



LEAGUE OF
WOMEN VOTERS®

The Lexington Voter

March 2010

The League of Women Voters of Lexington

President's Message

Dear Fellow Members:

I don't know about you but I am ready for spring and with spring comes our Annual Meeting. This year we will gather on April 17th at Faith House (at Faith Lutheran Church) to elect our board, approve our budget, and conduct our general business meeting. In addition we will be celebrating the League's 90th birthday! If you are a 50 year member we really want you to attend as we have a special surprise planned for you. Please let us know if you need a ride and we will arrange one. We are making a special effort this year to complete a history of our local League so we want to hear your stories.

On another note, this is an election year in Lexington and we will be holding candidate forums as usual. If you are interested and able to help, please call the League number 859-494-3203. Help as little or as much as you want—these forums provide a great opportunity to meet new people and learn about local candidates.

I look forward to seeing all our members at the Annual Meeting....when it finally WILL be spring!

Tammy Fagley



Notes from the Past...

(Throughout this 90th year it seems appropriate to explore the people and events that have made the League what it is today. Let's begin with a woman who brought a personal idea to life.)



Carrie Chapman Catt, born Carrie Clinton Lange on January 9, 1859, trained as a teacher, briefly studied law, served as a high school principal and Superintendent of Schools in Mason City, Iowa, before marrying her first husband, newspaper editor Leo Chapman. When he died in

1885 she found work as a newspaper reporter and soon joined the woman suffrage movement as a lecturer.

In 1890 she married wealthy engineer George W. Catt who signed a prenuptial agreement with her which guaranteed her two months in the spring and two in the fall for her suffrage work. He agreed with her that his role in the marriage was to earn their living and hers was to reform society. This arrangement served them well for 15 years until 1904 when she took leave from her responsibilities to care for her husband who later died in 1905.

She had quickly become a leader in the National American Woman Suffrage Association and returned to lead the organization in the fight for suffrage laws at both state and federal level. Her work gaining state laws giving women the right to vote was crucial to the passage of the 19th amendment to the Constitution.

After passage of this amendment, she helped organize the League of Women Voters and served as honorary president until her death in 1947.

Why Is Your Membership in the League of Women Voters Important?

Simply put, the League works with citizens through the political process to bring about constructive change.

We **REGISTER** voters and defend voting rights.

We **MONITOR** government activities—including city councils, school boards, State legislatures, and U.S. Congress.

We **EDUCATE** citizens about their rights and responsibilities.

We **SPONSOR** candidate forums and public issue forums.

We **STUDY** issues in order to reach member consensus.

And we **TAKE ACTION** by lobbying, testifying, and educating legislators on issues we care about. As a nonpartisan body, the League takes action on **ISSUES**.

We do not support or oppose candidates or political parties.

(text from Kentucky LWV)

These descriptors identify the unique role of the LWV. We are democracy in action!

Do your part:

- ◆ Maintain your membership.
- ◆ Choose an activity in which to participate, an issue you want to learn more about.
- ◆ Contribute to the Education Fund.
- ◆ Encourage a friend to join the League.

The League has a long and celebrated history of accomplishment. As we mark our 90th anniversary let us refocus our efforts and strengthen our organization to be a powerful force for the constructive change in our community mentioned at the beginning of this article.

Slate of Board Members to Be Presented at Annual Meeting

Nominees to be presented at our April 17 Annual Meeting are:

President (1 yr term)—Tammy Fagley

2nd Vice President (2 yr term) _____

Treasurer —Steve Senft

Board of Directors:

Essay Contest—Lowell Eberwein

Local Government—Richard Heine

Membership—Barbara Sterrett

Voter—Judy Johnson

* 1st Vice President (2 yr term) – Cindy Heine will finish second year of term (with PR as her portfolio)

* Secretary (2 yr term) – Betty Higgins will finish second year of term

* Environment – Nancy McDuffie is willing to continue as chair but the position will be off-board.

Other Voter Services committees—Candidate Forums, Voter Registration, Speaker Requests—remain unfilled. If you are interested in working in any one of these areas, please consider volunteering at the Annual Meeting or contact **Judy Johnson** at **223-1309** or at judydex@insightbb.com.

The budget to be approved at the Annual Meeting is enclosed. Please review before April 17.

Additional note—the Education Fund is presented as a separate budget. This fund supports all the education activities of the League, including the essay contest, candidate forums, informational brochures, and all voter service activities.

If you want to help support this work, write a check to the **Lexington LWV Education Fund**. Mail it to P.O. Box 22045, Lexington, KY 40522.

LWV March 9 *Dinner and Democracy* to Focus on Impending Changes in Kentucky Education

The topic of the March 9 *Dinner and Democracy* will be “Senate Bill 1 and Giant Steps in Education.”

Our featured guest speaker will be **Ms. Susan Perkins Weston**, an expert in the area of education. The former Executive Director of the Kentucky Association of School Councils, she is now an independent consultant working on Kentucky education issues.

Student achievement, testing policies, and education funding are the main subjects of her recent work, including projects for the Prichard Committee for Academic Excellence, the Council for Better Education, the Kentucky Association of School Councils, the Partnership at New Cities, and the Campaign for Educational Equity. She also analyzes statewide education issues as the primary author of the Prichard Blog (prichblog.blogspot.com).

Participants in the discussion will learn about recently adopted learning standards and efforts to help Kentucky students acquire knowledge and skills needed to be college and work-ready.

Dinner will be served at 6:00 p.m. with the program to follow. The cost is \$10 (\$5 cost/\$5 donation). The public is invited and encouraged to attend. Reservations are needed and can be made by calling **859-494-3203**.

WELCOME

To our two newest members—
Arthur Graham and **James Simpson**. We hope to meet you at upcoming events!

Candidate Forums Now Being Scheduled for April

With primary elections in May, the LWV is busy arranging candidate forums for council-at-large, council district 10, both houses of the state legislature, and district judge. These forums will be held at the Central Branch of the Public Library.

Members can participate in several ways:

1. The dates and times will be published in the April issue of the Voter—mark them on your calendar and be sure to attend.
2. Volunteer to help greet guests, distribute information about the League, act as time keepers, etc. Call the League number 494-3203 and say you are willing to help!
3. Generate questions for any or all of these forums. You can email your suggestions to **Tammy Fagley** at taf1969@netscape.com or send them to **P.O. Box 22045, Lexington 40522**.

Providing citizens with opportunities to learn about candidates is such an important LWV responsibility. Please join in!

LWV Registers New Citizens

Many of 49 newly naturalized U.S. citizens took the opportunity to register to vote following a February 19 ceremony at the Federal Courthouse in Lexington. Assisting in registration were **Norma Mau** and **Betty Higgins**.

The applicants, representing 32 nationalities, came from a dozen counties in Kentucky’s Eastern District of U.S. Court. Karl S. Forester, senior judge, presided at the 11 a.m. ceremony.

The next naturalization ceremony in Lexington is scheduled for **11 a.m. March 19**. If you would like to assist, please contact **Betty** at **278-1898**, or e.higgins@insightbb.com.

The League of Women Voters of Lexington 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

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

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| Saturday, March 6 | 10:00 a.m. | Board meeting at Faith House Faith Lutheran Church, 1000 Tates Creek Rd. |
| Tuesday, March 9 | 6:00 p.m. | <u>Dinner and Democracy at Faith Lutheran Church, 1000 Tates Creek Rd.</u> |
| Friday, March 19 | 11:00 a.m. | Voter registration after Naturalization Ceremony at U.S. District Courthouse |
| ***SATURDAY, APRIL 17 9:30 a.m. ANNUAL MEETING at Faith Lutheran Church*** | | |

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