

# The Voter

## The Co-Presidents' Report

The League of Women Voters of Oak Ridge  
Annual Meeting and Dinner

Tuesday, May 24, 2011

5:00 pm Social Time – wine, iced tea, snacks

5:30 pm Dinner Buffet followed by the Annual Meeting

Menu, catered by Chef Waldek Kaczocha:

Caesar Salad with Salmon

Carving station: Roast Pork Stuffed with Sausage, Horseradish Sauce

Chicken Stuffed with Asparagus & Cheese, Coconut Curry Sauce

Hungarian Risotto (vegetarian), Vegetable Medley, Garlic Bread

Cappuccino Ice Cream, Lemon Sorbet

Coffee and Iced Tea

Cost: \$15 per person, pay at the door, cash or check only

Reservations required by Wednesday, May 18 to

Maryann Mulvenon 482-3153 or [mmulvenon@aol.com](mailto:mmulvenon@aol.com)

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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!**

We have had a busy but enjoyable spring with informative speakers at our well-attended Lunches, and good participation at Breakfasts with our Legislators. Many thanks to Lunch with the League chair, **Mary Ann Reeves**, and to Voter Service chair, **Claudia Lever**. Our 65<sup>th</sup> Birthday/ Membership party was a lovely event. Several new members joined that day, and [The Oak Ridger](#) editor **Darryl Richardson** paid tribute to LWVOR's important role throughout Oak Ridge's history. More thanks go to Membership Events chair **Michele Brandenburg**.

Check the calendar for other events, including the forum we're hosting for candidates for **Oak Ridge Police Chief** on May 5, and the **Annual Meeting** on May 24. This is a pleasant social event along with important business. We need a quorum to elect our new officers and board and to adopt a Local Program and our Positions. Please plan to attend!

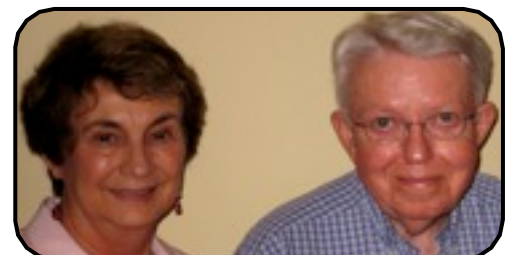
*"To furnish the means of acquiring knowledge is. . .the greatest benefit that can be conferred upon mankind."* **John Quincy Adams**

**Norman Mulvenon (482-3153)**

**Brenda Parker (670-1339)**

[mulvenon@juno.com](mailto:mulvenon@juno.com)

[brendaparker@hughes.net](mailto:brendaparker@hughes.net)



Brenda Parker & Norman Mulvenon

## League Committees

### Voting Mechanics Committee



The April meeting of the voting mechanics committee continued a discussion led by **Norman Mulvenon** of bills currently before the Tennessee General Assembly.

The committee was pleased that the bill to reestablish the office of elected school superintendents was defeated by one vote in the House education committee.

The voter photo ID bill passed on the House floor April 14 after a 2½-hour debate. The state Attorney General has opined that this legislation would effectively create a poll tax on voters. The bill's sponsor stated that she is working on another bill that would fund photo IDs for those who can't afford them.

Other legislative items reviewed were hydraulic fracturing, the Tennessee voter confidence act, and the future of the overall state budget.

The committee will continue to monitor legislation of interest and where indicated, make recommendations to the League membership on potential action steps to be taken.

After discussing briefly its potential role in supporting Voter Service, the group decided to volunteer to help with the LWVOR Earth Day booth and to provide logistical support for the public meeting the city is hosting to meet candidates who are finalists for Oak Ridge police chief. The League will provide a moderator and a number of volunteers to keep the meeting running smoothly.

The next meeting of the committee is May 18 at the Local Oversight Committee Office in the Midtown Center. All LWVOR members are welcome.

**Jo Ann Garrett**, 483-4466,  
garrett.joann@comcast.net.

### 55 New Voters Registered at ORHS

LWV members registered 55 voters at Oak Ridge High School in April. Students were very excited, and many staff members stopped by to thank us for our efforts. Our reliable, hardworking team consisted of **Claudia Lever, Norm Mulvenon, Marti Salk, Mary Uziel, Brenda Parker** and **Carol Plasil**.

We were sworn in by Anderson County Administrator of Elections **Mark Stephens**, who stayed for a while to help and answer questions. He's enthusiastic about this work and is inspired to spread this effort to other Anderson County schools. Because our LWV volunteers were sworn in, first-time voters may vote absentee. We registered a young man who will enter the Marines and be deployed to Afghanistan immediately after graduation. Mark explained the procedure for him to vote absentee from there! - **Carol Plasil**

### New Facebook Whiz

**Marian Varner**, a new League member and **Fred Sweeton's** daughter, has agreed to be our Facebook Woman - like Superwoman, only better! Marian is a Tai Chi instructor (Norman's to be exact) and has recently finished a course in web page design.

Norman has been looking for someone to boost our social networking capabilities, and we can now all look forward to an enhanced [Facebook](#) presence for LWVOR. If you're not already a Facebook member, check it out for yourself!



### ***Lunch with the League***



On May 5, **Kathryn Baldwin**, City of Oak Ridge Community Development Director, will speak on a topic of great interest in Oak Ridge, "Oak Ridge Waterfront Development."

Our May 17 speaker is **Brandon Fisher**, Juvenile Judge of Anderson County. Judge Fisher is a long time resident of Anderson County. He attended Clinton City and Anderson County Schools before graduating from Georgetown University and UT College of Law. He was appointed by the Anderson County Commission to fill the Juvenile Judge vacancy created when April Meldrum resigned. Last August's election to fill the remaining four years of her term resulted in a tie, which was broken by the Anderson County Commission, as required by state law, in favor of Judge Fisher.

Box lunches from [Jackson Square Bistro](#) 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.

### ***Sustainable Development Meetings***

The City of Oak Ridge will host community meetings on May 11 and 12 to discuss sustainable development. The community will be able to participate in a visioning process for sustainable development at a public meeting on May 11. The results will be presented at another public meeting on May 12. Watch the newspapers and the city web site for the time and place for these meetings.

### ***Breakfast with the Legislators***

Please join us, if the Legislature is still in session, for Breakfast with the Legislators on **May 23**, from 7:30-8:30 am at the Oak Ridge Civic Center Social Room. The League, with cosponsors [WSI Oak Ridge](#) and the City of Oak Ridge, hosts the discussions with our area Tennessee legislators.

This is your opportunity to speak with our legislators about your priorities and concerns, and to ask questions about potential legislation.

Claudia Lever, Chair

### ***Police Chief Finalists Forum***

The League will be hosting a forum for the finalists for Oak Ridge Police Chief on Thursday, May 5, from 5:30 pm until 7:00 pm. City Manager Mark Watson has the responsibility for appointing the police chief, and he hosted community forums earlier this year to gather public input into the desired profile and characteristics for the Police Chief. The evening forum will provide the public an opportunity to hear from the candidates.

### ***Proposed Board Nominees***

The Nominating Committee, **Jo Ann Garrett**, chair, **Kay Brookshire**, **Maureen Hoyt**, **Emily Jernigan**, and **Carol Plasil**, proposes the following slate for the 2011-2012 board. This 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: Brenda Parker and Jo Ann Garrett
- 1st Vice President: Kathy Edwards
- 2nd Vice President: Mary Ann Reeves
- Secretary: Mary Lou Daugherty
- Treasurer: Janis Williams
- Directors (2 year term): Emily Jernigan, Norman Mulvenon, and Hella Peterson
- Directors (2<sup>nd</sup> year of 2 year term): Carol Plasil, Mary Uziel, Norma Woy
- Nominating Committee for 2012-2013: Maureen Hoyt, chair, Claudia Lever, Ann McNees.



### **Observer Corps Notes**

As LWV members and concerned Oak Ridgers we all know it is important that we stay abreast of the many local issues currently under consideration in Oak Ridge and Anderson County. Many thanks to the LWVOR Observer Corps who makes a huge contribution by keeping us informed so we can communicate effectively with our representatives.

League members' attendance at the meetings keep the committee members aware of the League's interest in what they are doing. It also lets them know that we appreciate the time, effort and consideration they give to the issues at hand. Our Observer Corps help us learn more about local issues, including who to thank, and who to contact for information, questions, or suggestions.

I encourage members to consider if they might like to be involved in the LWVOR Observer Corps for the coming year. Contact **Kathy Edwards** (482-6299) with questions about how it works or for information about the meetings we regularly attend and monitor.

### **Annual Meeting and Dinner**

LWVOR will be hosting our Annual Meeting and Dinner on **Tuesday, May 24** at the Oak Ridge Unitarian Universalist Church. We'll start off with social time in the Hearth Room. Come and mingle while nibbling on a few snacks and enjoying a glass of wine or iced tea. Then we'll move to the Social Hall and have a buffet dinner catered by **Chef Waldek Kaczocha** of **Razzleberry Ice Cream Lab and Kitchen**. See *The Voter* front page invitation for the complete menu.



Reserve your dinner spot by **Wednesday, May 18**, by contacting Maryann Mulvenon at 482-3163 or [mmulvenon@aol.com](mailto:mmulvenon@aol.com).

Our Annual Meeting will follow the dinner. We'll vote on our board and officers, our local program

for the upcoming year, and on our position statements. We set our course for the next League year at this time, so please come and add your voice and vote.

### **Membership Notes**

#### **New & Renewing Members - Welcome!**

Joseph Lee  
99 East Pasadena  
Oak Ridge, TN 37830  
865-389-6812

Ruth Ann Maddox  
105 Wilson Lane  
Andersonville, TN 37705  
865-494-0958

David Olsen  
108 Wesley Lane  
Oak Ridge, TN 37830  
865-483-5103

Mark Stephens  
301 Elmview Drive  
Clinton, TN 37716  
865-457-6238 (w); 865-805-9936 (h)

Please contact **Janis Williams**, keeper of our membership records, 483-1219, [janisor@bellsouth.net](mailto:janisor@bellsouth.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!



### ***Proposed Local Program 2011 -2012 Recommended for Adoption***

As part of its 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 proposed local study and action program\* for 2011 - 2012 is:

#### **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 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, and Healthy Start, housing, and environmental/remediation programs as well as the Elder Citizens Advisory Board and the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board. Educate the membership and the public as appropriate.

\*Along with the proposed local study and action program stated above, Board sponsored committees may be organized in the areas of Transportation, the Environment, and Housing if there is sufficient interest. Any action determined to be appropriate in these areas can be taken at a later date following LWV procedures.



**Proposed Position Statements 2011-2012**

*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 24, 2011.*

Proposed LWVOR Position Statements - July 1, 2011 through June 30, 2012:

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



**Member in the Spotlight:**

**Norman Mulvenon**

*By Maureen Hoyt*

When the League of Women Voters opened its membership to men in 1974, they were reinforcing their belief that everybody is equal and should have the same rights in our political system. They also wanted to open the League to a broader array of opinions and ideas, while encouraging solutions based on the experience of males.

Men have served in many important roles in LWVOR through the years. The most prominent example of this is our current co-president, Norman Mulvenon.

"I became interested in LWVOR after my friend Al Brooks, who was a board member at the time, invited me to a meeting. Al thought that I would enjoy it. I went and liked what I saw. It was an active organization that represented principles that I believe in," said Norman. He added that he has been a member for about 15 years and still gets caught up in the enthusiasm!

Before joining, Norman had concern for the environment and was particularly interested in the DOE cleanup of the Oak Ridge Reservation. "We watch them daily to see what they do right and wrong, and then we comment on it." The environment, education, and other issues remain important to him, as is the general interaction between the public and government, enhanced by the candidate forums.

When asked what he would like to see LWVOR focus on in the future, he said, "...to look for new ways to serve the elder community." In fact, a League transportation study to determine ways to address this issue for Anderson County's increasing elder community is currently a possibility.

Norman also said that he would like to see our League become more proficient in its use of social media. "There are companies who use Facebook as their web page. That's how they communicate with their customers. LWVOR could do the same to communicate with our younger population, and perhaps then inspire them to become involved. Hopefully, more of our members will participate," he

said. "I look forward to another successful year for the League," he concluded.

We appreciate Norman sharing his League story, and we're looking for more members to feature in future editions of *The Voter*. Members' stories help highlight our League's importance in the lives of our members, and will hopefully inspire others to join us. **Maureen Hoyt** is in charge of this project. Contact her at [linktorink@hotmail.com](mailto:linktorink@hotmail.com).



*Norman Mulvenon*

*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



PO Box 4073  
Oak Ridge, TN 37831-4073

www.lwvoakridge.org

lwvor@comcast.net

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**Calendar**

**May**

- 3 Lunch with the League\*** 11:45, lunch; 12 - 1: Kathryn Baldwin, City of Oak Ridge Community Development Director. Topic: "Oak Ridge Waterfront Development."
- 5 Oak Ridge Police Chief Finalists Forum** 5:30-7 pm, Oak Ridge Civic Center Social Room. LWVOR hosts this forum, for the public to hear from and ask questions of the final candidates for Police Chief, at the request of the City of Oak Ridge.
- 9 Education Committee** 2 pm, Secret City Café, Methodist Medical Center
- 10 Board Meeting\***
- 17 Lunch with the League\*** 11:45, lunch; 12 - 1: Brandon Fisher, Juvenile Judge of Anderson County.
- 18 Voting Mechanics Committee** 2 pm, Local Oversight Committee Office, Midtown Community Center
- 24 Annual Meeting and Dinner** Social time 5 pm. Dinner 5:30 pm. Annual meeting to vote on local program and positions, budget, and officers for FY 2011-2012. New 50-year members will be honored. Oak Ridge Unitarian Universalist Church
- 23 Breakfast with the Legislators** 7:30 - 8:30 am, Oak Ridge Civic Center Social Room

**June**

- 17-18 Secret City Festival**, Oak Ridge. Stop by the LWVOR booth!
- 17-20 LWVUS National Council**, Washington, D.C.

\* 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.