



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		Committee chair seemed to call upon those that he had plans with to cover certain aspects of the issue
Was background information available to the public?	X		I
Facilities adequate? (room size, lighting, ventilation, speakers audible, accessible to handicapped)	X		

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

One major issue on the agenda called for a constitutional ban on a state income tax. This issue had been passed out of the Subcommittee, but, surprisingly, was deferred at this meeting of the Finance Committee. Speaker Harwell attended, but left after the deferral. Amazingly enough... there was a bill presented to make it illegal for anyone who elects to drive a car with his or her dog in the front driver's seat. Now, there is some revenue for you... In addition to the regular agenda, there were two budget reviews - The Post Defenders Conference (attorneys who are assigned to the death penalty recipients) and the Human Rights Commission ( legal support to those who face housing discrimination, for the most part). The Commissioners of each gave an overview of the department/agency, then answered questions regarding budget items or organizational issues. There was good interchange regarding the death penalty, including some salient questions from Committee members regarding the impact of early childhood abuse or affects of drug abuse on children, and whether or not it led some to murder. The Commissioner had indicated that many offenders sentenced to death had some form of mental dysfunction – either congenital (e.g. fetal alcohol syndrome) or childhood abuse or some form. Both reviews went fairly well, with questions asked from several Committee members and attention paid to turnover, budget overruns, etc.

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Do you recommend League action on any of these issues? Just as Stewart recommended last week, League members can contact Committee members regarding the need to leave the State Income Tax as an option for future legislators. I was able to speak with two Committee members that I had met previously – Ethridge and Shaw.

Other Concerns:

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Observer:  CAROL MCSWINEY  Meeting:  HOUSE FINANCE COMMITTEE  Date:  3/29/11

Please submit completed forms to [barbara.b.gay@gmail.com](mailto: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](mailto: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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