



Observer Reporting Form

Feature Evaluated	Yes	No	Comments
Meeting started on time?	X		
All members present?	X		
Members attentive?	X		
Did members appear to have done their "homework?"	X		
Were members courteous to each other and the public?	X		
Agenda sent/posted 72 hours before?	X		
Agenda items clearly described what was to be discussed?	X		"
Adequate opportunity for public input?		X	There was no request for any public input
Was there an appearance that some action items were discussed in closed rather than open session?		X	
Was background information available to the public?	X		Agenda on line, as well as info about bills
Facilities adequate? (room size, lighting, ventilation, speakers audible, accessible to handicapped)	X		

Were any issues on the agenda relevant to LWV positions or programs?

Today's bills had very little to do with LWV positions, except for HB0130 which calls for abolition of teachers' right to collectively bargain. This bill was rolled for two weeks, as I am sure, discussions continue amongst legislators... Other bills involved 'housekeeping' issues – naming of bridges, alcohol served in various sites, and burial assistance for veterans. Again, budget hearings were held for the Department of Human Resources and the Department of the Military. Each Commissioner gave an overview and rationale for various budget requests or reductions. Data/statistics of interest: a) the Dept of HR's administrative staff is 26% understaffed, given the hiring freeze; b) compensation is not totally in line with the private sector, so the Commissioner has concerns about the impact of the improving economy upon staff retention; c) only 9% of the Dept of Military comes from the State of TN, with 89% or \$552 million comes from the Feds; and d) there are 83 armories around the state and 3 air bases, all of which house the Army and Air National Guard. The cost of military readiness is very costly to the Federal budget.

Do you recommend League action on any of these issues? Contacting legislators about collective bargaining, as well as the need to reject a constitutional ban on a state income tax (which will come up again next week) is always recommended action.

Other Concerns:

Observer: CAROL MCSWINEY Meeting: HOUSE FINANCE COMMITTEE Date: 4/6/11

Please submit completed forms to barbara.b.gay@gmail.com

LWV Nashville Observer Corps Reporting Procedure

_____ Forms are available on the LWV Nashville web site. Completed forms should be mailed* or e-mailed to the Observer Corps Committee Chair, Barbara Gay barbara.b.gay@gmail.com within 5 days of your observation meeting.

_____ Report any urgent matter to the Observer Corps Committee Chair or the LWV President immediately (example: an action in direct opposition to the League positions).

_____ IF the information relates to items of importance to the League, please furnish the Observer Corps Chair with a copy of the agenda, handouts, or other material collected at the meeting.

_____ Any additional information or comments can be written on the back of the form (if handwritten) or added to an e-mail transmission.

_____ Each observer should retain a copy of any reports and attachments submitted to the Observer Corps Committee.

*Barbara Gay

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