



Volume 64, No. 8

# THE NASHVILLE VOTER

The League of Women Voters of Nashville

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[www.LWVnashville.org](http://www.LWVnashville.org)

February 2011

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Date	Time	Place	Description
<b>Third Thursday February 17</b>	11:45 am	Whole Foods Market—Salud! <b>Hill Center</b> 4021 Hillsboro Pike Green Hills	<b>Third Thursday Lunch—Fracking &amp; Environmental Consequences</b> LWVTN Action Chair Barbara Devaney and LWV Knoxville Board member Dr. Mary Headrick will discuss the environmental issues surrounding the hydraulic fracturing process being used to obtain natural gas from shale from east Tennessee to Chattanooga. For additional information, contact Vickie Ziegler ( <a href="mailto:Vziegler@comcast.net">Vziegler@comcast.net</a> ).
<b>Monday February 21 &amp; March 7</b>	11:30 am	Tennessee Alliance for Legal Services <b>Metro Center</b> 50 Vantage Way, Suite 250	<b>LWVTN Action Committee Meeting</b> The TN Legislature is back in session and will be addressing issues of concern to the LWV. Join the Action Committee at Stewart Clifton's office. We will meet every other Monday throughout the session (2/21, 3/7, 3/21, 4/4, 4/18 & so on). For more information contact Chair Barbara Devaney ( <a href="mailto:bdevaney@comcast.net">bdevaney@comcast.net</a> ) or LWVTN President Margie Parsley ( <a href="mailto:mparsley99@comcast.net">mparsley99@comcast.net</a> ).
<b>Monday February 28</b>	5:15 pm	E/Spaces, Inc. 4322 Harding Pike, Suite 417 Nashville 37205	<b>LWV Nashville Board Meeting</b> Guests are always welcome at the League's monthly board meeting on the fourth Monday (5:15–7 pm). NOTE: Location is 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.
<b>Saturday March 5</b>	9:00 am to 3:30 pm	Calvary United Methodist Church 3701 Hillsboro Pike Nashville 37215	<b>Keep Your Eyes on the Prize: Making Health Reform Work for Tennessee</b> Tennessee Health Care Campaign's Annual Regional Training Meeting will inform, educate, and activate consumers about how the new health care law may affect you and your family. On January 1, 2014, 700,000 Tennesseans will be eligible for affordable, high quality health care through a health insurance exchange. Learn how Tennessee plans to structure its Health Insurance Exchange. Brian Haile, deputy director of Benefits Administration, Tennessee Department of Finance and Administration, will discuss the work being done at the state level to examine what will work best for Tennessee. Register at <a href="http://www.thcc2.org/TakeAction/rtm_2011_spring/rtm2011spring.html">www.thcc2.org/TakeAction/rtm_2011_spring/rtm2011spring.html</a>

### From Nashville's President

We think of February as the relationship month centered on the mid-month celebration of Valentine's Day. In the League, we have a tremendous opportunity to build relationships with other members as well as those who represent us in our Legislature. On February 7, Riffi O'Brien and Rick Seiter led the way by hosting a lovely coffee for new House Speaker Beth Harwell. Close to 40 League members and friends were on hand and the rooms were brightened with yellow roses in recognition of Tennessee's role in accomplishing Women's Suffrage and Harwell's success in becoming our first woman

speaker. Coffees with our legislators are LWVN contribution to the state Action Committee's effort to cement sound rapport between our representatives and Leagues across Tennessee.

As League members, you will be invited to host and attend legislator coffees and learn what your representatives think about important issues facing the state as well as share your concerns. There are 10 representatives and 4 senators serving Davidson County—and additional representatives in Williamson County—so we have a wealth of opportunity. Please let me know if you are willing to host an event for your House representative or Senator.

We had hoped to meet, greet, and honor the Davidson County delegation during January, but ran into budget constraints. We plan to add this opportunity to the 2012 budget and look to each of you to help with that goal. League membership dues are divided among the national organization, the state League, and our chapter, which leaves little for local important projects. We want to be able to host candidate forums and educational programs on redistricting, government function, and health care reform. We depend, however, on the generosity of our members and friends for contributions to both our operating and educational funds.

As the League marks its 91<sup>st</sup> Birthday this February 14<sup>th</sup>, we recognize that becoming an involved LWVN member is a privilege. It also makes membership more interesting and fun! The Nashville League has myriad opportunities including the Observer Corps, membership, finance, and health care committees, and the State Action Committee—so look through this *Voter* to see where you want to jump in! Our Board members are pleased to guide you in your selection and are listed in the back section of the new LWVN Directory that was mailed to members last week. In fact, you can view Observer Corps reports online at: <http://lwvnashville.org/ObserverCorps.html>. Nashville-Davidson County is a big place and we invite you to join our League in interesting activities that are designed to make our community a strong and healthy place to live. I look forward to seeing you soon and hope you will join me in supporting LWVN Board member **Mary Beth Ikard** in her quest for the first ATHENA Young Professional Leadership Award to be announced at the March 9 CABLE luncheon (<http://nashvillecable.org/>) and long-time member **Carol Westlake** who is being recognized as the League's ATHENA nominee and will be honored on March 31 at the 2011 ATHENA Award Event in Nashville's Parthenon.

In League, *To Singer*

## **Birthday Message from LWVUS President Elisabeth MacNamara**

February 14 is our 91<sup>st</sup> anniversary and we've got a lot to be proud of! Carrie Chapman Catt first proposed a League of Women Voters to work to end all discrimination against women. The League was founded on Valentine's Day, 1920, six months before the ratification of the 19<sup>th</sup> Amendment giving women the right to vote.

The heart of our mission—strengthening our democratic system and increasing the public's participation—has not diminished. Today, we are a grassroots organization of 140,000 supporters and more than 800 Leagues throughout all 50 states.

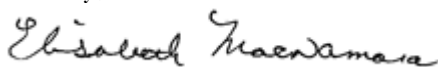
We are also celebrating the tremendous strides we've made for voting rights and other critical issues in America—thanks, in large part, to the work of supporters like you. As we recognize this important anniversary, I want to share some thoughts on a few of last year's accomplishments through a special video message ([http://www.lwv.org/AM/Template.cfm?Section=Our\\_President&Template=/CM/HTMLDisplay.cfm&ContentID=16670](http://www.lwv.org/AM/Template.cfm?Section=Our_President&Template=/CM/HTMLDisplay.cfm&ContentID=16670)).

The League works daily to make sure we have an active citizenry that participates in our democracy and your support is at the core of our work.

Join us in celebrating 91 years of making democracy work. Share your birthday wish with the League today ([http://participate.lwv.org/p/salsa/web/questionnaire/public/?questionnaire\\_KEY=499](http://participate.lwv.org/p/salsa/web/questionnaire/public/?questionnaire_KEY=499)).

Thank you again for your continued commitment.

Sincerely,



Elisabeth MacNamara  
President, LWVUS



## February's Third Thursday: The Environmental Consequences of Fracking

LWVTN Action Chair **Barbara Devaney** and LWV Knoxville Board member **Mary Headrick, MD** will discuss the environmental issues surrounding the hydraulic fracturing process being used around the country to obtain natural gas from shale. While a recent article in the Tennessean about new drilling methods for natural gas (<http://www.tennessean.com/article/20110210/BUSINESS01/102100339/With-new-drilling-method-oil-industry-booms-West>) did not focus on the harmful side effects of such procedures—the injection of millions of gallons of diesel fuel into existing wells in more than a dozen states over the past six years—Congressional investigators say such processes appear to have violated the Safe Water Drinking Act ([http://www.nytimes.com/2011/02/01/business/energy-environment/01gas.html?\\_r=1&src=me&ref=business](http://www.nytimes.com/2011/02/01/business/energy-environment/01gas.html?_r=1&src=me&ref=business)). This is because diesel fuel is used as part of a chemical cocktail (i.e., water, sand and chemicals) in which high-pressure injections are drilled into rock formations deep underground. The process has successfully opened large new deposits of natural gas but also props open fissures in the rock that may allow such fracking chemicals to spread and poison underground water systems. Safe drinking water is one of the League's prominent concerns and is important to all of us as parents and citizens. Join LWVN at Whole Foods Market—Salud! on Thursday to learn more.

### Observer Corps

League members are continuing to attend government meetings as representative of the LWVN Observer Corps. Reports are now available at <http://lwvnashville.org/ObserverCorps.html> as an educational resource for members and the community. This is part of the LWVN work as a trusted source of consistent, unbiased information for our community on the proceedings of local government. It works hand in hand with the League's efforts to ensure transparency in government and research issues from all perspectives. Observing governmental processes and reporting about them in an unbiased manner helps to foster confidence in government and allow the broader community to understand what and why action is suggested or taken. For more information, contact Barbara Gay at 297-4145 ([Barbara.b.gay@gmail.com](mailto:Barbara.b.gay@gmail.com)).

Join Pat Post, Barbara Gay, Nancy Whitehouse, Carol McSwiney, Riffi O'Brien, and Sue Bredensteiner in this eye-opening project. We are learning that there is a lot about government that we didn't know! And a great deal to be proud of and applaud.

Here are excerpts from recent reports:



The Metro Board of Health met on February 3, 2011. Issues on the agenda relevant to LWV positions or programs included:

1. Nashville is one of 44 cities to receive the Communities Putting Prevention to Work (CPPW) grant award from CDC with a \$7.5 million grant to support public health efforts to reduce obesity, increase physical activity, and improve nutrition. Dr. Paul noted that a Food Policy Council has been formed; the Nashville Mobile Market, initiated by a Vanderbilt student, and the Health Corner Store Initiative has been launched; an HBO documentary on obesity is in the works; Health Dept. representatives attended a Robert Wood Johnson meeting on obesity in January; Mayor Dean has been invited to speak at a March symposium on obesity sponsored by the Institute of Medicine; and the Health Dept. has begun an initiative to encourage breastfeeding. Board members also applauded the significant reduction in teen birth rates in TN, while acknowledging that the state still ranks lower than other states.
2. New Lentz public health center site plan update & approval: Metro Finance Director Richard Riebeling reported that the Mayor's office will file legislation with the Metro Council in March requesting approval of \$28 million to purchase a new building for Lentz health center, to be constructed by Hospital Corporation of America (HCA) per Health Dept. specifications, at the corner of 23rd Ave N. and Charlotte Ave. (north side of Charlotte). The property, owned by HCA, would be swapped for the 23rd Ave N site currently occupied by Metro Health Dept, which HCA would replace with a physicians' office building for Centennial Medical Center. The new public health building, to be Silver LEED certified, would be more cost-effective to build and maintain than renovating the old building, and the location would be better (i.e., it's on a bus route, near the new 28th Ave Connector, and accessible to vehicles, bikes, and pedestrians). Board members were assured that it would be accessible to public housing residents. The Board approved Mr. Riebeling's request. If the Council approves the legislation at its April meeting, construction on the new Health Department complex could begin by early 2012 and would be completed by the end of that year.

On January 11, 2011, Riffi O'Brien attended the Election Commission meeting. Issues on the agenda relevant to LWV positions or programs included:

- Locations for early voting were discussed. Due to historically low turn-out for mid-term elections, recommendation was to reduce number of polling places. Any reduction would be made after reviewing number of historic early votes cast in a particular area.



## LWVTN Action Committee

The LWVTN **Action Committee** launched LWVN activity with its first 2011 Legislator Coffee on February 7. Hosted by **Riffi O'Brien** and **Rick Seiter**, the event honored Tennessee's first woman **House Speaker Beth Harwell**. The well-attended event provided an opportunity to learn about Harwell's plans for this session and ask questions of concern to the League. The mid-term election brought 22 new Republicans to the Tennessee House, 14 of whom beat Democrats. Harwell is advising her Republican colleagues "to be gracious and kill their opponents with kindness." In addition she wants the redistricting tied to the 2010 Census to be done fairly, constitutionally, and avoid extremes. While Tea Party members seem frustrated with government's inability to respond quickly, Harwell is impressed with the freshman class—sharp people ready to roll up their sleeves and go to work.



Harwell has already initiated steps to streamline government by changing the way House committees are structured and work; she also hopes to change areas such as multiple child health programs. Asked about implementation of the new Affordable Care Act Health Care Exchange, she said: "Governor Haslam wants to implement the Tennessee Exchange in a way that allows us to pull down federal dollars within a framework that best fits our state."

Later that morning at the LWVTN Action Committee meeting, as League members from across that state conferred about League priorities for the current state legislative session, revenue issues and implementation of Tennessee's Affordable Care Act Health Care Exchange were among the key concerns. Member **Karen Weeks** reported that a responsible state budget needs to include protection of the social infrastructure. Over the years the state has partnered with nonprofit groups to develop programs for Tennessee's most vulnerable residents. Many of these currently funded with nonrecurring funds, are now in jeopardy. Under our current tax structure, Tennessee lacks the revenue to maintain basic state functions in all areas of state government but can *generate* this needed revenue.

As an alternative to slash and burn tactics, **Tennesseans for Fair Taxation**, of which the League was a founding member and remains a key partner, has identified four potential sources of revenue. Three of them would close gaping loopholes and could generate considerable revenue. The fourth, would greatly improve the fairness of the tax system overall by decreasing reliance on the sales tax—especially on food—and introducing a broad-based income tax. The result? The great majority of Tennesseans would pay less tax than they do now, at the same time that state revenues would increase.

The first three proposals have received some positive responses from legislators in both parties and are mentioned below. All are described more fully in a table titled TFT's Revenue Options for Tennessee's 2011-2012 Budget at

<http://lwvnashville.org/Voter.html>:

- **Out-of-State Sales Tax Act:** Assert taxing authority over out-of-state companies (who sell more than \$4,800 of merchandise to Tennesseans) on the basis of their use of in-state affiliates to solicit business—would provide revenue of up to \$365 million
- **Single Article Cap Removal Act:** The cap is an unjustified tax break for upper income individuals and businesses because those who can afford items costing more than \$3,200 can also afford to pay taxes at the same rate as everyone else—would provide revenue of more than \$85 million
- **Tennessee Small Business Protection Act:** Tennessee business tax law allows multistate companies to avoid taxes by setting up subsidiaries in Delaware or Nevada to transfer ownership of their real estate or trademarks and logos—would provide revenue of \$110 to \$200 million

Member **Pat Post** is representing the LWVTN in conjunction with the Tennessee Health Care Campaign and a coalition of nonprofit agencies, community groups, and individuals across Tennessee to ensure implementation of the Affordable Care Act (ACA) and new Health Care Exchange. Important information relevant to implementation is posted on the website at <http://lwvnashville.org/Voter.html>.

The Guiding **Principles and Brief for Implementation of a Health Insurance Exchange in Tennessee** has been adopted by the LWVTN and several local Tennessee Leagues:

The Affordable Care Act (ACA) requires the establishment of health insurance marketplaces, called “exchanges,” in every state. Exchanges are designed to bring high-quality, easy-to-understand health coverage options to individuals and small businesses. The law envisions that states will establish their own exchanges; however, the federal government will establish an exchange in any state that fails to do so.

The purpose of these guiding principles is to educate government officials and the public about fundamental protections necessary to ensure that the Tennessee Health Insurance Exchange will meet the needs of individual consumers and small employers it is designed to serve.

1. **Viability:** The Health Insurance Exchange (Exchange) will be designed to succeed—attractive to all stakeholders, well regulated, and financially stable.
2. **Risk Pools:** The Exchange will ensure adherence to standards that prevent adverse selection of enrollees in all health insurance plans, both within and outside the Exchange.
3. **Consumer Representation:** The Exchange will ensure that consumers—individuals, families, and small businesses—are well represented in the development of all policies and procedures related to the Exchange.
4. **Governance:** The Exchange will be governed in accordance with standards of transparency and public accountability to insulate it from undue commercial or political pressure.
5. **Coverage Options:** The Exchange will provide a manageable number of choices among high-quality, affordable health plans with concise, comparative information on the benefits and costs of options, including the availability of particular specialty services in each geographic service area.
6. **Enrollment Process:** The Exchange will make eligibility determination, enrollment, and renewal or change of health coverage simple, seamless, and consumer-friendly, requiring a single application for all health plan options, including TennCare and CoverKids.
7. **Essential Health Benefits:** The Exchange will ensure that enrollees have access to physical and behavioral health services

that adhere to guidelines developed by the American Academy of Pediatrics, the Institute of Medicine, and the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration.

**8. Provider Network:** The Exchange will foster broad access to comprehensive, coordinated health care of high quality through a diverse, robust network of health care providers.

The LWVTN Action Committee meets every other Monday throughout the session (2/21, 3/7, 3/21 & so on) at Stewart Clifton's office (see calendar). For more information contact Chair Barbara Devaney ([bdevaney@comcast.net](mailto:bdevaney@comcast.net)) or LWVTN President Margie Parsley ([mparsley99@comcast.net](mailto:mparsley99@comcast.net)).

## Education Update

Metro Nashville Public School **District 9 Board Member Kay Simmons** alerts LWVN members to the 2011 Legislative Agenda supported by the Tennessee School Boards Association, which includes the following:

- **Basic Education Program/State Funding:** The TSBA believes the General Assembly should continue to emphasize education and its sustained funding as the top budget priority while making every effort to recognize increased costs due to inflation and growth
- **At-Will Employment for Support Staff:** The Association supports legislation to recognize the support staff of school systems as at-will employees in order to provide superintendents the actual ability to manage productive, efficient, and safe schools
- **Teacher Tenure:** TSBA supports legislation to change the statutory provisions regarding tenure to require school boards to review a teacher's performance and evaluation every five years whereby tenure may be renewed or revoked
- **Fiscal Independence:** TSBA supports legislation to provide fiscal autonomy to boards of education
- **Federal and Private Grants:** TSBA supports legislation clarifying that any federal or private grants that a school system receives are not within the scope of negotiations for systems involved in collective bargaining
- **Absence for Military Service:** TSBA supports legislation clarifying that there is no vacancy in office when a local school board member is serving his/her country
- **Appointed Directors of Schools:** TSBA supports the appointment of the director of schools by the board of education and opposes any measure to revert to the process of electing superintendents

**LWVN Education Chair Debby Gould** reports on upcoming legislation to change teacher tenure rules. One item on Governor Haslam's education agenda this year will be a push to change the guidelines for awarding tenure to public school teachers. Currently, the standard is that tenure decisions are made in a teacher's third year of teaching. The topic has been a flashpoint in education circles with a lot of discussion about ways to get rid of "bad teachers" and a lot of pushback from TEA, the state teachers' union. To understand the issue, a little bit of background information is needed.

In January 2010, the state legislature passed Governor Bredesen's education reform package that included some highly significant legislation for K-12 education. For the first time, a link was established between student achievement and a teacher's evaluation, and another link was created between the teacher evaluation process and significant employment decisions—including tenure and dismissal. An element of the teacher's evaluation will now include (when available) a three-year average of the value-added component of students' test scores. The Tennessee Board of Education will be completing its policy revisions that spell out further details of the teacher evaluation process this spring.

This creates an obvious conflict in the timeline for decision-makers who must determine if a teacher will receive tenure: It is not possible to complete a tenure review of a teacher at the end of three years if it is to be based, in part, on a composite of three years of student test scores. Clearly, the timeline for tenure review (and the safeguards for due process) will need to be revised. However, the creation of a new evaluation process is still a work in progress. It might be premature to change the rules for tenure before the evaluation process is adequately determined and teachers understand the new rules that will govern their career options. This will be an important piece of legislation and the full ramifications for teachers and schools will need to be fully considered.

In addition, Gould shares Stand for Children Tennessee Political Director Emily Ogden's excellent blog explaining the Tennessee legislative process (<http://www.stand.org/tnblog>).

## LWVN Stars

League members recently honored for **stellar achievement** in our community include:

- LWVN Metro Government Chair **Mary Beth Ikard**, communications director for the Nashville Area Metropolitan Planning Organization, is a busy young woman! She has been appointed to the board of the Tennessee Conservation

Voters, representing the state charter of a national organization, the League of Conservation Voters. She is also being recognized on February 24 as a Nashville Business Journal **Woman of Influence** in the Community Supporter category along with Cathy Holland, Susan Huggins, Jan Maddox, and Shirley Zeitlin. On March 9 at the CABLE luncheon, Ikard will represent the League among 18 other young professionals vying for the new **2011 ATHENA Young Professional Leadership Award**. The Nashville ATHENA Award and Scholarship Program is introducing the international ATHENA YPL Award, which recognizes emerging women leaders across professional sectors for exemplary leadership. It honors women between the ages of 25 and 40 who excel in their chosen field, devote time and energy to their community in a meaningful way, and serve as a role model for young women. Additional information is available at: [http://www.nashvillecable.org/index.php?option=com\\_content&task=view&id=143&Itemid=143](http://www.nashvillecable.org/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=143&Itemid=143).

- **Carol Westlake**, executive director of the Tennessee Disability Coalition, is the 2011 League ATHENA nominee. One of 28 exemplary women nominated for this year's award, Westlake joins a group honored since 1991 for their skills in business, leadership, and service to this community by the **ATHENA Award and Scholarship Program**. The award actively supports and celebrates the ATHENA mission: supporting, developing, and honoring women leaders, inspiring women to achieve their full potential, and helping to create balance in leadership worldwide. Westlake provides a solid professional track record having established a successful nonprofit business model that has grown from a sole employee serving a coalition of six agencies to one with 65 member agencies and more than 40 employees that supports the community, not just through its work, but also by hiring, training and mentoring people with disabilities, family members of people with disabilities, and especially women who fall into those groups. In addition, Westlake is a strong believer in community service and civic engagement. She has been a member of an international Philanthropic Educational Organization since 1977, which celebrates the advancement and education for women through scholarships, grants, and awards, and is an active member of LWVN, Women in Numbers, and the Nashville Women's Political Caucus. She has also served on the Nashville Chamber of Commerce Prosperity Project and the National Service Inclusion Advisory Team for Volunteer Tennessee. This year's recipient will be announced at the ATHENA Award Event on March 31 at The Parthenon ([http://www.nashvillecable.org/index.php?option=com\\_content&task=view&id=143&Itemid=143](http://www.nashvillecable.org/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=143&Itemid=143)).

## New LWVN Members

Over the past 18 months the League has welcomed a number of new members. We will be featuring their profiles in this and upcoming issues of the *Voter*. This month, please meet Anna Shepherd, Celeste Reed, and Libby Thurman.



**Anna Shepherd** had heard of the League of Women Voters for years but had never attended a League meeting or event and so wasn't familiar with the League's scope of activities. Kay Simmons invited her to a League event in December at her home. After talking with League President Jo Singer, she learned exactly what the League did as an organization and decided to join.

Shepherd hopes to glean a better picture of political and social awareness in Nashville from the League. She wants to become more informed about Nashville's issues from a variety of viewpoints.

As member of the Metro Nashville Public School (MNPS) Board, education is among Shepherd's top concerns. She salutes Dr. Register's efforts to involve the entire community in improving Nashville's education system. She wants to ensure that each child that enters the school system, regardless of skill set or learning style, is entitled to a quality education.

We are proud to welcome School Board Member Anna Shepherd to the League. Her tireless efforts to improve Nashville's education system will be an asset to our group.

**Celeste Reed** also heard about the League from member Kay Simmons. Simmons' excitement describing what the League was doing on the Hill sparked her interest. Celeste joined the League because she wanted to be involved with a group that advocates for issues only after it has done research and reached consensus. She truly respects the League's effort to look at all sides of an issue and makes careful evaluations before taking a position.

Reed hopes to become a Leaguer who is part of an informed electorate; someone who understands the process and participates responsibly. Several issues are important to her: first, advocacy for poor families and others on the economic margins in our society; second, providing quality education to our children *now* in order to produce a successful Nashville and USA down the road; and third, ensuring a clean, unpolluted environment for everyone because of an involved community. Reed hopes to work with the League as an advocate for all three. Her thoughtful insight is a good addition for the LWVN.

A longtime Nashville resident, **Libby Thurman** knew that the League of Women Voters of Nashville existed, but she had



never known a League member. In the summer of 2010, Thurman was looking for a way to become more active in her community and began reading the League's newsletters online. She took the membership plunge shortly thereafter and her only regret is not joining sooner.

Thurman is a proponent of citizen engagement for a strong and sustainable community and she has found no shortage of likeminded individuals in the League. A member of the Voter Services Committee, Libby is particularly interested in the League's efforts to promote secure and standardized voting processes. She is also interested in initiatives that work to improve the health of Tennessee residents. Professionally, Thurman is a legislative and policy analyst who specializes in authoring research documents for the Tennessee General Assembly.

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

The **LWVN Directory** was mailed to members the first week in February. If you have not received your copy, please contact September Landers, LWVN office administrator at [lwvnash@gmail.com](mailto:lwvnash@gmail.com) or leave a voice message at (615)297-7134. The package also included a Membership Handbook and personalized membership card.

**Looking for Leaders**—The LWV of Tennessee is an organization that stretches from Memphis to Knoxville and many places in between. In all, we have nine local leagues, active in their communities, lending their voices to the public discourse, doing what LWV does best: making democracy work.

Being a member of the State Board is a tremendous opportunity to reach farther than your immediate locale, share your expertise, hone your skills as a leader and have fun getting to know many diverse and interesting people. We are in the process of seeking Board members for the 2011-2013 term. The entire slate is elected at Convention in the Spring, and may consist of at least 5 and no more than 8 elected directors. Anyone who is a voting member of the LWVTN may be on the Board, so if you are a paid member of your local League, you're all set. In general, the Board meets four times a year, usually over a weekend. The winter meeting is usually a teleconference call.

As with everything in LWV, there are resources to help you do your job, both written and personal. No reinventing the wheel here! Portfolio chairs for health care, education, membership, finance, natural resources and voter service will be needed, along with the positions of president, vice-president/s and secretary. Refer to your bylaws to get the job descriptions, or go online to [LWV.org](http://LWV.org) for further research.

Please give serious consideration to helping your League reach forward into the next 90 years by lending some of your time and talent to serving on our LWVTN Board. Contact one of the Nominating Committee members today: Claudia Lever ([levercs@earthlink.net](mailto:levercs@earthlink.net)), Sharon Fidler ([Sasfidler@aol.com](mailto:Sasfidler@aol.com)), and Jo Singer ([gjosinger@aol.com](mailto:gjosinger@aol.com)).

**ATTENTION!** *The Nashville Voter* became a 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](mailto:LWVNash@gmail.com). This will ensure you receive all LWV newsletters, event invitations, Third Thursday announcements, and Call to Action alerts. Thank you, *Voter* Editor Sue Bredensteiner ([suebred@mindspring.com](mailto:suebred@mindspring.com)).