



Hon. Ginny Burdick

Ginny Burdick's relationship with the Oregon Capitol began in 1973, when she was working on her Master's thesis at the University of Oregon School of Journalism. Her topic: How lobbyists work in the Oregon Legislature. Her thesis, researched in the 1973 legislative session, ran in full in the Eugene Register-Guard and statewide on the wires of the Associated Press.

A year and a half later, she was back in the Capitol, covering state government and the 1975 Oregon Legislature for the Associated Press. It was during that time that she became lifelong friends with Frankie Bell and Nan Heim.

Ginny left Oregon in 1976 for Washington, D.C., where she continued her reporting career and transitioned into a new career as an environmental policy consultant. That led to a job in Los Angeles as Environmental Issues Manager for Atlantic Richfield Company, from 1981 to 1984.

Returning to Oregon in 1984, Ginny worked on political campaigns and began a rewarding career in public service as a member of the Land Conservation and Development Commission from 1987 to 1993.

She began her own business in crisis communications in 1989, working with corporate clients, nonprofits and educational institutions for the next 20 years.

In 1996, Ginny ran for an open seat in the Oregon Senate, surprising many in the political world by campaigning for stronger gun laws. (The politicians pretty much expected her to lose!) She won that race and went on to serve in the Senate for nearly 25 years. As a nervous freshman Senator in need of a friendly face, she was delighted to be welcomed by Senate Secretary Judy Hall, who she had gotten to know in her reporting days.

In the Senate, Ginny kept her campaign promise to enact stronger gun laws. Oregon now has laws requiring universal background checks; safe storage of guns; and confiscation of guns from domestic violence abusers and people who pose a danger to themselves or others. And there will be no more guns allowed in the Capitol; or in the Portland Airport; or in schools and universities that decide to ban them.

Gun safety was not Ginny's only priority in the Senate. She served as Chair of several committees, including Judiciary, Finance and Revenue and Rules. She co-chaired several House-Senate committees, including Marijuana Legalization, Capitol Culture and Tax Expenditures. She served in leadership during her last 10 years, first as Senate President pro tem and then as Majority Leader.

Ginny and her former husband have two grown daughters, Shannon Grosswiler and Kate Grosswiler. Ginny is owned by one spoiled cat named Tucker (no relation).



Hon. Bob Repine, OSCE Chair

After graduating from college in 1971, Bob pursued an opportunity to move to Grants Pass Oregon to start a new career in general construction. Soon after, he began work on the early elements of Oregon's newly approved Statewide Land Use Laws as an appointee to Josephine County Urban Area Planning Commission.

In 1988, following a successful campaign, Oregonians elected Bob to the Oregon House of Representatives where he served for ten years. After leaving the Oregon House he was appointed Director of the Oregon Housing Agency serving until 2006. From 2006 until retirement in 2017, he worked in a variety of leadership roles with several state agencies.

During a presentation about the Oregon State Capitol Foundation, Bob realized how much Oregon had done for him and decided to return the favor. In 2018, Bob became a Foundation board member, also serving on the executive committee. Bob is currently the nominating committee chairperson and helps lead a number of special Foundation projects, including the restoration of the Oregon Liberty Bell in 2020.

“Volunteering on the Foundation 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.”

Former representative Bob Repine



Kim Duncan
Education Committee Co-chair

Kim first saw the Capitol as a Californian freshman at Willamette University when she was on the hunt for the famous Capitol cinnamon rolls in the basement cafeteria. Little did she know she would keep returning to the building; first as a student intern and later as a staffer, campaign manager, lobbyist, state commission member, and citizen advocate.

Throughout her career, Kim says she has observed democracy in action from multiple viewpoints in this building. She has consistently witnessed the integrity of Oregon's elected officials, the democratic processes they navigate and citizens for whom they work, and believes Oregon is incredibly lucky.

“In these quarantined and divisive times, it is critical for us, as citizens, to reaffirm what we can accomplish in the face of adversity. Preserving stories about the work in our Capitol building, both current and past, allows us to describe what is possible in a democratic society. These are stories worth telling; and that’s the job of the Oregon State Capitol Foundation.”

Kim Duncan



Bruce Anderson, Treasurer

Bruce Anderson, a veteran Capitol staffer with nearly three decades of experience in the legislative process, most recently served as Chief of Staff for the Oregon House Republican Caucus. Anderson has previous experience working in the House Majority Office and for the Speaker of the House. Anderson was most recently Community Affairs Manager at NW Natural and has experience working for the Northwest Food Processors Association and several other trade associations.



Hon. Norm Smith

Norm Smith's connection with the Oregon State Capitol began on his second birthday when he and his parents celebrated in the park adjacent to the Capitol. Smith's [oral history project interview](#) explores the variety of ways he has contributed to Oregon and the Capitol. As a student at Willamette University School of Law, Smith interned for several agencies and was a building tour guide. In that role he explored "every nook and cranny" until he thoroughly knew the building.

From 1979 -1983 Smith represented District 7 (later 9) that included an eclectic constituency that spanned from the urban boundaries of Portland to ranches, farms and orchards in rural areas of Yamhill and Washington Counties. The district reflected the larger urban and rural issues confronting the state. Smith treasures "the fact that I had to figure out whether I was benefitting more than fewer and that if there was a way to bring it more to the middle that that was a better solution for that district."

Smith points to the importance of relationships throughout his interview as the key to success in life and work. As the first president and CEO of The Ford Family Foundation, Smith influenced Oregon's civic and cultural life through educational scholarships for rural students, rural community grants, and support for the arts. Given the longevity of Norm Smith's relationship with the Capitol, it was a perfect fit when he became a founding board member of the Oregon State Capitol Foundation, later chairing its board.

Over 20 years later the common bonds of diverse people move the Foundation's mission forward for the benefit of the Capitol and Oregonians.



Hon. Jane Cease

Sen. Jane Cease figured out early in life that what governments did mattered. Cease was elected to represent her Northeast Portland district in the Oregon House of Representatives in 1979. Male and female voters in the 1970s were unsure of whether a woman was up to the task of being in politics.

“There was this dis-rest, unease, uncomfortableness with women being more than what our role was.”

Former Oregon State Senator Jane Cease

Walking up the steps to the Capitol Building for her first session Cease knew that this was where she needed to be. Some of her male colleagues were less certain, but Jane’s persistence and work ethic soon won over her skeptics.

Women representatives and senators were small in number during her tenure, but they banded together as a group known as the Queen Bees. The “Bees” shared a house in Salem where they supported one another across party lines.

Cease worked on legislation that some might consider unglamorous but affected all Oregonians: updating the motor vehicle code, revising funding sources to keep roads paved and drivable, and implementing strict environmental codes on stream and water quality. After leaving elective office, Cease continued her work in state government working in transportation, a long-time interest of hers.

“I was delighted when Frankie Bell’s idea for the Capitol Foundation was adopted and also happily served on the 2005-2006 Public Commission on the Legislature making more recommendations. The Capitol is the major symbol of the public’s governing in Oregon and we all need to be stewards for its care.” --Hon. Jane Cease



Hon. Gary Wilhelms, Vice-Chair

Gary Wilhelms enjoyed a forty-year career with USWEST Communications and its predecessor companies, retiring as Director-Government Relations at the end of 1996. He has over forty years experience in Oregon politics and public affairs including four sessions as a member of the Oregon House of Representatives where he served from Klamath County, seventeen years as a lobbyist, and seven sessions as a key member of Oregon's legislative staff including two as Chief of Staff for the Speaker of the House.

He served as House Minority Leader in 1979. He is a Past President of the Capitol Club, Oregon's professional lobbyist organization, and has also served as a member of the Oregon Government Ethics Commission. In 2005-2006, he Co-Chaired the Public Commission on the Oregon Legislature, and in 2012-2013, he was Chair of the Capitol Master Plan Review Committee.

Gary is an original member of the Oregon State Capitol Foundation. Frankie Bell and Wilhelms, then assistant to the president of the Senate, approached Sen. Verne Duncan about spearheading [legislation to form the Foundation](#). Passionate about the organization's mission since day one, Wilhelms continues to play an active role on the Board. He is recognized as a straight talker and a solution seeker.

He and his wife, Gail, have been married for more than 50 years and now reside in Washington County. They have four grown children and four grandchildren.

In 2010, Gary completed his college studies and received his B. S. degree in Philosophy, Politics and Economics from Eastern Oregon University at the age of seventy-two.