



LEAGUE OF  
WOMEN VOTERS®

# The Lexington Voter

## Summer 2010

The League of Women Voters of Lexington

### *Message from the Board....*

*(Note from the editor: In this issue of The Voter, we mark a change in the usual President's Message by presenting a message written by a board member. In the future, various current board members and, occasionally, past board members, as well as our president, will use this space to communicate with our members.)*

The League is indebted to President **Tammy Fagley** and Webmaster **Nicole Wolfe**, a past president, for representing us so well June 11-15 at the 2010 National Convention in Atlanta and being such conscientious stewards of our funds. Nicole, who now lives in Bowling Green, traveled to Lexington. From there she and Tammy drove to Atlanta (saving the price of airfare) and stayed in a hotel other than the pricier convention site. Many thanks to Nicole who agreed to be a delegate when other board members were unable to attend.

Sessions at the convention focused on the critical issues of membership and fundraising. The Lexington League already has a head start in these areas. We're in the midst of preparing letters seeking donations to help continue our work of voter registration, education and advocacy, following discussions in the spring and this summer. We also met last spring outside board meetings to discuss membership, including retention. We'll update you as work progresses.

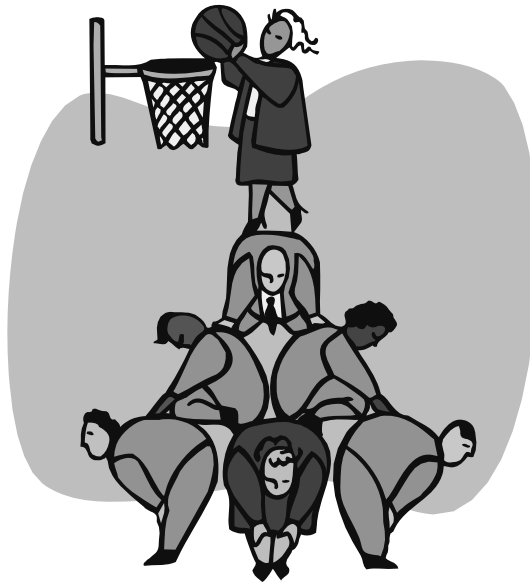
In this 90<sup>th</sup> anniversary year, it is important to note that ours is an evolving League – locally

and nationally -- with fewer members and less money and some new issues as evidenced by the various motions adopted at Convention 2010. In fact, Tammy reports that one workshop on simplifying the running of local leagues posed the question: "What if five or six people could run your local League?"

Actually, the Lexington League can answer that question because we've been doing it for awhile now! (We currently have several board vacancies, including chairs for our voter services areas.) Our board will be incorporating ideas and materials presented by the LWVUS Streamlining Committee while being mindful of "what is essential—to retain our good reputation, enable busy people to have enough time to be part of a leadership team and retain our community-based, grassroots organization." *(Quote from workshop materials.)*

Meanwhile, be assured that we value all members and their contributions, over time or just one-time. If we continue to call on you, feel free to decline. We try to respect those who wish not to be contacted, but we hope you'll occasionally be able to attend meetings or functions and help out as we move toward the 100-year mark of this valuable organization.

**Betty Higgins**, Secretary



## Meet the New LWVUS President...

**Elisabeth MacNamara** is the 18th president of the League of Women Voters of the United States (LWVUS) and chair of the League of Women Voters Education Fund (LWVEF). A longtime Dekalb County, Georgia resident, Ms. MacNamara joined the League in 1983 and has since served in leadership roles at all levels—local, state and national.



Professionally, Ms. MacNamara is an attorney, recently retired as deputy chief assistant district attorney in charge of the office's juvenile court division in Dekalb County. Prior to this promotion, she had served as assistant district attorney since 1986. She has also served as a staff attorney for the National Center for State Courts and law clerk for the Superior Court of Dekalb County.

In addition to her decades-long volunteer service with the League, Ms. MacNamara has volunteered with the High School Mock Trial Program; the Band Parents Association of Lakeside High School; University of Georgia Parents and Families; and PTA.

Ms. MacNamara graduated from Emory University with a B.A. in 1976 and a J.D. in 1979.

This year's LWV Essay Contest will focus on the topic *"How does money influence elections and the subsequent actions of elected officials?"* Information will be in the high schools of Fayette County when classes begin in August. Please encourage students you know to participate.

## Convention 2010

### Adopted studies:

- **A study of the federal role in public education.** The study will focus on the role of the federal government in education policy-making, with possible consideration of funding, common standards and/or governance relationships among all levels of the government.
- **A study on privatization:** the policy agenda to transfer government functions, services and assets to the private sector.

### Adopted positions:

- An updated Arms Control Position.
- An addition to the LWVUS position on selection of the president: **"We support the use of the National Popular Vote Compact as one acceptable way to achieve the goal of the direct popular vote for election of the president until the abolition of the Electoral College is accomplished."**
- An addition to the LWVUS Equality of Opportunity position: **"The League of Women Voters of the United States supports equal rights for all under state and federal law. The LWVUS supports legislation to equalize the legal rights, obligations, and benefits available to same-gender couples with those available to heterosexual couples. LWVUS supports legislation to permit same-gender couples to marry under civil law. The League believes that the civil status of marriage is already clearly distinguished from the religious institution of marriage and that religious rights will be preserved."**

### Also supported the following resolutions:

- To support lifting the travel restrictions for Americans going to Cuba.

### Convention actions continued....

- To call upon the Board to use the resources of the League to support and lobby for significant strengthening of appropriate regulation, oversight, inspection, and penalties associated with the development of fossil fuel resources.
- To call upon the Senate to change its rules to limit the use of the filibuster.
- To add the principle of TRANSPARENCY to the SARA Resolution, as adopted by the LWVUS Convention of 2005.
- To call upon the LWVUS Board to advocate strongly for bills that legislate for improved Medicare for all.
- To call upon the LWVUS to highlight the need for those responsible for the oil spill to be held accountable. Further, the LWVUS demands that our government hold those responsible for the environmental disaster accountable for the clean-up.



### Help Needed at August 13 Naturalization Ceremony



Two naturalization ceremonies are scheduled for Aug. 13 at the Federal Courthouse, downtown Lexington. The first is at **11 a.m.** and the second at **2 p.m.**

If you can assist in registering voters following either ceremony, please contact **Betty Higgins** at [e.higgins@insightbb.com](mailto:e.higgins@insightbb.com) or 278-1898 by **Aug. 6**.

For the morning ceremony, plan to arrive by 10:30 a.m. The ceremony lasts about 30 minutes and registration will be finished by noon. Plan to arrive by 1:30 p.m. for the afternoon ceremony.



### Watch for.....



**Schedule of Candidate Forums to be held prior to Nov. elections**



**Dates and topics for *Dinner and Democracy* events**

***In the Sept. Voter***

### LWV of Kentucky FUN Fund-raiser Being Planned

Watch for details about a fundraising event to be held in Lexington in the fall by the Kentucky LWV. In the works is an event with food and drinks, featuring a memorable speaker.

The purpose of this effort is to increase funding to maintain a LWV office in Frankfort. This office is crucial if the League is to be taken seriously by Kentucky legislators as we lobby for League positions on issues. There will be more information in the September **Voter**.

Plan now to bring a friend for an evening's entertainment—because you will enjoy it and because you want to be an active supporter of the League's work!

\*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

<b>Saturday, August 7</b>	<b>10:30 a.m.</b>	<b>Lexington LWV Board Meeting at Faith Lutheran Church, 1000 Tates Creek Road</b>
<b>Friday, August 13</b>	<b>11:00 a.m.</b> <b>2:00 p.m.</b>	<b>New Voter Registration after Naturalization Ceremony at Federal Courthouse in Lexington</b>

## Watch for important dates in September Voter!

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