

LWVTNV New Member Orientation

24 FEBRUARY 2021

Board of Directors

Officer/Director	Name	Email	Phone
President	Kathleen Leonard	president@lwvtnv.org	256-679-5289
Vice-President	Stephanie Barnett	vice-president@lwvtnv.org	256-655-8719
Secretary	Sara Feldmeier	secretary@lwvtnv.org	256-783-6980
Treasurer	Sari Oosta	treasurer@lwvtnv.org	847-533-5624
Voter Services	Sara Feldmeier (acting)	voter-services@lwvtnv.org	
Advocacy	Robin Buckelew	advocacy@lwvtnv.org	256-651-6256
Education	Sari Oosta & Louise Crawford	education@lwvtnv.org	847-533-5624 256-348-1347
Fundraising	TBD	fundraising@lwvtnv.org	
Publicity & Communications	Lucita Jones	publicity@lwvtnv.org	256-755-1658
Membership	Jill Allen	membership@lwvtnv.org	
Nominations	Jill Allen	nominations@lwvtnv.org	256-653-3002

Founding of the LWV

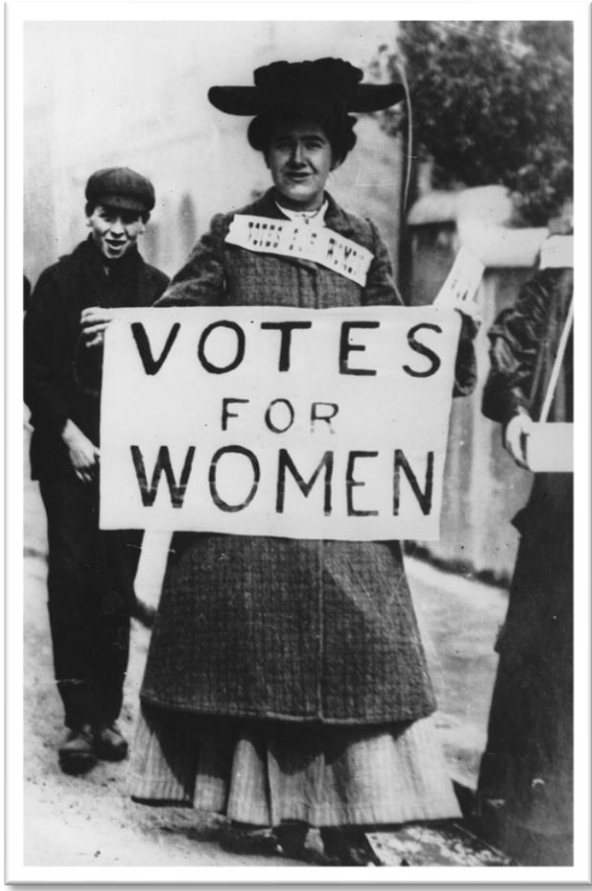
- February 14, 1920: LWV was founded by Carrie Chapman Catt during the convention of the National American Woman Suffrage Association
- August 18, 1920: Six months later, the 19th Amendment was ratified, giving women the right to vote
- From the beginning, the League has been an **activist, grassroots, nonpartisan** organization



Who we are

- The League of Women Voters is a **NONPARTISAN POLITICAL ORGANIZATION** encouraging informed and active participation in government. We influence public policy through **EDUCATION AND ADVOCACY**.
- THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF THE TENNESSEE VALLEY is very active in North Alabama.
- We are **ALL VOLUNTEERS** focused on voter education & voter rights!
- Our Region Covers:
 - MADISON
 - LIMESTONE
 - MARSHALL
 - MORGAN
 - & JACKSON COUNTIES

Nonpartisanship



- Nonpartisan, but Political
- We do not support or oppose political candidates or parties
- Allows the League to **advocate based on issues, not political parties**
- We study issues, develop positions, and advocate **for/against public policies**

What We Do

EMPOWER VOTERS

- We empower voters to exercise their right to vote by holding voter registration drives, sponsoring candidate forums/debates, and educating the public about their rights on Election Day.

PROTECT THE RIGHT TO VOTE

- We protect everyone's right to vote against threats and ensure that every vote is counted by fighting for and implementing voting systems that are free, fair, and accessible.

FOSTER CIVIL DIALOGUE

- We foster civil nonpartisan dialogue among voters, government, politicians, & subject matter experts about important community issues, such as government spending, climate change, immigration, & civil liberties.

Grassroots Organization

- When you join the League of Women Voters of Tennessee Valley (<https://lwvtnv.org>), you also become a member of:
 - *League of Women Voters of Alabama* (<https://lwval.org/>)
 - *League of Women Voters of the United States* (<https://www.lwv.org/>)
- Our ideas move up from local to state/national levels
- We speak with one voice

Our “Two Hats”

Voter Services

- We serve voters by:
 - Protecting their right to vote
 - Registering people to vote
 - Informing voters on the voting process
 - Informing voters about issues and candidates on the ballot
 - And more!

Advocacy

- For an issue of concern, we:
 - Research the facts
 - Compare to our policy positions
 - Determine if we can/should support or oppose the issue
 - Board approves a statement and who will provide statement
 - And more!

**A member may wear either hat,
but not at the same time**

Some Issues the National League is Working on Now:

- Fighting Voter Suppression across the U.S.
- Electoral College Reform
- Getting big money out of politics
- Fighting against partisan & racial redistricting
- Working towards restoring the Voting Rights Act
- Criminal Justice Reform & fighting systemic racism
- Climate Change

Learn more at <https://www.lwv.org/impact-issues>

Civility & Civil Discourse

- What is Civility and Civil Discourse?
 - Engaging in discussion with the goal of listening, not responding
 - Participating in conversations where you may disagree on ideas
 - Civil Discourse does not mean shutting down differing opinions
- Civility ≠ Tone Policing
 - Focus on the ideas, not personal characteristics
 - It's okay to be passionate about your position
- Good faith effort to engage
 - It's okay to disagree

Time Commitments for Busy People

- 5 minutes?
 - Respond to an Action Alert
 - Like the League on Facebook
 - *Join a League committee*
- 20 minutes?
 - Read the League social media, catch up on LWV news
 - *Join a League committee*
- A few hours? Or More?
 - Attend a League meeting or event
 - Plan/manage a LWVTNV event/project
 - *Join a League committee*

Committees

- **Voter Services – Enabling Access to the Polls**
- **Advocacy – Improving Voting Systems**
- **Education – Making Better Voters**
- **Observer Corps – Providing Quality Assurance for our Democracy**
- **Fundraising – Providing the Resources**
- **Publicity and Communications – Getting the Word Out**
- **Membership Engagement– Developing an Engaged Membership**

Voter Services Leadership Needs

High School Voter Registration

- a. organizes and coordinates with high school leadership, educators and election officials to
- b. facilitate mock elections and registration drives in area high schools
- c. assists students aged 17.5 years and up in voter registration
- d. monitors voter registration eligibility of student participants
- e. submits student voter registration forms to County Registrar
- f. conducts follow-up correspondence with students via election reminders and encourages voting
- g. oversees volunteer activities
- h. maintains detailed records

Voter Rights Restoration

- a. organizes and facilitates rights restoration outreach and services to felony disenfranchised citizens
- b. activities may include coordination and partnership with local, state and national advocates to advance voter rights restoration efforts, education, legislation and outreach
- c. educates and assists in the CERV application and process
- d. monitors and follows up with correspondence relating to status of CERV applications
- e. engages with legal advisors to assist applicants with CERV application issues and questions
- f. utilizes the Alacourt system to verify potential CERV eligibility
- g. maintains potentially sensitive information records and privacy

**We need more leaders
in Voter Services**

About Observer Corps

What is Observer Corps?

- A structured way for individuals to exercise their right to know what is going on.
- Informs citizens of the decisions impacting their lives.
- Promotes government transparency and accountability.
- Connects elected/appointed officials with their constituents.
- Identifies areas where action or improvement is needed.

What else?

- Initially, we will observe Huntsville City Council, with plans to observe more later down the road.
- There will be training.
- It is flexible.

**We want to start ASAP:
We need observers**

Other immediate ways to get involved

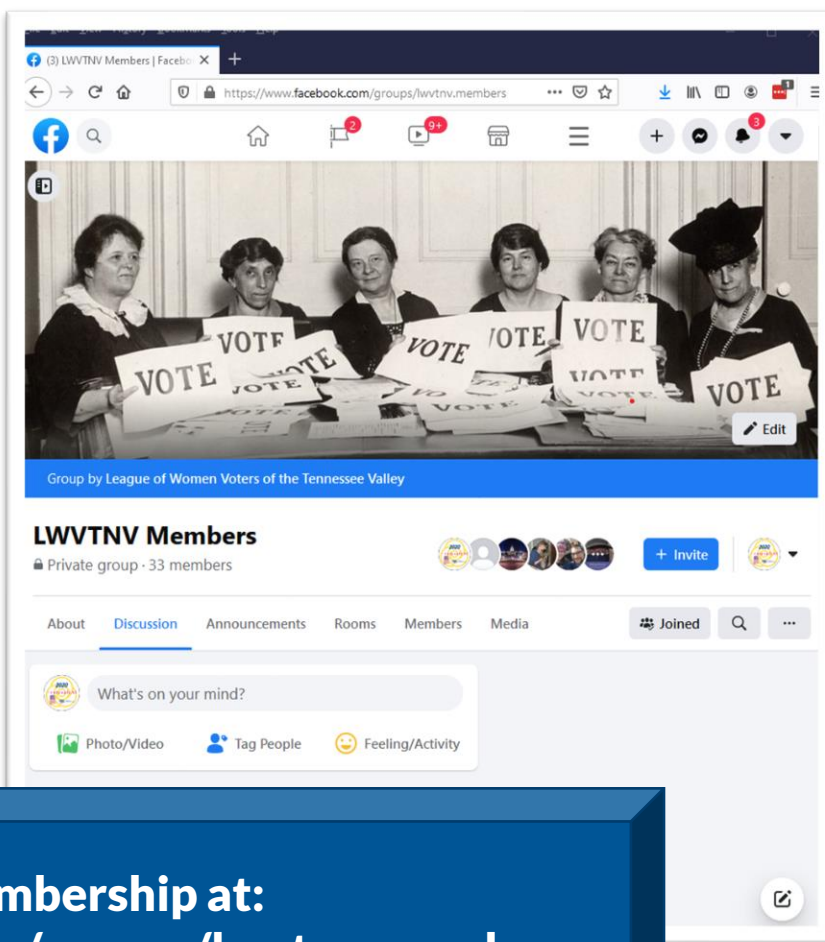
- Advocacy: we need you to take action when requested
- Education: we need planning and coordination
- Fundraising: we need a lead...
- Publicity & Communications: we need web site, social media, publications, and video help
- Membership Engagement: we need help with social events, member onboarding, etc.

Leadership

- Officers are elected for 2 year terms at each annual meeting
 - President and Secretary in even years
 - Treasurer and Vice- President in odd years
- Board Members each year
 - Voting members are elected by membership
 - Advisory non-voting members are selected by the board
- Are you interested in joining our leadership team?
 - Contact Jill Allen by email nominations@lwvtnv.org

Members Only Facebook Group

- Have you joined our **MEMBERS-ONLY** Facebook Group??
- During the pandemic, it has become difficult for us to socialize.
- The group is for our members who are active on Facebook to connect socially.
- We have the usual rules about kindness, no bullying, respecting privacy, and speaking only for yourself not the League.



Request membership at:
<https://www.facebook.com/groups/lwvtnv.members>

Club Express Tour

The screenshot shows the LWV Tennessee Valley website. On the left is a blue navigation sidebar with links: Favorites, Control Panel, KATHLEEN LEONARD, Home, Voter Services, Advocacy, News, 2021 Book Club, About Us, Contact Us, Donations, 2020 Voter Purge Lists, and Members Only. Below these are social media icons for Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, YouTube, and a generic share icon.

The main content area features a large blue banner with white and red confetti. The text on the banner reads: "CHECK YOUR VOTER STATUS. Inactive voters will be removed from the voter rolls on January 6, 2021. Visit MyInfo.AlabamaVotes.Gov to check your voter registration status. Update your information online, by paper form, or smartphone app." To the right of the text is a small image of the State of Alabama voter registration form.

Below the banner is a section titled "UPCOMING EVENTS" with a list of events:

Month	Date	Event	Description
FEB	24	Membership Meeting	Membership meetings will be held by Zoom on the fourth Wednesday of the month. The meeting starts at 6:00 and t...
MAR	2	Book Club	The book club is open to members and their guests. Members may invite guests who will be limited to two book club...
MAR	17	Board Meeting	The LWV TNV board meetings are held by Zoom. Any member is welcome to observe. If you would like to observe, pl...
MAR	24	Membership Meeting	Membership meetings will be held by Zoom on the fourth Wednesday of the month. The meeting starts at 6:00 and t...
APR	6	Book Club	The book club is open to members and their guests. Members may invite guests who will be limited to two book club...
APR	21	Board Meeting	The LWV TNV board meetings are held by Zoom. Any member is welcome to observe. If you would like to observe, pl...
APR	28	Membership Meeting	Membership meetings will be held by Zoom on the fourth Wednesday of the month. The meeting starts at 6:00 and t...
MAY	4	Book Club	The book club is open to members and their guests. Members may invite guests who will be limited to two book club...
MAY	19	Board Meeting	The LWV TNV board meetings are held by Zoom. Any member is welcome to observe. If you would like to observe, pl...

At the bottom of the page, a large blue banner with a 3D effect contains the text: "Follow along at lwvtnv.org".

Questions?

