



# The Voter

## **President's Column-April 2019**

In late May the League of Women Voters of Oak Ridge will hold its Annual Meeting for 2019. At that time the general business of the League will be conducted. Put to a vote of the membership will be a slate of officers, position statements of the coming year, and a proposed local program.

The League of Women Voters of Oak Ridge is affiliated with the Tennessee and the National Leagues, and it supports the non-partisan positions of those larger organizations. In addition, the Oak Ridge League can survey the local membership as to areas of interest and/or concern. In the few years that I have been involved with the League, the only active area with regular meetings has been Education. Individual board members have worked in the areas of Climate Change, Immigration, and Housing, but action groups have not met on a regular basis about these topics. Health Care, Mental Health, and Community Organizing have received little attention during my time with the League.

The League has a procedure and process to study areas of concern whereby members gather information from those most involved with a topic. That information can be shared with the League members, and action groups may continue to monitor local events, for example, in the area of Housing.

I feel confident that within the members of the LWVOR there are those who would like to help the League focus more of its energy on a specific topic and who would be willing to lend a hand.

I ask the readers of *The Voter*, who are members of the League, to send me suggestions of topics or concerns that they feel need the attention of the LWVOR. The best way to send me your suggestions would be to email me as [mccurdy46@hotmail.com](mailto:mccurdy46@hotmail.com) Should you not be active on the Internet, please phone me: (865) 332-6440.

Harriett McCurdy

[mccurdy46@hotmail.com](mailto:mccurdy46@hotmail.com) or 865-332-6440

### **Connect with Us**

Website: [lwvoakridge.org](http://lwvoakridge.org)

Facebook: League of Women Voters of Oak Ridge

### **Inside this Issue**

- The President's Column.....1
- LWL, BWL.....2
- News Items .....2
- LWVUS Update.....2
- The Green New Deal.....2
- Observer Corps .....3
- Anderson County Commission ...3
- Roane County Commission .....4
- Oak Ridge Municipal Planning ...5
- Roane State CC.....5
- Advisory Boards .....5
- EQAB.....5
- Senior Advisory Board.....6
- Recreation and Parks.....6
- Affiliated Boards & Commissions .6
- Stewart Clifton Updates.....7
- League Resources.....7
- Membership Updates.....7
- Calendar .....8

**Bill Moore, Voter Editor**

[lwvornews@icloud.com](mailto:lwvornews@icloud.com)

**Marian Varner, Webmaster**

**Precision Printing and Graphics supports the League of Women Voters of Oak Ridge by helping with costs for printing and folding *The Voter*.**

## Lunch with the League



**April 16:** Jon Hetrick, Director, Oak Ridge Recreation and Parks, will make a presentation on "State of Oak Ridge Parks."

**May 7:** Bruce Borchers, Superintendent Oak Ridge Schools, who will present a talk on the "State of Oak Ridge Schools."

**May 21:** Jerry Creasey, Anderson County Commission member. Jerry will present a personal story about the Polio Epidemic.

Lunches from the [Soup Kitchen](#) are available for \$8 on a first-come basis beginning at 11:30 a.m. The presentation begins at noon. Lunch with the League is open to the public and reservations are not required. We provide coffee, water and tea. LWL is on the first and third Tuesdays of the month. Lunch with the League is at the [Unitarian Universalist Church](#), 809 Oak Ridge Turnpike.

## Breakfast with the Legislators

This legislative session the LWV will once again host Breakfast with the Legislators the fourth Monday of each month the Legislature is in session, at 7:30 a.m. at the Oak Ridge Civic Center. Senators Randy McNally and Ken Yager and Representatives John Ragan and Kent Calfee are invited to participate.

~Dan Robbins and Charlie Hensley

## News Items

### National LWV Updates

March 2019

On March 26th, the Supreme Court of the U.S. will hear the League's redistricting case, ***Rucho v. League of Women Voters of North Carolina***, combined with two other gerrymandering cases, including one out of Maryland for which The League also has an amicus brief. Leagues will hold a rally on the steps of the Supreme Court on that day.

The League of Women Voters of Maryland joined the ***Benisek v. Lamone*** case in the Supreme Court of the U.S. alongside a handful of organizations as amici in a brief called the "civil society" filing. The amici curiae, or "friends of the court," are organizations whose public policy goals rely upon fair elections to ensure that elected policy makers represent and are meaningfully accountable to their constituents.

The League of Women Voters of Ohio filed a lawsuit this week along with several other organizations, arguing that Ohio's current district map violates

voters' rights and should be redrawn. The suit has the potential to give Ohio voters fair maps before 2020 elections.

LWVUS and LWV of Oregon submitted an amicus brief to the 9th Circuit in the case of ***Juliana v. U.S.*** The brief was submitted in favor of the young plaintiffs arguing that it is the job of the federal government to protect them from the damaging effects of climate change. The brief also argues that it is the job of the courts to address claims that are asserted by the politically powerless and the courts should act to fulfill that vital function by allowing the merits of this case to proceed to the trial process.

~Mary Ann Reeves

## The Green New Deal - What is It?

The LWVUS has signed, along with more than 600 organizations, a January 10, 2019 letter to Congress requesting that they hold hearings and openly debate legislation about climate change. The LWVUS feels the importance of having a seat at the table as the conversation advances on specific bills. So what is the Green New Deal (GND)?

First, it is a resolution and NOT a bill or a proposed bill. Resolutions do not go to the President for approval and do not become law.

Second, the resolution recognizes the duty of the Federal Government to create a GND to address the dual crisis of climate change and human inequalities that spark climate change. The resolution uses as its basis two reports: the report by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change and the Fourth National Climate Assessment report. Ref. H.Res.109.

Third, the resolution presents a list of topics whose solutions are big and bold (some say radical) to meet what the sponsors consider the biggest crisis facing the human race today - climate change.

Many of these concepts are not new but have never been addressed either comprehensively or collectively. If enacted, they will require separate bills, rather than an omnibus bill. It will be costly but that will be largely off-set by increased skilled labor and jobs. It will have its detractors some of whom are already calling it "ethnic cleansing," "dark path to socialism," "brainless," etc.

## Climate Change Aspects of the Resolution.

**Renewable Energy:** Meeting 100 percent of the US power demand through clean, renewable, and zero-emission sources. This would take a major shift in US energy development. It is currently projected that

renewable (hydroelectric, wind, biomass, solar, etc.) generation will only be 39% by 2050.

*Ref. U.S. Energy Information Administration.*

**Upgrade of the US Power Grid:** Correcting what many to believe as a serious security threat to the US by building energy efficient, affordable, and smart power grids. The last funding allocated to upgrade to a smart grid was in the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 which is far short of what is currently needed.

*Ref. Congressional Research Service*

**Energy Efficiency:** Continuing to upgrade existing buildings and building new ones to achieve maximum energy efficiency. The most recent experience in upgrading and retrofitting public housing achieved substantial energy and water savings and significant environmental improvements. *Ref. Office of Policy Development and Research.*

**Transportation:** Overhauling transportation to eliminate pollution and greenhouse gas emissions include investing in clean and affordable personal vehicles and public transportation. However increased emission standards as well as tax incentives for people buying electric vehicles have decreased under the Trump administration.

**Proven Technological Solutions:** Expanding on current techniques for removing greenhouse gases from the atmosphere and reducing pollution. In the European Union, forest and agriculture are responsible for 25% of the greenhouse gas emissions globally. Carbon balance can be achieved through reforestation and soils management, etc. *Ref. EU commission on Energy, Climate change, and the Environment.*

**Agriculture:** Collaborative agreements with farmers and ranchers to eliminate pollution and greenhouse gas emissions from the agricultural sector. In spite of the jokes of detractors, beef feedlots where millions of head of cattle (2.68 Million in Texas alone in one month) are penned together and produce the greenhouse emissions of methane and nitrous oxide which are more potent than carbon dioxide.

*Ref. CNN: Equality Aspects of the Resolution, Ref. H Res. 109*

**Employment Guarantees:** Guaranteeing a job with a family-sustaining wage, adequate family and medical leave, and retirement security to all people of the U.S.

**Employment Standards:** Strengthening and enforcing labor, health, safety, anti-discrimination, and wage standards across all employers, industries, and sectors.

**Public Ownership/Higher Education:** Providing assurance that the public receives appropriate returns on their federal tax investment (community grants, public banks, etc.) for communities that have projects working on GND mobilization and skills training and higher education to all residents of communities to allow full participation in GND projects.

**Trade Unions/Trade Deals:** Strengthening and protecting workers' rights to organize and collectively bargain and enacting and enforcing trade rules with strong labor and environmental protections.

**Indigenous people:** Obtaining the free, prior, and informed consent of indigenous people for all decisions that affect their territories, treaties, sovereignty, and land rights.

**Social Requirements:** Lumping together health care, housing, security, clean air and water, etc. No one bill can address these contentious issues.

*~Mary Ann Reeves*

## Observer Corps

*LWVOR members attend meetings and report their observations of the meeting they attend. These notes are not official minutes. Contact the specific committee for official information. Longer versions of some of these reports may be posted on our website.*

## Anderson County Commission

*Regular Meeting, March 18, 2019*

Chair Tracy Wandell called the meeting to order. Commissioner Denver Waddell was absent.

The Anderson County Animal Shelter was discussed again. Director of Animal Care and Control Brian Porter defended the shelter from criticism heard at the last Commission meeting. He pointed out that euthanasias are down and that plans for a larger facility are underway. Critics asked Commission to appoint an oversight board to supervise the Shelter. Commission voted unanimously to refer the issue to the Operations Committee.

Katherine Ajmeri, Deputy Purchasing Agent, announced that bids on 205 S Main will be opened on April 2, at 2:30.

Trustee Regina Copeland announced that she and Mayor Frank had agreed to hire Trippy Teno to do the delinquent tax work for at least one more year.

Commissioners admitted that the Trustee and Mayor had a legal right to make the appointment, but pointed out that the appointment was costing the county a lot of money. Mr. Teno gets \$150 for each of the delinquent tax cases filed. Ms Copeland said that there are 1,100-1,200 cases a year. Before 2016 these cases were handled by the Law Director's office and this revenue went into the general fund. Commission passed a motion asking the Trustee to reconsider her selection. Motion passed with 8 for, 4 against, 2 absent, and 2 abstaining.

Commission unanimously endorsed a resolution to allow off-road vehicles to use Slatestone Road near Briceville. Stephanie Wells, Director of Anderson County Tourism Council, pointed out that this allows off-road riders to access local businesses.

Commissioner McKamey announced that after 28 years of hard work, bids to build the new Glen Alpine Solid Waste Station would be opened on March 19th.

The Commission unanimously passed a resolution opposing Governor Lee's school voucher proposal. Commissioner Meredith pointed out that the Tennessee Chamber of Commerce opposes the Governor's plan. Commissioner Scott reported that the Tennessee County Commissioners Association also opposes it.

~Willa Reister, Observer

## **Roane County Commission**

*Regular Meeting, March 11, 2019*

Fourteen Commissioners were present. Invocation was given by Pastor Brenda A. Poole of the Swan Pond United Methodist Church. The Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America was led by Bailiff Jim Kelley. Chairman Randy Ellis was presiding.

All commissioners approved eleven Notary Publics who desired to serve the county.

### *Hearing of Delegation*

1. Robert Kennedy of Oak Ridge, Chairman of the City of Oak Ridge's Environmental Advisory Board addressed the Commission and spoke out against the waste site (Environmental Management Disposal Facility) and about an item on the agenda rescinding the resolution from last October regarding EMDF, large amounts of mercury and fish kill in Poplar Creek.

2. Pam May with the Roane Alliance spoke of the high points from the 2018 report and the lowest unemployment since 2004 in Roane County. Roane County received the seal of approval from the American Association of Retirement Communities, saying that Roane County is a great place to retire. Organized were the first ever All Teacher Visits where teachers visited participating industries. The Ribbon cutting for the K25 overlook takes place this spring.

3. Mark Turpin of 210 Sportsman's Club Road addressed the commission about the number of problems on this road and his fear of what may happen to his home from the excess rain damage. This has been going on for two years and he fears that his neighbors house is threatened first by a 150 foot crack in the mountain and his house would be next. He feels that nothing has been done to fix the problem.

4. Michael Parkinson thanked the commissioners for their open and honest participation about the possible consolidation of the high schools.

5. Henry Redmon of the Rockwood American Legion invited everyone to come to their Memorial Day prayer breakfast on May 18.

County Attorney Report: Greg Leffew spoke about the Sportsman Club Road conditions as well as Airport Road. Bowman Bend and Riggs Chapel owners have to give slope easement. The county does not have a right of way and will need core samples before repair can be discussed.

### *County Executive Report*

Ron Woody discussed among a number of issues the Legislative House Bill 1365 and Senate Bill 1356 with tax relief on delinquent taxes due to the ash spill. The county was unaware of the filing. It could cost the county and the city hundreds of thousands of dollars. They have been working with the comptroller's office on this bill.

A draft of the lawsuit being filed by Attorney Jim Scott concerning the ash spill is under review.

TDEC and Department of Health submitted sampling plans for the SPSC (Swan Pond Sports Complex) to the county about three weeks ago, which were then sent to TVA who then asked for some amendments. These amendments were sent back to TDEC who sent an implementation schedule. It appears that the county could have results in the fall. The SPSC is off limits to events and staff.



The county has estimated flood damage to be over \$6 million which is greater than Knox County's \$44 million when compared on a per capita basis.

Tim Joseph, PhD presented on behalf of Executive Woody a report on Invasive Aquatic Plants (on file with the county clerk's office).

The Harriman Middle School Girls Basketball Team and their coaches Ken Tilley and Leslie Ladd were honored with much enthusiasm.

Carolyn Bush-Roddy, in addition to being a member of the 2019 Women's Basketball Hall of fame Inductee class, was honored and recognized to standing ovation for her long years of dedication to the sport of basketball and for her commitment to Roane County, its athletics and its residents. She will be inducted into the Hall of Fame in a ceremony scheduled for June 8th in Knoxville.

Ten additional county business resolutions were discussed and passed.

*~Hella Peterson, Observer*

### **Oak Ridge Municipal Planning Commission**

*Regular Meeting, March 21, 2019*

Nine commission members were present. Todd Wilson was absent. Community Development Director, Wayne Blasius, and planning staff members, Nathalie Schmidt and Jennifer Williamson, were also present.

The first business item was a request to subdivide two lots on Royal Troon Circle in the Rivers Run Subdivision. The proposal is to transfer 12 acres from an open space area near the gate to Lot 1 so the new owners can build a house on Lot 1. The Homeowners Association approves of the transfer, and the Planning Commission approved the proposed plat. The Commission also approved the PUD amendment.

The second business item for the Preserve at Clinch River was withdrawn at the request of the owner.

The final business item was the approval of the Oak Ridge City Blueprint. The Planning Commission discussed the draft for the City Blueprint at a work session on March 14<sup>th</sup>. The staff incorporated as many of the suggested changes as possible in the final plan. Nathalie Schmidt summarized the plan at a public hearing. After a brief discussion, the Planning Commission approved the plan, 9-0. The plan will be transmitted to City Council for a Public Hearing and First Reading at its April meeting, with

final adoption expected at the Council's May meeting.

The final plan will be placed on the city web site, [www.oakridgetn.gov](http://www.oakridgetn.gov), with easy access to the summary and the opportunity to examine each section in more detail if desired. The Commission also intends to review the Blueprint Plan at least once a year to incorporate changes and keep it a living document.

Jim Dodson summarized recent City Council actions.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:15 pm.

*~Claudia Lever, member of Planning Commission*

### **Roane State Community College**

*January 2019*

The enrollment at RSCC continues to grow as TN Reconnect is being implemented. TN Reconnect is similar to TN Promise but is specifically for older adults who do not have a previous degree. This program is a tuition-free program that encourages older adults to update their skill set for emerging jobs. Many of the campuses are growing also and need new capital projects - such as more science labs etc. These needs are being submitted to the Tennessee Board of Regents for consideration. RSCC does have to compete with other community colleges and technical schools for funds.

Middle College is now in Roane, Anderson, Campbell, and Scott Counties as well as Clinton and Oak Ridge High Schools. Due to tuition requirements (and lack of availability of Pell Grants and TN Promise funds for high school students) not all students can be admitted.

*~Mary Ann Reeves, Observer*

### **Advisory Boards**

#### **EQAB**

*Regular Meeting, April 4, 2019*

Nine of the twelve board members tackled a full agenda at the April 4 meeting.

Chair Robert Kennedy reported that the Roane County Commission recently failed, by a large margin, to overturn the resolution that they passed last October in support of the DOE EMDF. Rebecca Bowman will draft a letter from EQAB to the Roane County News to comment on the decision. The Anderson County Commission withdrew the resolution of support before voting.



Both EQAB and the Roane County Environmental Review Board (RCERB) meet on the first Thursday of the month, complicating the desired designation of a permanent liaison. The boards will explore the possibility of an audio/video connection during the meetings.

An all-inclusive playground in Scarboro was suggested as possible reparation for the loss of view caused by Y-12's clearing of Pine Ridge for a power line.

Kayla Wyatt and Kelly Smith will further explore the feasibility and neighborhood interest in adding a Dogwood walking/driving trail in Oak Ridge.

TVA has announced the shutdown of the 1-GW coal-fired Bull Run Power Plant. EQAB discussed the consequences, especially disposal of the coal ash. It was noted that North Carolina recently mandated Duke Energy to clean up all coal ash ponds in their state.

Students Sophia Krusen and Erin Van Berkel were tasked to determine if the State had ever passed a law stating that schools must participate in recycling. The request is in response to the news that the Student Council no longer pays for recycling at the High School.

Gray Dean and Kayla Wyatt will work toward a policy for the long-term replacement of the urban forest that would eliminate invasive species (especially Bradford and Capital Pear trees) and select trees that are eco-friendly.

On March 31, Don Miller was one of the 57 residents who participated in the volunteer cleanup of the historic (1797) Emery Road located between the Wildcat Den and the High School. The successful cleanup was organized by the Highland View neighborhood.

*~Kathryn Olsen, Observer*

### **Senior Advisory Board**

*Regular Meeting, March 2019*

In March, the Senior Advisory Board continued working on plans to establish "My Ride Oak Ridge," a senior volunteer transportation program to replace the city's taxi coupon program. The board completed an initial set of Policies and Procedures and has received word about the approval of the application for a \$90,000 grant to help finance the first 3 years of the program. In April the board is looking forward to having City Council vote to accept the grant, then getting set up to provide the first volunteer ride before the April 15th deadline to get the first year of that grant funding.

The board also discussed furniture for the new Senior Center that will open later in 2019. The Board was told that former board member Liz Batchelor is working on raising funds for furniture. If costs exceed the amount raised, the City will pay the remaining cost. Furniture will be purchased through the City government in order to qualify for best prices and to ensure that it meets requirements for the Center.

*~Ellen Smith, Observer*

### **Recreation & Parks Advisory Board**

*New Recreation and Parks Advisory Board Observer*

I am pleased to announce that John Jaruzel will be assuming the post of Observer for Parks and Recreation. John has lived in Oak Ridge for the past three years, having moved here from Colorado. He is already actively involved in some of the hiking trail maintenance on the city trail system. He is also an avid cyclist, and is very interested in the possible building of a velodrome. For those of you who may not be familiar with the term, it is a facility for track racing on bicycles, analogous to the tracks used for foot racing. Please thank John for assuming this role, and I know we all look forward to hearing his reports on the city's parks and recreation facilities.

### **Affiliated Boards & Commissions**

Following is a listing of the various Boards and Commissions of the City of Oak Ridge and Anderson County. Several of these are currently served by members of the Observer Corps, but as mentioned in the President's Report, there may be those who might be interested in some that are currently not being observed. If you are interested in any of the following, check with [Joye Montgomery](#) and [Harriett McCurdy](#) about the possibility of serving.

#### **City Boards**

- Beer Permit Board
- Building and Housing Code Appeals
- Board of Zoning Appeals
- Convention and Visitors Bureau/Explore Oak Ridge
- Environmental Quality Advisory Board
- Health and Recreational Facilities Advisory Board
- Industrial Development Board
- Oak Ridge Housing Authority
- Oak Ridge Land Bank Corporation Board of Directors
- Oak Ridge Municipal Planning Commission
- Personnel Advisory Board



Recreation and Parks Advisory Board  
Senior Advisory Board  
Trade Licensing Board  
Traffic Safety Advisory Board  
Youth Advisory Board

### **Corrections and Updates**

Please contact Janis Williams, 483-1219 or [J.Wymer.Williams@gmail.com](mailto:J.Wymer.Williams@gmail.com), with membership corrections and updates.

### **Non-City Created Boards**

Anderson County Board of Equalization  
Anderson County Community Action Commission  
Anderson County Development Corporation  
Anderson County Economic Development Association  
Anderson County Regional Solid Waste Planning Board

Oak Ridge Heritage Railroad Authority  
Oak Ridge Utility District

Additional information about these Boards and Commissions may be found on the City website at [oakridgetn.gov/boards.aspx](http://oakridgetn.gov/boards.aspx).

Since part of Oak Ridge lies in Roane County, there are additional Boards and Commissions which affect Oak Ridge residents. Information regarding these will be presented at some future date.

### **~~~Important Reminder~~~**

If you haven't paid your dues for the year, you can do so now. They are \$60.00 for an individual and \$90.00 for a household. And contributions are always welcome! Checks should be mailed to PO Box 4073, Oak Ridge, TN., 37831-4073. Thank you for your support of LWVOR.

### **Stewart Clifton Updates**

To receive email updates from the state League lobbyist Stewart Clifton, send an email with your request to him at [QA@LWVTN.org](mailto:QA@LWVTN.org).

### **League Resources**

Here are additional resources for information about the League of Women Voters:

Local: Oak Ridge – <http://lwvoakridge.org/index.html>

Knoxville: <https://my.lwv.org/tennessee/knoxvilleknox-county>

Chattanooga: <https://lwvchattanooga.wordpress.com/>

State: <https://www.lwv.org/local-leagues/lwv-Tennessee>

National: <https://www.lwv.org>

### **Membership Notes**

#### **New Member**

Welcome to our newest member, Horace Miller. Horace is the spouse of LWVOR member Ruby Miller. Horace, we're glad to have you as a member, and hope to see at an event soon. Welcome to LWVOR.

#### *I want to join the League of Women Voters*

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_

State and Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone (Day / Work) \_\_\_\_\_

Phone (Evening) \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

Individual annual dues \_\_\_\_\_ \$60

Household annual dues \_\_\_\_\_ \$90

**Make checks payable to LWV Oak Ridge**

\*Donation to Education Foundation \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**\*Make a separate, tax deductible check payable to LWVEF**

Please send this form and your check(s) to:

LWV of Oak Ridge

P.O. Box 4073

Oak Ridge, TN 37831



PO Box 4073  
Oak Ridge, TN 37831-4073  
lwvoakridge.org

Nonprofit Org.  
U.S. Postage Paid  
Oak Ridge, TN  
Permit No. 148

lwvor@comcast.net

Return Service Requested

Dated Material - Please Deliver Promptly

### \*\*\*OUR MEETING POLICY\*\*\*

If Oak Ridge Schools are closed due to weather, League meetings that day are cancelled. If they are simply delayed, we will hold meetings as scheduled. However, please be safe and use your best judgment.

## Calendar

### April

- 16 Lunch with the League\*** 11:45, lunch; 12-1. Speaker: Jon Hetrick, Director, Oak Ridge Recreation and Parks.
- 22 Breakfast with the Legislators** 7:30 to 8:30 a.m., the Oak Ridge Civic Center Social Room. Open to all. Coffee and a light continental breakfast are served at no charge.

### May

- 7 Lunch with the League\*** 11:45, lunch; 12-1. Speaker: Bruce Borchers, Superintendent of Oak Ridge Schools. Topic: State of OR Schools.
- 14 Board Meeting\*** 10 a.m. – 12 p.m.
- 21 Lunch with the League\*** 11:45, lunch; 12-1. Speaker: Jerry Creasy, Anderson County Commissioner. Topic: His personal experience with the Polio Epidemic.

\* Unless otherwise specified, Lunch with the League is at the Unitarian Universalist Church, 809 Oak Ridge Turnpike at Laboratory Road. Board Meetings are in the Main Conference Room, UT Resource Center, Rutgers Ave. at the Turnpike.