



The Lexington Voter

May 2013

The League of Women Voters of Lexington

Results of April 27 Annual Meeting



Lexington LWV Officers for 2013-14 (L to R):

Cindy Heine, 1st Vice President; Tammy Fagley, President; Lynne Flynn, Secretary; Karen Anderson, 2nd Vice President; and Steve Senft, Treasurer.

League members attending the annual meeting elected Tammy Fagley to a one year term as president. Cindy Heine will serve the second year of a two year term as vice president and Karen Anderson was elected to a

two year term as second vice president. Lynne Flynn joins the list of officers, elected to serve a two year term as secretary and Steve Senft will complete the second year of a two year term as treasurer.

Members of the board of directors elected to serve one year terms are: Barbara Sterrett, membership; Judy Johnson, the newsletter and essay contest; Richard Heine, local government; and Kerri Kolarik, voter services. Roz Heise will handle the naturalization ceremonies as an off-board responsibility.

The new nominating committee will be: Richard Heine (chair); Diana Clewett, Eve Podet, and Barbara Sterrett.

Other business:

The proposed budget was passed which includes an increase in membership dues. Dues will now be \$60 for single membership; \$90 for family membership; and \$30 for student membership. The need for an increase was created by several factors. First, only \$4 of each member's dues stays at the local level. Even though the LWV Education Fund was well endowed by a gift from the estate of Elaine Adland, that money can be used only for educational activities—the essay contest, voter materials, etc. Because of loss of long time members who died this year and moves by other members out of state and despite state LWV minimizing expenses (including giving up the Frankfort office), our general fund income—which is used for everything else—is declining. At this point, **A reminder—memberships should be renewed before June in order to have an accurate budget by July 1 when it goes into effect. There is a membership form included with this copy of the newsletter.**

The League will provide opportunities this fall for members to participate in the state LWV study of civics education, gathering data and coming to consensus.

The League also voted to participate in the state program to monitor statewide implementation of the affordable Health Care Act and its impact on Kentuckians. The League intends to be vigilant, to read the small print, to insist on transparency, oversight of contracts, and accountability. League members will “investigate the affordability, adequacy, and dependability of coverage provided by the state's Medicaid programs and by insurers participating in the exchange.” Richard Heine will be the contact person for the Lexington LWV.

Increasing membership will be our focus this year, reaching out on a one-to-one basis with friends who might be interested in participating in one of the LWV events or activities planned for 2013-14 and introducing them to our work in this manner.

Legislative Panel Discusses Session



A highlight of LWV state meeting was a legislative panel that included: (L. to R.) Rep. Julie Raque Adams (R); Rep. Jimmie Lee (D); Moderator Dot Ridings of LWV; Sen. Gerald Neal (D); Sen. Whitney Westerfield (R).

The 2013 state LWV convention started with a reception, dinner and legislative panel. About 30 members and guests from across the state attended. Louisville League member and former LWVUS president Dot Ridings moderated this panel which was interesting and lively at times.

Legislators discussed the improved atmosphere in Frankfort, finding it easier to work together. New Senator Whitney Westerfield reported that the atmosphere was much friendlier than he had been led to believe it would be. Panelists reminded the audience to listen to them individually and not stereotype them based on their party affiliation and, as an example, Republican Representative Julie Raque Adams reminded League members that she co-sponsored the statewide anti-smoking bill. Rep. Lee noted that programs in human services and education have been cut dramatically.

All agreed 30 days is a very short time to accomplish much, however, the final numbers for the session were 400 bills filed, 130 passed both houses and only two were vetoed by the governor.

All thought there could at least be a discussion around tax reform. The strongest difference in opinion was voiced in a discussion about the death penalty with legislators expressing their beliefs and questions about this most serious issue. League members asked about restoring felon voting rights and none of the panelists spoke in strong opposition to proposed legislation.

Issues identified for the 2014 legislative session included: redistricting, gun restrictions, mental health treatment for those incarcerated, reinstatement of voting rights for ex-felons, public financing of elections (in particular, judicial elections), issues concerning managed care and possible changes to the state tax structure.

Cindy Heine thanked the panelists and the moderator, presenting each with a copy of the Declaration of Independence and the Bill of Rights published by the LWVUS.

Results of LWVKY Convention

- **Elections**
Co-Presidents: Tammy Fagley, Cindy Heine, and Cecile Schubert
Secretary: Fran Wagner
Treasurer: Richard Heine
Board of Directors:
Beverly Moore, Harriette Seiler, Carolyn Self, Steve Senft
Nom. Comm: Reva Hart and Shawn Nordheim
VOTER Editor—Ivonne Rovira (volunteer)
- **Recommendations Passed**
 1. That the LWV monitor the implementation of the Affordable Care Act in KY.
 2. Proposal of closing recommendations for the Juvenile Justice study to be reviewed and published to the membership.
- **Invitation**
Members are invited by Terry Naydan and Nita Smith to join the Legislative Committee.

Offer Suggestions for 2013-14 Essay Contest Topic

The LWV Essay Contest Committee (Tammy Fagley, Lynne Flynn, Barbara Sterrett, Ellie Sutter, and Judy Johnson) is soliciting ideas for the next contest topic. This is an easy request—you do not have to cook anything, you do not have to show up anywhere, you do not have to check your schedule—just think.

Some possible issues that might relate to League areas of interest might be:

- The new restrictive voter registration laws being passed in several states
- The issue of restoring ex-felons' voting rights
- The power of special interest groups to control legislators' actions (i.e. voting down legislative actions that have 90% approval among voters)
- Redistricting as done by whichever party is in power in the state so that voting districts dilute the voting power of the minority group

What do you think our teens should be thinking and writing about?

Please take a few minutes to offer additional suggestions. Send to Judy Johnson at judylex@insightbb.com.

LWVUS Position on Gun Control

On April 18, LWVUS President Elisabeth MacNamara issued a strong statement regarding congressional lack of will to address gun violence: “ The League of Women Voters of the U.S. (LWVUS) today expressed frustration and disappointment with the failure of the U.S. Senate to pass an amendment that would have required background checks for gun purchases even though it had garnered support from an overwhelming majority of Americans.

The failure of the Senate to pass this amendment marks a sad day, not only for the many victims lost to gun violence, but for the Senators who were unable to find the strength to do the right thing,” said Elisabeth MacNamara, national President of the League. “Ultimately, political fears and outrageous claims won out over common sense.

The Senators who voted against this amendment failed in their fundamental duty to protect Americans from wanton gun violence. They should have stood up to the special interest gun lobby and their money and stood with the American people.

Senators Manchin and Toomey deserve the thanks and appreciation of the nation, not only for the courage to seek compromise across partisan lines, but for the courage to do the right thing against a powerful and unforgiving lobbying force.

The LWVUS has a long-standing position in support of gun control. Since 1990, we have lobbied in support of banning assault weapons, requiring all dealers to run criminal background checks at gun shows, and opposing laws that grant special protection for the gun industry.

This fight is not over, it is far too important. Gun control is a matter of public safety and public health. It is long past time for vital measures to stop the carnage. On behalf of our members and supporters from across this country, we urge Washington to help put a stop to this violence.”

In Kentucky the recent legislative session adjourned without taking up Sen. Kathy Stein’s proposed **SB 121** and **HB 268** proposed by Representatives J. Wayne, M. Marzian, T. Burch, J. Crenshaw, K. Flood, J. Jenkins, and D. Watkins. Both bills were in line with LWVUS stated position on gun control measures.

The discussion of reasonable measures to stem gun violence will continue. Plan to be a voice in this discourse.

REMINDER—The VOTER goes on brief vacation after this issue. Expect the Summer newsletter to arrive in late August.

BUILD Promises Continued Commitment to Solving Community Issues

At the April 16 Nehemiah Assembly, BUILD (Building a United Interfaith Lexington through Direct-Action) attracted 1600 citizens for its annual meeting with government officials to address social justice issues. Many League members participate in this grassroots organization which works on some issues also addressed by the League.

An identified funding stream for an Affordable Housing Trust Fund—Councilmen Steve Kay and Chris Ford are committed to attaining this goal. The mayor and other council members are continuing discussions of it as part of entire homelessness issue.

BUILD asked the county clerk’s office to follow federal law in giving IDs to people leaving federal prison. The clerk’s office and the detention center agreed to develop a process for giving IDs to people leaving the detention center.

Naturalization Ceremony

The naturalization ceremony on Friday, April 19, was a beautiful one as usual. We were all a bit conscious of the events in Boston and just how special it was to be an American. We have 47 new citizens, representing 22 nations. We turned in registration forms for 14 new voters and 22 people took mail-in forms. Nancy Chesser and Tee Bergman were extremely helpful and we are all looking forward to the next ceremony which will take place on Friday, June 21st at 11:00 a.m. at the U. S. District Courthouse.

Anyone interested in helping, please contact me at heise42@insightbb.com. It is a wonderful experience.

Roz Heise

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.

requested

Return Service Re-



*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]

- | | | |
|------------------|---------------------------|--|
| Wed. | May 8 at 6:30 p.m. | LWV Board Meeting (and potluck supper) at Tammy Fagley's house, 853 Burkewood Dr. |
| Fri.-Mon. | June 14-17 | LWVUS Convention at National Conference Center in Washington, D.C. |

[Vol. 12-13- Issue 5] 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.