

The Lexington Voter December 2013

The League of Women Voters of Lexington

Candidate Forum December 2 for State Senate Special Election



On Monday, December 2 at 7:00 p.m. at Woodland Christian Church there will be a forum for candidates vying for the District 13 state senate seat vacated by Kathy Stein. The forum is co-sponsored by the Aylesford Neighborhood Association and the LWV of Lexington. The special election will be held on Tuesday, December 10. Residents can check their voter information (including precinct) at www.fayettecountyclerk.com/web/ elections/verifyvoter.htm.

The District 13 state senate seat became vacant when Senator Kathy Stein was appointed to the Fayette Family Court. Candidates for the opening are:

- Michael E. Johnson (R)—a Lexington minister making his first bid for public office;
- Richard Moloney (I)—currently serving as the commissioner of environment and public works for LFUCG;
- Reggie Thomas (D)—-an attorney and tenured professor at Kentucky State University.

The forum will be conducted according to the League's rules and following the League's format.

Woodland Christian Church is located on the corner of East High and Kentucky Avenue.

REMINDER FOR ALL MEMBERS WHO LIVE IN DISTRICT 13—THE **ELECTION WILL BE HELD TUES-**DAY, DECEMBER 10.





Sunday. Dec. 8th at 2:00 p.m. **Faith Lutheran Church** 1000 Tates Creek Road featuring

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"A Conversation with Kathy Stein"



Former State Senator Kathy Stein, who has been appointed to fill the circuit court vacancy left by Family Court Judge Jo Ann Wise's resignation, will be joining us for a legislative discussion which is sure to be lively! Ms. Stein served 10 years in the House before her election to the Senate in 2008.

This social will be a great opportunity to join League colleagues, renew old acquaintances and make new friends. Take a break from the rush of holiday preparations and treat yourself. Refreshments will be provided.

Reservations are encouraged but not required. Just contact the LWV by Friday, December 6 if you intend to participate—either phone 859-494-3203 or email lexingtonlwv@gmail.com—so adequate arrangements can be made.

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LWV Registers New Voters after Naturalization Ceremony



LWV member Carolyn Holmes (left) and Voter Services chairperson Roz Heise (right) help new citizens register to vote after naturalization ceremony.

Friday, November 15, was the final naturalization ceremony for 2013. League members offering the opportunity to register to vote reported 23 registration forms completed and turned in to the County Clerk's office and another 15 taken by new citizens and family members to complete at home.

This ceremony, where candidates who have completed the requirements, take the official oath and are proclaimed U.S. citizens, included 48 men and women from 30 different countries.

During the ceremony, LWV representative Roz Heise warmly welcomed members of the group and, in her brief remarks, taught a brief lesson about the importance of voting. She talked about the Virginia attorney general's election where, after several days, the results were still not final. With more than 2 million people voting, Roz pointed out, the two candidates were separated by less than 200 votes. As she said, "Every vote does count!"

The 2014 schedule for naturalization ceremonies has not been released yet. When the schedule is made public, all members will be encouraged to volunteer for this memorable volunteer opportunity.

If You Missed the Showing...

"Iron Jawed Angels"—the Lexington League now owns a DVD of this powerful film. It is available for any LWV member to check out. Simply contact the League (by phone or email) to reserve it.

Civic Health Assessment Report Released by Secretary of State

The 2013 Civic Health Assessment entitled "Shaping Kentucky's Future Together" has been released by the KY Secretary of State's Office. The assessment initiative began when Secretary of State Alison Lundergan Grimes, working with state and national leaders, compiled a Civic Health Index for the state. This data clearly indicated a general waning of civic engagement in Kentucky.

From November, 2012 through May, 2013, 15 public forums comprised of elected officials, community leaders, students and local residents were held across the Commonwealth to create partnerships and support strategies to improve civic participation. The discussion of each forum centered on three key concepts: civic engagement, political action and social connectedness. Participants identified several approaches that would improve Kentucky's general civic health including: support for increased service learning opportunities; ways to increase voter registration; and use of technology to strengthen connectedness within communities.

If you are interested in reading the full 11 page report, it can be downloaded from http://www.sos.ky.gov/civics/Documents/CivicHealthAssessment2013FINAL.pdf.

LWV President Re-Appointed to the LFUCG Ethics Commission



Lexington LWV President Tammy Fagley has received confirmation of her appointment to a second term on the Ethics Commission of the Lexington Fayette Urban County government.

This commission meets the first Thursday of each quarter to

consider complaints made under the Ethics Ordinance. The commission also provides advisory opinions to those under the jurisdiction of the ordinance—all city employees including the mayor and council members.

Tammy's term will extend to March 1, 2017.

Eleanor Clift

This is a do not miss opportunity! Join Transylvania University and the Lexington LWV for a "Founding Sisters Tea"—a discussion with political writer Eleanor Clift about her book, "Founding Sisters and the Nineteenth Amendment." This event will take place on

Wednesday, January 29 from 4:00 to 5:30 p.m. in the Presidents' Room of Forrer Hall, Transylvania University. (Forrer



Hall is next to the Student Center and can be located on the map found at this link: http://www.transy.edu/about/campus map.htm.

Clift is a progressive political analyst and writer who began as a secretary at Newsweek magazine in 1963. Today she continues as a contributing editor for Newsweek and blogger for the Daily Beast website.

Together with her late husband Tom Brazaitis, she wrote "War Without Bloodshed: The Art of Politics" and "Madam President: Shattering the Glass Ceiling." In addition to "Founding Sisters, Clift wrote "Two Weeks of Life: A Memoir of Love, Death and Politics" about the loss of her husband as well as an examination of how we deal with death in America. Most recently she wrote "Selecting a President" with Matther Spieler.

A regular panelist on the talk show McLaughlin Group, Clift also played herself in four movies (*Dave, Independence Day, Murder at 1600* and *Rising Sun*, as well as the TV series *Murphy Brown*.

To learn more about Ms. Clift, visit her website, www.eleanorclift.com. For more information about this event, email Karen Anderson, kanderson@transy.edu.

Mark your calendars now. Come, bring a friend, and enjoy the conversation!

★ With this holiday wish for good
★ cheer and a very happy new year
★ the Voter is signing off until the
★ Winter edition in February, 2014.

Planning Meeting and Survey

Every January, the LWV board meets to plan the events for the year. We will plan events for the 2014-15 year on **Saturday, January 11, 2014 at 9:00 a.m.** at Faith House, Faith Lutheran Church. Members are encouraged to participate in this meeting.

If you are unable to attend, your feedback on past programs can be shared, as well as ideas on future programs. Please visit https://

www.surveymonkey.com/s/DVJ2V8M to complete a three (that is 3!) question survey. Even if you plan to attend, it would be helpful to add your information to the survey before the meeting. The survey will remain open until 8:00 a.m. Saturday, January 11. Paper copies of the survey may be sent to Lexington LWV – Survey, P.O. Box 22045, Lexington, KY 40522—but must be sent before January 4, 2014.

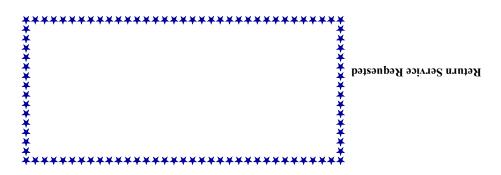
Of course, if you have ideas and are willing to help implement those ideas, please send a message to the LWV e-mail account, lexing-tonlwv@gmail.com. Include your name, contact information and program idea. Consider this the perfect opportunity to step up and get actively involved with our mission—encouraging and supporting an educated and engaged citizenry.

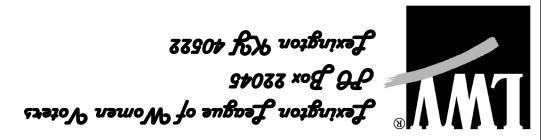
Remember—completing the three question survey is quick and easy and very important to program planning that reflects the interests and needs of members.

LWV Sues Over Voter Restrictions

LWVUS has joined with the LWV of AZ and the LWV of KS in *Kobach v. Election Assisstance* Commission, a suit which involves the requirement to provide documentary proof-of-citizenship on the national mail-in voter registration application form. The case will be heard by the U.S. District Court of Kansas on December 12.

The VOTER is now in electronic format. If you also receive a paper copy and want <u>only</u> the electronic copy, please contact Judy Johnson at <u>judylex@twc.com</u>. The paper copies will remain black and white due to printing costs.





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.

| Mon. | Dec. 2 | 7:00 p.m. | Candidate Forum for District 13 Senate Election at Woodland Christian Church, corner of East High and Kentucky Avenue. |
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| Sun. | Dec. 8 | 2:00 p.m. | Holiday Social at Faith Lutheran Church, 1000 Tates Creek Rd. |
| Tues. | Dec. 10 | 6:30 p.m. | Special Election for District 13 Senate Seat |
| Sat. | Jan. 11 | 9:00 a.m. | LWV Planning Meeting followed by Board Meeting at Faith House, Faith Lutheran Church |
| Wed. | Jan. 29 | 4:00 p.m. | Transylvania and LWV "Founding Sisters" Tea at Forrer Hall, Transylvania University |

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