



SPECIAL  
POINTS OF  
INTEREST:

- League Day at the Capitol Feb 25
- LWV State Survey

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## Judicial Committee Condemns Campaign Tactics

By Cecile Schubert , LWV member of the KY Judicial Campaign Conduct Committee, shared this information with us. The full rulings can be found at <http://kyjccc.blogspot.com/>.



The Kentucky Judicial Campaign Conduct Committee issued concerns about two judicial races this fall. It asked Kent Varney, a candidate for the state Court of Appeals, to stop using advertising claiming his opponent, Judge Janet Stumbo, "sided with criminals 59 percent of the time." In a letter to Varney the committee said, "The KJCCC finds that this assertion misrepresents the role of a judge or justice, which is to base decisions on the law and not take sides. Also, no context for the assertion is provided, so we find that the ad is misleading.... We conclude that this portion of your ad is misleading and undermines the high standards by which judicial campaigns should be conducted."

The committee condemned the campaign tactics of both candidates for a seat on the state Court of Appeals, finding that the campaign of Judge Allison Jones of Prospect undermined the high standards by which judicial campaigns should be con-

ducted by saying she was running for re-election when she had been appointed to fill a vacancy and had never been elected. Her campaign was also found to have made scurrilous insinuations on social media that a reasonable person would read as references to her opponent. The Facebook post was made by the judge's husband, Larry Jones, her campaign treasurer, and carried the campaign logo.

The committee found that her challenger in the 6<sup>th</sup> District race, Justin Sanders of Covington, fell short of the standards of judicial campaigning by implying that Judge Jones lives in Louisville, when she does not, and that he had misstated the role of a judge by saying that "Northern Kentuckians can best assure fair representation" by electing him to the court.

The Sanders complaint also noted that Judge Jones

had scheduled for election night a drawing of Kentucky basketball tickets among supporters who had promoted her candidacy in certain ways on Facebook. The committee was concerned that such activity might undermine the integrity of the judiciary because state law says candidates shall not "become liable in any way for money or other thing of value, either directly or indirectly, to any person in consideration of the vote or financial or moral support of that person." The Jones campaign said it canceled the drawing after receiving a copy of the Sanders complaint.

The Kentucky Judicial Campaign Conduct Committee is an independent, non-governmental, non-profit, non-partisan group of interested citizens from all over Kentucky, including people from both political parties and various walks of life--civic leaders, attorneys, non-lawyers and retired judges. The committee encourages judicial candidates to sign a pledge to avoid false or misleading advertising and other campaign tactics that impugn the integrity of the judicial system, the integrity of a candidate, or erode public trust and confidence in the independence and impartiality of the judiciary.

# Presidents' Message



Co-presidents,  
from top to  
bottom: Tammy  
Fagley and Cindy  
Heine

By **TAMMY FAGLEY** and  
**CINDY HEINE**

This has been an extraordinarily busy election season with local, state and national races on the ballot. We appreciate your hard work hosting candidate forums and meet-and-greet events and working to register voters.

Kentucky Leagues participated in the National Voter Registration Day on September 23, joining with hundreds of volunteers across the nation in registering 143,831 voters.

Although candidates for U.S. Senate did not accept our offer of candidate forums, the League weighed in and was a player in getting the candidates to face one another. Thanks to Victoria Markell, Louisville, who took the lead in contacting the campaigns and working with

partners to include the League's voice in the conversation.

Now that fall elections are behind us, the state board is moving forward with plans for a busy winter and spring. League of Women Voters' Day at the Capitol is scheduled for February 25, our chance to speak face-to-face with our state legislators in Frankfort.

The Nominating Committee is working to assure ongoing state leadership. Please let Reva Hart, Terry Naydan or Nita Smith know if you have an interest in serving on the board. It's a terrific way to learn more about what other local Leagues are doing, stay connected with LWV US and work on statewide policy issues!

Our Redistricting Committee is underway and looking for additional members!

We would like a representative from each local League and will make sure members can join meetings via phone if distance is an issue!

Plans are underway for our 2015 Convention, to be held in historic Shaker Village of Pleasant Hill on April 10-11. You won't want to miss this opportunity to meet, discuss policy issues and share our work in this lovely, quiet setting! We hope to see you there!

Special thanks to Judy Johnson of Lexington, for helping with this issue of *The KY VOTER*!

And finally – in order to better communicate with you, our members, we are asking that you complete a survey (enclosed in print *VOTER* or online for e-*VOTER*.) We appreciate your assistance and feedback! Tammy & Cindy



## Help us improve communications!

The state board is re-evaluating the way we communicate with our members. Please take a few minutes to respond to this survey to help the state League keep you informed. You can complete the enclosed survey or respond online at:

[https://www.surveymonkey.com/s.aspx?  
sm=DxNI5S8AZzCyb3yo\\_2fVfzHg\\_3d\\_3d](https://www.surveymonkey.com/s.aspx?sm=DxNI5S8AZzCyb3yo_2fVfzHg_3d_3d)

# Report from 2014 LWV National Convention

Nita Smith and I represented the state of Kentucky at our National Convention in June. We were joined by 643 voting delegates as well as non-voting guests. There is always much excitement as our work begins because we all have to agree on a proposed program for the 2014-2016 biennium. This year we also had an additional challenge from the floor for the office of the national president of the League of Women Voters by the Florida delegation. They wanted their own state president to be voted in as the national president instead of Elizabeth McNamara, our current president.

The delegates voted for concurrence with the New Jersey position on Human Trafficking. The position states that the League of Women Voters opposes all forms of domestic and international human trafficking of adults and children, including sex trafficking and labor trafficking. We consider human trafficking a form of modern day slavery and believe every measure should be taken and every effort should be made through legislation and changes in public policy to prevent human trafficking.

We also voted for a comprehensive three part program combining study and review of key specific structures of American Democracy consisting of:

- A study of the process of amending the U.S. Constitution, including constitutional conventions
- A review and update of the League position on campaign finance in light of forty years of change since the Watergate reforms
- A review of the redistricting process for the U.S. Congress, through the existing redistricting task force, for the purpose of developing action steps.

As you can see, the convention delegates were very concerned about the corrupting influence of money in politics as well as redistricting and gerrymandering and how they affect elections. We also voted to re-elect our national president, Elizabeth MacNamara, for another term.

The convention was not all work. We met delegates from all of the states in the union and discovered that they face the same challenges we do—how to attract new members and continue to engage the current ones. We had meals with both new and old friends and learned from all.

Finally, Nita and I took a tour to see the book depository and the infamous grassy knoll where Lee Harvey Oswald shot President Kennedy. We felt we could not leave Dallas until we paid our respects to the slain president. It was a sobering experience.

Terry Naydan



## *LWV Book Clubs*

One of the ideas Nita and Terry brought back from national convention was creating book clubs around issues of interest to local League members. Louisville and Lexington Leagues have started groups reading books such as Supreme Court Justice Sonia Sotomayor's memoir, *My Beloved World* and Senator Elizabeth Warren's book, *A Fighting Chance*. Let us know what you're reading! [kentuckylwv@gmail.com](mailto:kentuckylwv@gmail.com) or twitter @LWVKY.



Shaker Village at Pleasant Hill, Kentucky

# Mark Your Calendars:

**When?** Friday afternoon and Saturday, April 10-11, 2015

**Where?** Historic Shaker Village of Pleasant Hill

**What?** Workshops, elections, planning and special tours available! Look for details in the next VOTER. You won't want to miss it!!

## League Day at the Capitol

**Wednesday, February 25, 2015**

Join fellow League members in Frankfort to meet legislators, attend committee meetings and advocate for our legislative agenda!



Legislative liaisons, Terry Naydan and Nita Smith will brief us and organize our efforts. More details will follow!

## Social Studies and Arts Standards Review

The Kentucky Department of Education is seeking comments on proposed changes to social studies and arts and humanities standards. The deadline for feedback is December 5. Use the following links:

**For Social Studies Standards:**

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/KYSSpublic>

(With our recently adopted position on Civics Education, this is something each League member should know about and review!)

**For Visual Arts:** <https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/KYVisualArts>

**For Music:** <https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/KYMusic>

**For Theatre:** <https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/KYTheatre>

**For Media Arts:** <https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/KYMediaArts>

**For Dance:** <https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/KYDance>

# League Members Speak to International Journalists

**Pat Murrell, President, LWV of Louisville**

On October 30 and 31, the U.S. State Department brought 20 international journalists to Kentucky. They called to ask us if they could include the League of Women Voters as a group to visit! The visitors also met with Al Cross and Joe Gerth, both writers for the *Courier-Journal*, and representatives of the Kentucky Democratic Party and the Jefferson County Republican Party.

We made a panel presentation with Dot Ridings representing national and Fran Wagner representing state. Maxine Mellman talked about Voter Service and Mary Jo Rodgers added a historical perspective. Gary Drehmel, chair of our Campaign Finance Committee, Joan Lindop, Environment chair, and Treasurer Jane Reiss were also present to answer questions.

The journalists were young and represented all areas of media. Their home countries included Brazil, Afghanistan, China, Egypt, and Latvia. They were quite knowledgeable and asked good questions like what did we do when two women were running against each other. This gave us a good opportunity to explain our non-partisan policy.

We all enjoyed their visit.

## Are you Aware of Voting Irregularities?

At our recent state board meeting, one member reported her son had taken his social security card to use as identification at the polls and was questioned about whether that was sufficient. The rules are clear, a social security card is valid. If he had not been persistent, he might not have been allowed to vote.

Another member was made to feel guilty for asking to vote early because she was having surgery a few days before Election Day. She was told she had to be in the hospital to get an absentee ballot!

If you are aware of similar problems, please share them with us at [kentuckylwv@gmail.com](mailto:kentuckylwv@gmail.com). We are interested in your stories as we work to reduce barriers to voting.



## Nominating Committee

The Nominating Committee is already working to identify state leaders for next year. If you have an interest in working with the state board, contact Nita Smith, Terry Naydan or Reva Hart or e-mail [kentuckylwv@gmail.com](mailto:kentuckylwv@gmail.com).



LWV member Beverly Moore helps her grandson, Jonah Karman-Moore, vote for the first time at Bellarmine University in Louisville on November 4.



# Kids Vote in Elizabethtown

Retha S. Wilcoxson shared this based on a story in the Elizabethtown News-Enterprise.

The Hardin County League of Women Voters allowed area students grades 4-12 to vote on Friday, November 7, using a small sample ballot. The ballot contained names of candidates for the U.S. Senate race and four Hardin County races—judge-executive, sheriff, jailor and county clerk.

The initiative, known as **Kids Vote**, is meant to encourage interest in the voting process. The League arranged for voting at Hardin County Schools, Elizabethtown Independent Schools, West Point Independent Schools, St. James Regional Catholic School, Elizabethtown Christian Academy, North Hardin Christian School and local home schools. In total, about 12,500 ballots were distributed.

The League of Women Voters wants to help students form the habit of voting and also to encourage their parents to vote.



(University of Minnesota photo)

Just like in a real election, the students each received an **"I Voted"** sticker after turning in their ballots.

At county and city schools, the ballots were tallied by high school students. The other schools tallied their votes themselves.

The results were reported at 6 p.m. on the local radio station and in the local newspaper on Wednesday after the election.



forum.estorija.net

## Magna Carta: Enduring Legacy 1215-2015

The Kentucky LWV will participate in a celebration of the 800<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Magna Carta next year organized by the Kentucky Bar Association. If you are interested in helping plan the events surrounding this celebration in Kentucky, contact Cindy Heine, [kentuckylwv@gmail.com](mailto:kentuckylwv@gmail.com).

# Remembering Joan Peoples

Dr. Joan B. Peoples, former state League president and president of the Berea Madison County local League passed away September 18, 2014 after a long battle with Alzheimer's disease.

Joan was a graduate of the University of Tennessee. She received her masters in psychology at Eastern Kentucky University followed by her doctorate at the University of Kentucky.

League members who remember Joan do so with fondness and admiration. "When I was KY League president for two terms, Joan was a member of both my boards. When Joan was KY League president, I was a member of her board. We were both very concerned about money in politics and we worked to ob-

tain public funding for gubernatorial and other candidates. We also represented the Kentucky League at National Council in Washington." (Jeanne Hibberd).

Another former state president added a personal note. "Joan and her husband, Crocker, gave me a glowing reference when I applied for a place in a doctoral program at the University of Kentucky. I am sure their reference helped gain my acceptance into the program. This kindness was typical of Joan. She will be sorely missed by all who knew her." (Dr. Terry Naydan).

"Joan was my mentor, friend and lunchtime conversation buddy. I miss her smile, presence and, above all, her dedication to League and community." (Cecile Schubert)



Joan Peoples with lobbying group in 2007. Left to right: Joan, Gail Waldeck, Joy Frasier, Carla Gilbert, Wes Wright (team leader from Ky. Fair Tax Coalition), Elise Andre.

A memorial service will be held in Berea in the spring of 2015. In lieu of flowers, contributions to the Alzheimer's Association would be appreciated.



## KY League's Redistricting Committee Gets Underway

Are you tired of district gerrymandering, which as one pundate said is the way candidates choose voters versus voters choosing candidates? The state League has organized a committee on redistricting and is looking for additional members. The goal is to have each local league represented on the committee!

Nita Smith attended a redistricting seminar at the National Convention this year and has lots of good information to share.

The next meeting will be December 16 at 1:00 p.m. at Nita Smith's home in Lexington. Committee members who cannot travel to Lexington can call in and participate in the meeting that way. For more information contact Nita at 859-272-5827 or email [nitavotes@aol.com](mailto:nitavotes@aol.com) or Steve Senft at [steve.senft@twc.com](mailto:steve.senft@twc.com).



## LWV of Kentucky

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## LWV of Kentucky Board Members

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### Nominating Committee:

Terry Naydan

Nita Smith

**The Voter Editor:** Ivonne Rovira

Contact us at: 502-875-6481 or

[kentuckylwv@gmail.com](mailto:kentuckylwv@gmail.com)

## 2015 Calendar

**Jan. 10:** 10:00 a.m.-12:30 p.m.  
Kentucky LWV Board Meeting  
Faith Lutheran Church, 1000  
Tates Creek Road, Lexington, KY

**Feb. 25**  
League Day at the Capitol, Frank-  
fort

**Mar. 7:** 10:00 a.m.-12:00 noon  
Kentucky LWV Board Meeting  
Location to be announced

**April 10-11**  
State Convention  
Shaker Village at Pleasant Hill  
(near Danville)

**June 18-21**  
LWV US Council  
Washington, D.C.