



The Voter

The Co-Presidents' Report New Web Site Goes Live!

www.lwvoakridge.org - Because of the dedicated effort by Mary Uziel, we have a new, up-to-date website. We deeply appreciate the time and research that Mary has put into it with the generous help of Angi Agle who hosted our previous website. That site is linked to the new one. Thank you to our past and current web masters!

Breakfast with Our Legislators starts on Monday, January 25 at 7:30 am in the Civic Center. Plan on starting your week with a hot cup of coffee, a sweet roll and a chat with our legislators.

National Program Planning - think about the big issues on January 26. We'll meet at ORUUC from 10 am to 12 noon to consider topics that may be presented at National Convention in June. Coffee, cake and good conversation - a great way to spend a morning.

How about that **Holiday Lunch** in December? Seventy-four members and guests were present for a great meal and a terrific talk by Matt Shafer Powell and a good time was had by all. Thanks to Michele Brandenburg and Mary Ann Reeves.

Please check the calendar for all events of the League. Lots of interesting programs coming up!

Norman Mulvenon (482-3153)
mulvenon@juno.com

Marty Adler-Jasny (483-9455)
adlerjasnym@bellsouth.net

Will It Snow? What To Do

If "the weather outside is frightful...." or we have some other dire event that closes the Oak Ridge schools, the 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.

Inside this Issue

- League Committees2
- Education
- Voting Technology
- Charter Commission
- Budget Committee Named2
- National Program Planning2
- Save These Dates2
- Thank You2
- Breakfast with Legislators3
- LWV Financial Review3
- Condolences3
- New Members.....3
- Lunch with the League3
- Great Decisions3
- Calendarback page
- Legislative Skillsinsert

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



League Committees: All Welcome!

Education Committee

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

Voting Technology

The Voting Technology will continue its discussions with the local Administrators of Elections when Charles Holiway, Roane County, speaks to the group. The meeting is Thursday, Feb. 18, at 3:15 pm, Local Oversight Committee office, Midtown Community Center (old Wildcat Den). Contact **JoAnn Garrett**, chair, for more information: 483-4466, garrett.joann@comcast.net.

Charter Commission Study Committee

The Charter Commission is selecting the ideas before beginning the process to determine final proposals for amendments to the Oak Ridge City Charter. Citizen input is important.

Their next meetings will be Jan. 25, 6 pm, Public Hearing, Municipal Building Courtroom (Article 1 - including election of Council, e.g., by district or at-large); Feb. 12, 1 pm, Training Room, Municipal Building; and Feb. 22, 6 pm Public Hearing, Municipal Building Courtroom.

For more information, please contact **Karleen Richter**, 483-0022, richter0022@bellsouth.net.

\$\$\$\$\$\$\$\$\$\$\$\$\$\$\$\$

Budget Committee Named

Preparing next year's League budget for approval by the Board and membership will be Mary Ann Reeves, chair, Norma Woy, and Diane Edwards. Janis Williams, Treasurer will assist as well as the co-presidents Norman Mulvenon and Marty Adler-Jasny.

**National Program Planning:
Voice Your Views**

Do you like the League's national positions? Think some should be changed? Want a new national study? Your chance to give **your** opinion is Tuesday, Jan. 26, OR Unitarian Universalist Church (ORUUC) from 10 am - 12 noon. Pat Petrie will chair the meeting. And of course, the deliberations will be enhanced with sweet rolls, bagels, and coffee.

Save These Dates, Please

Local Program Planning: Selecting important, interesting local issues for study and action by the League membership is a vital part of our overall program. Join us on March 23 for lunch and a session of looking both at what we have done, and what we could do. We'll meet at the ORUUC Social Room from 11 am -1:30 pm. Blanche Dresner and Mary Lou Daugherty are co-chairs.

Membership - LWV 90th Birthday Party: Plans are underway for a gala party to celebrate the League's 90th birthday, honor our members, and interest others in this wonderful organization. It will be held Monday, April 12, in the ORUUC Hearth Room from 5 - 6:30 pm.

Thank You

The League has many monetary supporters including our major donors, ORNL Federal Credit Union, co-sponsor of Lunch with the League; WSI Oak Ridge, co-sponsor of Breakfast with Our Legislators; and Precision Printing and Graphics which prints and folds *The Voter*.

Thanks also go to Travel Concepts International, Inc. which makes a contribution to the Oak Ridge League each time a member books a trip. Information is available on the brochure table at Lunch with the League. We appreciate their recent donations very much.



Breakfast with Our Legislators

The Breakfasts with Our Legislators series begins on Monday, January 25, 2010, at 7:30 am in the Social Room of the Civic Center.

The League, with cosponsor **WSI Oak Ridge** (formerly Wackenhut Services, Inc.), hosts the discussions with our area Tennessee legislators.

The breakfasts provide a forum for reports on legislative action of interest to community members, and for feedback by the citizens. Subsequent breakfasts will be held on the last Monday of every month when the legislature is in session.

Financial Review Report

“ In October 2009 a three-person committee was assembled to conduct a financial review of the Oak Ridge League for the fiscal year July 1, 2008 - June 30, 2009.

A complete set of financial statements was obtained from the Treasurer, Janis Williams, in December 2009. Bank statements were found to agree with check stubs and deposit slips. Also, the bank statements matched the detailed Register report generated by the Treasurer for the fiscal year under review.

On Jan. 5, 2010, the review committee met with Janis Williams. Following discussions, questions were asked of the Treasurer. Her answers were completely satisfactory whereupon the review committee concluded that the LWVOR books for July 1, 2008 - June 30, 2009 were accurate and the meeting was adjourned. The Treasurer is to be complimented for her excellent job.”

Ken Toth (Chair)
Virginia Coleman
Mary Ann Reeves

Condolences

Long-time member Bob Ellingson, died Dec. 4, 2009. Our deepest sympathy goes to his wife Evelyn, also a League member.

Welcome New Members

Sandra Davidson
132 Apple Tree Drive, Clinton, 37716
945-7097 t david4221@aol.com

Bill Wilcox
412 New York Ave, Oak Ridge, 37830
483-4990 gbwilcox@aol.com

Lunch with the League: Mid-East and Health Care

“Current Issues in the Middle East” with Dr. Robert Cunningham, UT Professor Emeritus of Political Science, will be the LWL topic on Feb. 2.

On Feb. 16 we’ll catch up with current health issues with Dr. Larry Davis, Professor at UT Graduate School of Medicine (General Practice). And also eat some birthday cake to celebrate the League’s 90th birthday.

Lunch with the League is co-sponsored by the ORNL Federal Credit Union.

Lunch begins at 11:45 am; the program begins at noon. 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.

Great Decisions

Great Decisions, an 8-session discussion group based on briefing papers from the Foreign Policy Institute, begins Monday, Feb. 1 and will be held weekly through March 22. The group will meet at the Craft Room, OR Civic Center from 10:30 am - 12:30 pm.

The group welcomes new participants who are interested in discussing foreign policy. A small donation is requested to cover the cost of materials and other expenses.

Please call **Barbara Barrett**, chair, 483-0015, for more information.



PO Box 4073
Oak Ridge, TN 37831-4073

Non Profit Org.
U.S. Postage Paid
Oak Ridge, TN
Permit No. 148

www.lwvoakridge.org
lwvor@comcast.net
Return Service Requested

Calendar

January - 2010

- 19 Lunch with the League* - 11:45, lunch; 12 - 1: Dr. Jeff Chapman, director, UT's McClung Museum, "Arrowheads, Fossils, Mummies, Mussels, and More"
- 25 Breakfast with Our Legislators - 7:30 am, Social Room of Oak Ridge Civic Center
- 25 Charter Commission - 6 pm, Public Hearing, Municipal Building Courtroom
- 26 National Program Planning - 10 am - noon, Social Hall Unitarian Universalist Church

February

- 1 Great Decisions 10:30 am - 12:30 pm, Craft Room, OR Civic Center
- 2 City Council "Night Out", 6 -8 pm, OR Civic Center, A,B Room; Citizens encouraged to talk to Council
- 2 Lunch with the League* - 11:45, lunch; 12-1: Dr. Robert Cunningham, Professor Emeritus, Political Science UT, "Current Issues in the Middle East"
- 8 Great Decisions 10:30 am - 12:30 pm, Craft Room, OR Civic Center
- 8 Education Committee - 2 pm, Secret City Café, Methodist Medical Center
- 9 Board Meeting* - 11 am - 1 pm
- 12 **Charter Commission - 1 pm, Municipal Building Training Room
- 14 LWV's 90th Birthday
- 15 Great Decisions - 10:30 am - 12:30 pm, Craft Room, OR Civic Center
- 16 Lunch with the League* - 11:45, lunch; 12-1: Dr. Larry Davis, UT Medical School "Current Health Issues in US"
- 18 Voting Technology - 3:15 pm, Local Oversight Office, Midtown Community Center, Speaker: Charles Holiway, Roane County Administrator of Elections
- 22 Breakfast with Our Legislators - 7:30 am, Social Room, OR Civic Center
- 22 Great Decisions - 10:30 am - 12:30 pm, Craft Room, OR Civic Center
- 22 **Charter Commission - 6 pm, Municipal Building Courtroom, Public Hearing

* Unless otherwise specified, Lunch with the League is in the Social Hall, Oak Ridge 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

** Check date and location before attending.

Legislative Skills Briefing

Prepared by Stewart Clifton* and Anne Ross

2115 Bernard Ave. Nashville, TN 37212

Revised November 2009

To communicate regarding this information, please contact Stewart Clifton

615-305-2946

stewartclifton@comcast.net

www.stewartclifton.com

How to act like you were “raised right” when at the legislature: 10 basic “DO NOTS” to remember

1. Do not forget that you are representing an important organization, cause, point of view, etc., and act accordingly.
2. Do not approach a legislator and start talking or even listening if the legislator is talking with another lobbyist or legislator. It is customary to try to get in their line of vision so that they can talk to you if they wish after they finish the conversation. Contrary to what you might think, confidential discussions are often held in lobbies and hallways.
3. Do not ignore secretaries, interns or others who aren't legislators but who work there. Greet them, introduce yourself when it seems appropriate, etc. Not only is this good manners, it is also necessary as these folks are often gatekeepers.
4. Do not allow your cell phone to go off in a committee meeting, House/Senate session or legislator's office.
5. Do not read newspapers, mysteries, or anything that does not look a lot like legislatively-related material in committee meetings or House and Senate sessions.
6. Do not fall asleep in committee meetings or House or Senate sessions.
7. Do not overly react such as laughing, cursing, clutching your heart or otherwise letting folks know you think what you just heard was hogwash.
8. Do not wear jeans, flip-flops or other really casual attire unless you represent jeans, flip-flops or casual attire makers or you have been at the legislature for 20 years and just don't care anymore. Men do not exactly have to wear suits and ties all the time and women don't have to wear suits all the time but you should look good. Also, I'm not saying you can't have nose, lip and tongue jewelry, but on the other hand I'm not saying you can. You might take your cue from others who look like they know what's going on.
9. Do not forget to say thank you.
10. Do not forget to treat others as you would have them treat you.

** Stewart Clifton is the lobbyist for the Tennessee League of Women Voters and presented this material at workshops on “Working with Your Legislators” co-sponsored by the LWV and other organizations in Oak Ridge and Knoxville, November 2009.*

14 Tips for In-Person Visits with Elected Officials

Prepared by Stewart Clifton* and Anne Ross
2115 Bernard Ave. Nashville, TN 37212

Revised November 2009

To communicate regarding this information, please contact Stewart Clifton
615-305-2946
stewartclifton@comcast.net
www.stewartclifton.com

1. Make appointment beforehand if possible. It's also permissible and with some legislators actually preferred for you to drop by and inquire of staffer if this is a possible time for a visit.
2. Meet with staffers if legislator is unavailable. Sometimes meeting with a key staffer is almost as good as meeting with a legislator. Don't turn that down if offered.
3. Be courteous but don't apologize. You have a right to try to influence your elected officials, to meet with them and to express your views.
4. Remember you are building a relationship. Unless you really are a close friend, introduce yourself every time you meet, wear a name tag, and when possible a group identification.
5. If you already know the elected official or at least have met them, make sure you tell them and remind them of how you know them.
6. Tell them if you or someone in your group is a constituent.
7. For groups, appoint a key spokesperson who will facilitate the meeting and keep it going. Include:
 - Who you are (each person present should be introduced).
 - What your organization does.
 - What you need from your legislator.
 - A reference to the fact sheet you have prepared.
8. Provide short, clear information - not jargon or technical terms! Best points only, written and oral.
9. Don't overstay, threaten, burn bridges, attack the legislator for his/her record on your issue(s), or disparage government or politics.
11. Ask for a vote for your position and try to get an answer. But remember it's legitimate for elected officials to reserve judgement on a bill.
12. Thank the legislator for meeting with you and follow oral thanks with a written note.
13. Follow up as needed. After the visit, follow up with any information that you promised during the visit. When you leave the meeting, your work is often just beginning. Arrange for any unanswered questions to be addressed and for others to contact.
14. Keep in touch during legislative session - contact your legislator on issues of interest to your organization and remind him/her of your visit.