

The Voter

The President's Report

Did you know THIS about the League?

We know that the League does not support or oppose any political party or candidate, and we know that the League has positions on many issues including voting rights for all citizens, the election process, Congress, and the Presidency.

Less well known are our positions on international relations, the United Nations, trade, developing countries, arms control, and defense spending. The League worked hard and was instrumental in helping pass laws on environmental protection and pollution control, water resources, and solid waste.

Least known are our positions on social policy. It is these positions that allow us to take action on many policies that seem to be under recent threat. The founders of the League wanted strong affirmation that, although the League was a women's organization, its interests and lobbying activities were not confined to women's issues. The early League even opposed an Equal Rights Amendment when it was first introduced in 1923. This was largely because it was a matter of priorities for the two-year-old organization, which had set its sights on labor protection for tens of thousands of women working in non-unionized and unskilled jobs.

In the 1920s and '30s the League, with typical forward thinking, set the stage for future program development by focusing on a broad range of social issues. Much of the earlier work did, indeed, focus on issues that affected women disproportionately. The League tackled matters such as abolishing the inequality in laws that specifically discriminated against women in jury selection, job opportunities, maternity and infant care, equal pay for equal work, and property rights. Until women were treated justly under the law, social reform work by the League would be difficult to implement.

Continued on page 2

Mary Ann Reeves (865-693-6286)

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Connect with Us

Website: lwvoakridge.org
Facebook: League of Women Voters of Oak Ridge

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Emily Jernigan, *Voter* Editor 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*.



Mary Ann Reeves



President's Report continued

The League has taken stands on sharing responsibilities among the federal and other levels of government to provide equality of opportunity in education, employment, and housing for all in the United States. Employment opportunities, especially in our modern, technological society, are closely related to education and the League has long supported quality public education for all our children.

Being a large part of the history of discrimination, the League has taken action to address unfair treatment, particularly when it appears to be parceled out only to specific groups. The League supports equal rights for all under state and federal laws including women's reproductive rights, immigrant rights, health care, housing, education, and the equalization of the legal rights, obligations, and benefits available to all couples regardless of gender.

While not all of these positions are universally liked, they are part of the cornerstone of equality and inclusion that is integral to the League. The League has been in front of addressing social injustice in the same spirit and with the same intensity as they addressed voting rights for women. The League will continue to work to make sure that inclusion and fairness is continuously woven into the fabric of our society.

League Committees

Education Committee



The LWVTN and the LWVOR education committee continue to monitor education bills, which could affect our schools, as they progress through committees in the House and Senate. So far, fewer than half of the bills officially filed are still being considered. They range from bills affecting school discipline to the Achievement School District.

The school voucher bill, which the League opposes, is up for an important vote before the House Finance Subcommittee this week (April 24-28.) This bill would establish a pilot voucher program in Shelby County which could cost the county from \$300,000 up to

\$18,000,000 per year. The bill faces another subcommittee and floor votes where it is expected to meet strong opposition before passage.

One bill expected to pass changes the way the state intervenes in low performing schools, curtailing the authority of the Achievement School District. Another bill modifying how much student improvement on standardized tests counts in teacher evaluations has already passed both houses. A bill changing how much physical activity the state requires for elementary and upper grade students has already become law. Bills attempting to clarify relations between charter schools and the districts which oversee them, and a bill reallocating excess tax revenues to public schools are gaining support in committees.

For more information about the education committee please contact **Brenda Parker** at 670-1339, or brendaparker@wildblue.net.

Lunch with the League

On **May 2 Charlie Jernigan**, Chair, the Oak Ridge Land Bank, will discuss the "The Land Bank Perspective on Oak Ridge Housing."

On **May 16 Stewart Clifton,** LWVTN lobbyist in Nashville, will give us "An Update on the Good, the Bad, and the Ugly of the Legislative Session." Sandwich lunches from the **Sweet Café** in Norris are available for \$8. Lunch with the League is open to the public. Reservations are not required, and we provide coffee, water, and tea.

Breakfast with the Legislators

If the Legislature is still in session, the next Breakfast with the Legislators will be **Monday**, **May 22**, 7:30 to 8:30 a.m. at the Oak Ridge Civic Center Social Room. Our legislators can discuss legislation and issues. Attendees will be able to express opinions and ask questions directly of our representatives in the Legislature. There is no charge for these events, and they are open to all.

~Betsy Smith



ORNL & LWVOR Sponsor Climate Talk

A Climate for Change by Katharine Hayhoe

The Oak Ridge League of Women Voters and the Climate Change Science Institute of the Oak Ridge National Laboratory are jointly hosting a presentation by Katharine Hayhoe, a nationally recognized atmospheric scientist and an evangelical Christian. She has been named one of Time's 100 Most Influential People, Foreign Policy's 100 Leading Global Thinkers, and Fortune's 50 World's Greatest Leaders. She is the founder and CEO of ATMOS Research and is a Professor in the Department of Political Science and Director of the <u>Climate Science Center</u> at Texas Tech University. Dr. Hayhoe is lead author for the upcoming Fourth National Climate Assessment, having served previously as lead on the Second and Third Assessments. In a change from her written work, teaching, and talks she has a new PBS Digital Studios short series, Global Weirding with Katharine Hayhoe, available on YouTube.

We expect that the following will be some of her topics:

- Faith-Based: Climate Change: Facts, Fiction, and Faith; God's Second Greatest Gift (the planet); Christians, Climate, and our Culture.
- Outreach: Climate Change: Fact or Fiction?; Mitigate, Adapt, or Suffer: Connecting Global Change to Local Impacts and Solutions.
- Communications: Talking Climate: Why Fact are Not Enough (how values play a role)
- Policy: Connecting Local Climate Impacts to Global Policy Targets

She will speak at Pollard Auditorium at 7 p.m., Tuesday, May 16. Although the event is free, tickets are required for admission. Please sign up for tickets at https://www.eventbrite.com/e/a-climate-for-change-katharine-hayhoe-tickets-33970245920. Two hundred seats are available online and 100 will be available at the door.

~Christine Iversen

The League of Women Voters of Oak Ridge
Annual Meeting and Dinner
Tuesday, May 23, 2017

Social Hall of Oak Ridge Unitarian Universalist Church 5:30 p.m. Social Time – Complimentary Wine & Iced Tea 6:00 p.m. Dinner Buffet followed by Annual Meeting

Menu by Birdwell Catering
Mixed Field Greens with Two Dressings
Chicken Piccata, Herbed Roasted Pork Shoulder
Au Gratin Potatoes

Baby Carrots & Corn, Steamed Broccoli & Cauliflower
Apple or Peach Crisp

Vegetarian Lasagna option must be requested when making a reservation

Reservations required by Thursday, May 18 to

Janis Williams 483–1219 or janisor@bellsouth.net

Cost: \$30 per person, pay at the door, cash or check only

Voter Registration at ORHS

League Secretary Kay Moss was asked by an Oak Ridge High School administrator to have LWVOR volunteers register voters at ORHS during Senior Day events on April 19 from 7:30 to 11:45 a.m. All graduating seniors attended a historical presentation given by teacher and football coach Joe Gaddis. They then went to breakout sessions on various practical topics such as car maintenance, choosing insurance, and smart shopping for groceries. During their breaks we offered them an opportunity to register to vote. By the end of the morning we had registered 52 new voters!



Thanks to these LWVOR volunteers who helped with this endeavor: Rebecca Bowman, Marion Burger, Judie Liby, Harriett McCurdy, Marti Salk, Doris and Phil Sklad, Kay Moss, and Carol Plasil.

~Carol Plasil

Annual Meeting & Dinner

LWVOR will host our Annual Meeting and Dinner on Tuesday, May 23, from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. in the Social Hall of the Unitarian Universalist Church. We'll start off with social time and complimentary wine before a buffet dinner. See the invitation for complete details, including the menu on page 3.

Reserve your dinner spot by Thursday, May 18. Contact **Janis Williams** at 483-1219 or janisor@bellsouth.net.

Our Annual Meeting will follow the dinner. We'll vote on our board and officers, our local program, and position statements for the upcoming year. We set our course for the next League year at this time, so please come and add your voice and vote.

Maureen Hoyt has coordinated this event.

Dues Are Due

Your League annual membership dues are now due. 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.

Financial Review

The LWVOR Financial Review Committee, Marti Salk, Joye Montgomery, and Pat Bryan, met to review the LWVOR financial records for the Fiscal Year ending June 30, 2016. We found the records in order, with no discrepancies or missing information. A big thanks to Treasurer Janis Williams for all her effort and meticulous record keeping.

~ Pat Bryan <u>patbryan2@att.net</u>

Pearls and Politics Partnership

On April 6 the LWVOR partnered with the Oak Ridge Chapter of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc., the NAACP of Anderson County, and the Oak Ridge Unitarian Universalist Church to present "Pearls and Politics," a discussion forum with local elected officials. Representatives from Oak Ridge City Government, Anderson County Commission, Oak Ridge Police, Oak Ridge Schools and Board of Education, and the Free Medical Clinic of Oak Ridge participated. A format similar to speed dating was used to allow one-on-one discussion with representatives, followed by a general Q&A session. The meeting was well attended, including by many League members. Kathy Edwards, Harriett McCurdy, Mary Ann Reeves, and Pat Bryan volunteered as moderators.

~ Pat Bryan patbryan2@att.net

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, April 17, 2017

Chairman Emert called the meeting to order. All Commissioners were present.

Plans for the new General Sessions Court in Oak Ridge are moving forward. The City of Oak Ridge will contribute \$30,000 a year for five years to the operation. Bids for remodeling the Daniel Arthur building were higher than expected. Commission will appoint a Value Engineering Committee to work with the lowest bidder on reducing costs.

Commission voted unanimously to pay \$5,000 for a nonrefundable option to buy the Farley Building, 205 Main St. in Clinton for a new senior citizens center. The money comes from donations to the center. The option expires on July 1, 2017.

The senior center is expected to fund their organization by renting out the event space and 122 parking



spaces. Center Director Cherie Phillips explained that she could not guarantee that they could bring in the \$80,000 a year needed to run the senior center.

Dr. Tim Parrot, Director of Schools, urged Commission to contact our State legislators and ask them to oppose any voucher program. He estimates that the system could lose 10% of its students to private schools if were made vouchers available.

Dr. Parrot hopes to reduce the need for fund raising. Each school will receive \$10,000, up from \$5,000, for special projects. Next year the County will sell coupon books for the first time. Books will sell for \$10, of which \$6.50 goes to the school, \$1 goes for the yearly Teacher Celebration, and \$2.50 goes to the company producing the book.

EMS Director Nathan Sweet asked that EMS fees be raised to reduce EMS income shortfall. Commissioners were concerned that the increases would be a burden on citizens. Commissioner Mead observed that financing EMS services is a challenge across the state. There is currently legislation working its way through state government that will bring state and federal money to help counties. Commission voted not to raise fees.

Commissioner Iwanski pointed out that this month's expenditures include \$37,392.20 to provide outside counsel for County officials being sued by other County officials. He added that the County has spent about \$500,000 on such suits in the last three years and there may be more bills coming. Mayor Frank responded with a defense of the need for the suits. Chairman Emert gave a loud rap with his gavel and called the Mayor out of order.

A representative from ARCADIS explained how the company plans to complete their work on the Blockhouse Valley site. Commission approved the \$123,000 contract to complete the remediation, with Commissioners Fritts and White voting no

~Willa Reister, Observer

Roane State Community College

Some of the legislative bills that will affect community colleges are still on track in the legislature. These include Governor Haslam's RECONNECT program that will use TN Promise funds for adults who do not have a degree and wish to go to college.

Senator Yager is still working on allocating more funding for middle college. The current amount is very small (\$1200 for the entire two years) with the students paying the remainder. Since these students are still in high school they are not eligible for TN Promise (last dollar) or Hope Scholarships. Scott County is expected to be the next county with a middle college.

The FOCUS Act is almost fully in place. This Act removed the Tennessee Board of Regents (TBR) as the governing body from Tennessee's four year universities. The TBR will be replaced by a unique governing board for each college. The TBR will continue to be the governing board for community colleges. Flora Tydings has been named the new head of TBR.

None of the guns on campus bill passed this year. These bills are opposed by the administrators of schools.

~Mary Ann Reeves, Observer

Roane County Commission

April 10, 2017, meeting

Fifteen members were present.

No citizens participated in the Hearing of Delegation and there was no County Attorney report.

County Executive report: Ron Woody mentioned a work session on March 6. County debt refinancing was discussed, resulting in substantial savings for tax payers.

Due to non payment of taxes, the county acquired lots in the "Estates at the Clinch" area. The Homeowners Association sent a bill to the county for maintenance fees. Mr. Woody countered with, "What privileges is the county entitled to if paid?" The issue continues and is in the process of being resolved.



Commissioners honored Harriman High School Boys Basketball team for winning the State Championship. Nine resolutions of County business were passed.

~Hella Peterson, Observer

EQAB

April 6, 2017, meeting

Board Membership: Two positions are still open for 2017. Anyone interested in serving on EQAB is encouraged to contact the city manager's office.

The Planning Commission, having collected and organized citizen comments made at its kickoff meeting for creation of an Oak Ridge Blueprint, asked each city advisory board to provide a response to those comments. EQAB will select topics pertaining to its responsibilities. Ms. Bogard is drafting this document for other board members to modify at a working meeting April 20.

A review of 2016 goals highlighted the tree plan, which has been presented to the city. Trees were prominently featured in citizen comments at the Blueprint kickoff meeting. EQAB conducted a tree workshop honoring Pat Imperato at the UT Arboretum. They participated in the selection of the energy services company that has been hired to achieve savings of \$10–15 million in combined municipal and school system energy expenditures. Mr. Applegate reported that the city will set a work session on the tree plan, and include city council and EQAB.

During a discussion of additional 2017 goals, board members' suggestions included tree pests, tree maintenance, and new policies regarding homeowner tree-cutting and tree policy (number of trees per acre) for developments.

Ms. Zheng and Mr. Sujithkumar discussed the lack of recycling opportunities at Oak Ridge apartments and at sports events at Blankenship Stadium, respectively. It was agreed that volunteer groups should be enlisted to move these efforts forward. A working group (Bogard, Kennedy, Applegate, and Sujithkumar) will review the Climate Action Plan (CAP) and plan a five-year report on its status, to assess Oak Ridge's progress. This review will be valuable in reeducating citizens about the CAP's history and achievements.

Board members signed up to work at the Erase Your Trace recycling event held on Earth Day, April 22.

~Marion Burger, Observer

Recreation and Parks Board

April 13, 2017, meeting

NOTE: The March meeting of the Parks Board was cancelled because of the lack of a quorum.

International Friendship Bell Peace Pavilion (Alan Tatum): Fundraising efforts for the Peace Bell Pavilion have been successful, resulting in pledges and donations of about \$673,000 (goal: \$750,000). The contributions of government agencies and major contractors have exceeded the goals set by the fundraising committee; the committee will continue to receive donations from individual citizens and businesses. The UT landscape architects who are developing conceptual designs for the gardens around the pavilion will make a presentation to the committee soon.

Trail Development (Ray Garrett, Brad Spears, Ken Rueter): Ray is still waiting for the second landowner to sign the easement for the East Fork Poplar Creek Trail to pass through his property. Boy Scouts have built steps on the North Ridge Trail. Haw Ridge has been featured in an online video. Ken noted that *Outside* magazine has recognized the Knoxville area as ninth in a list of "best places to go" for outdoor activities, focusing on South Knoxville.

Director's Report (Jon Hetrick): Centennial Golf Course continues to lose money, requiring the city to supplement a deficit of \$125,000. An MBA group from UT is developing ideas to bring more revenue to the site and will present suggestions to City Council on April 25. New filters for the outdoor



swimming pool have been installed, repairs have been made to the pool to prevent water loss, and the pool's changing rooms have been cleaned.

~Mary Lou Daugherty, Observer

Anderson County Charter Commission

The Anderson County Charter Commission has met four times since the November 2016 election. At the initial, organizational meeting in December members elected and swore in V.L. Stonecipher as Commission Chair and Bob Smallridge as Vice-Chair. Commission members emphasized the importance of encouraging and providing the opportunity for area residents to bring their ideas to the committee throughout future deliberations.

At the January meeting a motion passed to have Anderson County elected officials and department heads attend Charter Commission meetings to speak about their departments. They are asked to share suggestions they have about possible changes to the structure or operation of Anderson County Government. In February, the Commission heard from Gary Long, County Road Superintendent, and Tim Shelton, Register of Deeds. During the March meeting Jeff Cole, County Clerk, Hal Cousins, Clerk & Master, and William Jones, Circuit Court Clerk, addressed the Commission and responded to questions. Other county officials will be invited to speak at future Commission meetings.

The next meeting of the Commission will be on April 3, 2017, at 6:00 p.m. All meetings are held on the third floor of the Anderson County Courthouse and are open to the public.

 ${\it \sim} Bob\ Small ridge,\ Observer,\ Commission\ member$

Membership Notes Welcome, New Members!

Helen McKown 102 Emory Lane Oak Ridge, TN 37830 865-483-1822 Steve Emert 495 Park Lane Andersonville, TN 37705 865-494-8337

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

Proposed Board 2017—2018

President:

1st Vice President: Betsy Smith

2nd Vice President: Joye Montgomery

Secretary: Kay Moss

Treasurer: Janis Williams

Directors – two-year terms

Mary Ann Reeves

Dan Robbins

Ruby Miller

Director – Charlie Hensley, to fill the second year of Joye Montgomery's two-year term

Director – Cleva Marrow, special one-year term:

Christine Iversen and Harriett McCurdy will continue on the Board for the second year of their two-year terms.

Emily Jernigan has agreed to continue on the Board as Editor of the Voter for an appointed one-year term.

We still looking for someone to serve as Chair of the Voter Services Committee.

Nominating Committee for 2017-2018: Peter Scheffler, Chair; Pat Bryan; Ann McNees

Respectfully submitted by the Nominating Committee for 2016-2017: **Peter Scheffler, Chair; Kathy Edwards; Willa Reister, Carol Plasil**



LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF OAK RIDGE Proposed Budget, Fiscal Year July 1, 2017 through June 30, 2018			Expenses (cont.) Budget 17-18		Budget 16-17
			J6 Directory	330	325
Incomo	D 140	D14-6	J7 Holiday Party* (E2)	1,600	1,800
Income	Budget 17-18	Budget 16-17	J ₉ Public Relations	250	250
A. Donne	¢0	© 0 ~~~	J10 Sitter		
A. Dues	\$8,130	\$8,520	Total Administrative	2,780	2,925
B. Contributions			K. Meetings/Travel		
Bi Member	2,400	1,500	Kı State Coun/Conv	300	200
B ₂ Non-Member		,,	K2 Legislative Days	,	
B ₃ Corp.	500	200	K ₃ Fall Conference	100	100
•			K ₄ National Meetings	1,400	1,200
Total A & B	\$11,030	\$10,220	K ₅ Annual Meeting (E ₃)	1,000	1,000
	, 3	,	K6 Workshops	50	50
C. Publication Sales			K ₇ Affiliations	300	300
C1 Anderson County Book	ζ.		K8 Program Planning	<i>J</i> = 0	<i>y</i>
or random dounty book	-		Total Meetings/Travel	\$3,150	\$2,850
D. Interest	\$1 0	\$1 0	_		
			L. LWV Support	_	
E. Meals			Li State PMP	2,440	2,556
E1 Lunch with the League	2,400	2,700	L2 National PMP**	3,050	3,195
E2 Holiday Party* (J7)	1,500	1,800	Total LWV Support	\$5,490	\$5,751
E ₃ Annual Meeting* (K ₅)	1,000	1,000	M. VOTER		
Total Meals	\$4,900	\$5,500	M1 VOTER Postage	350	350
	• * * *	2,2	M2 VOTER Printing	600	900
F. State or Other Reimbursem	ient		Total VOTER	\$950	\$1,250
			N. D.1		, ,
G. From Reserves	\$330	\$1,496	N. Education		
			N1 Publication		
H. Misc. Income (e.g. Kroger)	\$50	-0-	N ₃ Resource Committees	-	50
			N4 Lunch w/League	3,200	3,400
Total Income	\$16,320	\$17,226	N ₅ Voters Service	200	400
			N6 Breakfast w/Legisl.	300	400
* Denotes items that are offset by expenses of a nearly equivalent amount			N ₇ Workshops		
			N8 Great Decisions	_	_
Expenses Budg	get 17-18	Budget 16-17	Total Education	\$3,750	\$4,250
•			O. Position Support		
I. Operating Expenses			Or Action		
Ir Equipment			O2 Tax Reform		
I2 Postage			Total Position Support	-0-	-0-
I ₄ Internet website	200	200	2000 2 00101011 0uppor		•
Total Operating Exp.	\$200	\$200	P. Misc. Expenses		
1 8 f.		•	Pr Scholarships		
J. Administrative Expenses			Total Misc. Expenses	-0-	-0-
Jr President	150	150	_		
J2 Board Fees & Supplies	350	300	Total Expenses	\$16,320	\$17,226
J ₃ Finance Drive)) ~	<i>y</i>			
J ₄ Membership	100	IOO	TOTAL EXPENSES	\$16,320	
J5 Leadership Developmen		100	TOTAL INCOME	\$17,226	
3) Leadership Development		*Denotes items offset by an i	• • •	ly equivalent amount.	
			**25% of national PMP (Per		
			money that does not flow thi		





The Pearls and Politics event brought together members of our local community and officials for civil discussion of issues we are facing. Sponsored by AKA Sorority, NAACP of Anderson County, and the League of Women Voters of Oak Ridge. Photo by Pat Bryan.



Katharine Hayhoe will speak on climate on May 16 at Pollard Auditorium. This event is cosponsored by LWVOR and ORNL.



Breakfast with the Legislators presents Lt. Governor and our State Senator Randy McNally, and Rep. John Ragan to exchange information and ideas with members of the public in March. Photo by Peter Scheffler.

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



lwvoakridge.org lwvor@comcast.net Return Service Requested Dated Material - Please Deliver Promptly Nonprofit Org. U. S. Postage Paid Oak Ridge,TN Permit No. 148

Special Events

May 16

Climate Talk by Dr. Katharine Hayhoe, Pollard Auditorium

May 23

Annual Meeting and Dinner, Unitarian Universalist Church Social Hall

Calendar

May

- **Lunch with the League*** 11:45, lunch; 12–1. Speaker: Charlie Jernigan, Chair, Oak Ridge Land Bank. Topic: "The Land Bank Perspective on Oak Ridge Housing."
- 9 Board Meeting* 10 a.m. 12 p.m.
- **Lunch with the League*** 11:45, lunch; 12–1. Speaker: Stewart Clifton, LWVTN lobbyist in Nashville. Topic: "An Update on the Good, the Bad, and the Ugly of the Legislative Session."
- **Katharine Hayhoe talk** "A Climate for Change" 7 p.m., Pollard Auditorium. Sponsored by LWVOR and ORNL, this talk is free but you need a ticket. Find more information in the article in this *Voter*.
- 18 Last day to RSVP for Annual Dinner
- **LWVOR Annual Meeting and Dinner** 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. in the Social Hall of the Unitarian Universalist Church. See article for full details.

* 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.