



Knox Voter

The League of Women Voters of Knoxville / Knox County
P.O. Box 31825, Knoxville, TN 37930-1825 www.discoveret.org/lwv 865-546-8961

January 2010

From The President:

Happy New Year everyone! We have an ambitious year of in front of us and I'm looking forward to seeing the League grow and prosper in 2010. The board sketched out our plans in December, and we are staying on track to engage in more public advocacy and build our influence. I think our foremothers would be proud.

I am so grateful to all of you who made the last year a success: to all of you whose memberships and donations supported our Voter Guides and public forums, to those who volunteered in the Observer Corps, who served our board, who helped put on events and meetings, and all of you who took the time to follow issues and contact your representatives. I appreciate especially the community we have, and the care shown by members to each other in times of personal need. We are courageous and caring, a great combination!

We have many opportunities for action, education and celebration this year. The League of Women Voters celebrates its 90th birthday this year, and we are going to make it a party! This is a great chance to raise awareness of our historic roots and our ongoing commitment to voters and voting rights...while having a great time. Read more about big events in June and August. You will also learn about our involvement in policy issues like homeless housing and election recalls. We are continuing to observe public meetings and have a new training planned for volunteers. We also need help in the HUGE upcoming election season, to work on voter registration, voter guides and forums. So try something new this year....we do things together and it's a great way to learn and meet interesting new friends.

The League is all of us, and the energy and contributions we give as citizen volunteers, watchdogs and donors comes back to us all in a more open, responsive government and a better

quality of life. Make a point this year to share the League community with your friends and colleagues. Point them to the website and ways to support us, and help us power-up citizen democracy in Knox County.

Jamey Dobbs,

President,

jameydobbs@yahoo.com or 548-0818

January Meeting
The Health Care Bill
and Impact on Knox
County Citizens
Guest Speaker: Dr.
Martha Buchanan,
Medical Director/Public
Health Officer,
Knox County Health
Department

Knox County
Health Department
Medical Director,
Dr Martha
Buchanan will share
an update on the
status of the
national health care
legislation and its
potential impact on
Knox County

citizens. Dr. Buchanan has been at the Health Department since 2004 and oversees a staff of 187 with oversight of:

- The Women's Health Clinic that provides annual Pap smears, breast exams and contraceptives to uninsured women as well as routine wellness checks for uninsured women.
- The Preventive Health Clinic that gives child and adult vaccinations and routine vaccinations as well as the seasonal flu and H1N1 flu vaccines.
- The Communicable Disease Program where patients can get tested for sexually transmitted diseases and tuberculosis and treated free of charge.
- A program in which nurses track cases that seem to be connected to diseases such as E. coli, whooping cough or meningitis, which can lead to a Health Department outbreak investigation to

find the common thread among those with the disease.

- Children's Special Services for children with medical disabilities who need a wheelchair or a feeding tube.
- The Adult Primary Care program for homeless and the indigent of Knox County.
- Dentistry and pharmacy programs.

Dr. Buchanan was in family practice before coming to the Knox County Health Department, but left her practice to pursue a broader mission. As she said in the Knoxville News Sentinel profile of Nov. 23, 2009, "We were told we need to see more (patients) and do more," she said. "It's hard to look at their vacation pictures when you don't have the time. Now I see the whole community as my patient." Read the full profile of Dr. Buchanan and her H1N1 work at <http://www.knoxnews.com/news/2009/nov/23/doctor-admired-efforts/>

New Tennessee Report: Preventive Healthcare

The Tennessee Economic Women's Council's recent report focuses on the economic impact preventive care has in Tennessee. See the full report: [The Economic Impact of Insufficient Preventive Healthcare for Tennessee Women.](http://www.state.tn.us/sos/ecw/Healthcare%20Study%20Final.pdf) <http://www.state.tn.us/sos/ecw/Healthcare%20Study%20Final.pdf>

League Night Out! – Thus, Jan. 28 See *Forbidden Knoxville, the Musical*

The League of Women Voters is calling you out to play... or a play. Theater Knoxville is presenting the play *Forbidden Knoxville*, a hilarious and lightly satirical musical review of Knoxville politics and culture that played to sold out audiences last year. This year we want a full house of League members to enjoy the updated 2010 performance. Join us on **Thursday, January 28** for the **8:00 pm** showing.

Tickets may be purchased online or by phone for \$10 each, and you DO NEED to purchase in advance. The theater is small and intimate. Theater Knoxville is located across from Regas restaurant with free parking. Invite your friends or spouse and we'll gather early at Regas to share some appetizers before the show. I will be there by 6:00 pm and we'll move to the theater to pick up tickets at 7:15

pm. If we have enough interest, we'll host a second night. Call Theater Knoxville at 544-1999 to reserve tickets or to their website to purchase online <http://www.theatreknoxville.com/index.html> For more information contact Jamey at jameydobbs@yahoo.com or call 548-0818

2010 Knox County Elections

County Primary

April 5, Last day to register to vote

April 14, First day of early voting

April 27, Last day to request absentee ballot

April 29, Last day of early voting

May 4, Election Day: 8 a.m. to 8 p.m.

County General/State & Federal Primary

July 6, Last day to register to vote

July 16, First day of early voting.

July 29, Last day to request absentee ballot

July 31, Last day of early voting

Aug. 5 (Thursday), Election Day:

8 a.m. to 8 p.m.

State & Federal General

Oct. 4, Last day to register to vote

Oct. 13, First day of early voting.

Oct. 26, Last day to request absentee ballot

Oct. 28, Last day of early voting

Nov. 2, Election Day: 8 a.m. to 8 p.m.

Schedule from the Knox County Election Commission website:

http://www.knoxcounty.org/election/pdfs/2010_election_schedule.pdf

He Should Be a League Member!

"I know of no safe depository of the ultimate powers of society but the people themselves; and if we think them not enlightened enough to exercise their control with a wholesome discretion, the remedy is not to take it from them but to inform their discretion by education."

-- Thomas Jefferson

Welcome New Members!

All new members will receive a membership packet and we are planning a new member orientation in the near future. We'll be in touch soon!

- Margarite Carini
- Judy Barnett
- Frances Graves
- Lillian Mashburn
- Ginna Mashburn
- Cathy McCaughan
- Tammy Sommers
- Nancy Roberson

Observer Corps Training Offered-- Get On Board

Follow your interest and observe our elected and appointed officials in action. One afternoon or evening per month is all it takes. We will train and support you. Ask a friend and go together! We do have particular needs, for coverage of City Council, the School Board main meeting, and Farragut meetings.

Our next training session for volunteers will be offered **Sunday, February 21 from 3-4:30 pm** at Robin Brown's home, 8033 Hayden Dr. Knoxville, 37919. If you would like to attend this training or get more information regarding Observer Corps, please contact Barbara Nicodemus at barbaranicodemus@gmail.com or 688-4694 or Robin Brown at 691-5489.

Elections are Coming in April... Voter Service Needs You!

Whether it's the last year of the old decade or the first year of a new one, 2010 will bring a bumper crop of elections here in Knox County (see the schedule below). If the LWVKKC is to serve our county voters effectively this year, we have to hit the ground running. With Theresa Pepin taking a leave of absence from chairing the Voter Service Committee for a "semester at sea," interim chair Lisa Carroll and 1st Vice-President Emily Woodle will have their hands full rolling out voter registration drives, compiling voter guides, and conducting candidate forums. **We need your help!**

If you are willing to serve on the Voter Service Committee, or to assist with voter registration or a candidate forum, please get in touch with Lisa (546-6940; icarroll@icx.net). We have such capable members in our League. A few volunteer hours of your time this winter and spring will assure that we meet our core commitments to Knox County.

-- Lisa Carroll, Voter Service Chair
Homeless Housing Plan: League Working Group Forming

Knox County's 10-year Plan to End Homelessness calls for providing permanent supportive housing

for men and women who are chronically homeless. The plan targets those individuals who are disabled, typically as a result of untreated mental illness, substance abuse, or a combination of these problems and who have had at least four instances of homelessness within three years. For these people, homelessness involves much more than a lack of housing - it's also the result of insufficient or uncoordinated social services. They need housing in order to succeed in a treatment program, and a treatment program in order to be stable enough to stay in housing. To address this problem, the County is taking a "Housing First" approach by seeking to provide housing with integrated supportive services and without preconditions. To accomplish this, the 10-Year Plan calls for building new housing projects dispersed in communities throughout the County.

Unfortunately, the County has faced substantial opposition every time it has attempted to site a new project. Some neighborhoods complain that they already have too many programs serving the homeless, while others complain that bringing in such programs to new areas would harm their communities. Recently, Knox County Commission voted down a proposed housing site in the Farragut area in response to vocal opposition by neighbors.

The LWVKKC has already adopted a policy position in support of permanent supportive housing for mentally ill persons, and the national League has a policy in support of providing a decent home for all Americans. The LWVKKC is now exploring whether to adopt a more specific position statement regarding siting of these programs. Stephanie Matheny, a new League member who developed housing for the homeless in the Seattle area for 11 years, has agreed to convene a group to work on this issue. If you would like to participate, please contact her at sdmatheny@knology.net or call Jamey Dobbs at 548-0818.

--Stephanie Matheny, new LWVKKC member

League Speaks Out on Election Recall Process

The League has been following the debate over changing the process for recall elections. A change

in the County charter would be necessary and must be approved by County Commission. Barbara Nicodemus is observing County Commission for the Observer Corps and brought the issue to our attention. Based on the League's national position that elections be fair and equitable, Barbara prepared a report for the League board and a statement of our position to be read to County Commission. President Jamey Dobbs read the statement in the Commission's open public forum on Monday, Jan. 4.

Our local League is advocating that a lower threshold of signatures be required to get a recall election option placed on the ballot. Under the proposal initially submitted to Commission, over 30,000 signatures from registered voters would be required on a petition to bring a recall to the electorate for a county wide elected official—that is using the current minimum basis of 25% of all voters in the last gubernatorial election. This number of signatures would be difficult for any citizen's group to gather without expensive paid staffing and thus remove the option for ordinary citizens. We recommend lowering this threshold using the proposed basis of either 15% of votes cast in the last gubernatorial election or 50% of the votes cast in the election of the official being considered for recall.

Another Commission public forum is scheduled for Tuesday, Jan 19th at 5:00 pm in the Main Assembly Room of the City County Building. Barbara Nicodemus will attend and reiterate our position on behalf of the League. More information from the meetings can be found at the League website under Observer Corps.
www.lwvknnoxville.org

Think Summer...League 90th Birthday Planning Group Forming

The League of Women Voters celebrates its 90th birthday in 2010 and the ratification of the 19th amendment giving women the right to vote. Jamey Dobbs and Barbara Nicodemus met in December with Wanda Sobieski to explore ways to celebrate the League birthday, reach out to new voters, and build awareness of the history of women's voting rights. This will be a collaboration of the League and the Knoxville Suffrage Coalition.

Some of the ideas include a June Garden Party/Croquet Tournament at a historic home in

Knoxville (hopefully the Mabry Hazen House where our Holiday Party was held). We would like to raise money for the League and a larger event on Saturday, August 7 in conjunction with the East Tennessee History Fair. The Fair takes place across downtown and Market Square. 5000 people attended last year's Fair.

We are contemplating a full dress parade with large community involvement, birthday celebration on Market Square, voting registration and demo voting booths, roving re-enactors sharing interactive history and League info, and who knows what else? We would love your input. If you are interested in joining the planning committee, please contact Jamey Dobbs at jameydobbs@yahoo.com or call 548-0818

Proposal to Develop a National Position on the U.S. Financial Crisis of 2006 to Current

What happened in the AIG & big investment bank bail out of 9/08 and why are we still without reform to prevent another financial collapse? I would like LWVUS to study, form a position, and advocate for finance reform in Congress. I propose that a group from the LWVKKC develop a program study proposal and submit it to the national convention in June. The deadline for proposals is soon, March 1.

To illustrate part of the problem, the carried interest rule allows Investment Bank CEOs to claim their multi-million dollar bonuses as 15% capital gains income rather than earned income subject to payroll & regular income tax rates. They are getting bonuses for profits investing other people's money, often for very brief time periods. This year they are getting bonuses because taxpayers are buying their toxic assets and giving them nearly free Federal Reserve loans for leveraged investments. They are not placing their own money at risk for over 3 years, which is the standard for a regular citizen to define a capital gain.

I propose the national LWV study the interplay of the Federal Reserve, FDIC and financial sector in steering our economy. I fear the greed and lobby dollars of Finance & Banking special interests dictate the U.S. financial laws steering our economic system. The issues that need more public, less banking interest include: regulation of dark derivatives, separation of commercial/retail

banks from investment banks, FDIC insurance for commercial/retail banks in a separate system from any protections or reinsurance for investment banks, Federal Reserve scrutiny regarding interest and loans to investment banks, leverage rules for all banks and financial firms, better disclosure for all financial products (including mortgages, credit cards, stocks, mutual funds, pension funds, banking, risk reinsurance as AIG sold), fair taxation of financial industry activity and pay, breaking up 'too-big-to-fail' institutions, TARP and stimulus spending & impact on the national debt.

Although it sounds 'too-big-to-tackle', 'many hands' makes the difference. I call on the Knoxville League to form a program proposal to submit to the June LWVUS convention. We have a 3/01/10 submission deadline. Anyone interested? If so, call me, Mary Headrick, at (865) 992-1965 or Email me at headrickm@isp01.net

Preview of Legislative Session, Noon Luncheon on Jan. 23

The East Tennessee Chapter of the Society of Professional Journalists holds their Annual Legislative Session Preview on Jan. 23. The noon luncheon is at Calhoun's, 6515 Kingston Pike, Knoxville. State legislators from Knox, Anderson and Blount Counties have been invited to give us a look at what to expect out of the upcoming session including but not limited to health care, education, budgets and open government. Anchor Gene Patterson of WATE-TV will moderate. So far, confirmed guests include Senators Tim Burchett and Doug Overbey as well as Representatives Harry Tindell, Ryan Haynes and Bill Dunn and we expect to hear from others soon. The meeting is OPEN TO THE PUBLIC. You may order lunch from a special

menu or attend without eating at no charge. Bring your questions! RSVP to Program Chair Amanda Womac at amanda@hellbenderpress.com
Jamey Dobbs, President
League of Women Voters Knoxville-Knox County

LWVKKC Officers for 2009-2010

President: Jamey Dobbs ('11), 2509 Lakefront Dr, 37922 691-6728 jameydobbs@yahoo.com 548-0818c
First Vice-President/Advocacy Emily Woodle ('11), 604-2882c 235 E. Oak Hill Ave. 37917
saunderssek@yahoo.com

Second Vice-Pres/Observer Corps Barbara Nicodemus ('10), 4016 Sam Cooper Lane, 37918 688-4694
ridgetoptn@comcast.net 805-1091c

Secretary/Membership Leslie Terry ('11), 1626 Washington Ave., 37917 524-4777 leslieterry@bellsouth.net

Treasurer Faith Tapp ('10), 3558 Pebblebrook Way, 37921, 859-9236 gtapp99@comcast.net 705-6018c

2009-2010 Directors 2009-2010

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Voter Service/Development Lisa Carroll ('11), 4315 Hiawatha Dr, 37919 546-6940 lcarroll@icx.net 776-6944c

Off-board:

Lucy Gibson, Newsletter/Publicity,
Rachel Craig, Member Database

Membership Form – Clip it for a friend!

I want to join the League of Women Voters. Enclosed is my check for \$ _____, payable to LWVKKC.
(Membership in the League is open to all citizens 18 years or older.)

Regular dues: \$55 Second household member: \$25 Limited income dues: \$25

Name: _____ E: Mail: _____

Address: _____ Zip: _____

Phone (day): _____ (evening/home): _____

Mail this form and your check to: Rachel Craig, 2222 Island Home Blvd. Knoxville, TN 37920



League of Women Voters of Knoxville/Knox County
P.O. Box 31825
Knoxville, TN 37930-1825

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LWV Knoxville - Knox County 2009-2010 programs

Date	Time	Event	Location
Jan. 19	12-1 p.m.	League Membership Meeting: Health Bill and Impact on Knox County Citizens, Speaker: Dr. Martha Buchanan, Knox County Health Department	Beck Cultural Center
Jan. 19	5:00 p.m.	County Commission Public Forum on Recall Election Process	Main Assembly Room, City County Building
Feb. 21	3:00-4:30 p.m.	Observer Corps training	Robin Brown's home: 8033 Hayden Dr. 37917