



SPECIAL
POINTS OF
INTEREST:

- **Lobby with us! See p. 4-5 for details**
- **LWV State Convention, Friday eve/ Saturday, April 10-11**

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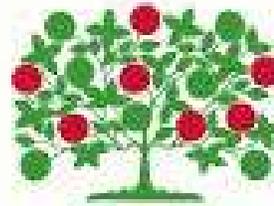
Plan to Attend the 2015 LWV Convention

By **CYNTHIA HEINE**

Join friends from across the state at the Kentucky League of Women Voters Convention, this year hosted by the Lexington LWV at the lovely Shaker Village of Pleasant Hill, known locally as Shakertown. The dates are the evening of Friday, April 10, and all day on Saturday, April 11.

Registration costs \$40, which includes breakfast, lunch and breaks. Friday participants can enjoy dinner together for an additional charge of \$25. (The meals are delicious and worth the price!)

Comfortable overnight accommodations are avail-



SHAKER VILLAGE
OF PLEASANT HILL

able for \$110 per room.

Be sure to reserve now, as Shaker Village tends to fill up quickly with the usual tourist guests. Accommodations can be booked by calling **(800) 734-5611**. Let them know you are with the League.

Besides the usual business sessions, informative workshops and a legislative update will be offered. What better way

to participate actively in the League, enjoy pleasant surroundings, and spend time with like-minded friends?

A full agenda will be printed

in the next issue of THE VOTER, but make plans now, especially if you plan to spend the night. A registration form will be sent with the next issue of THE VOTER.

If you have any questions, contact Cindy Heine at cynthia.heine@gmail.com.

Join Us at the Legislature

By **TERRY NAYDAN**
and **NITA SMITH**

Plan now to join all your League friends on Wednesday, Feb. 25, to observe "Democracy in Action."

To make an appointment with your legislator, call (502) 564-8100. The operator will connect you with his/her office.

Con't on p. 4



Presidents' Message



Co-presidents, from top to bottom: Tammy Fagley and Cindy Heine

By TAMMY FAGLEY and CINDY HEINE

The newly released movie *Selma* serves as a powerful reminder of the importance of our constitutional rights to freedom of the press and the right of all citizens to vote in maintaining our democracy.

The Lexington LWV book group is currently reading *Corporations are Not People: Reclaiming Democracy from Big Money and Global Corporations* by Jeffery D. Clements. He outlines the detrimental results of the Supreme Court's 2010 *Citizens United v. Federal Election Commission* — billions of anonymous dollars spent in elections — but he also reminds us that, when

citizens unite to address policies that undermine the democracy, they can prevail. He cites successful Constitutional amendment campaigns including women's suffrage and elimination of poll taxes. *Selma* demonstrates another example: the Civil Rights movement.

The LWV US is looking at specifics of Move to Amend's campaign to determine if the League can support it. Louisville LWV member, George Schuhmann is a member of that committee. Watch for details!

How can you participate in state League activities this winter and spring? Join us at the League Day at the Capitol on Wednesday, Feb.

25 (see p. 4), a great chance to see democracy in action!

Also please note the legislative update for information about bills we are following and supporting. Your calls to Frankfort are important!

Please mark April 10 and 11 on your calendars: Our state Convention will be in beautiful Shaker Village at Pleasant Hill near Danville (see p.). The state board is minimizing the convention's business portion so we'll have more time for informative workshops.

We have had inquiries about starting new local Leagues from Bowling Green, Murray, Northern Kentucky and

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Call Your State Legislators NOW!

Please call your state legislators at **(800) 372-7181** to leave a message.

HB 63, providing public funding for Kentucky Supreme Court candidates, passed in committee and awaits a House Floor vote. Tell your House rep-

resentative to "VOTE YES on HB 63."

HB 70, calling for a Constitutional Amendment to restore voting rights for former felons,

passed in the House and awaits action in the Senate. Tell your Senator to "SUPPORT HB 70, without amendments."

LWVUS President MacNamara Testifies at FEC

By **IVONNE ROVIRA**

LWVUS President Elisabeth MacNamara called on the Federal Election Commission to stop the flow of enormous secret donations to candidates during her testimony before the FEC on Feb. 11.

She told the FEC: “In 2014, as millions of Americans went to the polls to vote on the issues and candidates that mattered most to them, millions of dollars of secret money poured into the election from dark money groups which hide the identity of their donors, seeking to buy our elected officials and distort our elections. And we won’t ever know who paid for all of the ads that bombarded voters throughout the election.”

MacNamara’s testimony, she said, was “the perspective of concerned citizens and voters —not the perspective of the regulated community or the political operatives and attorneys who support them.”

During the FEC’s comment period, thousands expressed their support for stricter disclosure rules and stronger regulations on coordination between candidates and secret, dark money groups.

“According to the Center for Re-

sponsive Politics, outside spending almost tripled between the 2008 and 2012 presidential elections, more than quadrupled between the 2006 and 2010 midterm elections, and then almost doubled again between the 2010 and 2014 midterm elections’ MacNamara reminded the FEC. “Outside groups now spend more than candidates themselves in tightly contested congressional elections.”

MacNamara asked the FEC to update regulations on campaign-finance laws to provide full disclosure in light of recent U.S. Supreme Court decisions *Citizens United* and *McCutcheon v. FEC*.



Convention To Discuss New Chapters

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Todd/Logan counties. The Convention agenda includes a special session for potential new League leaders and will offer some financial assistance to help them attend. A request: If you have friends or acquaintances in any of these

communities who might be interested in joining the League, please share their names and contact information with Carolyn Self bcself@twc.com. A silent auction will be held during the Convention. Welcome items include white elephants (such as Christmas or birthday presents you cannot use), baked goods, artwork, or handcrafted items. Please plan to bring them along. And finally, we would like to extend our appreciation to our members who contributed \$1,390 to the League during our fall Fund Raising drive. Thank you!



LWV members turned out for a hearing at which LWV State Director Beverly Moore testified in support of HB63, a bill to provide for public financing of judicial campaigns. In her testimony on Feb. 3, Moore stressed that the large contributions — in one state Supreme Court race, topping \$500,000 — was undermining public trust in the justice system. Photo by Beverly Moore

League Day at Legislature

League members Joan Lindop from Louisville and Paula Sterns and Martha Hannifan from E-town organize their visits in the Capital Annex Cafeteria at the last year's LWV of Kentucky Day at the Legislature. Photo by Beverly Moore

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Please advise Nita Smith or Terry Naydan if you'll be participating: Nita Smith, (859) 272-5827 or Nitavotes@aol.com; Terry Naydan (859) 971-7227 or Terrynaydan@aol.com.

To observe House or Senate sessions in the afternoon, you must have a pass, which can be picked up Wednesday morning on arrival.

The planned sched-

ule for the day is:

9 to 9:30

a.m.: Register with Terry Naydan and Nita Smith in the Capitol Annex cafeteria.

9:30 to 10

a.m.: The legislative team will present an overview of the bills we are supporting or opposing.

10 a.m. to 12

noon: Observe a committee meeting or meet with legislators.

Noon: Domestic Violence Rally

12:10 to 1:30 p.m.:

Lunch together in the cafeteria. Everyone buys own lunch. We invite legislators to speak to us informally about bills.

2 p.m.: League members observe a session of the House or Senate.

Call Nita Smith or Terry Naydan if you have any questions.



League members Meryl Ward of Bell County and Paula Sterns and Martha Hannifan from Elizabethtown took a brief rest during last year's LWV of Kentucky Day at the Legislature.



Wednesday Schedule of Standing Committee Meetings

Senate

- 10 a.m. Health and Welfare, Room 131
- 11 a.m. Natural Resources/Energy, Room 154
- 11 a.m. State/Local Gov't, Room 154

House

- 10 a.m. Bank/Insurance, Room 149
- 11 a.m. Human Resources, Room 129
- noon Judiciary, Room 171
- noon Local Government, Room 131
- noon Veterans/Public Safety, Room 169
- noon Economic Development, Room 125

League of Women Voters Busy in Frankfort

BY TERRY NAYDAN

Bills the League *supports* (as of Feb. 11).

HB 8

(Tilley, et al.) Allows a person to petition for a protective order when a victim of stalking. House Judiciary Committee approved bill and it passed on the House floor with an amendment supported by the League. Now goes to the Senate.

HB 22 (T.Kerr) Amend KRS 403.720 to include stalking in definition of domestic violence and abuse, therefore allowing protective orders to be served. No action on bill.

HB 70 (D. Owens, et al.) Calls for amending Constitution to provide for automatic restoration of voting rights for former felons who paid their debt to society. Passed House Elections committee and House floor. An amendment that would delay automatic rights for three years defeated. The bill now goes to Senate.

HB 63 (Wayne) Would establish fund and rules for public financing of judicial campaigns. Judiciary Committee was to have voted this week but time ran out.



Should be on Committee agenda for vote this week.

HB 82 (Floyd) Would abolish death penalty and replace it with life imprisonment without parole. No discussion or committee vote to date.

HB 131 (Wayne, et al.) Environment Committee. So called "stream-saver bill" would amend surface coal mining laws to require on-bench disposal of excess spoil where feasible and to require valley fills to be constructed above rather than in waters of Commonwealth. Bill not yet been heard in Committee.

Bills the League **opposes**
HB 84 (Hopkins) Tourism Dev. Energy Committee. Would lift state prohibitions on nuclear plant construction to allow construction of a nuclear power facility on a site previously used for the

manufacture of nuclear products (i.e., Paducah). Would create special legislation exemption for Paducah, without requiring a disposal or storage strategy in place for management of spent materials. No action on bill.

HB 152 & SB3

(Hornback, et al.) Economic Development Committee. AT&T effort to complete deregulation of telephone services, and end obligation to provide basic, reliable, stand-alone telephone service to all customers. Would end obligation to offer basic local exchange phone service for exchanges with 15,000 or more housing units, and for all other exchanges would allow AT&T, Windstream, and Cincinnati Bell to substitute Internet protocol or less functional and reliable wireless services in some situations. Would end PSC jurisdiction over consumer cellphones and broadband complaints. These bills have passed committees in each chamber and will go for floor votes in both House and Senate. League opposes bills but supports amendments to provide protections for consumers.

If you have questions, contact Terry Naydan, Legislative Co-Chair at TerryNaydan@aol.com or (859) 971-7227.

Local LWV Candidate Forums

By **IVONNE ROVIRA**

Leagues across the state held candidate forums last fall to acquaint their voters with issues and candidates' positions.

The Middlesboro (Bell County) LWV held forums in each week in October. These events were broadcast several times on both local TV stations and posted to

Facebook. LWV member Pat Bingham was re-elected to the Pineville City Council.

The Louisville LWV moderated 11 debates, including the Third District Congressional seat, the six contested Metro Council seats and several school board races. The Metro Council races were repeatedly aired on

MetroTV, while the other races were broadcast on WLKY-TV.

In Lexington, the chapter oversaw forums for the mayor's race, six Council districts, County Judge-Executive and some other local races, and several judicial races., 19 in all.



In December, Martha Hannifan (at left) presents a thank-you gift to Retha Wilcoxson for coordinating Kids Vote 2014 in Hardin County.

Correction

In the last VOTER, the information shared on the Judicial Campaign Conduct Committee was written by Al Cross, secretary of that committee.

League member Cecile Schubert, who serves on the committee with Mr. Cross, shared

the information and we neglected to give him credit.

We regret the omission.

Seeking Redistricting Volunteers

The state Redistricting Committee is underway, working to put in place a more reasonable process for redistricting, which will next be required in

2020.

We would like to have at least one person from each local league involved. Meetings will be held in person and/or by phone,

so that distance should not hinder participation. Let Nita Smith or Steve Senft know if you are interested. Nitavotes@aol.com or ssenft@twc.com.

Dot Ridings Honored with Award, Scholarship

Dorothy Ridings, long time Louisville League member and former national president, has been recognized as a Woman of Distinction by the Center for Women and Families. The Center helps victims of abuse or sexual violence and each year they recognize outstanding women who contribute to education,



health care, civil rights, the arts and other human services.

In addition, a permanent scholarship fund has been created by the Louisville Presbyterian Seminary in her honor!

Congratulations Dot!

“From 1992 to 2011, roughly 6,700 charter schools opened across the country and 1,036 closed....”

Charter School Report Released

The Prichard Committee for Academic Excellence has issued a report *Exploring Charter Schools in Kentucky: An Informational Guide*.

The 20-page report, released in November, examined the data on charter schools from 27 states. The

report notes eight important questions that should be asked of any proposed charter legislation dealing with accountability, public school waivers and admissions. The report even includes a graphic organizer for assessing future legislation,

should there be any.

The report in its entirety can be downloaded at www.prichardcommittee.org. You can also find analysis of proposed charter-school legislation on the Prichard Committee’s blog, which can be found on the website.

LWV to Participate in Magna Carta Exhibit

The American Bar Association has approved the Kentucky Bar Association, in partnership with the Kentucky State Fair Board, to display a traveling exhibit *Magna Carta: Enduring Legacy, 1215–2015* during this year’s State Fair, Aug 20 to 30, in

Louisville.

The LWV has been invited to participate. Members are invited to train as docents and help staff the exhibit. Let us know if you would like to learn more about the importance of the Magna Carta and share that

information at this year’s State Fair. For more information or to volunteer, email KentuckyLWV@gmail.com.





LWV of Kentucky

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We're on the web!
<http://lwvky.org/>

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Nominating Committee:

Terry Naydan
Nita Smith

Calendar

Friday, Feb. 25: League Day at the Legislature, Frankfort.

Friday, April 10, 6–7:30 p.m.: League of Women Voters of Kentucky Convention Dinner (optional), Shaker Village.

Friday, April 10, 7:30 p.m.: Reception and program, Shaker Village.

Saturday, April 11, 8:30 a.m.–3 p.m.: League of Women Voters of Kentucky State Convention, Shaker Village.

Monday, April 20: Last day to register to vote in the primary

Tuesday, May 19: Primary Election Day