



THE NASHVILLE VOTER

The League of Women Voters of Nashville

P. O. Box 158369, Nashville TN 37215, (615) 297-7134,

www.LWVnashville.org.

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April, 2010

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Date	Time	Place	Description
Monday April 5	11:30	TALS, TASW Conf. Room	State Action Committee. 50 Vantage Way, Suite 250 (in Metro Ctr), TALS/NCSW Conf Rm. Every 2 weeks. bdevaney@comcast.net , 665-9057 or mparsley99@comcast.net , 352-7551. Bring a brown bag.
Friday April 9	9:00 a.m.	Jan Sobatka's	Legislative Coffee: Rep. Gary Odom. 6442 Currywood Drive, 37205. RSVP Jan Sobatka, jan.sobotka@yahoo.com , 477-1996.
Friday April 23	9:00? a.m.	Barbara Gay's	Legislative Coffee: Rep. Mike Stewart. 3910 Gen. Bates Dr, 37204. RSVP barbara.b.gay@gmail.com , 297-4145.
Thursday April 15	12:00	Edgehill Library	"Third Thursday" Lunch. Mass Transit. Edgehill Library, 1409 12 th Ave. S. (near Belmont). To order box lunch, \$8.00, contact Jo Singer, gjosinger@aol.com or 794-2781, by April 13. Or bring a brown bag.
May 1-2	Noon	Club-Hotel	LWVTN Spring Council. Club-Hotel Nashville, 2435 Atrium Way (off Elm Hill Pike). RSVP Margie Parsley at mparsley99@comcast.net .
May 2	1:00	Holiday Inn, Briley Pkwy	LWVTN Gubernatorial Debate , with PTA. Education issues focus.
Monday May 3	5:30	Mad Platter Restaurant	League Annual Meeting and Tapas Supper. 1239 6 th Ave. N. (in Germantown). Candace Anderson Corrigan: How Southern Women Won the Vote. Gather at 5:30, and dine at 6:00. See below.

YOU ARE INVITED

**LWV Nashville Annual Meeting, May 3
MAD PLATTER RESTAURANT
1239 6TH Ave N. (in Germantown)
Gather at 5:30 (cash bar), supper at 6:00**

**Celebrate the League's 90th Birthday!
Candace Anderson Corrigan:
"How Southern Women Won the Vote"**

**Please RSVP and send payment of \$25 to the League Office by April 30
PO Box 158369, Nashville TN 37215, or call 297-7134**

Our Annual Meeting speaker, Candace Anderson Corrigan, is a playwright, songwriter and producer. She recently remastered her earlier work, "The Perfect 36," that is now titled "How Southern Women Won the Vote." The program portrays the final battle to win voting rights for American women. For more information, including a link to the trailer see <http://howsouthernwomenwonthevote.com/>



FROM THE PRESIDENT

As we celebrate the League's 90th Birthday, I would like to acknowledge former League Presidents for breaking barriers and making the organization the respected, effective organization that it is today. We hope that they will make a special effort to join us at the annual meeting. Looking back on these last two years, I'm deeply grateful to presidents, such as Deana Claiborne, Karen Edwards, and Margie Parsley who have mentored me and provided a place to cultivate and hone leadership skills, while participating in historic elections and important issues. I've enjoyed working with so many other Board members and faithful office administrators and collaborating with a host of other organizations. We are all invigorated by the infusion of new members, some of whom have come to the League through programs like our successful Third Thursday luncheon discussions of community issues. I leave the office in Jo Singer's capable hands and offer best wishes to the very strong incoming board.

MASS TRANSIT IN NASHVILLE: THIRD THURSDAY LUNCH

This month's focus will be evolving Metro transit plans. Anyone who has to travel into Nashville on any morning will already know that something has to be done! And, as we learned at the Food Desert lunch, part of the difficulty for those living in the downtown area is direct transportation to shopping areas. Improving that—and much more—is on the plate for Metro planning. A Regional Transportation Plan is also in the works. We will consider the implications for the region if we continue as usual and if we invest in multi modal options. Join us as we take a look at the problems and the strategies being considered to resolve them. League member Mary Beth Ikard, Communications Director of Nashville Area Metro Planning Organization, will facilitate the discussion.

Join us as we gather at the **Edgehill Public Library**, 1409 12th Ave. S (near Belmont and Vanderbilt) at **12:00 on Thursday, April 15**. To order a box lunch for \$8, please contact Jo Singer at gjosinger@aol.com or 794-2781 no later than April 13. Or simply bring a brown bag. Bring a friend and enjoy another lively League lunch!

PLANNED GIVING: CONSIDER THE LEAGUE

We know that many of you would like to support the League beyond your annual contributions. As you read this Voter and note the wide ranging activities of its members, think about all of the reasons that the League is important to you and to the Nashville community. The League of Women Voters of Nashville is a vital, thriving organization with much to contribute to public policy debates.

In order to ensure the ongoing work of the League, several of our members have inquired about including the League of Women Voters of Nashville in their estate plans. For some time the national League has encouraged members to consider the League as they plan their futures and a substantial number have done so.

Planned giving is a term that is used to describe estate gifts like bequests, trusts, or insurance plans to 501(c)(3) nonprofits, such as our Education Fund. Bequests are the simplest planned giving vehicle to use. All a bequest means is that a donor puts the League in their will. This can be done by specifying the gift amount or a percentage of the estate. If you are updating your will, consider a gift to the League of Women Voters Education Fund—to strengthen the pillars of our democracy for years to come.

If you have already included a gift for the LWV of Nashville in your will or trust and have not previously informed us, or if you have any questions, please contact Kay Simmons, kay.simmons@comcast.net or 297-8637. *This information is not intended as legal advice. Please consult with an attorney or financial planner when making estate plans.*

LWV Board: President, Lucy Chism; 1st VP, Jo Singer; 2nd VP, Barbara Gay; Secretary, Carolyn Harris; Treasurer, Marian Ott; Education, Debby Gould; Health Care, Sue Bredensteiner; Human Needs, Reba Holmes; Membership, Margie Parsley and Judy Raines; Metro Government, Mary Beth Ikard; Publicity, Jackie Crumley; Voter Editor, Karen Weeks; and Voter Services, Lynn Williams. Finance Drive, Kay Simmons (off-Board). Office Administrator, September Landers.

LWV of TENNESSEE: GUBERNATORIAL DEBATE MAY 2 AND SPRING COUNCIL May 1 & 2

The LWVTN will co-host a Gubernatorial Debate with the PTA, May 2 at 1:00 p.m. at the Holiday Inn, Briley Parkway (off Elm Hill Pike). Leading up to the debate, will be the LWVTN Spring Council Meeting May 1 and 2, beginning at noon on May 1 at the Club-Hotel Nashville Inn and Suites, 2435 Atrium Way (off Elm Hill Pike). Also come join your League colleagues from across the state. For more information on both events contact Margie Parsley at mparsley99@comcast.net or 352-7551.

LEGISLATIVE UPDATE: FOCUS ON THE BUDGET

Committees are working their way through the agenda of bills and will likely begin budget negotiations in a couple of weeks. The budget continues to be the key issue, because several of the League's priorities are related to it. The top advocacy priority is maintaining the crucial partnerships that create the infrastructure services for children, families and vulnerable Tennesseans. These basic public supports maintain the integrity of community based services for child welfare, education, health, human services, juvenile justice and mental health. The other main priorities that require advocacy related to the budget are the maintenance of funding for Pre-K programs and the restoration of the real estate transfer funds for the four environmental funds, including land acquisition and wetlands protection.

In January, the Governor proposed cuts to the state share of funding for TennCare services in FY 2011 totaling \$429.9 million, which would mean that Tennessee forego two additional federal matching dollars for each state dollar cut. In February, Tennessee was notified of a \$121 million reduction in the state's obligation to the federal government to help offset costs of covering the Medicare prescription drug benefit for enrollees who have both Medicare and Medicaid. These non-recurring funds will help temporarily delay some of the proposed TennCare cuts, resulting in a 4.1% funding reduction in FY 2011 rather than the 7% reduction originally proposed.

In addition, to help reduce the financial burden for hospitals that would result from proposed cuts in TennCare-covered services, the Tennessee Hospital Association has proposed legislation (HB 3310 /SB 3528) that would assess a temporary, annual hospital coverage fee, based on a percentage of net inpatient revenues. If enacted, this coverage fee is expected to raise \$230 million in FY 2011, which could be used to draw down an additional \$430 million in federal matching funds for the TennCare program. Even with these two one-time fixes, however, TennCare will still be financially worse off in FY 2011 than during the current budget year.

League members should focus efforts on the House and Finance Committees to advocate on our budget issues. It is important to contact Nashville area legislators, Sen. Doug Henry, sen.douglas.henry@capitol.tn.gov 741-3291; and Representatives Gary Odom, rep.gary.odom@capitol.tn.gov 741-4410, Janis Sontany, rep.janis.sontany@capitol.tn.gov 741-6861, and Charles Sargent, rep.charles.sargent@capitol.tn.gov 741-6808.

LEGISLATIVE COFFEES—BUILDING STRONGER RELATIONSHIPS

The State Action Committee's top goal is to build stronger relationships with state senators and representatives. The Oak Ridge and Hendersonville Leagues have ongoing legislative breakfasts, which give them ongoing opportunities to discuss LWV priorities and learn about upcoming legislation.

This year Nashville's Judy Raines and Barbara Devaney each hosted coffees for Representatives **Brenda Gilmore** and **Beth Harwell**, respectively. Gilmore serves on the House Commerce and Conservation and Environment Committees and chairs the Parks Subcommittee; Harwell chairs the Commerce Committee and serves on Calendar and Rules, Education and Ethics Committees. Harwell talked about the legislative changes affecting education and reviewed her constituents' survey results. Legislators do listen to their constituents!

Come and learn more about the issues at TWO upcoming coffees. On Friday April 9 at 9:00 a.m. Minority Leader **Gary Odom** will meet with League members at a coffee hosted by new member Jan Sobatka and Pat Post, at Jan's home, 6442 Currywood Drive, 37205, RSVP jan.sobatka@yahoo.com 477-1996. Two weeks later on Friday April 23 at 9:00, freshman Representative **Mike Stewart** will present his ideas at a coffee hosted by Barbara Gay, 3910 General Bates Drive, 37204, RSVP, barbara.b.gay@gmail.com 297-4145.

REPORT OF THE NOMINATING COMMITTEE

The nominating committee, comprised of Brenda Gilmore, Chair, Luvenia Butler, Berdelle Campbell, Reba Holmes and Karen Weeks, is pleased to present the following nominations for Board terms 2010-2012:

President, Jo Singer
1st Vice President, Vicki Ziegler
Secretary, Dianne Dilanni
Treasurer, Lee Fairbend*
Action, Riffi Obrien
Education, Debby Gould
Environment, Eileen Beehan* and Tiffany Wilmot*
Human Needs, Carolyn Harris
Membership, Freda Player*
Publicity, Burkley Allen*
Voter Service, Lynn Williams
Voter Editor, Sue Bredensteiner*
Nominating Committee (Off-Board) Brenda Gilmore*, chair, Pat Post*, Karen Weeks* (* one-year terms)

In addition, the following members will continue through 2011:

2nd Vice President, Barbara Gay
Human Needs, Reba Holmes
Metro Government, Mary Beth Ikard and Margie Parsley

Our thanks also to Kay Simmons, who will continue as Finance Chair (off-Board) and Judy Raines (Membership, off-Board) and to outgoing Board members: Jackie Crumley, Marian Ott and Karen Weeks.

PROGRAM OF SERVICE THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF NASHVILLE 2010-2011—Proposed, May 3, 2010

I. LOCAL PROGRAM

The League of Women Voters of Nashville provides consistent voter services, including voter education, voter registration and candidate forums. The League also engages in strategic and effective issue advocacy based on positions reached by the membership after careful study and discussion.

II. STUDY AND ACTION

The goal of the 2010-2011 study and action program is to promote broader, more diverse citizen participation in decisions affecting public policies in Nashville. The program focus will be:

A. EDUCATION

- Study and advocate for challenging, high quality education.
- Advocate for equal access to educational opportunities, with special attention to children from diverse backgrounds and with special needs.
- Support expansion of high quality pre-kindergarten programs, with priority given to children at risk.
- Support resources adequate to meet the standards in the federal No Child Left Behind legislation and the recommendations made by the Citizen's Panel for a Community Report Card.

B. ENVIRONMENT

- Support a comprehensive coordinated approach to land use, growth and development, and transportation, with focus on efforts to expand efficient and accessible mass transit—including the Metropolitan Transit Authority and commuter rail project—and on walking and bikeways.

- Support efforts to manage and reduce waste in environmentally friendly ways. Support implementation of Metro's Waste Management Plan, including refuse pick-up and disposal, recycling, and hazardous waste disposal.
- Make information available to the community about local, state and federal issues that impact the local environment: air and water quality, use of pesticides, public lands protection, and protection of state parks and state forests.
- Support energy conservation and make information available to the community about issues related to energy use.

C. ELECTORAL PROCESS

- Work with the Davidson County Election Commission to ensure that voting systems are consistent with LWVUS best practices so that they are secure, accurate, re-countable and accessible and include voter-verified paper ballots.
- Support adequate resources for the election process including acquisition, testing, and security of voting machines and equipment; training for election officials; and improvements to the change of address process.
- Promote the implementation and equitable distribution of federal allocations for the Help America Vote Act of 2002 in Nashville.

D. HEALTH CARE

- Promote a health care financing and delivery system that assures an appropriate level of high-quality health care for all residents of Nashville, including the following services:
 - Health and wellness education and promotion;
 - Primary care: prevention and treatment of illness, reproductive health care, maternal and child health care;
 - Behavioral health care: mental health care and substance use treatment;
 - Acute, urgent and emergency care; and
 - Long-term care: home- and community-based care.
- Provide information about the impact of TennCare on Metropolitan Government and on access to appropriate health care affecting residents of the county.
- Support efforts to contain costs by using evidence-based medicine whenever possible, using best practices in care management, and promoting continuity and coordination of care.

E. HUMAN NEEDS

- Support equal access to education, employment and housing.
- Support programs and policies to prevent or reduce poverty and to promote self-sufficiency for individuals and families in Nashville, including those newly immigrated and individuals with disabilities.
- Provide voter education activities with newly naturalized citizens.
- Support policy changes related to immigration consistent with LWVUS positions at the local, state and federal level.
- Support programs and policies that allow victims of domestic abuse to maintain every right of citizenship, including the assurance of safety and the ability to vote.

F. METROPOLITAN GOVERNMENT

- Educate citizens about their elected and appointed officials and about how Metropolitan Nashville/Davidson County Government works.
- Educate citizens about the budget process and finances for Metropolitan Government and support policies that provide adequate resources for public services in Nashville, consistent with state and national League positions.
- Provide information to the Metropolitan Council and its committees regarding issues supported by the League.
- Support ethical standards in Metro Government.

Note: See also the proposed Budget for 2010-2011 in separate attachment.

THE NASHVILLE VOTER IS GOING GREEN!

To save trees and paper, we are sending The Nashville Voter via email to members who have given us their email addresses and are sending paper copies via regular mail only to members who have not. Using email saves the League mailing costs and enables you to hear from us more quickly. **If you wish to receive your voter via email and by regular mail, please let us know by contacting LWVNash@gmail.com.**