



The Lexington Voter

November 2009

The League of Women Voters of Lexington

President's Message

Dear Fellow League Members:

*This year we are switching things up a bit. Usually we hold our annual fundraising auction in December but this year we will be holding it in conjunction with the November 10 **Dinner and Democracy** evening.*

If you have anything you would like to donate to this auction please call 494-3203 and then bring the item with you on November 10. If you cannot attend, arrangements can be made to pick up your donations.

*Don't miss **Dinner and Democracy...and the auction!***

Tammy Fagley

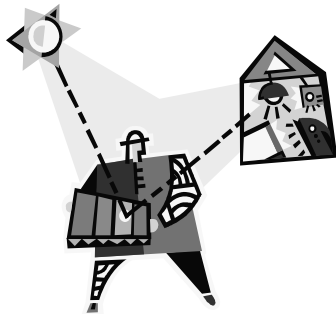
Dinner and Democracy

GOOD FOOD! GOOD INFORMATION! GOOD FUN!

November 10 at 6:00 p.m.

Faith Lutheran Church, 1000 Tates Creek

**Dinner, Presentation, AND Secret
Silent Auction**



Topic: *“Planning for Kentucky’s Energy Future”*

\$10 for dinner/donation

Call 494-3203 for reservation

Facts about Energy Conservation and Renewable Resources Stir Member Interest



October's environmental resource speakers (l to r) John Twitchell, Elizabeth Crowe, and Jonathan Miller listened to audience concerns.

John Twitchell (who with his wife is a longtime supporter of the LWV) joined us in his official capacity of senior vice-president of East Kentucky Power Cooperative. He explained the *Simple Savers* power conservation program, the company's weatherization program, and energy audits—all moves to conserve energy.

Jonathan Miller, the Governor's Secretary of Finance and Administration, talked about the state government's role to lead by example, implementing an automatic energy "set back" system (to reduce unnecessary energy use at night) and the use of stimulus money to start a "Green Bank of Kentucky" which will lend to companies that want to increase their energy efficiency.

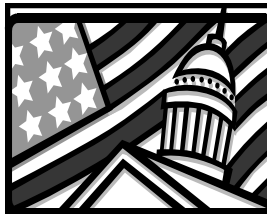
Elizabeth Crowe, who is part of the state work group designing the LWV energy study, went on to address several related issues of toxic substances. She agreed that our first step is to cut back on energy use but she also pointed out that as a state "we haven't set a goal high enough" and she suggested that perhaps our current state proposals are simply bare minimum. She encouraged members to study all available information on renewable resources.

Speakers for Nov. *Dinner and Democracy* Add New Dimensions to Energy Conversation

The panel for the next *Dinner and Democracy* discussion will include:

1. Cheryl Bruner, Director of Customer Energy Efficiency for E-ON US. In this role she is responsible for the strategy, planning, implementation, operations and evaluation of all customer energy efficiency programs. Her company serves as the gas and/or electric utility for nearly one million customers in KY and VA.
2. Geoffrey Young is a MA native and received degrees from MIT, U Mass at Amherst, and the University of Kentucky. He worked for 13 years in the Energy Department of KY state government, focusing on energy efficiency and utility company regulations. He works with several volunteer groups including Kentuckians for the Commonwealth, and the Sierra Club.
3. Cheryl Taylor is Lexington's first Environmental Quality Commissioner. Previously she served as Commissioner of the KY department for Environmental Protection. She holds degrees in mechanical engineering and social work from the University of Kentucky.

This is the second of two sessions on energy and the environment offered to inform members as we take up the state LWV study questions.



PLEASE NOTE: The next naturalization ceremonies in Lexington are scheduled for **Nov. 6 at 11 a.m. and 2 p.m. at the Federal Courthouse.** Any LWV members interested in registering new citizens following the ceremony should contact **Betty Higgins at 278-1898** or e.higgins@insightbb.com.

Request from Colorado League:

“The League of Women Voters of Boulder County (CO) and the League of Women Voters of Colorado are requesting that your League contact LWVUS Board Members to ask them to support the Fair Elections Now (FEN) Act as a top advocacy priority in 2010 at the January LWVUS Board Meeting.

The Fair Elections Now Act was introduced in the House and Senate on March 31, 2009, and has the potential to fundamentally change congressional campaigns and the way Washington works. However, most Americans have not even heard of the FEN Act. Campaign finance reform has been a core League issue and one in which LWV has tremendous credibility. We have the opportunity, and the responsibility, to inform and educate the American public about the Fair Elections Now Act.

The Fair Elections Now Act (H.R.1826, S.752) will enable qualified candidates for the House and Senate to have the option of running campaigns using a combination of public funding and small donations from supporters. If the Act passes, qualified candidates who are not independently wealthy and who do not want to accept money from special interests will be able to run competitive campaigns. The FEN Act is different from previous campaign finance legislation in that its goal is not to restrict campaign spending, but to allow public money to be used to pay for candidates' campaigns.

Information about publicly financed campaigns and the Fair Elections Now Act may be found at: <http://www.campaignmoney.org/campaigns/main/fair-elections> If you have any questions, please contact the LWV of Boulder County at: shirleyjin1430@gmail.com

We hope your League will join the Boulder County and Colorado Leagues in asking LWVUS Board Members (no later than

December 10) to select the Fair Elections Now Act as a top LWV advocacy priority at the January, 2010 board meeting. The names and email addresses of the LWVUS officers are listed below:

Mary Wilson, President
mwilson@lwv.org

Elisabeth MacNamara, 1st Vice President
egmacnam@gmail.com

Judy Duffy, 2nd Vice President
jduffy@lwv@aol.com

Elaine M. Wiant
ewiantlwv@sbcglobal.net

New Opportunity for Members

Transparency in government has been one of the core principles of the LWV since its founding in 1920. League members attend government meetings to learn what their government is doing and to monitor whether those meetings are conducted in an open and transparent way. They also monitor actions resulting from those meetings that are related to national, state or local league positions or programs and report to the League if action is necessary.

The Lexington LWV would like to initiate an observer corps in Fayette County. Some of the organizations whose meetings might be observed are the Urban County Council, Planning and Zoning Commission, Fayette County School Board, Ethics Commission, Health Department, Library Board, Airport Board, Housing Authority, Industrial Authority, Environment Committees, Board of Elections, etc.

There are national materials available for our use and the League in Berea/Madison County has a good model for us to follow. We have adopted a simple report which includes several questions to guide observations.

. If you are interested in participating in such an effort, please call **Richard Heine at 859 221-5770** or e-mail at

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

Phone: 859-494-3203

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

Friday, November 6	11:00 a.m.	Naturalization Ceremony at Federal Courthouse
	2:00 p.m.	
Saturday, November 7	10:00 a.m.	Board meeting at Faith House, Faith Lutheran Church
<u>Tuesday, November 10</u>	<u>6:00 p.m.</u>	<u>Dinner and Democracy at Faith Lutheran Church, 1000 Tates Creek Rd.</u>

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