



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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April 2017

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- April 19, 2017, 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. BRAVO Volunteer Recognition Luncheon**, Curb Event Center- Belmont University, 2000 Belmont Ave., Nashville, TN, 37212.
- April 21, 2017, 2:00 p.m. Witness Walls**, Public Square Park at Historic Metro Courthouse, Corner of 3rd Avenue North and James Robertson Parkway, Nashville, TN. Free and open to the public.
- April 26, 2017, 10:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. The 54th Annual “State of Metro” Address presented by Mayor Megan Barry**. Bridgestone Arena, 501 Broadway, Nashville, TN 37203. Free and open to the public. [Live stream at: http://www.nashville.gov/News-Media/Streaming-Video.aspx](http://www.nashville.gov/News-Media/Streaming-Video.aspx)
- April 27, 2017, 4:00 p.m. to 5:30 p.m. Fundamentals of Democracy: The Vote, The Right, The Barriers**, Nashville Public Library, Main Library Auditorium, 651 Church Street, Nashville, TN 37219. Panelists Linda Wynn, Charles Grant, Doug Johnston, and Shanna Hughey will talk about the history of the Voting Rights Act of 1965 and the current challenges to voting rights. Sponsored by LWVN and LAW (Lawyers Association for Women). Free and open to the public. Brief reception begins at 4:00 p.m.
- April 29 to April 30, 2017. LWVTN Spring Convention**, Hyatt Place, 300 East Main Street, Hendersonville, TN 37075. For more information and to register, please go to www.lwvtn.org.
- May 2, 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. “Get in the Way” – A Documentary about the life of John Lewis**. Nashville Public Library, Main Library Auditorium, 651 Church Street, Nashville, TN 37219. Free and open to the public.
- May 5, 11:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. First Friday Hot Topics: Follow the Money: How the Metro Schools Budget Impacts Schools**. Second Harvest Food Bank – Metro Center, 331 Great Circle Rd., Nashville, TN 37228. Open to the public.
- May 10, 7:00 p.m. Health Care: A Right or a Privilege?** Featuring Congressman Jim Cooper and Dr. Larry Van Horn of Vanderbilt’s Owen School of Management. The Temple, Congregation Ohabai Sholom, 5015 Harding Pike, Nashville, 37205. Sponsored by The Temple and Congregation Micah.



President’s Message Debby Gould

April is a great month for celebrations and we have several of note.

LWVN is proud to be honored by **PENCIL** Foundation on **April 19th** as part of their 35th anniversary celebration. We are honored that LWVN will receive the **E. Bronson Ingram Award** for our role in bringing the community-school partnership concept to Nashville. It is exciting to see the long-term impact of LWVN in our community.

Councilman **Freddie O’Connell** has introduced an ordinance in Metro Council to rename Capitol Boulevard in honor of Nashville’s most famous suffragist, **Anne Dallas Dudley**. What an exciting tribute for us to celebrate! It is scheduled for second reading on April 18th. We will update you as this bill moves forward in Metro Council.

We are looking forward to adding to an important public conversation. **LWVN** and the **Lawyers’ Association for Women-Marion Griffin Chapter**, are co-sponsoring a public panel, **“Fundamentals of Democracy: The Vote, The Right, The Barriers”** on Thursday, April 27, 2017 from 4:00-5:30 p.m. in the auditorium of the

downtown Public Library. The panel is free and open to the public with a brief reception beginning at 4:00 p.m.

As part of the 2017 NashvilleReads celebration of the work of civil rights champion **Congressman John Lewis**, this panel will look at the legacy of the Voting Rights Act of 1965, the current barriers that keep citizens from voting, and roles that lawyers and citizens can take to increase access.

Panelists are:

Linda Wynn, B.S., M.S., M.P.A., Fisk University

Charles Grant, Esq., Baker Donelson

Doug Johnston, Esq., Barrett Johnston Martin & Garrison, LLC

Shanna Singh Hughey, Esq., ThinkTennessee

Finally, our thanks to **Sammy Cousino**, one of our student members from Vanderbilt University, for representing **LWVN** at a student forum to promote citizen engagement. We are excited to energize the next generation of **LWVN** leaders.



Mary Beth Ikard with Stewart Clifton

April First Friday Follow Up – Livable Nashville Follow-up

By 1st Vice President – Melissa Holden

“To make Nashville the greenest city in the Southeast, together we will work to conserve resources; increase equity of access to clean air, water, nature and the amenities of a livable community; and preserve and enhance the dynamic and authentic Nashville we love.” - Livable Nashville Vision Statement

On April 7, **Erin Hafkenschiel**, Director of Transportation and Sustainability, and **Mary Beth Ikard**, Transportation & Sustainability Manager, were invited to share the results of the recently released [Livable Nashville Draft Recommendations](#), which was issued in February 2017.

For background on this first report, in 2008, then **Mayor Karl Dean** convened a **Green Ribbon Committee** on Environmental Sustainability, and over the course of about 8 months, the group of stakeholders from private, public, civic, academic and environmental groups gathered citizens comments and conducted a survey that resulted in a [report recommending the city pursue 16 goals and 71 actions across five focus-areas](#): Greenhouse Gases, Education & Outreach, Energy & Building, Mobility, and Natural Resources.

Over the next several years, work began on a variety of prioritizing and implementation plans under the umbrella

of *NashvilleNext*, the city's 25-year comprehensive General Plan, which guides growth and development countywide. Projects and initiatives of the master plan work include *nMotion*, the Metropolitan Transit Authority (MTA) and Regional Transportation Authority's (MTA) strategic master plan; *WalknBike*, Metro's strategic master plan for sidewalks and bikeways; as well as a major 2016 update to *Metro's Parks and Greenways Master Plan*.

More recently, projects include *GEAR UP 2020*, a partnership with the Urban Land Institute of Nashville on infrastructure, *Smart Cities*, a project focused on improving the efficiency of city operations through use of data and technology, an *Intersection Improvement Program* – an improvement program to design and install safety features, road realignments, new medians, road reconstruction, sidewalks and crosswalks, ADA-compliant ramps, streetlight improvements, traffic signal upgrades, and restriping for bicycle accommodation at key intersections with a demonstrated need throughout the county. Another project underway is the *Traffic-Signal Optimization Plan*, which calls for Metro Public Works to implement new timing plans for 560 intersections on 19 major arteries throughout the county.

Proposed general recommendations of the **Livable Nashville** plan include:

- Implement the practice of sustainability across and throughout Metro Departments with assigned staff and metrics;
- Work with the local philanthropic sector to encourage strategic, environmentally-focused giving;
- Appoint more citizens with an environmental ethic or a background in environmental sciences to Metro Boards and Commissions;
- Encourage current and future mayoral administrations to dedicate staff to sustainability practice;
- Structure the Metro Code and its enforcing Department around achieving sustainability goals;
- Establish an annual “Green State of Metro” mayoral address to update the public and stakeholders on progress of implementation on Livable Nashville’s recommendations;
- Develop partnerships around sustainability measures with board-governed, Metro-affiliated agencies such MDHA and MNPS. (See the complete plans <http://www.nashville.gov/Mayors-Office/Infrastructure-and-Sustainability/Livable-Nashville-Recommendations.aspx>).

Mary Beth illustrated the multi-prong effort around the central theme of *Sustainability and Growth with Intention*, which includes the municipal government’s planned approach to protecting or enhancing **Natural Resources**, increasing efficiency of all modes of **Mobility**, creating practices or policies related to **Resiliency and Adaptability**, mitigating negative effects and contributors to **Climate and Energy** forces, encouraging **Green Buildings** and proactive solutions to **Waste Management**.

Sub-committees tasked with these issues include:

- **Natural Resources:** Sets measurable goals and recommendations to improve our region’s air quality, prevent water pollution in our rivers and streams, and preserve open space.
- **Mobility:** Sets measurable goals and recommendations to reduce the environmental impacts of the transportation sector, including greenhouse gas emissions and criteria air pollutants. Identifies opportunities to encourage low-carbon trip choices (walking, biking, transit).
- **Waste Reduction and Recycling:** Sets measurable goals and recommendations to increase recycling and composting and reduce overall waste generated in Davidson County across municipal, residential, commercial, and industrial sectors.
- **Green Buildings:** Sets measurable goals and recommendations to reduce GHG emissions, water use, and other environmental impacts generated by buildings, including Metro facilities, commercial, industrial, and residential properties.
- **Climate and Energy:** Provides oversight for an update to Nashville’s greenhouse gas inventory (last updated in 2011). Sets measurable goals and recommendations for Nashville and Metro to lower GHG emissions and energy consumption through gains in efficiencies and renewables.

We also learned that Nashville has been named to the **Rockefeller Foundation 100 Resilient Cities** (<http://www.100resilientcities.org/cities/entry/nashvilles-resilience-challenge#/-/>) and Mayor Barry has signed on to the **Compact of Mayors**, the world's largest cooperative effort among mayors and city officials to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, track progress, and prepare for the impacts of climate change.



The League of Women Voters of Nashville
Presents
FIRST FRIDAY
HOT TOPICS & LUNCH
Friday, May 5, 2017— 11:30 am to 1:00 pm

Plan to join League members and guests at the May 5th Hot Topic session:

Follow the Money: How the Metro Schools Budget Impacts Schools

Second Harvest Martin Distribution Center in Metro Center
331 Great Circle Road, Nashville 37228
Parking is Easy & Free!

Enjoy the Second Harvest Friday Lunch Buffet at \$12/person or byo brown bag.

For additional information about First Friday programs, contact Melissa Holden
at meholden01@comcast.net or 217-257-5193.

FOOD DRIVE: Second Harvest is always in need of food items. Together we can make a big difference by bringing one item per person to each meeting. The items most needed are Peanut Butter, Canned Meat (Chicken or Tuna), Canned Vegetables, Canned fruit, Pasta and Cereal.

For additional information, contact LWVNash@gmail.com

Please remember to LIKE the **LWVN** on Facebook

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Legislative Highlights

By 2nd Vice President – Barbara Gay

The **State Action Committee** has been hard at work following our priority bills. We have two bills concerning Elections that we hope will pass. One will allow citizens to request public records by email. The other bill will improve the voter registration records and the process for voter purging, hopefully avoiding a lawsuit.

Under **Open Government** we have been following Governor Haslam's plan to privatize maintenance services at state universities and state parks. Our President, **Marian Ott**, sent a letter to the Governor last year requesting more transparency and citizen involvement in the process. This has not happened and a contract was awarded to Jones, Lang, Lasalle, a Chicago company in which some administrators may be invested. It has not yet been officially signed or announced. With the help of **Jamey Dobbs** and **Lance McCold**, Knoxville League, Marian has urged

legislators to request an Economic Impact Statement for the outsourcing project to determine if this move will meet League privatization standards.

On **Education** the League has continued to oppose voucher bills including the pilot project that would impact only Memphis schools. The Governor supported the **Tuition Opportunity Bill** to provide instate tuition for undocumented students who have graduated from Tennessee high schools. Unfortunately, this bill failed.

We continue to support the expansion of **Health Care** in Tennessee and to secure federal money while it is still available. Our state may be one of the hardest hit by possible federal policy. Please contact the **Governor, Speaker Harwell**, and **Lt. Gov. McNally** and urge them to press for **Insure TN** or some expansion of **TNCare**, even if a special session is necessary. [Clare Sullivan](#) and I met on April 13th with **Representative Jim Cooper**, his staff, and other leaders of the TN Health Care Campaign. He urged us to continue to educate our citizens about health care, register voters, and improve our state's sad last place in voter turn out.

On the **Environment**, the Action Committee supported a bill to encourage homeowners and businesses to expand their investment in clean energy. We are discouraging the legislators from passing a bill to take back the regulation of coal mining from the federal government.

We expect the legislature to continue meeting into May. They will be considering the budget soon. We hope [League](#) members will continue to advocate for our priorities and attend our state convention on April 29th and 30th in Hendersonville. Our lobbyist, Stewart Clifton, will give us a more detailed report. I hope to see you there.



From our Treasurer

By Treasurer Winnie Forrester

We continue to have a healthy balance sheet, and fiscal year-to-date budget shows our income has exceeded our expenses. And, although March is one of our slower months, memberships continued to flow in. As a reminder, all contributions to the Education Fund are tax-deductible. While donations to our Operating Fund are not tax-deductible, that money is the lifeblood of our organization and keeps us running. We welcome both kinds of donations - small and large. They can be made online at <http://lwvnashville.org/donate/>, or by mail to League of Women Voters Nashville, P O Box 158369, Nashville, 37215. Many thanks to all of our supporters!



The Big Payback – A Community-wide Day for Online Giving

By President Debby Gould

Once again this year [LWVN](#) is excited to participate in the **Big Payback**, a community-wide on-line giving event sponsored by the **Community Foundation of Middle Tennessee**. **On Wednesday, May 3rd**, we will participate in this charitable extravaganza along with an astonishing array of non-profits that support and enrich our lives in Middle Tennessee.

The tax-deductible donations to [LWVN](#) will support our various community forums and educational programs. We are currently raising funds to commission an original ballet for middle school audiences that will tell the story for of how Tennessee gave American women the right to vote.

How does **The Big Payback** work? Kicking off at midnight on Wednesday, May 3rd, donors can make gifts online to any of the nonprofits, schools and religious institutions participating in the Big Payback. Special contests and matching gifts make this a great way to maximize your donations to LWVN. Be on the look out for more information in your email in the coming weeks or visit www.TheBigPayback.org.

Voter Services

By Voter Services Co-Directors Hazel Thornton and Lynn Questell

Thank you to everyone who stepped up to volunteer for voter registration duty in conjunction with the **Davidson County Election Commission** on April 17 and 18. Unfortunately, we were not able to participate in the election commission program this year, due to a conflict of regulations.

At this time, we don't have any registrations scheduled, and there are no elections in 2017, so it's pretty quiet in the voter service arena. We are looking forward to the rollout of on-line voter registration by the state election commission in fall 2017.



Community Connections

By Community Connections Co-Director Hasina Mohyuddin

The **LWV** is this year's recipient of the **Ingram Award** from the **PENCIL Foundation!** In honor of its 35th Anniversary, **PENCIL** wanted to recognize its founders at their annual volunteer luncheon, **Bravo**, on **Wednesday, April 19th**. **Sue Spickard**, President of Cumberland Valley Girl Scout Council and sustaining member of the Junior League of Nashville, and **Rosalind McGee**, President of the League of Women Voters, co-chaired a committee to gather information on successful school-community partnerships. This data was employed in building community support for Nashville public schools, and eventually helped establish **PENCIL** Foundation as a non-profit organization. **PENCIL** would like to celebrate this shared history of advocacy for school excellence and the lasting impact our work can have on education in Tennessee.

A few tickets are reserved for LWV members, free of charge. These will be distributed on a first come, first served basis. Please contact Hasina Mohyuddin at hmohyuddin@comcast.net if you are interested in attending the event.

BRAVO! is the largest gathering of **PENCIL** Partners all year! This annual event celebrates the Nashville community rallying around our public schools.

Wednesday, April 19
Belmont's Curb Event Center
11:30am - 1:00pm



Stay Informed about Upcoming Calendar Events!

If you get the electronic version of the **Voter**, we want you to know that the upcoming calendar events are available on our wonderful, new website – www.lwvnashville.org. On the right side of the home page the calendar scrolls on the events of the current and upcoming events thanks to **Tracy Depp**, who keeps the calendar current. If you haven't taken a look, do so to make sure you mark **your** calendar so you won't miss a thing!



THANK YOU! THANK YOU!

The League of Women Voters of Nashville gives a special shout out to the Nashville **YWCA** for graciously welcoming the LWVN Board for monthly meetings in their offices at 1608 Woodmont Boulevard, Nashville.



ATTENTION: *The Nashville Voter* is a digital publication. If you have received this copy of the *Voter* in the mail, it

means LWVN does not have an e-mail address for you. Please help us by sending your e-mail address to LWVNash@gmail.com. Inclusion on our e-mail database ensures your receipt of all LWVN newsletters, event invitations, meeting announcements, and Call to Action alerts. Thank you, *Nashville Voter* Editor **Madeline Garr** (mgarr2@gmail.com).



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