



The Voter

This is a significantly abbreviated, email-only edition of the *Voter*. It contains a legal notice of a vacancy on the Anderson County Commission, Observer Reports, and a brief recap of the LWVTN Convention report by state League President Marian Ott.

The regular August/September *Voter* will be published soon.

Emily Jernigan, Editor

Synopsis of a Report by Marian Ott, President, LWVTN, on the 2017 LWVTN Convention

Marian Ott reported in the Summer LWVTN *Voter* that the State Convention was well-attended and reflected enhanced enthusiasm for the League and its work. She states, "The League in Tennessee is growing!!! Membership is up by 100 members which is fabulous for us! There are new league units forming in Chattanooga and in Columbia.

Our goal is to quickly involve the new members so they become 'leaguers' and are at the next convention."

She says that the state board will consider having a special focus on voting redistricting, noting that LWV members can join a state committee by contacting her at president@lwvtn.org. Ott further states that, "LWVTN will also continue monitoring changes to voter registration procedures with both the new online voter registration as well as the new voter list maintenance procedures. All local leagues are encouraged to have observers at the local election commissions. LWVTN has established an election group email list. The purpose of the email group is to share election commission observation reports and other election information as well as pose questions to the group. If you would like to be added to the list, please email president@lwvtn.org."

She then thanks state board members and all who donated to help pay for things like our lobbyist and administrative support.

The full text of her comments is available at http://lwvtn.org/files/LWVTN_2017_Summer_VOTER.pdf.

Connect with Us

Website: lwvoakridge.org

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

Inside this Issue

LWVTN President's Report.....	1
Legal Notice to Fill Vacancy.....	2
Observer Corps	2-7

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*.

Legal Notice to Fill Vacancy

Due to the resignation of County Commissioner Myron Iwanski, effective July 1, 2017, the Anderson County Board of Commissioners, meeting in Regular Session, Monday, August 21, 2017, convening at 6:30 p.m. in room 312 of the Anderson County Courthouse, has placed the filling of this vacancy on the Agenda.

County Commission District 8 includes the following voting precincts: Emory Valley, Hendrix Creek and Woodland.

Qualifications: T.C.A. § 5-5-102(b) Members shall reside within and be qualified voters of the districts which they represent.

The recommended deadline to submit a resume is Friday, August 11, 2017, room 118 of the Courthouse, before 12:00 noon to allow Commissioners time to review documents before the commission meeting. However, any resume will be accepted the day of the meeting.

Before County Commission votes or considers any motion or resolution regarding the office to be filled, the chair shall allow registered voters of the county an opportunity to submit names to the County Commission for consideration. The names may be submitted in writing to the chair prior to the meeting or may be submitted in person at the meeting. In order for a name to be considered, a member of the County Commission must subsequently nominate the person. Members of the County Commission may also nominate a candidate or candidates to fill the office or vacancy without the name being submitted by a voter. If the person nominated is not present at the meeting, the person making the nomination shall submit a signed statement from the nominee that the nominee is willing to serve in the office if appointed.

Steve Emert, County Commission Chairman
Jeff Cole, County Clerk

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, June 19, 2017

All 16 commissioners were present.

Mayor Frank asked that Commission join a lawsuit brought by three East Tennessee district attorneys and nine counties against three pharmaceutical companies accused of using false advertising to contribute to the opioid epidemic. Commission Meredith's motion to do so passed unanimously. She also asked that the Commission draft a letter to the Tennessee Attorney General asking him to add Anderson County to the list of counties supporting a review of Ohio Attorney General Mike DeWine's suit against five companies accused of downplaying the risks associated with their opioid drugs. Commissioner McKamey's motion to do so passed unanimously.

Finance Director Natalie Erb presented the 2017/18 budget passed by the Budget Committee.

Commissioner Mead moved that \$66,687 budgeted for the Mayor's Chief of Staff Richard Burroughs salary be eliminated. Mr. Mead pointed out that since the move from the 1957 Fiscal Control Act to the 1981 Financial Management System, the Mayor's office has fewer responsibilities and does not need as large a staff. Mayor Frank pointed out that Mr. Burroughs works part time as the county storm water inspector. Mr. Mead countered that the County could find a more economical way to have inspections done. The motion to eliminate the position and move the money to the EMS budget passed with commissioners Fritts, Alderson, Meredith, McKamey, and Hitchcock voting against it.

Commissioner Meredith moved that the EMS rate increase in the budget be eliminated. State Representative John Ragan cautioned Commission against relying on Federal or State aid for EMS and reminded Commission that if aid did materialize, it would have strings attached. Dr. Curtis Sexton declared that ACEMS was the best in the State and for excellent service higher rates were to be expected. Mayor Frank reminded Commission that ACEMS is the only EMS in the state that is supported by fees; all others are subsidized by tax dollars. The motion failed with commissioners Fritts, Alderson, Meredith, Isbel, McKamey, White, Mead, and Creasy voting against it.

Commission voted to accept the amended budget with Commissioners Wandell, Emert, Warfield, and Scott voting against it.

Law Director Jay Yeager presented a Memorandum of Understanding among the County, the Senior Center, and property owner Michael Farley for the purchase of the new Senior Center building and the event center business. The motion to approve the MOU passed with a voice vote.

Commissioners congratulated retiring Trustee Rodney Archer on his new job. Commission Myron Iwanski was elected to serve as Trustee until the 2018 election.

~Willa Reister, Observer

[Anderson County Commission](#)

Regular meeting, July 17, 2017

Fifteen Commissioners attended.

Myron Iwanski has resigned from Commission to take his new job as Trustee. The appointment of a replacement was postponed until the August meeting. The ad for the position failed to make the Oak Ridger and there was an error in the information about the deadline.

Mayor Frank presented her five nominees for the Conservation Board. The current Board was appointed by the Commission and the Mayor has pointed out the she, not the Commission, has the power to nominate members and Commission can

only confirm or deny her nominations. Commission voted to accept the two of the Mayor's nominees who are already serving on the Board, Earl Cagle and Brenda Currier. They rejected the Mayor's three new nominees, Christopher Silver, Christine Dixon, and Commissioner Fritts. The Law Director was asked to find out if the old Board can be dismissed before their terms expire if they were appointed "in good faith" and if two members can constitute a quorum.

Mayor Frank stated that the Board's treatment of her nominations showed a lack of respect for the office of the Mayor. Commissioner Wandell pointed out that there are 20 to 30 resolutions passed by the Commission sitting on the Mayor's desk waiting for her signature. He felt that her refusal to sign showed her lack of respect for the Commission.

DOE is renegotiating all their in-lieu-of-taxes agreements. They contend that they should not be paying more than the going tax rate and that payment should be consistent across facilities. Commission Wandell moved to refer the issue to the Legislative Committee.

The Mayor reported on a proposed change in the State law governing the allocation of the oil and gas separation tax. The State now gets two-thirds of the \$425,000 proceeds and the counties where the oil and gas were produced get one-third. Under the proposed change all the money would come to the counties. Anderson County is first in the state in gas production and fifth in oil. Commissioner Wandell moved that Commission write a letter in support of the change. Commission approved.

Commissioner Mead moved that the \$67,000 budgeted for Storm Water Coordinator Richard Burroughs' salary and benefits be eliminated from the budget for next year. Motion passed with Commissions Fritts and McKamey voting against it.

County Purchasing Agent Katherine Ajmeri presented the Purchasing Committee's recommendation that Fish and Associates be hired to do the EMS audit for \$43,000. Commission approved. Twelve people were appointed to the Audit Advisory Committee, including 5 commissioners. Randy Waters, assistant to the finance director, was appointed project manager.

Commissioner Warfield moved that the EMS department be asked to submit detailed reports to Commission monthly. Motion passed.

Commissioner Meredith admitted that he had been unable to find a new site for the Glen Alpine Convenience Center. He moved that the Center be left where it is and the site improved.

Commissioner McKamey said that the Solid Waste Committee had plans for landscaping the site ready to be put out for bid. Commission voted to move ahead with improving the site.

Commission passed with a voice vote a resolution to move regulation of coal mining in Tennessee from the Federal to the State government. There was no discussion.

~Willa Reister, Observer

Roane County Commission

May 8, 2017, meeting

Fifteen members were present.

Hearing of Delegation:

Deana Jackson of Roane County United Way presented information telling of the impact the agency has in helping with much needed services including advocacy against child abuse. Their monetary impact amounts to \$2.5M, not including salaries.

RCUW and a task force helped get the Free Medical Clinic located in Harriman. Now they are working to get free Dental Care for adults. Children can get some care at present. The Hiwassee mobile unit and RSCC will dedicate some time at the clinic, too.

John Dennis followed with a comment on needing some more teeth extracted. He again voiced his

opinion in opposition to private schools. He stated that Senator Ken Yager seems to use good judgment in spending money. John likes going back to his high school, and said that it is a treasure like an antique.

County Attorney's Report:

Attorney Greg Leffew reported on bonds concerning mediation of property. On June 20 he will argue the long running Zumstein case.

County Executive's Report

County Executive Ron Woody announced the upcoming budget committee meeting all day on May 12. It will be open to the public. On May 15 there will be a public hearing at Pollard Auditorium in Oak Ridge with the Nuclear Energy Commission.

Special Orders:

Dr. Timothy Joseph, aquatic weeds specialist, was confirmed as a new member of the Environmental Board. His term will expire July 30, 2020.

New Business:

Bill Farnham was honored for his many years of service to the Division of Emergency Communication. He was very humbled and stated that his team deserved the honor.

In a change from the customary praises for athletic success, the commissioners honored the achievements of Roane County's top academic high school students.

Thirteen additional business resolutions were discussed and approved.

~Hella Peterson, Observer

EQAB

June 1, 2017, meeting

The EQAB will have a new City staff liaison.

Because of expanded responsibilities with the City, Bruce Applegate will no longer serve in that position. Sandy Sexton, Assistant to the City Clerk, will be the new liaison.

In the past, the two Oak Ridge High School representatives, currently Trip Chinn and Adithyan Sujhkumar, have shared a single vote on the Board. They now each have one vote, making it easier to get a quorum. They will work to establish recycling at Blankenship Field.

EQAB has established the goals for 2017. The four goals with the highest priority are:

- Revise and submit the City Tree Plan for the Urban Forest to City Council for approval. A memo from City staff sent in April recommended that the Tree Plan be received by City Council and not adopted. The memo suggested that adding maintenance staff to the Parks and Recreation Department would be a better fit for the City than hiring an arborist as proposed in the tree plan.
- Establish strategies for pest control and treatment of diseased trees. Electric Department Director Jack Suggs spoke at the May meeting about the Emerald Ash Borer, and he requested a partnership with EQAB to do public outreach. Board member Mr. Dean will draft a letter to Mr. Suggs recommending a consultant. EQAB will also collaborate with the UT Arboretum to present a community workshop on the Emerald Ash Borer.
- Issue a Climate Action Plan (CAP) status report – a 5-year review.
- Stream and road trash cleanup.

EQAB will propose working with Keep Anderson County Beautiful (KACB).

Bruce Applegate is working with ORNL to produce geographic information system (GIS) pictures of the community that could identify areas most in need of clean up.

~Kathryn Olsen, Observer

EQAB

May 4, 2017, meeting

Two guest speakers made presentations. David Vandergriff, arborist and UT Extension Agent, is past president and longtime member of the Knoxville Tree Board (KTB). He gave EQAB an account of the board's history, attributing significant progress in their last 4 years to the hiring of a qualified urban forester. To prepare for that step, a tree inventory and a management plan were contracted. Before getting those resources to guide city staff, successive tree plantings had often been followed by tree deaths. Mr. Vandergriff now looks forward to an increasingly proactive program for the KTB, which has a broadly based membership that includes neighborhood representatives, a KUB employee, and a landscape company representative. City Electric Department Jack Suggs brought his analysis of the local devastation of our ash trees by the emerald ash borer ($\frac{1}{4}$ — $\frac{1}{2}$ " long metallic green beetle) that is sweeping across the US. As most of our ashes die, which is inevitable without early treatment, they threaten to fall on people, property, and power lines. Thus the city and its residents face major financial and other problems as a consequence of this borer. More information, including treatment options, is available on the city's web site. EQAB agreed to partner with the City in a public information campaign this June.

Feedback from city staff about EQAB Tree Plan recommendations was noted, particularly their advice against making any proposals to council that cost money (e.g., hiring an urban forester). Gray Dean countered that Council, not city staff, should determine policy regarding recommendations from EQAB. There seemed to be general agreement, however, that, even as a long-term goal, any such hiring would be feasible only if a forester were to be shared with other municipalities.

~Marion Burger, Observer

Recreation and Parks Board

May 18, 2017; July 20, 2017 (no meeting in June)

This report combines the notes from both meetings.

International Friendship Bell Peace Pavilion (Alan Tatum): The bell project is moving along nicely. Bids for the project are due by August 14. Any bids meeting the project's budget will be presented to City Council for approval. Ground breaking is tentatively scheduled for September and completion of the project should be around the end of March. The UT landscape architects completed their conceptual designs for the gardens around the pavilion and made a presentation to the Friendship Bell Committee and Ziad Demian, the pavilion architect. Fundraising efforts continue; donations now total over \$700,000 and the goal is \$750,000. Contributions from individual citizens are welcome.

To donate **by check** make checks payable to "Oak Ridge Rotary Community Foundation" and put "Bell Project" on the memo line. Mail checks to:

Oak Ridge Rotary Community Fund
Attention: David Carr
P.O. Box 6331
Oak Ridge, TN 37831-3886

To donate **Online** go to <https://portal.icheckgateway.com/TheBellProject/>.

Trail Development (Ray Garrett, Brad Spears, Jon Hetrick): (1) The "Rails to Trails" project is finally showing positive progress. CSX is doing a new appraisal on the property, Jon received notice for preliminary engineering from TDOT, and, so far, about \$1.5 million are available for the project. (2) The second land owner whose property is crossed by the East Fork Poplar Creek trail has made changes in the easement agreement to address his concerns, but still has not signed, after four iterations of the agreement. (3) Ray and Larry Creech toured the North Ridge Trail and concluded that there is only one instance of the trail crossing private property. The trail will be rerouted in the

fall, probably with the assistance of TCWP. (4) Work Day on the Haw Ridge Trail included rerouting the Pond Trail and acquiring lumber for a bridge railing. The Trash Race at Haw Ridge yielded 2 tons of trash from one trail near the river. The trash was deposited by the river rather than by trail users.

Explore Oak Ridge (Naomi Asher): (1) The former Convention and Visitors Bureau will sponsor six videos about Oak Ridge, focusing on different demographic groups. (2) Dan Robbins noted that the National Parks Service will sponsor eclipse viewing, and will provide parking areas and shuttle service for the different sites. (3) The Oak Ridge Blueprint organization has sponsored two events, requesting input from the public on proposed local projects. The Parks Board will screen the list of suggestions for those items that pertain to Recreation and Parks. (4) The National Park Visitors' Center will be located at East Tennessee Technology Park.

Events (Kevin Hoyt, Jon Hetrick): The following upcoming events were noted: the Velo Classic bicycle race (July); the Butterfly Festival at the Arboretum (July 29); a talk about the eclipse at the Arboretum (August 10); an ash borer workshop at the Arboretum (August 29); a fire prevention event at Bissell Park (October 7); and the Masters Regatta (August 16 to 20). The regatta is expected to have a positive impact on the city's economy.

Director's Report (Jon Hetrick): (1) Two public meetings on the preschool were held at the Scarborough Center, and two more meetings are planned for the near future. Studio 4 Design will present plans for the school. (Ed. note: these meetings have already been held and plans for the Preschool are proceeding.) (2) The City has hired a contractor from Georgia to repair the west section tennis courts at Oak Ridge High School. (3) The Recreation and Parks department has experienced several major changes recently, with staff leaving and others moving internally. (4) The Parks board will review



the Capital Improvements and Maintenance priorities in the coming months.

Announcements (Dan Robbins): Fire ants have been reported on the Melton Lake and Emory Valley Greenways. Dan is concerned that fast-growing trees along Melton Lake Greenway may eventually obstruct views of the Lake. Jon Hetrick and his crew will selectively weed out some of the trees. An ORICL lecture on the eclipse is scheduled for July 31 at 7:00 p.m.

~Mary Lou Daugherty, Observer

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