



The Kentucky Voter

Winter 2013

LWV of Kentucky, 115 S. Ewing Ave, Louisville, KY 40206
502-875-6481, KentuckyLWV@gmail.com, <http://lwvky.org/>

From the Co-Presidents:

Your co-presidents along with Pat Murrell, president of the LWV Louisville, were invited to serve as volunteers for the vice presidential debate at Centre College on October 11. We quickly learned that preparations for a national debate with national and international media interest pose a tremendous task. Logistics included miles of phone and Internet cable; adherence to the Commission on Presidential Debates requirements (for example, 68 degrees F in the debate hall with no air flow that would mess up hair); and arrangements for security.

LWV volunteers had to apply for credentials weeks ahead of time in order to gain entry to the media perimeter – the fenced off area set aside for media, dignitaries and volunteers.

We talked with reporters from the Al Jazeera Network who were interested in why there were only two candidates participating. They were headed to Chicago for an event for all of the presidential candidates, which drew little media attention. We also observed media personalities like Andrea Mitchell and Chuck Todd as well as political figures like Rand Paul.

As the debate ended streams of party volunteers moved quickly to the “spin room” and stood with tall signs naming the dignitaries or party spokespersons available for comment. Republican signs were red, Democratic signs were blue and there were no ‘neutral’ signs to be seen – indicating the comments were clearly of the “spin” variety.

Danville and Centre College are to be commended for their attention to detail as they prepared and carried off a successful VP debate. And we volunteers left with unforgettable memories!

Tammy Fagley, Cindy Heine, Cecile Schubert
Co-Presidents

Legislative Session-2013

The formal Kentucky legislative session begins on Tuesday, January 9. However, many legislators have already prefiled bills, some of which are of special interest to the League of Women Voters of Kentucky. Representative Jesse Crenshaw’s bill (BR 166), which calls for automatically returning the right to vote to former felons who have served their sentence, is the same bill that did not pass in the last session. Our coalition partners and I think that the bill has a good chance of passing this year as there is new leadership in the legislature. We will lobby for this bill again in this session.

Another bill that we are supporting is Representative Jim Wayne’s bill (BR 233) calling for public financing of judicial campaigns, beginning with Supreme Court justices. Most citizens that we talked to last session agreed that judges should not be beholden to any special interest groups. We want our judges to be free of influence from anyone.

The last bill that we are interested in is Senator Denise Harper Angel’s bill (BR 26), which has to do with dating and domestic violence. We are looking to National to inform us if we have a position on dating and domestic violence (more to follow).

When we have a “call to action” on the bills we are supporting, I would appreciate it if you would call the legislative message line (1-800-372-7181) and leave a message of support. Legislators like to know if there is real support from Kentucky citizens for the bills they introduce and champion. I hope that the upcoming session is a productive one and that the bills we support will become law.

Terry Naydan
LWV Legislative Liaison



L to R:

LWV volunteers *Pat Murrell* (Louisville), *Cecile Schubert* (Berea), *Tammy Fagley* and *Cindy Heine* (Lexington).

Felony Disenfranchisement Report Updated

Felony Disenfranchisement Report in the Commonwealth of Kentucky: A Report of the League of Women Voters of Kentucky, first prepared in 2006 has been updated thanks to Judy Johnson (Lexington LWV member). Watch for its public release soon.

National Voter Registration Day Noted in Louisville

Louisville LWV members and other volunteers boarded buses and spent time in community centers registering voters in September, joining Leagues across the country in National Voter Registration Day. Local President Pat Murrell's complimentary *op-ed*, published in *The Courier-Journal*, was followed by an editorial (copied below). One League volunteer riding a city bus reported that a middle-aged man (who was already registered) watched her encouraging others to register and said, "This is a wonderful thing you all are doing. Thank you." We agree and commend the Louisville LWV for their good work.

Editorial | Power of citizenship is in power of vote *The Courier-Journal*, September 24, 2012

In case you hadn't noticed, Election Day isn't too far into the future. Before you know it, Nov. 6 will be here.

And also if you hadn't noticed, efforts have been stepped up in states throughout the nation to make it harder for some people to vote. Elected officials — oh, the irony — say the laws they are approving (some of which are being questioned or thrown out by courts) are designed to cut down on voter "fraud." What the laws do, in effect, is make it harder only for some people to vote — like the elderly, the poor, students, people of color.

Well, the officials — overwhelmingly Republican — who pass and sign these laws need to come up with a better excuse. The Brennan Center for Justice, a nonpartisan public policy institute associated with the New York University School of Law, reports voter fraud is "exceedingly rare," and that a person is more likely to be struck by lightning than commit voter fraud. The center also flatly states, "The type of individual voter fraud supposedly targeted by recent legislative efforts — especially efforts to require certain forms of voter ID — simply does not exist."

So as some folks try to make voting harder for eligible citizens, other folks are trying to make it easier for eligible citizens to register to vote. And today, National Voter Registration Day, these nonpartisan groups and volunteers are out in force, across the country, to help people get ready to exercise this most precious of American rights. In 2008, organizers note, 6 million Americans didn't vote because they missed a registration deadline or didn't know how to register.

In yesterday's "Community Challenge" piece in the Forum section, Louisville League of Women Voters President Pat Murrell wrote of her organization's efforts today.

"You may see us at the Neighborhood Place locations, Oak and Acorn, U of L, Americana Community Center, Miniversity Child Development Center and other locations. You will see us riding and registering on TARC buses, and we've been doing the Trolley Hops," she wrote.

Ms. Murrell noted that the deadline to register in Kentucky for the Nov. 6 election is Oct. 9. For a variety of voter or registration information, call the Jefferson County Clerk's office at (502) 574-5700.

What's at stake with casting your vote — or not?

The national League of Women Voters has a piece that underlines the power of one vote, and why, as Ms. Murrell wrote, that "democracy is not a spectator sport."

In 1845, the League writes, one vote brought Texas into the Union.

The League also notes:

In 1868, one vote saved President Andrew Johnson from impeachment.

In 1876, one vote gave Rutherford B. Hayes the U.S. presidency.

In 1920, one vote made the difference to grant women the right to vote.

In 1941, one vote saved the Selective Service — weeks before Pearl Harbor was attacked.

In 1962, the governors of Maine, Rhode Island, and North Dakota were elected by a margin of one vote per precinct.

In 1974, the California governor's race was won by fewer than 8 votes per precinct.

In 2000, the Supreme Court upheld the election of George W. Bush by one vote.

Every vote counts. Make sure yours does, too, by registering to vote today.

LWV and Presidential Debates

Dot Ridings, former League of Women Voters national president and current member of the LWV of Louisville, has been a member of the Commission on Presidential Debates for close to 10 years. She shared this information with us:

- The first televised presidential debate was held in 1960 and was sponsored by the media networks. There were no debates for several years after that because of an FCC rule that all candidates had to have equal exposure and with hundreds of candidates - that was next to impossible.
- A 1975 ASPEN ruling changed the FCC rule to allow a nonprofit, nonpartisan organization, independent of any broadcaster, to host events. These organizations could set parameters for including candidates and could be covered by the networks as public events. The LWV fit the bill and hosted debates in 1976, 1980 and 1984.
- Between 1984 and 1988 the Commission on Presidential Debates was formed (another non profit, non partisan organization, independent of broadcasters) and took over the debates.

NEWS & NOTES

LWV US President to Speak at Cincinnati Leagues’ Susan B. Anthony Luncheon

Keynote Speaker: Elisabeth MacNamara, President, LWV US
Saturday, February 23, 2013
The Phoenix, 812 Race St., Downtown Cincinnati
11:00 am – noon: Social Hour and Silent Auction
12 noon- 2 pm: Luncheon and Keynote Speech
Cost: \$40/person
For more information: Cincinnati League office at (513) 281-8683

LWV of Lexington posts candidate forums on the Internet

The LWV of Lexington has been co-sponsoring candidate forums with the Lexington Public Library for a number of years with forums aired on the library’s cable channel. This year library staff members were able to tape and upload the forums to their website for viewing any time of day or night. Before they were taken down, over 500 people had linked to the forums.

Congratulations to Terry Naydan who was reappointed to the board of the Registry of Election Finance for another 4-year term.

Former State LWV President, Betty Hilliard died on September 1 at her home in Elizabethtown. Betty was a long-time League member, serving as local president as well as on the state board as state president. She is survived by her husband of 58 years, James Hilliard, two sons, one daughter, seven grandchildren and two great-grandchildren.

On Jan 3, 1793- Lucretia Mott, Women Right’s Activist, Quaker minister, and Abolitionist, was born in Nantucket, Massachusetts. Dedicated to women’s rights, she published her influential “Discourse on Woman” (<http://gos.sbc.edu/m/mott.html>) and founded Swarthmore College.

Election Advisory Meetings to be Held in 2013--

Secretary of State Alison Lundergan Grimes will hold Election Advisory meetings throughout the state this year to review and recommend improvements to Kentucky’s election laws. She has invited the League of Women Voters to participate in discussions about the effectiveness of our election laws in maintaining free and fair elections, whether Kentucky should permit early voting and/or unexcused absentee voting, voter registration and voting procedures. Meeting details will be shared when available. For more information go to <http://sos.ky.gov/secdesk/mediacenter/pressreleases/sos121912a.htm>.

Civics Education Study

This year, Kentucky League is investigating how the Kentucky public schools are preparing students to be active and engaged citizens focusing on the first two study questions:

- 1. What is the role of public schools in preparing students to be informed and engaged citizens?
- 2. What should high school graduates know about civics?

The Lexington League hosted a very informative forum on these issues with speakers from the University of Kentucky, KY Department of Education and KY Council for Social Studies. The Hopkinsville-Christian County League plans a civics education program in May and Louisville in February.

The KY League had planned to examine the new social studies academic standards created by a committee of the Council of Chief State School Officers (CCSSO). However, the CCSSO is now recommending that states use a framework to be released later this year as a guide to adopting their own standards. The framework will take an inquiry approach to learning and enabling students to be active and responsible citizens. The expectations in this framework address League question #1 about the role of schools—whether schools should focus on memorization and understanding of concepts or focus on concepts and practices of investigation, analysis, explanation and evaluation, collaboration and communication in government and society

CCSSO released *Vision for the College, Career, and Civic Life (C3) Framework for Inquiry in Social Studies State Standards (2012)* outlining basic parameters for the anticipated frameworks available at [ccssso.org](http://www.ccsso.org) (look under resources) http://www.ccsso.org/Resources/Publications/Vision_for_the_College_Career_and_Civic_Life_Framework_for_Inquiry_in_Social_Studies_State_Standards.html.

Other national organizations (e.g. Civic Mission of Schools, National Task Force on Civic Learning) support similar visions of civic education. Prior standards have focused on what students should know and be able to explain or describe. For example: *What is civic life? What is politics? What is government? Why are government and politics necessary? What purposes should government serve?* (Center for Civic Education: National Standards for Civics and Government, 9-12 *Content Standards* <http://www.civiced.org>) The KY Core Content for Assessment goals reflect similar approaches but the actual core content for assessment statements indicate students should be able to “describe” or “explain” concepts.

The answer to the questions above will create the basis for subsequent study and perhaps generate different questions. We hope that all the Leagues will discuss this issue. (A letter with details and resources will be sent to all presidents.) When we have decided which approach to teaching civics schools should adopt then we can proceed to examine how well it is being taught and learned and what else, if anything, should be done.

For more information: Beverly Moore 502-473-1114 or beverlylwvl@aol.com

NOTE: LWV Kentucky Address Change

**League of Women Voters of Kentucky
115 S. Ewing Avenue
Louisville, KY 40206**

LWV KY Calendar of Events

January 12, 2013 Kentucky LWV Board meeting
Christ Episcopal Church, Elizabethtown
February 23, 2013 LWV US President Featured at Cincinnati
Susan B. Anthony Luncheon
March 16, 2013 Kentucky LWV Board meeting
Pendleton County
April 13, 2013 KY LWV Convention: Louisville
including optional event the evening
of April 12

2012-13 LWV KY Board

Co-Presidents: Tammy Fagley
Cindy Heine
Cecile Schubert
Vice President: Vacant
Secretary: Nicole George
Treasurer: Steve Senft
Board of Directors: Beverly Moore
Richard Heine

Off Board Positions:

Legislative Liaison: Terry Naydan
Web Page: Nicole Wolfe
Nominating Com: Nita Smith (Chair)
Terry Naydan
Shawn Nordheim

**Membership/
National Liaison:** Carolyn Self

The League of Women Voters of Kentucky is a nonpartisan political organization that encourages the informed and active participation of citizens in government, works to increase understanding of major public policy issues, and influences public policy through education and advocacy.



**League of Women Voters of Kentucky
115 S. Ewing Avenue
Louisville, Ky 40206**