



# The Lexington Voter

## April 2009

The League of Women Voters of Lexington

### President's Message

Dear Fellow Members:

We hope to see everyone at this year's annual State and Lexington League Convention/Council on April 17th & 18th. As the host for this meeting, we want to show our hospitality and support through strong participation by our members.

This event is a great chance to meet members of the state board as well as members of other local leagues. Various highlights will include a wine and cheese reception, a dinner with speaker Dot Ridings and a chance to listen to knowledgeable speakers discuss energy policies for the state. (As you know, with the new administration focus this will be a particularly important issue for Kentuckians to monitor and debate.)

Use the enclosed order form to register now for the state meeting.

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*Next for your calendars*— this year LWVUS will offer an opportunity for local Leagues to participate in the national convention/council via telecommunications. All members will be invited to join the telebroadcast June 13th right here in Lexington. We will have more details about this new venture in the May issue of the VOTER.

*Tammy Fagley*

### Nominees for 2009-2010 Board

Officers and board members for the 2009-2010 Lexington LWV will be elected at the Annual Meeting to be held Friday, April 17, in conjunction with the state LWV meeting. The slate proposed by the nominating committee is listed below. Additional nominations may be made from the floor at the April 17 meeting.

Because Voter Services encompasses so many responsibilities, the board decided to divide the committee into four distinct areas with the chair of each having the option to serve on or off board. The areas are: Candidate Forums, Naturalization Ceremonies, Voter Registration, and Speaker Requests. If you are interested in serving in any of these areas, please contact Betty Higgins at 278-1898 or [e.higgins@insightbb.com](mailto:e.higgins@insightbb.com).

### NOMINEES

- President** (1 yr term) - Tammy Fagley
- Vice President** (2 yr term) - Cindy Heine
- Secretary** (2 yr term) - Betty Higgins
- Treasurer** (2nd year of 2 yr term) - Steve Senft
- Directors** (1 yr term):
  - Environment** - Nancy McDuffie
  - Essay Contest** - Lowell Eberwein
  - Local Government** - Richard Heine
  - Membership** - Barbara Sterrett
  - Public Relations** - Cindy Heine
  - Voter Editor** - Judy Johnson
  - Voter Services Areas** - Candidate Forums, Naturalization Ceremonies, Voter Registration, Speaker Requests

## April 4th Meeting to Participate in LWV Study of National Popular Vote Compact

The LWV has long opposed the role of the Electoral College but, over the years, more than 700 Constitutional amendments to abolish the College have failed.

Enter the National Popular Vote (NVP) Compact, a proposed way to change the way the President is elected without having to amend the Constitution. Basically, the proposal is an interstate compact in which states would commit to cast their votes for the winner of the national popular vote.

On April 4 at 10 a.m. Lexington members will have the opportunity to discuss and form consensus on this issue. The meeting will be held at Faith House, Faith Lutheran Church, 1000 Tates Creek Road.

### Critics of this compact cite:

- ◆ the possibility of legal challenges;
- ◆ without Congressional consent such a compact would not be enforceable;
- ◆ the possibility of the U.S. Supreme Court deciding against a group of state legislatures introducing a new system without a Constitutional Amendment;
- ◆ states not endorsing the compact could become a fundamental concern constitutionally;
- ◆ the fact that as few as 11 states could determine a presidential election and could shift political power between states that are and are not party to the compact.

### Supporters of this compact argue:

- ◆ most of the electorate favors a system where the candidate who receives the most votes wins;
- ◆ amendment to the Constitution is a lengthy and difficult process—the compact requires no Constitutional amendment;
- ◆ interstate compacts have long been a part of U.S. history and are, in fact, sanctioned by the Constitution;
- ◆ Supreme Court rulings have established that most compacts do not require congressional approval but, to avoid time-consuming litigation, backers have decided to seek congressional consent, perhaps as a bill to grant consent to the Compact on behalf of the District of Columbia (in deference to the exclusive power of the states to decide the manner of awarding electoral votes).

The LWVUS supports uniform national voting standards. Critics of the Compact argue that it is not uniform in that it can be enacted by some states and not others. Supporters maintain that the NPV Compact aims for having all the states become members of the compact, and thus shares the goal of a uniform and universal method of electing the President. They add that the NPV Compact creates uniform standards because every national vote would be counted equally if it were to go into effect.

Local League affiliates are asked to study all aspects of the issue and come to consensus and report their positions by May 1, 2009. **Be a part of this process. Join us on April 4 when Richard Heine will moderate the discussion of the NPV Compact and our local Lexington LWV will come to our consensus position.**

*In Memory of...*

**Rose Mary Brooks**, civic leader and longtime LWV member, who died March 3, 2009 at the age of 94 in Lexington.

Ms. Brooks was a former educator, chairperson of the first public library in Winchester, first woman chairperson of the Lexington Theological Seminary, trustee of Central Christian Church, and active member of several women's organizations. She was the recipient of many awards recognizing her contributions to her community, including UK's highest award for community service, the Sullivan Medallion.

## **KDUNA Invitation to Celebrate the Work of Former LWV Leader Dr. LiliaLyce Akers**

On April 27, the Kentucky Division, United Nations Association (KDUNA) Annual Meeting will pay tribute to the late Dr. LiliaLyce Akers. Special guest speakers will include State Auditor Crit Luallen and attorney Art Williams.

The luncheon meeting is scheduled for noon-1:30 p.m. at the University of Louisville Alumni Club in Louisville and will also include a keynote presentation by Tom FitzGerald, Director of the Kentucky Resources Council on "KY at the Crossroads: Adapting to a Carbon-Constrained World."

Lexington LWV members are invited to attend. The cost is \$25 which includes a donation to KDUNA. **A reservation form can be obtained from Cindy Heine at 272-3500 or [cindy.heine@insightbb.com](mailto:cindy.heine@insightbb.com).** Reservations must be received by KDUNA by April 24.

## **Local Legislators Provide Update at *Dinner and Democracy***

A serious budget shortfall turned this year's General Assembly session into a budget session, according to two Fayette County state representatives. Rep. Bill Farmer (R) and Rep. Ruth Ann Palumbo (D) provided this assessment at the League's March 10 *Dinner and Democracy* event.

The legislators discussed a wide range of proposed legislation, disagreeing on some issues, but agreeing that the stressed economy has resulted in better cooperation among lawmakers from both political parties.

Farmer, a tax preparer, proposes eliminating Kentucky's income tax and replacing it with a broad based sales tax. He opposes taxing "anything related to health care" or agriculture-related services.

Both Farmer and Palumbo said the cigarette tax increase (a 30 cent raise) was not large enough. "But it was an urban vs. rural issue," Palumbo noted.

Palumbo is a primary sponsor of HB 170 which would align Kentucky with states supporting the election of the President by National Popular Vote (NPV). This issue is being studied by the National League of Women Voters. The Lexington League is scheduled to meet April 4 to answer consensus questions on the NPV Compact.

Other issues discussed by the two legislators included overcrowding of jails and prisons, slots at racetracks, and transparency in lawmaking.

The March 10 *Dinner and Democracy* event was the final one in the 08-09 series. Plan on joining us for the 09-10 series which will begin in the fall.

*Submitted by Betty Higgins*

\*The League of Women Voters of Lexington is a non-partisan political organization that encourages informed, active participation of citizens in government, works to increase understanding of major public policy issues and influences public policy through education and advocacy\*

Return Service Requested

Lexington League of Women Voters  
PO Box 22045  
Lexington KY 40522

## Calendar

LWV of Lexington Website: [www.lwvlexington.com](http://www.lwvlexington.com)

Phone: 859-494-3203

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

<b>Saturday, April 4</b>	<b>10:00 a.m.</b>	<b>Member Meeting (to form consensus on National Popular Vote Compact proposal) at Faith House, Faith Lutheran Church, 1000 Tates Creek Road</b>
<b><i>FRIDAY, APRIL 17</i></b>	<b><i>2:30 p.m.</i></b>	<b><i>STATE LWV CONVENTION IN LEXINGTON*</i></b>
<b><i>FRIDAY, APRIL 17</i></b>	<b><i>5:30 p.m.</i></b>	<b><i>LWV LEXINGTON ANNUAL MEETING*</i></b>
<b><i>SATURDAY, APRIL 18</i></b>	<b><i>8:30 a.m.</i></b>	<b><i>STATE LWV CONVENTION LEXINGTON*</i></b>

(\* Fellowship Hall of Faith Lutheran Church)

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