

The Voter

The Co-Presidents' Report

If the League of Women Voters stands for anything, it stands for ensuring that the voting process is transparent and accessible.

Concerned that recently enacted Tennessee legislation requiring a government-issued photo ID be presented at the polling place may suppress voter participation in next year's elections, your League is gearing up to educate the voting public regarding the new law's requirements. Teams of League members will be available to give civic organizations and community groups a short presentation explaining the law. If you belong to a group that would like to have a League team give such a presentation, please call **Norman Mulvenon**, 482-3153.

As we move toward the midpoint of our League year, Lunch with the League continues to maintain its reputation for interesting, stimulating speakers. Our committees are studying important issues, League observers are sitting in on city and county meetings, and we're preparing for next year's elections.

Plan to attend our Breakfasts with the Legislators, on the fourth Monday of every month that the TN Legislature is in session, for inside looks at what is happening in Nashville and a chance to question our representatives.

Our Holiday Lunch this year features a very distinguished speaker, **Chief Justice of the Tennessee Supreme Court, [Cornelia A. Clark](#)**.

Justice Clark, a former member of the League of Women Voters, brings a lifetime of experience in practicing law in Tennessee and in community activism. Make plans now to get your holidays off to a good start, enjoying a pleasant lunch with friends and an enlightening speaker. See page 3 for your invitation and details.

The local, state and national LWV, while nonpartisan, is political, and works to influence public policy through advocacy. One recent example of our advocacy is the "Comments to the Department of Health and Human Services on the Proposed Rule on the Affordable Care Act to Establish Exchanges and Qualified Health Plans." To see the comments sent by the League of Women Voters of Tennessee and the LWVUS, go to www.lwv.org and click on "News and Events." On the right side of the screen click on "League Submits Comments on Proposed Rule."

"It isn't sufficient just to want – you've got to ask yourself what you are going to do to get the things you want." ~Franklin D. Roosevelt

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

Y-12 Federal Credit Union funds the postage for *The Voter*. Thanks!



Brenda Parker and Jo Ann Garrett

League Committees:

Education Committee

The next meeting is scheduled for Monday, November 7 at 3 p.m. at the [MMC](#) Secret City Café. This committee will work with the Voting Mechanics Committee to help educate voters and organizations about the new [Voter ID law](#). Contact **Norman Mulvenon**, 482-3153, mulvenon@juno.com.

Voting Mechanics Committee

During its meeting in October, the Education committee decided to temporarily disband. I suggested to the board that the Education Committee combine with the Voting Mechanics Committee to attempt to solve some of the problems created by the new photo ID law. We need publicity and some action to help ensure that all registered voters are able to vote in upcoming elections.



We had one combined meeting in mid-October, but there was very little attendance from the education committee. We have decided to have another combined meeting at 3 p.m. on November 7 at the Secret City Café at [MMC](#). All League members are invited to this meeting. Come on down and help us put together some short speeches, 1 to 2 minutes long, and write some publicity pieces for newspapers and other avenues of communication.

Contact **Norman Mulvenon**, 482-3153, mulvenon@juno.com, or just show up.

Lunch with the League

Douglas Nanney, JD, [Cornerstone of Recovery](#) in Alcoa, Tennessee, will discuss "Drug and Alcohol Use and Addiction in East Tennessee, Recovery Efforts, Successes and Failures" on November 15. [Cornerstone of Recovery](#) is considered one of the top three rehab



centers in the US. They treat a wide range of addictions at three different facilities.

On December 6, **Dr. Michael Fitzgerald**, Senior Teaching Fellow at [The Howard H. Baker, Jr. Center](#); Chair, American Studies Program and Professor of Political Science at UT, will give us his opinions on events that will affect the 2012 Presidential election.

Sandwich lunches are available from the [Sweet Café](#) in Clinton. No reservations are required, and we provide coffee, water and iced tea.

Please join us for the interesting speakers at our lunch programs, and become better informed about current local, regional, and national and international topics.

Sweet Café: New LWL Caterer

The [Sweet Café](#), located at 303 Market Street in Clinton, is our new caterer. Their business card advertises "Pastries and Sweets, Gourmet Lunches, Party Trays and Catering," which is a lot, considering the apparent size of the place that seats 50, but has a large kitchen in the back.

The real joy and backbone of the Café is the owner, Cinnaman Kennedy. She told me that she served 1100 people at a recent event and that she regularly provides food and drinks to a large number of the manufacturing companies in Anderson County.

Cinnaman knows that the food business is full of surprises, so she keeps her eyes on the important things like quality and good service. Well, she won over my stomach with her excellent Chicken Salad Sandwich, and we signed her up on the spot. We hope you all agree. If you have any suggestions for other sandwiches or comments, please tell Co-President **Brenda Parker**.

~Norman Mulvenon

LWVOR appreciates [Jackson Square Bistro](#), which closed several weeks ago, for providing lunches for most of the past year. We also thank **Norman Mulvenon** for



***The League of Women Voters of Oak Ridge
Invites You to a
Holiday Luncheon***



- Date Sunday, December 4, 2011
12:30 p.m. Social Time with cash bar
1:00 p.m. Luncheon, speaker to follow
- Speaker Tennessee Supreme Court Chief Justice Cornelia A. Clark, the second woman in Tennessee history to serve in that role, began her term in September 2010.
- Place Flatwater Event Center, 100 Melton Lake Peninsula, Oak Ridge
- Cost \$25.00 per person; pay at the door; cash or check only
Cash bar
- Menu Carved Roast Beef with Horseradish
Meatless Bow Tie Pasta
Salmon with Pesto Rub

Green Beans
Roasted Red Potatoes
Carrots

Miniature Dessert Package
Tea, Coffee, Soft Drinks

Reservations Required: Maryann Mulvenon, 482-3153 or mmulvenon@aol.com

Reservation Deadline: Sunday, November 27 (no-shows on December 4 will be expected to pay)



Observer Corps

Recreation and Parks Advisory Board

October 13 meeting: The agenda included an appearance by Mark Watson, Oak Ridge City Manager; a report from the Bicycle/Pedestrian Committee; the waterfront pavilion; the 2012 Work Plan for the Committee; and an update on the Senior Center.

Watson noted that his main concerns for Oak Ridge and its citizens include quality of life, economic development, safety, housing, development of the waterfront, and the [Bicycle/Pedestrian Plan](#). His goals for the Parks Board include a master plan of the boathouse and pavilion, development of a dog park (with public involvement), implementing the Bicycle/Pedestrian Plan, and long-term planning for all parks. He is particularly interested in the cross-town connector, hoping that it will provide some motivation to get young people out and about.

Watson also discussed plans for the [Manhattan Project National Historical Park and Interpretative History Center](#). Oak Ridge is making land available to the Park Service for this project, and it is likely that the City and the Park Service will form a partnership. The history center would be in a new addition to the Oak Ridge Library. It could provide space for a museum, Oak Ridge history records (archives), oral history sites, and space for meetings of City Council and others. Also under discussion is the possibility of having another interpretative center upstairs at the K-25 fire station.

Sherith Colverson reported on the Bicycle/Pedestrian Plan. A committee evaluated 25-30 locations for bicycle racks; about 50 bike racks will be placed at these sites. Josh Collins hopes the project will be finished by spring.

Gerry Palau presented three modern concepts for the waterfront pavilion that were selected, by consensus, in a special meeting of the Parks Board. Two styles are rectangular, one octagonal. The Parks Board will place the concepts on its website and ask for input from the public. A final plan will go to City Council. The allotment for the structure is \$140K and the city will provide extra funding for services (utilities, etc.). Board members generally agreed on the idea to provide a survey for the public to complete. As part of the public input process, the Parks Board will encourage citizens

to attend a meeting on November 3 where they will have the opportunity to interact with Board members and hear about the goals and functions of the Board.

Gerry Palau will provide a rough draft of the Work Plan 2012 by November 10. The plan will be developed to meet City Staff objectives.

At their last meeting, the Senior Citizens Advisory Board discussed the need for a new Senior Center. If there is a need, decisions will have to be made on the types of programs and facilities, etc. Josh Collins noted that a public meeting regarding the Senior Center will be held in November. The Advisory Board will report to City Council in February or March, and hopefully a decision on the future of the Senior Center will be made between May and July.

~Mary Lou Daugherty, Observer

EQAB

October 6 meeting: The agenda and minutes of the August 4 meeting were approved. The city's legal staff determined that the six members attending the September meeting did not constitute a quorum.

The EQAB ordinance specifies a twelve member board, and that a majority of the board (seven) constitutes a quorum. Currently, there are two vacancies on the board, but there must still be seven members present to have a quorum. (One of the votes is shared by the two High School representatives.) The majority of vacancies on city boards and commissions are now going to be filled only in December of each year.

EQAB will suggest pulling the quorum requirement from the ordinance and including a less restrictive requirement in the by-laws.

EQAB recently held a work session to prioritize items in the Climate Action Plan. Items with a priority rating of high include:

- Encourage citizens to participate in TVA's Green Power Switch program.
- Expand the recycling program to include apartment buildings.
- Use smart meters.
- Encourage an energy audit of the schools.
- Establish a city vehicle purchase program.

The high school representatives reported on monitoring recycling at the home football games. Bottle caps were



collected and sent to the CDC to obtain money for the school. Plans to build a wetlands behind the school are underway.

Athanasia Senecal Lewis reported for the city that the Council would consider approval of the application of a \$1 million Tennessee Department of Transportation grant at the October 10 meeting. The city's staff has prepared two choices that the grant could support: (1) Jackson Square revitalization or (2) the 1.73 mile Lafayette bike corridor. EQAB voted to support the bike corridor and to convey that decision to Council. (Ed. Note: City Council voted to support the Jackson Square revitalization project.)

A "Not in our City" talk will be given on October 30, 5:30 at the Chamber Building (note: no longer "Not in our Town").

KACB (Keep Anderson County Beautiful) has planned an electronics recycling program for November 11. KACB is looking for people interested in becoming board members.

Pat Fain, organizer for the Oak Ridge Revitalization Effort, announced plans for the Sustainable Energy & Environmental Prospectus on May 5, 2012, at the Civic Center. The EQAB agreed to be listed as a cosponsor of the event.

~Kathy Olsen, Observer

City Council

At their October 10 meeting, Oak Ridge City Council:

1. Heard citizen comments expressing dissatisfaction with Council's performance and commending Walmart for re-stripping parking spaces to comply with wheelchair accessibility laws.
2. Proclaimed October 2011 fraud and financial abuse awareness month.
3. Heard presentation on the structure, purpose, and achievements of six city boards and commissions: Personnel Advisory Board, Building and Housing Code Appeals, Highland View Redevelopment, Oak Ridge Municipal Planning Commission, Traffic Safety Advisory Board, and Board of Zoning Appeals.
4. Adopted the Updated 2011 Anderson County Multi-Jurisdictional Hazard Mitigation Plan in accordance with federal requirements.
5. Approved resolutions:

a. authorizing the City to apply for a [Tennessee Department of Transportation Enhancement Grant](#) of \$1M with a 20% local cash match, to support the revitalization of Jackson Square.

b. authorizing an expenditure of \$50K from the Economic Diversification Fund to provide sponsorship of the 2012 Secret City Festival.

c. authorizing a professional services agreement with the Arts Council of Oak Ridge to provide entertainment, production support, activities and programs for the 2012 Secret City Festival, with costs not to exceed \$150K.

d. extending the City employee medical insurance contract through December 2012.

e. preventing the Mayor of Oak Ridge from voting to dissolve the Local Oversight Committee before a new board is in place.

6. Approved zoning ordinances:

a. changing the zoning district of certain parcels at the former K-25 site from F.I.R. Federal Industry and Research to IND-2, Industrial Manhattan District Overlay.

b. updating Floodplain Regulations as required by law.

c. eliminating zone RG-1, Residential Open Space and Reserved, used inappropriately as a buffer strip and now covered by landscape and design standards.

d. covering housekeeping changes accumulated over 1 year.

7. Suggested the following items for discussion at upcoming Council work sessions: (1) a citizen police/review board, (2) advertising openings on City Boards and Commissions, (3) making the Secret City Festival financially self-sustaining, and (4) the City debt situation.

~Mary Uziel, Observer

Today's Woman Expo

Your League will have a table at the Anderson County Chamber of Commerce's *Today's Woman Expo* on Saturday, November 5, from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. at Anderson County High School.

We'll register people to vote and provide information on complying with the recently enacted law requiring a

government-issued photo ID to vote. And, as always, we'll be actively recruiting new League members.

The Expo program features a wide-range of speakers and topics of interest to women and men. For example, Lauren Davis, [WVLT](#) anchor will speak on "Making Women Stronger." Cheryl Stallings, [Methodist Medical Center](#), will talk about physical fitness. A cooking demonstration by Chef Ron Watkins, of the [Grill at Highlands Row](#), will make you want to be in the kitchen, or at least make you hungry. Dr. Sandra Hesser will discuss early breast cancer diagnosis. Fashion models will show off winter outfits by [Maurices](#); and Kim Corder, a cosmetician, will talk about attacking and redefining loose skin, wrinkles and cellulite. You'll want to reorganize your home storage areas after hearing "Clutter Free" from [Mary Pankiewicz](#). Donna Bass, of [Y-12 Federal Credit Union](#), will heighten every one's awareness of emergency preparedness. Janet Wood and Patty Warner, of [Alzheimer's Tennessee](#), Inc., will present "Here for You."

Contact the **AC Chamber** at 457-2559 for a speaker schedule, or call **Jo Ann Garrett**, 483-4466. We'll need help staffing our table. Come hear the speakers and spend some time at the League's table. Please call **Kathy Edwards**, 482-1722, or **Jo Ann Garrett**, 483-4466, to volunteer.

Anderson County High School is located north of Clinton on State Highway 61 just south of its intersection with I-75. There will be ample signage at the school directing you to the Today's Woman Expo venue.

LWVTN Fall Conference

LWVOR members **Jo Ann Garrett**, **Brenda Parker**, **Kathy Edwards**, **Mary Ann Reeves**, **Claudia Lever**, **Louise McKown**, and **Mary Lou Daugherty** attended the Fall Conference in Chattanooga. At the Saturday afternoon session, TN State Senators **Andy Berke** (D) and **Bo Watson** (R) spoke on issues that they feel will be important in the upcoming legislative session. **Mary Mancini**, executive director of [Tennessee Citizen Action](#), spoke about her organization and several issues which are a concern to both the League and her group. **Mary Headrick**, LWVTN Board member, talked about the goals of the [TN Climate Change Action Campaign](#) and what individuals could do to slow change and stabilize earth's climate. **Brenda Parker** and **Mary Ann Reeves** reported on the quarterly conference call with

LWVUS, which covered their main legislative priorities. On Sunday, **Kathy Edwards** informed the delegates about how to hold a successful candidate forum.

Stewart Clifton, LWVTN's lobbyist, talked about issues League members should watch for in the next TN legislative session. **Mary Headrick** concluded the conference with a summary of the new voter Photo ID law and what we can do to inform citizens so that they will not be disenfranchised by the new law. For more details about the conference, talk to the attendees.

Help Wanted

The help wanted ad in last month's *Voter* has been answered.

Willa Reister has volunteered to be our eyes and ears at Anderson County Commission meetings beginning in December. Thank you, Willa.

Now we need someone to volunteer to be an observer at meetings of the [Roane County Commission](#). Is anyone out there willing to do this?

No public speaking skills are required; just the ability to listen and take notes.

Remember: Items of interest to the League and the general public may be buried in long newspaper articles about local governmental meetings or even worse, not reported at all. This is why League Observer Corps work is so important. Please volunteer—more hands (and ears) make lighter work and more transparent government. Contact **Jo Ann Garrett**, Observer Corps Coordinator to sign up, **483-4466**.

League Speak

Curious Georgia asks: "I see in the League budget that a large portion goes to something called PMP. What's that?"

Answer: PMP is an acronym that stands for Per Member Payment. It is the amount of money paid to the [LWVUS](#) and the state league on behalf of each member. Note that for LWVOR there is very little left after we pay the PMP, which is why we are so grateful to our corporate sponsors and individual donors for supporting our local programs.

Now you know!



Membership Notes

New & Renewing Members - Welcome!

Trina Baughn
119 Newport Drive,
Oak Ridge, TN 37830
865-384-5683.

Sally Dickie
19 Rockingham
Oak Ridge, TN 37830
865-482-4385

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

honest sheriff, Marion and her friend Tony Meghreblian quietly went about electing an honest tax assessor.

She taught middle schoolers to parse a sentence in the old fashioned way. She instructed high schoolers (including our daughter Elaine) how to write an essay. She taught an ORICL class to write their autobiography, and told me that Wil's first chapter was so exciting she could hardly wait for the next installment. And in our book group, which met for many years, she could always explain what was important for that month's read.

We held hands thru the best of times and the worst of times. I already miss her and know that I'll never read a good book without wondering what Marion thought of it.

Eulogy delivered by Mimi Rosenthal at Marion Alexander's memorial service held at the Oak Ridge Unitarian Universalist Church, October 15, 2011.

~ In Memoriam ~

We remember with fondness and extend our sympathies to the families of the following:

Marion Alexander

League member Betsy Smith made a donation to LWVOR in honor of Dorothy Stulberg.

Marion Alexander Eulogy

by Mimi Rosenthal

Marion was my oldest Oak Ridge friend. Soon after we moved here, we joined a Great Books Discussion group which included the Alexanders. After several years of debating what is good and what is evil, the group disbanded but our friendship remained.

Another mutual interest was politics. Is there anyone else here old enough to remember Democrats for a Better Ballot? Anderson County politics was a mess in the early '50s, and needed reforming. While the emphasis was on electing an

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 Fund \$ _____

*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



PO Box 4073
Oak Ridge, TN 37831-4073


lwvoakridge.org

lwwor@comcast.net

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 **Holiday Luncheon**
Sunday, December 4
Speaker: TN Supreme Court Chief Justice
Cornelia Clark
Reserve by November 27

Calendar

November

- 1 Lunch with the League*** 11:45, lunch; 12-1: Oak Ridge Police Chief James Akagi
- 7 Voting Mechanics and Education Committees** 3 p.m., Secret City Cafe, Methodist Medical Center
- 8 Board Meeting*** 11 a.m. - 1 p.m.
- 15 Lunch with the League*** 11:45, lunch; 12-1: Douglas Nanney, JD – Cornerstone of Recovery, Alcoa
- 16 Voting Mechanics** 3 p.m., Local Oversight Committee Office, Midtown Community Center
- 27 Reservations Deadline for Holiday Lunch.** See invitation inside this issue.

December

- 4 Holiday Lunch** 12:30 p.m., Flatwater Event Center
- 6 Lunch with the League*** 11:45, lunch; 12-1: Dr. Michael Fitzgerald, Senior Teaching Fellow at The Howard H. Baker, Jr. Center; Chair, American Studies Program and Professor of Political Science at UT
- 13 Board Meeting*** 11 a.m. - 1 p.m.
- 15 Bill of Rights 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 Main Conference Room, UT Resource Center, Rutgers Ave. at the Turnpike.