



Knox Voter

The League of Women Voters of Knoxville / Knox County
P.O. Box 31825, Knoxville, TN 37930-1825 Website: www.lwvknoxville.org

October 2009

From The President:

You will soon learn that I like to celebrate, and we have plenty of reasons to feel proud! As our local League turns 73 years, I think about the unselfish work of thousands of courageous and tenacious women in Knoxville and Knox County. I am very proud to be part of this history as your new president, and proud to be joining ten very talented and ambitious board members.

Our Knoxville League of Women Voters is a trusted and respected champion, an organization filled with the best and brightest citizen stewards and watchdogs. We are a powerful political action organization that speaks out fearlessly for open government and fair elections. I hope all of you find something in this issue to feel proud about and something that inspires you to take fearless action this year.

For our new or prospective members, and as a reminder for the experienced among us, the League has always nurtured a stubbornly nonpartisan idea that democratic governance is everybody's business. We believe in action, and we take action in two separate and distinct ways:

- **Citizen Education:** we present unbiased nonpartisan information about elections, the voting process, and issues. But we are not involved with candidates.
- **Issue Advocacy:** we study issues independent of party, and afterward use our positions to advocate for or against particular policies in the public interest. That can mean writing emails, holding public forums, or speaking out to elected officials.

We've always had a strong organization, but we are seeing a new energy and interest in our work. Over 100 people attended our Fall Gathering on September 30. In the past two months, we've published a Voter Guide to the City Elections, worked a major downtown event for women, helped

organize three city council candidate forums, spoken before County Commission, and totally revamped our website. We will soon publish a Voter Guide for the City Council General election. We also value fun with our work--so plan on some League Happy Hours in the near future!

Our most ambitious effort is launching this month—the revival of the Open Government Initiative we call the “Observer Corps”. The League will have a very visible presence as we attempt to observe 10 major monthly public meetings in town. Can you help? It takes only a few nights a year. We will train you, support you, and find a partner for you, too. Plus you'll learn a lot and meet interesting characters!

Read more inside this issue and you'll find plenty of opportunities to make a positive difference. Let's be fearless together this year!

~ **Jamey Dobbs, President**

Thank you to our generous donors

Operating Fund: Vivian Leitner, Sara Phillips, Mary Sullivan, Lisa Mixon, Elizabeth Carroll, Nancy Lofaro, Judy Poulson, Ann Hake

Education Fund: Robin Brown, Carolyn Dugall

Help the League Stay Alive!

The League relies and operates on dues and contributions from members and nonmembers. Without your dues and contributions, we could not rent space for candidate forums, operate a website, or print our Voter Guides. Tax-deductible contributions may also be made to **League of Women Voters Education Fund**. These contributions are used to fund issue education and community issue forums, and it can subsidize ½ our dues to the National Organization. This must be a **separate check** made out to the Ed Fund. Please

consider sending an extra contribution with your dues this year.

Welcome New Members

Welcome to our newest members, many of whom joined at our Fall Gathering. All will receive our new member packet with a League Yearbook/directory. Watch for an invitation to the New Member Orientation at League member Nancy Stewart's home...coming soon!

- Leslie Badaines
- Doris Gove
- Mary Luper
- Stephanie Matheny
- Katherine Medlock
- Janice Tocher
- Ann Viera
- Susanne Dupes
- Rynn Dupes

State Fall Conference – Knoxville League Travels to Johnson City

The State League of Women Voters conference is coming to East Tennessee! All League members are invited to join our caravan and carpool and attend the State Conference in nearby Johnson City on Saturday, October 24-- in lieu of the regular November meeting. The Knoxville League wants you to experience a state conference and will pay your registration fee as an incentive. Come for Saturday only, or stay for the dinner event and a casual "after-party" at the hotel Saturday night, and the two sessions on Sunday morning. It's the perfect time for a drive at the peak of the Fall Foliage season.

What is Fall Conference? A weekend of issue-oriented speakers and workshops for all League members. There are no business sessions, just information, networking and conversation with other great women and men around the state.

Topics include:

- Health Care Reform in Tennessee
- Tennessee's Financial Crisis
- Cap and Trade: What it means in Tennessee
- State Legislature Update with LWV Lobbyist
- Action and Advocacy Workshop
- Problems of Becoming a Citizen

Everyone is welcome--you don't need any League experience, and it's a great way to learn how the

political system really works. The conference takes place at the Comfort Inn of Johnson City, only a short 2 hour drive from Knoxville.

Fall Conference Schedule

Saturday, Oct. 24th

- 12:00 Registration opens
- 1:30 Opening Session: Immigration and Problems of Becoming A Citizen
Kasar Abdulla, Director of Education for Tennessee Immigration Rights and Refugee Coalition (TIRRC)
- 2:30 Break
- 2:45 Membership—Building A Dynamic League
- 3:45 Break
- 4:00 Legislative Update: Stewart Clifton, Lobbyist for LWVTN
- 5:30 Wine & Cheese Reception
- 7:00 Dinner Speaker: Dr. Amal I. Khoury, Associate Professor and Interim Chair, Department of Health Services Administration, ETSU College of Public Health
- 8:30 After Party: Get comfortable and unwind at the Hotel

Sunday, the 25th

- 9:00 Tennessee Finances: Speaker: John Stewart, Board Chair, Tennesseans for Fair Taxation
Workshop presenter: Dorothy Seek
- 10:00 Action and Advocacy: A workshop: What works and how we do it--by Oak Ridge LWV
- 10:45 Wrap up and brief discussion of legislative priorities

Contact Judy Poulson to reserve your place at the conference and receive the \$15 registration fee waiver. Call 694-9117 or email to jpoulson319@comcast.net The dinner session will take place across from the hotel, at your cost. Do you need a ride or want to offer a ride to other members? We will pay drivers a gas allowance. To request or offer carpool space, call Jamey Dobbs at 548-0818. Carpools will leave from the Beck Center by 9:45 am. Please arrive by 9:30 am. We will eat lunch in Johnson City before the first session.

Room registrations are made directly with the Comfort Suites, 3118 Browns Mill Road, Johnson City TN, Phone (423) 610-0010. Rooms are \$70 at the conference rate and come with a full breakfast.

If you are interested in coming in early on Saturday morning (9am-11am) you can take advantage an optional tour of the nearby Gray Fossil Site. The tour fee is offered at a reduced rate of \$4. Contact Judy Poulson for more information at 694-9117.

Observer Corp Revival: Volunteers Needed

Because an open and accountable government is the corner stone to a healthy democracy the League of Women Voters is committed to transparency at all levels of government. The League has helped to ensure openness in government by monitoring local governmental meetings, advocating for public policy that promotes transparency and educating the public about the right to know. Thus, the *Revival* of our own *Observer Corp*.

We need volunteers from League membership, past observers and new observers for our Observer Corp to be successful. Volunteers will attend key governmental public meetings held by City Council, County Commission, Election Commission, Board of Education, MPC and more.

We are limited only by the number of members who sign up. Follow your interest and observe our public and elected officials in action. We will train and support you. The first training will be held at Robin Brown's home on Oct. 13, 7:00-8:30 pm.

To learn more and sign up as an observer, call Barbara Nicodemus at 688-4694 or Robin Brown at 691-5489. – *from Barbara Nicodemus*
Viva La Observer Corp!

New LWV State Study: Open vs. Closed Primaries in Tennessee

Delegates at the spring LWVTN Convention voted to reexamine the section of our position on electoral process that supports “The principle of closed primaries, the governing of all primaries by state statute, and administration of all primaries by duly constituted election officials.”

Laurel Karp of the Northeast League will chair the study. Printed materials will be available at the Fall Conference. Questions, comments, and offers of assistance should be directed to Laurel. Her contact information is included in your new LWVTN Yearbook that has been delivered to each local League president.

Thank You Letter

“The South Knoxville Neighborhood Associations would like to thank you for co-sponsoring the recent City Council Candidate forum for District 1 held at Ijams Nature Center. We especially want to thank Leslie Terry for regularly attending our meetings and providing consistent guidance in preparation for the forum. Because of your involvement the forum was a success. Thank you for supporting our dedication to South Knoxville's future. –*from the South Knoxville Neighborhood Associations*

Naturalization Ceremony update

League members would like to begin welcoming “new citizens” who participate in the local naturalization ceremony. The local district court of Tennessee reports that typically two naturalization ceremonies take place in Knoxville, one in February and one in August. 125-130 people are granted citizenship in every session. Occasionally a ceremony will be called for mid-December if demand on the court is high.

Our current volunteer list includes: Sue Groves, Lisa Mixon, Lisa Starbuck, Ann Viera, JoAnne Deeken, Barbara Pelot, and Betty Reddick. Jamey will call for a committee meeting in November. If you are interested in welcoming our newest citizens, please email or call Jamey Dobbs at 548-0818. – *from Jamey Dobbs*

League member Neil McBride Nominated to TVA Board

Local attorney and Oak Ridge LWV member Neil McBride has been nominated by President Obama for a 5-year term on the TVA Board of Directors. He is general counsel for the Legal Aid Society of Middle Tennessee and the Cumberland, a nonprofit law firm with an office in Oak Ridge, which provides legal help to people in need and is “a national leader in the field of public interest law” (White House Web site). Best wishes for his confirmation hearings in the U.S. Senate. – *from the Oak Ridge League Newsletter*

2009 Tennessee Economic Summit for Women

Where: *At the Marriott Cool Springs in Franklin, TN*

When: *Monday, October 19, 2009 from 7:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.*

To register visit:

www.womenseconomicfoundation.org

Keynote Speakers:

- Beverly Inman-Ebel, Communication Specialist
- Madeline Kunin, Former Vermont Governor
- Carol Leland, International Leadership Consultant

-- **Gloria Steinem, Writer & International Lecturer**

“What started as a forum to bring attention to the economic needs of women in Tennessee has evolved into an extraordinary annual event. Join us as leaders in business, public service, healthcare, networking, education, and career advancement share their knowledge and experience. Ask questions and suggest ways to break through the barriers women face in achieving economic autonomy.” – *from the Summit website*

Everyday Politics for Everyday Women workshop, Pre-Summit event Sunday, Oct. 18

Registration at 1:30 pm

Workshop from 2:00 - 4:30 pm

Where: Marriott Cool Springs in Franklin, TN

“The workshop was designed to address the overwhelming interest of attendees at the Economic Summit for Women to learn more about political and legislative processes.

Whether your interest is to run for an elected office, work on a campaign or simply become more politically aware, this program will give you an opportunity to learn, ask questions and meet women who are already taking an active leadership role in local and state politics.” – *from the Summit website*

Weaving a New Web

...and hoping to lure you in! Just in time for fall activities, our new website is launched after two years of planning!

Our redesigned site uses League Easy Web, a product created by the LWV of California to simplify web development and maintenance. All the information from the original site has been

incorporated; we've added a few new features and we hope to add even more.

Our "old" site has a link to the new one, but if you want to get there directly, log on to www.lwvknoxville.org. Remember to bookmark the new location when you get there so it's easy to return.

We want your website to be a valuable resource but we need your help to accomplish that goal. Please visit the site, take a look around, and let us know what you think. Was the site easy to navigate? Was there something you were hoping to find that wasn't there? Find any broken links or errors? Let us know by submitting an e-mail to the webmaster from any page on the web site or contact Laura Cole (865.673.0833 or cole5137@bellsouth.net) or Judy Poulson (jpoulson319@comcast.net). We look forward to hearing from you! -- *from Laura Cole*

Knoxville City Council Elections – Voter Guides and Candidate Forums

The LWVKKC published a *Voter's Guide* to all 14 candidates for the primary elections and organized Candidate Forums in the 1st, 2nd and 3rd districts in partnership with neighborhood and homeowners associations. A follow-up *Voter's Guide* to the 10 candidates and a Candidate Forum for the general election is planned for mid October. Exact details will be announced on the listserv and website as they are finalized. Turnout for City Council elections is only about 10%, a very poor showing when one considers how much impact a good (or bad) Council member can have on essential services to citizens. League members are encouraged to be sure to vote and urge friends and neighbors to get out the vote for the election. Early voting is October 14-29 with the general election on November 3. Visit www.KnoxVotes.org for times and locations of early voting stations. -- *from Theresa Pepin and Emily Woodle*

Welcome New Board Member: Susanne Dupes

We are pleased to announce that Susanne Dupes is the League's newest board member. She will chair the communications committee. Susanne is currently Director of Communications and Media Relations for the Knox County Mayor's Office. Before joining the Mayor's staff, Susanne was

Director of Corporate Communications for Information International Associates in Oak Ridge. She currently serves on the Board of the Epilepsy Foundation of East Tennessee and the Volunteer Chapter of the Public Relations Society of America. Susanne also serves on the branding and messaging committee of the United Way of Greater Knoxville and has recently joined the Knox County Schools Partnership in Education committee. Susanne's daughter Rynn, a student at the University of Tennessee, has also joined the League. Welcome to you both!

LWV Fall Gathering A Success!

On the sunny evening of September 24, the League's Fall Gathering drew members, prospective members and friends to Beechwood, Lucy Gibson's gracious South Knoxville home with its views of river and mountains. More than 100 people attended, including several Knox County Commissioners and candidates for local office. The group enjoyed a delicious cocktail buffet with dishes contributed by League members, and Theresa Pepin, Voter Services chair and a professional musician, played the grand piano.

But the main fare of the evening was great conversation—in part, old friends' catching up with one another, but much of it talk about local and state issues and League activities. President Jamey Dobbs welcomed the newcomers and described the mission and work of the League and our plans for 2009-10, including the newly launched Observer Corps. Several invited guests joined the League that evening, and others announced their plans to join soon.

Our thanks to Lucy for sharing her beautiful house with us for another successful Fall Gathering!



Special Workshops on Communicating with Your Legislators: Nov. 16 and 17

Do you want to know how to communicate with and influence your state legislators? Knowing when and how to communicate, and how to build a relationship with your legislator can make all the difference. The League of Women Voters of Knoxville and Knox County is co-sponsoring three no cost public workshops on November 16 and 17 featuring Stewart Clifton, longtime lobbyist for the League and other organizations. You need attend only one of the three sessions -- the information is the same in all three. We hope one of these dates and times will be convenient for everyone.

The workshops will cover basic aspects of working with state legislators, an essential skill for every League member. The workshops are offered as a public service and we expect other organizations to attend. Two identical longer workshops are offered on Monday night and Tuesday morning (1 ¾ hour), and one shorter session on Tuesday evening (1 hour). The shorter workshop on Tuesday evening will take the place of our regular November League meeting. Select one of these dates below and we'll see you in November!

Knoxville - Monday, November 16, 5:30 – 7:15 p.m. at Church of the Good Samaritan

Oak Ridge -- Tuesday, November 17, 9:30 – 11:15 a.m. in Social Room at Oak Ridge Civic Center

Knoxville -- Tuesday, November 17, 6:00-7:00 pm Beck Cultural Center (Reception at 5:30 pm)

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

Communications: Susanne Dupes, 8632 Barbee Lane, Knoxville, TN 37923, susannedupes@gmail.com

Phone unpublished

Observer Corps Robin Brown ('10), 8033 Hayden Dr., 37919 691-5489 rbrown123@comcast.net 599-7387c

Voter Service Theresa Pepin ('10), 2309 Wagon Rd., 37920, 573-0445

pepin05@comcast.net 382-4226c

Visibility Laura Cole ('11), 316 Bob Smith Lane, 37924, 673-0833

cole5137@bellsouth.net 414-3803c

Director Barbara Chandler ('11), PO Box 50091, 37950, 670-7464 bjc22000@yahoo.com 931-841-5224c

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

Monthly Membership Meeting Alert

The State League Conference in Johnson City on Oct. 24 will take the place of our regular October membership meeting. ***There is no meeting on Oct. 20.*** See article on p. 2.

Our membership meeting on Tuesday, November 17 will feature our lobbyist Stewart Clifton and will be a 1 hour workshop on Communicating with Legislators. See article above on p. 6.

2009-2010 Budget Issues

We adopted a budget for 2009-2010 at our annual meeting in May. In June the newly elected board participated in board training/strategic planning led by a member of the national League Board of Directors who has also been a local and state League President in Georgia.

Among the many things we learned is that our budget is totally inadequate to train leaders for our league's future and carry out the ambitious mission this board has set for us.

Members have very generously given to the league – by adding a contribution with their dues as well as remembering us in their last will. They made these contributions with the hope, expectation, and confidence that we would use their money to accomplish the league's mission. While we all want to be a solvent organization, keeping our money in the bank does not honor our contributors.

Therefore, the present board is presenting a new budget for your consideration. The format is a column showing what we have earned and spent year to date, the budget adopted at the annual meeting labeled “adopted” and the proposed budget labeled “proposed”. Please look at this carefully then review our assets at the end of the report. You will be called upon to vote on this budget change at the November membership meeting. **If you cannot attend that meeting, please mail or email your vote to Jamey Dobbs at jameydobbs@yahoo.com**

If you have questions, email Faith Tapp at gtapp99@comcast.net.

League of Women Voters Sept. 22, 2009
Treasurer's Report and Proposed Budget

INCOME	Adopted	Proposed	Sept.	Year to Date
Dues from 169 members @55	8792	9295	737.5	1302.5
Contributions from individuals	905	1200	135	360
Donations from corporations	0	500		
Special Projects				
From Ed Fund Reserves	2300	3600	2444.9	2444.9
From Savings/Stock		2331.8		2128.07
Stock Dividends	500	600	114.5	114.5
Endowments		200		
Total Income	12,497.00	17,726.80	3431.9	6349.97
Expenses				
Operating Costs	25	25		
General Supplies	150	150		
Phone	400	450	67.45	136.85
Meeting expense (see detail)	200	4350		125
Special Projects	200	200		200
Morgan Keegan fees		100	45	45
Checks returned		100		200
Web site	400	300		300
Boards and Committees				
President	266	200		
Board of Directors	50	50		
Finance	25	25		
Membership	400	50	67.47	67.47
Committee Work	25	25		
Training		600		385.88
LWV Financial Support				
National 169@29.20	4584	4934.8	4934.8	4934.8
State 169@18.00	2826	3042		760.5
Member Communication				
VOTER	1200	1200		
Postage	650	650	45	89
Yearbook	400	400	390.33	390.33

Educational Activities				
Printed Material	50	100		
KYGO directory	400	400		
Voter Service		500	239.59	239.59
Position Support	100	100		
Affiliate Dues	100	100		
Action Expenses	100	100		
Total Expenses	12,235.00	18,151.80	5789.64	7874.42

ASSETS

First TN Checking	1784.12			
First TN Savings	5794.86			
First TN CD	4854.71			
Morgan Keegan Stock	13,087.70			
Ed Fund	1665.54			
Post Office balance	120?			
Total cash	27,306.93			

Meeting Expense Detail

National Convention to be held in Atlanta	3000			
State Fall & Spring	500			
Monthly	50			
Annual	200			
Fall Social	600			
TOTAL	4350			

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



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P.O. Box 31825
Knoxville, TN 37930-1825

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LWV Knoxville - Knox County 2009-2010 programs

Date	Time	Event	Location
Oct. 18	2 - 4:30 p.m.	Everyday Politics for Everyday Women (Pre-Summit event)	Franklin, TN Marriott Cool Springs
Oct. 19	7:30 a.m. - 5:30 p.m.	Tennessee Economic Summit for Women	Franklin, TN Marriott Cool Springs
Oct. 24	Starting at noon	Fall Conference	Johnson City, Comfort Inn
Oct 25	Ending late morning	Fall Conference	Johnson City, Comfort Inn
Nov. 16	5:30 – 7:15 p.m.	Communicating with Your Legislators	Church of Good Samaritan
Nov. 17	9:30 – 11:15 a.m.	Communicating with Your Legislators	Social Room, Oak Ridge Civic Center
Nov. 17	6 – 7 p.m.	League Membership Meeting: Communicating with Your Legislators	Beck Cultural Center