



INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

Education Meetings	2
Study Unit Schedule	3
Ed. Study Questions	3
League Fund Raiser	4
Study Unit Schedule	4
2012 Legis. Agenda	5
Lang House Fixes	5
Renew Membership	6

Federal Education Involvement Has Constitutional Basis

By **BEVERLY MOORE**

Federal involvement in public education hinges on three statements in the U.S. Constitution.

The Tenth Amendment, adopted in 1791, reads: "The powers not delegated to the United States by the Constitution, nor prohibited by it to the States, are reserved to the States respectively, or to the people." As public education was not mentioned as one of those federal powers, it has historically been delegated to local and state governments.

However, from the very beginning of our Republic, a well-educated citi-

zenry was deemed essential to protect liberty and the general welfare of the people. From the first Northwest Ordinance in 1785 to President Obama's Blueprint for Reform, federal action has encouraged and supported education. Article 1, Section 8, of the Constitution grants to Congress the power to lay and collect taxes to provide for the general welfare of the United States. Under this "general welfare" clause,

The League of Women Voters is unique in that its membership studies an issue and comes to consensus on a position before taking any action. This year, all local Leagues will study the Role of the Federal Government in Education. The study kicks off at the next General Membership Meeting with the federal role in regard to Common Core Standards. We must send the results of our consensus to the LWV of the US by Nov. 30.

the federal government has assumed the power to initiate educational

Cont'd on p. 2

LWV Fund Raiser Features Cello Prodigy

By **IVONNE ROVIRA**

Melvin Dickinson, long-time conductor of the Louisville Bach Society, will host a delightful afternoon of music as a fund raiser for the League of Women Voters of Louisville.

The musical event will be at the **Louisville Bach Haus, 4607 Hanford Lane, on Sept. 25 at 3 p.m.**

The suggested contribution is \$50.

The event, to last between an hour and 90 minutes, will feature nationally renowned cellist Anne Richardson, singly and in a cello quartet. It will also feature Dickinson's wife, Margaret, herself a noted musician in her own right, playing a custom-built organ.

Richardson is "a child prodigy that's making

quite a name for herself nationally," Melvin

Cont'd on p. 4

SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

- *An election in an odd-numbered year? Yes! Democracy only works if its citizens participate.*
- *Also, this year's election is **not** on the first Tuesday of November: It's **Nov. 8**, the first Tuesday after the first Monday, as required by law.*
- *Please be sure that we have your correct e-mail address.*

Katy Christopherson, president of the League of Women Voters of Louisville in the 1960s, has issued a financial challenge: In order to encourage participation at all levels — including the \$10–\$50 levels — she will match contributions to the Lang House Capital Campaign up to \$500. The will double the value of your contribution.

Federal Education Involvement Has Constitutional Basis

Cont'd from p. 1

activity in its own right and to participate jointly with states, agencies and individuals in educational activities. The 14th Amendment in 1868 expanded the right to public education by guaranteeing that "all persons born or naturalized in the United States, and subject to the jurisdiction thereof, are citizens in the United States and of the state wherein they reside. No state shall make or enforce any law which shall abridge the privileges or immunities of citizens of the United States; nor shall any state deprive any person of life, liberty or property, without due process of law; nor deny to any person within its jurisdiction the equal protection of the law."

The federal government's involvement and influence on education in

all states has grown incrementally, especially since 1900.

The National League of Women Voters is conducting a study to examine "The Role of Federal Government in Education" to determine how extensive and of what nature

that role should be. The study focuses on common core standards, assessment, equity, and funding and includes all the local Leagues in the United States.

(Consensus questions begin on the next page.)

Join Voter Services

By AMEERAH GRANGER

This election season will prove another exciting and important time for the Voter Services Committee. While we have some forums pending, our primary charge and most important mission to tackle remains **educating and registering voters**.

It's critical to educate seasoned and novice voters to navigate through confusing rhetoric and media buzz. We will concentrate registration efforts on students of smaller academic and technical colleges and regular working folk. The committee will convene soon. If you are interested in participating on the committee or with scheduled voter registration/education events, please text or call or email me.

League Hosts Meetings in Connection with Education Study

By FRANCIS COTTON

The League of Women Voters of Louisville has established several dates when members can examine, "The Role of the Federal Government in Education?" The Louisville League will focus on the important questions involved in this national LWV study with two general membership meetings, the first on national standards and assessment and the second on equity and funding. Each general meeting will be followed by unit meetings for discussion and consensus by Louisville League members. (For unit schedules, see next page.)



Stu Silberman



David Karem

Monday, Aug. 29: *Common Core Academic Standards: What do they mean for testing and schools?*



Robyn Oatley

Presented by Robyn Oatley, project manager for the Prichard Committee's

ReadyKentucky, a former teacher, administrator, standards and assessment specialist.

Lang House, 115 S. Ewing Ave. Dinner (\$15), **5:30 p.m.**; program, **6 p.m.** Public is invited. If possible, please make dinner reservations by calling **895-5218** or emailing **info@lwvlouisville.org**.

Monday, Oct. 17: General Membership Meeting.: Federal Government Role Regarding Equity and Funding in Education. **Lang House.**

Thursday, Oct. 27: noon-1:30 p.m., University of Louisville's **University Club**, off Cardinal Boulevard. Free parking; lunch, \$5 to \$12. Please RSVP if you are coming to the UofL unit so the League can reserve a table.

Speaking on educational equity and funding at the Oct. 27 meetings will be **Stu Silberman**, executive director of the Prichard Committee for Academic Excellence and the former superintendent of Fayette County Public Schools, and **David Karem**, chairman of the Kentucky Board of Education and a former state senator who was a leader of the Kentucky Education Reform Task Force.

Additional study resources for are on the Education page of the Louisville League's web site:

www.lwvlouisville.org. Background and the study questions are in this issue of *The Voter*.

Join LWV Education Study Units to Seek Consensus!

By **BEVERLY MOORE**

Following the **General Membership Meetings on Aug. 29 and Oct. 17**, the discussion meetings (study units) will provide more information that members can consult to inform their consensus on answers to the study questions. Those responses must be sent to the LWVUS by Nov. 30 and will be combined with answers from other Leagues from across the United States.

The resultant positions will represent all League members. That's why it is so important for as many Louisville members as possible to participate in the discussion/

consensus unit meetings.

The unit schedule follows:

After the Aug. 29 General Meeting on National Academic Standards and assessment:

- **Tuesday, Sept. 6, 6–7:30 p.m.**, at Lang House.
- **Wednesday, Sept. 7, 10–11:30 a.m.**, at Lang House
- **Thursday, Sept. 8, noon–1:30 p.m.**, at the University Club. Free parking; lunch, \$5–\$12. Please RSVP 805-5218 or info@lwvlouisville.org if you are coming to the UofL unit so the League can reserve a table.

- **Thursday, Sept. 15, 6–7:30 p.m.**, at Lang House.

After the Oct. 17 General Meeting on Equity and Funding:

- **Wednesday, Oct. 19, 10–11:30 a.m.**, at Lang House.
- **Monday, Oct. 24, 6–7:30 p.m.**, at Lang House.
- **Thursday, Oct. 27, noon–1:30 p.m.**, at the University of Louisville's University Club, Free parking; lunch, \$5 to \$12. Please RSVP if you are coming to the UofL unit so the League can reserve a table.
- **Tuesday, Nov. 1, 6–7:30 p.m.**, at Lang House.

LWV Education Consensus Questions

The League of Women Voters of the United States is studying the federal government's role in education, of which an important part is the Common Core Standards and the related assessments. The District of Columbia and 45 states have adopted the Common Core Standards, which are rigorous educational standards that define the knowledge and skills students should possess at critical points during their education.

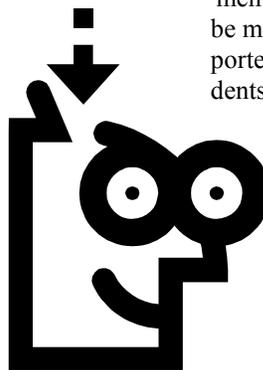
The National Governors' Association (NGA) and the Council of Chief State School Officers (CCSSO) developed these standards. While not a federal government mandate, acceptance of the standards was a requirement to qualify for "Race to the Top" funding.

Among the issues that the Discussion Units will be examining are the following:

1. Should the Common Core Standards be mandated? Should

the standards be mandated of the states in order to obtain federal funding?

2. Should there be a national test aligned with the Common Core Standards?
3. Should these Common Core Standards provide the basis of a national curriculum, an educational plan that spells out which goals and objectives will be achieved, how to achieve those goals and what topics should be covered as well as the methods and materials to be used for learning and evaluation?
4. What role should a national



assessment play in student evaluations?

5. Data from national assessments are often difficult for parents, teachers and others to understand. If we have a national assessment, what information would be most important to be reported to parents, teachers, students and the community?

To what use should a required national assessment be put? To sanction schools not measuring up to the specific levels? To reward schools that achieve high scores? To rank teachers based on student test score data? To reward teachers who have exemplary scores? To inform districts how their population compares to others similar to theirs?

Cont'd on p. 5

LWV Fund Raiser Features Nationally Known Cello Prodigy

Cont'd from p. 1

Dickinson said in a brief interview.

Dickinson arranged for the afternoon's program. He said additional musicians may yet be added to the program.

The Louisville Bach Society regaled audiences in Kentucky and throughout the country with orchestral and choral works by Bach and other classical composers for 47 years before disbanding earlier this year.

In 2001, Dickinson was honored for his lifetime achievement with a Kentucky Governor's Awards in the Arts Artist Award. The loss of the Louisville Bach Society makes the League fund raiser an even rarer treat.



Longtime Louisville Bach Society director Melvin Dickinson conducts the orchestra in an undated photo. The orchestra usually numbered 60 to 70.

Photo, used with the permission of the Louisville Bach Society

Local League Plans 2012 Legislative Agenda

By JOAN LINDOP

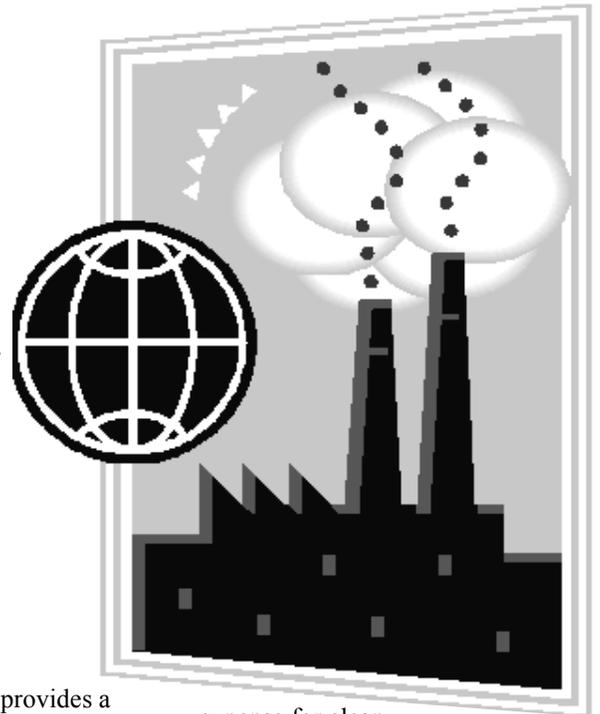
The League of Women Voters of Louisville will be examining the bills that the League might want to support for the 2012 General Assembly, especially in the areas of energy efficiency and net metering or feed in tariff.

The meeting, scheduled for **6 p.m. on Monday, Sept. 16**, will be at Lang House, 115 S. Ewing Ave. Wallace McMullen, on the policy committee of KySEA (Kentucky Sustainable Energy Alliance) and a League member, will be the speaker.

Kentucky's dirty air has made us sick and kept us in the technology of a past century. In November, we hope to take this discussion further with unit meetings so that we will have a consensus position by January. By November, we may know

which legislator(s) may be willing to introduce a bill to encourage efficiency, either through retrofits or LEED building or a bill to add clean energy to our energy portfolio.

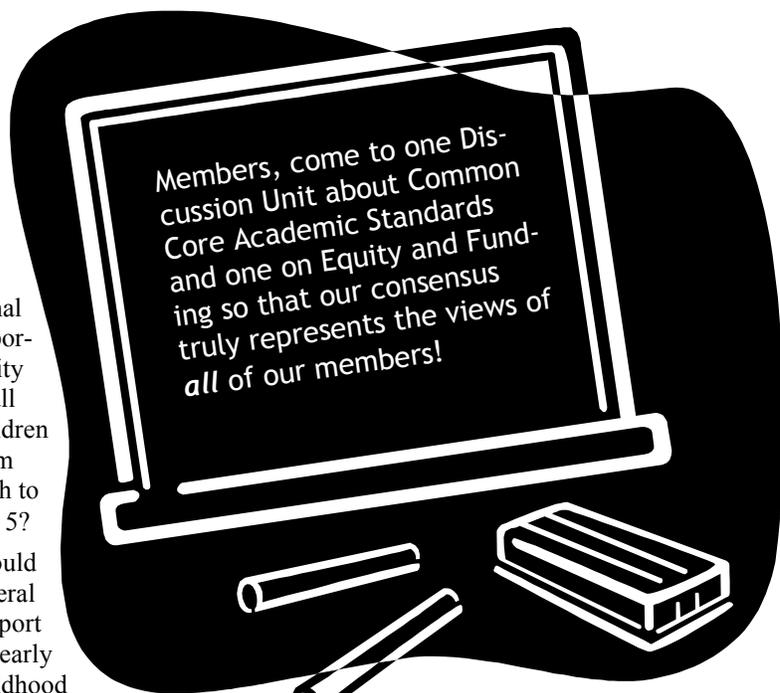
For those not familiar with this term, the *feed in tariff* would guarantee a homeowner or small business a fair price for the wind or solar energy that they produce. Germany is a leader in solar energy because of the feed-in tariff they introduced in 1990. If Kentucky embraces a policy that provides a reasonable payback for renewable energy, homeowners, schools and many farms would find the initial



expense for clean energy would be an attractive investment.

League Discussion Units to Study Federal Education Role

Cont'd from p. 3

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- Members, come to one Discussion Unit about Common Core Academic Standards and one on Equity and Funding so that our consensus truly represents the views of *all* of our members!
7. In the past, most of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA) funding has been non-competitive based on need. What should the future criteria be?
 8. If the federal government's role is the concern of the "common good," then should mandates be sanctioned? Should funding be provided? (Remember: Mandates are not bad. Integration was a mandate, as was gender equity through Title IX.
 9. What should equity in public education mean?
 10. Currently Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA) funding is considered "categorical" rather than for general use. This means that it can only be used with special populations for special purposes. Should ESEA remain targeted toward poverty and special needs?
 11. Much current educational research emphasizes the role of early childhood education in giving all children an even start when entering kindergarten. Should the federal government have a role in extending educational opportunity to all children from birth to age 5?
 12. Should federal support for early childhood education programs (such as Head Start, Title I, special education, Early Start) include funding for parent education and support regarding child development, child health and nutrition, and access to other supportive services, such as mental health, as needed?
 13. Should early childhood funding be extended to all children, only those with special needs, or those with special needs first?
 14. Finally, what should the role of the federal government in public education be?
 15. How important is a quality public education to perpetuating a strong and viable democracy?

Lang House Improvement Committee Lays Out Criteria

By EMMA SMITH and BEVERLY MOORE

The Lang House Improvement Committee, chaired by Emma Smith, has adopted criteria for choosing improvements and priorities.

Having determined that the ramp and restrooms met accessibility standards, the first criterion is that

an improvement should enhance energy efficiency, as in the case of a programmable thermostat, appropriate wall and ceiling insulation, storm windows and thermal shades.

Whether the improvement enhances Lang House, inside and out, ranks as the second criterion. Visual appeal will boost League membership and appeal to potential renters, tenants, speakers, and the entire

community. Examples include new interior and exterior lighting, renovating the back of Lang House (new portico) and improving landscaping all around. Treasurer Mary Jo Rodgers has begun getting bids on general maintenance, such as carpentry and electrical repair, that need immediate attention.



The Voter

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*The League of Women
Voters of Louisville is one
of the oldest Leagues in
country, created in 1920,
the same year as the
League of Women Voters
of the United States!*

We're on the Web!

www.LWVLouisville.org

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Calendar

Aug. 26: Women's Rights Day Celebration in conjunction with the F.A.T. Trolley Hop and Balance Massage Opening. Lang House.

Aug. 29: General Meeting Common Core Academic Standards: What do they mean for testing and schools? Lang House. Dinner (\$15) at 5:30 p.m.; program at 6 p.m.

Discussion/Consensus Units on the Role of the Federal Government in Education: Common Core Standards:

Sept. 6, 6 p.m.: Lang House. Lunch provided.

Sept. 7, 10 a.m.: Lang House.

Sept. 8, noon: UofL University Club.

Sept. 15, 6 p.m.: Lang House.

Sept. 12, 6 p.m.: LWV Board Meeting

Sept. 19: General Meeting, **Energy Legislation for Kentucky.** Lang House. Dinner (\$15) at 5:30 p.m.; program at 6 p.m.

Sept. 25, 3 p.m.: LWV Fundraising Concert, Louisville Bach Haus.

Oct. 3, 6 p.m.: LWV Board Meeting

Oct. 17, 6 p.m.: General Meeting, **Federal Government Role in Education: Equity and Funding.**

Discussion/Consensus Units on the Role of the Federal Government in Education: Equity and Funding

Oct. 19, 10 a.m.: Lang House.

Oct. 24, 6 p.m.: Lang House

Oct. 27, noon: UofL University Club.

Nov. 1, 6 p.m.: Lang House

Support the League of Women Voters of Louisville

Renewing your membership is one of the best ways in which you can support your League. Renew today!

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

E-mail: _____

Please mail check or money order to the League office: 115 S. Ewing, Louisville, KY 40206.

Individual: \$55
Additional person in household: \$25
Student: \$15