

# The Voter

## The Co-Presidents' Report

**Happy Birthday!** On Valentine's Day the National League turned 90, and the Oak Ridge League will be 64 this May. We celebrated with City of Oak Ridge and Anderson County proclamations, and cake and balloons at Lunch with the League. We're going strong and we need your help to remain a vital organization.

**Dues and new member time** Our League's ability to act is based solely on our membership-and it's time to renew, recruit, and refresh. Please renew your membership when you get your notice in the mail. There is a place for everyone, and members can participate as their time and preferences permit. We also hope you will help identify prospective new members and bring them to the membership party on April 12.

**Funding League Programs** The League depends heavily on member contributions in addition to dues. This is an election year so we'll have extra activities. Please consider donating to our League so that we may continue our important programs. Almost all of our dues payments are used for the per-member payment to the National and State LWVs, which provide valuable services to us. Our local programs have been funded by generous donations from our members; the sponsorship of three businesses in Oak Ridge: **Precision Printing and Graphics** (Voter reproduction), **ORNL Federal Credit Union** (Lunch with the League), and **WSI Oak Ridge** (Breakfast with Our Legislators); as well as contributions from community friends and other businesses.

**Y'all Come** We have two special events coming up. Local Program Planning - food and fun as we talk - is March 23 and our Membership/Prospective Member Party will be April 12. See page 5 for details.

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**Precision Printing and Graphics supports the League of Women Voters of Oak Ridge by printing and folding *The Voter*. Thanks!**



*Norman Mulvenon & Marty Adler-Jasny*

## League Committees:

At their March meetings, League committees will review the year's work and discuss suggestions for next year in preparation for the Local Program Planning Meeting on March 23 (see below).

### Education Committee


The next meeting of the League Education Committee will be Monday, March 8 at 2 pm at the Secret City Café in Methodist Medical Center. For more information, contact **Ann McNeas**, 483-9663.

### Voting Technology Committee

The Voting Technology Committee will meet at the Local Oversight Office, Midtown Community Center on Thursday, March 18, at 3:15. Contact **JoAnn Garrett**, 483-4466, [garrett.joann@comcast.net](mailto:garrett.joann@comcast.net)



### Charter Commission Study Committee

 The Charter Commission Committee will continue to monitor the Commission meetings as they prepare a final list of ideas for possible Charter changes.

**Note:** Sometimes meeting times, places or dates change. Up-to-date information about the Charter Commission is on the Commission website, [www.oakridgecharter.com](http://www.oakridgecharter.com). **Karleen Richter**, 483-0022, [richter0022@bellsouth.net](mailto:richter0022@bellsouth.net)

### Great Decisions Group

The Great Decisions group will continue to meet as originally scheduled, each Monday morning, 10:30 - 12:30 through March 22 at the OR Civic Center Craft Room. Makeup sessions for the missed snow days will be decided upon by the group. Call **Barbara Barrett**, 483-0015, for more information.

### Local Program Planning in March -

#### *We need your ideas!*

Local program is the core of the League, and it can be developed and carried out only by its members.

On March 23 we'll gather at ORUUC from 11 am - 1:30 to discuss what we've done this year and what we'd like to do next year. **Blanche Dresner** and **Mary Lou Daugherty** will chair the meeting. The Board will provide soups and drinks. If you're willing and able, please bring something to share (cheese and crackers, fruit, a sinful dessert?). Planning can be fun!

The proposals we develop will go to the Board, and will then be sent to the membership for their discussion and adoption at our annual meeting.

To be effective, our local program must be realistic, interesting, timely, and most of all *doable*. Unless people are willing to work on the programs, they are just words on a wish list.

Now is the time to start thinking about what you would like to see our League focus on next year - and please put March 23 on your calendar.

### *Let it Snow - Here's Our Policy*

If we get more snow and Oak Ridge schools are closed, League meetings for that day are cancelled.

If it is a public meeting, we'll try to get word out through the radio or TV, but check the schools first. If the schools start late, we'll continue with our programs. Most of all - be safe!

### *Editor's Note: Thank You!*

**Marty Adler-Jasny** always helps with every aspect of putting *The Voter* together. In January, I was not able to work on *The Voter*, or much of anything, because my husband, Charlie, had been gravely ill and was still recuperating. Marty took up the challenge of pulling *The Voter* together, using WordPerfect no less, and did an outstanding job. So my hat's off to you, Marty. I also thank all of you who called, emailed, sent cards, brought food, etc. The Oak Ridge League is clearly a group that cares about its members as well as about issues.

## *News from State and National*

After a review of congressional action in 2009 and a discussion of expected activity in 2010, the LWVUS Board of Directors has adopted the following Legislative Priorities for 2010: Global Climate Change, Health Care Reform, and Money in Elections (campaign finance reform). On the Legislative Watch List are: Arms Control, DC Voting Rights, Election Reform, Ethics and Lobbying Reform, and UN Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW). This Watch List includes issues which need to be monitored for action opportunities in the 111th Congress. It is understood that the Board will have opportunities to review the priorities throughout the year to make changes if the situation requires it. It should also be noted that the DC Voting Rights and CEDAW are perennial legislative priorities that the LWV has worked hard for in the past and is committed to working for successful passage.

The **Tennessee LWV Council Meeting** will be held **May 1 & 2** in the mid-state area. More information will be available soon. The State Board is working on having a gubernatorial candidates' forum that weekend. *Please put the meeting on your calendar and consider going.*

National League has a short monthly email newsletter that will keep you up to date on League happenings. Sign up for **LeaguE-Voice** by going to the League website [www.lwv.org](http://www.lwv.org). You can read it on the website under News and Events or sign up on the e-Activist list.

## *National Program Planning Recommendations*

Both groups at the January National Program Planning meeting recommended as their first choice that the Oak Ridge League propose a review and update of the LWV position on use of nuclear power for energy production. The Board is

now developing the final statement which will be sent to the national Board by March 1 for their review. This Board will recommend studies that will be presented at National Convention in June for discussion and possible adoption.

The League's position has not been updated for many years. The Oak Ridge LWV thinks it is time to reopen the discussion in light of global climate change, new technologies, the expertise and successes of other countries in using nuclear power, the economy, environment, and worldwide need for energy. Our recommendation will be posted on the LWV Leaders discussion lists and sent to our sister cities Los Alamos and Richland, WA.

## *Mary Ann Reeves Selected For Leadership Oak Ridge*

The League Board nominated **Mary Ann Reeves** for Leadership Oak Ridge, and she has been accepted in the Class of 2010. Mary Ann is a Board member with the At-Large portfolio. She set up the spring roster for Lunch with the League, chairs the Budget Committee, and has been wonderfully available for all sorts of short-term assignments.

We appreciate the half-scholarship that the **Oak Ridge Chamber of Commerce** has made available toward her attendance.

## *Thanks, Betty - Welcome, Lee*

**Betty Jernigan**, after many years as the League representative on the **Anderson County Community Action Commission** is retiring. **Lee Billips** will be our new person on the group which is organized so there is representation from each area of the county, social service agencies, business, and the local government.

Our thanks to Betty for serving our county so well. Both she and Lee live in Norris, which adds another dimension to their participation.

## LWV Oak Ridge Receives Local Honors

Ninety years ago, six months before the ratification of the 19<sup>th</sup> Amendment giving women the right to vote, Carrie Chapman Catt first proposed a League of Women Voters to "finish the fight" and to work to end all discrimination against women. We remain a grassroots organization with more than 150,000 members and supporters, and 850 Leagues throughout all 50 states. The League of Women Voters is the organization where hands-on work to safeguard democracy leads to civic improvement. This 90<sup>th</sup> Anniversary year we hope you will stand with us in this work.



LWVOR Co-Presidents **Norman Mulvenon** and **Marty Adler-Jasny** accept the proclamation from Oak Ridge Mayor **Tom Beehan**.

As part of our celebration, the Oak Ridge League received two local recognitions. The **Anderson**



Anderson County Commissioner **Robin Biloski** gives the resolution to Co-Presidents **Norman Mulvenon** and **Marty Adler-Jasny**

**County Commission** passed a resolution proclaiming February 16 as "League of Women Voters Making Democracy Work Day," honoring the National League's 90<sup>th</sup>

birthday. The **Oak Ridge City Council** issued a proclamation designating

February 16 "League of Women Voters Day." **Mayor Tom Beehan** presented it to Co-Presidents **Norman Mulvenon** and **Marty Adler-Jasny** at Lunch with the League on February 16. Balloons and birthday cake helped mark the festive occasion.

The Oak Ridge League will have a party on April 12 to salute its 64 years of civic involvement and to welcome newcomers to our organization. We have a lot to celebrate, and we plan to do just that!

## Breakfast with the Legislators

The League of Women Voters of Oak Ridge is holding the next session of Breakfast with the Legislators on Monday, March 29, from 7:30-8:30 am at the Oak Ridge Civic Center Social Room. Area legislators discuss legislative actions and budget concerns for this session of the Tennessee General Assembly and then respond to questions. Breakfast with the Legislators is held the last Monday of every month that the legislature is in session, and everyone is encouraged to attend. A free continental breakfast will be served. The League of Women Voters appreciates the assistance of **WSI Oak Ridge** in cosponsoring these meetings.

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).

## Lunch with the League and League's Birthday Celebration



Current health issues in the United States were **Dr. Larry Davis's** topic at Lunch with the League on February 16. We also commemorated the National League's 90th birthday and "League of Women Voter's Making Democracy Work" Day with a birthday cake.

Upcoming programs include **Ms. Fairchild-Keys**, Principal of the Oak Ridge Alternative School, on March 2 and **Dr. Melinda Hillman**, VP, Roane State Community College Oak Ridge, "RSCC/OR Building Expansion" on March 16.

The **ORNL Federal Credit Union** cosponsors the twice-monthly series with the LWV. Lunch begins at 11:45 and is available on a first come basis at a cost of \$6. The program begins at noon

## Emory Valley Center Campaign Committee

**Dr. Gene Caldwell** and **Dottie Thompson** spoke at LWV in January about Emory Valley Center and their campaign to help sustain it. Several attendees asked how they could help with this effort, and now there is a way. Gene and Dottie established a 'virtual committee' that will work solely thorough email. When they need help or ideas, they will email committee members, and those who have time and/or interest can reply. The only requirement for committee members is a willingness to help.

Contact [caldwell53@bellsouth.net](mailto:caldwell53@bellsouth.net) to sign up.

## Membership & LWV 90<sup>th</sup> Birthday Party Monday, April 12 - Save the Date

We will celebrate the League's birthday, honor our members, and interest others in this wonderful organization. The party will be on Monday, April 12, in the ORUUC Hearth Room from 5 - 6:30 pm.

### I want to join the League of Women Voters

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_

State and Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone (Day / Work) \_\_\_\_\_

Phone(Evening) \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

Individual annual dues \_\_\_\_\_ \$50

Household annual dues \_\_\_\_\_ \$75

\*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

### Membership Notes

New & Renewing Members - Welcome!

Deidre Elkins (new)

108 Rolling Stone Lane,

Clinton, TN 37716

323-6791 (h), 457-6201 (w)

Please contact **Janis Williams**, keeper of our

membership records, 483-1219, or

[shri@prodigy.net](mailto:shri@prodigy.net), with membership corrections and updates.



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## Calendar

### March – Women’s History Month

- 1**     **Great Decisions,** OR Civic Center Craft Room, 10:30 am-12:30 pm
- 2**     **Lunch with the League\*** 11:45, lunch; 12-1: Ms. Fairchild-Keyes, Principal, OR Alternative School
- 8**     **Great Decisions,** OR Civic Center Craft Room, 10:30 am-12:30 pm
- 8**     **Education Committee** 2 pm, Secret City Café, Methodist Medical Center
- 9**     **Board Meeting\*** 11 am - 1 pm
- 12**    **Charter Commission** 1 pm, Training Room, Municipal Building
- 15**    **Great Decisions,** OR Civic Center Craft Room, 10:30 am-12:30 pm
- 16**    **Lunch with the League\*** 11:45, lunch; 12-1: Dr. Melinda Hillman, VP, Roane State Community College Oak Ridge, "RSCC/OR Building Expansion"
- 18**    **Voting Technology Committee,** 3:15 pm, Local Oversight Committee Office, Midtown Center
- 22**    **Great Decisions,** OR Civic Center Craft Room, 10:30 am-12:30 pm
- 23**    **Local Program Planning** 11 am - 1:30 pm, Oak Ridge Unitarian Universalist Church
- 29**    **Breakfast with Our Legislators** 7:30 am, Social Room of Oak Ridge Civic Center

### April

- 6**     **Lunch with the League\*** 11:45, lunch; 12-1: Dr. Stephanie Bohon, "Immigration in the South"
- 9**     **Charter Commission** 1 pm, Training Room, Municipal Building
- 13**    **Board Meeting\*** 11 am - 1 pm
- 12**    **Membership & LWV 90th Birthday Party** 5-6:30 pm Oak Ridge Unitarian Universalist Church Hearth Room

\* Unless otherwise specified, Lunch with the League is in the Social Hall, Unitarian Universalist Church, Oak Ridge Turnpike at Robertsville Road. Board Meetings are in the Board Room, Second Floor, TN Bank, Rutgers Ave at Illinois Ave