

# Teen theater group offers classes, shows



Salem Keizer Inspirational Teen Theatre (SKIT) has opened registration for its 2022 summer camps.

Kids who have completed 1st-5th grade will have one of two camps from which to choose: July 11-16 or July 18-23. At the end of each week, campers will perform Disney's Aladdin. Each camp

will be held from 8 a.m. to noon. Cost is \$125 per attendee if paid by June 15.

There will be a two-week camp for teens (grades 6 through 12) from July 11 to July 23, from 1 to 5 p.m. each day. Campers will perform Welcome to My World, a study of songs, dances and sketches about life as a teen.

Cost is \$200 per attendee if paid by June 15.

Registration forms for all camps are available at skittheatre.com. All camps will be held at Salem First Free Methodist Church at 4455 Silverton Rd. NE in Salem.

There is also one two-week camp for teens. It's July 11-23, from 1-5pm.

They perform Welcome to My World - a study of songs, dances and sketches about life as a teen.

Cost is \$200 if pay by 6-15-22.

Just sign up on skit website.

SKIT will stage the musical Hello Dolly! in April and May at Salem First

Free Methodist Church. Performances are scheduled for April 29, May 5-6 at 7 p.m. each evening with a 2 p.m. matinee on Sunday, May 7. There will be a public dress rehearsal at 7 p.m. on April 28. Cost for the rehearsal is \$6, available at the door only.

Tickets range from \$6 to \$10, available at the door. Advance tickets can be purchased now at skittheatre.com. There is a fee of \$1 for on line ticket purchases.

Salem First Free Methodist Church is located 4455 Silverton Rd. NE.

The production is sponsored by Domino's Pizza.



## New PAC formed to help Oregon women run for office

BY LYNNE TERRY

Of the Oregon Capital Chronicle

Two legislators retiring from state service are focused on influencing voters to put more working women in the Legislature.

State Reps. Rachel Prusak of Tualatin and Anna Williams of Hood River, Democrats and each chairing a House committee, announced on Tuesday that they've formed a political action committee to support reform-minded working women who are running for state office.

They formed 9to5 three weeks ago to help candidates raise money and campaign. The PAC would help those elected craft bills and be an effective legislator while working a full-time job.

"The intention is to be a little different," Williams told the Capital Chronicle.

She said that Democratic candidates are taught how to be a successful candidate but then once they're elected, they're on their own. Williams said they plan to "fill that gap."

Williams and Prusak announced in early March, as the legislative session was winding down, that they would not seek re-election because they could not continue juggling two full-time jobs. Prusak is a nurse practitioner, and Williams is a social worker and adjunct professor.

Their decision came after a proposal failed that would have increased legislator pay from about \$33,000 a year to around \$63,000. Representatives and senators are paid to work part time but the job is much more demanding.

"There is always something more that you can do," Williams said.

Williams chairs the House Human Services Committee and also has

children, 11 and 14. Prusak chairs the House Health Care Committee.

Their PAC will support women who want to reform the Legislature.

"A fair wage is the only way people with varied backgrounds and life experiences can afford to serve our state," Prusak said in a statement. "I don't believe that the people of Oregon want to only be represented by wealthy people with trust funds and hedge funds. In fact, I know they don't - they elected me twice because of, not in spite of, my working background."

Williams added: "Oregonians should have confidence their legislators know their struggles and can represent them, not just the wealthiest among us. We're not going anywhere until working people can serve in legislatures across the country without driving themselves to over-exhaustion, debt, or both."

The PAC has not reported any contributions yet.

The representatives said that Democrats support candidates from diverse backgrounds but have failed to help them stay in office, including raising their pay so they don't have to work outside the Legislature to support themselves and their families.

Some advocacy groups, including the Coalition of Communities of Color, the Asian Pacific American Network of Oregon or APANO, and Basic Rights Oregon, which advocates for the LGBTQ community, have concerns that women and people of color will be impeded from serving in the Legislature for economic reasons. Most of the legislators have at least part-time jobs or careers that allow them to set their own hours. And some

are retired or have family funds that give them economic flexibility.

Prusak and Williams said they named their PAC 9to5 after a Dolly Parton song.

"The song is an anthem that still rings true today," they said in a statement.

"You're in the same boat with a lot of your friends," Parton sings. "Launching ideas you all believe in. The tide's gonna turn."

"We decided to pour ourselves a cup of ambition and support and mentor the diverse candidates who will advocate to modernize the Legislature," Prusak and Williams said in their statement.

As a first step, they are supporting five candidates:

-Jackie Leung, a Salem city councilor and executive director of the nonprofit advocacy group Micronesian Islander Community, is running for House District 19 in Salem.

-Neelan Gupta, vice chair of the Lake Oswego School Board, is running for House District 38 covering Lake Oswego.

-Annessa Hartman, a Gladstone city councilor, is running for House District 40, covering Gladstone.

-Chelsea King, who chairs the West Linn-Wilsonville School Board, is running for Senate District 13.

-Wlnsvey Campos, who currently represents Aloha in the House, is a candidate for the Senate District 18 in Portland.

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