



LEAGUE OF
WOMEN VOTERS®

The Kentucky Voter

Spring 2013

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

Co-Presidents' Corner

Lobbying, State Board Meetings, Call to Convention, Civics Education, Juvenile Court Drug Study and More...

League members have been talking, phoning and visiting legislators to advocate for the League's position on issues that the League supports.

It was a pleasure to be in Frankfort, February 20, for Lobby Day, to talk with legislators and meet with Representative Ruth Ann Palumbo of Fayette County during lunch to discuss bills of interest. We thank Representative Palumbo and her administrative assistant Paula Miller for organizing the lunch meeting. (See the following Final Report on the 2013 KY Legislative Session for the status of bills the League supported.)

As you know, the state board has been holding its meetings every other month at local League sites throughout the state. This process gives the state board and local members a chance to communicate with each other in person rather than through email which can be impersonal at times.

Thank you Lexington, Louisville, Elizabethtown and Pendleton County LWV for your hospitality.



Back row: Beverly Moore, Richard Heine, Cindy Heine, Shawn Nordham, Angela Hornbeck and Bill Mitchell.

Front row: Cecile Schubert, Terry Naydan, Tammy Fagley, and Steve Senft.

State board members, along with the Louisville League president, Pat Murrell, have been formulating plans for the 2013 Annual Convention. This meeting will be held in Louisville the evening of Friday, April 12 and all day Saturday, April 13 at Lang House. (See Call to Convention article for details.)

Thanks to Beverly Moore, Bonnie Lynch and Carolyn Self for their leadership on our current studies. (See articles inside.)

Thank you for all things League,

Tammy Fagley, Cindy Heine, Cecile Schubert

Final Report – 2013 KY Legislative Session

Thank you to all of the LWV members who answered our "calls to action" on the bills we were supporting.

Bills We Supported:

HB 70—Felons' Voting Rights Bill—passed the House, received in the Senate, time ran out before it could be voted on in committee. Rep. Crenshaw will prefile this bill next session.

HB 31—Public Financing of Judicial Campaigns—passed the House, received in Senate —time ran out before it could be voted on in committee. Rep. Wayne will present again next year.

HB 48—Abolishment of the Death Penalty—never was taken up for discussion in House Judiciary Committee. No movement on this bill. Sponsors will introduce again next session.

HB 86/Senate Bill 29 ("Stream Saver" bill)—absolutely no action on these.

HB 268—Auctioning of Semi-Automatic Assault Rifles—died in Judiciary Committee—never voted upon.

HB 265—relating to firearms and declaring an emergency—died in Judiciary Committee—never voted upon.

SB 16—an act relating to dating violence—in Senate Judiciary Committee—never posted for discussion—no action on this bill.

National Position of Opposition:

SB 4—specifies how the phrase "individual private setting" shall be interpreted in informed consent situations—passed Senate—sent to House—posted in committee—discharge petition filed—failed to come out of Committee.

SB 5—requires an ultrasound before abortion is performed—passed Senate—sent to House—posted in Committee--discharged petition filed but failed to come out of Committee.

Comment—We were disappointed that the gun safety bills were not acted upon, but at least they were introduced for discussion. We have high hopes that **HB70** is coming closer to being passed. **HB 31** seems to have support from many members of the legislature. We will support this bill next year. Some bills require more than one legislative session to pass. We will continue to lobby for bills the League supports in the next legislative session.

Terry Naydan, Nita Smith

Kentucky Civic Health Initiative

Secretary of State Alison Lundergan Grimes is continuing the “**Civic Health Initiative**,” a statewide series of roundtable discussions at Kentucky’s universities and colleges to improve Kentucky’s overall civic health. The most recent event was held at the University of Kentucky at 10:30 a.m. on March 20. Secretary Grimes developed the initiative to establish new partnerships and formulate fresh strategies to reverse the trend of declining civic engagement revealed by the “Civic Health Index” her office released in March 2012. Topics discussed at these forums have spanned all facets of citizenship and engagement, including voter registration and participation, volunteerism, community involvement and civic education. For more information, visit the Secretary of State’s website at www.sos.ky.gov, follow @kysecofstate on Twitter and “like” Kentucky Office of the Secretary of State on Facebook.

The schedule for remaining roundtable discussions includes: **March 26**—11:15 a.m.-12:30 p.m. at Centre College; **April 4**—2:30-3:30 p.m. at Morehead State University; **April 8**—12:15-1:30 p.m. at Elizabethtown Community & Technical College; **April 9**—10:30 a.m.-12 p.m. at Henderson Community & Technical College; **April 22**— 10:30 a.m.-12 p.m. at the University of Louisville; **April 24**—10:00-11a.m. Hazard Community & Technical College (11-11:30 a.m. Awards Presentation); **May 1**—11:00 a.m.-12:30 p.m. at the University of Pikeville.

National News

1. LWVUS Council 2013, June 14-17, National Conference Center, Washington, D.C.; **LWVUS Convention 2014**, June 6-10, Dallas (More details forthcoming in emails and the next VOTER.)

2. Check out the following on National’s website: Legislative Priorities for 2013; How Does Your State’s Elections System Rate?; New and Improved High School Voter Registration Training Manual. Go to www.lwv.org; log in, then use the Forums Link in the navigation bar to the left. You will be able to view a ‘recorded webinar’ introducing new Forums. Other Advocacy Issues include: Money in Politics and the Many Facets of Election Reform, Climate Change, Gun Safety and Immigration; LWVUS and the South Carolina League join Amicus Briefs in the Case of “Shelby County vs. Holder”.

3. National Sends Letter To Vice President Biden Regarding Gun Control—Included was the LWVUS position which states: “The League of Women Voters of the United States believes that the proliferation of handguns and semi-automatic assault weapons in the United State is a major health and safety threat to its citizens. The League supports strong federal measures to limit the accessibility and regulate the ownership of these weapons by private citizens. The League supports regulating firearms for consumer safety.” For the complete letter go to www.lwv.org.

4. LWVUS Nominating Committee—Your LWVUS nominating committee is beginning its outreach to local and state leagues for the two-year 2014 slate of nominees for the national board as well as members of the nominating committee. National will send out the official call for nominations in a few months, at which time you can nominate yourself or others you see as potential leaders. Contact: NominatingCommittee@lwv.org. (This information is from a more detailed email from national.)

5. The Path to Free, Fair and Accessible Elections for Every American—Our Mission-Making Democracy Work—The League has identified four proactive priorities for our elections administration reform work next year: **1. Secure Online Voter Registration**—“The League looks forward to working with state officials to develop secure online voter registration that best serves us all.” **2. Permanent and Portable Statewide Voter Registration**—“...to make an individual’s registration permanent and portable within a state ...” and “...the registration stays active whenever they move within that state.” **3. Expand Early Voting**— “...Every state should have in-person early voting, and it should be available at multiple locations outside of traditional business hours, not only in the evening but also on Saturday and Sunday.” **4. Improved Polling Place Management**— “We need to increase the total resources to go toward making our electoral system work, but we also need to ensure that those resources are distributed fairly and equitably.” “ ... this would improve the experience for both voters and Election Day workers as well as reduce long lines and increase the efficient use of the resources we do have.”

Call to Convention

Friday/Saturday, April 12-13, 2013
Louisville, KY - Lang House – 115 S. Ewing

Please register by Thursday, April 4 (\$25 registration fee includes continental breakfast and lunch)

Convention Delegates:

Each local League is entitled to 1 voting delegate for every 10 members or part thereof up to 5 delegates; then 1 delegate for every 20 members or part thereof. Let your local president know if you would like to represent your local league as a delegate.

Friday, April 12, 2013 Dinner & Legislative Panel

KT's Restaurant – 2300 Lexington Avenue, Louisville

5:30 p.m. Reception

6:00 Dinner

6:30 – 8:00 Panel Discussion Members-Senators Whitney Westerfield (Christian, Logan, Todd) and Gerald Neal (Jefferson); Representatives Julie Adams (Jefferson) and Jimmy Lee (Hardin).

This panel has been asked to update us on adopted and planned legislation, covering issues of interest to the League. Topics include energy, natural resources, voting rights, campaign finance reform, tax reform, education, health care access and juvenile justice. If there are other issues you would like the panelists to address, "Bring them along."

Cost of dinner: \$35. Reservations are required and can be made with Convention registration. Three entrees available; let us know if you want a vegetarian meal.

Directions to Dinner: If you want to carpool from Lang House, 115 S. Ewing Ave—take I-64 to Grinstead Exit, go north on Grinstead; turn left first street and take Peterson to alley behind funeral home; left one block to Lang House. To go directly to KT's—take Grinstead exit; go south half block to Lexington Ave.; turn right., go half block. KT'S is on the left.

Saturday, April 13, 2013 Agenda:

Lang House, 115 S. Ewing Ave., Louisville

8:00-8:30	Registration and Continental Breakfast
8:30-8:45	Introductions and Orientation
8:45-9:45	Appoint Parliamentarian: Credentials: Reports from Treasurer, Budget Committee, Bylaws Committee, Nominating Committee, Membership Committee—State Coach
9:45-10:00	Break
10:00-11:00	State Civics Education Study – B. Moore
11:00-11:30	Local League Reports: Bell, Pendleton, Louisville, Hardin Counties
11:30-12:15	Lunch
12:15-1:00	Membership Workshop—Carolyn Self
1:00-1:30	Juvenile Drug Court Study—C. Self, B. Lynch
1:30-2:00	Local League Reports: Berea/Madison, Lexington, Hopkinsville Counties
2:00-3:00	Voting Session: Budget, Bylaws, Elections—Nominating Committee, Program
3:00	Adjourn

For those needing overnight accommodations, check these web sites for hotels; www.Kentucky.com; www.tripadvisor.com. Closest to Lang House is Breckenridge Inn or downtown hotels. There are several hotels at the I-64/Hurstbourne exit.

Questions: Email pmcmu@aol.com or call 502-895-5218 or 502-442-2715.

Civics Education Study

Kentucky League Members Prepare For Consensus

In the fall 2013, Kentucky local Leagues will be asked to answer consensus questions about the role of schools in preparing citizens and what students should learn about civics. The questions have been formed based on current national and state League positions. League members must decide how those positions apply to schools in Kentucky. "The League of Women Voters of the United States believes that democratic government depends upon informed and active participation at all levels of government" (LWVUS), *Impact on Issues 2012-2012*, p.22. Accordingly, the League promotes an "open governmental system that is representative, accountable and responsive," (p.2).

In addition, the League believes, "That every person should have equal access" to "quality education." (p.57). However, the national League has never undertaken a study or process to define quality education. Therefore, when a definition of quality is a key factor for a state or local issue, the state or local League must conduct its own study rather than relying on the LWVUS positions to take action.

The LWV of KY adopted a position on quality education in 1987. That position states that the goals of education are to enable people to participate effectively in all aspects of our democratic society; that education programs should help all individuals grow and develop in citizenship; and that students need to acquire the following abilities:

- A. To reason critically
- B. To solve problems
- C. To adapt to change
- D. To read and communicate effectively, and
- E. To continue to learn independently.

(For complete positions, see LWV of the United States, *Impact on Issues 2012-2012* and Kentucky LWV, *With One Voice*.)

Leagues will receive written background information about the questions. They are asked to seek answers to the questions about civics education in their local communities from educators, elected officials and others. Each League is asked to bring their reports to the LWV KY annual meeting in Louisville in April, 2014 and participate in a roundtable discussion of the findings.

Check emails for the three attachments from Beverly Moore:

1. Position Statement
2. Consensus Questions
3. Tips For Consensus Meeting

Beverly Moore, Louisville

Juvenile Court Drug Study

A summary of the Juvenile Court Drug Study will be presented at the LWV KY Annual Meeting in April. This completed study will be prepared for action by the League. If a positive consensus is reached, an action proposal will be presented and we will be ready to lobby our legislators for funding the state-wide program. At present, only three counties have generated their own funding to continue this court program that has been so important to our youth. Local consensus has been largely positive.

Carolyn Self and Bonnie Lynch
Chairs, Hopkinsville-Christian County LWV

U.S. Supreme Court Now Has Heard Two Pivotal Voter Rights Cases

On February 27, 2013, the court heard arguments in *Shelby County, Alabama v. Holder*, a case that will decide the constitutionality of the Voting Rights Act (VRA) of 1965, landmark legislation that outlaws racial discrimination in state voting practices.

Arizona v. ITC was argued before the U.S. Supreme Court on Monday, March 18. Here the court is being asked to decide whether the National Voter Registration Act (NVRA) prevents states from passing laws that restrict the voter registration process. The state of Arizona is looking to limit voter registration by mail by requiring every new registrant to provide documentary proof of citizenship, even though the NVRA bars states from adding such restrictions. The streamlined mail registration form is an essential element for independent voter registration drives. The federal Election Assistance Commission has repeatedly held that Arizona's restrictions are not consistent with the NVRA.

"The importance of these two upcoming decisions simply can't be overstated," said LWV President Elizabeth MacNamara. "Without a strong VRA, voting rights are left without vital protections. Dismantling the NVRA leaves the voter registration process vulnerable to political manipulation. If states win and voters lose before the U.S. Supreme Court, we can expect to see additional states consider an even broader range of restrictions on voting and changes to electoral systems unparalleled since the days of Jim Crow," concluded MacNamara.

February 20 LWV Legislative Lobby Day



This team means business! Left to right: Cindy Heine, Nita Smith, Terry Naydan, Kathy Wright, Cecile Schubert.

Outreach Activities around Historic Milestones for Women

LWVUS recommends reaching out to communities through activities that commemorate important events in women's history, such as:

- Anniversary of the Enactment of Title IX (June 23)
- Anniversary of the Seneca Falls Convention (July 19-20)
- Women's Equality Day/ Anniversary of the Passage of the 19th Amendment (August 26)
- Anniversary of Local Leagues Founding (Based on Your Local League)

Possible activities might include: screening "Iron Jawed Angels," conducting media outreach, partnering with a library to develop an exhibit or a forum or hosting a women's leadership luncheon.

For more detailed discussion of these ideas, go to <http://www.lwv.org/content/outreach-activities-around-historic-milestones-women-0>.

Membership Corner

CONGRATULATIONS! LWV membership has grown in Kentucky. A full report will be made at the state Convention in Louisville where we will have a brief membership work session.

Research shows that over the past 30 years, most of the members lost were NEW MEMBERS. Women and men are busy and unless they are engaged, they move on. Engaging people means: 1. learning something; 2. doing something for the cause; 3. feeling a part of something; 4. probably having lunch or dinner! Welcome new members! Give them a welcome packet. Orient them to LWV and value their time by using it well.

Bring other ideas with you to LWVKY Annual Meeting and we'll talk. Look forward to seeing you.

Carolyn Self, Membership Chair

Nominating Committee Report

The Nominating Committee submits the following slate of officers (for those positions open for nomination) for the 2013-2014 LWVKY state board. Nominations may be made from the floor at the Annual Meeting.

Officers

Membership – Open

Secretary – Open

Treasurer – Fran Wagner, Louisville

Board of Directors

Richard Heine (Lexington), Carolyn Self (Hopkinsville), Steve Senft (Lexington), Beverly Moore and Harriette Seiler (Louisville).

Nominating Committee: Reva Hart (Elizabethtown), Shawn Nordheim (Pendleton County)

Respectfully submitted by: Nita Smith, (Chair), Terry Naydan, Beverly Moore, Reva Hart, Shawn Nordheim

Recommended Meeting (LWVKY is a co-sponsor for this event)

United Nations Association of the United States of America, Kentucky Division

Annual Meeting: Saturday, April 20, 2013 - Registration – 11:30 AM – 12 noon

Place: University of Louisville Alumni Club, 200 East Brandeis, Ballroom

Noon Luncheon: Special Honorary Guest - Congressman John Yarmuth

Keynote Speaker - Governor Martha Lane Collins

“Leadership *and* Lifetime Accomplishments”

Donations to KDUNA are 501(c)(3) tax deductible. **Please respond by April 16 to teenahal@aol.com, or 502-267-6883.** Checks for \$30.00 for the luncheon are payable to UNA-USAKY and should be mailed to Gus Ridgel, 312 Cold Harbor Dr., Frankfort, KY 40601.

This *Voter* is being mailed to every member. We usually e-mail to those with e-mail addresses and snail mail to the rest. If you are getting the mailed version and would prefer to get it electronically, let us know at KentuckyLWV@gmail.com. All *Kentucky Voters* are now archived on our website. You can find them at <http://lwvky.org/>.

Kentucky League Positions are now posted on the website—You can find them at <http://lwvky.org/>.

NOTE: LWV Kentucky Address Change

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

LWVKY Calendar of Events

April 13, 2013 **KY LWV Convention:** Louisville including optional event the evening of April 12 (See *Call to Convention* column)

June 14-17, 2013 LWVUS Council, National Conference Center, Washington, D.C.

Let your local president know if you are interested in attending.

LWVUS Convention, 2014, June 6-10, Dallas

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 Committee:	Nita Smith, Chair Terry Naydan Shawn Nordheim

Membership/ National Liaison:	Carolyn Self
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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.



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