

THE VOTER

SEPTEMBER, 2012

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF MURFREESBORO/RUTHERFORD COUNTY

LOCAL LWV NEWS

MTSU Invitation to Constitution Day Naturalization Ceremony

The League of Women Voters and family members have been invited to attend the celebration at MTSU for Constitution Day and Citizenship Day on Monday, September 17th. This is MTSU's first opportunity to host a citizenship ceremony. MTSU is honored to be the site of the naturalization ceremony where we will be witnessing the oath of citizenship of 240 new Americans. MTSU has partnered with the United States District Court for the Middle District of Tennessee, USCIS, and the U.S. Marshals Service to make this event possible at the Murphy Center for not only MTSU students but to the public as well.

The Honorable Joe E. Brown and the Honorable E. Clarence Knowles, Magistrate Judges, will conduct the official proceedings. Incoming Chief Justice of the Tennessee Supreme Court Gary R. Wade has graciously agreed to give the keynote address.

The League has been asked to have one of our members, Suma Clark, serve on the floor during the ceremony to hand out voter registration forms to the new citizens. We would appreciate all the League support we can get for this great opportunity.

The ceremony begins at 2:00pm, with a public reading of the Constitution starting at 12:30. The proceedings will also be simulcast online September 17th at this hotlink: <http://itsc3.fsa.mtsu.edu/itsc/flash/>.

Parking will be available on Greenland Drive behind the Livestock Center, between Brown Drive and Blue Raider Drive.

Amy Greene, Co-President

Upcoming Membership Meeting, October 15th

Judy Poulson will be providing us an update from the 2012 LWVUS Convention, which took place in Washington D.C. Here are some highlights from the convention:

ADOPTED motion to concur with the Sentencing Policy position of the LWVDC as follows: The LWVUS believes alternatives to imprisonment should be explored and utilized, taking into consideration the circumstances and nature of the crime. The LWVUS opposes mandatory minimum sentences for drug offenses.

ADOPTED motion to review and update the LWVUS agricultural position, approved in 1988. Such a review would investigate genetic modification, consolidation in the food industry, money in the regulatory process, and the consumer's right to accurate and comprehensive food labeling.

ADOPTED motion to approve the following resolution: We, the representatives of local and state Leagues assembled at the 2012 LWVUS Convention, call upon the LWVUS Board to advocate strongly for all appropriate, duly-considered measures which may include, but are not limited to, a constitutional amendment and which: are consistent with our current positions on campaign finance reform and individual liberties; allow Congress and the States to set reasonable regulations on campaign contributions and expenditures; and ensure that elections are determined by the voters. Note: this was the most successful attempt to address the *Citizens United* court decision.

ADOPTED motion to retain all other current LWVUS positions in the areas of Representative Government, International Relations, Natural Resources and Social Policy.

ADOPTED motion to adopt a comprehensive program to educate members and communities on the issue of campaign finance.

Position on Privatization: The LWVUS believes that when governmental entities consider the transfer of governmental services, assets and/or functions to the private sector, the community impact and goals of such transfers must be identified and considered. Further, the LWV believes that transparency, accountability, and preservation of the common good must be ensured.

Amy Greene, Co-President

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

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2012-2013

Co-Presidents: Leslie Collum
Amy Greene

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Directors: Catherine Corbitt
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Nominating Committee Chair:
Carolyn Strang

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*Making Democracy
Work.*

UPCOMING LOCAL LEAGUE EVENTS

September 17th - Constitution Day, celebrated at MTSU

September 25th - National Voter Registration Day

October 6-7 - LWVTN Fall Conference, Monteagle, TN

October 15 - Membership Meeting at Heritage Center, National Convention Update—Judy Poulson

November 6 - State and Federal General Elections

November 19 - Membership Meeting at Heritage Center, Recycle Rutherford

January 14 - Membership Meeting at Heritage Center, Legislative Update—Rep. Brenda Gilmore

February 11 - Membership Meeting at Heritage Center, Panel on Basic Human Needs

March 18 - Membership Meeting at Heritage Center, Chamber of Commerce Update

April 15 - Membership Meeting at Heritage Center, Water/Sewer Update

May 20 - Membership Meeting at Heritage Center

(We are still confirming speakers and topics, be aware that some of the topics may be moved to another date.)

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

NEW WEBSITE:

www.lwvrutherford.org

NEW EMAIL:

league@lwvrutherford.org

Reminder: Membership fees are due—\$50

*If you have already paid your 2012 dues, thank you! If you haven't sent your money in yet,
please send to Suma Clark at:*

LWV of Murfreesboro/Rutherford Co.

P.O. Box 4108

Murfreesboro, TN 37129

If you are unsure if you have paid or not, email or call Suma—895-3525 or sclark@mtsu.edu