



The Lexington Voter

Summer 2008

The League of Women Voters of Lexington

President's Message

While the board takes a summer break the work of the League does not stop. We have received numerous requests to register voters at various functions and to host, moderate and co-sponsor candidate forums. Of course, we are still registering voters at the naturalization ceremonies. As you can see, there are many opportunities for members to become involved. Please contact a board member if you would like to help with any of our upcoming events.

The essay contest committee has been hard at work preparing for this year's contest. I want to thank the chairman of that committee, Lowell Eberwein and the rest of the essay contest committee for all of their hard work. I know the contest will be a big hit and I look forward to hearing from students in grades 9-12. If you know any Fayette County high school students, please let them know about this upcoming contest. The essay topic and further details will be available at the beginning of the 08-09 school year. Monetary prizes will be delivered to the top three winners in December, just in time for the holidays.

The Lexington League of Women Voters is fortunate to welcome a talented intern this summer—Molly Weston, a sophomore at Swarthmore College. She has been a great help to us and we have enjoyed working with her. She has been very busy working with the essay contest, bringing order to the archived materials, helping with membership materials among other tasks.

As you can see, the League is very busy. If you would like to take an active role in any of our various functions, please contact a board member or call the League at 494-3203. Check out our website www.lwvlexington.com and watch *The Voter* for additional information.

I hope you are enjoying the summer months and resolving now to participate in a League function this fall.

Jammy Fagley



Meet Molly



Molly Weston, pictured below (left) with Lexington LWV president Tammy Fagley, is interning this summer with the state League as a result of her selection as a Eugene



M. Lang Opportunity Scholar. Molly's assignment is assisting the Louisville and Lexington Leagues.

Lang scholarships are awarded to no more than six members of the Swarthmore sophomore class based on distinguished academic and extracurricular achievement and demonstrated commitment to civic and social responsibility. This summer's work is preparation for Molly's Lang Project (scheduled to launch in 2009) which will be focused on civic education for newly naturalized citizens in Philadelphia's Russian immigrant community.

In addition to her LWV responsibilities, Molly said a very memorable experience was shadowing State Representative Kathy Stein for a day of the special session.

Molly is the daughter of longtime League supporters Beau and Susan Perkins Weston of Danville.



SAVE THESE DATES!

Dinner and Democracy evenings were so popular they are already scheduled for 08-09. Mark your calendar for the following dates and general topics:

Sept. 9th A Look at Our Judicial System (Dr. Bill Fortune from UK has committed for this.)

Nov. 11th Local Environmental Issues

Feb. 10th Legislative Update

Mar. 10th Health Care

Specific details concerning the September gathering will appear in the August Voter.

Highlights of June, 2008 LWWUS Council in Portland, Oregon

The 48th biennial national Convention gathered representatives of its 130,000 members and supporters. Business included:

- Unanimous reelection of Mary G. Wilson as national president
- Set priority of voter education during the 2008 presidential elections
- After vigorous debate, set the LWWUS program agenda for the next two years (health care reform, global climate change, methods for electing the President)
- Participated in a climate change panel discussion
- Heard banquet address by former Colorado Supreme Court Justice Rebecca Love Kourlis

President Wilson's parting message was to "go back home and keep up your good work, registering and educating this cadre of first-time voters so that they turn out to vote in this election and become life-long voters."

What the LWWUS is doing....

- ⇒ Urging Senators to support strong climate security legislation and foster a transition to a clean energy economy
- ⇒ In an amicus curiae brief, asking the Supreme Court to protect fair voting districts by holding that the Voting Rights Act does not require a minority community's size to meet a rigid numerical quota
- ⇒ Joined governmental watchdog organizations this month in urging Senators Barack Obama and John McCain to reveal details about fundraisers who "bundle" contributions to their presidential campaigns
- ⇒ Maintaining and publicizing the website **www.VOTE411.org** as a comprehensive voter information resource

What the LWW-Lexington is doing....

- ⇒ Registered new voters among the 99 new citizens at two naturalization ceremonies May 30th
- ⇒ Agreed to pay registration fee for Elaine Adland to attend the national League meeting in Portland
- ⇒ Scheduled board meeting for July 26th at 10:30a.m. at Faith House
- ⇒ Continuing to work with several other organizations to identify voter registration opportunities
- ⇒ Essay committee finalizing writing prompt, guidelines, and publicity for competition

WANTED

Arrangements Facilitator—civic-minded volunteer to head up group of reliable assistants coordinating 4 dinner events, 1 annual local meeting, and next year's state meeting scheduled for Lexington. Contact Tammy at 543-0416 for more information.

LWV Activist Dr. Lilialyce Akers

Lilialyce Akers, who died Tuesday, June 10, 2008, was a professor emeritus in sociology and women's studies at the University of Louisville. Her career which spanned four decades focused on improving the status of women. At the time of her death, she was an internationally esteemed consultant and expert witness on women's issues.

Dr. Akers became the first woman professor at U of L when she was hired in the mid-1970s. She went on to be a moving force for classes which focused on women's roles and issues.



In the 1980s she organized the first trade show of women-owned businesses in Kentucky.

Her efforts in support of gender equality, world peace, and sustainable government expanded from Kentucky to the United Nations where she worked on behalf of the UN Commission on Women. She traveled extensively to Europe, South America, India, Pakistan, Japan, and China to promote the education and empowerment of women.

According to the Courier-Journal obituary, Dr. Akers' grave marker will not note the year of her birth as her age was a well-guarded secret but her long career and numerous achievements are well-documented

In 2005 Dr. Akers was honored with the Kentucky Women Remembered Award and a portrait of her, commissioned by the Kentucky Commission on Women hangs in the Kentucky Capitol .

A longtime board member of the League of Women Voters, Dr. Akers was presented the first LWV of Louisville and Jefferson County Historical Honoree

Award in 2007 for her lifelong accomplishments.

The prestigious Gillian Rudd Vanguard Award given to her in 2003 by the National Association of Women Business Owners. Her nomination for that award noted that "Dr. Lilialyce Akers is a visionary who sees the world as it should be, and advocates changes for equality, justice and human dignity that produce a safer , healthier, happier world. She views challenges as creative opportunities and works unflinchingly attaining goals, regardless of difficulty.""

"Time is neutral and does not change things. With courage and initiative, leaders change things."

Jesse Jackson

Support Your League of Women Voters

Thank you for your past support of voter registration, candidate forums, and voter education. If you have not paid dues for the membership year 08-09, the cost is \$50 for an individual or \$75 for a family. Dues are complimentary for 50 year members.

Make check payable to Lexington League of Women Voters.

Mail to:

P.O. Box 22045

Lexington, KY 40522-2045

If you have a question, please contact Membership Chair Barbara Sterrett at barbarasterrett@insightbb.com or phone her at 223-1722.

Lexington League of Women Voters
PO Box 22045
Lexington KY 40522

Return Service Requested

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

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

Saturday, July 26 10:30 a.m. Board meeting at Faith House, Faith Lutheran Church, 1000 Tates Creek Road

Saturday, August 16 10:00 a.m. Board meeting at Faith House, Faith Lutheran Church, 100 Tates Creek Road

Buy the LWV updated guide to the presidential election process: "Choosing the President 2008." This handy paperback explores the players that make up our election system and walks through the process of electing a president. A great gift idea for the students or first-time voters in your life. Order a copy now (\$11 plus shipping and handling) online at www.store.lwv.org.

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