions, but several recent academy grads are almost ready to go.

The Sheriff mentioned several recent arrests, traffic stops and crashes, and an Impaired Driving Campaign grant for November and December.

Several deputies have received awards.

The numbers in the jail are down a little, but the stays are longer.

There is one investigator on staff at present.



Polk County Commissioners – 12/21/2022

Jean Sherbeck

All commissioners were present.

PUBLIC HEARING: WRAP-UP OF CHILD CARE ASSISTANCE GRANT, FUNDED BY BUSINESS OREGON USING CBDG FUNDING – BRENT DE MOE

Brent De Moe, Family and Community Outreach Department Director, explained that the grant was aimed at rural low-income families who needed assistance, and this wrap-up (To next page)

was a requirement of the grant. Due to income restrictions set by the federal government only two families of those who applied were qualified to be helped. The remaining funds were returned. There were no comments from the public.

PUBLIC HEARING: VACATION OF MORSE ROAD by landowner request.

Eric Berry, County Surveyor—This undeveloped road was created in 1889 and is overgrown now with a trail through part of it. There are no records of the county maintaining it, and it is not usable to the public. The Public Works Department recommends vacating this 40’ right of way. Two people spoke in favor of vacating. Penny Cox, a representative from the Polk County Farm Bureau, testified that she thought this situation was a land-use issue that involved property rights of an abutting owner who protested the vacation.

After quoting an applicable statute, the president of the Polk County Farm Bureau stated that the protesting owner needs the deeded right of way and needs access to her property.

Commissioner Pope stated that he needs council’s advice for legal action. The hearing will be open for 7 days, and the decision will be announced on December 28, 2022. The motion passed.

PUBLIC HEARING: VACATION OF A PORTION OF MORRIS ROAD, BALLSTON AREA

Eric Berry, County Surveyor—This vacation involves two sections of an 1892 plat that is currently undeveloped and is now being farmed. Mr. Berry recommends vacation. There were no speakers for or opposed to this.

County Attorney Morgan Smith stated that if there were no objections, the public hearing would be closed and the record will be open for 7 days for further discussion.

Salem City Council—12/05/2022

Alice LaViolette

Items Discussed/Action Taken:

Mayor Hoy read a Proclamation recognizing Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day, December 7, 2022.

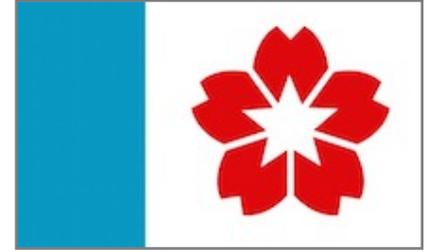
Public hearing and discussion on the petition from DEW, LLC to vacate Cross St. SE west of 20th St SE. This hearing was continued from the council meeting on 11/14/2022. City staff submitted an updated report. Council discussed the pros and cons of vacating the area. Councilor Nishioka made a motion to approve vacation of the property. Motion passed with two members (Varney and Leung) voting “nay.”

Council voted unanimously to adopt Resolution No. 2022-57 which extends the emergency declaration related to unsheltered persons until Dec. 31, 2023. This will allow the city to continue programs for safe car camping and micro-shelters through 2023. Mayor Hoy explained that adopting this resolution allows the city to continue the programs they currently have in place while council members and staff continue their work on aligning city codes to adhere to Oregon HB 3115 (2021). This state law requires that local laws addressing “sitting, lying, sleeping or keeping warm and dry outdoors on public property must be objectively reasonable ... with regards to persons experiencing homelessness.” City Manager Keith Stahley stated that the city hopes to have the changes to code in place by July 2023.



Salem City Council – 12/12/2022

Alice LaViolette (I was unable to attend the entire meeting)



Items Discussed:

This was the last fully remote meeting for City Council. Hybrid meetings will begin January 2023.

This was the last meeting for Councilor Jackie Leung, Ward 4. Mayor Hoy and other Council members thanked her for her four years of service on Council.

Newly elected Ward 4 Councilor Deanna Gwyn will be sworn in as her replacement in January.

Mayor Hoy declared the General Election Canvass of Votes, as presented by City Recorder Ruth Ann Stellmacher, adopted.

Police Chief Womack presented the Salem Police Department Year End Report. The full report is linked to the meeting agenda. Highlights of the report:

- A new homeless services team of two members has been working with the S.O.S. team. They have checked/cleared 207 campsites, had contact with 281 homeless individuals and made 53 referrals.
- They are implementing a community policing program that will work with residents and city businesses.
- Body-worn cameras will be implemented in 2023.
- Staff vacancy rate is 10% and hiring is a problem as there are fewer applicants.
- Council funded 6 additional positions that will be funded in 2023.
- All department policies are being looked over by a consultant who is working with staff as they strive to implement best practices. They will be posted online for transparency at <http://www.yoursalempd.com>

Woodburn City Council – 12/19/2022

Rebecca Coleman Lerback

Issues Discussed/Action Taken:

A public swearing-in ceremony was conducted for the following individuals: Mr. Frank Lonergan, mayor; Mr. Robert Carney, council member, Ward III; Ms. Sharon Schaub, council member, Ward IV; Ms. Mary Beth Cornwell, council member, Ward V; and Eric Morris, council member, Ward VI.

Eric Swenson, former mayor, was acknowledged for his four-years of distinguished service.

Benito Puente, who recently resigned, was thanked for his recent service as council member for Ward VI.

Councilman Carney was elected Council President.



(Continued on next page)

Woodburn City Council— 12/19/2022 (Continued)

General business included recommended approval of various actions, of which the following may be of most interest to League members and the public:

- Council Bill 3200, a resolution authorizing a transfer of up to \$110,00 from the Information Technology Fund's contingency to the Capital Outlay category.
- Council Bill 3201, a resolution to authorize the City's support of the Oregon Mayors Association's Taskforce on Homelessness's proposal to partner with the State of Oregon to address Oregon's crisis of the unhoused. If passed, Woodburn could receive approximately \$1 million for programs and services to benefit this population.
- Initiation of quasi-judicial application of public right-of-way at the intersection of Parr Road and Butteville Road. The recommended action would authorize staff to prepare and file a land use application on behalf of the City of Woodburn for Annexation and Zoning Designation for portions of right-of-way around the two aforementioned roads. The effect would be that Marion County would cede control of the roads in this area to the City of Woodburn. The City wants to direct the traffic flow and other improvements in the southwest corner of the city to alleviate traffic pressures and to benefit the growing industrial use of this part of town.
- The Council was asked to authorize the City Administrator to accept a purchase price increase to \$344,640 for two vehicles that will be used for the Dial-a-Ride program.

The Council approved all resolutions and recommended actions.

The Council also agreed to conducting goal planning and leadership training under the guidance of Portland State University's Mark O. Hatfield School of Government in early 2023.

Woodburn City Council – 12/19/2022

Rebecca Coleman Lerback

Issues Discussed/Action Taken:

- Frank Lonergan was sworn in as Mayor.
- Immediate past mayor, Eric Swenson, received a plaque and public acknowledgement for his four years of service.
- Eric Morris was sworn in as the new Councilor for Ward 6. Morris replaced Benito Puente who resigned mid-term due to personal reasons.



Two Council Bills were presented for vote.

- Council Bill 3200 asked the Council to approve appropriations from the Technology Fund to purchase new software.
- Council Bill 3201 was for the Council to approve a Resolution for the City of Woodburn to support the Oregon Mayors Association Task Force in their request to the State of Oregon for funding to address the statewide homelessness crisis. Funding would be for capital projects and programs and could potentially bring \$1 million to Woodburn.

(Continued on next page)

Woodburn City Council— 12/19/2022 (Continued)

The Community Development Director, Chris Kerr, asked for a motion to authorize staff to prepare, process, and file land-use plans to annex Parr Road. Parr Road is under Marion Count’s jurisdiction; bringing it under the City of Woodburn’s control will give the City control over improvements. The area near Parr Road and Butteville is where the SW Industrial Reserve is located. One goal is to alleviate traffic pressures there. Once the application for annexation is filed, hearings and review will be conducted by the Planning Commission, and then the annexation will be brought for a vote by the City Council for approval.

Finally, the City has ordered two new vehicles for Dial-a-Ride. Since the vehicles were ordered, supply chain issues have caused price increases. The Council was asked to approve a motion to allow for the increase of approximately \$62,000 so that the two replacement vehicles can be purchased.

The City Council approved all bills and funding requests.

In early 2023 the City Council will engage in goal planning and leadership training under the guidance of the Mark O. Hatfield School at Portland State University.



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League of Women Voters of Marion and Polk Counties Membership through September 30, 2023

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 newest 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, 1965 Manorview Lane NW, Salem OR 97304

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**

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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.

January 2023

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