



The Lexington Voter

September 2011

The League of Women Voters of Lexington



Meet New LWV Secretary Karen Anderson

It was a great day for the Lexington League when Karen Anderson joined as a new—and very enthusiastic—member. She brings with her many talents and skills which she shares unselfishly.

To acquaint members with her, here is a bit of her background. Karen grew up in rural southwestern Minnesota where she obtained a bachelor's degree in political science at Mankato State University. She received a master's of education degree from Kent State University in Kent, Ohio.

Since 1994, Karen has served as the Coordinator of Community Service and Civic Engagement at Transylvania University. In this role she utilizes service and civic engagement as tools to help students understand personal values, ethical concern and social responsibility. During her tenure at Transy, she has participated in over 25 service trips throughout the United States.

In 2005, Karen co-chaired a national committee to assist *Susan G. Komen for the Cure*® to restructure their volunteer program and presented the committee findings at the national affiliate convention. She has been an officer of the Kentucky Association of Housing Officers and the Central Kentucky Association of Volunteer Administrators. She has volunteered with Habitat for Humanity, The Carnegie Center for Literacy and Learning, the Lexington Humane Society, Big Brothers/Big Sisters of the Bluegrass and many other organizations. She currently serves on the East Seventh Street Advisory Board, and the Kentucky Campus Compact Advisor Board.

In addition to community service, Karen enjoys traveling, gardening and knitting.

Welcome, Karen!

League to Join in Transylvania University's Celebration of September 20 Constitution Day

Transylvania University will celebrate Constitution Day by hosting Tim Johnson on September 20 from 4:30-5:30 p.m. in the Cowgill Center 102 on Transy's campus. His presentation is "Learning at the Court: How Supreme Court Justices Use Oral Arguments to Decide Cases." Dr. Johnson, distinguished teaching professor of political science at the University of Minnesota, will discuss his research regarding how Supreme Court justices use oral arguments as a means of making both policy and legal decisions.

The LWV will have a voter information and registration booth at this event. Members will also remind participants that the deadline to register to vote before the next election is October 11.

The Cowgill Center is the building facing the right side of the circular drive in front of Old Morrison. This drive is located on 3rd Street. Presentation attendees may park anywhere on campus. You will find a map of parking areas at <http://www.transy.edu/about/parking.pdf>. Best choice would be lots off Upper Street.

PLEASE NOTE: There will be a viewing and discussion of the movie *Iron Jawed Angels* at 7:30 p.m. on Monday, October 24 at Transylvania University Campus Center Gym. Discussion facilitator will be Kathi Kern of the UK History Department.

Update on Elaine Adland Endowment

Cindy Heine has researched the costs of obtaining state and national flags with engraved standards to be displayed at public events such as candidate forums. She reported to the board at their August meeting. Funds will be allocated for this commemorative item at the September 17 board meeting.

At the same meeting, LWV board members met with Allison Langsford, VP and general counsel for the Bluegrass Community Foundation, to gather information about various kinds of fund accounts that can be established in order to provide sustaining money for continuing projects. (The Bluegrass Community Foundation is a tax exempt public charity that enables individuals, families, corporations, and other non profit organizations to establish permanent charitable funds to meet current and future community needs.)

Also during August **Kitty Parker**, former president of the Lexington League, met with several members and generated a number of ideas that were then compiled in a letter to the board. Other members individually have proposed suggestions. Now the board wants the final decision to be made with the participation of as many members as possible.

Therefore, all members are encouraged to attend the September 17 LWV board meeting at Faith Lutheran Church in order to participate in this decision making. The meeting will begin at 10:00 a.m. in Faith House, the first house behind the church.

Essay Contest Set to Begin

This year's LWV writing contest asks high school students to consider what it means to be an "actively engaged citizen of the United States of America" and to apply their interpretation of that full meaning to a current public issue.

The information packets will be in Fayette County public and private high schools Sept. 1. Information is also accessible on our website www.lwvlexington.com. or by emailing lexington.lwvessaycontest@gmail.com.

Please encourage any students you know in grades 9-12 to participate. Prizes—given out in December—are \$250, \$150, and \$100.

INVITATION TO ALL MEMBERS

WHAT: Membership Cookout

WHERE: Cindy and Richard Heine's home, 324 Stoneybrook Dr.

**WHEN: 4:p.m.
Saturday, October 1**

League will provide meat and drinks.

Members are asked to bring a dish to share and 3 guests who might be interested in joining the LWV.

Questions? Call 859-494-3203

League Provides Voter Information and Registration at UK Graduate Resource Fair



LWV Board Member Richard Heine answers student questions about voting in Fayette County.

On Wednesday, August 17, the Lexington LWV was once again invited to participate in the resource fair UK provides for new graduate students.

Richard Heine and **Judy Johnson** answered many questions about the local voting process posed by students from other counties and other states. They also distributed many Blue Sheets and other League informational brochures and provided forms for students to complete to change their voting addresses.

This is always a lively event and a community service the League is happy to provide.

Report to Members on the August 4 LFUCG Redistricting Committee Meeting

Karen Anderson reported that the LFUCG Redistricting Committee presented their guidelines at the meeting she attended. These guidelines include:

- Aiming for districts with population equity—the ideal population shall be 24,650 with a total deviation of no more than 10% (2,465)
- Existing voting precincts shall not be split nor precinct boundaries changed and new districts should be formed with as little change as possible. Whenever possible, neighborhood associations will be represented by only one council member (not split the neighborhood)
- Districts should reflect community interests or a range of characteristics: physical, cultural, socio-economic, etc.
- The districts should accommodate a relative rate of growth
- Several other guidelines are outlined in UCG 4.03

The redistricting committee broke into working groups to consider three scenarios outlining the new district boundaries. At the next meeting committee members will have a map that shows the commonalities and areas of difference between the three proposals. Maps won't be posted for general public review until they are presented to the LFUCG board.

The redistricting committee plans to have recommendations to the council no later than September 29 and the entire process should be completed at least 180 days before the regular primary in which council members are elected.

Complete information about the redistricting process, including the three proposals and supporting data can be found at www.lexingtonky.gov. Click on **Calendar** tab. On the **August** page, click on **August 4** and find the **Redistricting Meeting** at 10:00 a.m. Click on the **Packet** to open information provided to members.

The 2011-12 program for the *Christian Muslim Dialogue* has begun. The next event is a panel discussion entitled "Student Voices: Living in a Foreign Country." It will be presented from 10 a.m. to noon on Saturday, September 24, at the Unitarian Church, 3564 Clays Mill Rd. Public is invited to attend.

League Members Assist New Voters with Voter Registration

The Lexington LWV offered 100 new citizens the opportunity to register to vote at two naturalization ceremonies on Friday, August 19. Forms were processed for registrants from Boyle, Boone, Campbell, Fayette, Kenton, Madison, Lincoln, Rowan, and Shelby counties. Many other new citizens took mail in forms with them.

Judge Joseph M. Hood, a senior judge for the U.S. Eastern District Court, presided in the morning ceremony where applicants from 24 countries took the oath of allegiance. Judge Karl S. Forrester, also a senior judge for the U.S. Eastern District Court, presided in the afternoon ceremony where applicants from 37 countries became U.S. citizens.

Diana Clewett, Betty Higgins, Mary Hughes, and Nancie Watson assisted with registration.

The next ceremony is scheduled for Friday, December 9. Please contact Betty at 278-1898 or e.higgins@insightbb.com if you wish to help.



Interested in discussing the national LWV education study? The scope of this study is the history, funding, and equity issues of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act and the common core standards/assessments necessary for federal funding.

If this is an area of interest for you and you would like to participate in a local discussion of study materials, contact Judy Johnson at 806-1309 or judydex@insightbb.com. before September 9.



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, September 17 | 10:00 a.m. | Lexington LWV Board Meeting at Faith Lutheran Church, 1000 Tates Creek Road |
| Tuesday, September 20 | 4:30 p.m. | Constitution Day at Transylvania University, Cowgill Center 102 |
| Saturday, October 1 | 4:00 p.m. | Membership Cookout at the home of Cindy and Richard Heine, 324 Stoneybrook Drive |
| Monday, October 24 | 7:30 p.m. | Movie <i>Iron Jawed Angels</i> at Transylvania University, Campus Center Gym |

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