

The Voter

Pearls and Politics Event

Harriett McCurdy and Pat Bryan

Pearls and Politics, held at the Scarboro Community Center on March 8, was a pleasant and informative gathering. LWVOR joined the Oak Ridge Chapter of the Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority and the City of Oak Ridge to enable attendees to meet with their elected representatives in this "speed dating" format. Officials from the City of Oak Ridge and Anderson County moved from table to table to meet and chat with those who attended. Each table had a moderator, League members, and members of AKA sorority.

Oak Ridge officials included Police Chief Jim Akagi; City Manager Mark Watson; Mayor Warren Gooch; City Council members Ellen Smith, Chuck Hope, Jr., Jim Dodson, and Rick Chinn, Jr.; and Board of Education members Keys Fillauer and Laura McLean. Anderson County Commissioners Jerry Creasey, Steve Mead, and Robert Smallridge (also an Anderson County Charter Commission member) participated as well.

LWVOR members, besides elected officials, included Marion Burger, Harriett McCurdy, Mary Ann Reeves, Pat Bryan, Joye Montgomery, Elaine Culbert, Diane Petrilla, and Charlie Hensley. This AKA-organized evening was well attended and an excellent opportunity to have one on one conversations with those who work in local government. The sponsoring organizations thanked those who attended and the officials who participated in this annual event.



Pearls and Politics, held at Scarboro Community Center, Oak Ridge.

-Pat Bryan

Connect with Us

Website: lwvoakridge.org

Facebook: [League of Women Voters of Oak Ridge](https://www.facebook.com/LeagueofWomenVotersofOakRidge)

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Emily Jernigan, Voter Editor

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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

On **April 3** our speaker is **Tex Pasley**, Robert F. Kennedy Fellow at No Exceptions Prison Collective in Knoxville. His topic is "Regional Problems Leading to Incarceration."

On **April 17** our speaker is **Dan Robbins**, chair of Greenways Oak Ridge and a member of the Recreation and Parks Board. His topic is "Greenways in Oak Ridge and their 25 Year Progress."

On **May 1** our speaker is **Dr. Erin Darby**, Assistant Professor of Religious Studies at UT. Her topic is "Mideast History, Issues and Concerns Over Moving Israel's Capital from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem."

Lunches from the [Soup Kitchen](#) are available for \$8. Lunch with the League is open to the public and reservations are not required. We provide coffee, water and tea. Lunch with the League is at the [Unitarian Universalist Church](#), 809 Oak Ridge Turnpike.

Breakfast with the Legislators

Lt. Governor Randy McNally, Representative John Ragan and Representative Kent Calfee attended the February Breakfast along with 43 audience members who listened to and commented on their reports, and asked questions. The next session will be **Monday, April 23** if the Legislature is still in session.

There is no charge and Breakfasts are open to all. Coffee and a light continental breakfast are served. Subsequent breakfasts will be held on the fourth Monday of every month the legislature is in session, from 7:30 to 8:30 a.m. at the Oak Ridge Civic Center Social Room.

~Dan Robbins and Charlie Hensley

Committee Reports

Education Committee

At its March 20 meeting the Education Committee proposed that we encourage our legislators to support SB2263/HB2429. These bills would exempt some



individuals from paying out-of-state tuition at a state institution of higher education. LWVTN also asks that members support this legislation.

The next meeting of this committee will be April 17 at 2:30 (note the later time) at the Secret City Cafe at Methodist Medical Center. For more information email Harriett McCurdy, mccurdy46@hotmail.com.

~ Harriett McCurdy

Voter Registration Events

Members of the Oak Ridge League are registering voters at several area schools ahead of the upcoming 2018 elections. We registered 35 voters at Roane State Community College in Oak Ridge from March 20 to 22. Diane Petrilla, Claudia Lever, Ann Mostoller, Ruth Gove, Janis Williams, Eileen Nober, and Mary Uziel helped with this voter registration.

New League member Diane Petrilla has made arrangements for LWVOR to set up voter registration tables at the following high schools for students eligible to vote.

Anderson Co. High School, Monday, April 2, 11:15 a.m. - 12:15 p.m.

Clinton High School, Monday, April 9, 11:40 a.m. - 1:35 p.m.

Oak Ridge High School, Thursday, April 12, 11:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.

Diane has also recruited other League members to help: Mary Ann Reeves, Harriett McCurdy, Willa Reister, Jill Wray, Janis Williams, Betsy Smith, and Karleen Richter.

Students may complete paper or online voter registration, with LWVOR assistance, and must know their Social Security Number. Newly registered voters registering by April 2 will be eligible to vote in the May 1 Primary election. Those registering by July 3 will be eligible to vote in the August and November elections.



State Spring Convention

The 2018 LWVTN Spring Council is from 1 p.m. April 28 to 12 p.m. April 29 at the DoubleTree by Hilton - Chattanooga/Downtown. Reserve by March 30 at the group rate, \$139/night, [here](#). [Registration](#) is \$50 and includes a plated dinner. The meeting includes speakers and information sessions on topics such as improving voter turnout; research on best practices for voter turnout; an open government update; and a state legislative update from Stewart Clifton, LWVTN's lobbyist. Information and tickets are available at http://www.lwvtn.org/2018_spring_council.

Burn Memorial Bricks Deadline

Don't forget that the deadline for honorary or memorial brick orders for the Suffrage Coalition's Burn Memorial is May 15, 2018. Find out more about their work and options for donations at <http://suffragecoalition.org>. You may also contact Mary Ann Reeves at 865-693-6286 or maryannreeves1@att.net.

~Mary Ann Reeves

Annual Meeting May 22

Tuesday, May 22 is the date for the Annual Meeting and Dinner. Save the date!

Dues Are Due

Your League annual membership dues are now due if you joined the League before January 1, 2018. Please send your payments to LWVOR, PO Box 4073, Oak Ridge, TN, 37831-4073. If you have any questions about your dues, please contact Janis Williams at janisor@bellsouth.net.

Anderson County Primary May 1

Tuesday, May 1, 2018 is the first of three significant elections in 2018. Anderson County will hold a Republican Primary and a Democratic Primary for county offices. Voters will elect candidates for the following offices: County Mayor, County Trustee, Sheriff, Circuit Court Clerk, County Clerk, Register of Deeds, and Road Superintendent. Ballots listing the

candidates are currently posted online at <https://www.acelect.com/>. Tennessee voters do not register by party but instead they are asked to choose the primary in which they wish to vote on election day. Many of these offices will be determined by the vote in the primary.

Roane County does not hold county primary elections.

Early voting (April 11 to April 26) in Anderson County is available Monday to Friday 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. and Saturday 9 a.m. to 12 Noon at Clinton Community Center (Clinton), Midtown Community Center (Oak Ridge), and Anderson Crossing Shopping Center (Norris/Andersonville).

The voter registration deadline for the May election is Monday, April 2. If you need to update your voter registration, you may do it online at GoVoteTN.com, mail a paper registration to the Anderson County Election Commission, 100 N Main St., Rm 207, Clinton, TN 37716, or register in person at the election commission office.

~ Mary Uziel and Claudia Lever

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 Charter Commission

February 20, 2018 meeting

The Anderson County Charter Commission has completed its review of county government structure & operations. In carrying out its task the Commission held 12 public meetings and interviews with forty-nine (49) department heads and elected officials from Anderson County. None of these officials offered any suggestions for changes to county government. All Commission meetings were publicly announced and televised.

At the beginning of each meeting time was reserved for citizens to speak and voice their concerns about

county government and their recommendations for a charter form of government. Contact information was published for each member of the Charter Commission including a dedicated e-mail address for citizens to write-in and express any concerns or ideas they would like to have considered. During the 14 months of the Commission's existence not a single citizen contacted Commissioners or came forward advocating a change in county government. Based on this obvious lack of support for any material change in county government the Commission voted unanimously on February 5, 2018 to recommend no changes in the current constitutional form of government in Anderson County.

The recommendation was forwarded to the Anderson County Commission where no further action is anticipated at this time.

~Bob Smallridge, Observer and Charter Commissioner

Anderson County Commission

February 20, 2018 meeting

Chair Tim Isbel called the meeting to order. All 16 commissioners, including Catherine Denenberg, were present. In a special called session, the Commission had unanimously voted to appoint Denenberg of Oak Ridge to serve out the unexpired term of District 6 Commissioner Whitey Hitchcock, who recently resigned. She has already qualified to run for that seat in the August election.

ASAP (Alliance for Substance Abuse Progress) staff members gave each commissioner a Norcan nasal spray kit and showed a video on how to use it. Norcan is used to revive opioid overdose victims. ASAP received a CDC grant through the Tennessee Department of Mental Health to purchase kits and train anyone in contact with opioid users to use them. Director of schools Tim Parrott reported that the County schools have 20 to 25 homeless students each day. The School Board is preparing a policy for responding to possible student walkouts over gun control.

Human Resources Director Kim Whitaker presented the case against Circuit Court Clerk Willam Jones, accused by five employees of sexual harassment. She suggested that the employees be offered counseling and employment elsewhere in the County. Commission accepted her suggestions. They voted unanimously to censure and admonish Jones and to ask for his resignation.

Representatives from Leiff, Cabraser, Heimann, and Bernstein asked Commission to join their Federal lawsuit against opioid producers. Commission voted to postpone their decision for 30 days, giving them time to consult with Attorney General Dave Clark and Law Director Jay Yeager. AG Clark is pursuing an opioid cost recovery case in State courts.

~Willa Reister, Observer

Anderson County Commission

March 19, 2018 meeting

Chair Tim Isbel called the meeting to order. All 16 commissioners were present.

Mayor Frank requested an Independent Counsel to review the HR Department's handling of the sexual harassment allegations against Circuit Court Clerk William Jones. Commissioner Mead reported that Arthur Knight, outside legal counsel for the County, asked that Commission not discuss the case while a County employee is suing the County in Federal Court. Commissioner Mead asked that the issue be removed from the agenda. All but Mr. White agreed.

Dave Clark, County District Attorney General, explained the three choices available to the Commission in the attempt to sue opioid manufacturers and distributors. First, they can join a multi-county legal case like the one Loeff, Cabraser, Heimann & Bernstein presented at last month's Commission meeting. Second, they can join Tennessee Attorney General Slattery's suit on behalf of all the counties in the state. Any payments would be divided among all the counties and the state. Commissioner McKamey remembered that in a similar suit in 2007 most of the money stayed in Nashville.

Third is the lawsuit Mr. Clark has filed. Commission voted to not commit now to any of the choices.

The renovation of the Daniel Arthur building has another problem. If Emory Valley Nursery School stays where it is and shares the building with the General Sessions Court, a firewall and updated fire alarm system will have to be installed at a cost of \$56,000. The school has offered to move into the Red Brick Schoolhouse, another building on the same property. The Fire Marshall cannot issue a permit for occupancy for the Schoolhouse unless he has detailed plans for the building. The original plans cannot be found. MBI, the contractor for the renovation, can draw the plans, but it will cost \$15,500 and take at least 6 months. The Fire Marshall is willing to issue a temporary permit if the Schoolhouse has a fire watcher, someone who does nothing but watch for fire, on duty during the school day. Commission agreed that the County would provide a fire watcher so the move can go ahead.

It was agreed that County employees need sexual harassment training. HR Director Kim Jeffers-Whitaker found two vendors that could come in to do training for about \$8,000. It was agreed that it would be better to send a few employees to be trained elsewhere and then have them train other employees.

~Willa Reister, Observer

EQAB

March 1, 2018 meeting

Vice chair, Kaela O'Dell conducted the meeting. After approval of the minutes of the February meeting, members returned to the subject of the NNSA Y-12 Electrical Substation Project and, more specifically, to logging Pine Ridge for the power line extension. In view of the adverse impact of this logging on the city, EQAB decided to request that TVA and NNSA contribute to a city fund for an environmental officer. Rebecca Bowman will compose the request.

In order to expedite its communications with the city council, EQAB members agreed to send a representative to each council meeting.

Ms. O'Dell reported on a recent conference call with several environmental NGOs. Their topic was TVA's 2019 Integrated Resource Plan (IRP). TVA's proposed mix of fuel sources is subject to public comment until April 16. An Environmental Impact Statement will also be part of the IRP process. Ms. O'Dell will get a speaker from outside TVA for an EQAB work session she scheduled for Thursday, April 19, to add perspective to the board's understanding of the IRP.

~ Marion Burger, Observer

Recreation and Parks Board

March 8, 2018 meeting

Reports and discussions of ongoing projects and other items of interest. There was no quorum and voting on the Board's Annual Report for 2017 was postponed until the April meeting.

Citizen's Comments (Angela Lowman): Ms. Lowman expressed concerns regarding the tennis courts on which the Oak Ridge High School tennis teams play. An existing drainage problem on the courts promotes mold growth and ant hills. Currently, there are 38 team members and, to avoid leaving backpacks and other belongings on the moldy ground, the students leave their belongings on the benches (that are worn out and need replacing), taking up valuable spectator space. Ms. Lowman's comments were as a concerned parent, not as a representative of the Tennis Booster Club; however, the Boosters are interested in working with Recreation and Parks Department to try to resolve the problems. Jon Hetrick noted that there is no simple solution and encouraged the Boosters to make a plan to be submitted to the school administration, which will pass it on to the Parks Board. He added that replacement of the benches is under consideration.

International Friendship Bell Peace Pavilion (Alan Tatum): Construction of the new pavilion is progressing. Concrete footers have been poured and the University of Tennessee will assist with the carbon

fiber beams. The Friendship Bell Committee will determine the date for the dedication of the pavilion..

Rails to Trails (Jon Hetrick): The final proposal from the Rails-to-Trails contractor, Morton/Thomas, is now under review by Jon and his staff. An environmental impact statement is needed for the project. An MBA student from UT is exploring the impact of the project on surrounding properties. **East Fork Poplar Creek Trail** (Ray Garrett): Ray is ready to move forward with construction of the East Fork Poplar Creek trail as soon as the two remaining easements are signed. One of the landowners, whose property would be crossed by the trail, has offered access to the trail by way of a road bed he constructed.

Director's Report (Jon Hetrick): (1) No Saturday night band has been hired yet for the Secret City Festival. (2)The Blankenship Field project for turf replacement is moving forward. (3) Planning continues for the Senior Center and for the preschool at the Scarboro Community Center.

Other (Dan Robbins, Jon Hetrick): The President of Rotary International has requested that all Rotary Clubs be responsible for planting new trees. To comply, Dan has ordered 100 trees that will be planted at Haw Ridge in late February. Pat Parr has agreed to obtain rooted trees to be planted at the local schools.

~ Mary Lou Daugherty, Observer

Membership Notes

New Members - Welcome!

Peter Bancroft
134 Grand Cove Ln
Oak Ridge, TN 37830
517-410-2317

Fred Montgomery
102 Halstead Ct
Oak Ridge, TN 37830
865-483-6956

Please contact Janis Williams, 483-1219 or janisor@bellsouth.net, with membership corrections and updates.



Dr. Bruce Borchers, Superintendent of Oak Ridge Schools, discusses STEM and more about our schools.

~Pat Bryan

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

*Donation to Education Foundation \$ _____

*Make a separate, tax deductible check payable to LWVEF

Please send this form and your dues, payable to:

LWV of Oak Ridge
P.O. Box 4073
Oak Ridge, TN 37831



LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF OAK RIDGE

Proposed Budget, Fiscal Year July 1, 2018 through June 30, 2019

Income	Budget 17-18	Budget 18-19
A. Dues	\$8,130	\$7,740
B. Contributions		
B1 Member	2,400	1,700
B2 Non-Member		
B3 Corp.	500	1,500
Total A & B	\$11,030	\$10,940
C. Publication Sales		
C1 Anderson County Book	-0-	-0-
D. Interest	\$10	\$30
E. Meals		
E1 Lunch with the League	2,400	2,000
E2 Holiday Party* (J7)	1,500	1,500
E3 Annual Meeting* (K5)	1,000	1,200
Total Meals	\$4,900	\$4,700
F. State or Other Reimbursement		
G. From Reserves	\$330	\$1,050
H. Misc. Income		
H1 Kroger	50	80
H2 Amazon Smiles	-0-	
Total Income	\$16,320	\$16,800
Expenses	Budget 17-18	Budget 18-19
I. Operating Expenses		
I1 Equipment		
I2 Postage		
I4 Internet website	200	200
Total Operating Exp.	\$200	\$200
J. Administrative Expenses		
J1 President	150	150
J2 Board Fees & Supplies	350	300
J3 Financial Development	-0-	75
J4 Membership	100	100
J5 Leadership Development	-0-	-0-
J6 Directory	330	350
J7 Holiday Party* (E2)	1,600	1,400
J9 Public Relations	250	200
J10 Sitter		
Total Administrative	2,780	2,575

Expenses (cont.)	Budget 17-18	Budget 18-19
K. Meetings/Travel		
K1 State Coun/Conv	300	400
K2 Legislative Days	-0-	-0-
K3 Fall Conference	100	50
K4 National Meetings**	1,400	1,400
K5 Annual Meeting (E3)	1,000	1,100
K6 Workshops	50	50
K7 Affiliations	300	300
K8 Program Planning		
Total Meetings/Travel	\$3,150	\$3,300
L. LWV Support		
L1 State PMP	2,440	2,322
L2 National PMP**	3,050	2,902
Total LWV Support	\$5,490	\$5,225
M. VOTER		
M1 VOTER Postage	350	550
M2 VOTER Printing	600	800
Total Voter	\$950	\$1,350
N. Education		
N1 Publication	-0-	-0-
N3 Resource Committees	50	50
N4 Lunch w/League	3,200	3,300
N5 Voters Service	200	400
N6 Breakfast w/Legisl.	300	400
N7 Workshops	-0-	-0-
N8 Great Decisions*	-0-	-0-
Total Education	\$3,750	\$4,150
O. Position Support		
O1 Action	-0-	-0-
O2 Tax Reform	-0-	-0-
Total Position Support	-0-	-0-
P. Misc. Expenses		
P1 Scholarships	-0-	0-
Total Misc. Expenses	-0-	-0-
Total Expenses	\$16,320	\$16,800

*Denotes items offset by an income of a nearly equivalent amount.
 **National Convention occurs biannually. The budget allows for paying half the cost each year.
 ***25% of National PMP (Per Member Payment) is paid with Ed Fund money that does not flow through our bank account. Actual PMP is \$3870.

SUMMARY OF 2018-19 PROPOSED BUDGET

TOTAL EXPENSES	\$16,800
TOTAL INCOME	\$16,800



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Oak Ridge, TN 37831-4073

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*******OUR SNOW 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

- 6 Lunch with the League*** 11:45, lunch; 12-1. Speaker: Tex Pasley, Robert F. Kennedy Fellow at No Exceptions Prison Collective in Knoxville. Topic: "Regional Problems Leading to Incarceration."
- 10 Board Meeting*** 10 a.m. – 12 p.m.
- 11 Early Voting Begins** See page 3 article for voting sites, hours, and more in Anderson County
- 17 Lunch with the League*** 11:45, lunch; 12-1. Speaker: Dan Robbins, chair, Greenways Oak Ridge. Topic: "Greenways in Oak Ridge and their 25 Year Progress."
- 17 Education Committee** 2:30 p.m. Secret City Cafe **Note time change.**
- 23 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.
- 26 Early Voting Ends**

May

- 1 Lunch with the League*** 11:45, lunch; 12-1. Speaker: Dr. Erin Darby, Assistant Professor of Religious Studies at UT. Topic: "Mideast History, Issues and Concerns Over Moving Israel's Capital from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem."
- 1 Primary Election Day**

* 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.