



# W.E. TALK *the* NEWSLETTER



## THE WOMEN'S CAUCUS WELCOMES YOU LOC 2023 SPRING CONFERENCE

**NETWORKING RECEPTION**

**WEDNESDAY APRIL 26 4:30-6pm MEZZANINE**

The purpose of the Women's Caucus is to:

- ⇒ Promote positive and effective relationships among women city officials, their communities, political leaders, and the LOC
- ⇒ Build and increase capacity of women to engage in and serve in local government
- ⇒ Serve as a resource to the LOC Board in the formulation of its policy agenda;
- ⇒ Equip and advance women city officials to serve in positions of leadership on the LOC Board;
- ⇒ Support, encourage and highlight the successes of women city officials.

**JOIN  
THE  
CAUCUS**



## WOMEN'S CAUCUS LEADERSHIP TEAM

### Executive Committee

President: Tita Montero, Councilor, Seaside

Vice President: Paula Hyatt, Council President, Ashland

Secretary: Marilyn Smith, Council President, Albany

At Large: Mindy Garlington, Councilor, Gladstone

At Large: Kristin Akervall, Council President, Wilsonville

### Board Members

Megan Perkins, Councilor, Bend

Susan Trachsel, Council President, Siletz

Nancy Peterson, Councilor, Hermiston

Cathy Clark, Mayor, Keizer

Roxanne Beltz, Councilor, Monmouth

McKennon McDonald, Councilor, Pendleton

Bridget Brooks, Councilor, Tualatin

Ramycia McGhee, Councilor, Albany

## MEETINGS

### ALL MEMBERS ARE INVITED TO ATTEND

### UPCOMING DATES

**BOARD:** NOON—1PM THIRD TUESDAY OF EACH MONTH

**EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE :** NOON—1PM FIRST TUESDAY OF EACH MONTH

**W.E. TALK** provides an opportunity for Women Electeds to come together for a targeted program or informal coffee table discussions.

*MEETINGS ARE VIRTUAL. THE link is published one week in advance via the public meeting notice from LOC. Members automatically receive the meeting notice.*

Executive Committee Meeting – May 2, 12 p.m.- 1 p.m.

Communications Committee Meeting – May 9, 5:30 p.m.

Board Meeting – May 16, 12 p.m.- 1 p.m.

W.E TALK—June 1, 5:30p.m.– 7p.m.

Executive Committee Meeting – June 6, 12 p.m.- 1 p.m.

Communications Committee Meeting – June 13, 5:30 p.m.

Board Meeting – June 20, 12 p.m.- 1 p.m.

Outreach & Communications Committee Meeting – June 13, 5:30 p.m.

Board Meeting – June 20, 12 p.m.- 1 p.m.

### **The Gray Lines of Social Media: It's a JUNGLE Out There!**

**Next W.E. TALK: June 1 5:30-7PM**

Join your peers as we spend a Happy Hour unravelling the social media pitfalls we face.

### COMMITTEES

**Members are invited to participate on committees. Contact the chair or send email to [LOCWomensCaucus@gmail.com](mailto:LOCWomensCaucus@gmail.com).**

**Bylaws Committee: Tita Montero**

**Communication: TBA** Responsible for communication items such as the Newsletter

**Membership: Kristin Akervall** Responsible for managing/utilizing membership data

**Nominating: TBA**

**Outreach: TBA** Responsible for creating partnerships and membership recruitment methods

**Programs: Paula Hyatt** Responsible for W.E Talk sessions

[LOCWomensCaucus@gmail.com](mailto:LOCWomensCaucus@gmail.com)

<https://www.orcities.org/about/who-we-are/loc-womens-caucus>

## Women in Leadership Spotlight

# Marilyn Smith



**Albany Council President**

### Words that describe me:

***Disciplined, Honest, Funny, Writer, Reader, Friend***

### Funny Fact about Albany:

***Pioneering Oregon suffragist Abigail Scott Duniway once operated a millinery and notions shop here!***

### Leadership Focus:

***Civil discourse, sharing knowledge and experience, prudent management of resources, coordinated response to homelessness***



### Why I joined the Women's Caucus:

***To meet, learn from, and share with the elected and appointed women leading Oregon's cities. We have a lot to offer our cities and each other.***

Quite a few women, all having been elected to a position in city government, participated in the formation of the Women's Caucus of the League of Oregon Cities. In this issue Catherine Biscoe, one of the formation leaders and the 1<sup>st</sup> Women's Caucus President, provides an enlightening summary of the beginnings and first year. As I took on the role of President, two thoughts came to mind: *The only constant in life is change.*

*The more things change, the more they stay the same.*

This has borne out in the work the Board and Executive Committee are doing to refine the structure and workings of the Caucus. While any woman elected/appointed to office in a city member of LOC is automatically 'qualified' to be a member of the Women's Caucus, organizationally we need to know who we serve. That is done via 'declaring' membership.

- \* The format and process for membership is an important accomplishment during this first quarter of 2023.
- \* The QR code on the front of this newsletter leads to the membership declaration.
- \* Declaring membership provides the very important ability to have a say in what the Caucus does through voting and participating in committees and the Board.
- \* Declaring membership also assures receiving all notices of Women's Caucus meetings and events.

I joined and have worked to establish the Women's Caucus because I could see '*what's in it for me*': a support system in which I could learn and refine my skills as a woman elected to city government; a network with others having the same experiences and sharing many of the same lens which color or interpret those experiences; a group of women fostering friendship and understanding of the female experience in government; an opportunity to have discussions and learn with the overlay of woman's philosophy.

I believe one of the basic desires we all share is to make a difference – for others; in our community; in this world. The work we have all undertaken certainly provides one path to fulfilling that need. BRAVO to all of you who have taken this leap.

*Well behaved women seldom make history.*

I look forward to learning from and sharing with you.

Tita Montero  
City Councilor, Seaside  
Women's Caucus President/LOC Board Director



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<https://www.orcities.org/about/who-we-are/loc-womens-caucus>

## LOC MEETINGS

**LOC Small Cities Meetings** are held each quarter in each District.

### **LOC President's Regional Meetings**

- ◇ May 5, Region 1, Rainier, 11am - 1pm
- ◇ May 11, Region 3, Dallas, 11am - 1pm
- ◇ May 12, Region 4, Cottage Grove, 11am - 1pm

### **LOC Fall Conference, October 12 - 14 Eugene, Oregon**

<https://www.orcities.org/training-events/loc-training-events-calendar/details/loc-small-cities>

## **The Women's Caucus – First in the League's 98-year history**

*"A survey of Oregon cities in 2019 showed that women made up about 43% of all elected officials then in office. In 2021, only 71 Oregon cities had a woman mayor (29%)."*

In 2017, after 92 years, the League of Oregon Cities realized the boardroom no longer represented the diversity of Oregon cities. A meaningful effort was made to revise the LOC Strategic Plan to create a platform of diversity in leadership, including increasing women's participation.

In early 2021, the League reached out to local officials to seeking interest in the formation of a Women's Caucus...one hundred twenty-three women elected officials responded to the call and in June, the Women's Caucus was officially recognized by the LOC Board of Directors.

In its first year, the Women's Caucus formed essential committees, revised the bylaws, created a logo, developed conference literature, expanded outreach, and identified priorities for the Caucus including homelessness, improving council relationships, developing leaders, mentorship, and increasing diversity, equity, and inclusion. The Caucus successfully held three virtual W.E. Talk coffee hours (Women Elected), featuring the special events, "Meet the Mayors" and "Welcome to Election Season."

The LOC 2022 Fall Conference gave us time to celebrate in-person these accomplishments, and the Women's Caucus hosted a social hour celebrated by our own members as well as our colleagues from the People of Color caucus and other officials from across the state.

The potential of the Women's Caucus is just beginning to be realized. We recognize that public policy and local government impacts us all, and it is important that our elected officials have the resources needed to make good decisions. Lifting the voices of women leaders across Oregon has endless possibilities. Empowering current and emerging local government officials delivers value to every city, every county, and every region in the state. It is that pursuit of excellence in public service and local government leadership that we collectively embrace.

Catherine Biscoe,  
Former Philomath City Councilor  
2021-2022 President of the LOC Women's Caucus

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