



LEAGUE OF
WOMEN VOTERS®

The Lexington Voter Winter 2017

The League of Women Voters of Lexington

The LWV Position on Immigration and What We Can Do



The national LWV president, Chris Carson, issued the following statement in response to President Trump's immigration ban :

“The League of Women Voters is opposed to the deportation of non-criminal undocumented immigrants.

The League supports cities, towns, counties and states that make a decision not to cooperate with federal deportation and enforcement actions that include non-criminal undocumented immigrants. Moreover, the Trump administration's orders are of dubious legality.

It is simply wrong, and a perversion of the American system of justice, for the Executive Branch to refuse to obey federal court orders.

The LWV is opposed to discrimination, including discrimination in immigration, based on religion. The Trump administration's orders appear to be targeted at Muslims and immigrants from majority-Muslim nations.”

So what can we, as local League members do? Here are some ideas. Keep in mind phone calls are more effective than emails but organized efforts like petitions also carry weight.

- On Tuesday, Jan. 31, a community gathering focused on the refugee and immigrant issue was held at Christ Church Cathedral. Several LWV members attended. Encouragement was given to call congressional representatives to tell them why we are committed to supporting refugees. Rep. Barr's number is **202-225-4706**. Sen. McConnell's is **202-224-2541**. (If you have not called a legislative representative yet, it is very easy. A staff member will answer the call, take your identifying information and your message. That is it. It is the responsibility of staff to keep tallies of calls, their topics and the callers" position on each topic.) An electronic form to send can be found at <http://bit.ly/wesupportrefugees>. Should you be interested in volunteering, information about ways to help refugees through the Kentucky Refugee Ministries can be found at : www.kyrm.org.
- Sunday, Feb. 5, nine students organized a rally to protest the Trump administration travel ban that drew nearly 1,000 people. Again, LWV members participated.
- **Thursday, Feb. 16, the 4th Annual Refugee and Immigrant Day** rally will be held at the Capitol. Participants are asked to gather on the back terrace of the Capitol at 1:00 p.m. Complete information can be found at <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/2017DayatCapitol>.
- A **Petition to Keep Kentucky Welcoming** can be found at <https://goo.gl/forms/o1r31Mi1LHKYh8sb2>. These completed petitions will be delivered to lawmakers on Feb. 16.

Saturday, Feb. 25 from 10:00 a.m. to noon, League members are invited to join the Christian-Muslim Dialogue presentation at Masjid Bilal ibn Rabah, 1545 Russell Cave Road. The topic is "The Middle East: Prospects for Peace in the New Administration." Dr. Dina Badie, assistant professor of government and international studies at Centre College will lead a discussion on the past and future of the Israel-Palestine conflict. A potluck lunch follows the program. All are invited. Please bring a dish to share.

2016 LWV Essay Contest Results

This year our essay contest for high school students drew exceptionally thoughtful writings. Students were asked to tell their stories as voters and potential voters who had just lived through a very divisive election season. They were challenged to think about the meaning of all they witnessed, how they evaluated what they heard and how the experience would affect their future as citizens. The final results were as follows:

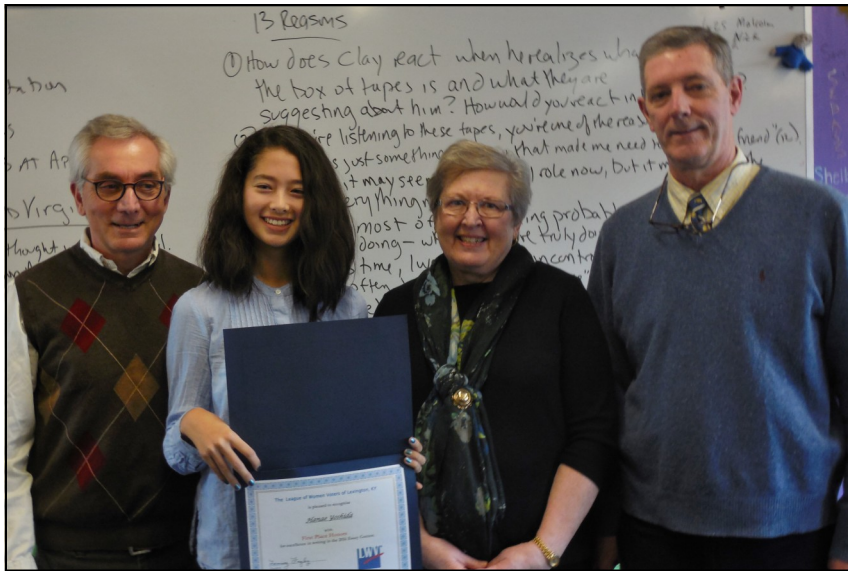
1st place (\$250)—**Hanae Yoshida**, 9th grade, Sayre School, *“The Election 2016: Do You See What I See?”*

2nd place (\$150)—**Sahar Mohammadzadeh**, 11th grade, Paul Laurence Dunbar HS, *“Searching for Liberty and Justice for All”*

3rd place (\$100)—**Jons Theodore Ehrenborg**, 10th grade, Henry Clay HS, *“My Last Bystander Election”*

Special Recognition for ELL Student (\$100)—**Samwele John**, 12th grade, Lafayette HS, *“The Way of America”*

A \$50 honorarium went to the teacher/sponsor of each student : George Bebensee (Sayre), Kristin Studle (PLDHS), Scott Brown (HCHS), and Tim Mitsumori (LHS) to recognize the encouragement they provided these students.



THE WINNER—Hanae Yoshida

Pictured l. to r.—George Bebensee, teacher; Hanae Yoshida; Carol O’Reilly, LWV representative; and Tim O’Rourke, head of Sayre Upper School



Sp. Recognition—Samwele John



2ND—Sahar Mohammadzadeh



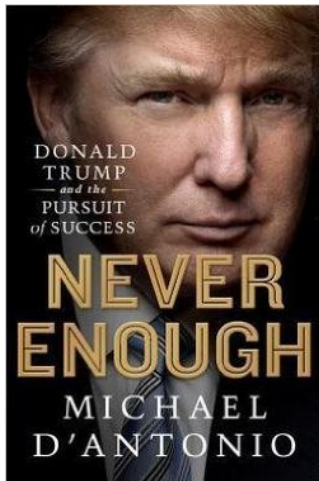
3RD—Jons Theodore Ehrenborg

The Essay Contest Committee members were impressed with the honesty and skill of this year’s winning writers. The group, consisting of Barbara Sterrett, Lynne Flynn, Ellie Sutter, Carol O’Reilly, Donna Blue, Cindy Butor, and Judy Johnson, had little trouble agreeing on the results.

“We were impressed with their ability to separate real facts from half truths and fiction,” said Judy Johnson, who chaired the committee. “They capably demonstrated their potential as writers, political analysts and active citizens who understand their rights and responsibilities.”

Congratulations to all of the students who accepted the challenge this contest presented!

LWV Book Club February Discussion



Members of the Lexington LWV will meet at the UK Boone Center, 500 Rose Street on **Tuesday, February 21 at 12:30 p.m.** for lunch and discussion. The book chosen for this meeting is *Never Enough: Donald Trump and the Pursuit of Success* written by Michael D'Antonio. Now in the first months of the Trump administration, this is a timely selection.

This book was deemed by the New York Times to be “an admirably straight-forward, evenhanded but nonetheless damning account of Trump’s life” covering the years before his election as the 45th president. The author had some access to Trump until he interviewed someone on the “list of enemies.” Understandably, he drew heavily on published sources.

If you want to examine the life of our current president, join the February discussion. **Please contact Terry at 859-494-3203 or terrynay-dan@aol.com for a reservation.**

LWV Felony Disenfranchisement Report Is Released

The LWV of Kentucky has just released its 2017 report *Felony Disenfranchisement in the Commonwealth of Kentucky*. This report is an updated version of similar studies conducted in 2006 and 2013.

According to this report Kentucky has the third highest rate of citizens and the highest rate of African Americans who have lost their right to vote despite completing their full felony sentence.

Kentucky is one of only four states to enforce lifetime voting bans on all persons with felony convictions. This policy results in the disenfranchisement of over 312,000 residents, an increase of more than 68,000 since the 2013 report was published.

Based on the data in the report, the LWV has made several recommendations. The report including the recommendations can be found at lwvky.org/about/publications.

On the Table Opportunity

On **March 15 at 7p.m.** the Lexington LWV will be hosting a gathering as part of the *On the Table* city-wide event. This event is part of the Blue Grass Community Foundation’s 50th anniversary celebration.



On the Table provides an opportunity for Lexington residents to gather in small groups to discuss issues that impact quality of life for all. Sample questions for conversation include the following: What are the biggest issues our community faces? What could Lexington borrow and use from other communities? How can we work together to improve our neighborhoods?

Carol O’Reilly will be hosting a conversation among League members at her home, 369 Henry Clay Blvd., on **March 15**. Guidelines suggest a discussion group no larger than 8-12 people. **If you are interested in participating, please contact Carol at 266-3898 by March 5.** Join the LWV of Lexington conversation to “...clarify, energize and organize people to do things for good.”



NEW MEMBERS: Rose Chisholm, Libby Dirksen, Sylvia and William Coffey, Shayla Johnson, Suzanne Kenney, Cecile Schubert, Annriette and William Stolte, Sheridan Trail, and Betty Wray. We look forward to seeing you at a League function in the near future. Check out the information in this newsletter and be sure to mark your calendar for the Annual Meeting on Saturday, April 8th.

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



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.\

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| Thurs. | Feb. 16 | 1:00 p.m. | 4th Annual Immigrant and Refugee Day Rally at the Capitol in Frankfort |
| Thurs. | Feb. 16 | 6:30 p.m. | Lexington LWV board meeting at Faith House (Faith Lutheran Church, 1000 Tates Creek Rd.) |
| Mon. | Feb. 21 | 12:30 p.m. | LWV Book Club lunch and discussion at the UK Boone Center (Contact Terry Naydan for reservation at 859-494-3203) |
| Sat. | Feb. 25 | 10:00 a.m. | Christian-Muslim Dialogue at Masjid ibn Ramah, 1545 Russell Cave Rd. |

[Vol. 16-17 Issue 5] 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.