



LEAGUE OF
WOMEN VOTERS®

The Lexington Voter Summer 2018

The League of Women Voters of Lexington

Mark Your Calendars Now for Summer Social on August 26



- WHO:** LWV members and potential new members
- WHAT:** Lexington League Come and Learn Social
- WHEN:** From 2 to 4 p.m. on Sun., Aug. 26th
- WHERE:** Crank and Boom Ice Cream Lounge at 1210 Manchester St.

Enjoy your favorite ice cream (and toppings), mingle with League friends, hear about our nonpartisan work with voter education (especially Sept. candidate forums), getting out the vote and voter registration. Fayette County School Board Chairperson Melissa Bacon has been invited to speak briefly on issues related to our public schools. Great way to gear up after vacation!



League Welcomes and Registers New Citizens



Above: Nancy Chessar (back to camera) and new LWV member Theresa McCarty answer questions about process.



Above: Judge Ingram requested that applicants for citizenship complete the naturalization oath facing the audience of friends and families.

Below: New citizens register to vote using electronic and paper versions of the necessary form.



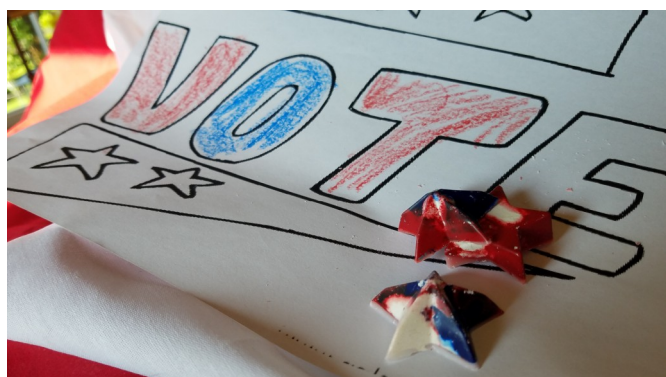
Above: Jenn Jackson helps new citizen register to vote using smart phone.

On Friday, July 21, LWV members **Jenn Jackson, Cindy Heine, Nancy Chessar, Theresa McCarty, and Judy and Skip Johnson** helped new citizens and members of their families register to vote. The 39 successful applicants for citizenship came from 20 different countries, some large and familiar like Mexico and India, and others small and unfamiliar like Mauritania and Burundi.

The ceremony preceding registration was conducted by the honorable Hanly A. Ingram, magistrate judge, and the pledge of allegiance was proudly led by his young sons, Daniel and James. **Jenn Jackson**, representing the League, along with representatives from the Daughters of the American Revolution and the Sons of the American Revolution, congratulated the applicants on completing the arduous naturalization process.

Afterwards, the new citizens enthusiastically welcomed assistance registering to vote using paper applications, cellphones, laptops from the office of the Secretary of State and take-home registration forms. **The next naturalization ceremony will be Friday, November 16.**

July 4th Voter Registration Tiring but Rewarding



93 degrees of smothering heat, sweat and thirst, very little shade and no breeze and the sidewalk crowded with people. Does that sound like fun? Well, it was! This was by far the most successful registration results we have had with 18 new registrations, eight address updates, five party changes, three inquiries about ex-felon restoration of rights applications and dozens of interesting conversations with individual voters. *Plus we recruited a new volunteer for voter registration!*

A special vote of appreciation to **Barb Sterrett**, who got up early to help set up the booth; **Cecile Schubert**, who drove from Berea for a two hour shift and then stayed to work another one; **Laura Zimmerman**, who worked overtime and showed us all how to personally connect with individual members of the public; **Mary Hughes**, who worked a shift and then came back to help dismantle the booth; and our enthusiastic, energetic and extremely organized leader, **Jenn Jackson**, Voter Registration chairperson.

If you want to find out just how much fun you are missing, sign up to help with an upcoming event. You will not regret the time spent.

LWV Book Club Returns in Sept.

The September meeting of the League book club will feature a discussion of the book *Grant* by Ron Chernow. (At 960 pages, extra time was allowed for reading this summer.)

The date is **Tues., Sept. 18**, the time is **1:30 p.m.** The meeting place is **Terry Naydan's house, 3013 Charleston Gardens Blvd.** If you would like to participate in this discussion, just email Terry at **terry-naydan@aol.com**.

Upcoming Voter Registration Events

Anyone who wants to get more involved with the mission and work of the League, your help is needed! Below are listed several events where the LWV will have a presence. We will need many volunteers to staff our booth. The work is fun and it is so easy to engage bystanders in meaningful conversation about voting. Jenn Jackson, the board member in charge of Voter Services, is organized and helpful. All materials are prepared and instructions are clear. Being an active League member couldn't be easier!

Sign up is easy also. For each event listed below, just put the web address provided in your browser and sign up electronically for the shift you want to work. You will receive confirmation and, close to the event, you will receive a reminder. Just do it!

1. **Sat., Aug. 4 from 9:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.—Back to School Festival Bates Creek.** There are "back to school" rallies on this date at all the schools. We will cover Bates Creek. Signup: <http://signup.com/go/LTENUWS>
2. **Sat., Aug 11 from 9:00 a.m. to noon—Walk to Bridge the Gap of Success.** This event is sponsored by ARC of KY at Barn C at Keeneland and supports individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities. Signup: <http://signup.com/go/LYaDTun>
3. **Sat. and Sun., Aug. 18 and 19 from 8:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.—Woodland Art Fair (we need lots of volunteers for this event!!)** This event is well attended and we had wonderful conversations with participants last year. Our booth will be located at Woodland Christian Church. Signup: <http://signup.com/go/kyuDddh>
4. **Sat. Sept. 8 from 11:00 a.m. to 11:00 p.m.—Roots and Heritage Festival.** This will be held on Elm Tree Lane between Short and Third Sts. Signup: **Sun., Sept. 9 from 2 to 5:00 p.m.—Bluegrass Autism Walk.** This is held at Kroger Field on UK campus. Signup: <http://signup.com/go/itJEJVn>
5. **Sun., Sept. 9 from 2:00 to 5:00 p.m.—Bluegrass Autism Walk.** This is 2k walk at Kroger Field on the UK campus. Signup: <http://signup.com/go/hQjuBD>
6. **Sat., Sept. 15 from 4:00 to 11:00 p.m.—Roots and Heritage Festival Latino.** This event is held on Elm Tree St. between Short and Third St. Signup: <http://signup.com/go/tVOBDxc>

Yet Another Volunteer Opportunity

Here is a volunteer opportunity that is so easy—the LWV Observer Corps. Think about a government entity that you would like to know more about. Perhaps, Urban County Council, Planning and Zoning, the Fayette County School Board, the Housing Authority, or the Board of elections. These are just a few possibilities. The League needs volunteers who each select an organization they would like to know more about and then attend the group's meetings, completing a standard report form after each session.

The idea is to keep government transparent and to monitor actions related to national, state or local League positions. League members attend government meetings to learn what their government is doing and check whether those meetings are conducted in an open and transparent way, a hallmark of our democracy. Finally, observers monitor actions that are related to national, state or local league positions or programs and report to the league if action is necessary.

If you are interested in participating in such an effort, please contact **Richard Heine** by phone **859 221-5770** or e-mail at rheine@twc.com. We have materials from the national League. The LWV of Berea-Madison County had a good model and materials they generated and the Lexington League has a simple report that was used in past years.

Think about this opportunity. It might be just the activity you have been seeking!

Candidates Have Been Invited to the Fall Forums

Cindy Heine, Liza Holland, Tee Bergman, along with input from several other members, have finalized and mailed invitations to participate in September forums to **56** candidates running for public office at the state and local level. Responses are already beginning to be returned.

Please mark your calendars for the weekend of **Sept. 15 and 16, Sat., Sept. 22. and Sat., Sept. 29.** These forums will be held in Farish Theater at the Central Branch of the Lexington Public Library. The forums for Mayor and U.S. Congress District 6 will be scheduled in **Oct.** in the studios of WKYT TV.



Do You Think It Is Easy for Ex-Felons to Get Voting Rights Restored?

The process for restoration of voting rights as it is now employed in Kentucky is not simple:

- When an eligible felon is released from prison the Secretary of State's office sends him/her information about the restoration process and an application form (however, only the names of released felons are given to the Secretary of State—no contact information is provided).
- When an ex-felon has completed the application form and it is approved by the Dept. of Corrections, the form is sent to the Governor's office.
- We have tried and, so far, have obtained little insight into what happens once applications reach that office—what decisions are made about which applications to accept and why some are approved and others are not. (Between Dec. 8, 2015 and Mar. 1, 2018 the Dept. of Corrections reports having sent **1459** applications to the Governor. We have confirmation from the Secretary of State's office of **788** executive orders for restoration. We do not know what happened to the rest of the applications.)
- A representative of the Dept. of Corrections explained the final part of the restoration process this way:
 1. After the Governor reviews and approves a felon's application, he then signs an Executive Order and a certificate for them, stating that their Civil Rights have been restored.

2. He then forwards these documents to the office of the Secretary of State. She will sign the Executive Order and copies of these documents will be filed in her department.

3. After the Order has both signatures, the Secretary of State will send the original application, Executive Order, and Certificate to us, here at the Department of Corrections. We will file a copy of them, then forward the felon's Order and certificate to them (along with a voter registration card) at their home address. Once the applicant has received these documents in the mail, they can register to vote!

Understanding this process is necessary if we in the League plan to propose ideas to simplify it.

VOTER editor is **Judy Johnson**. If you have a question about or information for the newsletter please contact her at judylex@twc.com.



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
P.O. Box 22045, Lexington, 40522 Facebook: League of Women Voters of Lexington, KY

NOTE: Board meetings are open to all MEMBERS; programs are open to the public.

- Sat., Aug. 4 9:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Registering voters at the Tates Creek Back to School Rally. To sign up to help, use the link <http://signup.com/go/LTENUWS>.
- Sat., Aug. 11 9:00 a.m. to noon Registering voters at Walk to Bridge the Gap of Success sponsored by ARC of KY. To be held on the grounds of Keeneland Race Track. To sign up to help, use the link <http://signup.com/go/LYaDTun>.
- Sat./Sun., Aug. 18-19 Registering voters at the Woodland Art Fair. Booth will be at Woodland Christian Church across from Woodland Park. To sign up to help, use the link <http://signup.com/go/kyuDddh>.
- Wed., Aug. 22 6:00 p.m. Lexington LWV Board meeting at Faith House, Faith Lutheran Church, 1000 Tates Creek Rd.
- Sun., Aug. 26 2:00 to 4:00 p.m. League Summer Social at Crank and Boom Ice Cream Lounge, 1210 Manchester St.

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