



The Lexington Voter

November 2013

LEAGUE OF
WOMEN VOTERS®

The League of Women Voters of Lexington

Voter Information to Remember

As we continue to make voter registration a priority it is important to be able to provide answers to all questions. Here are two questions—with their answers—that we are adding to our training materials.

May a homeless person register to vote?

Yes. Homeless persons may register. They should simply write "homeless" on the address line but indicate the county (here it would be Fayette County) in which they reside. Workers at the County Clerk's Office will register them with the office address and they can vote at the Phoenix Park precinct in the Christ Church Apartment Building, 137 Rose Street. If they should happen to go to any other polling place, they will be directed to the Phoenix Park precinct.

May former felons who have completed their sentences vote?

Yes. Former felons who have received a final discharge from parole, or whose sentence has expired, may apply for restoration of voting rights by completing an APPLICATION FOR RESTORATION OF CIVIL RIGHTS and sending it to the Department of Corrections in Frankfort. Forms and an instruction sheet will be included in our voter registration materials.

The process up to twelve approved, the will send a which must the County office or other place of registration when register-



may take weeks. If governor certificate be taken to Clerk's Office official tration ing to vote.

The clerk's office needs to have a copy of the certificate on file, so registration not completed at that office should be done in a location where a copy can be made. The League continues to work for automatic restoration of voting rights but, in the meantime, this is the necessary process.

Movie Carries Important Message



Image from www.bizpacreview.com

The Lexington LWV and the Lexington Public Library sponsored a showing of "Iron Jawed Angels" on Sunday, October 6, in the Farish Theater of the Central Library. About 80 people attended. Afterwards, several expressed thanks for sharing a story they did not know.

The film is a dramatic presentation of the movement for women's suffrage in the 1910's, starring Hillary Swank, Frances O'Conner, Julia Ormond and Anjelica Huston. The movie focuses on two young women who were leaders in the movement to pass a constitutional amendment giving women the right to vote. The story portrays the strategies they used to advocate for the amendment, the violent reaction of the establishment to their advocacy and the personal sacrifices of many of the women committed to the suffrage movement.

Rayne Parker, a Transylvania University student, led a wide-ranging discussion after the movie, which touched on topics such as the tactics used by the suffrage movement and how they relate to current strategies for social change; the status of women's rights in the United States today; and current citizen involvement and social change movements.

Two people registered to vote or made a change in their registration information at the event and several expressed interest in joining the LWV.

A very successful film event!

How Many More Times?

Once again national headlines tell the story of a school shooting. This time in Sparks, Nevada (official population 92,302). On Monday, October 21, a 12-year-old student brought a gun to school, shot two fellow students, killed a teacher and then killed himself.

This and similar scenarios continue to play out, yet nothing is being done to regulate firearm safety. The story of the Sparks Middle School shooting will catch national attention momentarily and then, once again, as a country we will turn to other personal and political distractions.

We members of the League of Women Voters must continue to share our organization's message—the health and safety of citizens must be protected through limiting accessibility and regulating ownership of handguns and semiautomatic weapons. Talk with your friends and family, contact your legislator, write a letter to the newspaper. Continue to speak out. Nothing will be done until legislators are convinced voters will hold them accountable to pass long overdue legislation.

GUN SAFETY

Protect the health and safety of citizens through limiting the accessibility and regulating the ownership of handguns and semi-automatic weapons. Support regulation of firearms for consumer safety.

(LWV official position)



#GIVINGTUESDAY™

Save the date: December 3, 2013

For the second year the League of Women Voters will sponsor a national campaign on **Tuesday, December 3**, to raise awareness of the importance of its work. This year the LWV has been involved in lawsuits regarding voter suppression in several states, provided an amicus brief in the Supreme Court case of *McCutcheon v. FEC*, registered nearly 55,000 voters on National Voter Registration Day and helped lead the effort to pass landmark gun control legislation in Connecticut, just to name a few efforts. Please contribute to support this work!

LWV Supporting Implementation of the Affordable Care Act

In 1993 the LWV adopted a position calling for a basic level of quality health care that would be affordable for all U.S. residents. Over the past 20 years the League has lobbied continually for passage of comprehensive health care reform. We celebrated success when the Affordable Care Act was passed by Congress, signed by the President and upheld by the Supreme Court.

Since the passage of the ACA, Leagues across the country have urged their state governments to work with, not against, the reform, lobbied their state legislatures to create state exchanges and held public meetings where citizens could find out more about the legislation.

Here in Kentucky we can be proud that Governor Beshear ordered the implementation of a state exchange which has since become a model for the country. The website has proven reliable and user-friendly and enrollment in health care has averaged more than 1,000 people a day since October 1, the first day of operation.

The governor also made news when he agreed to accept the federal government's offer to expand Medicaid coverage. There will be no cost to the state for the first three years of expanded implementation.

As a result of these two actions Kentucky's health statistics could change dramatically. (We are currently ranked 44th in the United Health Foundation's comparison of health status across the 50 states.) Here are some numbers to think about:

- As of July, an estimated **640,000** residents of Kentucky are uninsured.
- Almost half of the uninsured, an estimated **308,000**, will qualify for the expanded Medicaid coverage.
- The **remaining 332,000** will have access to insurance through the state exchange; **276,000** of those will qualify for a federal subsidy to help cover the cost.

October 1 was just the beginning of a lengthy process of implementation of the ACA. One has only to revisit the bumpy beginnings of Medicare in 1966 to know there will be problems, complaints and unforeseen issues to be addressed. But with perseverance, perhaps, we will actually reach this goal that we have worked so hard to attain—**quality health care for all citizens.**

Citizens United: the Sequel

On Friday, October 8, The Supreme Court heard oral arguments in the case of *McCutcheon v. the Federal Election Commission*. When the court issues its ruling, it will be as consequential a decision on campaign finance as the 2010 *Citizens United* ruling eliminated the ban on corporate spending on elections.

This case was brought by Shaun McCutcheon, a conservative businessman from Alabama who believes the laws limiting the total amount an individual can spend in any one election cycle to candidates and certain political committees is a violation of the First amendment. From the perspective of the FEC, the laws are necessary to fight corruption.

“The importance of the result in this case cannot be overstated,” said Elisabeth MacNamara, president of the League of Women Voters U.S. “While *McCutcheon* deals with a technical and arcane matter of campaign finance law, it boils down to more money, more influence.”

The League has joined an amicus brief in this case.

Community Meeting of Interest to League Members

There will be a community meeting on Monday evening, November 4, from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. at Central Christian Church for the purpose of public comment on future homes for the Community Inn, an overnight homeless shelter. The conditional use permit for the Inn’s former location on Winchester Road was revoked in June by city officials. The Inn has continued to operate while appeals of the city’s decision are pending in court.

The locations under consideration are 166 North Martin Luther King Boulevard, 1353 West Main Street, 1400 North Forbes Road, 3353 Waller Avenue and 219 East Short Street. Organizers of the Community Inn had proposed plans for the Lorillard Lofts site off Leestown Road, however, Mayor Jim Gray announced recently that the city would not back the idea to use this location because of neighborhood objections.

Central Christian Church is located at 205 E. Short Street. Members are encouraged to attend this meeting.

Congratulations to...

...longtime LWV members **Carolyn** and **Charles Holmes**, who have been awarded the Faith and Freedom Award by the Interfaith Alliance of the Bluegrass. This award recognizes outstanding efforts to build deeper understanding among diverse people.

In the words of the Alliance, Carolyn and Charles are praised for their “long years of quiet service in the cause of international and interreligious understanding.”

The Interfaith Alliance of the Bluegrass is an organization of adults and youth which fosters relationships among a diversity of religious traditions and organizations, in order to discover and celebrate shared values in an atmosphere of mutual respect.



**INTERFAITH
ALLIANCE**
PROTECTING FAITH AND FREEDOM

Christian Muslim Dialogue

The next meeting of the Christian Muslim Dialogue will be Saturday, November 23 from 10 a.m. to noon at Hunter Presbyterian Church, 109 Rosemont Garden. This is the annual shared Thanksgiving Feast. Turkey will be provided. All are asked to bring a dish to share at the potluck meal.

The program is “Counting our Blessings through the Arts.”

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
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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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| Mon. Nov. 4 | 6:30 p.m. | Community meeting about location for Community Inn at Central Christian Church, 205 E. Short St. |
| Thur. Nov. 14 | 6:30 p.m. | Board meeting at Faith House, Faith Lutheran Church, 1000 Tates Creek Rd. |
| Sat. Nov. 23 | 10-12 noon | Christian Muslim Dialogue, Thanksgiving Feast—Program: “Counting our Blessings through the Arts.” Hunter Presbyterian Church, 109 Rosemont Garden. Potluck meal. |

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