



Tennessee Voter

League of Women Voters of Tennessee, P.O. Box 158369

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Summer 2012

Officers and Directors for 2011-13

Officers

President: Margie Parsley, Nashville

1st Vice President: Kathy Edwards,
Oak Ridge

2nd Vice President: Jo Singer,
Nashville

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Treasurer: Acting

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Alan Karp, Johnson City

Laurel Karp, Johnson City

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Barbara Gay (Nashville)

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Off-Board Position

Lynn Williams, PR/Communications

LWVTN Voter

Laurel Karp, Editor

LWVTN Education Fund Board of Trustees

The elected officers

Brief Calendar for 2012:

August 2: Tennessee State Primary
and County General
Elections

August 26: Women's Equality Day

September 17: Constitution Day

September 25: National Voter
Registration Day

October 5-6: State Board Meeting,
Monteagle

October 6-7: Fall Conference,
Monteagle

November 6: State and Federal
General Elections

Dec. 15: Bill of Rights Day

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President's Letter

At this time, with voting becoming much more difficult, with negative campaigning, and big money allowed to act without transparency or limits, our LWV members need to work even harder on empowering voters. This can be done in a number of ways. Some of the things Local Leagues have been doing are:

- Sponsoring voter registration drives
- Educating Tennesseans on the new rules for voting and the new districts
- Writing letters to the editor concerning such things as full disclosure and the new photo ID law
- Poll watching
- Producing Voter Guides using new technology, such as VOTE411.ORG

The League of Women Voters United States (LWVUS) provides tools that all Leagues can use to help League members "Power the Vote in 2012". They have put all of these on their website for our members to use. Please go to <http://lwv.org/member-resources> to find the links to Voters Service, and Visibility and Social Media for templates, strategies and resources. There are even archived webinars on "how to" for the Vote411 project that can be viewed at any time. LWVUS also provides many low-cost election-related publications in English and Spanish languages in its League store. There are publications available to download, as well. We urge you to take advantage of the tools provided by LWVUS to help you **Power the Vote!**

The state board and representatives of local leagues had the opportunity to meet the weekend of July 20th to brainstorm on a 5-year plan for LWVTN. Although this was too short a time to complete a detailed 5-year plan, we all agreed that communications, both internal and external, are essential to our being an effective state league. Internal communication is state to local to state league and to all the members. External communication is all other communication from Leagues to the public through various media. To sharpen these skills and enhance communication, LWVTN will supply opportunities for hands-on communication projects at the upcoming Fall Conference Oct. 6-7, and you will have the information available through our web site after that. It is vital for both the State and Local Leagues to be proficient in using this important tool. Effective communication will help us further our goals for League service to our communities.

Thank you,
Margie Parsley, LWVTN President

SPOTLIGHT ON LEAGUE MEMBER KAREN STEVENSON



You never know what good things can happen to you once you join the League! Karen Stevenson found that out this past spring. Karen had recently joined the League of Women Voters of Nashville and had been involved with the Action committee during the legislative session. As a recent law school graduate, she was ready to contribute to her community. Karen chose the League in order to become a more informed citizen, particularly in regard to local and state issues, and to connect with other like-minded women in her community.

At our Spring Council in Nashville this year, TDEC Deputy Commissioner Shari Meghreblian was one of our guest speakers, accompanied by David Owenby, Chief of Staff for Commissioner Martineau. After the presentation, Karen spoke with David about his department, including how someone would go about joining it as an employee. He mentioned that there were some opportunities that were currently posted on the TDEC website if she were interested.

The following week she checked the website and found the posting for the position she wanted. Though she submitted her resumé after the stated application window had closed, she got the interview. A five-person panel, which included both Shari and David, interviewed her. By then they knew a good bit about her and knew she was, as a League member, a person who was interested in bettering her community. Commissioner Bob Martineau hired Karen the following week. She has been working with TDEC since July 9th as Regional Director of External Affairs. She is based out of the Columbia Field Office and covers a 13 county region in southern middle Tennessee. Congratulations to Karen---and to TDEC for making such a great hire!

NEW WORDING – SAME WONDERFUL LEAGUE

IMPORTANT PHRASE CHANGE FOR LEAGUE MEMBERS

The LWVUS has suggested that instead of using the short cut word nonpartisan, we say:

“THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS NEITHER SUPPORTS NOR OPPOSES ANY CANDIDATE, PARTY OR POLITICAL APPOINTEE.”

Remember that the League studies issues in-depth and takes a position after the study is completed. The League does not take a stand on candidates, parties, or political appointees.

NEW WEBSITE – NEW LINKS – CHECK THEM OUT

We invite you to check and contribute to the League of Women Voters new website: www.LWVTN.org
You will find voter information, League and other contacts, event calendar, calls to action, and more.

Please check the information about your Local League at <http://lwvtn.org/LocalLeagues>
and send necessary corrections to President@LWVTN.org and WM@LWVTN.org so that we may provide visitors another way to become members.

Submitted by Alan Karp, Webmaster

flackcheck.org – It's There To Be Used

Airwaves this fall will be filled with negative attack ads from super PACs. Some will be outright lies and many will employ deceptive practices. There is a way to get the worst of these off the air. TV stations have the right to refuse to run ads they believe are inaccurate. But super PACs will be paying top-dollar to run these ads, not the regulated rate charged candidates. So stations will need a reason to turn down these ads. That reason can be pressure from the viewing public.

There's an easy way for you, your friends, your neighbors, your co-workers to tell the stations to drop the most deceptive of the ads. It's **flackcheck.org**. The site is a project of the Annenberg Public Policy Center of the University of Pennsylvania and a sister site to factcheck.org.

This website monitors ads to identify the ones that are outright lies and/or serious distortions. Log onto the site, tell it who you are and what stations you watch, the site will do three things: 1) email the stations on your behalf to request that they refuse ads whose accuracy can't be verified, 2) notify you when a truly deceptive ad is run by any of your stations so you can contact the station, and 3) notify you if the station pulls a deceptive ad so you can thank them.

As campaign advertising has gotten more sophisticated it is becoming harder to know what claims are or aren't true. To help us identify them, flackcheck.org has examples of deceptive ads. They have even created some sample deceptive ads that might have run against Abraham Lincoln when he ran for re-election, if TV had been around then.

We learned about flackcheck.org at LWVUS convention earlier this month. We knew the minute we heard about it that we wanted to tell all of you about it. We encourage you to visit the site and take advantage of its features. Become a savvy ad watcher and pressure your TV stations to demand accuracy in the ads they run.

DON'T MISS OUT – COME ENJOY, TAKE PART, HAVE FUN and LEARN!

WHAT ARE WE TALKING ABOUT? FALL CONFERENCE OF COURSE!

COME ENJOY LISTENING TO INTERESTING SPEAKERS, TAKE PART IN INFORMATIVE WORKSHOPS, AND HAVE FUN TALKING WITH OTHER LEAGUE MEMBERS AND LEARNING FROM EACH OTHER.

WHAT/WHERE/WHEN

LWVTN FALL CONFERENCE

DuBOSE CENTER in Monteagle, TN

OCTOBER 6-7. 2012

SAVE THE DATES NOW AND WATCH FOR DETAILS IN LATE AUGUST!

REMEMBER: You can find us on Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/TNLeagueOfWomenVoters?ref=hl> or by searching for League of Women Voters of Tennessee. Please "LIKE" us!