



# The Lexington Voter

## October 2009

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The League of Women Voters of Lexington

### President's Message

*Dear Fellow League Members:*

*Often League participation and training fosters involvement that makes us better neighbors. Learning to share civic concerns sometimes leads us to use our organizing expertise at home. Let me share my own experience.*

*Recently, we had a rash of burglaries in my neighborhood which prompted several of us to organize a neighborhood watch group. It was simple.*

*We just made a call to the local police station and told them we wanted to start a neighborhood watch group. We scheduled a neighborhood meeting and Officer Debbie Wagner spoke to our group. She gave us awesome tips about how to prevent burglaries and a lot of useful brochures and advice. But more than anything she gave us a sense of family and togetherness in our neighborhood that we never had before.*

*I have lived in my house 11 years and in that time I have only spoken to a very few of my neighbors. Now I know everyone! I have learned my neighbors are a group of caring, fun-loving and wonderful people of many different nationalities. Now we all wave to each other and stop to chat when we meet on the sidewalk. We generally enjoy each other's company and keep an eye on each other's home. Not long ago we had our first ever neighborhood cookout where we had a wonderful time eating, talking and playing corn hole games and kicking a soccer ball around.*

*Get to know your neighbors. You'll be amazed at how it will change how you feel about your own corner of Lexington. See what a neighborhood watch group can lead to. And, remember, for me it all began with the sense of community and common purpose I found in the League of Women Voters.*

*Tammy Fagley*

### Energy Efficiency To Be Topic of Oct. 13 Dinner and Democracy

Lexington LWV is offering a discussion with energy experts at the first of the 2009-10 *Dinner and Democracy* series on **Tuesday, Oct. 13.**

**John Twitchell** represents the East Kentucky Power Cooperative, a non-profit member-owned generation and transmission utility that has operated since 1941. The co-op is a founding industry member of the University of Kentucky's Center for Applied Research consortium that is seeking cost-effective technologies to reduce and manage carbon dioxide emissions from coal fired plants.

**Jonathan Miller**, Secretary of the Kentucky Finance and Administration Cabinet, has worked with the Clean Energy Corps since its inception in February of this year. The Corps is a broad-based coalition of public and private sector partners promoting energy-efficient homes, growth of "green collar" jobs, and financing for green construction and renovation.

*Dinner and Democracy* is held at Faith Lutheran Church, 1000 Tates Creek Road and begins at 6:00 p.m. The cost is \$10 (to cover the meal plus a LWV donation) and **reservations should be made by calling 859-494-3203 by Oct. 9.**

## Health Care Reform Continues to be Issue #1

As we continue to follow, learn about, and lobby for changes in the national health care debate, the Internet provides us with great resources.

- ◆ The Kaiser Foundation continues to analyze congressional proposals in a detailed comparison format on their website. Check out their website <http://www.kff.org>. and click on the first item, the **Health Reform Comparison Tool**.
- ◆ **Roll Call/Congress.org** offers a quick link to any legislator as well as a search process for legislation under consideration. The website is <http://www.congress.org/congressorg/home>.
- ◆ The Huffington Post website <http://huffpostfund.org/stories/2009/09/anatomy-attack-ad> carries that organization's investigation of the League of American Voter anti-reform attack ad which has drawn the attention of the League of Women Voters. All LWV members should be aware of the confusion caused by this special interest group.
- ◆ The League of Women Voters of the United States website at [www.lwv.org](http://www.lwv.org) carries more articles about the tactics of the League of American Voters.
- ◆ Also on the same website (LWV) there is a quick link to a message urging legislators to heed the League's position on health care reform. Do your civic duty with the click of a computer key.

## Madashelldoctors Visit Kentucky

On September 22, an aging Winnebago pulled into Louisville KY, nearing the end of its month long trip from Oregon to Washington, DC. Aboard was a small but dedicated group of doctors rallying support for the inclusion of a single payer health care plan in proposed health care reform legislation.

Undeterred by a heavy rainstorm, a diverse group of people from both sides of the Ohio River gathered at the Jeffersonville IN end of the Second Street bridge to listen to these practitioners describe their experiences which led to their somewhat unusual lobbying effort. Joining them were five local medical practitioners and the mayor of Jeffersonville.

Although this was not a LWV sponsored event, there were League members among the participants who came because the group's message echoes the national League position.

The evening ended with a candlelight walk across the bridge toward the lights of Louisville. The visitors then continued on toward Chicago and their ultimate goal of a rally in the nation's capital on October 1.

The group's adventures can be followed on their website [www.madashelldoctorstour.com](http://www.madashelldoctorstour.com).



***“No chance, no destiny, no fate, can circumvent or hinder or control the firm resolve of a determined soul. Gifts count for nothing; will alone is great.”***

Carrie Chapman Catt, Founder of the League of Women Voters

## LWV will register new citizens at November naturalization ceremony

The next naturalization ceremony in Lexington is scheduled for **Nov. 6** at 11 a.m. at the Federal Courthouse, Barr Street.

League members are needed to assist in registering new citizens following the ceremony. An afternoon ceremony might be added closer to the date. **If you would like to help with this activity, please contact Betty Higgins at 278-1898 or e.higgins@insightbb.com**



Those who assist are asked to arrive at the courthouse by 10:30 a.m. The ceremonies begin promptly at 11 a.m. and last 30 minutes. Voter registration takes about 30 minutes, concluding around noon. Parking is available in the city garage across the street from the federal building and the League will reimburse the cost.

At the May ceremony, Norma Mau and Betty Higgins handled the registration. Diana Clewett, Lillian Gentry, Elaine Adland and Betty assisted at the two August ceremonies.

The League is among several service organizations which attend and offer welcoming remarks during the ceremony at the invitation of the presiding judge.

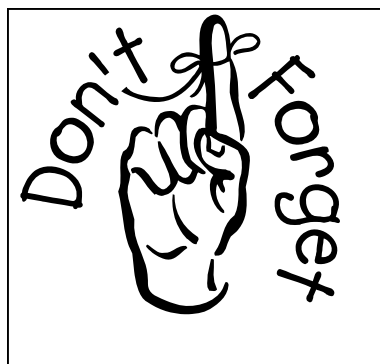
**Editor's Note:** With last month's issue of the VOTER you received a copy of the new membership. Please note that the Senft address is **correct** on the Officers List (429 Golden Trophy Trail, Lexington 40514) but incorrect on the membership roster. Also the second listing for James Goode should read **Stella Goode**. Please check your own information. Should you find any errors, please notify me at judylex@insightbb.com.

## Felon Voting Rights Position

The League of Women Voters of Kentucky supports the restoration of voting rights to former felons who have paid their debt to society. Kentucky is only one of two states that takes away voting rights from all former felons unless they obtain a pardon from the governor (Virginia is the other state). In order to accomplish this change, there needs to be legislation that allows the Kentucky voter the opportunity to amend the Kentucky state constitution. Our coalition lobbying efforts to have an amendment put on the ballot was not successful during the last legislative session. Therefore, we plan to try again in the next legislative session to get the issue of restoring former felons' voting rights "front and center."

It is not too early to get in touch with your Kentucky state senator or representative to inform him/her that you support an amendment that would automatically restore the right to vote to former felons once they have served their prison time, probation, and parole.

Call, write or email your senator or representative. You can find their contact information online at <http://www.lrc.ky.gov/Legislators.htm>.



If you have not paid your dues for 09-10—they were due in May—send a check to Steve Senft, 429 Golden Trophy Trail, Lexington, 40514.

**Single membership—\$50**

**Family—\$75**

\*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](http://www.lwvlexington.com)

Phone: 859-494-3203

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

**Saturday, October 2 10:00 a.m. Board meeting at Faith House, Faith Lutheran Church**

**Tuesday, October 13 6:00 p.m. *Dinner and Democracy* at Faith Lutheran Church, 1000 Tates Creek Rd.**

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