



THE NASHVILLE VOTER

The League of Women Voters of Nashville

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www.LWVnashville.org

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CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Date	Time	Place	Description
Wednesday June 15	2:00 pm to 5:00 pm	Barbara Devaney's 2813 Tyne Blvd, Nashville 37215	LWVTN Action Committee Retreat The committee will review 2011 Legislative Session accomplishments noting strengths and weaknesses, and assess current relationships with legislators. Members will also discuss carryover priorities from 2011 session and new priorities for 2012. For more information contact Chair Barbara Devaney (bdevaney@comcast.net) or LWVTN President Margie Parsley (mparsley99@comcast.net).
Monday August 22	5:00 pm to 7:00 pm	E/Spaces, Inc. 4322 Harding Pike, Suite 417 Nashville 37205	LWV Nashville Board Meeting Guests are welcome at the League's monthly board meetings. NOTE: Location is upstairs of the Belle Meade Publix on Harding Pike near White Bridge Road. Covered parking is available. Use the elevator bank to the office building (not grocery), exit on the 4th floor, then left off the elevator, and left again to the conference room.

From Nashville's President

We had a great time at the Annual Meeting! I hope those who could not join us will enjoy the photos in this issue of the *Voter*. The City Club was lovely and our speaker, Mayor **Kim McMillan** of Clarksville, was delightfully entertaining and informative. She has had so many adventures during her service to the people in her district and city—she could write a best seller. Many, many thanks to Kim and to everyone that made our evening special. And congratulations to **Sue Bredensteiner**, our 2011 Molly Todd Award recipient. Sue has been a fantastic advocate and League leader for many years, and we were pleased to recognize her ongoing efforts.

We have elected a new Board, effective that evening. It is comprised of some veterans and some newcomers—a perfect mix. Get to know them a bit as you read on. We have had our Board Retreat and are looking forward to being of continued service to our community during the coming year. Lots of great ideas were brought up and plans made to address the local, state, and national issues important to the League and our members. We need everyone to be involved and find their niche. Contact any of your board members to learn how you can help.

As we look forward to another year, please be sure your membership is up to date. Many of us have been confused about the League membership year. When we sent out renewal letters on May 31, we highlighted July 1 as the renewal deadline. Membership Chair **Freda Player** (473-6971 or fredaplayer@hotmail.com) and her committee will focus on new member recruitment from July through September 1. And you can help by recruiting at least one new member this year and every year; introduce friends, colleagues, and family to the most respected and effective grassroots organization in the country, so they too can **Advocate—Educate—Reform—Empower**. In October, the new LWVN Directory will mail to new and renewed members. Remember, you can renew your membership or donate securely to the League through our website www.lwvnashville.org.

This year, the Nashville *Voter* will arrive in your e-mail box every month to better help keep you informed of League activities. Metro Davidson County Council elections are August 4, and the last day to register to vote in that election is July 5—be sure all your friends are ready to make a difference by casting their vote. And please have a wonderful, safe summer!

In League, *To Singer*

The LWV Makes Democracy Work

Last month LWVN President **Jo Singer** discussed the work that the national League is doing in the broader community. On April 29, in Massachusetts and Missouri, the League began running television ads pointing out recent votes by Senators Scott Brown and Claire McCaskill to delay or eliminate the ability of the EPA to enforce the Clean Air Act. The ads are hard hitting and factual and can be viewed at the LWVUS website (http://www.lwv.org/AM/Template.cfm?Section=Clean_Air_Defense). “These ads were made possible through the support of trusted partners in the environmental and public health community and were not paid for by membership dues,” LWV President **Elisabeth MacNamara** said. “Because the ads are powerful, they have provoked a response, including accusations of partisanship,” she continued. “If votes in Congress on issues as important to the American public as clean air can only be addressed on television by members of a political party, then democracy is not safe. If the only time our representatives can be held accountable is every two, four or six years, democracy is not safe. If we accede to the media fixation on the horse race, then we abandon all hope of ever engaging each other on the facts.”

This important ongoing issue has prompted a nationwide League Action Alert and Singer adds: “Air quality is one of the issues that League members have made their priority over many years. Our voices were instrumental in getting the first clean air standards established. And these standards are currently at risk of being rescinded, Our voices are needed again.”

If you like breathing and knowing that the air you breathe is not contaminated by pollutants and harmful toxics, you need to let your congresswomen and men, senators, and President Obama know that undoing the Clean Air Act and harming the ability of the Environmental Protection Agency to regulate harmful carbon pollution is **reckless** and puts **America’s health and prosperity at risk**.

Tell them that you want to continue to take deep breaths. You want the air you breathe to be low in smog. You want a Clean Air Act that continues to charge the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to set air quality standards that protect public health.

Based on the science, the EPA is expected to set a new smog standard this July. The oil, coal, and other polluting industries are pressuring the Obama administration to delay the standard or to issue a weak standard so that they can continue to pollute our air in order to meet their bottom line. Tell the president to **stand up against pollution and keep our air clean**.

Our health and environment are under attack by big polluters. We can’t let them stop EPA’s efforts to clean up life-threatening pollution which will save thousands of lives and improve the quality of life for millions more.

LWVN Annual Meeting

The May 22 Annual Meeting at the City Club was festive and fun. New and long-time members greeted each other and caught up. After dinner, President **Jo Singer** welcomed the gathering and introduced Treasure **Lee Fairbend** who presented and explained the proposed 2011-2012 budget, which was approved. Second Vice President **Barbara Gay** then presented the proposed 2011-2012 LWVN Program of Service—the priorities for the coming League year, followed by Nominating Chair state Representative **Brenda Gilmore** who presented the 2011-2012 slate. Both were approved.



League lobbyist and member **Stewart Clifton** offered a brief overview of the League’s priority legislative issues during the just ended legislative session. He spoke particularly to the League’s work for a responsible budget designed to protect the social infrastructure and the good news for social service advocates contained in Governor Haslam’s adjusted budget amendment, which restored an 8.5% reduction to Mental Health and cuts to the Department of Intellectual and

Developmental Disabilities for residential provider rates. Additional related good news is that these funds are being made with recurring “hard” dollars.

Clifton also spoke to the League’s work on hydraulic fracturing, which moved the issue forward this year and resulted in a resolution putting the House on record as proactively supporting new regulations of the oil and gas industry for this type of drilling. The retention of dedicated environmental funds from the Tennessee Real Estate Transfer Fund was another environmental success, which will raise approximately \$16 million for conservation land funding including wetlands protection; land for state parks and natural areas; improvements; and work to clean up streams next to farms.

Metro Government Chair **Mary Beth Ikard** had the pleasure of introducing Clarksville Mayor **Kim McMillan**, the keynote speaker. McMillan, calm and serene, truly makes everything look easy. A lawyer, wife, and mother, who enjoys triathlons for sport, she has marked her political career by running and winning against well-known candidates. One of her delightful anecdotes described an early bipartisan committee meeting with senior legislators who thought she was an intern rather than a new state Representative. With grace, she got the coffee and earned ongoing support from both sides of the aisle. In 2002 she became the first woman in Tennessee history to be elected Majority Leader of the State House of Representatives and in 2004 her colleagues elected her to that post for the second time. In 2006 she did not seek re-election to the House of Representatives; instead she accepted Governor Bredesen’s appointment to serve in his Cabinet as Senior Advisor to the Governor.

Not only did McMillan engage the League audience but we understand the Tennessee Republican Caucus meeting next door enjoyed her remarks as well due to a glitch in the sound system.



President Singer returned to the podium to thank and honor Mayor McMillan with a membership in the LWVN. And then she presented the 2011 Molly Todd Award. **Molly Todd**, for whom this award was named, came to Nashville in the 1940s and immediately became an active member of the community. She helped establish the League of Women Voters in Nashville in 1948 and was its first president. She was exceptional in translating League principles into action, using her skill to organize support for Nashville’s transition to a metropolitan form of government. She was a plaintiff in the 1962 Baker vs Carr reapportionment case, a delegate to the 1970 Tennessee Constitutional Convention, and later ran for office. A frequent monitor at the state legislature on League issues, especially the income tax, her presence was always noticed on the Hill because when she spoke, legislators listened.

To the recipient’s enormous surprise, Singer announced: “Our Molly Todd award winner this year mirrors this community activism. **Sue Bredensteiner** is a ‘by the book’ Leaguer who understands the nuances of our organization and how best to use solid League procedure to further our goals. She sees all sides of a question and educates those around her about how an issue may be understood relative to League positions. She is biomedical writer who put her professional expertise to use serving on LWVUS Health Care Reform study committee in 2008-2009 and was the moving force behind the LWVN healthcare forum, which was presented, filmed, and rebroadcast on public TV in 2009-2010. She continues to advocate for League health care positions through our LWVTN Action committee.

“She has been a quiet force in and for the Nashville League for almost 20 years and a League member for over 25 years. She was born in Chicago, is married with two grown daughters, and came to Nashville from Louisville, Kentucky, where she was active in a number of community organizations. She has served most recently on our board as health care chair, transitioned to *Voter* editor this past year, and is the first to volunteer for any task.

“She is also active in many other areas, reflecting her wonderfully diverse range of interests. We are proud to claim Sue as our 2011 Molly Todd Award recipient!”

Introducing the LWVN Board

The new LWVN Board of Directors was recruited by a nominating committee comprised of **Brenda Gilmore**, chair, **Mary Beth Ikard**, **Pat Post**, **Karen Weeks**, and **Lynn Williams** and will fulfill board terms for 2011-2013. Acknowledging that it's much easier to interact with people when we know a little bit about them, we asked each to submit a short bio and photo. Next time you see one of us, please stop and say Hi!



President **Jo Singer** has been League member since 1983 in a number of Leagues across the country including Macon, Georgia, Dallas, Texas, and Chester County, Pennsylvania. She has also served on the LWV of Georgia and now serves the LWV of Tennessee. Singer is a physical therapist engaged in home health work in and around Davidson and Williamson Counties. She and her husband have lived in Franklin since 2006 and have two grown and married children and two granddaughters. In addition to league work, she enjoys reading, singing in the choir, and music of all kinds.

1st Vice President **Vickie Ziegler** is a relative new comer, having been a LWV member for just a year before joining the board. A native Nashvillian, she has observed the increasingly prominent role of women who are focused on making positive change in their community. A graduate of Peabody College at Vanderbilt University, Ziegler has taught high school biology, developed the Science Outreach Program for Vanderbilt Medical Center, and was community relations coordinator for Metro Nashville Public Schools. It seems only natural that she seek out speakers for the League's Friday Forums—vocal proponents of current issues about which they can educate and inform members and the community.



2nd Vice President **Barbara Gay** has been a member of the League since 1980 when she served on the board as juvenile justice chair. She has worked for Metro public schools as a school social worker and psychologist for 24 years and has been on the League's Education Committee. Barbara retired in 2008 and last year organized the LWVN Observer Corps and serves as secretary of the LWVTN Action Committee. She and her husband have two grown daughter.

Treasurer **Lee Fairbend** has been a member of the League of Women Voters since 1993, working at an occasional voter registration booth and poll watching volunteer shift. After retiring from the children's literacy organization that she helped to incubate, she decided to get more involved and last year accepted the position of treasurer on the Nashville board. Fairbend is a bookwoman, a lover of cats, and holds her grandson in great esteem. She and her husband have three grown daughter.



The League of Women Voters of Nashville was the first organization Secretary **Diane Di Ianni** joined when she moved here from Boston in 2008. Since then, she has become active in the League at the local, state, and national level. She currently serves on the LWVTN Action Committee, focusing her efforts on preserving merit-based selection of appellate judges. She also is a member of the LWVUS national study committee on privatization (2011-2012). Professionally, Di Ianni is an attorney and works in the area of government relations on behalf of education clients during the legislative session. Her creative pursuits include writing plays and, in 2009-2010, she was a local playwright-in-residence with Tennessee Repertory Theatre's Ingram New Works Lab and Festival. Her plays have been performed in Nashville and Boston

Education Chair **Debby Gould** has held a variety of positions that have involved her in educational policy, professional development, and programming during the past 22 years including executive director for the Nashville Public Education Foundation, program director for PENCIL Foundation, and educational consultant for United Ways of Tennessee. She holds a BA from Vanderbilt University, a master's in sociology of education from the University of Manitoba, and a master's in public administration from MTSU. Gould has been involved in a variety of educational organizations in the Nashville community including the Metro Public, Education & Government Access Oversight Committee, the Nashville Coalition for Education on Immigration, Alignment Nashville, Tennessee Arts and Science Consortium, and the Community Relations Committee of the Jewish Federation of Nashville. A board member of the LWVN for the past five years, she has enjoyed the opportunity to work with a passionate and caring group who are committed to improving the quality of life and informed participation in government in the Nashville community.





Health Care Chair **Patricia Stokes**, a native of Brunswick, Georgia, moved to Nashville in 2006, and is the current president and CEO of the Urban League of Middle Tennessee. Stokes, a graduate of Howard University and Smith College School of Social Work, has twenty-nine years of nonprofit management experience. Before joining the Urban League, Stokes was program manager in the Center for Women’s Health Research at Meharry Medical College. She has expertise in a variety of organizational management techniques. She also serves on the executive committee of the Interdenominational Ministers Fellowship (IMF), the Workforce Development committee of the Mayor’s Poverty Reduction Initiative, the Centennial Medical Board of Directors, and is a coordinating member of Speaking with One Voice. Stokes and her husband have three adult children as well as nine year old Jon-Edward Christopher Stokes.

Human Needs Co-chair **Jan Sobotka** grew up in Stillwater, Oklahoma and graduated from Oklahoma State University in 1966. She has lived in Washington, worked on Capitol Hill, and taught for the Urban Teacher Corps. Sobotka holds a MAT from Antioch College, and a master’s in Public Administration from TSU. She has worked at the JFKennedy Center at Vanderbilt, as a maternal and child health consultant with the Tennessee Department of Public Health, as special assistant to the Tennessee Commissioner of Human Services, and as a nonprofit executive with several health and human service organizations in Nashville and Atlanta. In 1997, she moved to the San Francisco Bay area where she served on the boards of the Menlo Park League of Women Voters and the Pacific Art League. She and her husband returned to Nashville three years ago. Her interests include reading, baseball, watercolor painting, and travel.



Her Human Needs Co-chair is **Reba Holmes**.



LWVTN Action Committee Liaison **Judy Raines** is a Richmond, Virginia native who moved to Nashville in 2003. She spent most of her time volunteering until she became the administrative assistant for the League from 2007-2009. It was through this work experience that she developed her interest in enhancing the League’s effectiveness through communicating with Tennessee legislators. Her particular interest this year has been the oversight and regulation of the hydraulic fracturing process in Tennessee. Raines’ outgoing personality makes her a natural on the Hill.

Last year **Freda Player** was recruited to join the LWVN because members knew she would make an excellent membership chair. Through her works in politics, Freda knew about the League as the nonpartisan sponsor of political debates across the state. Player believed joining the League would complement her vocation which is involved in the divisive atmosphere of day to day politics. She has found it refreshing to work with people who want to have an effective, responsible, and a responsive government. Working with others who have a real desire to increase citizens’ participation in government has reaffirmed her personal commitment. The most surprising thing Freda has learned about the League is that men can be members and are often active—even holding office— across Tennessee and around the country.



Metro Government Chair **Mary Beth Ikard** is a climate-change-concerned transit geek who directs communications for the federally-mandated Nashville Area MPO—a regional partnership for mobility, economic prosperity, and environmental sustainability through quality investments in transportation. She’s an accredited public relations practitioner with more than ten years’ experience in service to government, nonprofit, and private sector organizations. In addition to her role with LWVN, she serves on the board of directors for the Tennessee Conservation Voters, on the advisory board for Transit Now Nashville, and co-chairs the Generation Conservation (Gen-C) steering committee for The Nature Conservancy. Ikard holds a bachelor’s degree in journalism and English from Indiana University.

Finance Chair **Carol McSwiney** joined the League after attending a LWVN coffee for state Representative Mike Stewart and feels delighted to have joined forces with such an impressive group. McSwiney believes in the value of an informed citizenry and is happy to have participated in the Observer Corps, reporting on the Senate and House Finance Committees this year. As a member of the LWVTN Action Committee, she was on the Hill most weeks, observing and trying to meet a legislator or two; in so doing, she had the chance to talk with them about some of the issues that the League holds dear. She also serves on the Voter Service Committee, participating in poll-watching. She spent her professional life in the world of banking, corporate lending, and financial services, but now enjoys teaching and tutoring GED students on a part-time basis.





Publicity Chair **Stacy Nunnally** is an expert nonprofit manager with over ten years experience in executive leadership. Her career has been dedicated to the nonprofit sector, working primarily in the areas of social and economic justice in Tennessee. Nunnally has worked with the Girl Scouts, Rape and Sexual Abuse Center, Vanderbilt University Women's Center, and the Tennessee Economic Council on Women. Recently, that passion and activism has been translated into her own business, Stacy Nunnally Consulting, specializing in social media strategy, nonprofit management, funding development, community building, advocacy, and public policy for nonprofits, small businesses, and political entities. Her goal is to amplify voices and connect communities. Nunnally is the immediate past chair of Planned Parenthood of Middle and East Tennessee and a member of the steering committee of the Tennessee Economic Summit for Women. An alumna of Vanderbilt University, a graduate of the Young Leaders Council, and a finalist in the 2007 Nashville Emerging Leaders Awards, she has held numerous leadership positions on volunteer committees.

Voter Service Co-chair **Lynn Williams** (*Off-Board*) is a grassroots organizer for the National Association of Community Health Centers and a communications consultant who works professionally in civic engagement. A former Metro Councilmember, she has served as LWN Voter Services chair or co-chair since 2003. She has represented LWV before the House Local and State and Local Government committee in the Voter ID debate, worked to maintain the Tennessee Voter Confidence Act, organized Davidson County nonpartisan poll-worker projects, and created a voter registration train-the-trainer session for LWN. She represents LWVN on the Tennessee HAVA Task Force, and is a LWVTN state coach in the LWVUS 2011 Membership Growth and Leadership Development program.



Voter Service Co-chair **Libby Thurman** is a longtime Nashville resident who 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 Service 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.

Voter Editor **Sue Bredensteiner** served on the LWN Board in the early 1990s as health care chair, publicity chair, 1st vice president, and president-elect, and as the publicity chair of the LWVTN. Professional and family obligations overtook discretionary time, so she assumed a supportive rather than active role with the League. She has served as the League's appointed representative to the Metropolitan Board of Conduct since 2007, and on the LWN nominating committee in 2008. A biomedical writer professionally, Bredensteiner rejoined the LWN Board in 2008 as health care chair and also served on LWVUS Health Care Reform study committee in 2008-2009 writing several informational papers for publication on the LWVUS website. She also currently serves on the LWVTN Action committee. She and her husband have two grown daughter and enjoy gardening and travel.



Nominating Committee (*Off-Board*), Brenda Gilmore, chair, Pat Post, and Betsy Walkup; Environment, Burkley Allen (on leave of absence).

ANNOUNCEMENTS—THANK YOU! THANK YOU!

The LWN gives a special shout out to **E|SPACES**—a new kind of office—designed for people who work from home, their cars, coffee shops, hotel lobbies, in other words mobile, connected professionals. This attractive business center combines the functionality of state-of-the-art offices and a wide variety of work and meeting spaces with the aesthetics of a comfortable, inviting, and professional community. Meeting rooms can be scheduled in advance. The LWN appreciates holding our monthly meetings at **E|SPACES**, 4322 Harding Pike, Suite 417, Nashville, TN 37205 (615.777.8514; info@espaces.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 by sending your e-mail address to LWVNash@gmail.com. This will ensure you receive all LWV newsletters, event invitations, meeting announcements, and Call to Action alerts. Thank you, *Voter* Editor Sue Bredensteiner (suebred@mindspring.com).