



LEAGUE OF  
WOMEN VOTERS®

# The Lexington Voter

## March 2014

The League of Women Voters of Lexington

### LWV Day at the Capitol

Eleven members of the League of Women Voters braved the snow and ice to meet at the Capitol in Frankfort on Wednesday, February 26, for the day at the Legislature. Some of us had appointments with our own legislators to lobby for the bills we support: HB 70 without amendments (the former felons' voting rights bill); HB 3 and HB 28—two legislative ethics bills; HB 8—a domestic violence bill; HB 195—an energy efficiency bill; HB 72—public financing of Judicial Campaigns; and SB 77—the abolition of the death penalty bill.

We had time to attend some Wednesday standing committee meetings. There were hearings in the House Human Resources, Judiciary, and Local Government Committees. On the Senate side there were hearings in the Health and Welfare, Natural Resources and Energy, and State and Local Government Committees.

During lunch in the Capitol Annex cafeteria, we invited some legislators from both sides of the aisle to speak to us informally about the session. Representative Ruth Ann Palumbo informed us that she supports all of the bills we are supporting and she also told us of her own economic development bill, HB 282.

Some members of our group observed the afternoon session of the House while one of our members attended the domestic violence prevention rally at the Capitol Rotunda.

All in all, it was a busy but productive day. Most of us went home knowing more about how our legislature works than we had known before the day's events.

**Terry Naydan and Nita Smith**  
Legislative Liaisons  
KY League of Women Voters

### March 22 Brunch to Focus on Agricultural Economics

Saturday, March 22, at 9:00 a.m. you are invited to join your League friends at the Bronte Bistro in Joseph-Beth Bookstore for a brunch discussion of the economic health of agriculture. Our guest speaker will be Aleta Botts, Executive Director of the Kentucky Center for Agriculture and Rural Development (KCARD).



This presentation will be preparation for our local League to reach consensus on the topic which is part of the national League's revision of its official position on agriculture.

After graduating from the University of Kentucky Ms. Botts spent almost ten years working on agricultural issues as a policy staffer in the U.S. House of Representatives. Since returning to Kentucky in 2011 she has worked with the KCARD grant facilitation program and as Agricultural Policy Outreach Director at UK. She is uniquely qualified to help us understand the sometimes complicated economics of modern agriculture.

Price is \$15 for your choice of any one of five brunch items and a regular beverage (coffee, tea, soft drink). **If you plan to come, RSVP deadline will be Wed., March 19.** Call the League phone 859-494-3203 or email [lexingtonlwv@gmail.com](mailto:lexingtonlwv@gmail.com).

### Call to Action

Please email or call your Representative at 1-800-372-77181 to tell him/her **NOT TO CONCUR** with the Senate Committee Substitute of HB 70. It contains amendments that would "shut out" over half of former felons who have served their sentences from ever getting their vote back. LWV prefers HB 70 without amendments.

**Please call or email now.**

If you look at the candidate forums listed on page 3 you will notice that 13 sessions are tentatively planned. Each session requires a minimum of two moderators, two timers, two runners to pick up questions from the audience. It would be best to have a fresh team for each of the sessions but, doing the math, that would require more than our active membership!



Please check your calendar to see if you can volunteer for some task even if only for one session. If you have not volunteered for any activity before, now is the time to begin. If you are a seasoned volunteer, you know the importance of showing up. Every volunteer will lighten the load.

You can sign up by calling the League at **859-464-3203** or emailing [lexingtonlww@gmail.com](mailto:lexingtonlww@gmail.com).

## Voter Registration Help Wanted

The next naturalization ceremony will be held on **Friday, March 21, 2014 at 12:00 noon** in Haggin Auditorium at Transylvania University. This ceremony will involve **200** new citizens and will have a very different format. We will not be able to speak during the ceremony, but will be able to have a table for voter registration. I don't know when the ceremony will end. If you are available and are able to help, please let me know.

This will be a "one-time-only" special event in this format. We will then return to the usual place, time and procedure as in the past.

With many more new citizens to serve, the need for volunteers is obvious. Please let me know if you can help.

Thanks in advance!

**Roz Heise**  
859-554-5666 or  
[heise@twc.com](mailto:heise@twc.com)

**NOTE:** With this issue is the updated 2013-14 roster of members. Please check your information. If you have any additions/corrections contact Membership Chair **Barbara Sterrett** at 859-223-1722 or [bsterrett@twc.com](mailto:bsterrett@twc.com).

## Tea with Eleanor Clift

During her visit to Transylvania University, Woodrow Wilson Visiting Fellow Eleanor Clift was the featured guest for "The Founding Sisters Tea." This event provided opportunity for Clift, author of "The Founding Sisters and the Nineteenth Amendment," to share insights about the book. She talked about how it evolved and about actually meeting the actresses who starred in *Iron Jawed Angels*, the movie based on the book.

Transylvania students, faculty, staff and several members of the Lexington League joined Ms. Clift for the tea. Always the inquisitive journalist, she asked several League members present to share their personal stories of the struggle for the right to vote and to talk about the struggles that took place following passage of the amendment.

The event, held on January 29, was cosponsored by the Transylvania University Creative Engagements, Transylvania University Office of Community Service and Civic Engagement and the Lexington League of Women Voters.



LWV members with guest L to R: Charles Holmes, Carolyn Holmes, Keri Kolarik, Eleanor Clift, Richard Heine, Robert Straus, Ruth Straus, and Karen Anderson.

## League Needs Webmaster

The Lexington LWV is looking for a volunteer who can manage our website. For several years member **Nicole Wolfe** has taken care of the site, even after moving out of the Lexington area. The time has finally come to look for someone here in Lexington to upload news and events and update other items as needed. The current webmaster says that the Wild Apricot membership software used is very user friendly and requires very little html knowledge, just a willingness to learn. The time commitment averages about three hours a month and Nicole is willing to train her replacement.

If you are interested, please contact the League by phone **859-494-3203** or email [lexingtonlww@gmail.com](mailto:lexingtonlww@gmail.com).

Thanks, Nicole!

## Legislative Session Update

Here is the current status of bills the LWV has taken a position on:

**HB 70** – After 7 years, the Senate finally gave HB 70, the former felons’ Voting Rights Bill, a hearing and a vote on the Senate floor. However, the Committee Substitute that was voted upon barely resembles the original bill proposed by Representative Crenshaw. Now, instead of automatic restoration of voting rights, a person has to wait five years. If during that time, any conviction, even a misdemeanor, would cause that person to lose his/her voting rights. This Committee Substitute would disenfranchise about 100,000 of the 180,000 former felons who are living among us. We strongly recommend that you contact your state representative and urge him/her to VOTE TO NOT CONCUR with the Senate changes in this bill. Call 1-800-372-7181 to leave a message for your legislator.

**HB 8** - Dating Violence - Sponsor - Representative Tiley - This is another bill that we strongly supported to protect those in a dating situation. However, two amendments were added by Representative Fischer to the bill that have nothing to do with domestic violence. They have to do with abortion. Therefore, we cannot support this bill unless these unrelated amendments are removed. Call 1-800-372-7181 and tell your legislators not to support the bill with these amendments.

**HB 28** - Sponsor - Rep. Yonts - Would strengthen code of legislative ethics governing political contributions from employers of lobbyists, require reporting of advertising spent to support or oppose legislation, and limit allowance of food and beverages and cost of attendance for legislators to in-state conferences - Assigned to State Government Committee: posted in Committee and should have a hearing.

**HB 3** - Sponsor - Rep. Overly et al - Would amend legislative ethics law to require ethics training and education for legislators to include information on sexual and workplace harassment, to make sexual and workplace harassment education mandatory for all legislators, and to eliminate campaign contributions from lobbyists during the General Assembly sessions. Assigned to State Government Committee; posted in Committee on Feb. 18 and should have a hearing.

**Note:** As of this writing **HB 72**, the public financing of judicial campaigns bill, **HB 195** the renewable energy bill, and **SB 77**, the abolition of the death penalty bill, have not been posted for a committee hearing.



## Important April Dates To Mark on Your Calendar

- Candidate Forums (Central Library)

Sat., April 5—9:30 a.m. to 4:15 p.m.  
 KY House of Representatives  
 U.S. House of Representatives  
 Fayette County Judge Executive  
 Urban County Council At-Large

Sun., April 6—1:30 to 4:30 p.m.  
 Urban County Council Districts  
 2, 3, 4

Sun., April 13—1:15 to 4:30 p.m.  
 Urban County Council Districts  
 6, 7, 8

- Annual Meeting (Faith Lutheran Church)

Sat., April 19  
 8:30 Registration and Breakfast  
 9:00 Business Session  
 9:30 Consensus on Agricultural Economics  
 10:00 Speaker

## Christian Muslim Dialogue

On Sat., March 22, the Christian Muslim Dialogue will welcome Nancy Sleeth, author and co-founder of Blessed Earth, a Christian environmental non-profit. Ms. Sleeth’s topic is “Blessed Earth: One Woman’s Quest for a Simpler, More Sustainable Life.”

The session begins at 10:00 a.m. followed by pot-luck meal at noon at Hunter Presbyterian Church, 109 Rosemont Garden.

**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](mailto: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](http://www.lwvlexington.com)

Phone: 859-494-3203      Email: [lexingtonlwv@gmail.com](mailto: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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|--------|----------|-----------|---|
| Thurs. | Mar. 13  | 6:30 p.m. | LWV board meeting at Faith House (potluck meal)                                   |
| Sat.   | Mar. 22  | 8:30 a.m. | Brunch and Agricultural Economics Speaker, Bronte Bistro at Joseph-Beth Bookstore |
| Sat.   | April 5  | 9:30 a.m. | Candidate Forum, Lexington Public Central Library, 140 E. Main                    |
| Sun.   | April 6  | 1:30 p.m. | Candidate Forum, Lexington Public Central Library, 140 E. Main                    |
| Sun.   | April 13 | 1:15 p.m. | Candidate Forum, Lexington Public Central Library, 140 E. Main                    |
| Tues.  | April 15 |           | <i>Last day of the 2014 General Assembly Regular Session</i>                      |
| Sat.   | April 19 | 8:30 a.m. | ANNUAL MEETING, Faith Lutheran Church, 1000 Tates Creek                           |

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