



Calendar

- Wednesday** **3/14/07 Breakfast with members of the General Assembly, 7-8 am, Alexander's Café, 15th Floor, Nashville City Center. RSVP to 664-3382 or nwpc@nashvillewpc.com, by March 12**
- Monday** **3/26/07 Issues Committee Meeting, 11:30 am, Germantown Café, 1200 5th Ave North.**
- Monday** **4/02/07 LWVN Board Meeting. 5:15 to 6:45 pm at 3322 West End Avenue, Conference Room.**

**The Annual Meeting will be held in the first full week of May.
Check for details on the website and in the April Voter.**

Voting Integrity Study and Poll Watching Reports Released

The Voter Integrity Study Group presented its findings on Monday March 5th, 2007 to a receptive Election Commission. League members participated in two studies: a Voting Integrity Study, chaired by Marian Ott and Carrie Hudson and a Poll Watching Project coordinated by Deborah Narrigan. The Voting Integrity Study was based on observations of the August Election, the first county-wide election using the new iVotronic electronic voting machines. The Poll Watching Project captured voter experiences on Election Day in November 2006. The Study Group found dedicated Election Commission staff, committed to making elections as smooth as possible with the resources available. The League especially commended the Election Commission for mailing a sample ballot to every registered voter.

To improve election systems and voter services, the League recommended that the Election Commission:

- Make mailing a sample ballot to every registered voter a standard practice;
- Develop effective and formalized testing procedures as set forth by the federal government;
- Enhance the security of voting machines by adding video surveillance at the warehouse and a formal check in/out process for the machines;
- Resolve issues inherent in maintaining the dual state and Davidson County voter registration databases;
- Enhance training for poll workers to ensure familiarization with Election Day procedures including procedures related to accommodating voters with disabilities; and
- Examine the failsafe process to make it smoother and less time consuming for voters and officials.

Through their questions and comments, the Election Commission indicated an understanding of the changes suggested and an interest in putting many of those changes in place. They recognized as well the need for additional voting machines, but hope to borrow the current type of iVotronic machines for the upcoming elections, as they anticipate a requirement for Voter-Verified Paper Ballots in the near future. New machines may be necessary at that point. Recognizing the importance of these studies, Council Member Lynn Williams will present a resolution commending the League for their work.

Continuing our focus on secure and accurate elections, the Nashville League will be working with legislative representatives at the federal and state levels on legislation pending in Congress (HR 811 Holt, S 599) and in the Tennessee General Assembly that would mandate the use of **Voter-Verified Paper Ballots**. The LWVUS clarified its position in 2006 to affirm that the LWVUS supports only voting systems that employ a VVPB or other paper record. The Nashville Board subsequently endorsed that goal. (For a summary of the Holt bill, go to the LWVUS web site, www.lwv.org.)

Congratulations

The Nashville Board is proud to note that Governor Bredesen has named Leslie Schecter Newman Commissioner of Commerce and Insurance. Leslie has been a valuable and active League member, particularly effective with local government. We wish her well in her new role.

Issues Committee Growing in Numbers and Scope

The League Issues committee continues its work analyzing bills filed in the General Assembly that relate to the priorities listed in last month's Voter: elections, openness in government, Families First, health care, environment, Pre-K, funding for at-risk students and English Language Learners (ELL), and sales tax/cigarette tax swap. In addition, the committee will study the Wolf Creek Dam. Concerns have developed about the safety of the dam, which serves and protects a multi-state area. The committee hopes to produce an Issue Paper on the topic that can be used to inform Congress and the public. Committee members Berdelle Campbell, Jen Cole, Jackie Crumley, Debby Gould, Carrie Hudson, Margie Parsley, Pat Post, Ericka Stevens, Karen Weeks, Shirley Wilson (Hendersonville) and Francis Lamberts (Northeast League) are each examining bills in their areas of expertise and interest.

Working with League lobbyist Stewart Clifton the committee will soon have a focused list of bills to watch and will be calling on members to take action at appropriate times. The committee meets bi-weekly. If you'd like to participate, check the meeting schedule at www.LWVnashville.org under *Calendar* or call Karen Weeks at 373-3551.

Defining the Nashville League, 2007-2008

In preparation for the Annual Meeting in May, we will be revising the Nashville League's Program of Service, which currently includes positions on education, environment, electoral process, health care, human needs, and Metro government. Please take a moment to review the current program. Go to www.LWVnashville.org under Issues. If you have suggestions for revisions or additions, contact Karen Weeks at KarenHWeeks@comcast.net or 373-3551. This is your opportunity to help us choose a direction for the coming year and beyond. If something is important to you, we want to know about it!

To enact chosen goals we need to choose a Board. The Nominating Committee, chaired by Brenda Wynn, is seeking candidates for President (one-year unexpired term), Second Vice President, and Treasurer as well as four Board members who will hold portfolios in areas such as Metro Government, Voter Editor and Membership. Also to be elected at the Annual Meeting, will be 3 members of next year's Nominating Committee. *If you are interested in serving on the Board, have questions about any of the Board positions, or if you would like to nominate someone, please contact Brenda Wynn, at 851-6863 or Brenda.wynn@mail.house.gov or Marian Ott at 812-8462 or marian.ott@comcast.net.*

In Memory of Jo Ann Bennett, Contributions to The League of Women Voters, Nashville

Marie Aden
Ruzha Cleaveland
Jean Crawford
Elizabeth Doty
Robert and Phoebe Drews
Douglas Henry
Marian Ott
Grace Paine
Suzanne Petry
Fran Rogers
David and Lenore Vanderkooi

Silvine and Carl Hudson
Mary Kilroy
Brenda Leach
Sandra McSeveney
Milan Mihal
Jane Norris
Craig Phillip
Karen and Kent Weeks
Virginia Wolf
Penelope Wright

The LWVN Board, 2006-2007

Karen Edwards and Margie Parsley, Co-Presidents
Lucy Chism, 1st VP
Berdelle Campbell, 2nd VP and Environmental Chair
Mary McLennan, Secretary
Marian Ott, Treasurer
Carrie Hudson, Voter Services
Barbara Deneke, Voter Services Forum Chair

Rose Rodriguez, Membership
Barbara Mann and Debby Gould, Education
Jen Cole, Human Needs
Karen Weeks, Action
Luvenia Butler, Publicity
Denise Carr, Voter Editor
Jennifer Williams, Office Administrator