

THE VOTER

MAY 2013

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF MURFREESBORO/RUTHERFORD COUNTY

LOCAL LWV NEWS

LWV Murfreesboro/Rutherford County Upcoming Membership Meeting

Our next meeting is Tuesday, May 14th, at Heritage Center. Social hour will begin at 6pm and we will begin the meeting at 6:30pm. The purpose of this meeting is to discuss topics for upcoming meetings. Please be sure to bring some ideas and interests with you.

Amy Greene
Co-President

School Vouchers

During the Spring Convention, LWVTN voted on a position regarding the school vouchers, a certificate issued by the government, which parents can apply toward tuition at a private school (or, by extension, to reimburse home schooling expenses), rather than at the state school to which their child is assigned.

POSITION: The League of Women Voters believes that a quality public education system is an essential element for maintaining a strong and viable democracy. We support state educational policies that raise levels of student achievement, address the needs of a diverse student population, and preserve students' health and safety.

In a democracy, public education serves many purposes. Regardless of the school setting, a quality education that supports high levels of academic achievement should be the primary objective for public investment of educational dollars. In addition, in our increasingly diverse society, public schools provide an important locus for building community across differences. While parental selection of educational options for their children has value, the League's position is that choice by itself should not be the primary goal for selecting the best ways to invest public dollars in education.

The League opposes the use of public funds for private school vouchers. Should the use of public funds for private school vouchers be considered at some point, the League believes the following criteria should apply:

- ⇒ Eligibility criteria for students should be limited to those whose need is greatest, e.g., students who are eligible for free and reduced price lunch, students currently enrolled in low-performing schools, students with special needs, or students who are performing poorly.
- ⇒ The private school must accept the voucher as full payment.
- ⇒ Participation criteria for private schools should include approval by either the state or state-approved accrediting agencies.
- ⇒ Private schools participating in a voucher program should be required to administer the same standardized assessments as those required in public schools. These assessments should be capable of providing data of students' academic growth (value added) from one year to the next.
- ⇒ Private schools participating in a voucher program should comply with non-discrimination policies as provided by law.
- ⇒ In determining whether to expand the voucher program, the program should be evaluated using objective, measurable criteria, such as student achievement gains as measured by a value-added analysis, graduation rates and retention rates.

Adopted 2013

Judy Poulson
Secretary, LWVTN

**LEAGUE OF WOMEN
VOTERS OF
MURFREESBORO/
RUTHERFORD
COUNTY**

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Officers and Directors for
2012-2013

Co-Presidents: Leslie Collum
Amy Greene

Secretary: Shirley Brackin

Treasurer: Suma Clark

Directors: Bonnie Black
Kaylene Gebert
Mary Elaine Hargis
Faye Johnson
Judy Powell
Kory Wells

Nominating Committee Chair:
Charlotte Molloy



*Making Democracy
Work.*

Landfill Presentation

Chloe Cerutti is hosting a Landfill Presentation at her house on Monday, May 13th, beginning at 7pm. Professor Emeritus of Biology (MTSU) Marion Wells and Angela Cotter will present their findings at the meeting. Professor Wells has verified that the quality of the Stones River has been chemically altered. TDEC has mandated that the county find and remedy the source of the leakage. Public Works Committee was set to meet this past Tuesday, May 7th, at the Rutherford County Courthouse, to discuss the county landfills. Hopefully progress will come out of these meetings.

Please contact Chole at 615-962-7594, or email at ccerutti1@comcast.net, if you would like to attend her meeting on Monday, May 13th at 7pm.

Amy Greene
Co-President

LWVTN State Board Elections

Amy Greene has been elected to serve as Director on the LWVTN state board. Other state positions are as follows:

Co-Presidents—Margie Parsley and Jo Singer

1st & 2nd Vice-Presidents—Laurel Karp (Membership) and
Judy Raines (Vote411)

Secretary—Judy Poulson

Treasurer—Marian Ott

Director (Special Events) - Michele Braudenburg

Director (Webmaster) - Alan Karp

Director (Voter Editor) - Sue Bredensteiner

Directors—Mary Headrick, Amy Greene and Kathy Gilbert

Nominating Committee Board—Kathy Edwards (Chair),

Barbara Devaney and Lorelei Gould

UPCOMING LOCAL LEAGUE EVENTS

May 14 - Membership Meeting at Heritage Center, Discuss future meetings

August 5 - LWV Board Meeting at NHC 14th Floor

REMEMBER—NEW WORDING

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

IMPORTANT: 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.

Have a great summer!

