

The Voter

The Co-Presidents' Report

Local politics is the theme of the first two **Lunches with the League**. **Mayor Tom Beehan** kicked things off with a personal 'State of the City' talk on September 15. He will be followed by **Scott Gillenwaters**, Anderson County Commissioner, on October 6, with 'County Grins and Groans.' After that, well-known speakers will present information on education from the state perspective, the use of stimulus money in Tennessee, and other thoughtful topics.

Additional stimulating talks will intrigue League members at **State Fall Conference** in Johnson City on October 24-25. Along with State speakers, the Oak Ridge League has been asked to discuss our Breakfast with Our Legislators program. Find out more in a later *Voter*.

The **Observer Corps** is organized and starting to work. See the write-up on page 4 of this issue. The **Charter Commission Study Committee** is starting off in an observing mode until the Commission decides on specific areas of special interest. Members are encouraged to attend the Charter Commission meetings, and volunteer if you're interested in other Observer Corps roles.

And speaking of volunteering, look for our new **Help Wanted** column that we'll be running as needed. It's also on page 4 of this issue. We've had wonderful success calling you, but we'd also like you to call us sometimes. This month we need help setting up and taking down the room for our lunches.

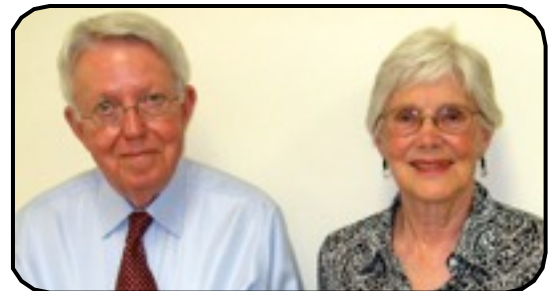
We're off to a great start, and are looking forward to seeing all of you at Lunch with the League and the various committee meetings.

Marty Adler-Jasny (483-9455) Norman Mulvenon (482-3153)
 adlerjasnym@bellsouth.net mulvenon@juno.com

Inside this Issue

Behind the Scenes, LWVOR	2
Holiday Party	2
We Remember	2
Membership Directories	2
Care Notes	2
News from National	3
Farewell to the Parés	3
League Committees	4
Help Wanted	4
Lunch with the League	5
Mayor Beehan's LWL talk	5
Membership Application	5
Congratulations Neil McBride	5
Calendar	6

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



Norman Mulvenon & Marty Adler-Jasney

Behind the Scenes at LWVOR

The LWV gets great newspaper publicity for some of its programs. The day-to-day workings of some of the organization's committees get only a brief notice in the *Voter* as they quietly do their very important work.

We're very grateful that these people have agreed to serve, keeping the organization on a steady course:

By-laws and Policies Review (required every two years): Mary Uziel, chair, Janis Williams, and Mary Ann Reeves.

Financial Review Committee (yearly review of our financial records): Ken Toth, chair, Mary Ann Reeves, and Virginia Coleman.

Nominating Committee (three members elected by the membership, two appointed from the Board): Karleen Richter, chair, JoAnn Garrett, Norma Woy (elected); Kathy Edwards and Carol Plasil (Board).

The membership votes next May at our Annual Meeting on any proposed changes to the By-laws and on the results of the Nominating Committees efforts. The Financial Review Committee reports to the Board in January.



Save the Date

Our Holiday Party will be on Sunday, December 6 at 12:30. Watch for details in the next *Voter*.

We Remember

We note with tremendous sadness the very sudden death of League member Mary Lou Daugherty's husband, John Daugherty. An expert cyclist, he was killed several weeks ago when he was struck from behind as he rode his bicycle on the shoulder of State Road 58. Mary Lou is very much in our hearts and thoughts.

We extend our condolences to the children, Chuck, Steve, and Susie, and the friends of longtime League member Peggy Meier who died on September 14.

2009-10 Membership Directories

Thanks to the hard work of **Janis Williams** the updated LWVOR Membership Directories will appear in your mailboxes in October. Look for them, and **please keep them for reference.**

Please check your listing. If there are any errors, please contact **Janis Williams**, keeper of our membership records, 483-1219, or shri@prodigy.net.

Any corrections and updates will be listed in later issues of *The Voter*.

Care Notes...Just to Keep You Informed

Some League members appreciate email notifications about other League members who are ill or have significant changes in their lives. If you would like to receive these email notices, please send your name to Mary Uziel maryuziel@comcast.net.

News from National

From an email sent out by the National LWV:

A newly formed organization calling itself the 'League of American Voters' is conducting an advertising campaign against health care reform that seeks to undermine public support by sowing fear and mistrust. We sent a letter calling them to task for using a name clearly designed to be confused with the League of Women Voters in order to disseminate misleading information and block health care reform. We [the National LWV] asked them to reveal the major sources of funding for the advertising campaign.

Their response? A blast email to their followers condemning the League of Women Voters.

We have begun to get disruptive and downright rude phone calls and emails from "supporters" of the so-called League of American Voters. We are arranging for greater security due to a variety of threats that have been made. And we've begun exploring what legal options are available to help us protect our name in the face of those who are misusing it.

Is this what it has come to?

This is just one example of the fight we face in standing up for Americans in the battle for real health care reform. This is an opportunity both to educate people and to always act with civility when championing our causes. *Please make an urgent gift today to help us speak the truth to the American people.* [Click [here](#) to donate, or go to <http://tinyurl.com/oko6t8>]; or mail your check to League of Women Voters of the US, 730 M Street, NW #1000, Washington, DC 20036; or donate by phone using your credit card, call 202-429-1965 weekdays.]

As you know, our democracy depends on honest and open debate among real people. We must be vigilant against attack campaigns funded from unknown sources that mislead, confuse and scare Americans.

Make no mistake: The League of Women Voters believes quality, affordable health care should be available to all Americans. As a 90-year-old membership organization that is one of the most trusted nonpartisan voices in the United States, we know that health care reform must protect coverage for those who have it, provide coverage for those who desperately need it, and protect us all against skyrocketing costs.

Go to www.lwv.org for current information on this or other League topics.

A Fond Farewell to the Parés

Our very best wishes go to **Diantha and Vic Paré** as they carry out their plans to move near their daughter and her family in Ohio. For more than 50 years Diantha has played a vital role in the success of the League at both the local and the state level.



Diantha served as president of the Oak Ridge League from 1993 to 1995, and from 1995 to 1997 she and **Barbara Moon** were our League's first co-presidents. She has served as a member of the board in many leadership positions, including in the areas of education, housing, and child advocacy. Diantha is always a voice of reason, and is a consummate teacher of League principles. We will miss her guidance, her encouragement, and her willingness to pitch in and help wherever needed.

Vic has been a mainstay of the Voting Technology committee and was a key contributor to the committee's efforts to evaluate the electronic voting machines being considered by Anderson County. Vic also shared his expertise at the state level as a speaker at the 2007 LWVTN Fall Conference. The Voting Technology committee will miss Vic's studied and fair contributions to the discussions.

We wish them happiness in their new home, and our League family will certainly miss them. Oak Ridge's loss is Oberlin's gain. We know that they will continue to make a difference there, just as they have done here for so many years.

Their new address will be
 Vic and Diantha Paré
 100 Kendal Drive
 Oberlin, OH 44074

League Committees:

Observer Corps

The **Observer Corps** is a new program for the Oak Ridge LWV and we are excited about it. League members (observers) will attend city/county meetings and report back to the League. This will help to better inform our members about the business of our local government units. It will also create a closer relationship and enhance communication with government officials and members of the various committees. At this point we are 'feeling our way' as to reports and activities, and are confident that this program will be an asset to our membership. The Observer Corps members are as follows:

Charter Commission - Karleen Richter; **City Council** - Mary Uziel; **School Board** - Ann McNees; **Planning Commission and Highland View Advisory Board** - Claudia Lever; **Industrial Development Board** - Lou Dunlap; **Healthy Start** - Victoria Bowling; **Housing/Chamber of Commerce** - Michele Brandenburg; **Environmental Quality Advisory Board** - Judy Mason and Kathy Olsen; **Anderson County Commission** - Robin Biloski.

Jesse Noritake, 482-2243

Voting Technology Committee



The October meeting of the Voting Technology Committee will be held in the back room of the Soup Kitchen on Monday, October 26, 5:30 - 6:30 pm. Everyone, League and non-League, is welcome. Our major

current concern is the ever-elusive paper backup ballot for our electronic voting machines. **Al Denny**, 481-4826, atdenny@bellsouth.net

Education Committee

The Education Committee will meet on Monday, October 12 at 2 pm in the Atomic City Café at Methodist Medical Center. This year the Education Committee will look at several trends and changes in education at the local, state and national level. **Ann McNees**, 483-9663

Charter Commission Study Committee

The Charter Commission meetings for October will be held on Friday, October 9 at 1 pm in the Training Room at the Municipal building; and on Monday, October 26 at 6 pm in the Municipal courtroom. The public is invited to all the Charter Commission meetings, but the evening meetings allow more time for public questions and comments.

Up-to-date information about the Charter commission (meeting times, minutes, contact information, etc.) can be found on the Commission website, www.oakridgecharter.com. **Karleen Richter**, 483-0022, richter0022@bellsouth.net



Help Wanted

Greeters for Lunch with the League: Welcome attendees, especially newcomers and visitors.

Set up/take down for Lunch with the League:

Several good people to help set up and take down the room. Heavy lifting not required. It only takes a few minutes, especially with your help. Training (but no free lunch!) is included. Can't make it every time? We're flexible and will work with your schedule.

Contact Marty Adler-Jasny, 483-9455, adlerjasnym@bellsouth.net, or Norman Mulvenon, 482-3153, mulvenon@juno.com, to volunteer.

Lunch with the League

Continuing our update on local politics, **Scott Gillenwaters'** topic will be 'County Grins and Groans' on Tuesday, October 6. He is one of Anderson County's Commissioners from Oak Ridge.



Tennessee Senate Speaker ProTem, **Jamie Woodson**, will discuss 'State Perspectives on Education' on October 20.

LWL, cosponsored by ORNL Federal Credit Union, is held in the OR Unitarian Universalist Church Social Hall, Oak Ridge Turnpike at Robertsville Road, on the first and third Tuesdays from September through May. Lunch begins at 11:45, followed by the program from 12 to 1 pm. **Kathy Edwards** chairs the program committee.

Box lunches from Nature's Marketplace are available on a first-come basis for \$6, or you may bring your own lunch. Beverages are provided.

Meetings are free and open to the public, with no reservations needed.

Mayor Beehan Kicks Off LWL Series

The 2009-10 **Lunch with the League** began with Oak Ridge Mayor **Tom Beehan** giving his view of the 'State of the City.' He told us that we're making good progress with many projects and issues, including reducing crime, new housing options, and utilities and services for the west end of town. He noted that we need to continue to focus on code enforcement, retail and other economic development, safety, energy efficiency, and an updated strategic plan. He also mentioned a new senior center, Roane State Community College expansion, and other projects to enhance our city's livability.



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

Congratulations, Neil McBride!

Local attorney and Oak Ridge LWV member **Neil McBride** has been nominated by President Obama for a 5-year term on the TVA Board of Directors. He is general counsel for the Legal Aid Society of Middle Tennessee and the Cumberland, a nonprofit law firm with an office in Oak Ridge, which provides legal help to people in need and "a national leader in the field of public interest law" (White House Web site).

Our heartiest congratulations on his nomination and best wishes for his confirmation hearings in the U.S. Senate.

We look forward to hearing him speak at Lunch with the League sometime next year.



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Calendar

September

- 28 Charter Commission** 6 pm, Municipal Courtroom
28 Voting Technology 5:30 - 6:30 pm, Soup Kitchen

October

- 6 Lunch with the League*** 11:45, lunch; 12-1: Anderson County Commissioner Scott Gillenwaters
9 Charter Commission 1 pm, Training Room, Municipal Building
12 Education Committee 2 pm, Secret City Café, Methodist Medical Center
13 Board Meeting* 11 am - 1 pm
20 Lunch with the League* 11:45, lunch; 12-1: TN Senator Jamie Woodson, "Education"
24 United Nations Day
24-25 Fall Conference, Johnson City, Comfort Suites noon to noon
26 Voting Technology 5:30 - 6:30 pm, Soup Kitchen
26 Charter Commission 6 pm, Municipal Courtroom

November

- 3 Lunch with the League*** 11:45, lunch; 12-1: John Morgan, Deputy to the Governor, former TN State Comptroller, "Stimulus Money in Tennessee"
10 Board Meeting* 11 am - 1 pm
13 Charter Commission 1 pm, Training Room, Municipal Building
17 Workshop (sponsored by TCWP): working with State Legislators; morning (time/place TBD) - Stewart Clifton, LWV lobbyist
17 Lunch with the League* 11:45, lunch; 12-1: Stewart Clifton, LWVTN State lobbyist
30 Charter Commission 6 pm, Municipal Courtroom

* 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