



THE NASHVILLE VOTER

The League of Women Voters of Nashville

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

www.LWVnashville.org

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June 2018

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

June 14, 2018, 2 to 4 p.m. LWV Voter registration table. Edgehill Community Park. 14th Avenue South and Horton, Nashville. 37212.

June 19, 2018, 6 p.m. Democratic Candidates for Governor Debate. Sponsored by USA TODAY Network-Tennessee, WSMV and Belmont University. Belmont McAfee Concert Hall, 2108 Belmont Blvd, Nashville, TN 37212. Open to the public **but tickets are required.** To get a general admission ticket, go to belmont.edu/govtickets

June 28, 2018, 6:30-8:00 p.m. A Tale of Two Countries: The Cost of Not Expanding Medicaid. First Amendment Center. 1207 18th Avenue South, Nashville. 37212. Hosted by the Tennessee Justice Center.

June 29, 2018, 10-11:30 a.m. Training session for LWV volunteers to conduct voter registration. Green Hills Library, 3701 Benham Ave., Nashville, 37215

July 6, 2018. First Friday Program on Summer Break!

July 11, 2018. Hot Topics Encore Program on Summer Break!

July 13-28, 2018. Early Voting for August Primaries. Find time and locations at <http://www.nashville.gov/Election-Commission.aspx>. For information about candidates, see <http://www.Vote411.org>

July 14, 2018, 10 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Forum for Metro School Board District 6 Candidates. Cane Ridge High School. 12848 Old Hickory Blvd. Antioch, 37013

July 19, 2018, 10 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Forum for Metro School Board District 8 Candidates. JT Moore Middle School. 4425 Granny White Pike, Nashville, 37215. Sponsored by Moore PTO

August 2, 2018, 7:00 a.m. – 7:00 p.m. Election Day. Federal and State Primary Elections and County General Election. Check <http://www.nashville.gov/Election-Commission.aspx> for times and locations. For information about candidates, see <http://www.Vote411.org>



President's Message

As **outgoing** president, I want to thank the very talented and dedicated board members of LWVN who have brought so much energy and creativity to our organization. At our annual membership meeting on June 6th, we voted in our new board for 2018-19 with many familiar faces and welcomed our new board members, **Susan Mattson, Kieran Bailey, Perry Macdonald, and Clare Sullivan**. Many thanks to **Cindee Gold** for hosting the event and to **Judy Raines** for the delectable deserts. I know under **Barbara Gay's** leadership that we will have an exciting year ahead.

While it seems as we have just finished an entire election season, **early** voting for the **August 2nd** primary is only a few weeks away. **Susan Mattson** and **Tracy Depp** will be preparing our www.vote411.org guide in time for the **early** voting in July. For the first time, we will also be **launching** the online voter guide for the local elections in **Williamson** County elections as well.

We are also excited to announce that the **League of Women Voters of Tennessee** will be one of the sponsors for a gubernatorial debate that will be hosted at **Cumberland University on September 25th**. It will be broadcast live on WNPT and we will be hosting watch parties in Nashville. Stay tuned!

Debby Gould



In Memorium

We are saddened by the passing of **Barbara Mann**. She was a past president of **LWVN** and an ardent advocate for civic engagement. In addition to her career at **Fisk University**, she served on a wide variety of boards from the **Nashville Public Education Foundation** to the **Girl Scouts of Middle Tennessee**. She was probably most challenged by her role on the **Metro Board of Education** during the turbulent era of integration. Her kind and gentle demeanor masked her strong determination for equity and access.



Molly Todd Award 2018 President Debby Gould

Seventy years ago, Nashville was inspired by the work of a remarkable woman – **Molly Todd**. She came to Nashville in the **1940's** and was a whirlwind of action and advocacy. In 1995, the Nashville League established the **annual Molly Todd Award** to recognize members who carry on her spirit for **public policy advocacy and action**.

For those of you who know **Madeline and Tony Garr**, it is certainly no surprise that their amazing contributions are being recognized this year. Since their early days as Peace Corps volunteers in Nepal, Madeline and Tony have been a team. Although officially their careers took different paths — **Madeline** taught English as a Second Language and directed the International English Institute while **Tony's** expertise led him into health care advocacy for underserved Tennesseans — their passions for advocating and helping those in need have been a constant and uniting theme for their lives.

In 1987, **Tony** helped found the **Tennessee Health Care Campaign** to help prevent cuts in Medicaid and later played a pivotal role in the creation of TennCare. As a partnering organization in the TN Health Care

Campaign, **LWV** has relied on their organizational expertise to guide our healthcare advocacy efforts. In recent years, both Tony and Madeline have devoted their considerable organizational and managerial skills as volunteers to assist individuals in need of coverage during the open enrollment periods for health insurance under the **Affordable Health Care Act**.

We thank Madeline and Tony for carrying on Molly Todd's legacy of public policy advocacy.



Debby Gould with Tony and Madeline Garr

Voters Will Determine the Future for Tennessee By Vice President Barbara Gay

The **LWVTN Action Committee** met on Monday, May 21st to review our activities during the recently completed legislative session and begin thinking about future advocacy efforts in **2018-19**. With a new governor and the possibility of 23 new state representatives and 7 new state senators, voters will be determining the future course of Tennessee this fall.

There are a number of bills that were not passed during the 2018 legislative session that **LWVTN** members believe merit future discussion. **For example**, there is continuing frustration that amendments to bills that are proposed in committee are not posted in a timely manner on the state's website. It also difficult to anticipate the intent of broadly worded caption bills that are used to mask the real intent of the legislation. Committee members also re-emphasized the **importance of individual LWV members** strengthening their relationships with their state legislators.

The state continues to have **many unmet healthcare, social service, educational, and infrastructure needs** that a new governor and a newly elected state legislature will need to address in **2019**. **The League of Women Voters** has an important job ahead to **register** voters, **inform** them about the issues, and **encourage** and **assist** them to vote. Our work is more important than ever. I hope Action Committee members will continue to participate and work with their local Leagues. Everyone rest up and be prepared to hit the ground

running for the **August** and **November** elections.



May Hot Topic Follow Up -- The Opioid Crisis in Tennessee from Medical and Political Perspectives

By Voter Editor Madeline Garr

On June 1 and June 13, the **League of Women Voters Nashville** hosted discussions on the Opioid Crisis in Tennessee. On June 1, Virginia Foster Cannon introduced the two speakers: **Dr. Steve Dickerson**, State Senator of the 20th District, who spoke both on the history and need for pain management and policies the General Assembly has established to deal with the current crisis and **Dr. Ida Santana** from the Behavioral Health Group (<https://bhgrecovery.com>) who spoke on the definition, causes, and realities of addiction and the need for adequate and effective treatment. On June 13, **Dr. Laurie Woods**, professor at Vanderbilt and a former undercover narcotics agent substituted for Dr. Dickerson.

Dr. Dickerson spoke first. He initially spoke of leaving an anesthesiology position in 2008 at a hospital to concentrate on pain management for patients who had significant trauma due to accidents and/or surgery, etc. He was shocked to find that his patient load was 25 to 30 years old addicted to opioids. In 2010, he became a state senator and has worked to limit the availability of opioids, both through the pop-up pill mills that are run by doctors who have lost their licenses to practice but not their ability to prescribe medication and by implementing strict reporting protocols of practicing physicians who prescribe pain medication to their patients. In spite of these efforts, opioid addiction remains a great problem in the state. Dr. Dickerson noted that when efforts are made in one area, individuals go to another area to get what they need. Hence, the issue of street-sold Fentanyl and Percocet. Despite a 25% decrease in **prescriptions**, there has been a huge uptick of synthetic opioids and overdose deaths are increasing.

Dr. Dickerson also pointed out that even though opioid addiction is a problem, there are still people who are in pain and who have a real need for pain prescriptions. The question is how to identify the patients for whom opioid medication **is** appropriate and how to identify the physicians who can **properly** prescribe and manage its use. There are no simplistic answers to this issue. In Dr. Dickerson's estimation, one area that could help is to provide treatment parity for individuals seeking help with mental health issues and addiction. There is both legislative and insurance industry resistance to this option.

Dr. Ida Santana followed. She said her mantra is that ***a vision without funding is a fantasy***. She strongly advocates for an understanding of addiction as a cry for help, not as a moral failure. Addiction is rooted in trauma and in **Adverse Childhood Experiences**. The number of experiences a child has experienced has an impact on future violence, victimization and lifelong health. This impact includes issues with substance abuse and addiction. Unfortunately, only 1 in 10 will seek help and when they do, they are ready to heal. She said that people on opioids develop a tolerance level after nine days. At that point, the drug does not supply a "high" but instead creates a need that must be met so that the person does not fall apart. Users begin to employ behaviors such as secrecy, silence, and manipulation. She counsels patients to tell their story. By listening to their story, she becomes a witness and the healing can begin.

Basically, there are two different treatment options: **Abstinence-based therapy** such as 12 Step programs and in/out patient treatments and **Medication based** treatment such as methadone treatment or use of medications such as Suboxone. Methadone is highly regulated in Tennessee. Currently in Middle Tennessee, there are only **two** Methadone clinics, one in Nashville and one in Columbia. In **2005**, TennCare ceased paying for methadone treatment and even though the ACA passed a parity rule, insurance companies often deny reimbursement for the insured. **Access to care** is not universal and those who are poor or are without health care access have few options.

Finally, Dr. Santana suggested some approaches that are necessary to address the crisis:

- Broaden access to care.
- Provide Narcan universally. Narcan (Naloxone) is a medication used to block the effects of opioids, especially in overdose.
- Become aware of organizations such as Street Works (<http://harmreduction.org/connect-locally/tennessee/street-works/>)
- Educate through SAMSHA (<https://www.samhsa.gov>)

Dr. Santana, like Dr. Dickerson, emphasized that solutions are out there but they are not simple and they are not free.



July 2018 Hot Topic Information

By Vice President Ginna Foster Cannon

The **League of Women Voters of Nashville** and the **First Friday and Encore Wednesday Hot Topics Program** will be on **Summer Break** in July. Look for our return in **August**. Information about the topic will be in the **July Voter**.



June Quarterly Treasurer's Report

By Treasurer Winnie Forrester

Our proposed budget for fiscal year beginning **July 1, 2018** was approved by the membership at our Annual Meeting this month. We are in a **healthy** financial state due to the contributions and efforts by **all** of our patrons and members. Many thanks are due to our hardworking fund-raising committee!

A new treasurer, **Susan Mattson**, has been elected for the year beginning **July 1, 2018**, so this will be my last month. All good things come to an end, but I leave you in capable hands. My new beginning will be as the co-chair for **Metro Government** for the next fiscal year. I look forward to continuing to serve the **LWVN board!**



Voter Service Report for May

By Voter Services Directors Hazel Thornton and Perry Macdonald

Despite predictions to the contrary based on the number of candidates in the field, **David Briley** won his mayoral election without a run-off.

Metro Council District One will hold a run-off election on **June 28**. Details for early and absentee voting can be found on the DCEC website <http://www.nashville.gov/election-commission.aspx>.

The next scheduled Voter Registration event is **July 14**, a community outreach event in **Edgehill Community Park**. Contact us if you are interested in assisting that day.

The next election date is **August 2** for state primary and county general elections and Oak Hill municipal election.

We are planning a training for voter registration volunteers on **Friday, June 29**. Both new and experienced volunteers are encouraged to come, as we will cover both paper and on-line registrations, the [GoVoteTN](#) Voter App and will share some of our experiences over this past busy year. Once plans are finalized we will

send out a broadcast email.



May Membership Drive Has Begun By Membership Co-Director Reba Holmes

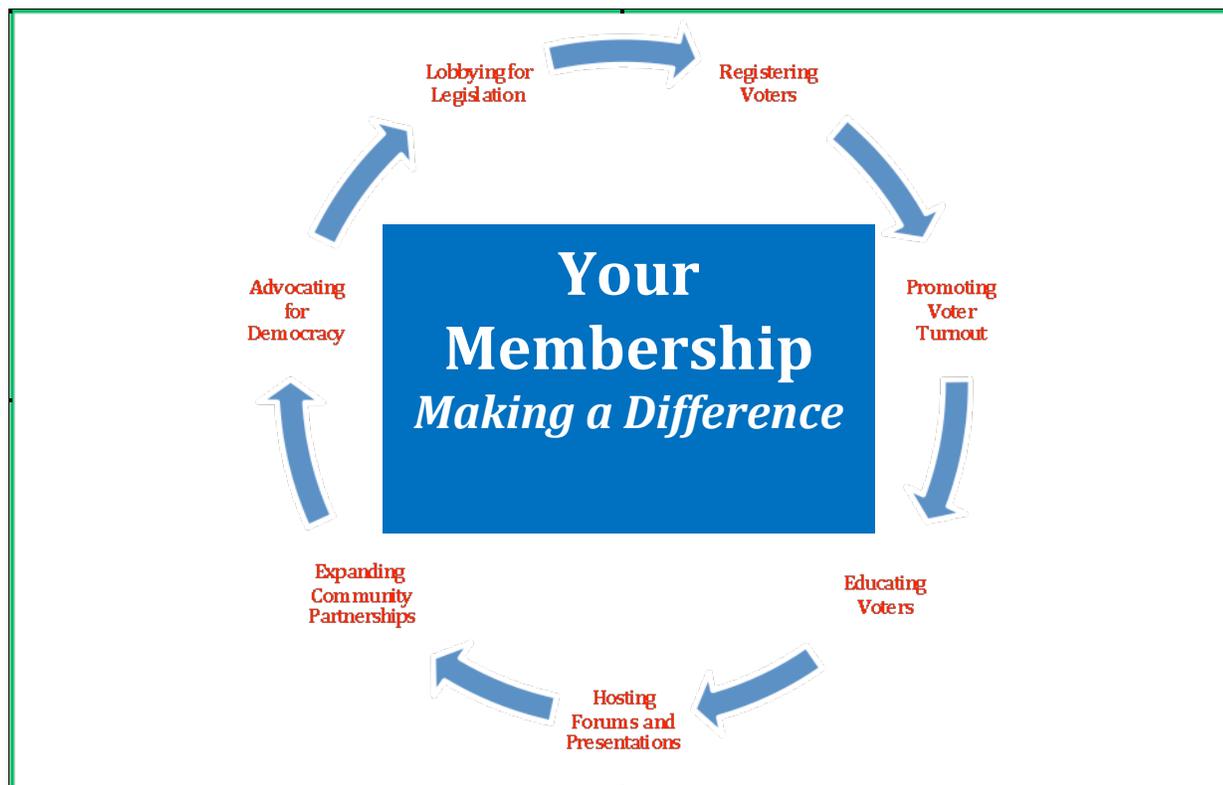


We are happy to welcome our new and returning members that have joined the **Nashville League of Women Voters**.

Annual Membership Drive

It's that time... Our annual membership drive began **May 1, 2018**. Invite your family members, friends and colleagues to join too. Give a membership to a graduate. **Details regarding the various support levels may be found on our [website](#).** You may pay online or send us a check.

Your membership makes a difference. Please renew it **today**.



Lingering Issues – Maternal Mortality

By Health Care Co-Director Constance Caldwell

Now that our local legislators have closed their work session, there are still health issues that continue to need public attention and advocacy. Many issues were **not** addressed and will **not** be unless we keep them in front of the constituency.

One of those issues is that of **maternal mortality** in the state of Tennessee. The World Health Organization defines maternal mortality as “*the death of a woman while pregnant or within 42 days of termination of pregnancy, irrespective of the duration and site of the pregnancy, from any cause related to or aggravated by the pregnancy or treatment.*” It is reported that the United States spends approximately **\$98 billion** annually on hospitalization for pregnancy and childbirth; however, the maternal mortality rate has doubled in the last twenty-five years.

Tennessee ranks **43rd** among the states in maternal mortality and there is a notable disparity in the incidence between white and black women. Much of the disparity seen has been attributed to racism in economics, affordability and accessibility. Black women are dying at **two to four** times the rate of white women.

Our state elected not to **extend** Medicaid, which would have given it federal dollars to provide services for additional people. Conservative lawmakers have chosen to **defund** Planned Parenthood, which also provides reproductive and related health services. In debating the right and wrong of abortion, many fail to recognize that **unsafe** abortions are one of the leading causes of maternal mortality. Tennessee **leads** the country in the closure of rural hospitals with the exception of Texas. This leaves women in those areas without the benefit of accessible and good obstetrical care.

The issue needs to be addressed head-on and corrective action needs to be demanded by the public. With mid-term elections close in the future, candidates need to be held accountable for those actions that affect the women of our state. **TO BE CONTINUED.**



School Board Elections: Who's Running?

By Education Director Lara Webb

Four seats are up for election on the MNPS Board of Education. The nine-person school board has offset elections so that not all seats are up for election on the same year. **Election Day is August 2**, and early voting is **July 13-28**. In races with more than 2 candidates, the candidate with the highest vote total is the winner. There does not have to be a majority for a winner to be declared.

Look for the budget to be the big issue candidates will address. Nashville schools are anticipating a budget shortfall, and many candidates have come out in support of certain programs and/or positions while suggesting other cuts especially central office administration. **Check** our calendar for a list of upcoming candidate forums.

Candidates:

School District 2

Radir Annoor (no website found)

Edward Arnold <http://www.edwardarnoldforschoolboard.org/>

Rachael Anne Elrod <https://www.elrodforschools.com/>

Jesse Gentry <https://gentryforschoolboard.com/>

Thomas A. Weber <https://tcforschoolboard.nationbuilder.com/>

School District 4

Anna Shepherd <http://reelectannashepherd.com/about-anna/>

School District 6

Fran Bush <https://www.facebook.com/franbushschoolboarddistrict6/>

Tyese Hunter <https://www.tyesehunter.com/>

Earl Robert Lattimore <https://www.facebook.com/Earl-Lattimore-440934473013477/>

Aaron McGee (no website found)

School District 8

Adam Barese <https://www.adamfornashville.com/>

Gini Pupo-Walker <https://giniforschools.com/>



Stay Informed about Upcoming Calendar Events!

For updates regarding upcoming calendar events, go to www.lwvnashville.org. 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, *Nashville Voter* Editor **Madeline Garr** (mgarr2@gmail.com)



2018-19 LWVN Board of Directors

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Voter Newsletter Editor **Madeline Garr**

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