



# The Lexington Voter

## December 2009

The League of Women Voters of Lexington

### President's Message

Dear Fellow League Members:

In this holiday season I would like to wish everyone safe and happy celebrations. And why not begin with the annual LWV holiday gathering on Saturday, December 5. Come and meet your board members. Tell us what you would like the League to be doing.

Also, make a New Year's resolution to be a more active member. You can begin with our January 9 program planning meeting which will be held at 11:00 a.m. at Faith Lutheran Church. It is your chance to let us know what you would like the League to focus on in the upcoming year. The more members present, the more ideas we have to increase the League's visibility and effectiveness.

Or bring a brown bag lunch to Faith Lutheran Church on Tuesday, January 12 at 12:00 noon. Beverages will be provided. Join other League members to meet and talk with Cheryl Taylor, Lexington's first Environmental Quality Commissioner.

Finally, we are in desperate need of a creative thinker who is willing to help with fundraising. If this is a comfort zone for you please call the League phone number 494-3209. There are many ways the League can inform you and just as many ways you can serve the League!

*Tammy Fagley*



**Begin the holiday season with the Lexington LWV!**

**Saturday, December 5th at 10:30 a.m.**

**324 Stoneybrook Dr.**

**Bring a dish! Bring a friend! Enjoy good fellowship!**

**RSVP to League phone 494-3203**

The Lexington League of Women Voters welcomes new members **Abigail Volpini** and **Esther Webb**. We hope to meet you soon at a League function!

## Energy Efficiency Experts Share Ideas at November *Dinner and Democracy*



Featured speakers were (l to r): Henry Jackson and Geoffrey Young of Lexington and Cheryl Bruner of Louisville.

On Tuesday, November 10, League members met to learn more about energy conservation as part of our ongoing study of the use of resources.

**Geoffrey Young** is a Lexington resident with background in advocacy. He pointed out that the state's energy strategy is energy efficiency which can save up to 20% of usage according to state research. He said that energy efficiency is not a silver bullet but, rather, more like "silver buckshot." He also noted that although energy efficiency is the focus of our state plan, Kentucky is not a leader in this area.

**Cheryl Bruner** is currently the director of energy efficiency for all customer programs for her employer E.on. (This corporation owns both Louisville Power and Light and Kentucky Utilities.) She cited her personal experience when she "got educated and got motivated" and made energy efficient changes in her home such as replacing incandescent light bulbs with the newer fluorescent bulbs. Her utility billings now reflect an increase in efficiency of 32%. She suggested that we all count the sockets in our own homes to get an idea of the impact of that kind of substitution alone.

Ms. Bruner offered several statistics that appear on the next page in a consumer quiz. Also, she reminded listeners to be watching for KU coupons that will cut the price of energy efficient lighting.

**Henry Jackson**, retired LFUCG city planner, now works as a private consultant. His interest is "the big picture." In this role he helps communities figure their carbon footprints and make long-term plans for improvement using software from the International Council on Local Environmental Initiatives (ICLEIUSA). He noted that Louisville has already written an ambitious program and that Franklin County is working on the first countywide plan. He said this county plan would be a good example to offer other communities. He believes communities should measure, set targets, write plans, measure, adjust their plans, and measure again. He also mentioned that KU's energy audit for individual homeowners is a worthwhile investment at \$15.

The evening's discussion was lively and informative and member **Norma Mau's** cobbler—as always—was wonderful!

**URGENT!**

### Health Care Reform Now!

The national LWV reminds us we are on "the cusp of comprehensive health reform." Now that the House has passed a significant bill, we believe that the Senate must also pass strong legislation that guarantees quality, safe, and affordable health care to all U.S. residents, including the choice of a public insurance plan. As one of the most trusted non-partisan voices in the United States, the League speaks out for reform that must protect coverage for those who have it, provide coverage for those who need it, and defend us all against skyrocketing costs.

You are the League! Contact your Senators and let them know where you stand.

## New Citizens Register to Vote

Six League members helped new citizens register to vote following naturalization ceremonies in Lexington November 6.

At the morning ceremony, **Lillian Gentry** welcomed 49 new citizens at the invitation of presiding Judge Joseph M. Hood. Afterwards, she, **Abigail Volpini** and **Betty Higgins** registered 15 of those and provided voter registration forms and information to many others.

Betty gave welcoming remarks to 50 new citizens during the afternoon ceremony at the invitation of Judge Gregory F. Van Tatenhove. Assisting in the voter registration afterwards were **Mary Hughes**, **Nancy McDuffie** and **Nancie Watson**.

The Lexington League has forwarded registration cards for these citizens to the following counties: Anderson, Boone, Boyle, Campbell, Fayette, Franklin, Harrison, Jefferson, Jessamine, Kenton and Scott counties.

The next Lexington ceremony is scheduled for December 11. If you would like to attend and help with registration, please contact Betty at 278-1898 or by email at [e.higgins@insightbb.com](mailto:e.higgins@insightbb.com).

### FOOD FOR THOUGHT:

- ◆ (Book) *Natural Capitalism: Inventing the Next Industrial Revolution* by Hawken, Lovins and Lovins. Three top strategists show how leading companies are practicing a new type of industrialism that is more efficient and profitable while saving the environment and creating jobs.
- ◆ (Movie) *Capitalism: A Love Story*, the latest Michael Moore offering, is a movie worth watching. Moore blames much of our current troubles on the country's unchecked devotion to capitalism. He is careful to point out that capitalism does not equate to democracy and that capitalism has actually corrupted democracy. But Moore questions the price that Americans have paid for their love of capitalism over the years. Whether or not you agree with Moore's criticism of capitalism, there is plenty in the movie to provoke discussion.

### Bob Edwards Weekend on PRI.....

The November 14-15 program's installment of the series "This I Believe" featured the essay of **Mrs. John G. (Percy) Lee** who served four terms as national president of the League of Women Voters from 1950 to 1958. Mrs. Lee was one of the first influential figures to encourage women—not just to vote—but to run for political office. It is interesting 50 years later to listen to the thoughts of this visionary leader.

A link to the essay can be found at <http://www.bobedwardsradio.com>.

**UPDATE:** We want to keep you as a member. There are 16 members who have not paid dues for the 2009-2010 membership year. Please pay your dues as soon as possible so that you can remain a member of the Lexington League of Women Voters. If you have a question about your membership status, please contact Barbara Sterrett, Membership Chair, at 859-223-1722 or by email at [barbarasterrett@insightbb.com](mailto:barbarasterrett@insightbb.com).

## CONSUMER ENERGY QUIZ

1. What is our cost in Lexington for electricity per kilowatt hour?
  - a. 7cents    b. 12 cents    c. 15 cents
2. With this rate, where does Kentucky rank among all 50 states?
  - a. 5th highest    b. 3rd lowest    c. Lowest
3. How do Kentuckians rank in relation to average American in use of electricity?
  - a. We use 50% more    b. We use 25% more
  - c. We use 30% less
4. What % of US energy comes from coal?
  - a. 30%    b. 50%    c. 75%
5. What % of KY energy comes from coal?
  - a. 55%    b. 75%    c. 95%

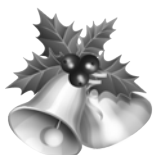
ANSWERS: 1. a; 2. b; 3. b; 4. b; 5. c.

\*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

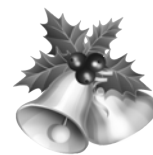
Lexington League of Women Voters  
PO Box 22045  
Lexington KY 40522

## 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

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|----------------------|------------|---|
| Saturday, December 5 | 10:00 a.m. | <b>HOLIDAY GATHERING</b> at Cindy Heine's house, 324 Stoneybrook Dr., Lexington   |
| Saturday, January 9  | 10:00 a.m. | Board Meeting at Faith House, Faith Lutheran Church   |
| Saturday, January 9  | 11:00 a.m. | Yearly Planning Meeting at Faith Lutheran Church  |
| Tuesday, January 12  | 12 NOON    | Brown Bag Lunch (bring your own, beverages served) at Faith Lutheran Church. Topic: Lexington's plan for energy efficiency. |

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