



# The Voter

## *The President's Report*

The League of Women Voters of Oak Ridge (LWVOR) has been acting in the recent past under the very able leadership of 1st Vice President Betsy Smith. When Betsy asked to be relieved of that position, in June 2018, I agreed to be 1st Vice President. Very quickly I learned that I would be carrying out the duties of the president in all ways, as Betsy had been doing. Therefore, at the August board meeting I agreed to serve a term as President and the board voted to approve me for that office.

So, who am I? I was born in Oak Ridge where my folks were among the first to come to work in 1943. I grew up here and in Knox County. Life kept me mostly away until about five years ago when I returned to care for my mother. Looking for a way to be useful, I joined the LWVOR and volunteered to register voters at various venues. Later, I agreed to serve on the Board. I value what the LWVOR does: voter registration, Lunch with the League, Candidate Forums, Breakfast with the Legislators, and more. I want to do my bit to see that these various activities continue. I find that I work with a group of equally dedicated members of the Board.

The membership needs to know that the LWVOR is looking for others who can devote time and talent to League work. The position of 1st Vice President needs to be filled now that I have assumed the duties of President. Please let me or another board member know if you would like to know more about this position.

If any current reader of *The Voter* would like to share their skills, Editor Emily Jernigan will work closely with her replacement. If you are interested in learning what is involved in editing *The Voter* please contact Emily at [emily@jernigans.net](mailto:emily@jernigans.net). Emily has done a fine job since 2009 and needs to step down by January.

The LWV has a long history of civil and non-partisan activity to inform voters about issues whether local, state or national. Please consider doing more.

Please contact me at [mccurdy46@hotmail.com](mailto:mccurdy46@hotmail.com) or 865- 332-6440 with your suggestions, questions, or comments.

Harriett McCurdy

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

## *Connect with Us*

Website: [lwvoakridge.org](http://lwvoakridge.org)  
Facebook: League of Women Voters of Oak Ridge

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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*.

## ***LWVOR Candidate Forums October 16, 25***

LWVOR has scheduled two Candidate Forums to help our members and the public become better informed voters before the November 6 election.

**Forum One** will be on Tuesday, October 16, from 7:00 to 9:00 p.m., in the Oak Ridge High School Amphitheater. This forum features candidates running in the City of Oak Ridge Election for Oak Ridge City Council and Oak Ridge Board of Education. The moderator will be Darrell Richardson.

Candidates for a 4-year term on City Council are Kelly Callison, R.G. (Rick) Chinn, Jr., Warren Gooch, Ellen D. Smith, and Timothy L. Stallings. Four council members will be elected. Derrick M. Hammond is the only candidate running to fill the unexpired 2-year term left by Council member Hans Vogel when he resigned earlier this year.

Candidates for the Oak Ridge Board of Education are Laura McLean, Benjamin J. Stephens, and Erin S. Webb. Three board members will be elected.

**Forum Two** will be on Thursday, October 25, from 7:00 to 9:00 p.m., again in the Oak Ridge High School Amphitheater. Candidates running in the Tennessee State and Federal General Elections will be invited to this forum. Candidates for the U.S. House of Representatives, 3<sup>rd</sup> Congressional District are Chuck Fleischmann (R), Danielle Mitchell (D), and Rick Tyler (I). Candidates for the Tennessee Senate, 5<sup>th</sup> Senatorial District, are Randy McNally (R) and Stuart Starr (D). Candidates for the Tennessee House, 32<sup>nd</sup> District, are Kent Calfee (R) and Mary Ellen Blencoe (D). Candidates for the Tennessee House, 33<sup>rd</sup> District, are John Ragan (R) and Richard Dawson (D).

*~Mary Uziel*

## ***Lunch with the League***



On **September 18** our speaker is **Anne Dunthorn**, a Commissioner of the Oak Ridge Housing Authority. Her topic is "Oak Ridge: the State of City Housing, Current Initiatives for Middle Class Families, and New Initiatives for Permanent and Rental Housing."

On **October 2** our speaker is **Naomi Asher**, Executive Director, United Way of Anderson County. Her topic is "United Way of Anderson County: a New Perspective on Providing Services and the Positive Results of Partnerships with Other Nonprofits."

On **October 16** our speaker is **Shira McWaters**, City of Oak Ridge Public Works Department Director.

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.

## ***Legacy Giving***

The following donors have made a provision to provide support to the League of Women Voters of Oak Ridge. We sincerely appreciate their commitment to elevating the LWVOR to this level of giving in their estate plans.

**Jerry Kinnamon**

**Mary Ann Reeves and Pat Bryan**

If you have made a similar provision and would like to encourage others to do so, please call or email Pat Bryan at 865-693-6286 or [patbryan2@att.net](mailto:patbryan2@att.net). No documentation will be requested.

*~Pat Bryan*



## 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, August 20, 2018*

Chair Tim Isbel called the meeting to order. All commissioners were present except Robert McKamey.

The meeting began with generous praise and farewells for retiring commissioners Warfield, Alderson, and Emert. Retiring sheriff Paul White and Chief Deputy Mark Lucas were commended for their long law enforcement careers. Myron Iwanski was recognized for his 24 years of service to the County.

Commission passed a motion to surplus the building at 205 Main St. that was purchased for the senior center. Commissioners Warfield and Emert voted no. Commission postponed further action until they had an appraisal and estimate of cost of repairs.

Citizens from the Brushy Mountain Community complained of a sewer spill at the pumping station there. The Law Director will send a letter to the Anderson County Water Authority asking that they address pumping station failures.

The Director of Schools announced that the district now offers in-house daycare at Claxton and Norris Middle schools. The online high school has been in place for 6 years and has 6,207 students. The online middle school is starting this year.

Natalie Erb announced that the groundbreaking ceremony for the inclusive playground will be held on August 29.

The EMS Plan Task Force sent a letter to the Operations Committee asking Commission to agree on three performance expectations for the EMS. The first was that the County continue to provide public ambulance service, rather than privatize or discontinue the service. The second

was that the EMS would provide two levels of service: one for emergencies and one for convalescent calls. The third is that the community accept that response time would vary across the county. EMS Director Nathan Sweet signed the letter.

The commission broke into the usual two groups on this issue, with the majority thinking that the EMS needs more resources and the minority contending that the problem is bad management. After a heated discussion, Commission voted to accept the guidelines presented in the letter. Commissioners Scott, Emert, Yager, and Warfield voted against the measure.

Mayor Frank announced that the DOE would pay the County \$629,405.43 in lieu of taxes for the 2018 tax year.

*~Willa Reister, Observer*

### EQAB

*Regular meeting, July 5, 2018*

Board members present: William Dean, Wendy Doolittle, Robert Kennedy (Chair), Kelly Smith  
City Staff Liaison: Sandy Sexton

Visitors: City Manager Mark Watson, Government Affairs and Information Services Director Amy Fitzgerald, and City Council member Ellen Smith

The meeting began with a conference call with Karl Kalbacher. He shared highlights and concerns found in the review by The Ferguson Group of the June 7, 2018 DRAFT "Proposed Plan for the Disposal of Oak Ridge Reservation Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (CERCLA) Waste." The review found that the release of the proposal was premature, because the preferred site (7C) information has not been submitted to the public, EPA, or TDEC. Also of concern, the Plan will seek waivers from the Toxic Substance Control Act. The site is not considered good for nuclear waste, because the water table is too high.

Mark Watson, Amy Fitzgerald, and the EQAB board will address concerns to EPA Region 4, TDEC and the Sierra Club. There is a work session scheduled for July 19.

~Kathryn Olsen, *Observer*

## Roane County Commission

*Regular meeting, July 9, 2018*

**Hearing of Delegation:** Julia Daniel addressed the Commission representing the Non-Profit Maime Carmichael School of Oak Ridge to promote their 5th annual fund raising banquet on August 18.

Sixteen citizens came forward to support or voice their concerns in reference to the proposed consolidation of schools based on the desire for an equal curriculum for all students in Roane County. Ten voters voiced their concerns and spoke against the consolidation. Reasons given were: increased costs (taxes); lack of attention in a larger school for children with special needs; and increased transportation times for some students. The jail expansion was also cited as a great financial responsibility.

Six citizens spoke in favor of consolidation, stating the desire for an equal curriculum for all Roane County students, such as CT pathways, dual classes, college preparation, trade skills and being ready for jobs here at home as a result. Concerns about the lack of curriculum variety in smaller schools with limited funding were also presented. Fewer behavioral issues, lower drop-out rates and higher educational stimulus were mentioned.

**County Attorney:** The closing settlement of the Roane County v. Helbig case will be completed pending paperwork signed by the defendant. The county's offer of \$1,250.00 was accepted.

They continue to gain easements in Crystal Cove. The Gibson & Davis acquisition for jail expansion should be closed by the end of July.

### **Old Business:**

The County Executive was authorized to execute a five year agreement with Fleenor Security Systems for the Installation and Monitoring of the Panic Button and Burglary system in the Courthouse.

### **New Business:**

Eight Resolutions were unanimously passed, one of them being no tax increase for the Fiscal Year beginning July 1, 2018.

*Regular meeting, August 13, 2018*

**Hearing of Delegation:** Gary Aytes, Director of Schools, gave an update on the status of the building program after spending a day with the USDA and pitching the K-14 plan. Mr. Aytes also announced the decision to table consideration of the purchase of the land for the consolidated school site pending a meeting with the Planning Commission. He also offered to share any information on the school plan at any time with any Commissioners with questions.

John Dennis expressed appreciation for the Commission and discussed his views on the President as well as his concern for the teachers in the U.S. and the importance of unity.

Jean Meredith voiced concern about the progression of the new school plan, addressing the need for careful consideration and planning before any purchase of land or spending of funds. With respect for the taxpayers and their opinions, a more holistic financial understanding is desired before a long tax commitment.

**County Attorney:** Three real estate closings for the County included a parcel in Rockwood for ambulance services, the Rescue Squad property in Kingston on Hwy 58, and property for the jail annex. Litigation is pending on property maintenance suits that are progressing with more efficient methods of serving the necessary papers to all parties.

The Crystal Cove easement suit has been resolved, and the Road Superintendent has been informed that the County now has an easement.

The surveying of the Pioneer Village area is almost complete and will soon yield a detailed legal description of the parcels through which the county must gain easements.

**County Executive:** Ron Woody addressed the commissioners concerning the 2018 Debt Report. A copy was given to the sitting and new Commissioners and will be filed on the County website. Commission adopted the Debt Policy in March, 2011, requiring the report. Outstanding Government Debt on June 30, 2010, was \$55,300,00. In 2011 Roane County had over \$900 in net debt per capita. Now it has declined to \$464 in net debt per capita. New debt value dropped from 3.9% to 1.99% per assessed property.

**New Business:** Seven Commissioners were honored for their service to the County and will not continue due to not being reelected or retirement. They are Carolyn Granger, Peggy Collier, Renee Kelley, Chris Johnson, Todd Fink, Greg Ferguson, and James Brummett. Barbara Anthony, Clerk, and Wilma Eblen, Trustee, retired. Four additional resolutions were passed.

The swearing-in ceremony for the seven newly elected commissioners is August 29.

Steve Kelly's widow, Renee, did not seek re-election in District 4 (Oak Ridge). Charlotte Bowers of Oak Ridge won the seat. Jerry White of Oliver Springs narrowly defeated James Brummett, also in District 4.

*~Hella Peterson, Observer*

### **Recreation and Parks Advisory Board**

*I was unable to attend the July meeting, but have included items of interest as reported in the minutes of that meeting.*

*Regular Meetings, July 12 and August 9, 2018*

**Tree Lighting Ceremony** (Alan Tatum): For many years the Oak Ridge Women's Club collaborated with the Oak Ridge Recreation and Parks

Department in producing the Christmas Tree-Lighting Ceremony. The club recently disbanded, donating the balance of its funds to the Department of Maintenance of the Commemorative Walk. The Department will continue with the tree-lighting ceremony; the Parks Board agreed to support the Department's efforts.

**Recognition Program** (Alan Tatum): The Board agreed to sponsor a recognition program each year to honor three to four individuals who have made significant contributions to Oak Ridge Recreation and Parks. The recognition ceremony will be integrated into the tree-lighting ceremony. Board members will nominate groups or individuals worthy of recognition.

**International Friendship Bell and Peace Pavilion** (Alan Tatum): Due to contract delays, the dedication of the project has been rescheduled. It will be September 20 at 6:30 p.m. The project's public relations subcommittee will plan the ceremony. A group from Oak Ridge visited the new Japanese Consul General in Nashville to discuss the Bell project. He will attend the ceremony on behalf of the Japanese government and a Japanese newspaper will publish an article about the project. Jon Hetrick's staff has moved the 8000-pound bell to the site. Concrete pours to complete the cantilevered structure were scheduled for early August. The carbon fiber beams will be assembled in North Carolina, and the 3-D printed bench backs have been completed.

**Rails to Trails** (Jon Hetrick): Jon and staff are still working on the access agreement with CSX, but Jon feels that the project is moving forward. He hopes to start discussions with property owners soon. The next step is to address environmental requirements.

**Trail Development** (Ray Garrett and Ken Reuter): The Boy Scouts have been working on the East Fork Poplar Creek Trail, mainly on the section of trail adjacent to Robertsville Middle School. Ray reported that trail easements are in place, and should be

finalized soon. Trail building should begin in the fall. The Clinch Valley Trail Alliance (CVTA) scheduled a work day on July 17 to address erosion control and vegetation management.

**Events** (Jon Hetrick): The next big event will be the Halloween Party in October. WDVX will hold concerts at A.K. Bissell Park in August, September, and October.

*~Mary Lou Daugherty, Observer*

### **LWVOR Local Program 2018–2019**

As part of its ongoing local program, the Oak Ridge LWV provides voter education and registration, candidates' forums, other forums on public issues, and programs such as Breakfast with our Legislators and Lunch with the League. In addition, the League takes action when appropriate based on current local, state, and national positions and, after study and consensus, on newly identified local study items.

The local study and action program for 2018–2019:

#### **Education**

Study and monitor the quality of the Oak Ridge Public Schools, especially as impacted by local, state, and federal mandates and community factors; emphasis should include State and Federal standards, alternatives to public education, school security, and Oak Ridge Preschool. Monitor the financial impact of school vouchers and other cutbacks to education on the local schools and community.

Continue the Partner in Education program with the Oak Ridge High School Social Studies Department.

Monitor the potential changes in the Basic Education Program and the effect on Oak Ridge Schools.

Monitor issues associated with in-state tuition rates for advanced training and education for Tennessee high school and GED graduates regardless of their immigration status.

#### **Action Groups**

Survey membership for areas of interest and develop corresponding action groups to educate the public and take action, as appropriate, on League positions. This survey will include Climate Change, Education, Health Care, Immigration, Mental Health, Housing, Community Organizing, and other positions depending on member interests. These action groups will enter into partnerships with other organizations with like interests to share information and decide on action. The survey may also include areas of local interest.

#### **Observer/Monitoring Corps**

Continue the Observer/Monitoring groups to follow City Council, County Commissions, School Board, Planning Commission, Environmental Quality Advisory Board, Industrial Development Board, Senior Advisory Board, Recreation and Parks Advisory Board, other local boards as appropriate, Healthy Families of Tennessee, and State funding resources for Roane State Community College. Educate the membership and the public as appropriate.

#### **July Voter Forums**

The LWV hosted two candidate forms in July. The Anderson County forum, held July 10 in the High School auditorium and moderated by Gene Patterson, was attended by 120 people. The Roane County forum, held two days later in the same venue, was moderated by Bear Stevenson and attended by about 90 people. Most candidates in contested races attended and answered questions submitted by the audience.

The forums were organized by board members Charlie Hensley and Dan Robbins and conducted with the help of 16 League volunteers.

*~Dan Robbins*



**BOARD MEMBERS 2018–2019**

President: Harriett McCurdy  
 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President: vacant  
 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President: Joye Montgomery – Fund Raising, Observer Corps  
 Secretary: Sue Frederick  
 Treasurer: Janis Williams  
 Directors – two–year terms  
     Christine Iversen – Climate Change  
     Abbie Moore - TBD  
     Vacant - Voter Service  
 Directors – one–year terms  
     Ruby Miller – Publicity LWL and BWL  
     Mary Ann Reeves – Lunch with the League  
     Dan Robbins – Voter Service  
     Carol Plasil – Co-chair, Education  
     Emily Jernigan – Editor of *The Voter*  
     Mary Uziel – Internal Communications  
     Vacant – Co-chair, Education

**OFF-BOARD**

Claudia Lever – Voter Service  
 Marian Varner – Website, Facebook  
 Pat Bryan – Vote411  
 Peter Scheffler – Community Outreach  
 Doris Sklad –Special Events  
 Maureen Hoyt – Publicity at Large  
 Maryann Mulvenon – Scrapbook  
 Nominating Committee for 2018–2019:  
 Doris Sklad, Chair; Pete Peterson, Blanche Dresner

**Membership Notes**

*Correct spelling of Nikki Adkisson’s name*

Nikki Adkisson  
 ORUD  
 120 S. Jefferson Cr.  
 Oak Ridge, TN 37830  
 865-399-8287

Please contact Janis Williams, 483-1219 or [janisor@bellsouth.net](mailto:janisor@bellsouth.net), with membership corrections and updates.

*In Memoriam*

We remember with fondness and extend our sympathies to the families of Lynn Fortenbery, a 50-year LWVOR member, who died May 18, 2018, and Marilyn Murray, who died Aug 11, 2018.

***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  
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 Oak Ridge, TN 37831



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The League of Women Voters is a non-partisan organization that encourages informed and active participation of citizens in government and works to increase understanding of public policy through unbiased studies of public issues. Attendance at LWVOR events is open to the public. Membership is open to both men and women. Please visit our website, [www.lwvoakridge.org](http://www.lwvoakridge.org).

## Calendar

### September

- 11 Board Meeting\*** 10 a.m. – 12 p.m.
- 18 Lunch with the League\*** 11:45, lunch; 12–1. Speaker: Anne Dunthorn, Commissioner, Oak Ridge Housing Authority. Topic: “Oak Ridge: the State of City Housing, Current Initiatives for Middle Class Families, and New Initiatives for Permanent and Rental Housing.”

### October

- 2 Lunch with the League\*** 11:45, lunch; 12–1. Speaker: Naomi Asher, Executive Director, United Way of Anderson County. Topic: “United Way of Anderson County: a New Perspective on Providing Services and the Positive Results of Partnerships with Other Nonprofits.”
- 9 Board Meeting\*** 10 a.m. – 12 p.m.
- 16 Candidate Forum: Oak Ridge City Council and Board of Education.** 7 p.m. Oak Ridge High School Amphitheater. Candidates running in the City of Oak Ridge election for Oak Ridge City Council and Oak Ridge Board of Education.
- 16 Lunch with the League\*** 11:45, lunch; 12–1. Speaker: Shira McWaters, Oak Ridge Public Works Department.
- 17 Early Voting Begins**
- 25 Candidate Forum: State and Federal General Election** 7 p.m. Oak Ridge High School Amphitheater. Candidates in Oak Ridge districts running for TN 3<sup>rd</sup> Congressional District, TN 5<sup>th</sup> Senatorial District, and TN House Districts 32 and 33.

\* 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.