



The Lexington Voter

Summer 2011

The League of Women Voters of Lexington

League Receives Generous Gift to Support Work

The Lexington LWV was recently notified of a generous bequest of \$25,000 from the estate of longtime member Elaine Adland, who died last year. Elaine did not specify any particular aspect of League work to benefit from these funds so the board called a special meeting in June to make the immediate decisions that would allow the transfer of the money to the organization.

- The board voted to purchase a U.S. flag and a Kentucky state flag with poles and standards that would be visible at League functions like the candidate forums. The flag poles would carry engraved plates that commemorate Elaine's service and generosity to the League.
- The board then voted to investigate possible investment opportunities for the balance of the money. The matter will be discussed further at the August 6 board meeting.
- Finally, the board voted to investigate ideas for a grant program that would promote the LWV and encourage informed citizenship and to establish such a program within the next 18 months. Board members specifically want a program that would best honor Elaine's work and commitment.

Members—especially those who remember Elaine Adland and knew her special interests within the work of the League—are encouraged to make suggestions for such a grant program. All suggestions are welcome! For more details or to offer ideas contact one of the following:

Tammy Fagley (543-0416 or taf1969@netscape.com)

Cindy Heine (272-3500 or cindy.heine@insightbb.com)

Karen Anderson (229-7448 or karen414@insightbb.com)

LWV High School Essay Contest Topic and Timeline Announced

The 2011 Essay Contest will focus on a two part prompt exploring what is meant by “actively engaged” citizenship and how student writers’ interpretation of rights and responsibilities shapes their thinking about a current issue within the country.

Contest information will be available in Fayette County high schools and through the LWV website lwvLexington.com by September 1.

New Voter Registrations Continue

Lexington League volunteers were on hand after two ceremonies June 17 to assist newly naturalized citizens in registering to vote. The events took place in the U.S. Eastern District at the Federal Courthouse here.

Registration cards for new citizens in Boone, Carroll, Fayette, Greenup, Kenton, Madison and Shelby counties were processed by the League. Many others of the 98 new citizens picked up cards to mail in or drop off in their home counties. All received the *Blue Sheet* which contains a section on “Voting Requirements” and contact information for County Clerks and the Kentucky Board of Elections.

Assisting in the effort were League members **Karen Anderson, Nancy Chesser, Lynne Flynn, Betty Higgins, Mary Hughes and Norma Mau**, and friend of the League **Nanci Watson**. Karen, a first-time attendee and our League's new Secretary, attended both the 11 a.m. and 2 p.m. ceremonies. Betty joined members of several other service organizations in giving welcome remarks at the ceremonies.

The next naturalization ceremonies are scheduled for 11 a.m. and 2 p.m. on Friday, Aug. 19. If you want to help, please contact Betty at e.higgins@insightbb.com or call her at 278-1898.

LWV Vice President Recognized as Community Leader



The local League of Women Voters is proud that longtime member and “go to person” **Cindy Heine** has been recognized by Business Lexington as a 2011 Leading Woman in Central Kentucky.

Cindy was honored specifically for her work with the Prichard Committee for Academic Excellence. She is currently serving as Interim Director until former FCPS Superintendent Stu Silberman officially joins the team September 1.

Even while handling the duties of such a demanding job, Cindy has worked tirelessly to carry out the mission of the LWV—attracting new voters, arranging candidate forums, identifying issues that need to be addressed, handling public relations for the League, and working on every task that needs another pair of hands.

Cindy joins a diverse group of Leading Women community leaders that includes: Doris Bensen, president of Langley Properties; Sheila Kavanaugh, coowner of TKT and Associates; Sadhna True, partner at Dinsmore and Shohl; Lisa Minton, executive director of Chrysalis House; Soreyda Begley, fashion designer; Freda Meriwether, assistant to the executive director of the Kentucky League of Cities; Nancy Stone, executive director of the Jessamine County Chamber of Commerce; Laura D’Angelo, partner at Wyatt Tarrant & Combs; Wanda Bertram, senior policy advisor at Babbage Co-founder; Marnie Holoubek, community activist; Esther Hurlbert, CEO Parent Care Kentucky; Laura Del Cotto, founding member Del Cotto Law Group; Krisia Rosa, partner at Pohl

Rosa Pohl; Jan Isenhour, executive director of the Carnegie Center for Literacy and Learning; Robbie Morgan, volunteer coordinator for LexArts; Sandra White, president of Bethlehem Farm; Laura Boison, vice president at US Bank; Debbie Wagner, officer with Lexington Division of Police; and Debra Hensley, owner of State Farm Insurance Agency.

The full article about Cindy can be found at <http://www.smileypete.com/Articles-c-2011-05-10-97670.113117-Cindy-Heine.html>

Congratulations, Cindy!

Both National and Local Leagues Busy This Summer

Here is a sampling of recent activities:

- The national League and a long and impressive list of coalition partners this month sent a letter to Congress urging legislators to oppose any balanced budget amendment to the United States Constitution. A balanced budget amendment should not be used as a substitute for real leadership on fiscal policy.
- The national League and coalition groups sent a letter to the House of Representatives urging them to oppose an amendment that would gut the Office of Congressional Ethics.
- LWV Deputy Executive Director and Senior Director of Global Democracy Programs **Zaida Arguedas** is currently visiting Egypt to address women’s rights in advance of the upcoming elections. Her meetings with civil society group leaders are aimed at ensuring women have a leading role in the forthcoming elections. This effort is being coordinated by the U.S. Embassy in Egypt.
- All members are urged to log on to the national LWV website at lww.org and sign a petition to the President urging a strong new standard for smog pollution. The petition can be found on the home page under **ACTION ALERT: Tell the President You Don’t Want to Breathe Smog.**
- North Carolina LWV members covered the state speaking out on behalf of voters. League leaders testified at multiple public redistricting hearings held by the Joint House and Senate Redistricting Committee. Comments were focused on grave concerns the League has regarding what appear to be blatantly racially gerrymandered districts designed to dilute minorities’ voting strength under the state’s proposed legislative and congressional maps.

League of Women Voters: Still Relevant...Needed Now More Than Ever

The League of Women Voters, a nonpartisan political organization, has fought since 1920 to improve our systems of government and impact public policies through citizen education and advocacy. The League's enduring vitality and resonance comes from its unique decentralized structure. The League is a grassroots organization working at the national, state, and local levels.



There are Leagues in **all 50 states**, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, the Virgin Islands, and Hong Kong, in addition to the hundreds of local Leagues nationwide. The League of Women Voters of the United States and the League of Women Voters Education Fund operate at the national level with grassroots support from state and local Leagues.

The LWV is strictly non partisan; it neither supports nor opposes candidates for office at any level of government. **At the same time, the League is wholeheartedly political and works to influence policy through advocacy.** It is the original grassroots citizen network, directed by the consensus of its members nationwide. The 900 state and local Leagues comprise a vast grassroots organization that can be mobilized whenever necessary.

Over time the League's legislative priorities change to reflect the needs of society and critical issues of concern. The organization remains true to its basic purpose: to make democracy work for all citizens. The LWV makes a difference in the lives of citizens because of the energy and passion of thousands of members committed to our principles.

The organization turned 90 years old in 2010 and in many ways its issues are the same. As Election 2012 begins to heat up in earnest across the country, League of Women Voters President **Elisabeth MacNamara** recently announced the release of a new training manual geared toward empowering organizations to help eligible high school students register and vote in 2012.

"By next year, people under 30 will make up nearly 25 percent of the country's electorate. Young Americans hold enormous power to drive our future energy security, demand policies to bring about sustainable job growth, and determine our place in the long-term global economy. We have one message for candidates running for all levels of office in 2012: young voters are not to be underestimated," said MacNamara.

National League Begins "Clean Air Promise" Campaign

With the current assault in Washington, D.C. to undermine clean air protection, the LWV is gearing up to change the debate over the Clean Air Act to one focused on protecting public health. The central component of this action will be the "Clean Air Promise" which members of Congress, other elected officials, key community leaders, and the public will be asked to sign.

The League's campaign will incorporate three core elements:

1. To set the stage for the "Clean Air Promise" and to bring the public health message to the public, the League will engage in paid media advertising and outreach. The ad buy is focused on Washington, D.C. but it is possible members will see it on national cable companies such as CNN, Fox News Channel, and MSNBCC.
2. Clean Air Promise toolkits will be sent to all local Leagues to more fully explain the Clean Air Act and the substantive issues surrounding the fight to defend the legislation. There will be additional efforts in the fall to target media outreach in key states and to reach leaders and elected officials in those states.
3. Stories about individuals harmed by air pollution will be used in a variety of communications, including media outreach, public events, and tools such as Facebook and YouTube.

Watch for specific ways **you** can get involved as this campaign unfolds.



In September issue of the Voter:

- ✓ Details on the 2012 LWV Education Study
- ✓ Details about local Elaine Adland grant program progress
- ✓ New up-to-date Membership Roster
- ✓ Details on the LWV high school essay contest



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, August 6 | 10:30 a.m. | Lexington LWV Board Meeting at Faith Lutheran Church, 1000 Tate's Creek Road |
| Friday, August 19 | 11:00 a.m. | New Voter Registration after Naturalization Ceremony |
| | 2:00 p.m. | at Federal Courthouse in Lexington |

Watch for important dates in September Voter!

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