



Oregon  
State Capitol  
FOUNDATION

March 2023

NEWSLETTER



## A Message from the Chair

**As Oregonians, we're inspiring a love of our Capitol, its history and our democracy.**

By Hon. Bob Repine, Capitol Foundation Board Chair, former Oregon State Representative

In 1988, I was elected to the Oregon House of Representatives where I served for ten years. After leaving the Oregon House I was appointed Director of the Oregon Housing Agency serving until 2006. From 2006 until I retired in 2017, I worked in a variety of roles with several state agencies.

Pictured above: Most recent Capitol Foundation Civics Education Initiative sponsorship award recipient YMCA of Columbia-Willamette at Oregon's Youth and Government Statewide Conference held last month in Salem at Willamette University.

Photo by: Oregon Alliance YMCA's

See page 3 for more information about the Capitol Foundation Civics Education Initiative sponsorship program.

During a presentation about the Oregon State Capitol Foundation, I realized how much Oregon had done for me and I decided to return the favor and volunteer. In 2018, I became a Capitol Foundation Board member, also serving on the executive and nominating committees. I help lead a number of special Capitol Foundation projects, including the restoration of the Oregon Liberty Bell.

Volunteering on the Board is a wonderful way for me to show my appreciation for the many opportunities I've received from our great state over the past 47 years.

Our vision is that Oregonians know their Capitol as a beautiful, vibrant place to engage with history and democracy. We want to connect you to a shared heritage to create a living history and enhance the dignity and beauty of the Capitol.

Your donations help the Capitol Foundation fund many projects and events including the Capitol

History Gateway, which provides interpretive and educational programs and exhibits for all visitors.

In January, the Capitol Foundation's Board elected new officers to lead us in achieving this vision. Along with myself as Chair, the new officers are Vice Chair Gary Wilhelms, Secretary Judy Hall and Treasurer Bruce Anderson.

We look forward to coming together this year to celebrate our major donors at our [Donor Appreciation Reception](#). It's always nice to be in a room full of people who share a passion for our Capitol and the important work happening there.

One reason our Capitol is important to us is because of the special memories we made there with you. The Capitol Foundation is planning our next [Capitol Alumni Reunion](#). Former legislators, Capitol staff, lobbyists and members of the press will receive their "save the date" postcard this summer.



# It's good to be back...

## Kicking off the 2023 Legislative Session with Welcome!

The January 17 kick off to the 2023 Oregon Legislative Session was a wonderful way to meet and mingle with new legislators, returning lawmakers, state agency professionals and lobbyists in a fun and relaxing atmosphere while supporting the work of the Capitol Foundation.

Special thanks to our sponsors, especially to our co-presenter, the Oregon Capitol Club! Event Sponsors not only made the event possible but are also helping to preserve and beautify Oregon's historic Capitol and engage visitors in educational opportunities, cultural programs and civic involvement. Thank you for your generous support. We look forward to seeing you in 2025.



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Genoa Ingram

Pictured below are Senate President Rob Wagner, Senate Majority Leader Kate Lieber, Senate Minority Leader Tim Knopp, Rep. Paul Evans, Sen. Deb Patterson, Sen. Michael Dembrow, Sen. Floyd Prozanski, Rep. Boomer Wright, Sen. David Brock Smith, Sen. Daniel Bonham, Rep. David Gomberg, Frankie Bell, Judy Hall, Lynda Gardner, along with other legislators, lobbyists and sponsors enjoying the Welcome! event. Photos by: Joel Zak 2023



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## Hon. Verne Duncan receives Capitol Foundation Bell Award

The award recognizes individuals who have made outstanding contributions to the nonprofit.



**Sen. Verne Duncan**  
2023 Bell Award recipient

In January the Capitol Foundation presented former educator and State Senator Verne Duncan with the Bell Award, praising his long and enthusiastic support of the Foundation and for spearheading legislation, officially establishing the Oregon State Capitol Foundation. His passionate work has and will continue to bring our Capitol and all it represents alive for students, civics education groups, visitors and our state's future leaders for generations to come.

Hon. Bob Repine, Capitol Foundation Chair said *"It was such an honor presenting Verne with the Bell Award. It was his vision and commitment back then that keeps us focused and staying true to our mission!"*

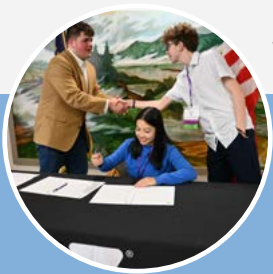
Duncan has served on the Capitol Foundation Board since 2000 and is currently serving as an Emeritus Member since 2015.

## Answer from the back cover



**Hon. Gary Wilhelms** is the legislator pictured on our back cover. Wilhelms served in the Oregon House of Representatives from 1973 to 1979 and was House Minority Leader in 1979. He was a lobbyist for Pacific Northwest Bell and chief of staff for leaders of both the House and Senate. This year Wilhelms was elected Vice Chair of the Oregon State Capitol Foundation.

Pictured below left: Capitol Foundation Civics Education Initiative sponsorship award recipient YMCA of Columbia-Willamette at Oregon's Youth and Government Statewide Conference held last month in Salem at Willamette University. Photo by: Oregon Alliance YMCA's



## Artist has been selected for Governor portrait



The Capitol Foundation has been working alongside Governor Brown and representatives from the Governor's Office, the Oregon Arts Commission and the Office of Legislative Administrator, among others, to commission the governor's official gubernatorial portrait.

At the end of each Governor's term, funds are raised to commission an official gubernatorial portrait.

Former Governor Kate Brown has selected portrait artist Robin Damore to paint the official portrait documenting her governorship.

Donors will be invited to the unveiling and dedication ceremony. We hope you will be a part of it.

Robin Damore is a professional portrait artist and photographer who has operated her own studio in Vancouver, Washington for 22 years. To read more about the artist visit: [www.robindamore.com](http://www.robindamore.com)

## Congratulations to the most recent Capitol Foundation Civics Education Initiative sponsorship award recipients!

The Foundation awarded a total of \$55,250 for this second round of sponsorships.

The Foundation Board approved five sponsorship funding requests in January. The awardees include **Foundations for a Better Oregon**, **Healthy Democracy**, **Oregon Kid Governor**, **Oregon's Kitchen Table**, **YMCA of Columbia-Willamette** and **Young Leaders Program**.

We anticipate another round of sponsorship awards later in the year.

The Capitol Foundation established the Civics Education Initiative sponsorship program to fund projects and programs that educate adults and students about Oregon's legislative process and the importance of citizen involvement in all phases of public policy decision-making. Expanding knowledge of and appreciation for the fundamentals of Oregon's government.

Special thanks to Capitol Foundation donors and purchasers of the Pacific Wonderland license plates for helping Oregonians learn about and better appreciate the goals of democratic processes and the value of civic involvement.



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## Remembering Oregonians who added to the Capitol story

**Len Bergstein**, lobbyist and political commentator, died October 17, 2022, at age 76.

**Rep. Bill Garrard**, member of the Oregon House of Representatives from 2001-2013, died November 28, 2022, at the age of 82.

**Vinita Mae Howard**, public affairs and agency lobbyist, died February 2, 2023, at the age of 94.

**Rep. Fred R. Parkinson**, member of the Oregon House of Representatives from 1981-1993, died January 5, 2023, at the age of 93.

**Rep. Barbara Ross**, member of the Oregon House of Representatives from 1994-2000, died April 4, 2022, at the age of 86.

**William "Bill" E. Taylor, Jr.**, longtime legislative staffer, died October 15, 2022, at the age of 74.

Do you recognize this legislator presiding over a House session in the mid 1970s?



*Look inside for the answer!*

## First women elected to the Oregon Legislature

In recognition of Women's History Month, we highlight the first two women elected to the Oregon Legislature.



**Kathryn Clarke** (1873-1940) the first woman elected to the Oregon Senate representing Douglas County as a Republican. Clarke won a special election to the Oregon Senate in 1915, running on a platform of saving taxpayers' dollars serving from January 21, 1915 to January 1917. After completing her term, Clarke moved to California.

(From Sunset Magazine. Public Domain)



**Marian B. Towne** (1880-1966) the first woman elected to the Oregon House of Representatives in 1914. Towne represented Jackson County as a Democrat in the 1915 session, supporting increased school funding. Towne served on three House standing committees including Education, Health and Public Morals and Salaries.

(Marian Towne, c.1915. Courtesy Oregon Hist. Soc. Research Lib., 009369)

Courtesy of the Oregon Encyclopedia, a project of the Oregon Historical Society. Visit [oregonencyclopedia.org](http://oregonencyclopedia.org) for more about Marian B. Towne and Kathryn Clarke.