



LEAGUE OF
WOMEN VOTERS®

The Lexington Voter March 2016

The League of Women Voters of Lexington

March 12 Brunch and Democracy to Feature Legislative Session



The Lexington League is offering “Brunch and Democracy” on Saturday, March 12 from 10 a.m. to noon, in the Bronte Bisto at Joseph-Beth in Lexington-Green. Rep. Susan Westrom (D) has agreed to join what should be a lively discussion and provide a legislator’s view of the issues. Other legislators have been invited but have not yet confirmed.

Brunch may be selected from the menu and each participant can pay his/her own bill separately.

Reservations may be made by calling the League number (859-494-3203) or emailing **Donna Blue** at donnablue@twc.com. The deadline for reservations is **Wednesday, March 9**.

HELP WANTED — There will be a naturalization ceremony at noon on Friday, March 11, in the Haggin Auditorium of the Mitchell Fine Arts Building at Transylvania University. The League is invited to be there with voter registration materials. **Nancy Chesser**, as Voter Services Chairperson, is the official LWV representative. However, she needs help unloading and setting up materials beforehand and taking them down afterward, as well as congratulating new citizens and helping them understand the voter registration process. Members who volunteer to help are welcome to witness the ceremony, which is always impressive.

If you are available from 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. and would like to be a part of this event, please contact Nancy at nechesser@twc.com. You will be glad you did!



ABOVE: LWV board members Carol O’Reilly, Tammy Fagley, and Cindy Heine ready to do their part.

“Use Your Voice” Concert Combined Pop Singers with LWV Voter Registration

Saturday, February 20, Lexington LWV welcomed Patty Griffin, Anais Mitchell and Sara Watkins to Singletary Center for a memorable evening of music designed to encourage people to get out and vote. The entertainers were extraordinary, the audience enthusiastic and League members were proud to join this celebration of voting rights. It is obvious from these photos that League representatives had space and opportunity to engage concert goers, providing information and actually registering new voters.

A remarkable event!



RIGHT: New voter completes the registration process.



ABOVE: Carol O’Reilly answers questions from an interested voter.

Ways to Take Action as a LWV Member

The legislative session is in full operation and there are several bills on which the League has taken positions. Major ones you may already be following in the news are listed below. As an active LWV member you will want to:

- Check out the website <http://www.lrc.ky.gov/record/16RS/record.htm> to read the full text of each bill.
- Follow the progress of each bill carefully.
- Use the website <http://www.lrc.ky.gov/> to find your legislative representatives and contact each through his/her office or send an email using <http://www.lrc.ky.gov/whoswho/email.htm> to let them know your position on particular bills.
- **CHOOSE ONE (OR MORE) BILL AND LET YOUR LEGISLATORS KNOW WHERE YOU STAND.**



SB 1 (M. Wilson et al)—Educational Standards—this bill would change the way state academic standards are reviewed and the way schools and students are assessed. Passed in Senate; pending before the House Education Committee.—**OPPOSE** and suggest it be temporarily withdrawn.

SB 45 (C. McDaniel)—Requires the disclosure, upon request, of the retirement benefit information of current and former members of the General Assembly. Passed in Senate; pending before House State Government Committee.—**SUPPORT**

SB 89 (D. Carroll)—Would end current moratorium on nuclear power plant construction in KY. Passed Senate Natural Resources and Energy Committee. Sent to full Senate for vote.—**OPPOSE**

SB 192 (Jared Carpenter et al)—Would require all public high school students to pass a civics test in order to receive a regular diploma—pending before Senate Education Committee.—**SUPPORT**

HR 6 (J. Wayne) —Support the United Nations Convention on Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women.—pending before House Elections, Const. Amend. Committee.—**SUPPORT**

HB 40 (D. Owens et al)—This bill will allow the courts to seal the felony records of up to 94,000 Kentuckians. Passed in House; pending before the Senate Judiciary Committee.—**SUPPORT**

HB 70 (D. Owens)—constitutional amendment allowing restoration of voting rights for felons who have paid their debt to society— pending before Senate Judiciary Committee.—**SUPPORT**

HB 147 (G. Stumbo)—Would raise campaign contributions limits and amend contribution reporting laws. Passed the House; pending before the Senate State and Local Gov't Committee.—**OPPOSE**

HB 152 (J. Wayne) – Called the “streamsaver bill” would amend surface coal mining laws to protect environment—pending before House Natural Resources Committee.—**SUPPORT**

HB 316 (Rita Smart et al)—Would clearly define “bullying” for law books –Introduced in House-posted in Education Committee. Passed in House; pending before Senate Education Committee.—**SUPPORT**

HB 339 (M. Marzian)—Would require electric utilities to adopt renewable energy portfolio and energy efficiencies portfolios. Sent to House Tourism Development and Energy Committee. No action since Feb. 8.—**SUPPORT**

OTHER BILLS THE LWV IS RESPONDING TO:

SUPPORT: SB 63, SB 190

OPPOSE: SB 4, HB 103

PLEASE SUPPORT THE LEAGUE MESSAGE WITH YOUR LEGISLATORS!

League Day at the Legislature An Opportunity to Learn

Right: Connie Back, Spencer County; Diana Clewett, Lexington; Nicole George, Louisville compare notes.



Left: Retha Wilcoxson and Pam Stephens of Hardin County seek information on bill status.

On Thursday, February 18, Lexington LWV members met other Kentucky League members for a day in Frankfort at the legislature. League representatives met in the cafeteria of the Capitol Annex in the morning and reviewed bills that the League supports or opposes. They then attended committee meetings and/or met with their legislators.

At noon members convened again for lunch in the cafeteria. In the afternoon, members attended sessions of the House and/or the Senate. Lexington League members who participated in the day at the legislature were: **Terry Naydan, Nita Smith, Diana Clewett, Don and Sylvia Coffey, Cindy Heine, Laura Zimmerman and Barbara Sterrett.**



Sun., April 3—6th Congressional District candidate forum at the Central Branch of the Lexington Public Library beginning at 2:00 p.m.

Sat., April 16—LWV Annual Meeting in Room B of Central Branch of the public library. Lexington Vice-Mayor Steve Kay will be our guest speaker.

More information will be available in the April newsletter.

Check Out LWV March Book Choice



The book to be discussed at the March meeting of the LWV book club is *Michelle Obama: A Life* by Peter Slevin. Nita Smith will guide the conversation about this first comprehensive account of the life and times of our First Lady.

The author now teaches in the Medill School of Journalism at Northwestern University. Prior to this time, he spent a dozen years at the *Washington Post* during which he covered the political scene, including the 2008 presidential campaign. Mr. Slevin has written extensively about the President and First Lady.

The Tuesday, March 15 meeting will convene at 1:30 p.m. at the home of **Terry Naydan**, 3013 Charleston Gardens Blvd. Members and guests are always welcome and the discussion is always lively.

Of Special Interest to League Members

Sunday, March 13, 4:00 to 6:00 p.m.—
Christian Muslim Dialogue Interfaith Program with Jewish Community—
Panel discussion: *"Lexington: Initiatives to Welcome the Stranger and Build a Safe Community for All People"* at Hunter Presbyterian Church, 109 Rosemont Garden, Lexington, KY 40503.

Sunday, April 23, 10:00 a.m. to 12 noon—
Christian Muslim Dialogue: "Middle Eastern Conflicts." Speaker will be Dr. Richard Cahill, Director of International Education, Berea College. This meeting will be held at Masjid (Mosque) Bilal, 1545 Russell Cave Road.

The VOTER editor is Judy Johnson. If you have a question or concern about the newsletter please contact her at judydex@twc.com.



Return Service Requested

Lexington League of Women Voters
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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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| Wed. | Mar. 9 | Deadline for reservations for "Brunch and Democracy" |
| Sat. | Mar. 12 from 10:00 a.m. to noon | "Brunch and Democracy" in Bronte Bistro at Joseph-Beth, Lexington Green |
| Sun. | Mar. 13 from 4:00 to 6:00 p.m. | CMD Interfaith Program with Jewish Community at Hunter Presbyterian Church, 109 Rosemont Garden |
| Tues. | Mar. 15 at 1:30 p.m. | "LWV Book Club Meeting at Terry Naydan's home, 3013 Charleston Gardens Blvd. |
| Thurs. | Mar. 17 at 6:30 p.m. | LWV Board Meeting at Faith House, Faith Lutheran Church, 1000 Tates Creek Rd. |
| Sun. | Apr. 3, 2:00 p.m. | 6th Congressional District Candidate Forum in Rm. B of the Central Branch of the Lexington Public Library, 140 E. Main St. |

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