



SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

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US League Seeks Consensus on Money in Politics

By **GEORGE SCHUHMAN**

In June 2014 the LWVUS Convention adopted a program to review and update the League's position on campaign finance (1974, updated in 1982) in light of the changes since the Watergate reforms. That position addresses:

- ensuring the public's right to know,
- combating corruption and undue influence,
- enabling candidates to compete equitably for public office, and
- allowing maximum citizen participation in the political process.

The LWVUS Board has formed the Money in Politics (MIP) Committee to enhance understanding of the new schemes and structures used to influence elections, erode protections against corruption in our political process and review possible responses.

In particular, the MIP Committee is researching the relationship of money to freedom of speech under the First Amendment—an area of Supreme Court jurisprudence that changed with the *Citizens United* decision in 2010.

That decision extended the view of free speech to allow unlimited independent spending by super PACs, corporations and unions and radically transformed the election landscape.

To update the League position to include the role of money as speech requires member understanding and agreement on these issues. The MIP Committee has thus been tasked with preparing educational materials for member study and consensus building.

The timeline for this process involves committee work through the spring and summer, review by the LWVUS Board and staff, the formation of local study committees in the fall with consensus meetings in early 2016 so that the response can lead to a recommendation of an updated position on campaign finance at the June 2016 Convention.

Your participation in this process is needed for Kentucky to have its voice heard.

Mr. Schuhmann is a retired attorney serving on the LWVUS MIP Committee. He also serves as Deputy Chair of the LWV Louisville Campaign Finance Reform Committee.



Melissa Currence to Speak at Convention: "Building the League of Tomorrow"

Melissa Currence joined the League of Women Voters in 1997 and currently serves as the vice-president of development for the Cincinnati Area LWV. She has served in various capacities at the state and local level. She helped found Act One, a local initiative that encourages those who are 18-35 to join the League. Melissa served on the LWVUS Young People Task Force as co-chair from 2012-2014. She will address the KY Convention on Saturday, April 11. Don't miss it! Register today!

Presidents' Message...



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

By Tammy Fagley and Cindy Heine

This is a very busy time for the League of Women Voters of Kentucky. Our presence at the KY Capitol on Lobby Day, as usual, was respected and well received. So were the many visits of our legislative liaisons, Terry Naydan and Nita Smith and other individual members who joined them.

Now with the Kentucky legislative session coming to a close, our monitoring and fighting for legislation that supports our League positions will shift to voter registration, voter service and more study and work in preparation for future sessions.

This year the League of Women Voters celebrates its 95th birthday. We know you have been receiving emails about it. Hopefully,

you have also seen references to it on Facebook and Twitter. The national League has been offering suggestions through various media about how to advertise the 95th birthday and use it to the advantage of our local and state Leagues.

We encourage you to follow the national League on Twitter and Facebook. National uses both forms of social media to communicate interesting information. If your local League does not have a Facebook page and Twitter account, we suggest you work to create them. Social media is a great way to reach out to members of your community, gain a following and attract new League members. Contact the state League if you are interested in initiating a presence on social media.

As you know, this year our state convention will be

held April 10-11 at the Shaker Village of Pleasant Hill. If you have never visited Shakertown, you should come. It's a popular tourist attraction with delicious food and a gift shop. It will provide a peaceful rustic setting for our meeting. (Also, it is close to Lexington where the spring racing meet will be in full swing at Keeneland.)

Meet fellow League members and learn about interesting, useful topics at our workshops. Voice your opinion and have your say during the business part of our meeting. We look forward to seeing everyone.

At this annual meeting each local League has the chance to report. It is inspiring to hear about all of the League activity going on across the state.

We want to thank all of you for your dedication and hard work.



Contact President Obama NOW!

Action Alert: Urge the President to Fully Reject the Keystone XL Pipeline

President Obama fulfilled his promise to [veto legislation](#) approving the Keystone XL (KXL) pipeline! The League is proud to stand behind the President's veto because the pipeline is not in our national interest. *But the fight is not over* – President Obama and the U.S. State Department must still make a final decision on the Keystone XL pipeline. [Thank President Obama for vetoing the pipeline legislation and urge him to reject final approval of the Keystone XL pipeline once and for all!](#) Call 202-456-1111.

Plan to Attend the 2015 LWV Convention



SHAKER VILLAGE OF PLEASANT HILL

Nominating Committee Report

The Nominating Committee—Chairperson Reva Hart, and members Cecile Schubert, Nita Smith and Terry Naydan—has submitted the following slate for 2015-16:

President - Nita Smith and Terry Naydan Co-Presidents – two-year term

First Vice President - vacant

Second Vice President - Steve Senft – two-year term

Secretary - Fran Wagner – two-year term

Directors: Tammy Fagley and Cindy Heine - one year terms. Portfolio—Communications (including social media)

Nominating Committee: Off Board Members: Reva Hart, Pat Murrell, Cecile Schubert

Proposed 2015-16 Program for LWV KY: For Action at State Convention

1. It is recommended that the LWVKY create a committee to review legislative oversight of the management of state funded pension plans with a focus on transparency and management of these funds. Rationale:

State pension plans appear to be in serious trouble and in need of action by the state legislature. While LWVKY cannot do a definitive study of all aspects of these pension plans, we can and should address the issue of transparency and oversight. The pension plans have boards and the legislature has an oversight committee. We need to know what they are doing and how they are monitoring decision-making by the plan administrators. Transparency is needed because it appears that the KRS has hired money managers without bids and without revealing to the public what they are paying them and have invested in hedge funds. Some legislation addressing some of these issues has been filed but so far not passed.

2. We recommend that LWVKY take action on the Civic Education position, including a review of social studies core curriculum and state testing of civics.

3. It is recommended that the LWVKY review issues concerning the judicial system, incarceration, privatization, juveniles, and debtors prison, with local Leagues encouraged to review their judicial systems. The goal is to determine the scope and direction for a more targeted approach to the issue of jails and money.

Recommended by LWV of Louisville, amended by LWV KY Board of Directors.

| General Fund | Proposed 2015-16 |
|--------------------------|-----------------------------|
| <u>INCOME</u> | |
| Fundraising- Auction | \$ 400 |
| Fundraising - Event | |
| Fundraising - Letter | \$ 500 |
| Local LWV gifts | |
| MAL Dues | |
| Member contributions | \$ 240 |
| PMP (local dues) | \$ 3,000 |
| State Convention/council | \$ 800 |
| Total | \$ 4,940 |

| | |
|-------------------------------|-----------------|
| <u>EXPENSES</u> | |
| Advocacy | \$ 150 |
| Copier | |
| Fundraising letter | \$ 220 |
| Gen. Admn. | \$ 50 |
| Insurance | |
| Internet Fees | \$ 70 |
| KY Voter | \$ 300 |
| LWV Brochures | \$ 100 |
| MAL PMPs | |
| Nat'l Council | \$ 1,800 |
| Office Rent | \$ 200 |
| Postage | \$ 50 |
| Pres. Travel | |
| State Convention/Council | \$ 700 |
| Supplies | \$ 150 |
| Telephone | \$ 550 |
| Voter Service/Candidate Forum | \$ 100 |
| Website | \$ 100 |
| With One Voice | \$ 200 |
| Membership/Travel | \$ 200 |
| Total | \$ 4,940 |

| LWV KY Education Fund | |
|------------------------------|---------------|
| <u>INCOME</u> | |
| Grant | |
| Fund Raising Letter | \$ 600 |
| Member Gifts | \$ 100 |
| Total | \$ 700 |
| <u>EXPENSES</u> | |
| Office Rent | \$ 200 |
| 95th Anniversary | |
| Sec. of State | \$ 15 |
| Website | \$ 180 |
| Program Study | \$ 305 |
| Total | \$ 700 |

League Day at the Capitol

By Terry Naydan
LWV KY Legislative Liaison

Twelve members of the League of Women Voters joined us for League Day in Frankfort on Wednesday, February 25. Some of us had appointments to visit with our own legislators to discuss the bills we are supporting or opposing. We also observed committee meetings where bills are discussed and then voted upon. Some of us attended the Domestic Violence Pre-

League members Joy Arnold, Steve Senft, Lexington; Beverly Moore, Louisville; standing Cindy Heine, Lexington, and Rep. Ruth Ann Palumbo, 76th District, Lexington.



League members Fran Wagner, Judy Lippmann, Louisville; Terry Naydan, Lexington, Chris Harmer, Louisville; standing Cecile Schubert, Richmond



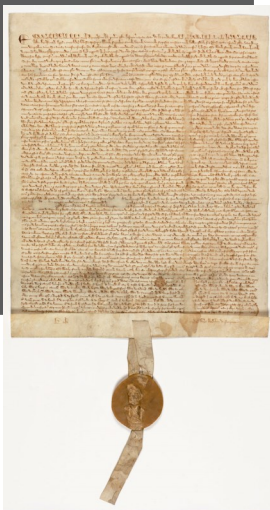
vention Rally in the Rotunda. We then had lunch together in the Capitol annex cafeteria. A few of our members stayed to observe the formal Senate and House sessions at the Capitol Building.

This year I observed many more people than usual lobbying for bills they support. Some were from organizations similar to ours while others were paid lobbyists. This year there was palpable excitement in the air. Every Kentuckian should go to Frankfort at least once to see how our legislature makes democracy work. I am glad we had the opportunity again this year.

Serve as Docent at Magna Carta Exhibit

The American Bar Association has approved the Kentucky Bar Association, in partnership with the Kentucky State Fair Board, to display the traveling exhibit *Magna Carta: Enduring Legacy, 1215–2015* during this year's state fair, Aug 20 to 30, in Louisville.

The LWV has been asked to participate. Members are invited to be trained as docents and help staff the exhibit. Let us know if you would like to learn more about the importance of the Magna Carta and share that information at this year's state fair. For more information or to volunteer, email KentuckyLWV@gmail.com.



Legislative Report on LWV Issues

By Terry Naydan and Nita Smith, Legislative Liaisons LWV KY

This year was a short session (30 days) which was made even shorter by the snow storms. Therefore, many bills which might have been voted upon were never discussed even by committees. The legislature is in recess for veto days and will return for two days, March 23 and March 24, for conference committees of both parties. That will be the last chance to hammer out compromises and either pass or reject some bills that both houses were considering for passage. **HB 8** is one of those bills.

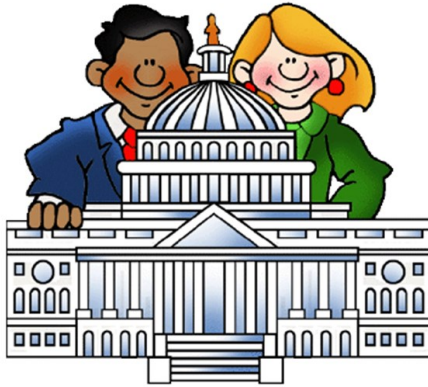
Bills the League supported:

HB 70—the felons voting rights bill (Owens) passed the House, was received in the Senate but time ran out for a vote of the Senate.

HB 8—the dating violence bill (Tiley) passed the House, had three readings in the Senate. It will have a last chance for a vote on March 23 or 24. We are hopeful a final version of this bill will pass both houses.

HB 63—the public financing of judicial campaigns bill (Wayne and others) passed Judiciary Committee, had two readings in the House. It was scheduled for a third reading but time ran out.

HB 131—the "streamsaver" surface mining bill - (Wayne) sent to Natural Resources and



Environment Committee. A floor amendment was filed – and time ran out for any vote.

HB 82—abolition of death penalty bill (Floyd) in Judiciary Committee. No action on this bill.

Bills the League opposed this session:

HB 84—Nuclear plant construction bill (Hopkins) went to Tourism Development and Energy Committee. No action on this bill.

HB 152—AT&T deregulation of telephone services bill (Rand and others). Nine floor amendments filed. Both houses passed the final bill and it was signed by the Governor. We thanked all of the legislators who voted against this bill.

We are looking forward to the next legislative session where there will be more time to seriously consider the bills the League will be supporting or opposing.



LWV US Studies

The LWVUS adopted an ambitious program focused on the key structures of democracy at the 2014 Convention. Three committees were organized to collect and disseminate information on redistricting in the various states, money in politics (see George Schuhmann's report page 1) and the process of amending the Constitution. As those committees go about their work, there are things we members can do to inform ourselves and our communities about these essential topics.

The KY League has formed a Redistricting Committee (co-chairs – Nita Smith and Steve Senft). National reading lists will be available shortly but in the meantime you may be interested in California's experience found here: <http://lwv.org/blog/new-report-examines-inaugural-california-redistricting-commission>. Let Nita or Steve know if you are interested in joining the work of reviewing our redistricting process. KentuckyLWV@gmail.com

Campaign Finance Tools

The Massachusetts LWV has created a *Campaign Finance Toolkit* with an advocacy focus that is very informative. This excellent resource will take time to review, but is well worth it. It can be found at <http://lwvma.org/lwvma-campaign-finance-project-and-toolkit/>.

You may also be interested in a 3-minute video, "How does Money Corrupt Our Government?" found on YouTube at <http://youtu.be/RGuQVzVIdEs>. It introduces the MapLight website. A cursory look shows that it may not be updated regularly regarding money contributed and votes by representatives, but it makes good points. An article providing some provenance can be found at <http://alumni.berkeley.edu/california-magazine/just-in/2015-02-23/political-payoffs-software-and-sweat-maplight-connects>.

Proposed Changes to LWVKY Bylaws

Underlined=new language [italics in brackets=deleted language]

ARTICLE V – OFFICERS

Section 1 – Number and Terms. The officers of the LWVKY shall be the president, a first vice president, a second vice president, a secretary and a treasurer.

Section 3 – The Vice Presidents. The *[three]* two vice presidents, in the order of their rank, shall in the event of absence, disability, resignation or death of the president, assume all the powers and perform all the duties of that office.

ARTICLE VI – BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Section 6 – Quorum. The presence, in person or via electronic device, of no fewer than fifty (50) percent of the current members of the board shall constitute a quorum, . . .

ARTICLE VII – FINANCE

Section 2 – Budget. . . . A copy of the budget, including the recommended PMP amount, shall be sent to each local League president at least *[six]* four weeks in advance of the convention or council.

ARTICLE VIII – CONVENTIONS

Section 1 – Place, Date and Call. In odd numbered years [7] there shall be a biennial convention held before the end of the fiscal year, the date and place to be determined by the Board of Directors. Presidents of local Leagues shall receive notification at least *[six]* four weeks before convention.

ARTICLE IX – STATE COUNCIL

Section 2 – Place, Date, Call and Notification. In even numbered years [A] a meeting of the council shall be held in the interim year between conventions, approximately twelve months after the preceding convention.

Section 3 – Authorization for Action. . . . notice of the proposed modifications of the program shall have been sent to the presidents of local Leagues at least *[two months]* four weeks prior to the meeting of state council

ARTICLE X – NOMINATIONS AND ELECTIONS

Section 2 – Suggestions by Local Leagues. Suggestions for nominations shall be sent by the president or secretary of local Leagues or any Kentucky League member to the chairperson of the nominating committee at least *[three]* two months before the convention.

Section 3 – Report of the Nominating Committee and Nominations from Floor. The report of the nominating committee....shall be sent to local Leagues *[six]* four weeks before the date of the convention. The report of the nominating committee of the nominations for directors shall be sent to local Leagues *[six]* four weeks before the date of the council.

ARTICLE XIV – AMENDMENTS

Section 1 – *[Amendments. Amendments to these bylaws may be proposed by any League Board, provided such proposed changes shall be submitted to the Board of Directors at least three months prior to a convention. All such proposed amendments shall be sent by the Board to the presidents of all local Leagues at least six weeks prior to a convention, together with the recommendations of the Board of Directors.]* Bylaws Committee. The bylaws committee shall consist of a chair and two members. The secretary of the LWVKY Board will serve as chair, and the members will be elected by the Board at least six months before convention. The duties of the bylaws committee are to: review current bylaws and present changes it deems advisable to the LWVKY Board; consider all proposed amendments submitted by local League Boards; and research and submit recommendations for each proposed amendment to the LWVKY Board of Directors.

Section 2 – Amendments. Amendments to these bylaws may be proposed by any local League Board or by the bylaws committee of the LWVKY. All suggested changes will be presented to the Board of Directors at least six weeks prior to convention for its approval. The approved amendments shall be sent to the presidents of all local Leagues at least four weeks prior to convention.

Join League friends from across Kentucky for a stimulating and enjoyable weekend at Shakertown!

Call to 2015 LWV KY Convention: Register Today!

Shaker Village at Pleasant Hill

(Route US 68 near Harrodsburg and Danville, KY)

Friday, April 10

| | |
|-----------|---|
| 5:00 p.m. | Informal gathering of Prospective New Local Leagues—Trustees House |
| 5:30 p.m. | Dinner with fellow Leaguers – Trustees House |
| 7:30-8:30 | Social/silent auction –West Family Wash House |

Saturday, April 11

| | |
|------------------|--|
| 7:30-8:30 a.m. | Breakfast – Trustees House |
| 8:30-9:00 a.m. | Registration – West Family Wash House |
| 9:00 -10:45 .m. | Convention called to Order - West Family Wash House |
| | Business Meeting – Session I |
| 11:00-12:00 noon | Workshop I: How to Form a New League |
| | Workshop II: Voter Beware! and Kids Vote! |
| Noon – 1:15 p.m. | Box Lunches, “Building the League of the Future,” Melissa Currence |
| 1:15-2:00 p.m. | Workshop III –Expanding Domestic Violence Protections |
| 2:00-3:30 p.m. | Business Session II |
| 3:30 p.m. | Convention Adjourned |
| 3:30-3:45 p.m. | New Board Meets to Schedule Next Board Meeting |

Convention Registration Fee: \$40 includes Friday social event, Saturday breakfast, lunch, snacks and meeting materials. For questions or more details: 502-875-6481 or kentuckylwv@gmail.com

For overnight reservations call Shakertown: **800-734-5611**

Make your reservations NOW. Be sure to say you are with the League of Women Voters.
Rooms: \$110 (1 or 2 beds) plus taxes and usage fee

Dinner: We suggest the 5:30 seating with fellow Leaguers. If you cannot make the 5:30 seating you may make your own reservations and pay on your own. 800-734-5611. Seatings every half hour until 8:00. p.m.

2015 League of Women Voters Convention Registration DEADLINE April 3

Name _____

E-mail _____ Phone _____

Local League _____

Dietary Needs _____

_____ \$40 Convention Registration Fee (covers Friday reception, breakfast, lunch, coffee breaks)

_____ \$25 5:30 Dinner with League members

_____ Additional gift to the League.

\$_____ Total enclosed

Make checks payable to LWV of KY. Please complete and mail to:
LWV of Kentucky, 115 South Ewing Ave, Louisville, KY 40206



LWV of Kentucky

Lang House
115 S. Ewing Ave.
Louisville, KY 40206
Phone: (502) 875-6481
Email: kentuckylwv@gmail.com

LWV of Kentucky Board Members

Co-Presidents:

Tammy Fagley
Cindy Heine

Co-Second Vice Presidents:

Terry Naydan
Nita Smith

Secretary: Fran Wagner

Treasurer: Richard Heine

Directors:

Joan Lindop
Beverly Moore
Carolyn Self
Harriette Seiler
Steve Senft
Marijane Snellen
Meryl Ward

Nominating Committee:

Reva Hart, Chair
Terry Naydan
Cecile Schubert
Nita Smith



Calendar

**State Convention at
Shaker Village
Friday, April 10,
5:30 p.m. Dinner
7:30 p.m. Reception
Saturday, April 11,
7:30 breakfast;
9 a.m.–3:30 p.m.
Convention business, pro-
gram and workshops**

**Monday, April 20:
Last day to register to
vote in the primary**

**Tuesday, May 19
Primary Election Day**