



The Lexington Voter

October 2013

LEAGUE OF
WOMEN VOTERS®

The League of Women Voters of Lexington

LWV Voter Registration Day



LWV Board member Barbara Sterrett assists potential voter as she registers.

September 24 was National Voter Registration Day and the Lexington League, partnering with the Office of Community Service and Civic Engagement at Transylvania University, joined with more than 800 other local leagues across the country to celebrate by educating and registering voters.

Our representatives **Cindy Heine, Barbara Sterrett, and Kerri Kolarik** spent their afternoon at the Lextran Transit Center talking with people as they waited for their buses.

They registered 7 new voters, gave out 11 mail in registration forms and provided 4 forms for former felons to complete to apply for the restoration of their voting rights.

To quote LWVUS president Elisabeth MacNamara : “We come from all walks of life, and we vote for lots of different reasons... we all deserve the chance to take part in deciding the direction our country is headed, and we all have a role to play in standing up for what we believe in.”

This is the LWV Position

Since President Obama took office in January of 2009 there have been 20 mass shootings resulting in 175 deaths.

On Monday, Sept. 16, the Navy Yard shooting that left 12 people dead reminded us yet again of the importance of working for gun safety legislation.

According to numbers published by the Center for Disease Control and Prevention, the U.S. record for deaths caused by gun violence is three per hour. And yet we, as a country, are no closer to demanding effective legislation.

Lexington League member Steve Senft reports that he went with other members of the social justice committee from his church to discuss the issue with Rep. Andy Barr’s district director for the issue, Colleen Chaney. She told her visitors that the representative’s office rarely hears from groups on this issue.

As League members we can:

- Read the official LWV position above.
- Share it with family, friends, acquaintances.
- Call and write our legislators requesting that they act on the issue. Begin with Senators Mitch McConnell and Rand Paul, as well as Representative Andy Barr. Encourage others to do the same. Let them know that this IS an important issue.
- Write a letter to the editor of the Herald-Leader in support of the LWV position.
- Continue speaking out until we achieve our goal and take global leadership in some area other than firearm homicides.

GUN SAFETY

Protect the health and safety of citizens through limiting the accessibility and regulating the ownership of handguns and semi-automatic weapons. Support regulation of firearms for consumer safety.

Constitution Day Celebrated



Student government vice president Ashley Carter opened the Constitution Day event at Transylvania University.

As a way of celebrating September 17, the day on which the Constitution was signed, Transylvania University planned a program which some League members attended. Two guest speakers—University President R. Owen Williams and award-winning Professor of Political Science Don Dugi—shared “What the Constitution Means to Me.” Both offered thoughts about parts of the Constitution particularly significant to them, reflected on changes in interpretation of the document over time and pondered implications for our society in the 21st century.

The evening provided a good opportunity to think more deeply about the Constitution as it continues to guide our country.

Check out the New Technology

Our old address lwwlexington.com will now bring you to our new, improved website. You will find it has a much more modern feel and is very user friendly.

It is full of all kinds of information. Our Membership Handbook is posted here with, among other important items, our positions on local issues. Past editions of the Voter are archived here and the current Blue Sheet, which contains contact information for local, state, and national governmental offices, is posted.

The new website is more interactive which means you will be able to pay dues as well as make donations to the League online.

We will soon have a Members Only section which will allow members using a password to access more League information.

Many thanks to **Karen Anderson** and **Nikole Wolfe** for introducing this idea and doing the hard work of making it a reality.

Also on the technology front, please check out our Facebook page listed under League of Women Voters of Lexington, KY. Here are listed of League happenings and the latest news from national LWV. Also, be sure to “like” us!

MARK YOUR CALENDAR!

The Lexington League of Women Voters
and the Lexington Public Library

present a free showing of...

IRON JAWED ANGELS



This dramatic film starring Hillary Swank, Francis O’Conner, Julia Ormond and Anjelica Huston tells the chilling story of the women’s suffrage movement during the 1910s.

2:00 p.m.

Sunday, October 6, 2013

Farish Theater at Central Library

140 E. Main Street

Discussion follows

LWV Urges Commission on Election Administration to Make Changes

The LWV submitted a statement before the final public hearing of the Presidential Commission on Election Administration urging the panel to support the League’s five point agenda. Recommended improvements include:

- A call for all states to develop and implement secure online voter registration systems that serve all voters
- Permanent and portable statewide voter registration
- Expanded early voting
- Improved polling place management
- Electronic streamling

The commission is to report its recommendations this year.

Civic Education Consensus Reached

On Saturday morning, September 21, League members met at Faith House to discuss and reach consensus on the state League study topic of “The Role of Kentucky Schools in a Democracy.” In condensed form the results were:

1. *Should schools prepare students to be informed and engaged citizens?* **Yes.** Public education was created to have informed citizens to carry out the mandates of the foundation documents.
2. *Should civics education be focused on knowledge and understanding of governments, including their structures, functions, and effects?* **Yes.** We cannot engage if we do not know and understand the various systems of government.
3. *Should civics include preparing students with the skills to participate critically and solve problems in civic life?* **Yes.** Civics provides an area for students to increase these skills which are required by the new Common Core Standards.
4. *Should schools provide practice in working cooperatively as a community of citizens with rights and responsibilities.* **Yes.** Students need to understand they live and will work within a governed community.
5. *Should civics be taught as a separate course or be integrated with history, geography, economics through grades K-12?* **Both.** Civics cannot be separated from these other disciplines but also deserves special attention in a course at high school level.
6. *Should high school graduates have learned the following?*
 - *The ability to influence the legislative process on an issue of importance to themselves as well as others—Yes.*
 - *To be responsible citizens involved in providing for the general welfare—Yes.*
 - *The skills, inclinations, and self-confidence to participate as informed citizens in the electoral, legislative, judicial, and administrative processes of government—Yes.*
 - *To work cooperatively in various size group activities—Yes.*
 - *To understand the effects of voting on their own and others’ lives—Yes.*

Our report which will be sent to the state League will contain the full body of comments and explanations as several items sparked lengthy discussion. The report will be combined with the reports from other Leagues around the state to provide the basis for the official state League positions on the topic.

LWV Essay Contest Is Open

The 2013 essay contest for high school students in Fayette County is now open. The deadline to submit essays is **October 31**.

The topic this year is gerrymandering with supporting questions about its use today, its effects and possible ways to redistrict that are more fair to all constituencies.

The prizes are again \$250 for first place, \$150 for second place and \$100 for third place. There are cash honorariums for the teacher mentors of the winners.

If you know teenagers attending school in Fayette County, public or private, please encourage them to participate. If you know high school teachers, please ask them to encourage their students to take up this challenge.

Detailed information is available on our website lwvlexington.com.

The Presidential Commission on Election Administration has been conducting visits to battleground states of Florida, Pennsylvania, Colorado and Ohio, collecting information on voting issues.

Read the thoughtful blog concerning testimony in the state of Ohio on the national LWV website—lwv.org. The title of the piece is “**How Do You Tame a Battleground State?**”

Christian Muslim Dialogue

Saturday, October 26 from 10 to noon
(followed by potluck lunch)

at
Hunter Presbyterian Church
109 Rosemont Garden

“Centre Faith—Living Among Many Faith Traditions”

Panel of students from Centre College in Danville, KY

Moderator: Dr. Rick Axtel, Paul L. Cantrell Associate Professor of Religion and Chaplin, Centre College

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 judylex@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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| Sun. | Oct. 6 | 2:00 p.m. | “Iron Jawed Angels” —free showing at Farish Theatre of Central Library, 150 East Main St. Discussion afterward. |
| Thur. | Oct. 10 | 6:30 p.m. | Board meeting at Faith House, Faith Lutheran Church, 1000 Tates Creek Rd. Potluck dinner. |
| Sat. | Oct. 26 | 10-12 noon | Christian Muslim Dialogue, “Centre Faith—Living Among Many Faith Traditions”—Panel of students from Centre College. Hunter Presbyterian Church, 109 Rosemont Garden. Potluck follows. |

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