



The Lexington Voter

April 2015

LEAGUE OF
WOMEN VOTERS®

The League of Women Voters of Lexington

Be an Active League Member—Participate in Annual Meetings

LWVKY Annual Meeting April 10-11

April 3 is the deadline to register for the LWVKY Annual Meeting to be held on April 10-11 at Shaker Village of Pleasant Hill. \$40 registration cost includes breakfast and lunch on Saturday. In addition to the business sessions, the meeting will include informative workshops and a legislative update. Registration form is on kentuckylwv.org.

This is a wonderful opportunity to meet League members from across the state and hear about their activities. Another reason to participate—the Lexington League is hosting the event and the more members we have attending, the better hospitality we can extend to other Leagues.

The meeting begins with dinner Friday evening and continues all day Saturday. If your time is limited, think about coming just for the Saturday schedule. There will be time to network with others and to enjoy the lovely scenery of Shaker Village.

If you have any questions, contact Cindy Heine at cynthia.heine@gmail.com.

Lexington LWV Annual Meeting April 18

Linda Gorton will be the featured speaker at the Lexington LWV Annual Meeting on Saturday, **April 18** at Faith Lutheran Church. Ms. Gorton recently retired as vice mayor of our city after a long career with the Lexington Fayette Urban County Council. She will bring wisdom, experience and humor to the conversation.

A brunch buffet will be served at 9:00 a.m. followed by a business session to elect officers and board members as well as to vote on the 2015 budget and program proposed for the Lexington League. The meeting will conclude with Ms. Gorton's appearance.

There is a \$10 charge to cover the cost of the brunch. Reservations should be made by Wednesday, **April 15** and can be made by calling the Lexington LWV phone number **859-494-3203** and leaving your information.

Plan to meet new members, learn about the organization's finances, and get a preview of new events coming up in the months ahead.



The American Bar Association has approved the Kentucky Bar Association, in partnership with the Kentucky State Fair Board, to display the traveling exhibit *Magna Carta: Enduring Legacy, 1215-2015* during this year's state fair, August 20 to 30, in Louisville.

The LWV has been asked to participate. Members are invited to be trained as docents and help staff the exhibit. Let us know if you would like to learn more about the importance of the Magna Carta and share that information at this year's state fair. For more information or to volunteer, email KentuckyLWV@gmail.com. If you have a question, Lexington LWV members Cindy and Richard Heine plan to participate and will be happy to talk with you. Contact Cindy at cynthia.heine@gmail.com.

March 20 Naturalization Ceremony and Voter Registration



The Grace Notes, Transylvania University women's acapella group, provided patriotic music for the 168 citizenship applicants and their family and friends at the recent naturalization ceremony.

On Friday, March 20, 168 applicants from 61 countries received their certificates of citizenship at Haggin Auditorium on the Transylvania University campus. The ceremony was presided over by the Honorable Karen K. Caldwell, Chief U.S. District Judge and 1977 Transylvania graduate.

Afterwards the new citizens had the opportunity to register to vote. They were assisted by LWV members **Nancy Chesser, Carolyn Holmes, and Judy Johnson** along

with representatives from the Kentucky Secretary of State's office. Because of courthouse renovation, there will be no more naturalization ceremonies in that location for the next two years. During this time, ceremonies other than the yearly Transylvania ceremony will be held in Frankfort.

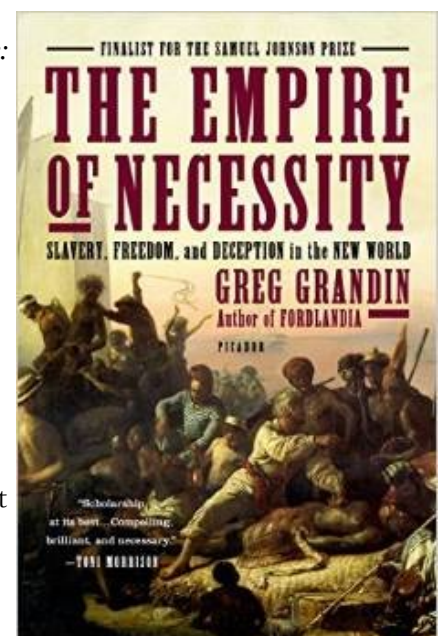
The Lexington LWV will continue to register voters at other public events and we will be happy when we can welcome the naturalization ceremonies back to the established venue in U.S. District court. Our thanks to **Nancy Chesser** who volunteered to organize helpers for this event. We hope she will continue her interest in voter registration.

Lexington LWV Book Club Past and Future...

The LWV Book Club met on Tuesday, March 17, at 1:30 p.m. Cindy Heine led a discussion of the book by Jeffrey D. Clements, *Corporations Are Not People: Reclaiming Democracy From Big Money and Global Corporations*. The subject of this book, corporate "personhood" certainly engaged the readers! For those who could not join the discussion, we recommend reading the book on your own. It is clear and comprehensible and sheds some light on the "dark money" unleashed by the *Citizens United* decision of the Roberts court.

The next book to be discussed is *The Empire of Necessity: Slavery, Freedom and Deception in the New World* written by Greg Grandin. Historian Grandin tells the true story of a slave insurrection aboard a ship named the *Tryal* in 1805 in which the West African men and women rose up and seized the ship. He uses this story to approach the broader topic of the transnational slave trade's impact on the whole world causing economic, social and political upheaval that still reverberates today.

The book club will feature the book at their meeting on Tuesday, April 21, at 1:30 p.m. The location is Terry Naydan's house, 3013 Charleston Boulevard. Chris Seiber will lead the conversation. If you can join us, call or email **Terry Naydan**, 971-7227 or TerryNaydan@aol.com or **Nita Smith**, 272-5827, or Nitavotes@aol.com.



Efforts to Address Homelessness in Lexington Explained



League Vice-President Cindy Heine with Charles Lanter, LFUCG Director of Homelessness Prevention and Intervention.



Cindy Heine talks with new LWV member Mary Moneypenny.

Charles Lanter joined League members at Joseph-Beth for “Dinner and Democracy” on Monday, March 23. As director of the newly commissioned LFUCG office to deal with the issues surrounding homelessness, Mr. Lanter shared information and answered questions, helping us understand the complexities of the topic.

We learned of the data collecting going on through a collaboration between UK and the Hope Center that will be used to better understand the problem. He explained the mental health court diversion program to address needs of transients and support their progress to independence. He also described the resources of various shelters in the community from the Salvation Army (for women and children) to Arbor Place (for children) and the Hope Center (for men).

Mr. Lanter invited members to attend the meetings of the Homelessness Prevention and Intervention Board in order to stay informed. The next scheduled meeting will be September 9 at 1:30 p.m. Check out the page for his office on lexingtonky.gov. Sign up for his electronic newsletter and join the effort to understand homelessness in Lexington.



Left to right: League Secretary Lynne Flynn, Carol Straus, League members Ellie Sutter and Ruth Straus.

A Lesson in Good Citizenship

In the legislative session which just ended there was a devious attempt to loosen already lenient campaign rules. **HB 203** relating to operations of the election registry was amended by a Senate committee to increase the amount of campaign contributions allowed, and to change filing procedures. **It was never presented to the public. There were no hearings.** The LWV learned about it only because a member happened to be in the Capitol toward the end of the session.

After the LWV and Common Cause put out Action Alerts to members there was an outpouring of citizen response. Rep. Jim Wayne noted in his remarks to the House there had been a public outcry about the lack of transparency in the process to pass this piece of legislation. He referred to **“the few guardians of open government who have quickly learned about what has been done behind their backs: Common Cause and the League of Women Voters.”**

When the bill was called for a vote in the House it was defeated 43-49. As Pat Murrell, president of the Louisville LWV, pointed out—individuals **CAN** make a difference! Let us keep this example in mind as we look forward to the 2016 legislative session.

Christian Muslim Dialogue

At 4 p.m. on **Sunday, April 12** the last Christian Muslim Dialogue for the 2014-15 year will depart from the usual format. The featured speaker will be Rabbi Moshe Smolkin of Ohavay Zion Synagogue in Lexington. His topic will be “Serving the Needy in Our Community: Faith Based Approaches.”

The day and time changes were made to be more inclusive of members of the Jewish tradition. Location remains Hunter Presbyterian Church, 107 Rosemont Garden. Refreshments and informal conversation will follow the program. Check the website cmdlex.org for more information.

Do you want to know more about any elected politician? Votes cast? Positions taken? Contributors? Check <http://votesmart.org>. Nonpartisan, researched source of information.

The VOTER editor is Judy Johnson. If you have a question or concern about the newsletter or if you would like to work on the newsletter, please contact her at judydex@twc.com.



Return Service Requested

*Lexington League of Women Voters
PO Box 22045
Lexington KY 40522*



Calendar

LWV of Lexington Website: www.lwvlexington.com

Phone: 859-494-3203 Email: lexingtonlwv@gmail.com

Facebook: League of Women Voters of Lexington, KY

NOTE: Board meetings are open to all MEMBERS; programs are open to the public.

MAKE YOUR RESERATIONS NOW FOR BOTH THE LWVKY ANNUAL MEETING AND THE LEXINGTON LWV ANNUAL MEETING

Fri., Sat.	Apr. 10-11		LWVKY Annual Meeting at Shaker Village at Pleasant Hill
<u>Sun.</u>	<u>Apr. 12</u>	<u>4:00 p.m.</u>	Christian Muslim Dialogue at Hunter Presbyterian Church, 107 Rosemont Garden
Sat.	Apr. 18	9:00 p.m.	Lexington LWV Annual Meeting at Faith Lutheran Church, 1000 Tates Creek Rd.
Tues.	Apr. 21	1:30 p.m.	Lexington LWV Book Club meeting at Terry Naydan's house, 3013 Charleston Gardens Blvd.

[Vol. 14-15- Issue 8] The Lexington VOTER is published nine times a year (Summer, September, October, November, December, Winter, March, April, and May) by the League of Women Voters of Lexington.
Editor: Judy Johnson Phone: 859-223-1309 Email: judylex@twc.com