



THE NASHVILLE VOTER

The League of Women Voters of Nashville

PO Box 158369, Nashville TN 37215 | 615-297-7134

www.LWVnashville.org

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CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Date	Time	Place	Description
Monday August 23	5:15 pm	E/Spaces, Inc. 4322 Harding Pike Suite 417 Nashville, TN 37205	LWV Nashville Board Meeting Guests are always welcome at the League’s monthly board meeting on the fourth Monday (5:15–7 pm). NOTE: New location upstairs of the Belle Meade Publix on Harding Pike near White Bridge Road. Covered parking is available through the driveway between Sweet CCs & Publix. Take the elevator bank to the office building (not grocery) to the 4th floor, then left off the elevator, and conference room is to your left.
Thursday August 26	5:00 pm to 7:00 pm	Waller Lansden Conference Center 511 Union Street, 27th Floor Nashville, TN	Tennessee Women’s Political Caucus Women’s Equality Day Celebration Join the Caucus and Sponsoring Partner LWVTN in marking Women’s Equality Day and the 90 th Anniversary of Women Winning the Right to Vote. Reservations at http://tennesseewpc.com/equalityday2.htm .
Tuesday September 14	7:00 pm Central	Tennessee Tech University Wattenbarger Auditorium Cookeville, TN Televised live on Channel 5	The Highlands Town Hall Debate 2010 The first non-partisan general election debate for Tennessee governor will be produced in partnership by Tennessee Tech University, the League of Women Voters of Tennessee, and Nashville’s WTVF NewsChannel5. Attendance by invitation will include Tech students, members of the community, and individuals whose questions are selected for presentation during the town-hall-style format. Written and video questions are being accepted at (www.highlandsdebate2010.com).
Thursday September 16	Noon	Whole Foods Market—Salud! Hill Center Green Hills, TN	Third Thursday Lunch—The Art of Voter Registration Training Lynn Williams will demonstrate her Train the Trainers module. For additional information, contact Vicki Ziegler at Vziegler@comcast.net

August Is a Notable Month for Women and Tennessee!

The LWVN celebrated the League’s 90th birthday with Candace Anderson Corrigan featuring songs from her NPR video “How Southern Women Won the Vote” (available on DVD at www.howsouthernwomenwonthevote.com) during the May annual meeting. Now Nashville is caught in the dog days of a very hot August—the pivotal month for women’s suffrage 90 years ago. This week, *New York Times* columnist Gail Collins lauded the story as one she most enjoys telling because “It has everything. Adventure! Suspense! Treachery! Drunken legislators!” Of course, that all came after many women in lots of different states rolled up their sleeves and worked hard for change—what we call advocacy.

Click here (www.nytimes.com/2010/08/14/opinion/14collins.html?scp=1&sq=my%20favorite%20august&st=cse) to read Gail’s “My Favorite August.” From roadblocks to single vote margins, she’ll make you laugh and maybe even shed a tear. Then be sure to make your reservation for the **Caucus’ Equality Day Celebration** (see calendar listing above).

From Nashville's President

Your Nashville League is off and running this month! Your Board meets on the fourth Monday to plan topics for our Third Thursday lunches and other educational programs and discussion groups that will touch on a wide variety of topics: How to register people to vote, How members can get involved in the Observer Corps, What are the new educational standards and how will they impact our schools, What is the Regional 2035 plan for transportation, What is the reality of legal immigration in the US, What does a UN treaty have to do with women's rights. We look forward to having all of you join fellow members to learn, to help, and to have fun.

WE NEED YOU TO GET INVOLVED TO ENSURE CONSISTENT VOTER SERVICES

League members who volunteer to help educate the citizens of the community and provide opportunities for voter registration impact the election process in a positive way. Voter education and voter registration opportunities are continuous but peak during election years. Get involved by:

- Planning and participating in candidate forums
- Conducting voter registration drives at community events
- Speaking to community associations, schools, and GED classes about the voting process
- Working with groups, such as the Tennessee Disability Coalition, to ensure access to the polls
- Serving as poll observers on election days
- Observing meetings of the Davidson County Election Commission
- Monitoring and studying the election process
- Supporting adequate resources for the election process

WE NEED YOU TO WORK FOR STRATEGIC AND EFFECTIVE ISSUE ADVOCACY

League members can impact public policy by educating the public about issues important to good government and community well-being, and advocating for League positions on key issues. Because we live in the state capital, Nashville League members work on both local and state issues. We also answer calls to action from the LWVUS when issues are pending in Congress. Whatever your interests, you can get involved!

Specifically, the League advocates for access to health care; education to prepare students for responsible citizenry and the economy of the future; good stewardship of our natural resources; election processes that are fair and secure; and ethics and transparency in government. League members interested in issue advocacy can participate by:

- Educating our members and the community by writing articles in the Voter
- Submitting op-ed columns
- Planning and conducting public forums
- Advocating for League positions on critical issues by writing or talking to elected officials

The League is a grass roots organization, guided by positions adopted by its membership at all three League levels—local, state, and national. Learn more about the issues supported by the LWV at www.lwvnashville.org/Issues.html. Then tell us how you would like to become involved by calling 615/297-7134 or sending an email to info@LWVNashville.org or president@LWVNashville.org.

As we continue through the year, please keep tabs on the website for updated information about happenings and events (www.lwvnashville.org).

I look forward to working with you. In League, *To Singer*



Third Thursday Presents The Art of Voter Registration Training

Join LWVN members at noon on September 16 at the **Green Hills Whole Foods Market**, 4021 Hillsboro Pike (37215), in their upstairs Cooking Classroom **Salud!**. Healthy, organic lunches can be purchased downstairs from any of the food bars and brought upstairs to the meeting. Since the room is available from 11:30 am to 1:30 pm, plan to be upstairs eating by 11:45 and ready for the program at noon.

Voter Services Chair Lynn Williams will present her Train the Trainer module featuring best practices for the art of voter registration. She'll demonstrate what's important when registering people to vote, problem-solving skills critical to the task, the tools of the trade, and how to conduct volunteer training as a broader voter registration activity. Lynn also will

introduce her Voter Services committee and outline plans for the coming year. Bring a brown bag or shop the myriad offerings Whole Foods offers. Contact Vicki Ziegler at Vziegler@comcast.net if you have additional questions.

Join the LWV Observer Corps

Protecting our right to know and transparency in government are integral to the health of our democracy, and so a major LWV goal is to keep members and the public informed about important issues. One tried and true way to ensure such communication is through League Observer Corps made up of individuals or groups that attend important meetings, monitors issues, and report outcomes to LWVTN Action Committee.

Observer Corps members prominently wear their LWV name badges or buttons and may introduce themselves to committee chairs but do not express opinions or speak for the League. Their function is to observe legislative and community government meetings while letting decision makers know the League has an interest in the process of government.

Corp members can participate on different levels according to preference and available time. Opportunities include Metro Council meetings, school board meetings, and state legislative committee meetings. Some attend according to a set schedule, such as only one Tuesday a month or twice a month at meetings of city council, school board, or legislative committee. Others only attend meetings that address an issue of interest.

Members also may follow issues and make reports by watching Metro Council or school board meetings televised on Channel 3 or streamed live via the web. Attending Metro Council, school board, or state committee meetings wearing your LWV pin, however, **gives the League its best visibility**.

Developments related to education, the environment, local transportation, health care, and human needs match LWV priorities and positions. Observers will be alerted to meetings that are important to these concerns. Contact Barbara Gay at 297-4145 or barbara.b.gay@gmail.com to indicate your interest and preferred time commitment.

Looking Ahead!

1. Online training tutorial with everything League members want to know about navigating the LWVN website including nifty tips and shortcuts. For more info or to help, contact Reba Holmes (rholmes@comdata.com; 218.4047).
2. **LWVTN Fall Conference** set for November 6-7 at the Cookeville, TN Baymont Suites.

Ruth S. Shur Leadership Institute

In addition to her role as LWVN Voter Services Chair, Lynn Williams has committed to a two-year role coaching other Tennessee League members as a partner in the Ruth S. Shur Leadership Institute. The Institute has been funded through a generous gift to the LWVUS Education Fund by League member Walter Shur, of Pittsboro, North Carolina, in honor of the memory of his wife. It is designed to develop and sustain a national coaching team that will support and strengthen emerging League leadership, membership recruitment, and League visibility.

In April, Lynn and LWVTN Membership Chair Faith Tapp attended two days of training in Charlotte, NC to prepare for their role in the **Institute's Membership Recruitment Initiative** process.

On September 25, representatives from LWVTN Board and local Leagues across Tennessee will gather for a full-day training at Cumberland Mountain State Park in Crossville. Under the direction of the Tennessee coaching team and LWVUS Shur Fellow Caroline Emmons-Schramm, the group will review best practices (based in the successful Membership Recruitment Initiative) to recruit new members, gain visibility in the community, and develop new leaders. Each League will create a year-long plan for growth and will receive support from the state coaching team to successfully achieve its goals. Participants will take home models, templates, and skills to support working with the media, developing partnerships, and producing special events that add meaning to League members' experiences. Overnight accommodations and travel expenses are underwritten by the LWVUS Leaders for Leadership Fund. For more details, contact Lynn Williams (lynn.wms@comcast.net; 289-6499).

The Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act

Citizen participation was a key component in passage of the new Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act and it will be instrumental in making sure the law is enacted in a manner that will help individuals understand their rights and responsibilities under the law.

Throughout the country, people are asking questions about how the law will be implemented and in what order, providing an excellent opportunity for Leagues to work with their communities to educate citizens about the new health care law, what to expect, and how to engage in its implementation.

Health care is both a public policy issue and a personal issue; and it means different things to each community and individual. The impact on consumers will vary, depending on age and health status. The size and economics of your community will also play a role in how changes in health care develop under the new law. A brochure prepared by AARP—*A User's Guide to Health Care Reform*—provides an excellent overview and is included with your newsletter in PDF format.

Additional background information on health care reform is available at the LWVUS website (www.lwv.org) as well as from government, nonprofit, and news media resources that include:

- Kaiser Family Foundation (www.kff.org)
- National Coalition on Health Care (www.nchc.org)
- Department of Health and Human Services (www.hhs.gov/ociio/index.html and www.healthcare.gov)
- Small Business Majority (www.smallbusinessmajority.org)
- Families USA (www.familiesusa.org)

LWVN-Related Community Activities

On August 10, LWVN Metro Government Chair Mary Beth Ikard participated in a panel discussion at the Nashville Civic Design Center's CityTHINK program—No Child Left Inside. One of a series of monthly lunchtime discussions, it considered opportunities to encourage Tennessee children to engage with and experience the outdoors. September 14, CityTHINK (11:30 am–1 pm) will explore Co Housing, a type of collaborative housing in which residents actively participate in the design and operation of their own neighborhoods. The physical design encourages both social contact and individual space. This Danish concept of living community has spread quickly worldwide. It encourages neighborhood trust and fosters the ability of neighbors to listen to each other and an understanding that each of you is being heard. For more details, check www.civicdesigncenter.org/calendar/list?xtags=co-housing.

ATTENTION! *The Nashville Voter* became a “green” digital publication in Spring 2010. If you have received this copy of the *Voter* in the mail, it means the League of Women Voters of Nashville has no recorded e-mail address for you. Please help us in the switch to electronic publications and announcements by sending your e-mail address to LWVNash@gmail.com. This will assure you receive all LWV newsletters, event invitations, Third Thursday announcements, and Call to Action alerts. Thank you, *Voter* Editor Sue Bredensteiner (suebred@mindspring.com).