



THE NASHVILLE VOTER

The League of Women Voters of Nashville

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www.LWVnashville.org

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September 2010

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Date	Time	Place	Description
Thursday September 16	11:45 am	Whole Foods Market—Salud! Hill Center 4021 Hillsboro Pike Green Hills	Third Thursday Lunch—The Art of Voter Registration Training Lynn Williams will demonstrate her Train the Trainers module. For additional information, contact Vicki Ziegler (Vziegler@comcast.net).
Friday September 17	10:00 am to 11:00 am	Belmont University Curb Event Center, 1st Floor Beaman A & B	Integrity in Politics A panel discussion with US Representative Marsha Blackburn, US Representative Jim Cooper, and Stewart Clifton, a lobbyist for the nonprofit sector for both state and local government, moderated by Dr. Pat Raines, Dean of the Business School and Interim Provost at Belmont. Access reserved parking on the top floor of the Curb Event Center parking garage by taking Belmont to Bernard Boulevard, turn right onto Bernard and up the hill to the garage entrance, then turn left into the parking garage. Follow the covered walkway (pedestrian exit) to the Curb Center/Maddox Grand Atrium entrance, on the east side of the building.
Tuesday, September 21	5:30 pm to 7:00 pm	Rumours East 1112 Woodland (1 block east of 5 Points at the corner of South 12 th Street) East Nashville	The League and the City—Membership Party Join us to relax and chat with new and current members. With cooler weather, this is a great time to enjoy the patio at Rumours East with your beverage of choice and some serious nibbles. We'll discuss new and exciting League events, including the revamped Observer Corps. Come out for fun and get involved with the LWVN! Parking on the street. Cash bar features happy hour specials (2 for 1 wine, \$5 cocktails); hors d'oeuvre provided. Contact Freda Player with any questions or RSVP to her at 473-6971 or fredaplayer@hotmail.com .
Saturday, September 25	All day training	Cumberland Mountain State Park Crossville, TN	Ruth S. Shur Leadership Institute Membership Recruitment Initiative Review best practices to recruit new members, gain visibility in the community, and develop new leaders with the Tennessee coaching team and LWVUS Shur Fellow Caroline Emmons-Schramm. Leagues will create a year-long plan for growth and receive support to successfully achieve their 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. Contact Lynn Williams for more information (lynn.wms@comcast.net ; 289-6499).
Saturday, September 25	9:30 am to 4:30 pm	Second Presbyterian Church 3511 Belmont Nashville, TN	Tennesseans for Fair Taxation's 2010 Annual Membership Meeting Click here for more info: https://app.e2ma.net/app/view:CampaignPublic/id:1407759.6772723853/rid:63ffe6fc505b6c39e5738bb270c53a80

Monday September 27	5:15 pm	E/Spaces, Inc. 4322 Harding Pike, Suite 417 Nashville, TN	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 October 21	11:45 am	Farmer's Market 2 nd Floor Meeting Room 900 Rosa Parks Blvd Nashville, TN	Third Thursday Lunch—Increasing the League's Visibility Barbara Gay will discuss the organizational structure and importance of the LWVN Observer Corps to the League's advocacy role and its community visibility. For additional information, contact Vicki Ziegler (Vziegler@comcast.net) or Barbara Gay (barbara.b.gay@gmail.com).
Saturday & Sunday November 6-7		Baymont Inn & Suites 1151 South Jefferson Cookeville, TN	LWVTN Fall Conference—Save the date! Look for more information next month.

From Nashville's President

We've begun an exciting year and LWVN Board members are ready to chart new territory with your help! There are many opportunities for learning and service that you'll want to explore. For instance, our first Third Thursday lunch will provide vital information on how to successfully register voters and train others to do so too. Lynn Williams, our voter service chair, will lead the discussion and instruction.

League members have witnessed the importance of correct registration procedures when a mistake in the process has been used to disenfranchise voters. The League is all about ensuring that everyone's voice can be heard! First Vice President Vickie Ziegler has arranged for us to meet at the Whole Foods' upstairs classroom, Salud! Bring a brown bag or plan to grab a lunch downstairs from the incredible buffets and come on up!

Nashville League members assisted the LWVTN in presenting the first 2010 gubernatorial debate broadcast by NewsChannel 5 from Tennessee Tech University in Cookeville on September 14. We were particularly heartened to hear both candidates speak to the importance of religious freedom in Tennessee and across our nation when questioned about their views on the building of a new Islamic Center in Murfreesboro.

At the August Board meeting, we decided to add the PayPal payment option to our website, for those who like the convenience of paying dues or making donations to the League online. Treasurer Lee Fairbend and our office administrator, September Landers, plan to have the website option up and running later this month.

We hope you will participate in League activities as much as your schedule allows. There are myriad ways to be involved, as listed in the August *Voter*. If you did not receive your *Voter*, please contact September Landers at LWVNash@gmail.com or 297-7134.

In League, *Jo Singer*

Protecting Civil Liberties

Emphasizing the League's ongoing work to protect civil liberties, President Jo Singer shares a recent post from the LWVUS civil liberties listserv made by her good friend and colleague Susan Fields in Chester, Colorado: "The current noise to prevent the building of a Muslim mosque near the World Trade Center site should be disconcerting to those who are 'convinced that individual rights now protected by the Constitution should not be weakened or abridged' (the principle of individual liberties was incorporated into the national program by the 1976 LWVUS Convention, thus authorizing the League to act against major threats to basic constitutional rights; subsequent Conventions reaffirmed that commitment, and in 1982 the LWVUS Board authorized a specific statement of position on individual liberties as quoted here). If we do not stand up to the preservation of these rights, even when their application might result in an unpopular situation, we run the risk of such Constitution limiting actions spreading and obliterating these rights . . . Our country was founded on religious liberty. I believe the League ought to publicly stand up for the preservation of civil liberties by making clear its position statement on

the subject and its application to the current Muslim mosque controversy.”

In the current *Leaders' Update*, LWVUS President Elisabeth MacNamara adds her voice, saying “The League of Women Voters believes that every citizen should be protected in the right to vote . . . and that no person or group should suffer legal, economic or administrative discrimination.” These important words are excerpted from the Principles of the LWVUS, the concepts of government to which the League subscribes.

“This weekend mark[ed] the ninth anniversary of the September 11 attacks. This anniversary comes at a time when many hateful voices are raised in fear and ignorance, causing undue discrimination. Just this morning, my local newspaper, the *Atlanta Journal Constitution*, published a guest column from a newly naturalized citizen recounting his struggle to vote in the July primaries. Having already presented his naturalization papers in order to register in the first place, Mr. Herwig Goldemund was ordered by the Georgia Secretary of State to prove his citizenship again prior to the primary and, having done so, he was challenged once more at his polling place!

“League leaders must speak loudly and clearly in support of our principles. We are, by and large, a nation of immigrants. Cultural, ethnic and religious diversity have frequently not been welcomed in the United States, but they have always made us stronger. As we honor those whose lives were taken too soon on September 11, let us dedicate ourselves to making our country stronger and safer by reminding our communities of the importance of tolerance.”



October's Third Thursday Presents LVWN Observer Corps

On October 21, Barbara Gay will discuss how we can better protect our right to know and transparency in government that are integral to the health of our democracy. In an effort to keep members and the public informed about important issues, the LVWN is reviving a tried and true way to ensure such communication through a League Observer Corps. The Corps is composed of individuals or groups that attend important meetings, monitor issues, and report outcomes to LWVTN Action Committee.

Barbara will describe logistics and expected outcomes in her presentation about the Corps function in the legislative and community government process along with the importance of letting decision-makers know the League is interested in their work (see program description in the August *Voter*). For additional information contact Barbara Gay at 297-4145 or barbara.b.gay@gmail.com.

Advocacy

On October 10, 2010—**Global Day of Climate Action**—thousands of communities around the world will be addressing climate change by celebrating what people can do right now to make an impact, garnering media attention for climate action, and sending a strong message to decision-makers at all levels that it's time for them to do their job, too.

Help the LVWN and Nashville take part of this global movement by partnering with other like-minded people and groups to plan and carry out a project or event. The more people involved in the 10/10/10 activity, the greater the impact will be—with the media and elected officials—and the broader the base for future climate change action in our community.

The 10/10/10 campaign is being organized by 350.org, an international movement aimed at uniting the world around solutions to the climate crisis. The focus is on the number 350—as in 350 parts per million of carbon dioxide (ppm CO₂), the amount that leading climate scientists say is the safe upper limit for CO₂ in our atmosphere—so many activities will incorporate the number 350 in some way.

League members can coordinate plans and learn what others are doing on the League's climate change email list (to join the discussion, visit the For Members section of the LWVUS website [<http://lvwv.org>]).

EVENT IDEAS

- Draft a list of 10 things individuals can do to reduce their carbon footprint and get 350 people to sign a pledge to do at least one of these things by the end of 2010
- Organize a planting of 350 trees
- Sponsor a children's climate change poster contest and announce the winners on 10/10/10
- Organize a bike fair featuring such activities as a free bike tune-up, a 3.5-mile bike ride around-and-through downtown

- or a kids bike parade
- Organize an energy fair with displays of energy-efficient products, how-to presentations (e.g., home weatherization), and school kids' posters highlighting things individuals can do
- Sponsor a "green art" event featuring works that reflect the 350 message in some way
- Convene a sustainability summit featuring presentations and discussions about climate and energy policy, followed perhaps by a tour of a local "green" building or a native plant garden
- Collect signatures on a petition calling on your Members of Congress to pledge to enact strong energy and climate legislation -- no delay and no excuses

RESOURCES

- LWVUS *Toolkit for Climate Action* (<http://www.lwv.org/climatechangetoolkit>)
- 350.org's *Climate Activist Guide* (<http://wiki.350.org/climate+activist+guide>)

New Resource

A frequently requested item newly added to the national website is *League Basics* formerly known as *In League* (http://www.lwv.org/AM/Template.cfm?Section=In_League). Recently updated by the ad hoc committee of national, state, and local League leaders working on streamlining the League, this short guide is an essential reference for all League leaders and interested members. It contains information about nonpartisan policies, how to take action and other "core" League principles.

From the Preface:

“The League of Women Voters is a volunteer organization that does a professional job. The League tackles important public issues and is a respected, trusted asset in cities and towns across the country. League leaders empower others to define and accomplish goals—for themselves, for the organization, for their communities, and for the nation. Through these goals, the organization fulfills its mission and grows.

“Throughout its history, the League of Women Voters has been a dynamic, changing organization, adapting procedures to meet current and future needs. League leaders make their communities stronger, healthier, and more vibrant. This handbook and the additional information available on the League Web site (www.lwv.org) are essential tools to help League leaders be more effective and to help make the organization more effective.

“While there are fundamental similarities among Leagues everywhere, each League has its own special characteristics. The size, distribution, and demographics of membership; time and money resources; and community/state issues all affect the structure and operations of a League.

“*League Basics* contains essential policy and organizational information applicable to every local and state League. The Web site offers suggestions, advice, guidelines, and more detailed information to help leaders develop specific methods of operation to enable a League to accomplish its goals.”

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).