



# The Voter

## ***Febb and Harry Burn: Women's Right to Vote***

Mary Ann Reeves

The first women's rights convention was held in a Seneca Falls, New York church in July 1848. It was at this convention that the topic of women's right to vote became more public.

Voting was not the only right denied to women. They had no right to their children (husbands could, and did, give them away); married women could not own property; women had no right to their own wages; and generally, as far as the law was concerned, women were invisible.

Fast forward 72 years and, after numerous suffragists' hunger strikes, picket lines, and campaigns, the US Congress finally passed the Susan B. Anthony Amendment in 1919. Ratification by thirty-six states was required to make it law. By the summer of 1920, thirty-five states had ratified the amendment, but unexpected losses in some northern states now made its future uncertain. Southern legislatures seemed solidly opposed to suffrage for women. The post-Reconstruction southern block was definitely not interested in giving black women the right to vote while they were busy trying to deny the vote for black men.

In August of 1920, Tennessee, in a special session, the right to vote passed overwhelmingly in the Senate. Then it was the House's turn to vote. The session turned tumultuous, tempers flared, and there was extreme pressure from anti-suffrage outsiders. Time was running out, with only days left to ratify the amendment. Tennessee was the last chance for this amendment to be ratified.

Finally the day of the vote came. Each legislator wore a rose in his lapel indicating his vote: red for no to suffrage, yellow for yes. Harry Burn, the youngest Tennessee legislator, was 24 years old and from McMinn County in East Tennessee.

*Continued on page 2*

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### ***Connect with Us***

Website: [lwvoakridge.org](http://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*.**

He was a budding politician, and he knew that his future in politics would be affected by his vote on suffrage. Harry Burn had considered the merits of both sides of this longstanding, contentious issue. That day, his lapel showed a red rose. The equal number of red and yellow roses in the chamber spoke of another deadlock.

Faced with this tie vote, Harry, still wearing his red rose, pulled a letter from his pocket that he had received that morning from his mother, Miss Febb. In it she said, "Hurrah, and vote for suffrage! Don't keep them in doubt. I noticed Chandler's speech, it was very bitter against. I have been watching to see how you stood, but have not noticed anything yet." She ended with "Don't forget to be a good boy..."

Harry voted "aye," startling his fellow legislators. With that one word, the ability of the women of the United State to vote was extended, and with that one word decades of tireless and grueling campaigning ended.

He was called in by his fellow legislators the next day to explain his changed vote. In his defense, holding his mother's letter, Harry expressed his support for universal suffrage. He made no secret of his mother's influence, and her equally crucial role in this long-fought battle: "I know that a mother's advice is always safest for her boy to follow, and my mother wanted me to vote for ratification."

The 19<sup>th</sup> Amendment to the US Constitution was officially ratified and became law eight days later.

*Editor's note: Mary Ann Reeves is Immediate Past President of LWVOR, and is a current board member. Since we do not currently have a president, board members will be responsible for the column traditionally prepared by the president. Thank you, Mary Ann.*

## *Lunch with the League*



Our first lunch of the new year is on **January 16, 2018**. The speaker is yet to be determined.

Lunches from the [Soup Kitchen](#) are available for \$8. 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*

The first session for Breakfast with the Legislators will be **Monday, January 29**, 7:30 to 8:30 a.m. at the Oak Ridge Civic Center Social Room. **NOTE:** This is a change from our usual 4<sup>th</sup> Monday of the month for our Breakfast.

The League hosts the discussions with our area Tennessee legislators. The Legislature will reconvene at 12:00 noon (CST) on Tuesday, January 9, 2018. Our January meeting is an opportunity to learn about their committee assignments, legislation they are sponsoring, and the general outlook for the session.

During these events local legislators have an opportunity to discuss upcoming legislation and issues. Attendees will be able to express their opinions and ask questions directly to those who represent our districts in the Legislature. There is no charge for these events, and they are open to all. Coffee and a light continental breakfast are served at no charge.

Subsequent breakfasts will be held on the fourth Monday of every month the legislature is in session. If the Oak Ridge schools are closed for snow or inclement weather, the breakfast will be cancelled.

*~Dan Robbins and Charlie Hensley*



## Committee Reports

### Education Committee

The first meeting of the LWVOR Education Committee will be on Tuesday, January 23, 2018 at 2:00 p.m. at the Secret City Cafe in the Methodist Medical Center. All committee members are invited, as are any others who wish to attend. If you plan to join us, please email Harriett McCurdy at [mccurdy46@hotmail.com](mailto:mccurdy46@hotmail.com).

### A Holiday Gift Idea

The LWVOR is a partner with the Suffrage Coalition (<http://suffragecoalition.org>) dedicated to preserving the story of the women’s suffrage movement.

One aspect of that is the new Burn memorial statue that will be located on the southeast corner of Clinch Avenue and Market Street, in front of the East Tennessee History Center, across from Market Square. The legal work has been done, the site chosen, and the statue of Febb and Harry Burn has been finished. It will be sent to the foundry in January and erected in early spring.

The coalition is still raising funds for the memorial. Surrounding the statues will be bricks that can be inscribed with the name of the women (or men) that you admire and want to honor or memorialize. The cost of each brick is \$100.

Please contact Mary Ann Reeves for more information at [maryannreeves1@att.net](mailto:maryannreeves1@att.net) or 865-693-6286.

You can also donate online to the Suffrage Coalition at <http://suffragecoalition.org/engage-in-history> or mail a check for the “Suffrage Coalition” to the East Tennessee Foundation, PO Box 2310, Knoxville, TN 37901

Read more of the heartwarming story of Febb and Harry Burn in a separate article in this *Voter*.

~Mary Ann Reeves

## LWVUS Positions and Actions

The LWVUS joined the National Women’s Law Center and other organizations by filing an amicus brief in the Masterpiece Cake Shop, Ltd. v. Colorado Civil Rights Commission. The case involves a bakery in Colorado that refused to make a wedding cake for a same-sex couple. The brief argues that this violates public accommodation laws and opens the door to discrimination of other groups. The US Supreme Court heard arguments on December 5. A final decision will be in June.

**Stop Voter Suppression:** The LWVUS joins letters sent to all 50 Secretaries of State condemning and opposing the data request by President Trump’s advisory commission. The national task force, created to justify President Trump’s demonstrably false claims of widespread voter fraud in the 2016 elections, is laying the groundwork for dangerous voter suppression across the country. The League will work to prevent this Commission and other entities from intimidating voters but we need your help. Tell the Commission you won’t let anything stop you from exercising your right to vote. Sign the League petition here: [http://participate.lwv.org/c/10065/p/dia/action4/common/public/?action\\_KEY=12993&okay=true](http://participate.lwv.org/c/10065/p/dia/action4/common/public/?action_KEY=12993&okay=true).

**Take Action to Save Health Care.** The Senate version of the tax bill includes an amendment to eliminate a provision of the ACA known as the individual mandate. Eliminating this provision will effectively repeal the ACA. The House version does not have this provision. The bills will go to conference. Please call Lamar Alexander and ask that he exert influence in conference to delete this provision at 202-224-4944, or Bob Corker, to thank him for voting against the bill, at 202-224-3344. You can reach Chuck Fleischmann at 202-225-3271. A simple statement might be, “I oppose any tax package that repeals the Affordable Care Act. I ask that you protect my care by voting against any



measure that would repeal the Affordable Care Act or reduce access to health coverage.”

The **Federal Election Commission** unanimously voted to move forward with updating and strengthening regulations of political ad transparency in on line advertisement. Almost 13,000 League members and supporters sent comment to the FEC during the comment campaign. In another action the League cosigned a Senatorial letter supporting the bipartisan Honest Ads Act to expose efforts undertaken by foreign interests to intervene in US election.

~Mary Ann Reeves

### **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**

*November 20, 2017, meeting*

Chairman Emert called the meeting to order. All 16 commissioners were present.

Three staff members from Allies for Substance Abuse Prevention (ASAP) described their Camping for Community fundraiser. They camped at the courthouse for three nights and raised the \$33,000 they needed to fund the Family Drug Treatment Program.

Director of Schools Tim Parrot reported that the district sold almost 13,000 coupon books and made \$100,000 for the schools. He lauded the work done by the Coal Creek Watershed Foundation in the Briceville schools. The district, along with 33 other districts in the State, had some of its TN Ready tests administered incorrectly.

Commission discussed the new Glen Alpine site on the Norris Freeway. Commissioner Creasey pointed out that the 17.08 plot was appraised at \$256,000. He made a motion to reduce the offer for the property from \$375,000 to \$280,000. Motion failed with commissioners Creasey, Hitchcock, Scott, and Isbel voting for it. Motion to approve the \$375,000 offer passed with Hitchcock, Creasey, and Scott voting against it.

Commissioner Warfield pointed out that nothing could be done with the property until TVA clarifies their right of way and that would take months. Commission voted to ask the Law Director to rewrite the earnest money contract with a May 30 deadline. Commissioner Warfield reported that the Mayor of Clinton agreed to the extension.

Commission voted unanimously to enter into a \$285,000 grant contract with the State to replace water lines in the Briceville area.

Commission unanimously voted to name Kim Jeffers-Whitaker interim director of Human Resources and to pay her the same \$60,000 salary paid to her predecessor. They then voted unanimously to urge the HR Advisory Board to hire her as HR director permanently.

Commission voted to pay a \$156,203 quarterly assessment to the Statewide EMS fund. This is based on a \$9.09 fee for each of the 17,184 transports done in 2016. Assessments from participating EMS units across the State will provide a 30% match for the 70% contribution from the Federal government. In return the ACEMS will receive \$140.30 for each Medicaid transport. Nathan Sweet, EMS director, hopes that ACEMS will receive \$200,000 more than is paid in this year.

~Willa Reister, Observer

## Roane County Commission

*November 13, 2017, meeting*

Fifteen Commissioners were present.

**Hearing of the Delegation:** Rhonda Mossing, President of the board of Child Advocacy Center, serving abused children of four counties, asked for reconsideration of funding. In 1986 the Child Protective Act was federally established. She stated that two years ago \$26,000 was allocated for their operation. Last year the amount was cut to \$6,000 and this year it was further reduced to \$3,000. She stated that she was aware that funds were still not appropriated, and asked for reinstatement of previous amount. Commissioners Hooks and Meadows seemed surprised at the reduction and spoke in support of the needs of the children. Chair Ron Berry stated that this request should be sent again to the Non-profit Committee for review. In October, Chris Evans addressed the Commission and requested additional funding.

John Dennis stated that there was no better way than to allocate for children. He praised the commissioners for working together and mentioned Veterans Day. He then recognized President Donald Trump for stepping down from his Ivory Tower into the Swamp.

**County Attorney report:** Attorney Greg Leffew reported that the Zumstein case was not appealed and the county prevailed in the lawsuit.

The roads of Crystal Cove and Pioneer Village are still in the process of being surveyed.

**County Executive Report:** Ron Woody thanked everyone for participating in the celebration of Founder's Day.

**Special Orders:** Donnie Eblen, Tony Brown and Tim Suter were reappointed to the 911 Board.

Two Old Business resolutions and eight New Business resolutions were passed. One New Business resolution addressing the membership makeup of the Budget Committee was passed by one vote. Several Commissioners were not happy that Kingston does not have a Budget Committee Commissioner who represents and lives in Kingston.

*~Hella Peterson, Observer*

## Anderson County Charter Commission

*December 4, 2017, meeting*

Over the past two months the Charter Commission has continued to hear reports from Anderson County elected officials and department heads. During the most recent meeting on December 4, 2017, commissioners heard from the Directors of Emergency Management, Solid waste, Fleet Management, Buildings & Grounds and the County Law Director. Reflecting on the meetings to date, several commissioners commented on the excellent quality of the reports presented and the obvious dedication of these county employees.

In terms of possible changes in County Government, there was some discussion at the December meeting about the desirability of a more limited number of county commissioners, changing the election cycle of commissioners so that eight of sixteen would be elected every two years and an elected county law director versus an appointed law director. It was pointed out that for the most part these potential changes could be made under our current county government or a charter form of government. Discussion of these issues and other possible changes to county government will continue at the next Charter Commission on Tuesday, January 2.

*~Bob Smallridge, Observer*



EQAB

*November 2, 2017, meeting*

Four guests attended the meeting: Mark Watson, City Manager; Wayne Blasius, new Director of Community Development; Hans Vogel, City Council and representative to the Municipal Planning Commission; and Ellen Smith, City Council.

Mr. Watson visited the EQAB meeting to report that the city had recently learned that DOE is building an electrical substation at the Y-12 National Security Complex. As part of the work trees and other vegetation will be removed from the top of Pine Ridge. An area approximately 2.1 miles long and 100 feet wide will be cleared for transmission lines. Mr. Watson encouraged members to attend the Council work session to learn more about this plan.

Mr. Blasius was invited to share his vision for community development and to consider how EQAB could assist. He and Hans Vogel reported on the community input obtained through the ongoing City Blueprint process. Details can be found at ([http://oakridgetn.gov/content\\_wide.aspx?article=4028](http://oakridgetn.gov/content_wide.aspx?article=4028)). A plan in Burlington, Vermont was cited as a successful blueprint (<https://www.burlingtonvt.gov/PlanBTV/>). In an ongoing effort to encourage community engagement, Council work sessions will be held at different venues throughout the community.

The EQAB did not have a quorum to conduct formal business, but did briefly discuss ongoing action items. There has been no City response to the recommendation letter sent by the EQAB concerning the utilization of arborist services in Oak Ridge.

David Adler, Office of Environmental Management, will speak at the December 7 meeting.

*~ Kathryn Olsen, Observer*

Roane State Community College

Paul Phillips, retired district attorney general for the 8<sup>th</sup> Judicial District, has been named executive director of the Roane State Foundation. The foundation provides financial support for the college’s students and program. He succeeds Melinda Hillman in that position.

RSCC in Oak Ridge has 2200 students and is the largest student body in the system. We expect another increase in the fall of 2018 when the RECONNECT program is in place. This is the adult version of TN Promise.

The RSCC “success coach” program has been very beneficial to students. Each student is assigned a success coach who is their single point of contact for their first 24 hours at RSCC. These coaches assist the students with everything that they need from financial aid, class assignments, and more. After that initial contact with the coach they are assigned to their respective professors. RSCC has received an award for the success coach model.

Owen Driskill is now executive director for the RSCC Oak Ridge campus and the all other campuses except Harriman.

RSCC Oak Ridge has a new cyber security program that will be a model program.

Oak Ridge High School will participate in a new technical school middle college program for mechatronics (operating, maintaining, and repairing automated manufacturing systems) and cyber defense.

*~ Mary Ann Reeves, Observer*

### Stewart Clifton Updates

To get email updates from the state League lobbyist, send an email with your request to Stewart Clifton at [QA@LWTN.org](mailto:QA@LWTN.org).

### Membership Notes

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

Marvin Abraham

Helen McKown

## Breakfast with the Legislators 2017



#### *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

lwvor@comcast.net

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**\*\*\*\*\*OUR SNOW POLICY\*\*\*\*\***

If Oak Ridge Schools are closed due to weather, League meetings that day are cancelled. If they are simply delayed, we will hold meetings as scheduled. However, please be safe and use your best judgment.

## Calendar

### January

- 9 Board Meeting\*** 10 a.m. – 12 p.m.
- 16 Lunch with the League\*** 11:45, lunch; 12–1. Speaker: To Be Determined
- 23 Education Committee** 2 p.m., Secret City Cafe, Methodist Medical Center
- 29 Breakfast with the Legislators** 7:30 to 8:30 a.m., the Oak Ridge Civic Center Social Room. Open to all. Coffee and a light continental breakfast are served at no charge.

\* 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.