

The Voter

The Co-Presidents' Report

It has been a wonderful spring. Thanks to all who helped with the membership and new member recruitment party in early April. We've already welcomed several new members who joined that day. LWV member and Master of Ceremonies Mayor Tom Beehan even led us in singing "Happy Birthday" to honor the National League's 90th and Oak Ridge's 64th birthdays.

Next up is the Annual Meeting - another very pleasant social event with important business included. A **quorum** is needed, we **elect our Officers and Board, adopt the Local Program, our Positions, and consider changes to the Bylaws.** *We need you!*

Inside this Issue

- League Committees2
- Breakfast with Legislators.....2
- Lunch with the League.....2
- Thanks!.....2
- Bylaws3-5
- Proposed Local Program5
- Proposed Position Statements ..6
- Proposed Nominees7
- Membership Application7
- Membership Notes.....7
- Dues Are Due.....7
- Calendar8

Date: Tuesday, May 25, 2010

Time: 5 pm Social Time (wine, iced tea, nibbles)

5:30 Dinner, followed by Annual Meeting

Place: OR Unitarian Universalist Church Social Hall,
1500 Oak Ridge Turnpike

Cost: \$15 (pay at door)

Menu: Buffet catered by Waldek Kaczocha of Razzleberry's:
roast pork stuffed with sausage, horseradish sauce; pasta with pesto; chicken cacciatore; vegetable medley; vegetarian offering for vegetarians; smoked salmon and plain Caesar salad; rolls; sorbet and ice cream; coffee and tea

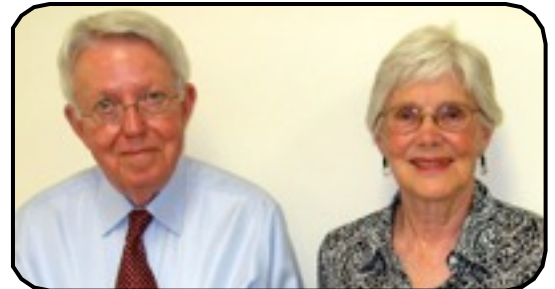
Reservations needed by Wednesday, May 19

Contact Maryann Mulvenon, 482-3153, mmulvenon@aol.com

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

Look inside for the proposed slate, proposed Local Program, etc. Make your reservation. If you can't make it for dinner, please plan to attend the meeting, which should start about 6:30 pm. And enjoy the rest of spring!

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



Norman Mulvenon & Marty Adler-Jasny

League Committees:

Voting Technology Committee

The Voting Technology Committee will continue to focus on tracking voting legislation, including the choice of voting machines, and voter registration qualifications; methods of voting; and poll worker training. The next meeting is May 20 at 3:15 pm at the Local Oversight Committee Office, Midtown Center. Contact **Jo Ann Garrett**, 483-4466, garrett.joann@comcast.net.



Charter Commission Study Committee

The Commission will hold a Public Hearing on May 24 concerning the list of potential charter changes. They ask that the public send written responses to the Charter Commission by May 17, a week before the hearing. These changes are listed on the Commission's website, www.oakridgecharter.com.



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

Breakfast with Our Legislators

Many thanks to our Legislators who have kept us informed about the Nashville scene. The next Breakfast with Our Legislators will be Monday, April 26, at 7:30 am in the Civic Center Social Room. The League, with cosponsor **WSI Oak Ridge**, hosts the discussions with our area Tennessee legislators. Senators McNally and Yager and Representative Hackworth joined us in March.

The breakfasts provide an excellent forum for reports on legislative action of interest to community members, and for feedback by the citizens. A continental breakfast is available free of charge.

Lunch with the League

Two outstanding speakers will finish out the Lunch with the League year. **Gerald Boyd**, Manager of the DOE Operations Office, will speak on May 4. His topic is "Overview and Update of ORO Programs Including Initiatives Resulting from the Recovery Act Funding."



On May 18, our last speaker until September will be **Neil McBride**, nominee for the TVA Board of Directors. He is General Counsel of the Legal Aid Society of Middle Tennessee and the Cumberland. His talk will be on "The TVA Board Confirmation Process: Behind the Scenes."

Lunch begins at 11:45 am; the program begins at noon at the OR Unitarian Universalist Church. 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. Lunch with the League is cosponsored by the ORNL Federal Credit Union

Thanks to our Committees!

We want to thank three committees that put in many hours on behalf of the LWVOR. The Bylaws committee, **Mary Uziel**, Chair, **Edith Halbert** and **Janis Williams**, went over all the details with a fine-toothed comb so we don't have to! The Nominating Committee, **Karleen Richter**, Chair, **Jo Ann Garrett**, **Kathy Edwards**, **Carol Plasil**, and **Norma Woy** recruited an outstanding slate of officers and directors. The Membership Party Committee, **Michele Brandenburg**, Chair, **Kay Brookshire**, **Kathy Edwards**, **Claudia Lever**, **Janis Williams**, **Karleen Richter**, **Norman Mulvenon** and **Marty Adler-Jasny**, made sure that everyone felt welcome and had plenty of delicious goodies to munch on. Please join us in thanking them for their efforts.



Bylaws - League of Women Voters of Oak Ridge - Recommended Changes

The 2009-10 Bylaws Committee suggests the following changes to the bylaws adopted 5/28/08. These changes have been approved by the board and will be presented to LWVOR members for consideration at the 2010 Annual Meeting in May.

Phrases or sentences to be changed are *italicized*; those to be deleted are shown in (parentheses). New words are underlined. A complete copy of the 5/28/08 bylaws can be found at lwvoakridge.org under LWVOR Documents.

Submitted by 2009-10 Bylaws Committee: Edith Halbert, Janis Williams, and Mary Uziel, Chair

#1

ARTICLE IV - Officers

Section 1. **Enumeration and Election of Officers.** The officers of the LWVOR shall be a President, a First Vice-President, a Second Vice-President, a Secretary, and a Treasurer who shall be elected for a term of one year at the Annual Meeting. All officers except the Treasurer shall take office at the beginning of the fiscal year. *The Treasurer shall take office 20 days after the beginning of the fiscal year. The office of President may be shared.*

Recommend changing last two sentences as follows: "The Treasurer shall take office not longer than 20 days after the beginning of the fiscal year. Any office or position may be shared."

#2

ARTICLE IV - Officers

Section 2. **The President.** The President shall preside at all meetings of the organization and of the Board of Directors; in the (event of) absence or disability of the Treasurer sign or endorse checks, drafts, and notes; be, *ex officio*, a member of all committees except the Nominating Committee; have such usual powers of supervision and management as may pertain to the office of President; and perform such other duties as may be designated by the Board. The President(s) shall be limited to four consecutive years in that position.

Recommend Section 2 as presented below.

Section 2. **The President.** The President shall preside at all meetings of the organization and of the Board of Directors unless the President shall designate another to preside. The President shall in the absence or disability of the Treasurer, sign or endorse checks, drafts and notes unless the President shall designate another to perform these duties. The President shall be, *ex-officio*, a member of all committees except the Nominating Committee, and shall have such usual powers of supervision and management as may pertain to the office of the President and perform such other duties as may be designated by the Board. The President shall be limited to four consecutive years in that position.

#3

ARTICLE V - Board of Directors

Section 1. **Selection, Qualifications, and Term.** The Board of Directors shall consist of the Officers of the League, six (6) elected directors, and not more than six (6) directors appointed by the President. *One-half of the elected Directors shall be elected by the voting membership at each Annual Meeting and shall serve for a term of two years, commencing with the start of the fiscal year, or until their successors have been elected and qualified.* The appointed Directors shall serve through the fiscal year. The position of Officer or Director may be shared, but the position shall have only one vote on the Board.

Recommend rearranging the italicized sentence to read: "One-half of the elected Directors shall be elected by the voting membership at each Annual Meeting and shall serve, commencing with the start of the fiscal year, for a term of two years or until their successors have been elected and qualified."

#4

ARTICLE V - Board of Directors

Section 5. **Meetings.** The Board of Directors shall meet monthly for at least nine (9) meetings a year. The President may call special meetings of the Board of Directors and shall call a special meeting upon the written request of five (5) members of the Board. The Board is authorized to conduct urgent or time-sensitive business by conference call or email between regular board meetings provided that all members are contacted and given a reasonable opportunity to respond. If any one *person* requests, a special meeting of the board must be called. A complete account of business conducted by email or conference call shall be presented at the next regular board meeting and recorded in the minutes of that meeting.

Recommend the following changes: "The Board of Directors shall meet monthly for at least nine (9) regular meetings a year." "The Board is authorized to conduct urgent or time-sensitive business by conference call or email between regular board meetings provided that all board members are contacted and given a reasonable opportunity to respond." "If any one board member requests, a special meeting of the board must be called."



#5

ARTICLE VI - Financial Administration

Section 3. **Budget Committee.** At least three (3) months prior to the Annual Meeting, *a Budget Committee consisting of two (2) members from the general membership, the Treasurer, and a Chairman appointed by the President shall prepare a budget for the next year.*

Recommend rearranging sentence as follows: "At least three (3) months prior to the Annual Meeting, a budget for the next year shall be prepared by a Budget Committee consisting of two (2) non-board members from the general membership, the Treasurer, and a Chairman appointed by the President."

#6

ARTICLE VII - Meetings

Section 1. **Annual Meeting.** An Annual Meeting shall be held during the last quarter of the fiscal year, the exact date to be determined by the Board of Directors. At the Annual Meeting, members shall:

- a. *adopt a local Program for the ensuing year,*
- b. elect Officers and Directors and the Chair and two (2) members of the Nominating Committee,
- c. adopt a budget, and
- d. transact such other business as may properly come before it. Absentee or proxy voting shall not be permitted.

Recommend changing item a: "Adopt the local Program and Positions for the ensuing year."

#7

ARTICLE VIII - Nominations and Elections

Section 1. **Nominating Committee.** *The Nominating Committee shall consist of five (5) voting members, two (2) of whom shall be members of the Board of Directors. The Chair and two (2) members, who shall not be members of the Board, shall be elected at the Annual Meeting. The Board members shall be recommended by the President and approved by the Board of Directors. Any vacancy on the Nominating Committee shall be filled by the Board of Directors. Suggestions for nominations for Officers and Directors may be sent to this committee by any voting member.*

Recommend the following sentences replace the italicized section above. "The nominating committee shall consist of five members. The chair and two members, who shall not be members of the board, shall be elected at the annual meeting. After the beginning of the next Fiscal Year, the board shall appoint two of its members to the committee."

#8

ARTICLE IX - Program

Section 1. (**Authorization**). *The (governmental) principles adopted by the National Convention, and supported by the League as a whole, constitute the authorization for the adoption of National, State, and Local Programs.*

Recommend: Section 1. **Principles.** The Principles are concepts of government adopted by the national convention and supported by the League as a whole. They are the authorization for the adoption of national, state, and local program.

#9

ARTICLE IX - Program

Section 2. **Program.** The Program of the LWVOR shall consist of:

- a. action to implement the *(governmental)* principles and
- b. those governmental issues chosen by LWVOR for concerted study and action.

Recommend: Eliminating word "governmental" in statement "a."

#10

ARTICLE IX - Program

Recommend adding a new Section 4 (below) after current Section 3 and changing the current Section 4 to Section 5.

"Section 4. **Positions.** Local Position statements must be readopted each year by members at the annual meeting in order to remain on the program of issues for possible action."

#11

Recommend adding the following history of amendments at the end of current Bylaws.

Adopted 1946 and amended in 1950, 1953, 1954, 1955, 1957, 1958, 1962, 1963, 1965, 1967, 1968, 1971, 1973, 1976, 1981, 1987, 1992, 1995, 1999, 2001, 2006, and 2008.



#12

BYLAWS HEADING

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF OAK RIDGE

ADOPTED BYLAWS 5/28/08

(These bylaws shall be reviewed/ revised every two years)

Recommend using "BYLAWS OF THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF OAK RIDGE" on the first line and "AMENDED 5/28/08" on the second line.

Proposed Local Program 2010 -2011 Recommended for Adoption

As part of its ongoing local program, the Oak Ridge LWV provides voter education and registration, candidates' forums, other forums on public issues, and programs such as Breakfast with our Legislators and Lunch with the League. Additionally, we take action when appropriate on our local, state, and national positions, and, after consensus, on local study issues.

The proposed local study and action program for 2010 - 2011:

Charter Issues

Study Oak Ridge charter changes proposed by the Charter Commission with the possibility of consensus.

Education

- Study and monitor the quality of the Oak Ridge Public Schools, especially as impacted by local, state, and federal funding, state and federal mandates, and community factors; emphasis will include the Diploma Project and State and Federal Standards.
- Continue the Partner in Education program with the Oak Ridge High School Social Studies Department.
- Collect information on the role of community colleges in society, programs available, and how to make the opportunities more accessible to local students of all ages and interests.

Voting Mechanics

- Track election law legislation, including
 - Choice of voting machines
 - Voter registration qualifications
- Gather information on various methods of voting, e.g., absentee by mail, early voting, convenience voting.
- Observe and study poll worker training, preparation of voting machines, and polling place procedures.

Observer/Monitoring Corps

Continue the Observer/ Monitoring group, following the City Council, County Commissions, Planning Commission, Industrial Development Board, and Healthy Start, housing, and environmental/ remediation programs. Educate the membership and the public as appropriate.



Proposed Position Statements 2010-2011

The following positions were studied and adopted following consensus by the OR League in previous years. The Board proposes that they be readopted at the Annual meeting, May 25, 2010.

Proposed LWVOR Position Statements - July 1, 2010 through June 30, 2011

1. Home Rule:

LWVOR favors Home Rule for Oak Ridge.

2. Federal Financial Assistance to the City:

LWVOR supports federal financial assistance programs for Oak Ridge.

3. Land Use: LWVOR

A. Supports preservation and maintenance of city-owned greenbelts and long-range planning for their use, with assigned responsibilities in the city government for implementation; and

B. Encourages industrial development in conformity with adequate codes.

4. Council-Manager Form of Government :

LWVOR supports the Council-Manager form of government for Oak Ridge. (This position was reaffirmed at a consensus meeting on September 30, 2003, with formal re-adoption by the board on October 14, 2003)

5. Housing: LWVOR agrees that:

A. Since additional moderate-priced housing is important to the future of Oak Ridge, the City should use appropriate means to encourage such construction, as it does industrial development.

B. City code enforcement personnel should be maintained at a level adequate to handle the number of inspections required.

C. The city should require code inspection to take place when occupancy of rental property changes, although not more frequently than once a year.

D. The Housing Code should continue to require owners to provide a safe and adequate heat source.

E. Procedures should be improved that allow the City to require renovation or removal of dangerous or unsafe structures in a timely and cost-effective manner.

F. The city should investigate mechanisms to deal with property that is unsightly and neglected and implement them if feasible.

G. It is desirable to develop and make available a basic rental contract, written in plain language, to protect the rights of landlords and tenants.

The League of Women Voters is a non-partisan organization that encourages informed and active participation 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.



Proposed Nominees for 2010-2011

The Nominating Committee, Karleen Richter, Chair, Jo Ann Garrett, Kathy Edwards, Carol Plasil, and Norma Woy, proposes the following slate that will be voted on at the Annual meeting. Nominations may also be made from the floor with the consent of the person being nominated.

- Co-Presidents: Norman Mulvenon and Brenda Parker
- 1st Vice President: Kathy Edwards
- 2nd Vice President: Mary Ann Reeves
- Secretary: Mary Lou Daugherty
- Treasurer: Janis Williams
- Directors (2 year term): Carol Plasil, Mary Uziel, Norma Woy
- Directors (2nd year of 2 year term): Michele Brandenburg, Emily Jernigan, Claudia Lever
- Nominating Committee: JoAnn Garrett, chair, Kay Brookshire, and Maureen Hoyt

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 Members - Welcome!

Kenneth Bryan
314 Paint Rock Road
Kingston, TN 37763 771-8623(H)

Brandon and Jena Fisher
714 Timbercrest Drive
Clinton, TN 37716 463-7154 (H) 457-6222 (W)

Ellen and Harry (Whitey) Hitchcock
PO Box 6606, Oak Ridge, TN 37831-3637
482-6265 (H) 482-9252 x 1 (W)

Charlie Jernigan
118 Claymore Lane
Oak Ridge, TN 37830 482-4836

Faye McCoy
3487 Andersonville Highway
Andersonville, TN 37705 494-7416 (H) 438-7238 (W)

Kay Whitman
10 Rivers Run Blvd
Oak Ridge, TN 37830 425-0428

Please contact **Janis Williams**, keeper of our membership records, 483-1219, or shri@prodigy.net, with membership corrections and updates.

Dues are Still Due!

Please mail your dues, if you haven't already done so, to LWV of Oak Ridge, P.O. Box 4073, Oak Ridge, TN 37831. Donations are also gratefully accepted!



PO Box 4073
Oak Ridge, TN 37831-4073

www.lwvoakridge.org

lwvor@comcast.net

Return Service Requested

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

*-Don't Forget-
Annual Meeting May 25
Reserve your spot by May 19
Food, Fun and Voting!*

Calendar

April

- 24 Earth Day Celebration, Oak Ridge** 11 am - 3 pm, Oak Ridge Civic Center and Bissell Park
- 26 Breakfast with Our Legislators** 7:30 am, Social Room of Oak Ridge Civic Center
- 28 Oak Ridge High School Voter Registration** 10:15-12:05

May

- 1-2 LWVTN Spring Council Meeting**, Nashville
- 4 Lunch with the League*** 11:45, lunch; 12-1: Gerald Boyd, Manager of Oak Ridge Operations: Overview and Update of ORO Programs Including Initiatives Resulting from the Recovery Act Funding
- 10 Education Committee** 1 pm, Burchfield's Restaurant Lunch Meeting
- 11 Board Meeting*** 11 am - 1 pm
- 14 Charter Commission** 1 pm, Training Room, Municipal Building
- 18 Lunch with the League*** 11:45, lunch; 12-1: Neil McBride, nominee for TVA Board of Directors: "The TVA Board Confirmation Process: Behind the Scenes"
- 20 Voting Technology Committee**, 3:15 pm, Local Oversight Committee Office, Midtown Center
- 24 Charter Commission** 6 pm, Public Hearing, Oak Ridge High School Amphitheater
- 25 Annual Meeting** 5 pm, social hour; 5:30, dinner, Unitarian Universalist Church, Oak Ridge

June

- 8 No Board Meeting**
- 11-15 LWV National Convention** Atlanta, GA
- 18-19 Secret City Festival**, Oak Ridge Civic Center and Bissell Park

* 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