



LEAGUE OF
WOMEN VOTERS®

The Lexington Voter

April 2017

The League of Women Voters of Lexington

Angela Evans to Speak at League Annual Meeting

Lexington Fayette Urban County Councilwoman **Angela Evans** will be the featured speaker at the Lexington LWV Annual Meeting on **Saturday, April 8, in Conference Room A of the Lexington Public Library Central Branch, 140 E. Main Street, beginning at 9:30 a.m.** She will be sharing the work of the New Kentucky Project, a new grassroots initiative focused on civic education, sound public policy and growth opportunities for new young leaders.

Ms. Evans has proven herself to be one of those committed young leaders. She began as public defender, served six years as assistant attorney general and now is an associate with McBrayer, McGinnis, Leslie and Kirkland, PLLC. In 2015 she was elected to the urban county council as the representative for District 6. And now she has embraced the New Kentucky Project.

With her background she is an excellent resource to talk with us about the project—who is involved,



how its mission is developing, what it hopes to achieve and what the ultimate benefits will be for citizens of Kentucky. She says, “I’m excited to be a part of the New Kentucky Project because progressive ideas have always led to a more inclusive and compassionate community. We need to be willing to adjust our approach to politics to ensure Kentucky continues to produce progressive leaders dedicated to inclusion and compassionate policies at all levels of government.”

Prior to Ms. Evans’ presentation, League members will gather for breakfast and a business meeting to approve the yearly budget, program and committee reports, along with the election of officers and board for the 2017-18 year. **The charge for breakfast is \$15. The deadline for reservations is Wednesday, April 5.** Members may make reservations by email to lexingtonlww@gmail.com or by calling 859-494-3203. The cost of the breakfast may be paid at the door.

IMPORTANT LEAGUE INFORMATION:

- **MEMBERSHIP**—This is the time of year to renew membership as the national League year begins July 1. It may be easier to remember this task in conjunction with the upcoming Annual Meeting. Also remember, it is important to turn in an updated membership form each year with the check for dues or, if you are a 50 year member, just send the completed membership form. A form was sent with the last VOTER and is included with this issue. The mailing address for the Lexington League is PO Box 22045, Lexington, KY, 40522.
- **BLUE SHEETS**—The Lexington League continually updates the Blue Sheet, our publication of contact information for all of our elected government officials. The newest form of this document is now available. It can be downloaded from the website www.lwvlexington.org or paper copies can be obtained by sending a request with a self-addressed stamped envelope to the League’s address.

League Members Participate in On the Table Event

Wednesday, March 15, was designated as “On the Table” evening in celebration of the Bluegrass Community Foundation’s 50th anniversary. The purpose of the event was to generate thinking about issues by gathering Lexington residents in small informal groups of 8-12 people in public or private venues—homes, offices, coffee houses, libraries, places of worship—almost anyplace you can imagine. Lexington LWV member **Carol O’Reilly** hosted a group in her home. League members **Tammy Fagley, Lynne Flynn, Cindy and Richard Heine, and Steve Senft** joined Carol, along with several friends and neighbors. Most of these guests moved to Lexington from out of state in the 1970s and 1980s. Generally, work brought them all here but it became clear in the conversation that people stayed in Lexington for reasons like weather, the size of the city, its walkability, its progressive attitude and its neighborhoods.

Issues discussed:

- Development, especially infill
- Growth and the need to work with surrounding towns on shared issues
- Food deserts that need mapping and collaborating partners to address food shortages
- Coordinating and volunteering—possibly an easy one stop match for organizations and volunteers
- Neighborhoods—disparity led to overarching question: What to do about social justice for ALL citizens?
- Transportation that serves all who need it conveniently
- Schools—biggest concerns were bullying and sexual harassment
- Google fiber—which would attract more businesses to Lexington

The city estimated the total count of involved participants to be 10,000. The group gathered around Carol’s table declared the discussion to be worthwhile, agreeing the experience should be repeated next year.

Naturalization Ceremony Is Inspiring



The first naturalization ceremony of 2017 was held on March 10 at Lexington Catholic High School. Fifty individuals from 39 different countries were sworn in as new citizens of the United States in a moving ceremony. Each applicant stated he/she was proud to become an American citizen. Senior U.S. District Judge Joseph M. Hood administered the Oath of Allegiance after the applicants gave their names, where they now live and their country of origin. He stressed the aspects of American history that citizenship applicants had been tested on, remarking that many citizens by birth would have difficulty with the questions. Secretary of State Allison Lundergan Grimes also commended the new citizens and spoke passionately about her work to increase voter participation.

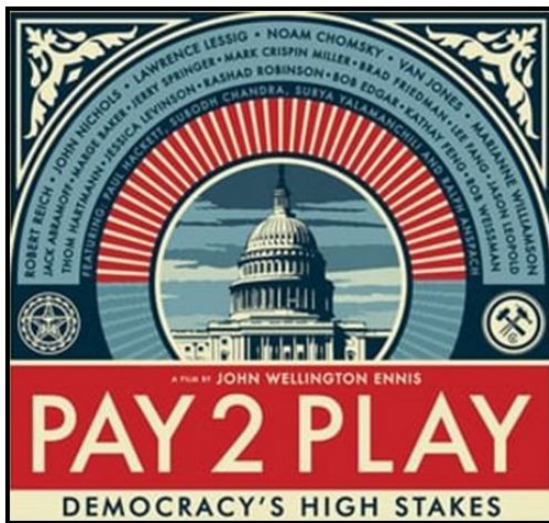
The League of Women Voters was represented by **Nita Smith** who spoke on the importance of voting and the democratic process. After the ceremony she and League members **Jennifer Jackson, Judy and Skip Johnson, and Nancy Chesser** assisted in registering the new citizens to vote. The League registered 17 individuals and the Secretary of State’s office assisted others in registering online.

The office of the Secretary of State will provide laptops for the League to use assisting with online registration at events in the future. Nita Smith will work with staff to obtain and learn to use the technology.

Future naturalization ceremonies are scheduled for July 21 and November 17, 2017. Please contact **Nancy Chesser** at nechesser@twc.com if you would like to assist.

Nancy Chesser,
LWV Naturalization Contact

Central KY Move to Amend Sponsoring Must See Film



CONCERNED ABOUT INFLUENCE PEDDLING?
COME VIEW THIS THOUGHT-PROVOKING FILM!

Sat., April 8th at 1:00 p.m.

Lexington Public Library Central Branch

140 E. Main Street
Conference Room A (downstairs)

FREE Admission—Discussion to Follow

Sponsored by CKYMTA.

BRING A FRIEND AND JOIN THE DISCUSSION!

Last Christian-Muslim Dialogue Session of the Spring Series

On **Saturday, April 22, at 10:00 a.m.** the Lexington Christian-Muslim Dialogue group will meet at Hunter Presbyterian Church, 109 Rosemont Garden. The featured guest will be **Bishop John Stowe**, OFM Conv., Bishop of the Catholic Diocese of Lexington. Bishop Stowe's topic is *"Welcoming the Stranger: Catholic Teachings on Immigration and Refugees."*

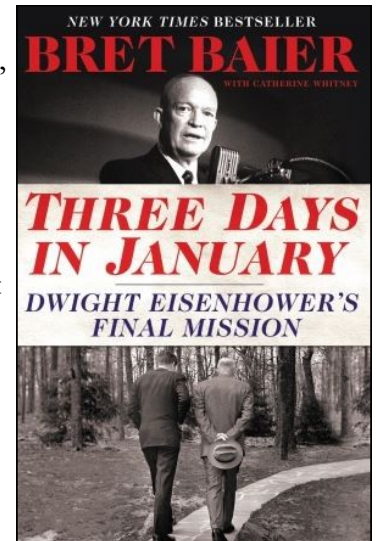
This gathering will follow the usual format of presentation and time for discussion before potluck lunch at noon. All are welcome to stay for fellowship and are asked to bring a dish to share.

These events have proven to be very information and thought-provoking. Mark your calendar and bring a friend with you.

LWV Book Club Meets Tuesday, April 18

Between the 17th and the 20th of January, 1961, Dwight Eisenhower had to prepare a country and a young incoming president for a promising yet dangerous future. Bret Baier gives his readers a front row seat for that final mission.

The LWV Book Club will discuss this transfer of power, the topic of Bret Baier's *"Three Days in January: Dwight Eisenhower's Final Mission,"* on **Tuesday, April 18 at 1:30 p.m.** As usual, the meeting will be held at Terry Naydan's house, 3013 Charleston Gardens Blvd. All members are invited to participate. If you have not joined one of these discussions, this may be the time to do so. New participants are always welcome.



"I AM A KENTUCKIAN"

Video premiere and fundraiser

Friday, April 7 from 7-9 p.m.

at Smiley Pete Publishing, 434 Old Vine

\$5 donation suggested at the door. All proceeds go to KY Equal Justice Center and KY Refugee Ministries.

If you haven't done so yet, please check out the LWV website at www.lwvlexington.org. There you will find a calendar of events (LWV and other community groups), an archive of past publications, opportunities to volunteer and much more. Visit the site frequently to stay in touch!

The VOTER editor is Judy Johnson. If you have a question or concern about the newsletter please contact her at judylex@twc.com.



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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| Fri. | Apr. 7 at 7:00 p.m. | “I Am a Kentuckian”—Premiere and fundraiser for KY Equal Justice and KY Refugee Ministries at Smiley Pete Publishing, 434 Old Vine St. |
| Sat. | Apr. 8 at 9:30 a.m. | LWV Annual Meeting in Conference Rm A, Central Branch of Lexington Public Library, 140 E. Main St. |
| Sat. | Apr. 8 at 1:00 p.m. | CKMTA showing of “Pay2Play” in Conference Rm A, Central Branch of Lexington Public Library, 140 E. Main St. |
| Tues. | Apr. 18 at 1:30 p.m. | LWV Book Club Meeting at Terry Naydan’s home, 3013 Charleston Gardens Blvd. |
| Sat. | Apr. 22 at 10:00 a.m. | Christian Muslim Dialogue at Hunter Presbyterian Church, 109 Rosemont Garden Blvd. |

Vol. 16-17- Issue 8 The Lexington VOTER is published nine times a year (Summer, September, October, November, December, Winter, March, April, and May) by the League of Women Voters of Lexington.