



The Voter

Giving and the League

Joye Montgomery

Benjamin Franklin said, "An investment in knowledge always pays the best interest." I used it here to remind everyone how important your investment in the League of Women Voters of Oak Ridge (LWVOR) is in helping the League continue to make a difference. Various programs of information provided to its members and the general public, such as candidate forums and debates, publication of the *Voter*, action through lobbying, Lunch with the League, and Breakfast with the Legislators, require dedicated volunteers and incur costs—costs that are not entirely covered by membership fees. Investments of additional money are needed for the League’s work in protecting and defending our democracy.

Every year you receive an annual dues notification along with a letter from the president asking for an additional donation. Many of you elect to give that donation. In an effort to recognize your commitment, and with the hope of urging others to also give, the board has decided to set up a group called "Advocates for Democracy." Anyone who donates \$50 or more to LWVOR will be recognized on our website and in the *Voter* twice a year. In addition, anyone who gives \$200 or more will receive free admission to our Holiday Luncheon.

You may make a donation in your own name, to let others know you value the League’s work and goals. Or you may give in recognition of someone who has been special to the League or to you. Your **In Memory** or **In Recognition** gift will be a lasting tribute to that person and will make a difference in the League’s valuable work.

Legacy giving is another way to help the League of Women Voters of Oak Ridge continue its mission of encouraging the informed and active participation in government. This can be as easy as adding LWVOR as a beneficiary of a portion of a retirement or investment account. Members who have made such a provision in their estate or financial plans will be recognized in the *Voter*, with

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

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*.

their permission. Details of your provision will not be requested. Contact Pat Bryan (865-693-6286; patbryan2@att.net) for more information about this aspect of giving.

The League of Women Voters of Oak Ridge is a 501(c)(4) organization and donations are not tax deductible. Donations to the League's Education Fund, which is a 501(c)(3), are eligible for tax deductions as allowed. Either choice benefits the League. Consult your financial advisor for help. Our democracy is in turmoil. Many of the values and points of view held by the League of Women Voters are at risk. It will take dedicated volunteers, backed by generous members, to continue to push back against legislation to curb voter's rights and to clarify issues so voters can make informed decisions. Please help our local League with a generous donation.

All donations should be sent to: League of Women Voters of Oak Ridge, PO Box 4073, Oak Ridge, TN 37831-4073. Questions should be directed to Joye Montgomery, 865-483-6956.

Lunch with the League



On **May 1** our speaker is **Dr. Erin Darby**, Assistant Professor of Religious Studies at UT. Her topic is "Understanding Jerusalem: The Holy City and Why It Matters."

On **May 15** our speaker is **David Clark**, Anderson County District Attorney General. His topic is "The Root Causes and Rise of Neo-Nazism in East Tennessee."

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. 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 Senator Ken Yager attended the April Breakfast, along with about 45 audience members who commented on and asked questions about their positions on a variety of topics and legislation.

Since the Legislature has adjourned there will not be any more Breakfasts this year.

We thank our local Senators and Representatives for being available to their constituents at these Breakfasts. We also thank all who attended and shared their concerns, thanks, and ideas.

~Dan Robbins and Charlie Hensley

Committee Reports

Education Committee

The committee did not meet in April. No additional meetings are currently planned. For more information email Harriett McCurdy, mccurdy46@hotmail.com.

~ Harriett McCurdy

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

The primary election is Tuesday, May 1, 2018.

Unlike early voting, voters must go to their own precinct to cast their ballots.

Ballots may be viewed online at <https://www.acelect.com>. Tennessee voters 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.



Voter Registration Activities

In addition to the 35 new voters registered at Roane State Community College during March, we are happy to report that LWVOR has been equally busy in April. Twenty-five new voters were registered at Anderson County High School on April 2 with assistance from **Diane Petrilla, Mary Ann Reeves, Harriett McCurdy** and **Willa Reister**. Fifty-nine were registered at Clinton High School on April 9 by **Jill Wray, Willa Reister** and **Diane Petrilla**. Thirty-seven were registered at Oak Ridge High School on April 12 by **Hedley Pelletier, Janis Williams, Carol Plasil, Betsy Smith, Diane Petrilla** and **Karleen Richter**.

We were pleased to be invited by ORHS students to their Wildcats4Change Rally Against Gun Violence on April 20 where 6 new voters were registered by **Charlie and Emily Jernigan, Charlie Hensley, Claudia Lever, Betsy Smith, Hedley Pelletier** and **Mary Uziel**.

Additional voter registration events are scheduled for Big South Fork National Recreation Area on April 26 following a naturalization ceremony, and at Anderson County High School on May 16 during "Senior Signing Day." Contact **Willa Reister** (wfreister@gmail.com) to volunteer your help on May 16 at Anderson County High School.

~Mary Uziel

Annual Meeting & Dinner

LWVOR will host our Annual Meeting and Dinner on Tuesday, May 22, from 5:00 to 7:30 p.m. at the DoubleTree Hotel ballroom. Social time with a cash bar begins at 5 before a buffet dinner at 5:30. See the invitation for complete details.

Reserve your dinner spot by May 14. 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. **Janis Williams** has coordinated this event.

The League of Women Voters of Oak Ridge
Annual Meeting and Dinner
Tuesday, May 22, 2017
DoubleTree Hotel Ballroom
5:00 p.m. Social Time – Cash Bar, Iced Tea
5:30 p.m. Dinner Buffet followed by Annual Meeting

Menu

Garden Salad
Chicken Piccata (Gluten Free) Homemade Lasagna
Rice Pilaf
Broccoli, Mandarin Glazed Carrots
Fruit Cobbler, Chocolate Cake, Cheesecake
Iced Tea, Coffee, Water

Reservations required by Thursday, May 19 to
Janis Williams 483-1219 or janisor@bellsouth.net
\$30 per person, pay at the door, cash or check only

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

April 16, 2018 meeting

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

At the Appearance of Citizens, Ron Meredith, owner of WYSH radio, objected to what he called false accusations by Law Director Jay Yeager. Mr. Yeager was said to have accused Mr. Meredith of manipulating



bidding on County purchases. Commissioner Wandell moved that Mr. Meredith be advised to take the issue to the County Ethics Commission and, if that failed, to the Legal Service Advisory Committee. Motion passed.

It was noted that the Ethics Commission last met in 2008. Mr. Wandell moved to ask the Nominating Committee to “reconstitute” it. Motion passed.

County Trustee Myron Iwanski presented the results of the EMS audit. He said there were no surprises. The service has been underfunded for years and the plan to pay for the service solely from fees collected is hopeless. Commissioner Meredith moved that Commission follow the advice of the auditors and ask the Mayor and the EMS Director to develop an intermediate and long-range plan for the EMS and bring it to the Commission for review, approval and funding. Motion passed. Commission voted to use \$5,000 from the Solid Waste Fund to help send the Secret City Wildbots, the Oak Ridge High School robotics team, to Houston for a competition.

The Law Director congratulated all those involved in the transformation of the old Daniel Arthur building into the new General Sessions court.

Commissioner Warfield reported that the house in the Anderson County Park is ready to rent. He moved that the house be rented for \$275 a night through Airbnb. Motion passed.

Commission voted to direct 1.7 mill of the tax revenue stream from the General Debt Fund to Capital Outlays in next year’s budget. Finance Director Natalie Erb pointed out that the Debt Fund has adequate funding and the move would allow the purchase of EMS ambulances, fire trucks, and cars for the Sheriffs department. The income can move for only one year and will revert to the debt fund in 2019/2020. She repeated her warning that the General Fund is too low and that unless spending is reduced there will have to be a tax increase.

~Willa Reister, Observer

Municipal Planning Commission

April 19, 2018 meeting

All commissioners were present except Todd Wilson. Staff members Wayne Blasius, Kelly Duggan, and Ken Krushenski were also present.

The first business item was reconsideration of a site plan approval and variance request to allow garage doors that face S. Illinois Ave. for Tire Discounters. The site is a vacant lot at the corner of S. Illinois and Badger Avenues. The site master plan was approved at a special called meeting on March 8 but the variance request received a no-action vote on March 15.

Between the March and April meetings the staff reviewed other automobile service establishments on the Turnpike and Illinois Ave. Most were built before the requirement regarding garage doors was added. Since Tire Discounters faces both Illinois and Badger Avenues, the garage door bays will face a street whichever way the building is turned. Because of the topography of the site, a retaining wall along Illinois Ave. will be required, but it will be much lower if the building is turned toward Illinois instead of Badger. In addition, the applicant will work with City staff to determine a planting scheme that complements and enhances the existing and proposed tree-scape and buffers in the site’s vicinity. Commission approved the plan, including the variance.

The commission approved zoning changes for two parcels in Heritage Center from FIR, Federal Industry and Research, to IND-2 IMDO, Industrial Manhattan District Overlay. These zoning changes are necessary whenever DOE is ready to transfer the land to the City through the Community Reuse Organization of East Tennessee (CROET).

The next request was for an amendment to the Groves Park Traditional Neighborhood Development (TND) Final Master Plan. It is a modification of lots 106-130 and 141-166, to remove alleys along rear lot lines. The property is now under new ownership and the current developer wants to build houses with front garages



rather than rear garages. The staff believes the front-loaded garages may create more interaction between neighbors and activity near the sidewalks. The streets in the area are not designed for on-street parking so the curb cuts will not be a problem. The staff recommended approval and the commission agreed.

The final request was for approval of a site plan for a vacant lot with frontage on Wilson Street and Main Street West. The developer plans to construct a 5300 square foot building that will house a pharmacy and a restaurant. The entrance to the 43-space parking lot will be off Wilson Street. Our ordinance requires that all four sides of the dumpster enclosure be constructed of wood and/or masonry. The developer requested a variance to allow metal doors for the dumpster enclosure. The commission approved the site plan and the variance for the dumpster.

There will be a Blueprint Open House on April 26 at the Civic Center from 5:30 to 7 p.m. This will cover open areas including the UT Agricultural Research Institute and Arboretum, the Horizon Center, TVA area, and the Water Treatment facility.

~Claudia Lever, Observer and Commission Member

Roane County Commission

April 9, 2018 meeting

Hearing of Delegation: Gary Johnston expressed appreciation for the commissioners considering the input of Roane County residents about upcoming decisions for a new school and its funding, which would include a wheel tax.

Eva Brown agreed about holding a referendum for the people of Roane County to let them decide whether or not a tax increase is worth the benefits of the new school.

Mike Parkison also spoke about upcoming fiscal decisions and asked whether all other options have been exhausted prior to a new financial commitment.

John Dennis spoke on variation among people and said that culture change begins at home.

County Executive report: Ron Woody hopes to have the sales tax issues, mentioned in correspondences, resolved within the next two weeks.

The County had a successful delinquent property tax sale this year. Those property owners have one year to redeem their properties. The County is currently evaluating our bids to see if we want to have the Chancellor confirm the bids.

Referendums mentioned by some citizens were discussed. A wheel tax could be placed on a referendum by Commission. A Bond resolution under general capital outlay could be called by petition of registered voters.

County Attorney's report: The Grand Vista Bay sewer main has been conveyed to the County, the deed has been recorded and the related lawsuit is pending dismissal.

Special Orders: The election to fill the vacancy on the Roane County Commission due to the passing of Steve Kelly failed. Votes were 7 for Mr. Kelly's widow and 6 for Jerry White, who let it be known that he is interested in the position and resides in Oliver Springs. One Commissioner did not vote.

New Business: Seven resolutions passed, two were postponed, and one was deferred.

~Hella Peterson, Observer

Roane County Commission

March 19, 2018 meeting

Hearing of Delegation: Wade Creswell of the Roane County Alliance commented on deceased Commissioner Steve Kelly's work on tourism initiatives with Roane County. Kelly had chaired the Tourism Committee.

Creswell also briefly described the three major themes of the recent annual tourism report, presented to the commission: 2017 was the fourth year that Roane County saw net industrial job growth; tourism statistics show that the county's investment is yielding good returns; and Chamber membership has returned to growth mode. Several others commented, including Jim Palmer of the Roane County Industrial Development



Board; Toby Rhinehart; Justin Briner; Larry Jones; Roger Breeden; and paramedic Brian Kroll.

County Executive Report: Ron Woody noted the bond closing scheduled for March 23 and referred to the bond rating and refunding issues. He continues to work on amending state law due to sales tax exemptions and refunds. The 2019 budget work begins with committee work on debt, capital, and agency funds.

Editor's Note: This is a significantly abbreviated version of the March 19, 2018, Roane County Commission Observer report n. The full report is available on our website, <http://lwvooakridge.org>.

LWVOR Wins Grant from LWV US

Help us welcome our newest citizens!

The League of Women Voters of Oak Ridge has received a grant from the US League (LWVUS) to increase the voter registration of our newest citizens. The LWVOR will attend at least six naturalization ceremonies before November 8, 2018, to help register these new citizens.

The League and the U.S. District Court of Eastern Tennessee will work together to celebrate the swearing in of our immigrant residents who have chosen to call America their new home. We will also provide voter registrations at these ceremonies.

The ceremonies will take place at the following locations:

Big South Fork National Recreation Area on April 26, 2018, at 10:30 a.m. US District Judge Phillips presiding.

Chattanooga (900 Georgia Ave.) on May 11, 2018 at 10:30 am and 1:30 pm. US Magistrate Judge Steger presiding.

Knoxville (800 Market Street) on July 24, 2018, at 11:00 a.m. and 1:00 p.m. USBJ Bauknight and US Magistrate Judge Poplin presiding.

Knoxville (800 Market Street) on October 19, 2018, at 11:00 a.m. and 1:00 p.m. US District Judge Reeves and US Magistrate Judge Guyton presiding.

This is one of the most rewarding events that League helps celebrate. We need your help to fill this ambitious

agenda. The experience is moving and memorable. We will provide a celebratory reception, when allowed, and will guide the new citizens through the voter registration process. Training or past experience is not required. Transportation can be provided if needed.

Please contact Mary Ann Reeves (693-6286) or maryannreeves1@att.net, or Harriett McCurdy (481-0249) or mccurdy09@gmail.com for more information and to volunteer.

Proposed Board 2018 – 2019

Proposed Board 2018—2019

President: currently vacant

1st Vice President: Harriett McCurdy

2nd Vice President: Joye Montgomery

Secretary: Sue Frederick

Treasurer: Janis Williams

Directors – two-year terms

Christine Iversen

Charlie Hensley

Abbie Moore

Ruby Miller, Mary Ann Reeves, and Dan Robbins will continue on the Board for the second year of their two-year terms.

Charlie Hensley and Dan Robbins have agreed to continue as Voter Services Co-chairs.

Voter Editor: We need a volunteer for this job.

Nominating Committee for 2018-2019: Blanche Dresner, Pete Peterson, Doris Sklad.

Respectfully submitted by the Nominating Committee for 2017-2018: **Peter Scheffler, Chair; Pat Bryan, Ann McNees, Harriett McCurdy, Charlie Hensley, Janis Williams.**

The Nominating Committee thanks everyone who is willing to be proposed for office. The League has a long history of service to Oak Ridge because of our active members. That said, it is unfortunate that we have not to have been able to identify a candidate



for President for next year. Betsy Smith has done an admirable job as 1st Vice President this year, acting in many instances as our President, with help from many other League members. With the quality of our Board, and the experience and support of those who organize and execute our ongoing activities, we can continue for a time without an official President. Yet we are somewhat limited in our ability to make decisions about new activities and respond to new opportunities with no one in that office. We appreciate those who were willing to consider our request to serve in this office, and understand that not everyone has time for such a role. However, if your situation has changed since we originally discussed this position and you find that you are able to serve, please contact one of us.

Emily Jernigan has agreed to continue until December as *Voter* Editor, but we have not identified anyone to take over at that point. We welcome volunteers for this important position. Emily will work with and help train a new Editor.

We thank all current board members who agreed to continue to serve, and welcome new nominees to the board.

Nominations for all of the elected positions may also be made at the Annual Meeting.

~Peter Scheffler, Chair, Nominating Committee

Membership Notes

New & Renewing Members - Thanks!

Hedley Pelletier
14 Blue Mountain Court
Oak Ridge, TN 37830
865-765-0405

Susan Riemer
107 Westwind Drive
Oak Ridge, TN 37830
865-924-0135

Nathaniel Varner
104 Haven Hill Lane
Oak Ridge, TN 37830
865-482-7406

Robert Varner
104 Haven Hill Lane
Oak Ridge, TN 37830
865-482-7406

Bill Moore
109 Wakefield Road
Oak Ridge, TN 37830
865-483-9006

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

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



PO Box 4073
Oak Ridge, TN 37831-4073

lwvoakridge.org

lwwor@comcast.net

Return Service Requested

Dated Material - Please Deliver Promptly

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

ANNUAL MEETING & DINNER

MAY 22

DOUBLETREE HOTEL BALLROOM

RESERVE BY MAY 14

Calendar

May

- 1 Lunch with the League*** 11:45, lunch; 12–1. Speaker: Dr. Erin Darby, Assistant Professor of Religious Studies at UT. Topic: “Understanding Jerusalem: The Holy City and Why It Matters.”
- 1 Primary Election Day**
- 8 Board Meeting*** 10 a.m. – 12 p.m.
- 11 Naturalization Ceremony and Voter Registration** 10:30 a.m. and 1:30 p.m. 900 Georgia Ave Chattanooga, TN.
- 14 Last day to RSVP for Annual Dinner** Contact Janis Williams
- 15 Lunch with the League*** 11:45, lunch; 12–1. Speaker: David Clark, Anderson County District Attorney General. Topic: “The Root Causes and Rise of Neo-Nazism in East Tennessee.”
- 22 Annual Meeting & Dinner** 5 p.m. to 7 p.m. DoubleTree Hotel Ballroom. See article for 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.