



THE NASHVILLE VOTER

The League of Women Voters of Nashville

PO Box 158369, Nashville TN 37215 | 629-777-5650

<http://www.LWVnashville.org>

Volume 73, No. 5

October 2019

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

October 20, 2019, 3:00 to 4:30 p.m. High Tea with Harry T. Burn. The League of Women Voters of Nashville hosts an afternoon “Suffrage Tea” featuring **Tyler Boyd**, author and great grand-nephew of **Harry T. Burn**. **Tyler Boyd** will give a book talk about his illustrious relative who cast the final vote that passed the 19th Amendment. Home of Cindee Gold, 7 Northumberland, Nashville, 37215. Please RSVP at lwvnashville.org.

October 21, 2019, 3:00-3:55 pm. “Felon Disfranchisement in America”. Presented by **Prof. Pippa Holloway**. MTSU Campus, Paul Martin Honors Bldg, Simmons Amphitheater, Room 106, Murfreesboro, 37130. Sponsored by MTSU.

October 25, 2019, 9:00-10:30 am. “How Perfect Was the Perfect 36? Tennessee’s Battle Over the 19th Amendment?”. Presented by **Anne Toplovich** of TN Historical Society. Fifty-Forward Turner Center at Bellevue Y, 8101 Highway 100, Nashville, 37221. Sponsored by Bellevue Historical and Genealogy Group.

October 28, 2019, 3:00-3:55 pm. “Woman Suffrage and the 19th Amendment: The Perfect 36”. Presented by **Dr. Carole Bucy** of Vol. State CC. MTSU Campus, Paul Martin Honors Bldg, Simmons Amphitheater, Room 106, Murfreesboro, 37130. Sponsored by MTSU.

October 29, 2019, 7:00 pm. “Voter Suppression, Security, and Integrity: A Temple Town Hall Meeting”. Presented by **Tom Castelli** of ACLU. The Temple, 5015 Harding Rd., Nashville, 37205. Sponsored by The Temple.

November 1, 2019, 12 Noon. Hot Topics: Medical Debt and Its Effects on Tennesseans. Presented by **Mandy Pellegrin**, Sycamore Institute. Lentz Public Health Center, Nashville, 37209.

November 2, 2019, 10 am-3 pm. Fall Conference – LWV Tennessee. Scarritt Bennett Campus, 1027 18th Ave S, Nashville, 37212. Reservations at www.lwvtn.org.

November 4, 2019, 3:00-3:55 pm. “Student Citizens and Voting Rights: A National Perspective”. Presented by **Michael Burns** of Campus Vote Project. MTSU Campus, Paul Martin Honors Bldg, Simmons Amphitheater, Room 106, Murfreesboro, 37130. Sponsored by MTSU.

November 6, 2019, 6:00 to 7:00 p.m. Hot Topics: Medical Debt and Its Effects on Tennesseans. Presented by **Mandy Pellegrin**, Sycamore Institute. Green Hills Library, 3701 Benham Ave., Nashville, 37215.

November 11, 2019, 3:00-3:55 pm. “Student and Veteran Leadership in the Fight for the 26th Amendment”. Presented by **Professor Amy Sayward**. MTSU Campus, Paul Martin Honors Bldg, Simmons Amphitheater, Room 106, Murfreesboro, 37130. Sponsored by MTSU

November 21, 2019, 8:00 pm. "By One Vote: Woman Suffrage in the South". On WNPT
An original documentary produced by NPT.

The League of Women Voters of Nashville



High Tea with Harry T. Burn

Sunday, October 20, 2019

3:00-4:30 p.m.

Home of Cindee Gold

7 Northumberland

Nashville, TN 37215

**Join us for a traditional high tea and
conversation with author and descendent Tyler Boyd:**

***Tennessee Statesman Harry T. Burn:
Woman Suffrage, Free Elections, and a Life of Service***

\$50/person

Secure your reservation by October 16th

at www.lwvnashville.org

or mail your check to LWVN.

Our annual fundraiser celebrates the 100-year anniversary of the pivotal role that Tennessee played in the woman's suffrage movement, 1914-1920, leading up to the passage of the 19th Amendment. However, our work is not done. Your support sustains our non-partisan efforts to increase access to the ballot box for all eligible voters and to promote informed and active participation in government.



President's Message



All members are encouraged to attend our fall fundraiser to hear **Tyler Boyd** review his book about **Harry T. Burn**, his ancestor, "TN Statesman Harry T. Burn: Women Suffrage, Free Elections, and a Life of Service," Harry T. Burn cast the decisive vote for the passage of the 19th Amendment. Our fundraiser (\$50) will be a high tea on **Sunday, October 20th** at the home of **Cindee and Michael Gold**, 7 Northumberland, Nashville, TN 37215 at 3:00 to 4:30 pm. You should have received a printed invitation. Please support our event and **RSVP** by October 16th to help us plan.

On Saturday, November 2nd the **League of Women Voters of Tennessee** will hold our fall conference, "**Getting Ready for 2020**," from 10:00 am to 3:00 pm. It will be on the Scarritt Bennett campus in Laskey Hall, 1027 18th Avenue South, Nashville, TN 37212. The registration fee is \$20 and includes a box lunch.

The program includes:

Senator Brenda Gilmore: Restoration of Voting Rights
Stewart Clifton: Hot TN Legislative Topics
Voter Registration, Vote411 and Candidate Forums
People Powered Fair Districts
League Management Finances and Membership Database
Plenty of Networking Time!

The year 2020 promises to be an exciting year of celebration for the **League of Women Voters**. Politics will determine the future direction of our country and the **LWV** can help us understand the many complex issues at stake.

Barbara Gay



State Advocacy Update

By State Advocacy Chair **Debbly Gould**

While we continue to celebrate the women whose tireless efforts led to the passage of the 19th Amendment, it would have been a futile effort if the **men** in the Tennessee legislature had not been convinced. We are so excited that our annual fundraiser, "**High Tea with Harry T. Burn**" will address this gap. Historian **Tyler Boyd** is a descendent of this storied man from Niota and he will share his insights about Representative Harry Burn, who cast the final deciding vote needed for passage of the amendment.

Sunday, October 20, 2019
3:00-4:30 p.m.

**Home of Cindee Gold
7 Northumberland
Nashville, TN 37215
\$50 per person**

Contact www.lwvnashville.org or leave a voicemail at (629) 777-5650 to reserve your place for high tea, great conversation and a fascinating talk by Tyler Boyd. And be sure to bring a friend!



Notes from October Hot Topics: Excluding Individuals with Severe Mental Illness from the Death Penalty

By Co-Vice President Carole Kenner

The October Hot Topic meeting focused on the death penalty in Tennessee and on an upcoming bill that would exclude persons with mental illness from the death penalty. Our speakers were **Stacy Rector**, Executive Director for Tennesseans for Alternatives to the Death Penalty, and **Sarah McGee**, an advocate with Tennessee Alliance for the Severe Mental Illness Exclusion (TASMIE), two knowledgeable and thoughtful women who have long worked in the death penalty arena with those who are on death row and with the impacted families of victims. They addressed some of the issues surrounding the question, "*Why should the state exclude individuals with severe mental illness from the death penalty?*".

While we all know that the death penalty is unfairly and arbitrarily adjudicated, the public is often unaware of the underlying cost to states who still apply the death penalty because of the ongoing appeals that are permitted. More than half of all death penalty cases are changed on appeal, often because of initially poor representation and mitigating circumstances like severe mental illness.

With support for the death penalty at the lowest point in 40 years, **Senator Briggs** introduced legislation (H.B. 1455) last year that was supported by TASMIE and would **exclude** people with severe mental illness from the death penalty. However, it would not exclude the courts from administering life in prison without parole for those convicted of heinous crimes. This bill is expected to make it out of committee this year and be up for a vote sometime in the spring. The **LWV** has taken a position in opposition to the death penalty in general and supports this bill.



November Hot Topics: Medical Debt and Its Effects on Tennesseans

By Co-Vice President Ethel Detch

Medical debt can have far-reaching implications for families' financial well-being, as well impacts on local economies. Because of its connection to health-related circumstances, people often cannot predict or control medical debt. For **November's** Hot Topic, **Mandy Pellegrin**, **Policy Director for the non-partisan Sycamore Institute** will share recent research findings about this important topic.

The League of Women Voters of Nashville

Presents

Hot Topics: Medical Debt and Its Effects on Tennesseans

Presented by

Mandy Pellegrin, Policy Director from the non-partisan Sycamore Institute

First Friday Hot Topics at Lunchtime

Friday, November 1, 2019

Noon to 1:00 pm

Lentz Public Health Center

2500 Charlotte Ave., Nashville, TN 37209

&

Second Wednesday Evening Encore

Wednesday, November 6, 2019

6:00 to 7:00 pm

Green Hills Public Library Community Room

3701 Benham Avenue, Nashville 37215

**Free and open to the public. No reservations needed.
Parking at both locations is Easy & Free!**

For additional information, contact LWVNash@gmail.com



Finishing the Fall Voter Registration...What's Next?

By Voter Services Co-Chair Perry McDonald and Kristin Hightower

Buoyed by the energies of some newly trained volunteers, we responded to **every** request for **LWVN** Voter Services participation at events throughout September and early October. These included **two local YMCAs, Nashville State Community College, the Good Neighbor Festival,** and a return invitation from the **PMBC for its Community Day** serving the Edgehill community.

As important as the number of registrations can be, equally important is our role as a nonpartisan, encouraging presence in venues throughout Nashville. Wherever we set up a table and display a **"Register to Vote Here"** sign, we are a visual public service announcement. We demonstrate by our hours of service that our commitment to the informed engagement of **every** person in this country is the goal of our work.

In this quieter time before the calendar turns to 2020, we are planning for more training and reaching out to hear from both active members as well as from those who have expressed interest but have not yet been involved. With Davidson County's first election in **March**, we expect a significant number of registration events in the early months of 2020.

We also expect to be challenged by questions and concerns that have kept our citizens away from the polls. What can we do...and how do we prepare? It's our belief we need to broaden our scope and commitment beyond registration...and contribute to the crucial efforts to **Get Out the Vote**.

Our thanks, as always, to all who gave hours of your time so the work may go forward.



Update on the Health Status of Citizens in Tennessee **By Health Care Co-Chair Constance Caldwell**

Today, all eyes and ears are on the **TennCare Modified Block Grant Proposal** as introduced by Governor Bill Lee. Public hearings have been held over the state and will continue until **October 18**. One notable item **not** addressed in this proposal is any indication of what will be done for the thousands of Tennesseans who are currently uninsured or underinsured. In the meantime, health care as usual continues. The **League of Women Voters** will be submitting comments opposing this Block Grant, in large part because it does **nothing** to address the needs of the uninsured.

The **Sycamore Institute** has recently released a report entitled ***“Income, Poverty, Education, and Insurance Coverage, Tennessee in 2018”***. This was data shared from the U.S. Census Bureau. There were **three (3) key takeaways** from that shared information:

1. Tennessee's median household income continued to climb in 2018, but the state's poverty rates increased after several years of decline;
2. The recent upward trend of Tennesseans with post-secondary degrees slowed; and
3. Tennessee was **one of nine (9)** states to see its uninsured rate **grow** in 2018-the state's second consecutive year of increases.

We have talked in the past of the multifaceted determinants of good health care. Now we need to look closely at the practicality of what we are seeing. Our legislators chose not to extend Medicaid coverage. When are we going to do the right things for those who still need health care coverage? How are we going to bring them into a system that purports health care as a right? We need to stay on the heels of those we have elected and ask them to care for **all** of our citizens.



Global Climate Change – What Can We Do? **By Environment Chair Barbara Futter**

The **US League of Women’s** voters has been at the forefront of the environmental protection movement for decades. The **League** consistently supports legislation to preserve our nation’s natural resources and protect our public health. The **League** supports legislation that seeks to protect our entire country from the physical, economic, and public health effects of climate change while also providing pathways to economic prosperity. (**USLWV** position)

As the students weeks ago marched and protested to bring climate change into our everyday consciousness, we know we need to act. Global climate change is one of the most serious threats

not only facing our country but also our planet! The **League** across the country is calling for us all to act as individuals, communities, and together as a nation. We have a critical role to play. The **US League** is providing us [tools](#) to help us figure out what we can do and to motivate us to work and/or work harder.

This newsletter will continue to adapt the **US League's** suggestions and provide tools for our own community. Suggestions are to save energy and reduce our carbon imprint at our individual and household levels, work with our community to set emissions reduction goals, and develop and implement plans to achieve the goals and build grassroots support for action to support compliance of the **Paris Agreement**. This is a beginning of monthly articles to keep us focused on hope and not let us give up. We will also write about local projects. If you know of any, please contact Barbara Futter at befutter@gmail.com.



Beehives on Top of the Music City Center and More Sustainability Practices in Downtown Nashville

By Environment Chair Barbara Futter

In June 2019, I toured the **Music City Center** to learn about its sustainability practices. It was both interesting and exciting to learn about what can happen in new building construction.

The Music City Center has a **4-acre** garden, an array of **845 solar panels**, and various energy efficient technology. The **845** solar panels produce different amounts of energy depending on Nashville's weather. Click here to look at the solar report <http://solarems.net/kiosks/182>.

The roof is green because it is covered with **14 kinds of sedum plants**. Sedum plants are drought and heat tolerant and can also reduce the heat effects by lowering air temperatures and improving storm water runoff. **Beehives** are on the roof too! There are **4 hives** and we saw many bees flying around the glass windows. These bees help support area bee populations and promote pollination for the green spaces downtown. **90 pounds** of honey were produced last year, and so far **65 pounds** have been harvested this year. The honey is served in the Music City Center kitchens. The **Nashville Beekeepers' Association** helps manage the hives. There is also a bee cam to watch the bees: Click here <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ADLolv3qR14&feature=youtu.be> and scroll past the photo of the bees to click on the link for the bee cam.

This year, the Music City Center received the **LEED Gold Award** from the US Green Building Council, which sets the standards for Energy and Environmental Design. Music City Center building got silver last year but achieved gold this year due to its improved rainwater collection. The building also uses **90% recycled glass** within the facility.



October 2019 Membership Update

By Membership Co-Chairs Reba Holmes and Tracy Smith



Annual Membership Drive

It is with great delight that we announce and welcome our new and returning members that joined the Nashville League of Women Voters. It is our privilege to welcome these individuals to the organization: **Russanne Lott Buchi-Forte, Jan Bushing, Kay Hancock Clarkson, Karen Davis, Josephine Darwin, Diane Dilanni, Patricia Dishman, Linda D. Doran, Ann Ercelawn, Lee Fairbend, Penny & Jon Frere, Faith Haber Galbraith, Gina Gunn, Andrea Lainhart, Amanda McClendon, Mary M. Mitchell, Randolph Moore, Cindy Netherton, Suzanne Petrey, Freda Player-Peters, Loretta & Robert Rittle, Joan Sands, Jacqueline Shrago, Elaine & Robert Smyth, Elizabeth Walkup, Deborah Webster-Clair, Carol Westlake, Lynn Williams, Phyllis Williams, Tish Womack, and Diane Wyckoff.**

Many thanks to these members and all our members for their support of the League's activities, programs and underwriting support.

While the annual membership drive has officially ended, it is **never too late** to join the **League of Women Voters Nashville**. Encourage your friends and family members to do so. Visit the website fill out an online membership form, which can be found at <https://lwvnashville.org/join>.

In 2020, we are celebrating the **100th anniversary of the right of women to vote and the 100th anniversary of the League of Women Voters**. Stir others to join and be a part of the excitement and celebrations.

Comments from members as to why they joined the League

Over time I've made long-lasting friendships being involved in the League. These bonds helped me grow and change my worldview for the better. I am excited about celebrating the accomplishments of the brave suffragists that fought tirelessly to secure the passage of the 19th Amendment allowing women the right to vote.



2019-2020 LWVN Board of Directors

President: **Barbara Gay and Madeline Garr**
1st Vice President: **Ethel Detch and Carole Kenner**
2nd Vice President: **Clare Sullivan**
Secretary: **Elise Lamar**
Treasurer **Susan Mattson**

Portfolio Chairs

Communications: **Harriet Vaughan-Wallace** and **Kieran Bailey**
Community Connections: **Sabina Mohyuddin** and **Tamanna Qureshi**
Education: **Lara Webb**
Environment: **Barbara Futter**
Fundraising: **Cindee Gold** and **Debby Gould**
Health Care: **Constance Caldwell** and **Clare Sullivan**
Membership: **Reba Holmes** and **Tracy Smith**
Metro Government: **Winnie Forrester** and **Mina Johnson**
Voter Services: **Kristin Hightower** and **Perry Macdonald**
Voter Newsletter Editor: **Madeline Garr**

Nominating Committee Chair (2017-2019) *Off Board*: Chair **Representative Brenda Gilmore**

Nominating Committee Members: **Betsy Walkup, Diane Dilanni, Cindee Gold, Michelle Steele**