



The Lexington Voter

May 2015

LEAGUE OF
WOMEN VOTERS®

The League of Women Voters of Lexington

Lexington League Enjoys Hosting LWVKY Annual Meeting

Not only was the weather perfect, the setting lovely, the food tasty, and the company entertaining but the LWVKY annual meeting April 10-11 at Shaker Village of Pleasant Hill was both educational and productive.

Regular Business

1. Election of new officers that included: Nita Smith and Terry Naydan (co-presidents); Bonnie Lynch (first vice president); Steve Senft (second vice president); Fran Wagner (Secretary); and Richard Heine (treasurer). New directors are Tammy Fagley and Cindy Heine, who will handle communications.
2. Approval of 2015 budget, bylaws changes and three proposals for study and action.

Workshops

1. How to Form a New League
2. Voter Beware and Kids Voting
3. Expanding Protective Orders (panel discussion)

Special Guest

Melissa Currence, member of the LWVUS Young People's Task Force and League member of the LWV of the Cincinnati Area offered several ideas for expanding the number of young members.

Melissa also presented Lexington president Tammy Fagley and Lexington vice president Cindy Heine with certificates of appreciation from the LWVUS for their tireless efforts on behalf of the organization.

A silent auction raised \$505 for the LWVKY and provided lively entertainment for delegates.

The 2016 state meeting will be sponsored by the Hopkinsville League so make a note now to participate...and experience another scenic area of Kentucky!

RIGHT: Melissa Currence (center) LWVUS Young People's Task Force, presented Tammy Fagley and Cindy Heine of Lexington with certificates of appreciation for their service as state co-presidents.



ABOVE: Retba Wilcoxson, Hardin County LWV, explained "Kids Voting."



ABOVE: Lexington LWV members Barbara Sterrett and Joy Arnold



LEFT: Panel members Sen. Whitney Westerfield of Christian County; Neil Ward, Bell County Prosecutor; Gretchen Hunt of KY Association Sexual Assault Programs; and moderator Meryl Ward, Bell County LWV.



LWVKY officers and board members L to R: Carolyn Self (Hopkinsville), Tammy Fagley (Lexington), Beverly Moore (Louisville), Terry Naydan, Donna Blue, Richard Heine (all of Lexington), Bonnie Lynch (Hopkinsville), Harriette Seiler (Louisville), Meryl Ward (Bell Co.), Steve Senft (Lexington), Joan Lindop (Louisville), Nita Smith and Cindy Heine (Lexington). INSET: Fran Wagner (Louisville), not present for photo.

Linda Gorton Guest at Lexington LWV Annual Meeting



ABOVE L to R: Richard Heine, Tammy Fagley, Cindy Heine, Linda Gorton, Steve Senft, and Donna Blue



ABOVE L to R: Rose Garden, Carol O'Reilly, and Marge Keller



ABOVE L to R: Lynne Flynn and Barbara Sterrett

ABOVE L to R: Tammy Fagley and Cindy Heine



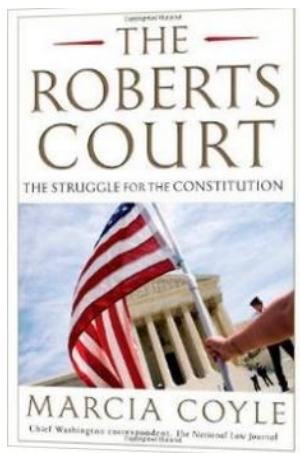
Linda Gorton, former Council Member and Vice Mayor of Lexington

The Lexington LWV held its annual meeting on Saturday, April 18, at Faith Lutheran Church. It was a treat to see League members who have not been able to participate in some time. All enjoyed a catered breakfast as the yearly business was discussed and voted on. The officers and board for 2016 are: Tammy Fagley, president; Donna Blue, second vice president; Lynne Flynn, secretary; and board members Richard Heine, Judy Johnson, Erin Kidder, Carol O'Reilly, and Barbara Sterrett. First vice president Cindy Heine and treasurer Steve Senft have another year of a two year term to serve and, therefore, were not on the slate presented for a vote.

The budget and the proposed program for the coming year were accepted. The first event of the year will be a wine/cheese membership party. Remember Talon Winery last fall? Look for details in the Summer issue of the VOTER which will be published in mid-July, covering both the months June and July. Members also received a copy of all committee reports for the 2014-15 year.

Once business was completed, Linda Gorton joined the group to share her reflections on the Lexington she helped shape over her 16 years in public service. She talked about her experiences working with four very different mayors and more than 30 council members. Her prepared talk became a conversation about the positive changes in the city over the last two decades and some of the exciting challenges ahead for the city. Although it proved unsuccessful, she was proud of the strong citizen led effort to buy the water company. Goals achieved included the protection council was able to put in place for our beautiful farmlands, the passage of a fairness law way ahead of its time, and the first move toward actually achieving affordable housing funding as well as the establishment of an office of Homelessness Prevention/Intervention. Conversation turned to the future and the possibilities for a more practical refurbishing of Rupp Arena, the extension of the bike trail, and the proposed open waterway through downtown which would open up a multi-use green space.

League members ended a very busy spring season better informed about our community and with ideas for possible future study and action. Our thanks to Linda Gorton for inspiring us.



The Lexington LWV book club will meet **Tuesday, May 19 at 1:30 p.m.** at Terry Naydan's house. The address is 3013 Charleston Blvd.

The book to be discussed is Marcia Coyle's *The Roberts Court*. Coyle is the chief Washington correspondent for the *National Law Review*. Jeffrey Rosen, president of the National Constitution Center in his *Washington Post* review, commended Coyle for avoiding politically polarized oversimplifications in prior examinations of the court. He writes, "The great strength of Coyle's book is the depth and balance of her reporting."

Terry will be leading the conversation about the four landmark decisions of the Roberts Court—*Parents Involved*, *District of Columbia v. Heller*, *Citizens United*, and the health care decision. If you have not previously participated but would like to join this discussion contact Terry at terrynaydan@aol.com or 859-971-7227.

Protecting Voting Rights

April saw positive results in League battles to protect voting rights.

Georgia—The LWV and coalition partners were successful in defeating proposed legislation that would have cut early voting from 21 days to 12.

Virginia—Gov. Terry McAuliffe vetoed a bill that would have required absentee voters to provide a copy of their photo ID with their ballot. This requirement would potentially disenfranchise thousands of registered voters who do not have a valid voter photo ID due to disability, age, illness, transportation or financial issues. The League was active in opposing this legislation and urged the governor not to sign the bill.

Ohio—Gov. John Kasich used his line item veto authority to kill language that would have required out-of-state college students who register to vote in Ohio to quickly obtain in-state drivers' licenses and/or vehicle registrations in order to vote. The governor acted at the urging of the LWV and other voting rights coalition members.

For over 95 years the League has fought for free, fair and accessible elections. The national League reports, "While the assault on voting rights has increased over the past, the League has risen to the challenge in dozens of states across the country. We are confident that the rights of voters will prevail, in large part, because the League has been and always will be there to fight for the right to vote for all eligible voters."

Check out new resources...

★ A new website priceoncarbon.org has been developed by Diz Swift, member of the LWV of Berkeley-Albany-Emeryville (CA) in consultation with the nation's leading experts on climate issues. A scientist herself, now retired, Swift explains the website is her offer to share her knowledge and help others understand the risks of climate change, its causes and potential solutions.

Here is a place to find the latest information, follow a blog on current topics, and learn about ways to take action on the issues. Bookmark it and check it frequently.

★ The **BLUESHEET** (handy contact listing of all national, state, and local representatives) has been updated for 2015. Copies are sent to media members, as well as libraries and other public display locations. If you would like a copy please call the League phone 859-494-3203 or email the League at lexingtonlwv@gmail.com.

A reminder that the **VOTER** will take a brief break. The next issue will be printed in late July.



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 judylex@twc.com.



Return Service Requested

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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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| TUES. | May 19 | 1:30 p.m. | LWV Book Club at Terry Naydan's house, 3013 Charleston Gardens Blvd. |
| TUES. | May 19 | 6:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. | PRIMARY ELECTION |
| Thurs. | May 21 | 6:30 p.m. | LWV Board Meeting, Faith House at Faith Lutheran Church, 1000 Tates Creek Rd. |