



The Voter

The President's Report

As I continue to familiarize myself with the League of Women Voters of Oak Ridge (LWVOR), I turned to materials I received from the national organization. My understanding is that local leagues, such as LWVOR, belong to a state league (LWVTN) and to the national league (LWVUS). Having worked for years in private secondary schools, I have been involved in creating mission and vision statements for several schools. In my experience, these statements are meant to focus the activities of the institution. Here is what I found in the current yearbook of the LWVUS:

“The League of Women Voters, a nonpartisan political organization, encourages informed and active participation in government, works to increase understanding of major public policy issues, and influences public policy through education and advocacy.

LWVUS Mission Statement: Empowering Voters. Defending Democracy.

LWVUS Vision Statement: We envision a democracy where every person has the desire, the right, the knowledge, and the confidence to participate.

LWVUS Value Statement: We believe in the power of women to create a more perfect democracy.”

If you receive *The Voter*, you are either a member of this League or you are someone in government or another League who might profit from its contents. You matter.

I would like to see League members reach out to friends and family and invite them to LWVOR events. Lunch with the League is our effort to “...increase understanding of major public policy issues” and to inform citizens about the contributions of civic organizations in Oak Ridge and Anderson County. As we enter the election season, there will be public forums so that residents can meet and hear from candidates. Please come and bring others.

When the State Legislature is in session, Breakfast with the Legislators offers the opportunity to hear directly from our elected representatives and, more importantly, to speak directly to them. My experience in the recent past is that these hard-working individuals value their time with us.

What can you and I do to get every person to participate?

Harriett McCurdy

mccurdy46@hotmail.com or 865-332-6440

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*.

Lunch with the League"



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. She will discuss the "City Water and Wastewater Systems."

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.

Election 2018 Information

November 6 Election

Duly registered Oak Ridge voters can vote for Governor, US Senator, US House of Representative District 3, Tennessee House of Representatives Districts 32 or 33, Oak Ridge Board of Education (3 members), and Oak Ridge City Council (5 members). **Anderson County** residents will be voting for Tennessee Senate District 5. **Roane County** residents will be voting for or against a County Wheel Tax of \$50 per vehicle, with proceeds directed toward funding the school building and consolidation plan.

Early Voting October 17 to November 1

Early Voting sites in **Anderson County** are the Midtown Community Center (Wildcat Den) in Oak Ridge, the Clinton Community Center (Clinton), and the Anderson Crossing Shopping Center (Norris/Andersonville). Hours are Monday to Friday, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. and Saturday, 9 a.m. to noon. Anderson County hours for voting **on election day**, November 6, at all precincts, are 9 a.m. to 8 p.m. The Anderson County Election Commission (865-457-6238) is open 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Monday to Friday. View and print your ballot and find more information at <https://www.acelect.com>.

Residents of **Roane County** can vote early at the First Christian Church, 100 Gum Hollow Road in Oak Ridge and at other sites in Kingston, Harriman, and Rockwood. Hours are 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday to

Friday, and 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. on Saturdays. Roane County hours for voting **on election day**, November 6, are 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. The Roane County Election Commission (865-376-3184) is open from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Monday to Friday. View and print your ballot and find more information at www.roaneelections.com. If you live in Knox County the ballot can be found at the **Knox County** Election Commission website, www.knoxcounty.org/election.

LWVOR Candidate Forums

LWVOR Candidate Forum, October 16, 7:00 p.m., at Oak Ridge High School Amphitheater. This forum features candidates running in the City of Oak Ridge Municipal Election for City Council and Board of Education. The moderator will be Darrell Richardson.

One of the candidates for City Council and all three of the candidates for Board of Education are unopposed, but several are new to Oak Ridge voters. To become better acquainted with new candidates, and reacquainted with opinions of incumbents, we have invited all candidates to participate in opening and closing statements and answering questions from the audience and from the moderator.

LWVOR Candidate Forum, October 25, 7:00 p.m., at Oak Ridge High School Amphitheater. The forum features local candidates running in the Tennessee State General Elections for Tennessee House Districts 32 and 33, and Tennessee Senate District 5, and information on the Roane County Wheel Tax Referendum.

Voter Registration Activities

Roane State Community College: Our Oak Ridge League was honored when Roane State Community College invited us to hold a voter registration event on September 17 to coincide with a visit by Tennessee Secretary of State Tre Hargett who is visiting colleges across the state this month to promote voter registration. LWVOR member Diane Petrilla organized our all-day voter registration effort where 77 new voters were registered by Rebecca Bowman, Karleen Richter, Betsy Smith, Diane Edwards, Kay Moss, Louise McKown, Carol Plasil, Diane Petrilla, and Mary Uziel. Mark Stephens, Anderson County Administrator of Elections, participated along with Roane State's Student Engagement Coordinator, Corey Reed.



National Voter Registration Day, September 25, 2018: To celebrate this annual event, LWVOR member Diane Petrilla organized teams to staff voter registration tables at each of our three Anderson County high schools during their lunch periods. Jane Flanagan, Ann Mostoller, and Doris Sklad registered one new voter at Anderson County High School. Diane Petrilla and Mary Ann Morse registered seven new voters at Clinton High School. Rebecca Bowman, Hedley Pelletier, Nanette King, and Marion Burger did not register any new voters at Oak Ridge High School (ORHS). Despite our heroic efforts, we found that most high school seniors will not be 18 years old in time to vote this year, and at ORHS we were told that seniors generally eat off-campus.

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, September 17, 2018

Newly elected Chair Wandell called the meeting to order. All 16 commissioners were present. He appointed Commissioner Yager as Parliamentarian. The Chair announced that Mayor Frank's aunt, Eileen Slater, died on September 16 and the Mayor would miss tonight's meeting.

AC-CAC Interim Director Ron Young asked for help in paying about \$30,000 in delinquent payroll taxes owed the IRS. Commission referred to the budget Committee.

Newly elected Sheriff Russell Barker said that he has created two new divisions, Community Relations and Administrative Services. Salaries for the directors of these divisions will be paid for by reallocating money already in department's personnel budget.

The Mayor sent a letter asking Commission to assign a committee to reevaluate the County Ethics Committee and Code of Ethics. Commissioner White moved to defer until the next meeting. Passed with voice vote.

At the August meeting Commission voted to disband the Charter Commission. Mayor Frank vetoed the resolution. Now Mark DeVol and David Stanley are suing the Charter Commission for not fulfilling its obligations. Commissioner Mead moved

to override the Mayor's veto and extend life of the Charter Commission long enough to settle the litigation. Motion passed with commissioners White and McKamey voting against. Commission agreed that the Law Director should represent the Charter Commission in the lawsuit.

Commission voted to defer rezoning a 1.4 acre plot on Edgemoor Rd. until the October meeting. The issue was not rezoning but whether all proper public notifications were given. Citizens had come forward at this meeting and the last to complain that the current practice of advertising changes in the *Clinton Courier* is inadequate. They pointed out that a zoning change or variance can change a community forever. Those requesting the change had a lot of notice and people in the community were given only six days of notice in a newspaper many of them do not read.

The Law Director said that he would draft policy changes and present to Commission. He pointed out that any changes would have to be approved by the city and county planning commissions.

~Willa Reister, Observer

Oak Ridge Planning Commission

Regular meeting, September 20, 2018

Eight commission members were present. Charlie Hensley and Benjamin Stephens were absent. Community Development Director Wayne Blasius and the planning staff were present.

Richard Riikola requested a rezoning of 0.59 acre corner lot at Lafayette Drive and Marquette Road from R-2 Low Density Residential to R-3 Medium Residential District. The property also has a Manhattan District Overlay (MDO) designation for the original housing areas. The applicant has a buyer who wishes to build an insurance office, which is not included in the R-2 zone. The R-3 zone permits a variety of additional uses, but the lot has two utility easements crossing it that would make the more intensive uses difficult to accommodate. Staff said the R-2 designation is consistent with our current Land Use Plan and recommended against the rezoning request. A motion to recommend to Council the rezoning of the site to R-3 was approved, 7-1. We did not remove the MDO designation, which does provide more flexibility in dealing with the utility easements.

Mr. Blasius said we would have one or two more public meetings on the Blueprint in October. We discussed ways to get more students involved by reviewing and discussing comments that have already been received. Jim Dodson gave an update on actions by City Council related to Planning Commission.

~Claudia Lever Observer & Commission member

Recreation and Parks Advisory Board

Regular Meeting, September 11, 2018

Citizen Comments: City Council member Ellen Smith commented on the need for a partnership between the public and Oak Ridge's community centers (i.e., Civic Center, Scarboro Center, Senior Center). She asked the board to evaluate the benefits of encouraging more activities in the Civic Center. The difficulty in making arrangements to hold meetings in the Civic Center and its rental fees have resulted in some groups moving to other venues. The City's new computer system may improve online arrangements in scheduling meetings. Ms. Smith suggested that the City could leverage groups whose programs are deemed appropriate for the community centers. Jon Hetrick commented that effective use of the new Senior Center should be evaluated. Ms. Smith said that a one-hour activity at the Civic Center requires a five-hour block of time for the meeting room, including two hours each for set-up and take-down.

International Friendship Bell and Peace Pavilion

(Alan Tatum): The dedication of the project is on September 20 at 6:30 p.m. The program includes music and speakers, and the Japanese Consul General from the Nashville consulate. The cantilever structure is in place. Jon Hetrick showed slides of Parks maintenance crews and the UT project manager installing the 17 carbon fiber beams, weighing 200 pounds each. The project provided a unique but challenging opportunity for Jon's crew and the team from UT. The benches, yard work, and patio are not finished.

Trails (Brad Spears, Dan Robbins): Brad announced a work day at Haw Ridge on September 15 to reroute a trail that will be safer for mountain bikes. Dan discussed the possibility of developing a trail along the ridge previously owned by Nat Revis. The idea was well received by the Board.

Community Events (Jon Hetrick, Dan Robbins): Jon noted the following events for September and October: dedication of the Friendship Bell, Fall Break Camp,

scrap booking event, Tennessee Recreation and Parks Association meeting in Knoxville (Jon's staff will help), and the Halloween Party.

Recognition Program (Alan Tatum): The program was established to honor individuals who have made significant contributions to the Oak Ridge Recreation and Parks activities. The Board discussed various aspects of the program, including qualifications of the nominees, the number of nominees, and a name for the event. Alan asked for more nominations to add to those already submitted.

Velodrome (Brad Spears): A velodrome in East Tennessee would be the first in the state, with the nearest others in Atlanta, South Carolina and North Carolina. Brad is investigating funding that could range from \$300,000 to several million, depending on the construction. He will be putting together a team to focus on the project. Ellen Smith told of her visit to the premier velodrome in Rockhill, NC

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

EQAB

Regular Meeting, August 9, 2018

Board Members Present: Rebecca Bowman, Wendy Doolittle, Darcie Holcomb, Robert Kennedy (Chair), Sophia Krusen, Donald Miller, Kaela O'Dell, Darris Upton, Erin Van Berkel

Visitors: Ellen Smith; four Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation (TDEC) employees reviewing the DOE Waste Disposal Plan.

There are five new board members: Nikki Adkisson, Donald Miller, Darris Upton, and High School representatives Sophia Krusen and Erin Van Berkel.

An EQAB letter, seeking redress for the City from the NNSA/TVA for the Pine Ridge tree-clearing, was presented to City Council in April. The City asked EQAB for supporting quantitative economic data. EQAB sent a Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) request to TVA on February 26, asking for details of a study determining that an electrical line along Pine Ridge was the best alternative for the NNSA Y-12 Electrical Substation Project. EQAB got notice on March 30 that a response was delayed for an indeterminate amount of time. No response has yet been received.



The draft *Proposed Plan for the Disposal of Oak Ridge Reservation Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (CERCLA) Waste* was the focus of the July 19 work session. Four TDEC representatives attended this August meeting to comment on and answer questions about the Plan. CERCLA requires that DOE, EPA, and TDEC agree on regulations and impact. The initial negotiations failed and have now moved to the senior executive level. DOE has to justify up to four possible waivers. DOE will have a 30-day public comment period, considered short due to the complexity and life span of the project. TDEC emphasized that citizen input is important to DOE and can make a difference. DOE is obligated to respond to public comments. Chairman Kennedy suggested that members of the public should become informed about the proposed waste site in advance of the comment period. He challenged board members to make a list of organizations where information might be shared. A work session is scheduled for August 23.

~Kathryn Olsen, Observer

EQAB

Special Meeting, September 4, 2018

The special meeting was called to approve a letter to City Council for inclusion on the September 10 Council agenda. The letter regarding the proposed DOE waste disposal site was not completed at the time of the meeting, so the vote could not be taken. There was a discussion of revisions to the letter, and Chair Kennedy will make the changes in time for it to be on the agenda. The proposed disposal site is Central Bear Creek Valley. Recent well sampling indicates the groundwater table does not meet TDEC and EPA requirements. Some of the other concerns are the appropriateness of the CERLA process for a clean site, mercury storage, and cost benefit of local vs. Western US storage.

Note: Chair Kennedy did present the Environmental Quality Advisory Board (EQAB) findings regarding DOE-Environmental Management (EM)'s Proposed Plan for the Disposal of Oak Ridge Reservation Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (CERCLA) Waste to City Council on September 10.

DOE announced that the public can submit written comments about the proposed plan during a public

comment period from September 10 to October 25. Comments may be submitted to John Michael Japp, OREM FFA Project Manager, DOE Oak Ridge Operations, P.O. Box 2001, Oak Ridge, TN 37831. Two public information sessions are September 13 and October 2, 4:30 to 6 p.m. at 1 Science Gov Way, Oak Ridge. A public hearing is scheduled for October 18.

~Kathryn Olsen, Observer

Membership Notes –New Members

Dick & Edna Roop
304 E. Forest Lane
Oak Ridge, TN 37830
410-279-8085

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

❧ *In Memoriam* ❧

We remember with fondness and extend our sympathies to the family of Cleva Marrow, a long-time LWVOR member, who died September 12, 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
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

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Oak Ridge, TN
Permit No. 148

October 9 – Last day to register to vote
October 16 & 25 – LWVOR Forums
October 17 to November 1 – Early Voting
November 6 – Election Day

*Remember! Every vote is important and
your vote helps make democracy work.*

*The LWV: Empowering Voters.
Defending Democracy.*

Calendar

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.
- 9 Last day to register to vote for November 6 election**
- 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. Topic: “City Water and Wastewater Systems”
- 17 Early Voting Begins**
- 25 Candidate Forum: State and Federal General Election** 7 p.m. Oak Ridge High School Amphitheater. Candidates for TN House, TN Senate, and information on Roane County Wheel Tax.
- 30 Deadline for Receiving Application by Mail for Absentee Ballot**

November

- 1 Early Voting Ends**
- 6 Election Day**

* Unless otherwise specified, Lunch with the League is at the Unitarian Universalist Church, 809 Oak Ridge Turnpike at Laboratory Road. Board Meetings are in the Main Conference Room, UT Resource Center, Rutgers Ave. at the Turnpike.