

LWV OF
KENTUCKY

SPECIAL
POINTS OF
INTEREST:

- **Call on the Voting Rights Act! See p. 2 for details**

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The Kentucky Voter



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SUMMER 2016

5 LWV KY Members Attend National Convention

By **IVONNE ROVIRA**

Five members of the League of Women Voters of Kentucky attended this year's LWVUS's 52nd National Convention in Washington, D.C.

The national League voted to adopt the program, Making Democracy Work®. Members voted in 2015 for a League-wide focus on core democracy issues, including voter service and protection, money in politics and redistricting.

Among other actions taken at the convention

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Five Kentucky delegates attended the LWV National Council: (from left to right) Terry Naydan and Nita Smith, LWV KY Co-Presidents; George Schuhmann, LWVUS Money in Politics Committee, LWV KY Board member and LWV of Louisville's Secretary; Bonnie Lynch, Vice-President, LWV KY; and Anita Simmons, member, LWV of Christian County.

U.S. Senate Candidates Invited to Debate Oct. 30

By **CINDY HEINE**

The League of Women Voters of Kentucky has issued an invitation to the U.S. Senate candidates — Lexington Mayor Jim Gray (D) and incumbent Senator Rand Paul (R) — to participate in a televised debate on **Sunday, Oct. 30**, to be held at the University of Kentucky Singletary Center in Lexington.



Jim Gray



Rand Paul

Co-sponsoring this event with the Kentucky League are the *Lexington Herald-Leader*, the University of Kentucky Student

Government and CBS affiliates WLKY-TV of Louisville and WKYT-TV of Lexington.

As of July 15, Mayor Gray had committed to participate, but we are still waiting on a response from Senator Paul. Watch your emails for more details.

Presidents' Message



Co-presidents, from top to bottom: Terry Naydan and Nita Smith

By TERRY NAYDAN and NITA SMITH

The League of Women Voters of Kentucky was well represented at the 2016 National Convention in Washington, DC.

Terry Naydan represented the Kentucky League, while Nita Smith represented the Lexington League; Bonnie Lynch and Anita Simmons, the Christian County League and George Schuhmann, the Louisville League. Check our [web site](http://www.lwvky.org) (www.lwvky.org) to view the video we used to introduce LWV KY at convention.

Some very interest-

ing guest speakers gave us suggestions about how to strengthen the League in the future. We want to attract millennials and a more racially and gender diverse membership. One way is through more use of social media. We are also welcoming non-citizens and interested 16- and 17-year-olds to the League.

We elected Chris Carson as president, hired Wylecia Harris as our new CEO, passed the proposed budget, and set the agenda for the next biennium.

We are going to retain all current LWVUS positions in the area of

Government, International Relations, Natural Resources and Social Policy. We will also continue to focus on our Campaign for Making Democracy Work. This includes Supporting Voter Rights and Voter Protection in the States, Money in Politics, and Redistricting Reform.

We look forward to working with our new National LWV Board as well as our own Kentucky Board.

We welcome Donna Blue, Carol O'Reilly, and George Schuhmann to our board and as they step down, want to thank Beverly Moore and Marijane Snellen for their service.

Repair the Voting Rights Act



Last month marked the three-year anniversary of the Supreme Court's decision to gut key provisions of the Voting Rights Act (VRA). We've had three years of bad laws that make voting harder in states all across the coun-

try.

Without congressional action to repair the VRA, 2016 will mark the first presidential election in 50 years without its full protections. Throughout the 2016 primaries we saw voters face a variety of obstacles, from reduced polling places, to long lines, to removal of registered voters from the rolls. Call your Senators and Congressman to move the Voting Rights Advancement Act forward.

Contact Information

All telephone numbers begin with area code (202)

Mitch McConnell	224-2541
Rand Paul	224-4343
Ed Whitfield	225-3115
Brett Guthrie	225-3501
John Yarmuth	225-5401
Thomas Massie	225-3465
Hal Rogers	225-4601
Andy Barr	225-4706

Citizens Opine on Medicaid Changes at Hearing

By **TERRY NAYDAN**

Thanks to Harriette Seiler, the League of Women Voters of Kentucky's health-care director, for news of a public hearing in Frankfort on Governor Matt Bevin's proposed Medicaid waiver.

Governor Steve Beshear expanded Medicaid through executive action. Now Bevin seeks to replace that plan with one that drops vision and dental coverage.

We're glad we attended this hearing because we heard first hand from the public about Medicaid and those who rely on it for their health care needs. Everyone was allowed to speak.

Co-President Nita Smith testified at the hearing, noting the League's health-care position: Every Kentucky citizen should have reasonable, equitable access to adequate, appropriate health care. We also believe that the cost should be shared fairly among the public, federal, state and local governments, providers, insurers and consumers.

We will continue to monitor the Governor's proposed plan to ascertain if the final version of the new Medicaid system is consistent with our League position.

It was very encouraging to see so many interested citizens who took the time to attend the hearings, with many of them testifying about their concerns. Health is such a vital part of our

lives that we need to make sure that everyone — no matter what their life circumstance — has access to adequate health care.



New LWV President Addresses Convention

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were continued support for the League's position on gun violence and Washington, D.C., statehood; support for the COP 21 Paris Agreement on the environment and the EPA's Clean Power Plan, and for joining the young plaintiffs of Our Children's Trust in an amicus brief in their state lawsuits on the environment.

The LWVUS also elected a new president, Chris Carson, replacing Elisabeth Mac-Namara. Carson, a retired university professor, has been a member of her local League in California for more than 30 years.

"There is no doubt that as I stand here before you today, our political situation is appalling," Carson told the convention.



Carson

"The image is bleak, but it is not new.

"To put our political situation and its challenges into perspective, we first look to the past....

"What comes immediately to mind is the Gilded Age and the national reaction to that situation. And in the midst of the resulting upheaval, Congress passed the Nineteenth Amendment, ratified on Aug. 18, 1920. Six months prior to that ratification, on Feb. 14, 1920, the League of Women Voters was incorporated by Carrie Chapman Catt.

"Carrie Catt and her fellow founders succeeded in achieving their goal in large part thanks to their sheer willpower, that is true. But they also won this fight because of their carefully-laid strategy and their single-minded determination to follow it. "

2016 Council Held in Hopkinsville

By **CINDY HEINE**

The League of Women Voters of Kentucky Council, held April 8 and 9 was hosted by the Hopkinsville LWWV. Fourteen delegates from Lexington, Louisville and Christian and Hardin counties attended. Delegates



Luncheon speakers at the 2016 LWWKY Council in April.

elected directors of the board to serve two-year terms (see page 5) and adopted budgets for the General Fund and the



The Council's Hopkinsville hosts included Antia Simmons, Barbara Morris, Bonnie Lynch and Carolyn Self.

Education Fund.

Legislative Report

Terry Naydan gave an overview of the legislative process in Frankfort. During the last session, 957 bills were introduced, although most were never heard. That's why lobbying is needed

very early. Perseverance is necessary, as is understanding that we often won't win, particularly in the beginning. We also have to always be honest in what we say.

Some bills we supported passed, including the rape kit bill and protections of sexual assault victims' addresses; a bill that allows people to register online; and a bill to expunge minor felonies so those persons would be eligible to vote.

A bill we successfully opposed would have allowed businesses to refuse to serve gay people. In fact, the legislature didn't pass any bill we actively opposed.

Unfortunately, a number of bills we supported didn't pass, including one to require every high school student to pass a civics test, based on the test for U.S. citizenship.

Membership

Paducah has about 10 people who would like to form a League, and the LWWKY co-Presidents and Hopkinsville League are following up with them.

Program

Girl Scouts (The Promise to Vote) – Girl Scout troops in the

eastern half of Kentucky (including Lexington) are developing merit badge requirements based on "The Promise to Vote." They've reached out to the League to partner with them. Each troop in the western part of the state will decide on their own if they want to participate. Local Leagues may wish to reach out to the Girl Scouts in their areas to inquire about partnering with them.

2020 Women's Vote Centennial Initiative

– As we near the 100th anniversary (2020) of the passage of the 19th Amendment, the LWWUS and the Sewall-Belmont House & Museum have created the 2020 Women's Vote Centennial Initiative.

Additionally, a proposed "Votes for Women Trail," a project of the National Collaborative for Women's History Sites, will feature the buildings, sites, historical markers and monuments associated with women's suffrage before 1920. The LWWKY has agreed to participate in this commemoration. Chair Marsha Weinstein (Louisville) is recruiting for a statewide committee is to work on the project. Current mem-

bers are Bonnie Lynch (Hopkinsville), Pat Murrell (Louisville), Terry Naydan (Lexington), Genie Potter (Louisville), Nita Smith (Lexington), and Fran Wagner (Louisville). It's important that we have wider geographical representation on the committee, at least one person from each local League.

Workshops

George Schuhmann conducted a workshop, "Lobbying and Money in Politics," at which he presented suggestions on possible lobbying reforms if the National League decides to undertake a lobbying reform study. He also reviewed some of the materials used for the Money and Politics study. This year's LWWUS Convention will approve our new consensus on this topic.

Steve Senft conducted a workshop on Redistricting Reform. Last term, in an important decision related to the redistricting process, the Supreme Court, in an Arizona case, upheld the right of the state legislature to allow independent commissions to draw legislative districts in their states. The LWWUS has a redistricting reform position that we're trying to implement in Kentucky. We plan to work with other organizations such as Common Cause, the ACLU and Kentuckians for the Commonwealth. We may also want the political parties to join with us.

We need a strong state-wide committee to contact other



Watch for this logo! Leagues in Louisville and Lexington will use VOTE411 to inform voters in the November elections!

state Leagues and possible partners. The next redistricting comes after the 2020 census. There is a growing understanding of the how gerrymandering harms the political process. SB 122 had much in it that we could support, but it went nowhere in the legislature. We need to promote the redistricting issue more, locally. Mary Jane Snellen, Donna Blue, Cindy Heine and Nita Smith

serve on Steve's committee.

Luncheon Speakers included the Hopkinsville Superintendent of Schools, the Gateway School assistant principal and two Gateway students who talked about their approach to engage high school students in "hands-on learning" to better prepare them for the future, globally competitive work force.

LWWKY Approves New Board of Directors

Elected to serve 2-year terms (2016-18)

DIRECTORS

Donna Blue	Lexington
Tamara Fagley	Lexington
Cindy Heine	Lexington
Carol O'Reilly	Lexington
Joan Lindop	Louisville
Harriette Seiler	Louisville
George Schuhmann	Louisville
Meryl Ward	Middlesboro

Currently Serving 2-year terms (2015-17)

OFFICERS

Co-Presidents	Terry Naydan	Lexington
	Nita Smith	Lexington
First Vice-President	Wanda "Bonnie" Lynch	Hopkinsville
Second Vice-President	Steve Senft	Lexington
Secretary	Fran Wagner	Louisville
Treasurer	Richard Heine	Lexington

NOMINATING COMMITTEE (2015-17)

Pat Murrell	Louisville
Cecile Schubert	Berea



LWV of Kentucky

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Return Service Requested

LWV of Kentucky Board Members

Co-Presidents:

Terry Naydan
Nita Smith

First Vice-President:

Bonnie Lynch

Second Vice-President:

Steve Senft

Secretary: Fran Wagner

Treasurer: Richard Heine


Directors:

Donna Blue
Tammy Fagley
Cindy Heine
Joan Lindop
Carol O'Reilly
Harriette Seiler
George Schuhmann
Meryl Ward

Nominating Committee:

Pat Murrell
Cecile Schubert

The Voter Editor: Ivonne Rovira



Check us out!
<http://lwvky.org/>
Twitter: @lwvky

Calendar

Thursday, Aug. 18, 6 p.m.: Showing of *Suffragette*, with talk by women's suffrage expert Marsha Weinstein. Louisville Free Public Library, Main Branch, 301 S. York St., Louisville

Saturday, Sept. 17, 10 a.m.: LWVKY Board Meeting, Frankfort

Tuesday, Oct. 11: Last day to register to vote in the General Election.

Thursday, Oct. 20: Promise to Vote, Frankfort kick-off.

Sunday, Oct. 30 (tentative): Televised U.S. Senate Debate, University of Kentucky Singletary Center, Lexington.

Tuesday, Nov. 8: General Election.