



The Lexington Voter Winter 2013-14

LEAGUE OF
WOMEN VOTERS®

The League of Women Voters of Lexington



*** Sat., Feb. 7, 10 a.m.-noon at Hunter Presbyterian Church**

Christian-Muslim Dialogue “Restorative Justice: Dialogue for the Sake of Healing” followed by potluck lunch

*** Wed., Feb. 12, 9 a.m.-2 p.m. in Frankfort**
“I Love Mountains!” Rally (KFTC)

Thurs., Feb. 13 at 6:30 p.m. at Faith House
LWV board meeting (potluck meal)

*** Sat., Feb. 22, 10 a.m. to noon at Hunter Presbyterian Church**

Christian-Muslim Dialogue “Women in Religion” (showing of film *Pink Smoke over the Vatican* and discussion) followed by potluck lunch

Wed., Feb. 26, 9 a.m.– 3:00 p.m. Frankfort
“LWV Day in the Legislature”

Thurs., Mar. 13 at 6:30 p.m. at Faith House
LWV board meeting (potluck meal)

Sat., Mar. 22 at 9:00 a.m. at Joseph-Beth
Breakfast and Democracy —presentation on agriculture economics

Sat., April 19 at 9:00 a.m. at Faith Lutheran Church
Annual Meeting —Consensus for National Agriculture Study

* Indicates sponsored by another organization of interest to LWV members

2013 LWV Essay Contest Winners



Left to right: HCHS associate principal Paul Little, Anya Slepyan (second place), Evan Vee Hays (third place), HCHS citizenship teacher Scott Brown, Kayla Beebout (first), and Judy Johnson, LWV contest chair.

For the second year Henry Clay High School students swept the honors in the Lexington LWV Essay Contest. Prizes were awarded in mid-December to 10th grader Kayla Beebout (\$250 for her essay *Beware the Lair of the Gerrymander*), 9th grader Anya Slepyan (\$150 for her essay *Gerrymandering: The Partisan Redistricting Process That Is Undermining Democracy*), and Evan Vee Hays (\$100 for his essay *Gerrymandering: The Bane of Democracy*). As sponsoring teacher of all three students Scott Brown received an honorarium of \$200.

This year students were asked to demonstrate their understanding of the concept of gerrymandering, the implications of its use in politics today, and possible solutions to the problems associated with it. The winners drew on a variety of resources to enhance their understanding and demonstrated their competence as writers in the essays they produced.

The contest committee included Tammy Fagley, Lynne Flynn, Judy Johnson, Barbara Sterrett, and Elaine Sutter.

Suggestions for 2014 contest topics can be sent to Judy Johnson at judydex@twc.com.

National League Revisiting Position on Agriculture

As explained in the January issue of the Kentucky Voter, the LWV plans to revise its position on agriculture which was written in 1988. In order to begin this process local Leagues have been asked to respond to 11 study questions grouped under four topics. The complete set of questions was printed in the Kentucky Voter, which can be found online at <http://lwvky.org>.

It was decided at its January 11 planning meeting that the Lexington League will focus on two of the four topic areas in the agricultural update document—Economic Health of the Agricultural Sector and Food Labeling. An educational presentation in March has been scheduled to develop understanding of agricultural economics. The website <http://www.fooddialogues.com/search/node/food%20labeling> is a source of much information about food labeling issues.

Here are the questions for us to consider. We will eventually decide **YES**, **NO**, or **NO CONSENSUS** on each.

Economic Health of the Agricultural Sector

1. *Should government financial support for agriculture be directed to:*
 - a. Subsidized agricultural credit (loans)
 - b. Disaster assistance
 - c. Crop insurance
 - d. Farms that supply local and regional markets
 - e. Subsidized implementation of best management practices
 - f. Commodity crop programs, e.g., corn, soybeans, sugar, cotton, wheat
 - g. Commodity livestock program
 - h. Commodity dairy program
 - i. Specialty crops, e.g., fruits, vegetables, nuts, etc. Other production methods, e.g., organic, hydroponic, urban, etc. farms

Food Labeling

9. *How sufficient are the following regarding current food labeling?*
 - a. Nutrition Facts on food labels
 - b. Nutrition Facts on food labels as a means of consumer education
 - c. Common allergen labeling
 - d. Health and ingredient claims that consumers can understand

Bills LWV Is Supporting

HB 70 –**Restoration of felons’ voting rights** - Sponsor is Rep. Crenshaw. Passed House, sent to Senate, assigned to State and Local Governments Committee.

HB 3 –**Amendment of legislative ethics law** – would require mandatory ethics training and education for legislators to include information on sexual and workplace harassment; eliminate campaign contributions from lobbyists during General Assembly sessions; require development of a job classification, promotion, discipline, and compensation system for LRC employees. Sponsor is Rep. Overly et al. Assigned to State Government Committee.

HB 28 –**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. Sponsor is Rep. Yonts. Assigned to State Government Committee.

HB 8 –**An act relating to domestic violence** – Amend KRS 403.720 to include dating partners among class of persons allowed to obtain domestic violence protective orders and amend KRS 403.735 to require the court, when a petition involves a minor, to impose conditions that cause the least disruption to education if the parties attend the same school system. Sponsor is Rep. Tiley. Reported favorably out of Judiciary Committee, had two readings, recommitted to committee.

HB 72 –**Public financing of judicial campaigns.** Sponsor is Rep. Wayne. Assigned to Judiciary Committee.

****HB 195** -**An act relating to energy** –require retail electric suppliers to use increasing amounts of renewable energy; require retail electric suppliers to take energy-efficiency measures that increase energy savings over a period of time. Sponsor is Rep. Marzian. Sent to Tourism Development and Energy. *LWV is studying this bill.*

SB 77 - **Abolition of the death penalty** –Sponsor is Sen. Neal.

League members will be informed by the Legislative Committee when a bill we support is about to have a hearing. This is when we issue a “call to action.” Please call [1-800-372-7181](tel:1-800-372-7181) to leave a message for your legislator to vote for the bill we support.

Terry Naydan/Nita Smith (LWV of KY Legislative Liaisons)

Feb. 12 Is I Love Mountains Day!



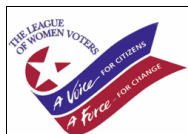
Join the Kentuckians for the Commonwealth's 9th annual rally and lobby day in Frankfort Wed., Feb. 12.

- 9-noon lobbying
- 12:30 p.m. march from the river to Capitol
- 1:15-2 p.m. rally

Register online at <http://www.kftc.org/events/i-love-mountains-day-2014> to let them know you are coming.

Feb. 26 Is LWV Lobby Day

All Lexington League members are invited to come to the Capitol, joining with friends from across the state to participate in the "Kentucky LWV Day in the Legislature." This is our opportunity to watch our legislators in action and rally endorsement for bills we support.



- The date is Wed., Feb. 26.
- The schedule is:
9 a.m.—join Terry Naydan and Nita Smith in cafeteria for overview
9:30 a.m. to noon—attend committee meetings or meet with legislators
noon to 1:30 p.m.—lunch with LWV group and local legislators
2:00 p.m.—both House and Senate will be in session (may observe)

Please let Terry know (terrynaydan@aol.com) if you intend to observe afternoon session as she will be obtaining passes.

Important Membership News

It is time once again to report the Lexington League's membership numbers to the National League. Our local dues for the 2013-2014 year were due by **June 30, 2013**. We are still waiting for dues from some of our members and we will have to mark those who do not pay their dues by the end of January, 2014 as inactive.

If those who have promised to send in their dues are included, we have **67 members** - 42 individual members, 16 household members, 7 honorary (50-year) members and 2 student members.

Our 50-year members are **Amanda Elliott, Charlotte Finucane, Janet Gleeson, Carolyn Holmes, Jay Ogden, Ruth Straus and Eloise Terry**. Congratulations to them for being faithful members and contributing so much over the years!

Welcome to members new to the Lexington League this year: **Donna Blue, Jennifer Dandliker and Rose Garden**. We hope you will take an active part in the League meetings and activities.

For all members—we hope the Voter provides clear information about events and activities. Please check the calendar in this issue and plan on joining your colleagues for at least one event in 2014.

You will note on the calendar of events that the Christian-Muslim Dialogue offers two meetings in the month of February. The first was scheduled for January and cancelled because of bad weather. Both sessions focus on topics of interest to our members—restorative justice and varying views about women's roles.

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. 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

Phone: 859-494-3203 Email: 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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| Wed. | Feb. 12 | 9 a.m.-2 p.m. | KFTC "I Love Mountains Day" rally in Frankfort |
| Thur. | Feb. 13 | 6:30 p.m. | LWV Board meeting at Faith House, Faith Lutheran Church, 1000 Tates Creek Rd. |
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