



# The Voter

## From the Co-Presidents

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### Thanks!

***The League of Women Voters of Oak Ridge gratefully acknowledges the generous support of Precision Printing and Graphics in printing and folding "The Voter."***

**Three Candidates' Forums** later, we are pleased with the ability of the Oak Ridge League of Women Voters to provide information to the voting public. With outstanding cooperation from the *Oak Ridger*, *Oak Ridge Observer*, *Clinton Courier News*, and *Roane County News*, the forums were enriched by insightful questions from the editors and staffers of the papers - Darrell Richardson, John Huotari, Stan Mitchell, Ron Bridgeman, and Terri Likens. The *Oak Ridger* and *Oak Ridge Observer* printed the responses to the Charter Commission questionnaires developed by the LWV, providing additional broad coverage of our Oak Ridge ballot contest before this November's election. It takes a very large number of members of the League and the cooperation of many organizations, including the OR High School and the City of Oak Ridge to successfully stage Candidates Forums. We most heartily thank them all!

**A new study item for the League:** "Study the major issues which the Charter Commission will be considering. After consensus, take appropriate action" has been adopted. We're looking for League people to serve on the committee. Please, let us know if you are interested! The citizens of Oak Ridge will not be able to vote on any proposed issues until the state general elections of August or November 2010.

**Fall Conference** in Monteagle the weekend of Nov. 1-2 will be a draw for a number of us. It's the semiannual meeting of League members from around the state. Excellent speakers and a chance to meet with our counterparts over breakfast from other Leagues. We'll have more to report later.

**Save the date** - The Holiday Lunch will be on December 7, 2008, starting at 12:30 pm, at the Event Center at the Flatwater Grill. The lovely lake view added to the holiday festivities last year. Your invitation will be sent in November.

And last, but for the League of Women Voters, certainly the most important - VOTE. Voting is a responsibility, but also a wonderful privilege when one considers many in the rest of the world. Early voting started October 15, and election day is November 4. Voter Service chair Claudia Lever has an article in this issue of the Voter on early voting and registering voters. The Anderson and Roane County Election Commission web sites have more information.

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### Date for Holiday Party Set

The date, the time, and the place have been chosen, and a speaker has been invited. Plans are well underway for the annual League Holiday Party.

Please put Sunday, December 7, 2008 on your calendar.

In a repeat of last year's successful luncheon, festivities will start at 12:30 pm at the Event Center at the Flatwater Grill. Invitations will be sent in November with more information on reservations, menu, and speaker.

## **Registration Forms for LWV Fall Conference**

League members should have received their registration forms for the League Fall Conference at the DuBose Conference Center, in Monteagle Tennessee.

The conference will be held starting at 12:30 pm CST on Saturday, Nov. 1, and conclude at 11:30 am on Sunday, Nov. 2. Registration is due by October 19.

There will be a full panel of speakers at this annual gathering of Tennessee League members and an opportunity to meet Leaguers from other cities.

Call Marty Adler-Jasny, 483-9455, [adlerjasnym@bellsouth.net](mailto:adlerjasnym@bellsouth.net) or Karleen Richter, 483-0022, [richter0022@bellsouth.net](mailto:richter0022@bellsouth.net) to arrange carpools. Looking forward to seeing you.

## **High School to Hold Mock Election Can You Help Count Votes?**

Vote counters from the LWV are needed for the OR High School mock election, which will be held on Tuesday, October 28, from 8 am until 3 pm.

All civics, history, combined studies, government, economics, psychology, and sociology students will be sent , in class groups, to the "polling place" at regular intervals during the day. Students who are not currently taking a Social Studies class may use part of their lunch hour to participate in the Mock Election.

Carol Plasil, the LWVOR Partner-In-Education liaison, has been asked to have volunteers present at the high school as impartial workers to accept and count paper ballots during that day. The Government teacher in charge suggests that we will need three people each hour to collect and count the ballots. Anyone who can volunteer an hour or more on October 28, please call Carol at 483-4871, or e-mail: [carolplasil@comcast.net](mailto:carolplasil@comcast.net). Thank you very much

The Mock Election polling will be held in the Lobby of the Wildcat Arena. The Wildcat Arena Lobby entrance is on the Providence Road side (OR swimming pool side) of ORHS.

## **Welcome New Member**

Joan Cassens  
118 Cumberland View Dr.  
Oak Ridge, TN 37830 - 7148  
865 220-8900  
[jjcassens45@comcast.net](mailto:jjcassens45@comcast.net).

## **Avoid the Rush Vote Early**

Tennessee offers many opportunities for a high voter turnout with early voting from October 15 - 30 as well as on Election Day November 4.

**Anderson County** - Early Voting Locations  
Clinton Community Center, 101 Hicks St., Clinton  
Emory Valley Center, 738 Emory Valley Rd., Oak Ridge (County Clerk's Office)  
Anderson County Government Office, 3310 Andersonville Hwy., Andersonville (Hensley's shopping center)

The hours at all sites during early voting will be  
**Monday - Friday, 10:00 am until 8:00 pm and Saturdays from 9:00 a.m. until 12 noon.**

**Roane County** - Early Voting Locations  
Rockwood Community Center, 710 N. Chamberlain Ave., Rockwood, TN  
Harvey Center, 252 Burney Dr., Oliver Springs (across from Oliver Springs High School)  
Harriman Community Center, 631 Clinch St., Harriman, TN  
Kingston Community Center, 201 Patton Ferry Rd., Kingston, TN  
Roane County Courthouse, 200 E. Race St., Suite 8, Kingston, TN

The hours at all sites during early voting will be  
**Monday - Friday 9:00 am till 6:00 pm, Saturdays 9:00 am till 12 noon**  
(Information taken from Anderson and Roane County Election Commission web sites.)

## **League Registers 65 Voters**

We held two successful voter registration events before the registration deadline on October 6.

On September 18, Kate Shult, aided by some OR High School students registered 11 new voters.

League and AAUW members held a joint registration drive at Roane State, Oak Ridge campus on Sept. 24th and 25th. We had 54 completed registrations, distributed several registration forms, and answered many questions.

Thanks to Jesse Noritake for organizing this effort and to all who assisted: League members Kate Shult, Emily Jernigan, Sue Ekkebus, Helen Adams, and Jesse and AAUW members Anne Parks Johnson, Sophy Littrell, and Elinor Brown.

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

The League is continuing its tradition of outstanding speakers for Lunch with the League.

Charlie Daniel, Knoxville News Sentinel political cartoonist will speak on October 21.

On November 4 we will host Dr. Mark Littmann, UT professor, Chair of Excellence in the College of Communications. His topic will be "Science Writing as Literature".

Former Oak Ridger and current official of the State of Tennessee Education Department, Bobbie Lussier will speak on November 18. She will speak on "Pre-K Research", of particular interest to the Oak Ridge League as we study pre-K programs in Tennessee.

LWL is held in the OR Unitarian Universalist Church Social Hall, Oak Ridge Turnpike at Robertsville Road, on the first and third Tuesdays from September through May. Lunch begins at 11:45, followed by the program from noon to 1 pm. Kathy Edwards chairs the 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. Beverages are provided.

Meetings are free and open to the public, with no reservations needed.

### ***State Opportunities Calling From State LWV***

Active, interested League members are needed to fill positions on the Tennessee state League board. New initiatives arising from the national convention need attention, as well as many traditional areas of concern.

Positions are open now, and the nominating committee will be stirring later in the year in preparation for our state convention in the spring of 2009. If you are interested in being a member of the state board, please let your presidents know.

Several members of the Oak Ridge League are currently on the state board. Janis Williams, Claudia Lever, and Kathy Edwards can provide more information if you are interested.

### ***Recycle Joys***

Oh frabjous day! Most Oak Ridgers have now been through the first combined recycle pick-up and had the pleasure of taking one bin loaded with newspapers, all colors of glass, plastic grocery bags, plastics 1 through 7, aluminum and steel cans, cardboard, phone books, catalogs, and mixed paper to the curb.

Gone are the separate containers for odd ball plastics and junk mail and those trips to the dump to sort the myriad recyclables into the proper bins.

For those who need one of the green or blue plastic recycle bins, Waste Connections has them on order. Because of an increased demand nation-wide, the bins will not arrive for 3 to 4 weeks. Call the convenience center, 482-3656, before you go to pick one up to be sure the shipment has arrived.

In the meantime, if you don't have an "official" bin, put that glorious mixed bag of recyclables out on the curb in a cardboard box or bag marked "recyclable" before 7 am on the day of your trash pick-up as we work to save the environment, one piece of junk mail at a time.



Tom Ballard, Partnership Director, UT-Batelle at the October 7 Lunch with the League

Photo by Norman Mulvenon

### **Thanks to Wackenhut Services - Oak Ridge Team**

The popular Breakfast with the Legislators program will again be co-sponsored by Wackenhut Services-Oak Ridge Team.

On the last Monday of the months the legislature is in session (January through April), our local legislators are guests of the League at a continental breakfast which is open to the public. They bring citizens, city and county officials, and the local media up-to-date on the legislature's activities.

We are delighted that Wackenhut Services - Oak Ridge Team is again joining us in presenting these events, and appreciate their generous contribution.

### **Still Time to "Make a Difference" for OR Pre-School**

A Community Shower sponsored by Altrusa, the LWV, and Kiwanis in support of the Oak Ridge Pre-School is underway. It will wrap up with "Make a Difference Day" on Saturday, October 25.

Funding cuts to the Head Start budget have resulted in drastic funding cuts for teachers' purchase of educational and consumable classroom materials. The ORS Pre-School serves as the Head Start program for the school system and provides early intervention for children considered at risk for learning.

The three organizations have invited individuals and members of the business community to donate gift cards, consumable materials and money to the Pre-school.

Gift cards, art supplies, and other needed items can be dropped off in boxes at K-Mart, Books-a-Million, Art and Craft Corner in Manhattan Place, Staples, Rush Fitness Complex, National Fitness Center, Children's Museum, and the Pre-school at the School Administration Building on New York Avenue until Oct. 25.

For more information on what would be useful for the children, stop by one of the locations listed above and check out the poster on the box. Or go to the Pre-school web site, <http://preschool.ortn.edu>.

A thank you reception for all donors will be held at the Pre-school on Tuesday, Oct. 21 from 4:30 -6 pm. The League is helping host the party.

### **"What Does It Mean To Be Able To Vote?"**

#### **WUOT and UT Baker Center Interviewing for Radio Series and Research**

What did it mean to your mother finally to be able to vote?

Matt Shafer Powell, News Director of Public Radio Station WUOT in collaboration with the UT Baker Center is producing a month-long radio series "My Life, My Vote" airing on Tuesdays and Thursdays throughout October during the NPR News programs "Morning Edition" and "All Things Considered."

Powell is "currently looking for someone who either remembers the women's suffrage movement or had a mother who was involved. It's critical that this person has strong attitudes about the importance of voting."

The eight-part series started Oct. 7. The interviews recorded for the radio series will form the cornerstone of a research archive that ultimately will feature 100 interviews at the Baker Center.

"Sometimes we take our right to vote for granted," Powell said. "Each person I interviewed for this series has a compelling reason to take that right seriously. They come from different walks of life, different situations -- even different countries -- but the common bond they share is a profound appreciation for the democratic process."

"Participating in democracy is the essence of being an American citizen, and the choice to vote is at the core of participatory democracy," Baker Center Executive Director Alan Lowe said. "The mission of the Baker Center is to develop programs and promote research that furthers the public's knowledge of our governing system."

"The 'My Life. My Vote.' project will lend valuable insight into why people vote and what drives them to overcome challenges and obstacles to do so. In sharing these interviews, our hope is to inspire others to think about and become involved in the election process."

If you have information on responses of an early women voter that you think might be useful to the project, please contact Powell at [matt.shafer.powell@wuot.org](mailto:matt.shafer.powell@wuot.org).

## League Committees

**Voting Technology:** The Voting Technology Committee was initiated to study the electronic voting machines being proposed for use in Anderson County. After the County selected the “Hart” voting machines, we shifted our emphasis to promoting the incorporation of a paper ballot as a backup to the shaky state of electronic voting technology. Currently we are examining aspects of a paper ballot using optical scan technology.

The next meeting of the Voting Technology Committee will be on October 27th from 5:30 to 6:30 p.m. at the back room of the Soup Kitchen. Newcomers are welcome. Contact Al Denny 481-4826

**Education:** This year the emphasis of the committee will be on the state-funded Pre-K classes in Oak Ridge and across Tennessee leading to consensus and action. Anyone interested is encouraged to join in this interesting study.

The October meeting of the group is in the Secret City Cafe Methodist Medical Center on October 20, 2008, at 1:30 p.m.

If anyone has questions or wishes to join the group, please call Chairman Ann McNees at 483-9663.

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## Mission Statement

*The League of Women Voters, a nonpartisan political organization, encourages informed active participation in government, works to increase understanding of major public policy issues, and influences public policy through education and advocacy.*

## 2008 - 2009 Board Members

### Co-Presidents

Marty Adler-Jasny.....483-9455  
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Karleen Richter.....483-0022  
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### First Vice President, Publications Review

Jesse Noritake.....482-2243

### Second Vice President, Lunch with League

Kathy Edwards.....482-6299

### Secretary

Brenda Parker.....670-1339

### Treasurer, Membership Records

Janis Williams.....483-1219

### Voter Service

Claudia Lever.....483-8340

### Housing

Robert Moss.....483-7228

### Fund Raising

Lou Dunlap.....483-9361

### Education

Ann McNees.....483-9663

### Voter Editor, Voting Technology

Al Denny.....481-4826

### Partners in Education

Carol Plasil.....483-4871

### Environment

Norman Mulvenon.....482-3153

### City Government

Mary Uziel.....483-1043

Carol Plasil.....483-4871

### Parliamentarian

Betty Jernigan.....494-5176

### Child Advocacy, Healthy Start

Victoria Bowling.....494-8028

### Archives, Messaging

Mary Uziel.....483-1043

### Membership Outreach

Michelle Brandenburg.....482-5078

## Off Board

### Nominating Committee

Fay Martin, Chair.....482-2969

Sara Kolb.....482-3945

Barbara Walker .....482-2062

### Publicity

Kay Brookshire.....483-4644

### Great Decisions

Barbara Barrett.....483-0015



November 2008

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**Dated Material - Please deliver promptly**

## Calendar October 24, 2008 1:45 PM

### October 2008

- 20 Education Committee 1:30 p.m.** Secret City Cafe, Methodist Medical Center.
- 21 Lunch with the League - Lunch 11:45-12; Speaker 12-1 p.m.** Location Social Hall, Unitarian Universalist Church, Oak Ridge Turnpike at Robertsville Road;; Speaker: Charlie Daniel, *Knoxville News Sentinel* political cartoonist
- 21 ORS Pre-School Celebration and Thanks to Participants - 4:30 - 6:30 p.m.** at the Pre-School.
- 21 Candidate Forum 7-8:30 p.m.** State House District 33 (Anderson County)- Oak Ridge Civic Center Social Room (Jim Hackworth, Alex Moseley).
- 27 Voting Technology - 5:30-6:30 p.m.** Soup Kitchen.
- 28 Mock Election at ORHS 8 a.m. to 3 p.m.**

### November 2008

- 1-2 LWVTN Fall Conference; DeBose Conference Center Monteagle, TN [Saturday, 11/1 (1 p.m.); Sunday, 11/2 (noon).**
- 4 Lunch with the League - Lunch 11:45-12; Speaker 12-1 p.m.** Location Social Hall, Unitarian Universalist Church, Oak Ridge Turnpike at Robertsville Road; Speaker: Mark Littmann, UT Professor, Chair of Excellence, College of Communications.
- 11 Board Meeting--11:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.** Oak Ridge Civic Center Club Room. **NOTE PLACE CHANGE.**
- 18 Lunch with the League - Lunch 11:45-12; Speaker 12-1 p.m.** Location See 11/04; Speaker: Bobbie Lussier, State of Tennessee Education Dept., "Pre-K Research".

### December 2008

- 2 Lunch with the League - Lunch 11:45-12; Speaker 12-1 p.m.** Location Social Hall, Unitarian Universalist Church, Oak Ridge Turnpike at Robertsville Road; Speaker: Dr Virginia Dale, ORNL.
- 7 League Holiday Lunch - Event Center, Flatwater Grill. 12:30 p.m.**
- 9 NO BOARD MEETING IN DECEMBER**
- 16 NO LUNCH WITH THE LEAGUE**