



The Lexington Voter

March 2013

LEAGUE OF
WOMEN VOTERS®

The League of Women Voters of Lexington

Proposed 2013-14 Slate of Officers

OFFICERS:

President (1 year term)	Tammy Fagley
1st VP, PR (2nd yr of 2 yr term)	Cindy Heine
2nd VP, Voter Ed(2 yr term)	Karen Anderson
Secretary (2 yr term)	Lynne Flynn
Treasurer (2nd yr of 2 year term)	Steve Senft

DIRECTORS (1 year term):

Membership	Barbara Sterrett
VOTER/Essay Contest	Judy Johnson
Local Government	Richard Heine
Voter Services	Kerri Kolarik
Nominating Comm. Chair	Richard Heine
Website (off board)	Nikole Wolfe

This slate of officers will be voted on at the April 27 Annual Meeting.

Other Matters for Consideration

- Programming for the 2013-14 year will be discussed at the March board meeting (Thursday, March 14) and presented at the April 27 Annual Meeting. Members who wish to participate in planning are encouraged to attend the March board meeting or forward suggestions to Tammy Fagley at tammy.fagley@gmail.com.
- The proposed budget for 2013-14 is enclosed in this copy of the **Voter**.

The next naturalization ceremony will be at **11:00 a.m. on Friday, March 8**, at the U.S. District Court-house. Volunteers are always welcome! **Just contact Lynne Flynn at: lynneflynn51@windstream.net or call her at 859-278-6342.**

Come to the LWV Annual Meeting

(and bring a friend!)

Saturday, April 27 at 9:00 a.m.

Faith Lutheran Church

- ✓ Catered Brunch
- ✓ 2013 Officers, Budget, Program
- ✓ Guest Speaker: Steve Kay

Make your reservation now! Cost is \$15. Call 859-494-3203.

Councilman Steve Kay to Address League Members at Annual Meeting

At the April 27 Annual Meeting the Lexington LWV will welcome Council-at-large member Steve Kay, who is serving his first term with the LFUC Council.



Steve was no stranger to community involvement prior to his successful campaign for this seat. He has served on the boards of the Lexington Transit Authority and the Martin Luther King Neighborhood Association. He is also a former vice chair of the LFUC Government Planning Commission and former president of the Good Foods Co-op. At present Steve serves on four council committees: Budget, Planning and Zoning, General Government, and Social Services.

Perhaps his biggest challenge at this time is co-chairing with Debra Hensley the Mayor's Commission on Homelessness. Steve will share his insights about the work of this commission as well as other issues facing the council. We anticipate a spirited discussion.

Legislative Update

Eleven members of the League of Women Voters joined us for League Lobby Day in Frankfort on Wednesday, February 20. We met with our legislators, had lunch with Representative Ruth Ann Palumbo, observed some committee meetings and went to the formal House session, where the League was recognized by the House members. It was a full day where we learned much about how democracy works in Kentucky.

Status of bills we are supporting:

HB 70 — Former Felons' Voting Rights bill — Passed the House 75-25; received in Senate.

HB 31 — Public financing of judicial campaigns — reported favorably out of House Committee; recommitted to House Appropriations and Revenue.

HB 48 — Abolishment of the death penalty — still in House Judiciary Committee — not formally posted for discussion yet.

HB 86 & SB 29 — “Stream saver” bill — in House Natural Resources and Environment Committee and Senate Natural Resources and Energy Committee — no action on these bills.

The following bills we are supporting based on positions taken by the national LWV:

HB 268 — Auctioning of semiautomatic assault rifles —in Judiciary Committee — no action on this bill.

HB 265 — Relating to firearms and declaring an emergency — in House Judiciary Committee — no action on this bill. **SB 121 is similar to this House bill.**

SB 16 — An act relating to dating violence —in Senate Judiciary Committee — no action on this bill.

I will send out a “call to action” when/if these bills are called up for a vote. I am afraid some of the bills we support will die in committee.

Terry Naydan

Legislative Liaison for the League of Women Voters

LWV of KY Annual Meeting

Fri., April 12 and Sat., April 13, 2013
Lang House at 115 S. Ewing in Louisville

****Friday night beginning at 5:30 p.m.—reception, dinner, and panel of state legislators to discuss current issues.**

Reservations can be made by contacting the Louisville League at 502-895-5216.



"Greetings from Prague" ...are sent to the Lexington League of Women Voters from Student Board member, Kerri Kolarik. Kerri, a junior at Transylvania University, is currently studying political science and economics at Charles University in Prague, Czech Republic. She is slated to take leadership of Voter Services for the Lexington League when she returns.

Kerri's primary areas of concern are focusing on high school and college student voter registration. In addition, she plans to continue the 2012 Constitution Day Voter Registration Program. If she is elected to the Voter Services position, a vacancy in the student board position would become available.

If you know of a student willing to cover the remainder of her board term, or the 2013-14 student board position, please contact one of the LWV-Lexington, KY board members.

Supreme Court to Tackle Voters' Rights...Again

Wednesday, February 27—about the time you receive this issue of the VOTER—the U. S. Supreme Court will hear arguments in the case *Shelby County, Alabama v. Holder* in which the constitutionality of Section 5 of the Voters' Rights Act of 1965 is being challenged. Section 5 states that covered jurisdictions may not implement voting changes without federal preclearance. Covered jurisdictions are states that had less than 50 percent of the voting age population voting in 1960 and/or 1964. Since then, some towns and counties that have been found in violation of Section 2, which prohibits voting discrimination, have been added. In Virginia, some cities and counties have been found to no longer need preclearance.

In September, 2011, a district court judge in Washington, D.C. upheld the constitutionality of Section 5. That decision was affirmed in the U. S. Court of Appeals by a majority decision. Shelby County, Alabama, has now appealed the decision to the U. S. Supreme Court and this is the case to be argued on February 27.

The LWVUS and the LWV of South Carolina have filed amicus briefs supporting the Voting Rights' Act and League members from the area will hold a public rally on the steps of the Supreme Court as the arguments are presented. Watch for media coverage!

Summary of LFUC Council Meeting Dealing with Homelessness Commission Report

Co-Chair Steve Kay opened the February 19 meeting with a statement of the Commission's recommendation—a 1% tax on insurance policies to fund an oversight Office for Homelessness (.5%) and a funding stream for an Affordable Housing Trust Fund (.5%). He noted there is significant council commitment to find resources for the problems associated with homelessness but at this time there is not sufficient support for the tax. He had intended to move the Commission's proposal forward but now "intends to keep it in committee until it makes sense to move forward."

Mayor Gray then announced he plans to take two steps:

- Establish an Office of Homelessness (He will propose funding for the office to be worked out in the budget process.)
- Charge that office with developing a more detailed plan for meeting the need for affordable housing.

The rest of the meeting was given over to speakers from the community. Eleven individuals spoke in favor of the Commission's recommendation and three spoke in opposition.

A sample of the comments:

Harry Richards of First Presbyterian Church stated firmly that "a roof over one's head is a basic human right."

Council member Chris Ford pointed out that we "are already paying for homelessness, only less efficiently."

Darlene Thomas of the Bluegrass Domestic Violence Center said that her agency average expenditures are \$2200 per homeless family but only \$465 per sheltered family.

Mike Scanlon spoke as a former council member and a "Main Street businessman" who would be "happy to pay the tax."

The three opposed were a developer and two individuals associated with the landlords' organization.

The end result was that the Commission will not present their recommendation to Council for a vote at this time.

Christian-Muslim Dialogue

The next session of the Christian-Muslim Dialogue will be Saturday, March 23, from 10 a.m. to noon at Hunter Presbyterian Church, 109 Rosemont Drive.

The featured speaker will be Senior Professor John Stempel, Retired Director, UK Patterson School of Diplomacy and International Commerce. His topic will be "Religion and Diplomacy."

At noon participants are invited to share a pot luck meal and continue the conversation. All visitors are welcome.

LWV Dues Structure Recommendation

At the League's Annual Membership Meeting on April 27, the Lexington LWV Budget Committee will recommend a dues increase starting with the 2013-2014 membership year.

The current dues amount of \$50.00 for an individual membership has not been raised for many years. However, the dues for the national and the state Leagues have steadily increased. At this point, the Lexington League retains \$4.00 of the \$50.00 yearly dues. That is not enough to support the League expenses which include hosting candidate forums, distributing educational materials, printing, postage, phone, etc.

Therefore, the Budget Committee will request that the membership vote to raise the individual membership dues to \$60.00. The second household member and student dues would be raised to \$30.00 (up from the current \$25.00). Fifty year members would continue to pay no dues.

**Barbara Sterrett
Membership Chair**

LWV Disappointed with President Obama's Response to Voting Problems

In the words of LWVUS President Elisabeth MacNamara, the President's solution to our flawed voting systems, the formation of a nonpartisan voting commission is "simply delaying our opportunity to take advantage of the public demand for action."

The League wants real solutions—including requiring early voting, setting limits on waiting times, providing for portable voter registration and establishing secure online voter registration—**now!**

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@insightbb.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: [Lexington-League-of-Women-Voters-of-KY](https://www.facebook.com/Lexington-League-of-Women-Voters-of-KY)

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

- Thurs. Mar. 14 6:00 p.m. LWV Board Meeting at Faith Lutheran Church, 1000 Tates Creek Rd. (Planning for 2013-14 will be done at this meeting.)**
- SAT. APR. 27 9:00 a.m. LWV ANNUAL MEETING AT FAITH LUTHERAN CHURCH**

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