

# The Voter

## The Co-Presidents' Report

After an active summer, we welcome the beginning of the League's new year, and look forward to a lively, interesting and productive year.

The summer of 2010 saw the League sponsor or cosponsor five candidate forums and have a successful voter registration at the Secret City Festival. Many, many thanks to all who worked so hard on the forums, especially **Claudia Lever**, **Kathy Edwards**, and **Marty Adler-Jasny**, who arranged meeting rooms, prepared paperwork, and just generally made it work. **Jo Ann Garrett**, **Kathy Edwards** and **Pat Imperato** served as moderators, and then there was everyone else: a total of about 40 LWVOR volunteers. Thank you!!

Lunch with the League begins the League year with new Oak Ridge City Manager, **Mark Watson**, discussing the city's issues and his vision for the future. **Mary Ann Reeves** is lining up interesting, engaging speakers, which should generate quite a bit of interest in the community. **Robin Toth** will publicize our lunches in a variety of media outlets. **Nature's Marketplace** will continue as our caterer, offering sandwiches for \$6.00.

Our committees will resume their studies of the Charter Commission, Education, and Voting Mechanics, informing themselves and LWVOR members about significant developments.

Our Observer Corps will continue monitoring city and county government meetings. **Kathy Edwards** is our new coordinator.

With the state and national elections coming up in November, we will hold some candidate forums and register voters at ORHS. Check our up-and-running website, [www.lwvoakridge.org](http://www.lwvoakridge.org), for updates.

Many thanks to **Mary Uziel** for creating and keeping our website current, and to **Emily Jernigan** for publishing our beautiful issues of *The Voter*, which give us a written record of our activities, and for setting up our new Facebook page.

If you are interested in joining any of our committees, becoming an observer, or helping out with any of our other activities, please contact the committee chairs or the co-presidents. Moreover, please invite your friends to League activities. The League is for everyone, and we always welcome visitors and new members.

We have an exciting year ahead! See you in September.

**Norman Mulvenon (482-3153)**  
[mulvenon@juno.com](mailto:mulvenon@juno.com)

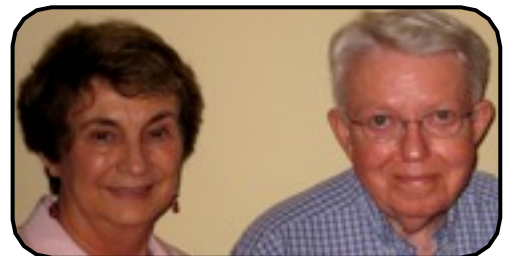
**Brenda Parker (670-1339)**  
[brendaparker@hughes.net](mailto:brendaparker@hughes.net)

**Find us:**  
[www.lwvoakridge.org](http://www.lwvoakridge.org)  
865-685-5989  
Facebook: League of Women Voters of Oak Ridge

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



*Brenda Parker & Norman Mulvenon*

## League Committees:

### Education Committee

The next meeting is Monday, September 13 at 2 p.m. at the MMC Secret City Cafe. Join us to learn more about the Oak Ridge and Tennessee education fields. Our program for the coming League year calls for studying and monitoring 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 TN Diploma Project and the Federal Race to the Top Project.

The committee will continue the Partner in Education program with the ORHS Social Studies Department. A new goal is to collect information on the role of community colleges in society; programs available; and how to make the opportunities more accessible to students of all ages and interests. Contact **Karleen Richter**, 483-0022, richter0022@bellsouth.net.

### Voting Mechanics Committee

The committee will kick off the new League year 3:15 p.m., Thursday, September 16 at the Local Oversight Committee Office, Midtown Community Center. We'll begin our exploration of the nuts and bolts (mechanics, get it?) of voting in Anderson and Roane Counties.

We have a great group! Come join us. **Jo Ann Garrett**, 483-4466, garrett.joann@comcast.net.

### Charter Commission Study Committee

The Charter Commission has finalized its proposed changes to the charter. These items will be on the ballot in November.

The Commission meets Friday, September 10 in the Municipal Training Room for a review of items not recommended for charter changes. Details are on Commission's website, [www.oakridgecharter.com](http://www.oakridgecharter.com). **Karleen Richter**, 483-0022, richter0022@bellsouth.net.



## Lunch with the League

**Mark Watson**, the new Oak Ridge City Manager, will be the first speaker at Lunch with the League on September 7. He will discuss the city's issues and his vision for the future. On September 21, **Beth Fee**, Executive Director Clinch River Home Health, will speak.



LWL, cosponsored by **ORNL Federal Credit Union**, is held in the Oak Ridge Unitarian Universalist Church Social Hall, 1500 Oak Ridge Turnpike, usually on the first and third Tuesdays from September through May. Lunch begins at 11:45, followed by the program from noon to 1 p.m. **Mary Ann Reeves** chairs the lunch program committee.

Box lunches from **Nature's Marketplace** are available on a first-come basis for \$ 6.00, or you may bring your own lunch. Drinks are provided. Meetings are free and open to the public, with no reservations needed.

## LWVTN Fall Conference

November 6 & 7, Cookeville, TN

Everyone is invited to attend Fall Conference at the **Baymont Inn and Suites**, Cookeville, TN, 931-525-6668. Members should reference the LWVTN Conference to get the special rate. Each standard room includes 2 queen beds, refrigerator and wi-fi for \$70 a night. More details will be in the next *Voter* and at [www.lwv-tn.org](http://www.lwv-tn.org).

On Friday night, November 5, we will host a reception for members of the Cookeville community interested in learning more about the League in consideration of organizing a new Highlands LWV. Members are invited to attend for refreshments and to share their experiences in the League and its contributions in our communities.

~**Kathy Edwards** 898-1722





### **LWVOR Program for 2010-2011**

*The League adopted the following program at its Annual Meeting in May. Members who chair the various committees welcome participants - give them a call and volunteer. See page 6 for Board and committee chairs.*

#### **Local Program - July 2010 to June 2011**

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. In addition we take action when appropriate on our local, state, and national positions, and, after consensus, on local study issues.

The local study / action program for 2010-2011 is:

#### **Charter Issues**

Study the 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 roll of community colleges in society, programs available, and how to make the opportunities more accessible to students of all ages and interests.

#### **Voting Mechanics**

Track election law legislation including choice of voting machines and 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, School Board, Planning Commission, Industrial Development Board, housing, and environmental / remediation programs. Educate the membership and the public as appropriate.

#### **Help Wanted!**

**Candidate Forum:** We need greeters, program passers, card collectors, time keepers and help with set-up and take down. We will have a forum for Districts 32 and 33 legislative candidates, and perhaps one more for Third Congressional District candidates. Date TBA. Contact **Norman Mulvenon**, 482-3153 , mulvenon@juno.com.

**Lunch with the League:** We need greeters to welcome newcomers, and help setting up tables, chairs, and the sound system and with cleanup. Contact **Brenda Parker** about the days you can help. 670-1339, brendaparker@hughes.net.

**Voter Registration:** We will be registering new voters at Oak Ridge High School before the registration deadline. Date TBA. Contact **Claudia Lever**, 483-8340.

#### **Our New Phone Number**

If you need or want to contact LWVOR, we now have a phone number where you may leave us a message. Call us at **865-685-5989** and we'll get back to you as quickly as we can.

## National Convention Report

In June, co-presidents Norman and Brenda attended the LWVUS 2010 Convention in Atlanta, GA. We had informational caucuses as well as plenary sessions. Leadership workshops included "League Easy Web: The Solution for all Leagues Who Want an Easy to Use Website!" and "Streamlined Community-Based and Vibrant: The League Simplified," and kept us busy from early morning to late night.

Some of our actions included:

Adoption of the LWVUS recommended study of "The Role of the Federal Government in Public Education" and a non-recommended study of "Privatization," the transfer of government functions, services and assets to the private sector.

Adoption of concurrences to: (1) amend and update the current Arms Control position; (2) add a Marriage Equality statement to the Equality of Opportunity position; (3) add a statement supporting the National Popular Vote to the LWVUS position on selection of the President of the U.S.

Statements of resolution to: (1) support the lifting of travel restriction for Americans going to Cuba; (2) support appropriate regulation, oversight, inspection and penalties associated with development of fossil fuel resources; (3) support the limitation of the filibuster in the U.S. Senate; (4) include the principle of Transparency to the S.A.R.A. Resolution which advocates for Secure, Accurate, Recountable, and Accessible voting systems.

Adoption of the 2010-2012 budget that includes increases in the per member payment to LWVUS to \$29.70 in 2011 and \$30.00 in 2012.

Election of new officers and board members, including the election of Elisabeth MacNamara of Atlanta to the presidency.

For the full text of the Convention Actions, go to [www.lwv.org](http://www.lwv.org).

The convention was not all work, however. We were informed and entertained by many speakers, including CNN correspondent and author Leslie Sanchez, legendary civil rights leader John Lewis, and Secretary of Health and Human Services Kathleen Sebelius. At one session, beloved former LWVUS Presidents shared their memories, which covered terms from the 1960s to 2000.



*Norman Mulvenon and Brenda Parker in Atlanta for the 2010 LWVUS Convention.*

## Our Website: [www.lwvoakridge.org](http://www.lwvoakridge.org)

Have you checked our website lately? The amount of information available is amazing. From LWVOR committee meetings to elected officials' contact information, we've got it all. Want to know when your next LWVOR committee meeting is? Contact the Roane County Register of Deeds? Email your TN District Senator? Keep up with the National League? Go to the website. We have contact information about your local, state and national leagues and all levels of government, as well as links to the websites of many city and government departments and schools. You can even find back issues of The Voter. Thanks to **Mary Uziel's** hard work, we have an easy-to-use, updated website to answer many of your League questions. Check it out! [www.lwvoakridge.org](http://www.lwvoakridge.org)

## *A BUSY Summer in Oak Ridge*

“Summertime, and the livin’ is easy” - except in election years! The new and old Oak Ridge League Boards didn’t have a chance to ease into their jobs, or relax after a year of effort, as the LWVOR mounted 5 candidate forums in 23 days in late June and early July.

Oak Ridge straddles two counties, requiring both Anderson and Roane County Forums for the General election. We tried something new, pushing farther into Roane County with a venue in the Rarity Ridge community room. The developers were pleased to offer their facilities, and an overflow crowd from both Oak Ridge and the Kingston area heard the candidates for Commission, County Executive, Circuit Court Clerk, Sheriff, etc.

The Anderson County election had so many contested races that two forums were held in Oak Ridge: one for local Commissioners and the School Board, the other for Mayor and the fee offices. We learned the importance of having an emergency plan when a candidate collapsed and was taken by ambulance to the hospital after we called 911. Fortunately, he was released the following day.

For the first time in a number of years, we held a forum before the primary election for all the Republican and Democratic candidates running in the Third Congressional District and we had a cosponsor - the Oak Ridge Chamber of Commerce. We drew up a formal agreement signed by the Chamber of Commerce and LWVOR and then divided up the jobs. Twelve of the 15 candidates in the race attended (seating arrangements were color-coded by party) and the audience got acquainted with the candidates as they answered questions from a local media panel and prescreened questions from the floor.

The League’s reputation for objective, nonpartisan meetings resulted in our hosting one more forum,

at the request of the Oak Ridge City Council. The four finalists for the position of Oak Ridge City Manager were introduced in an open meeting following a long day of interviews with Council and city staff. The candidates talked about themselves, answered questions and then had punch and cookies with the citizens, who in turn provided any input they wished to give about the candidates to Council members.

We involved a number of newer and less active members as moderators, timers, question screeners, ushers, question collectors, table cloth straighteners, and even water carriers. Candidate invitations and programs were developed by us or in collaboration with our partners. There was excellent coverage by the local press and TV station. Agreements were signed by all the candidates and the media regarding the rules of each forum and use of recording equipment.

It will be a relief to start the fall with just our traditional twice-monthly Lunch with the League, maybe a small forum or two before the November elections, study committees, and Breakfast with our Legislators once a month from January through the end of the legislative season.

And now, after a few weeks with our feet up, we’re looking forward to our interesting Fall activities.

~Marty Adler-Jasny

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](http://www.lwvoakridge.org).



## BOARD MEMBERS 2010-2011

### Co-Presidents:

Norman Mulvenon, 482-3153, mulvenon@juno.com

Brenda Parker, 670-1339, brendaparker@hughes.net

**1st VP, Observer Corps:** Kathy Edwards, 482-6299, kedwards@cbior.com

**2nd VP, Lunch with the League:** Mary Ann Reeves, 693- 6286, maryannreeves@comcast.net

**Secretary:** Mary Lou Daugherty, 482-4732, J\_MLD@email.msn.com

**Treasurer:** Janis Williams, 483-1219, janisor@bellsouth.net

**Voter Service:** Claudia Lever, 483-8340

**Voter Editor:** Emily Jernigan, 482-4836, emily@jernigans.net

**Education:** Karleen Richter, 483-0022, richter0022@bellsouth.net

**Partner in Education:** Carol Plasil, 483-4871, carolplasil@comcast.net

**Membership Outreach:** Michele Brandenburg, 482-5078, mbrandenburg10@comcast.net

**Communications/Archives:** Mary Uziel, 483-1043, maryuziel@comcast.net

**At-Large:** Norma Woy, 483-9488, ednormawoy@aol.com

## OFF-BOARD

**Charter Commission Committee:** Karleen Richter, 483-0022, richter0022@bellsouth.net

**Voting Mechanics Committee:** Jo Ann Garrett, 483-4466, garrett.joann@comcast.net

**Nominating Committee:** JoAnn Garrett, 483-4466, garrett.joann@comcast.net, chair; Kay Brookshire, 483-4644, kbrookshire@bellsouth.net, and Maureen Hoyt, 483-8735, linktorink@hotmail.com

**Publicity:** Robin Toth, 483-8005, kenneththoth@bellsouth.net; and Maureen Hoyt, 483-8375, linktorink@hotmail.com

**Great Decisions:** Barbara Barrett, 483-0015

## Our Supporters - Thanks!

Many individuals and groups financially support the League. We give most sincere thanks to our major donors:

- **ORNL Federal Credit Union** for cosponsoring Lunch with the League
- **WSI-Oak Ridge (Wackenhut Services)** for cosponsoring Breakfast with Our Legislators
- **Precision Printing & Graphics** for printing and folding *The Voter*
- **Y-12 Federal Credit Union** for underwriting postage for *The Voter*

Other community contributors:

- S&R Insurance Services
  - Dr. and Mrs. Glenn Greer
  - Amy Tamura
  - Bear Stephenson
  - **Atomic Trades and Labor Council** provides valuable storage space for our records
  - **TN Bank** hosts the LWV Board for their meetings
  - **Members** of the League who give generously above and beyond their dues
- These monetary contributions and the hundreds of volunteer hours from our members make our programs possible.



### Membership Notes

#### New & Renewing Members - Welcome!

Lillian Hise  
106 E. Irving Lane  
Oak Ridge, TN 37830  
865-483-8558

Pat Imperato  
131 Whippoorwill Drive  
Oak Ridge, TN 37830  
865-272-3451

Dave Mason  
160 Whippoorwill Drive  
Oak Ridge, TN 37830  
865-483-7312

John Shacter  
458 Foremost Road  
Kingston, TN 37763  
865-376-7600

Theresa Scott  
102 Victoria Road  
Oak Ridge, TN 37830  
865-679-6499

### Women's Equality Day

August 26 marked the 90<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the constitutional amendment that granted women the right to vote. Tennessee's legislature provided the ratifying vote that enabled the amendment to become law. The nonpartisan League of Women Voters—founded the same year women achieved this right—honors this historic achievement and looks forward to greater civic participation and healthy debate on the issues that matter most to our communities. Our Oak Ridge League will celebrate the 65<sup>th</sup> anniversary of our founding in May next year.

### 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

### Lee Billips—In Memoriam

Longtime League member Lee Billips was a school teacher, a potter and member of the Foothills Craft Guild. She was instrumental in forming the Appalachian Arts and Craft Center in Andersonville, and strongly supported Healthy Start, recently representing the League on the AC Community Action Commission.

If Lee wasn't in her Norris rock garden surrounded by her flowers she'd likely be in the shed that housed her kiln. An ardent Democrat, she edited the Anderson County Democratic Party newsletter, and served ably as an Anderson County Election Commissioner.

Lee was truly a kind, generous, cheerfully upbeat and compassionate person- her life had an impact on many people beyond her immediate family, especially on those who called her *friend*. ~Jo Ann Garrett



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## Calendar

### September

- 7 Lunch with the League\*** 11:45, lunch; 12-1: Mark Watson, new Oak Ridge City Manager
- 10 Charter Commission** 1 pm, Training Room, Municipal Building
- 13 Education Committee** 2 pm, Secret City Café, Methodist Medical Center
- 14 Board Meeting\*** 11 am - 1 pm
- 14 Gubernatorial Debate** Tennessee Tech Wattenbarger Auditorium, Cookeville
- 16 Voting Mechanics Committee,** 3:15 pm, Local Oversight Committee Office, Midtown Community Center
- 17 Constitution Day/Citizenship Day**
- 21 Lunch with the League\*** 11:45, lunch; 12-1: Beth Fee, Executive Director, Clinch River Home Health

### October

- 5 Lunch with the League\*** 11:45, lunch; 12-1: Tony Garr and Carole Myers, "The new Health Care Bill and its Impact on Tennessee"
- 12 Board Meeting\*** 11 am - 1 pm
- 19 Lunch with the League\*** 11:45, lunch; 12-1: Samantha Wallace, Regional Organizer, Tennesseans for Fair Taxation
- 21 Voting Mechanics Committee,** 3:15 pm, Local Oversight Committee Office, Midtown Community Center
- 23 United Nations Day**

\* 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.