

LWV Oak Ridge Voter Article – June-July 2018 Voter

LWVTN 2018 Council

Saturday, April 28 – Sunday, April 29

Michelle Brandenburg made all the arrangements for the meeting, which was held in the DoubleTree Hotel in Chattanooga. Members of LWV of Chattanooga, newly recognized as a local league, served as hostesses, providing assistance to the speakers, electronic equipment, and materials for the delegates.

The only items of business were the adoption of a budget for 2018-2019 and the proposed Broadband Concurrence Position. Both items were introduced on Saturday and approved on Sunday morning. The state League has had a successful year with growth in membership and income. The Broadband Position is a concurrence with a position adopted by the LWV of Connecticut with sections promoting net neutrality; statewide access to high-speed internet; and public, education and government access TV.

Deborah Fisher, Executive Director of Tennessee Coalition for Open Government, was the first speaker. She discussed issues with costs of getting copies of open records and adequate notice and access to public meetings.

Amanda Wintersieck, Asst. Professor of Political Science, UT Chattanooga, spoke of “Research on Best Practices for Getting Out the Vote.” She noted that socio-economic class determines voting patterns, and in particular, younger voters have lower percentage of voter registration and even when registered, a lower percentage of voter turnout. It is important to find other ways to engage their interest

Linda Phillips, Shelby County Election administrator, explained “Understanding Ranked Choice Voting.” It would only apply in local elections in places such as Shelby County and Nashville that require the winner to receive a majority of the votes cast in the race. If not, a runoff election is required. The ranked choice voting allows voters to indicate a second and third choice for each race to distribute these votes to determine the winner. Memphis wanted to try this method, but the General Assembly wouldn’t authorize it.

At the Saturday evening banquet, Linda Mines, the historian for Chattanooga and Hamilton County, portrayed Abby Crawford Milton, the Chattanooga suffrage leader who became the first president of the LWV of Tennessee. Her presentation was very entertaining and informative.

On Sunday morning, Stewart Clifton, LWVTN lobbyist, gave a review of LWVTN’s priorities in the 2018 TN General Assembly.” His final report is on our website. He encouraged everyone to get acquainted with their legislators outside of the legislative session.

Also on Sunday morning, a representative from each local league summarized their successes and challenges. We were encouraged to state how we were able to make a project successful and how we managing to overcome challenges. We also had a panel with representative from each league discussing their voter registration experiences. Every local league has conducted several voter registration events.