



LEAGUE OF
WOMEN VOTERS®

The Lexington Voter Winter 2010-11

The League of Women Voters of Lexington

Regarding the tragic events in Tucson this month, we join our national president, Elisabeth MacNara expressing our deep sorrow for the families of the victims, our sincere hopes for the full recovery of the survivors, and our renewed commitment “to facilitate the civil exchange of differing points of view, to bridge the gaps between the voters and the elected, and to help improve the functioning of government.”

Remembering Women Leaders Who Shared Our Vision

This is a good time of year to honor women who understood the need to actively—and bravely—work to increase registration of educated voters.



First on our list is Septima Clark, born in 1898 in Charleston, SC, the second of eight children. As an adult she became an educator who campaigned successfully for the right of

African-Americans to teach in the Charleston public schools and, with attorney Thurgood Marshall, for equal pay for white and black teachers.

In the 1960s when South Carolina passed legislation that prohibited state employees from association with the NAACP, Ms. Clark ended her forty year career as a public school teacher and moved to Tennessee. There she commenced a “second career” helping to establish 897 citizenship schools teaching literacy and voter education. “I just thought that you couldn’t get people to register and vote until you could teach them to read and write,” she said.

In 1970 Septima Clark fought and won reinstatement of her teaching pension and back pay in South Carolina and eventually was elected to two terms on the Charleston County School Board.

President Jimmy Carter presented her with a Living Legacy Award in 1979. She died on December 15, 1987.

Dinner and a Guest Scheduled for Tuesday February 8

Clark Williams, Associate Pastor at Shiloh Baptist Church, will join League members at the next “Dinner and a Guest” event to share information about his work with voter education and registration. He is Operation Coordinator for “Operation Turnout.”

This initiative is an ongoing movement to engage the minority population of Central Kentucky in the political process through voter registration, voter education and voter commitment. At present 15 Central Kentucky churches, the NAACP, Kentuckians for the Commonwealth and a number of fraternities and sororities have come together under the umbrella of “Operation Turnout.”

Mr. Williams, a native of Lexington, holds a BS degree from UK, a JD degree from U of L, and now is working on a master’s degree in theology at Campbellsville University. He currently serves as a Director in the Kentucky Department of Insurance.

We will meet in the private dining area at Puccini’s at 833 Chevy Chase Pl. and everybody can order individually from a diverse menu. (Information about location and menu can be found at www.puccinissmilingteeth.com.)

Please mark your calendar and plan to attend. If you have a question, call the LWV number (859-494-3203) .

And the Winners Are...



1st Place

L to R: Bryan Station HS Principal Gladys Peoples, Teacher Rebecca Mueller, Student Stephens R. Parsons, Contest Chairperson Lowell Eberwein.



2nd Place

L to R: Henry Clay HS Principal John Nocht, Student Arti Vula, and Mr. Eberwein. Teacher Keen Babbage is absent from photo.



3rd Place

L to R: Paul Lawrence Dunbar HS Principal Tony Blackman, Teacher Tara Wilkinson, Student Emma Daugherty, and Mr. Eberwein.

In December awards were presented to the winners of the 2010 LWV Writing Contest. Writing Contest Committee Chair Lowell Eberwein made a surprise visit to three Fayette County high schools and made the following awards:

- At Bryan Station, **Stephen R. Parsons** received \$250 for his essay which was assessed overall winner. His teacher Rebecca Mueller received an honorarium of \$100.
- At Henry Clay, **Arti Vula** received \$150 for his second place finish. His teacher Keen Babbage received an honorarium of \$50.
- At Paul Lawrence Dunbar, **Emma Daugherty** received \$100 for her third place finish. Her teacher Tara Wilkerson also received an honorarium of \$50.

These students addressed the role of financing in political campaigns, particularly in light of the 2010

(Cont'd from Column 1)

Supreme Court decision *Citizens United v. the Federal Election Commission* which held that corporate funding of independent political broadcasts in candidate elections cannot be limited under the First Amendment. They also discussed the influence of this campaign support on officials once they are elected.

New Citizens Register to Vote after Naturalization Proceedings

Leaguers have been busy this winter helping new U.S. citizens register to vote following naturalization ceremonies at Lexington's Federal Courthouse December 10 and January 14. A total of 150 citizens had an opportunity to register or take registration cards to mail to county court clerks.

We are fortunate to have had the assistance of two non-League members in this important endeavor. **Nancie Watson**, a friend of member **Mary Hughes**, is now a veteran of these events. **Bob Sterrett**, husband of Membership Chair Barb Sterrett, filled in for Barb at one of the December ceremonies. In addition, League member **Lynne Flynn** helped with registration for the first time after the January 14 proceeding.

Mary made remarks at the 11 a.m. December 10 proceeding. **Betty Higgins** spoke at the 2 p.m. ceremony that day and at an 11 a.m. ceremony January 14. League members **Nancy Chesser** and **Norma Mau** also volunteered for the registrations, as they have done many times in the past.

The Lexington Naturalization Schedule for 2011, as provided by Susan Prater, Deputy Clerk of the U.S. District Court, Eastern District of Kentucky, is:

Friday, March 11 11 a.m. and 2 p.m.

Friday, June 17 11 a.m. and 2 p.m.

Friday, August 19 11 a.m. and 2 p.m.

Friday, December 9 11 a.m.

If you wish to volunteer to help register new citizens, or to be called on to help with any other voter registration activities, please contact **Betty Higgins**, 278-1898 or e.higgins@insightbb.com

Fundraising update

Donations from **Nancy Chesser** and **Carolyn** and **Charles Holmes** have been received since the last **Voter**. Both were designated for the League's General Fund and were in response to last fall's fundraising letter from the Lexington League.

The League also wishes to acknowledge donations made to the Education Fund in May 2010 and in October 2010 by **Jay Ogden**.

If your gifts to the League have not been acknowledged in a personal letter, please contact **Steve Senft**, Treasurer, at 273-3324 or by email at s.senft@insightbb.com

LWV Join Others in Letter of Concern about Voting Violations

In a January 19 letter, League President MacNamara wrote conveying the need for U.S. Attorney General Eric Holder's "personal attention to the failure of the Department of Justice's Civil Rights Division (CRD) to initiate enforcement actions to remedy widespread violations of Section 7 of the National Voter Registration Act (NVRA), which requires states to provide voter registration services at their public assistance and disability offices." The League is joined in this effort by the NAACP Legal Defense Fund, the Lawyers' Committee for Civil Rights Under Law, Paralyzed Veterans of America, the Brennan Center for Justice at the NYC School of Law, and the Fair Elections Legal Network.

Member Note

LWV member **Ken Colebank**, who has battled cancer for some time, is headed to VA Hospice. His attitude is quite good and we know he would appreciate any cards and/or notes. His address is 2604 Cashel Court, Lexington, 40509-1486.

Provisions of the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act of 2010 Now in Effect

Because there seems to be so much misinformation circulating about the actual provisions of the health reform legislation passed last year, members may be interested in a brief summary of the parts now in effect.

- Young adults may now stay on their parents' health insurance to age 26.
- People with pre-existing conditions may now receive coverage through high-risk beneficiary pools
- Tax credits are available to small businesses to help defray costs of providing insurance for employees.
- Children cannot be denied coverage because of pre-existing conditions.
- Lifetime caps on coverage for people with a chronic illness are eliminated.
- Patients' coverage cannot be dropped when they become sick.
- Pharmaceutical companies must provide a 50% discount on brand-name prescription drugs to seniors who reach the Medicare Part D "donut hole" coverage gap.
- Seniors will begin receiving free preventive care, including annual wellness visits.
- Health insurance companies are required to show that 85% of premium costs for large employer plans and 80% of premium costs for individual or small business plans are spent on patient care.

Many other provisions are to be phased in over the next several years. Full information on all aspects of the legislation can be found online at:

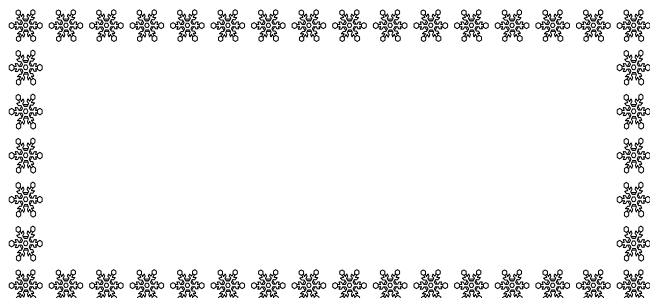
www.whitehouse.gov/healthreform

and

www.slate.com/id/2220222/.

As public debate about the law continues it is important to be able to know **the facts**.

The Lexington League of Women Voters 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

Email: lexingtonlwv@gmail.com

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

Saturday, February 5	10:00 a.m.	Board meeting at Faith House, Faith Lutheran Church, 1000 Tates Creek Rd.
Tuesday, February 8	6:00 p.m.	“Dinner and a Guest” at Puccini’s Pizza Restaurant, 833 Chevy Chase Pl.

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