



SPECIAL
POINTS
OF IN-
TEREST:

- **Lobby with us! See p. 4 for details**
- **Next state Board meeting, Saturday, Oct. 5 in Louisville**

INSIDE

Presidents' Message	2
National Voter Registration Day	2
Civics Education Study	3
State Convention	4
League Lobbying	4
LWV at the March on Washington	5
LWV Board	6
Calendar	6

State Convention prepares for new year

By **IVONNE ROVIRA**

Some new officers — on the state board and off — new ideas for the coming year and a celebration of jobs well done in the 2012–13 fiscal year served as the highlights of the League of Women Voters of Kentucky's State Convention.

Members from six League of Women Voters chapters from across the state gathered in Louisville for a two-day meeting that



Former national League President Dot Ridings moderated a bipartisan panel that included Senators Gerald Neal of Louisville and Whitney Westerfield of Hopkinsville. Photo by Philip Wolfe



League of Women Voters members from across the state gathered for the state convention. Photo by Cindy Heine

ended with the convention at Lang House on Saturday, April 13.

On the night before, League members listened to a bipartisan panel of four state legislators discuss the previous the General Assembly session and prognosticate about the upcoming one.

On the panel were Republicans, state Senator Whitney Westerfield of Hopkinsville and state Representative Julie Raque Adams of eastern Jefferson

County, and Democrats, state Senator Gerald Neal of Louisville and state Representative Jimmie Lee of Elizabethtown. The moderator was Dot Ridings, a former president of the National League of Women Voters.

At the convention, those attending were delighted to hear that the League of Women Voters of Kentucky had grown by 4.86 percent in the concluding fiscal year, bringing

Cont'd on p. 4

Presidents' Message



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

By TAMMY FAGLEY, CINDY HEINE and CECILE SCHUBERT

We are very pleased to welcome the Pendleton County League of Women Voters — a new League! Bill Mitchell and Shawn Nordheim completed all the paperwork and gathered a strong cadre of new members, and they're now official! We also welcome Angela Hornbeck, their new president! With membership declining across the country, we can be especially proud to have a new local League in Kentucky.

The 2013–14 League of Women Voters State Board met last month at the Berea Library to plan for the coming year. We'll complete the Civ-

ics Education Study, create a Legislative Committee in time for the 2014 General Assembly, launch a non-partisan commission for redistricting (since the next census isn't until 2020, we have much time to work on it), and form a committee to plan for primary election candidate forums next spring.

We hope all Leagues will respond to the consensus questions posed by the Civics Education Study Committee. Responses are due by mid-October. Proposed new civics standards, encompassed in social studies standards, make this a timely study for us! More details appear on p. 3.

Local Leagues will implement registration

drives, essay contests and more. A variety of activities to increase membership are also planned, including a showing of *Iron Jawed Angels* in Lexington.

We extend special thanks to Steve Senft for his many years of service as state treasurer, and we welcome Louisville members Fran Wagner and Harriette Seiler to the board. Fran will serve as secretary and Harriette is taking on the Health Care portfolio. If you are interested, in health care as an issue, let us know. We also want to thank Ivonne Rovira for volunteering to edit, design and lay out the *Kentucky Voter*, beginning with this issue!

Restoring the Voting Rights Act

League members have called their members of Congress asking for a quick restoration of the Voting Rights Act! But elected officials need to hear from **you!**

Please call and ask your senators and mem-

ber of Congress to act quickly to restore the Voting Rights Act to ensure our elections are free, fair and accessible to all citizens. Urge your family and friends to call, too.

- Senator Mitch McConnell: (202) 224-2541
- Senator Rand Paul: (202) 224-4343
- 1st, Ed Whitfield: (202) 225-3115
- 2nd, S. Brett Guthrie: (202) 225-3501
- 3rd, John Yarmouth: (202) 225-5401
- 4th, Thomas Massie: (202) 225-3465
- 5th, Harold "Hal" Rogers: (202) 225-4601
- 6th, Andy Barr: (202) 225-4706



State Leagues Undertake Civics Education Study

By **BEVERLY MOORE**

The League of Women Voters was founded with the purposes of defending voting rights and educating voters. The League believes that an informed citizenry is essential for successful democracy.

Therefore, Kentucky League members will begin evaluating civics education in Kentucky schools this fall. Each Kentucky League will discuss and attempt to find consensus on 10 study questions that will establish League expectations for civ-

ics education. (The 10 questions appear in the box below.)

Each Kentucky League will discuss and attempt to find consensus on key questions about civics education. This first phase of the study asks, "What is the role of schools in civic education?" and "What should Kentucky students be learning about civics?" It's important that all League members (who possibly can) participate in making the decisions that will dictate the Kentucky League's posi-

tion on Civic Education.

State leagues have until Oct. 18 to review consensus questions for the Civics Education Study.

Members, please plan on attending your League's meetings on this important issue. If you would like to read background materials that will better prepare you to contribute to the discussions, the Civics Ed Study resource materials that can be found at <http://lwvky.org/about/civics-education-study/>

Consensus Questions for Civics Education Study

What is the Role of Schools in a Democracy?

1. Should schools prepare students to be informed and engaged citizens?
2. Should civics education be focused on knowledge and understanding of governments?
3. Should civics include preparing students with the skills to participate critically and solve problems in civic life?
4. Should schools provide practice in working cooperatively as a community of citizens with rights and responsibilities?
5. Should civics be taught as a separate course (e.g., 10th grade civics), or should civics be integrated with history, geography and economics throughout elementary, middle and high school?

Should high school graduates have learned the following?

1. The ability to influence the legislative process on an issue of importance to themselves as well as others
2. To be responsible citizens involved in providing for the general welfare
3. The skills, inclinations and self-confidence to participate as informed citizens in the electoral, legislative, judicial and administrative processes of government
4. To work on projects cooperatively in various size group activities
5. To understand the effects of voting on their own and others' lives

State Convention Plans New Year



The League of Women Voters of Louisville provided a graphic representation of their report. Photo by Cindy Heine

Cont'd from p. 1
259 registered members. Carolyn Self of Hopkinsville, the LWV of Kentucky's Membership Chair, recommended a goal of increasing the League's membership by 10 percent; that would be just 26 members statewide.

The Louisville League recommended two action priorities for the

upcoming year: monitoring legislation that would have state prisoners counted as residing in their home counties for Census purposes and monitoring the implementation of the Affordable Care Act in Kentucky, particularly the affordability, adequacy and dependability of coverage provided by the state's Medicaid programs and by insurers participating in the state's health-care exchange.

The state League also selected Tammy Fagley and Cindy Heine, both from Lexington, and Cecile Schubert of

Richmond to share the presidency as co-presidents. Fran Wagner of Louisville was elected secretary, while Richard Heine of Lexington serves as treasurer. Two Louisville members, Beverly Moore and Harriette Seiler, also serve as state directors.

Leagues in Berea/Madison County, Elizabethtown, Hopkinsville, Lexington, Louisville and Pendleton County were represented at the convention.

They were reminded that study questions regarding civics education must be completed by Oct. 18.

League Seeks Good Government Lobbyists

By **TERRY NAYDAN**

Don't miss your chance to change the world!

The state League's Legislation Committee needs members to help lobby in Frankfort on bills the League of Women Voters supports. We speak to legislative committee members as well



as leaders of both parties.

While the legislative session starts in January, our work naturally begins much earlier. Our first meeting will be

sometime in September. Upcoming issues include restoring felons' voting rights, public financing of judicial campaigns, among others.

If interested, please email Nita Smith (nitavotes@aol.com) or Terry Naydan (terrynaydan@aol.com). Thank you very much!

Fight for the Right to Vote Continues



Crowds at the Reflecting Pool for the 50th anniversary of the March on Washington on Aug. 24.

BY ELISABETH MacNAMARA

Although the term “American Dream” was coined in 1931 by James Truslow Adams, the concept that America is the land of opportunity, offering every man the chance to go as far as his ability will take him, is as old as the republic itself. Our nation’s history tells the story of expanding the dream beyond white northern European men to women and men of all races, ethnicities and national origins. The struggle to achieve the vote, which we celebrated this week on Women’s Equality Day, was a central principle in the ongoing effort of women to realize the American Dream. Continuing efforts to welcome in waves of immigrants from all over the world expand the

Dream. The March on Washington, which we commemorated over the past week, represented the resolute determination of African Americans to claim their rightful share of that Dream. Dr. King’s dream was for an America where every person is not only created equal, but also has an equal chance to succeed.

The commemorations this week demonstrated how far we have come over the course of our history and at the same time served as a reminder that we still have work to do. Fifty years ago, those who marched were genuinely afraid for their safety. Gathering on the steps of the Lincoln Memorial, they demanded an end to economic discrimination and an end to Jim Crow. This week, those who gathered

were confident in their ability to shape a future that offers equality to all persons regardless of gender, race, ethnicity or sexual orientation. Central to the calls to action by the various speakers was protection of what Carrie Chapman Catt called “the emblem of [our] equality,” the vote. The Reverend Al Sharpton declared yesterday that the era of Jim Crow was over. Now we face “James Crow, Jr., Esq.”

This has been an amazing week, and the League has been a part of the events. League members gathered to march on Saturday, and the League was accorded VIP status at an event celebrating the contribution of women to the march as well as a reception on Friday evening and VIP seating for the March and the closing ceremonies at the Lincoln Memorial. We earned that status. The importance of the work the League has done and continues to do protecting the right to vote cannot be overstated. We must go forward, we cannot go back. As John Lewis continues to exhort us, we must keep “getting in the way.”

“This week, those who gathered were confident in their ability to shape a future that offers equality to all persons regardless of gender, race, ethnicity or sexual orientation.”



LWV of Kentucky

Lang House
115 S. Ewing Ave.
Louisville, KY 40206
Phone: 502-875-6481
Email: kentuckylwv@gmail.com

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

LWV of Kentucky Board Members

Co-Presidents:

Cindy Heine
Tammy Fagley
Cecile Schubert

Secretary: Fran Wagner

Treasurer: Richard Heine

Directors:

Beverly Moore
Carolyn Self
Harriette Seiler
Steve Senft

Nominating Committee:

Terry Naydan
Cecile Schubert
Nita Smith

The Voter Editor: Ivonne Rovira

Calendar

Saturday, Oct. 5, 10 a.m.:
League of Women Voters of
Kentucky Board meeting, Lang
House in Louisville

Saturday, Dec. 14, 10 a.m.:
League of Women Voters of
Kentucky Board meeting, loca-
tion TBA

Saturday, Feb. 8, 10 a.m.:
League of Women Voters of
Kentucky Board meeting, loca-
tion TBA

Saturday, April 12: League
of Women Voters of Ken-
tucky Board meeting, location
TBA

Saturday, April 12: League
of Women Voters of Ken-
tucky State Council, location
TBA

**Friday through Tuesday,
June 6-10:** League of Women
of the United States, Conven-
tion Dallas, Texas