

Western Liberty Network

**2023 Multi-State Annual Leadership and
Activist Conference in Review**

**February 3-4, 2023 – Portland, Oregon
Holiday Inn Columbia Riverfront Hotel**

CONFERENCE EVENTS AND OFFERINGS

- ❶ Conference Objectives, Sponsors, Featured Speakers, and Presenters (*3 Slides*)
- ❷ Conference Setting and Facilities (*3 Slides*)
- ❸ General Assemblies with Featured Speakers (*3 Slides*)
 1. Morning Assembly with Steve Moore and John Tamny of FreedomWorks
 2. Lunch Assembly with Oregon state senator Dennis Linthicum and former candidate for Oregon governor Marc Thielman.
 3. Closing Assembly with former U.S. Ambassador to NATO, Kurt Volker
- ❹ Twenty Breakout Sessions Along Four Instructional Tracks (*4 Slides*)
 1. How to Run for and Get Elected to Local Office in 2023
 2. How to Be an Effective Citizen Lobbyist
 3. How to be an Effective School Board and School Choice Activist
 4. How to Manage/Execute Candidate and Ballot Measure Campaigns
- ❺ Friday Night Reception and Lighter Moments (*2 Slides*)
- ❻ After the Conference – Next Steps (*4 Slides*)



**Western Liberty Network's 2023
Annual Leadership and Activist Conference**

CONFERENCE OBJECTIVES



< Always themed “*Take the Offensive*,” WLN’s annual conferences have the primary goal of giving limited-government candidates, activists, and public office holders the tools they need to be succeed in civic life.

Other goals include helping attendees network, share ideas, and provide them with the information and inspiration they need to build motivation and confidence. >



Western Liberty Network’s 2023 Annual Leadership and Activist Conference

CONFERENCE CO-SPONSORS AND PARTICIPANTS

SUSTAINING SPONSORS

Senator Dennis and Diane Linthicum

Stephen Moore

Hugh Perrine

Senator Kim Thatcher

MAIN EVENT SPONSOR

Northwest Hazelnuts
of Hubbard, Oregon

OTHER SPONSORS

FreedomWorks

Parents' Rights in Education

Family Policy Institute

Oregon Capitol Watch Foundation

Burnett Media Group – Slavic Vote

Oregonians for Fair Elections

Education Freedom for Oregon

Education Action Committee

The above organizations and individuals include organizational co-sponsors and financial sponsors who contributed their names, services, and/or financial support for this event.



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2023 FEATURED SPEAKERS AND PRESENTERS



From left to right: WLN Executive Director **Richard P. Burke**; former NATO ambassador Kurt Volker; state senators **Dennis Linthicum** and **Kim Thatcher**; **Cesar Ybarra**, Vice President of Policy for FreedomWorks; **Janice Dysinger** of Oregonians for Fair Elections; former gubernatorial candidates Brandon Merritt and Marc Thielman, and Suzanne Gallagher, Executive Director of Parents Rights in Education.



From left to right: Former state representative **Mike Nearman**; former CEO of the Tualatin Valley Water District **Mark Knudson**, **Jennifer Heine-Withee** of the Family Policy Institute, former state representative **Jeff Kropf**, **Janet Bailey** of the Education Action Committee, Burnett Media Group owner **Greg Burnett**, WLN Washington State Director **Ken Morse**, former U.S. senate candidate **Marc Delphine**, and **Stephanie Heffner** of the Oregon Govt. Ethics Commission.



Western Liberty Network's 2023 Annual Leadership and Activist Conference

CONFERENCE SETTING AND FACILITIES



< The conference was held at the Holiday Inn Columbia Riverfront hotel in Portland, Oregon on the Columbia river.

The hotel has been recently remodeled offering facilities, rooms, and dining accommodations appropriate for the region's leading grassroots training event. >



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CONFERENCE SETTING AND FACILITIES



< WLN hosted its traditional Friday night icebreaker with hot appetizers, a no host bar, and brief presentations. Over sixty people attended the mixer which has earned the reputation of a fun event.

The main ballroom comfortably held the conference's over 120 attendees, the most ever to attend a WLN conference during a year without a general election. This photo shows a third of the crowd. >



Western Liberty Network's 2023 Annual Leadership and Activist Conference

CONFERENCE SETTING AND FACILITIES



< The ballroom was split into four rooms during the conference's five breakout sessions, allowing for 20 sessions to be held organized along four tracks of instruction.



WLN always provides a quality hot lunch during at its annual conferences. It is a working lunch, with featured presenters and award presentations. >



Western Liberty Network's 2023 Annual Leadership and Activist Conference

GENERAL ASSEMBLIES WITH FEATURED SPEAKERS



The first lunchtime speaker was Oregon senator Dennis Linthicum who motivated the crowd to take ownership of their government and get in touch with their rights as citizens. >

< After opening ceremonies, FreedomWorks' Vice President of Policy, Cesar Ybarra, provided an update on what is going on in Washington, D. C.



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GENERAL ASSEMBLIES WITH FEATURED SPEAKERS



< The second lunchtime speaker was Marc Theilman, a leading school choice advocate, chief petitioner, and a former candidate for Oregon governor.

The afternoon culminated in a presentation by former NATO ambassador Kurt Volker, who discussed the Russo-Ukrainian war, talked about America's interest in the war, and answered questions from the crowd. >



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GENERAL ASSEMBLIES WITH FEATURED SPEAKERS



< A variety of awards is given out every year to recognize excellence in activism. Here, newly elected Clackamas county commissioner Ben West receives recognition for excellence in campaigning.

Suzanne Gallagher of Parents' Rights in Education again received WLN's 2023 award for outstanding WLN Independent Affiliate organization. >



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TWENTY BREAKOUT SESSIONS



In this breakout session, Jennifer Heine-Withee of the Family Policy Institute leads a session on what Critical Race Theory is and how to successfully confront it in the government schools. >

< The breakouts offered a chance for activists to receive expert interactive live training from legislators, professionals, and leaders expert in the topics they were teaching about.



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TWENTY BREAKOUT SESSIONS



Former state representative Jeff Kropf leads a breakout session on how people can design and execute their own earned media campaigns. >

< Former state representative Mike Nearman leads a breakout session on how to write and execute a campaign plan for local elected office.



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TWENTY BREAKOUT SESSIONS



< State Senator Kim Thatcher leads a breakout session on how to testify before public boards, commissions, and committees.

WLN Executive Director Richard Burke leads a breakout session on how to canvass neighborhoods door-to-door when working for a campaign. >



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TWENTY BREAKOUT SESSIONS



< Greg Burnett, owner of the Burnett Media Group, leads a breakout session on how activists can use social media to advance the candidate and ballot measure campaigns they care about.



Janice Dysinger of Oregonians for Fair Elections leads a breakout session on ensuring election integrity with respect to local nonpartisan elections. >



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FRIDAY NIGHT RECEPTION AND LIGHT MOMENTS



< Every annual conference features a reception giving attendees a chance to meet speakers, renew friendships, and make new connections. Hot appetizers, music, and brief presentations are featured.

This year, WLN hired an excellent jazz quartet made up of high school juniors and seniors who play gigs around the Portland area for fun. They were GREAT! >



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FRIDAY NIGHT RECEPTION AND LIGHT MOMENTS



< Former candidate for Oregon governor Brandon Merritt was among the featured presenters at the Friday night reception.

Merritt spoke about the future of the limited-government movement in Oregon.



Volunteers Aubrey Cardona and Carla Pletka greeted attendees as they arrived to the conference, making sure they had their badges, packets, and got signed in. >



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AFTER THE CONFERENCE – NEXT STEPS



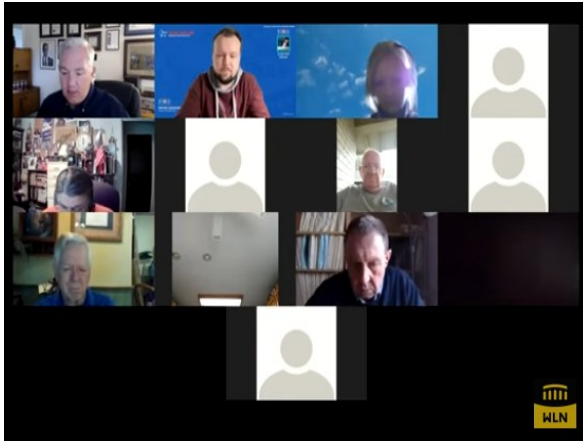
① Live On-Site Field Trainings

For the remainder of 2023, WLN Executive Director Richard Burke and qualified volunteers will be training people all over Oregon on how to engage in the democratic processes of their communities as an activist, public office holder, or community volunteer. The photos above show examples of various field trainings. In the coming years WLN plans to increase the number of field trainings it provides.



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AFTER THE CONFERENCE – NEXT STEPS



② Internet and Other Trainings

On Saturdays, WLN provides a free training on Zoom at 1pm PT on different topics with occasional guest trainers. These sessions are recorded and are available for review on the TRAINING tab of the www.westernlibertynetwork.org website. Occasionally, training information is provided on radio programs and regularly in small live group meetings across the Northwest. To be successful WLN training has to use multiple approaches.



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AFTER THE CONFERENCE – NEXT STEPS



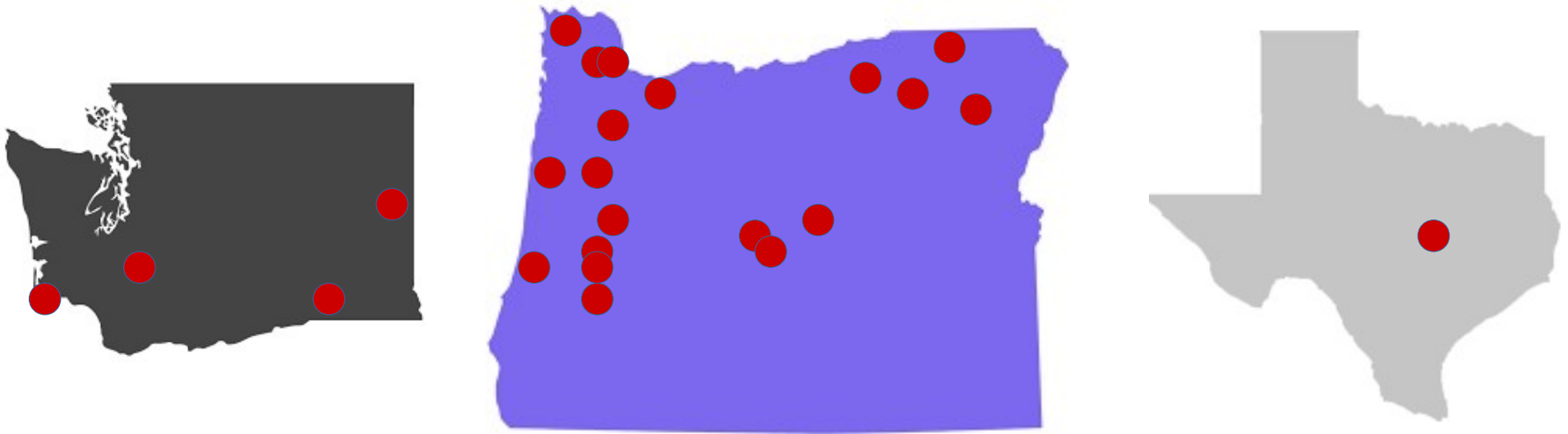
③ Building a Generation and “Farm Team” of Limited-Government Office Holders

Since 2013 almost 1,100 people who received WLN training have been elected to local non-partisan offices in their communities. While WLN does not recruit, endorse, or oppose any candidates, it does offer training to those who want to take responsibility for governance in their communities.



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AFTER THE CONFERENCE – NEXT STEPS



④ Building WLN's Network of Independent Affiliates

Since its founding, WLN has affiliated twenty-six citizen activist organizations in Oregon, four in Washington, and one in Texas. In the coming year WLN plans to organize throughout the rest of Oregon and establish itself more robustly in additional states. Since 2011, not a single WLN affiliate has asked to end their affiliation.



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End of Presentation – THANK YOU!

Your support made this conference possible. Since 2011 we've proven that WLN's model works. Now it's time to scale it up.

With your continued support, Western Liberty Network can be even more effective in helping people become stakeholders in their communities by engaging in civic life.

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