

## LWV OF KENTUCKY

### SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

- **Call Frankfort on five legislative bills.** See p. 2 for details
- **Register for the League's State Convention**

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# The Kentucky Voter



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## LWV Continues Support for Ex-Felon Voting Bill

By **NITA SMITH**

Kentucky's lifetime ban on felons' voting keeps 312,000 Kentuckians from casting a ballot, according to a report by the League of Women Voters of Kentucky released Feb. 6.

Kentucky remains just one of four states that ban ex-felons from voting. That positions the Commonwealth as No. 1 in disenfranchising African-Americans and third in overall rate of disenfranchisement, even though they have completed their full sentence.

The current figure of 312,000 is 2.5 times higher than the 126,000 who were barred from voting in 2006.

"We applaud Governor Matt Bevin, Justice Cabinet Secretary John Tilley and Senator Whitney Westerfield, who are promoting Senate Bill 120 to provide supports for former felons to make a smooth and successful transition from prison to their communities and employment," said state League Co-President Terry Naydan. "We would suggest, however, that restoring the right to vote should be included in the

many ways SB 120 helps felons re-enter society.

Restoration of voting rights is another way to help these citizens become contributing members of their communities and to reduce recidivism, thus saving the state the high cost of additional convictions and incarceration."

One of every 11 adult citizens in Kentucky is ineligible to vote due to a previous felony



conviction, a rate of 9.1 percent. That's nearly three times the national average of 2.47 percent! In 2015, then-Governor Steve Beshear issued an order restoring voting rights to individuals with non-violent felony convictions who had completed

their sentences and met other criteria. In late 2015 Gov. Matt Bevin rescinded that order and reinstated a procedure that requires individuals who have completed their full sentence to submit an application detailing their convictions and sentences served. As of October 2016, not a single restoration order had been issued.

## Come to Convention!

By **TERRY NAYDAN and NITA SMITH**

We're personally inviting every member of the League of Women Voters of Kentucky to our biennial State Convention in Louisville on March 31 and April 1 (see pp. 4-5).

Come to hear our guest speakers discuss "fake news" and how it hurts our democracy and "tax reform." Join

us for workshops on Money in Politics, Preparing for our 100th Anniversary, and taking advantage of new interest in the League. We would love to have as many members as possible join us in Louisville for fellowship and stimulating conversations.

We're looking forward to greeting you on March 31 at the Macaroni Grill for dinner and Convention at Lang House the next day.

# Presidents' Message



Co-presidents,  
from top to  
bottom: Terry  
Naydan and Nita  
Smith

By **TERRY NAYDAN**  
and **NITA SMITH**

Thank you to those who joined us for The League Lobby Day. We hope you found the information you received helpful.

The League of Women Voters' upcoming convention will be our last official act as co-presidents. We have

thoroughly enjoyed getting to know members from all over the state. We appreciate their dedication to our core belief that a well-informed electorate is essential in Making Democracy Work.

We thank our wonderful board members who have performed their roles professionally

and with a sense of humor. We could not run the state board without the cooperation of each of them.

We look forward to the next phase of our lives as members of the League of Women Voters of Kentucky.

## Call Frankfort on Upcoming Bills

By **TERRY NAYDAN**

The League of Women Voters of Kentucky has been lobbying in Frankfort on an assortment of is-

Please call your state representative at  
**(800) 372-7181** to leave a message.



sues. But, even if you can't get to Frankfort, you can still lobby — just by using your telephone! Please call your legislators on the toll-free legislative message line (800) 372-7181 and encourage them to do the following:

- **Oppose SB7**, which would allow anyone at least 18 years old to carry a concealed gun without a permit or training.

- **Oppose SB11 and HB90**, the nuclear-power plant bills, which would allow nuclear power plants to be built without having a waste-disposal plan.
- **Support SB120**, a bill to smooth the transition of felons back into society, but ask that they include restoration of voting rights.
- **Support SB 69 & HB170**, the restoration of felons' voting rights bills by Constitutional Amendment.

# State League Hosts Lobby Day in Frankfort

By **RICHARD HEINE**

Forty people gathered on Feb. 7 for League Day at the Capitol to hear from League member Sheila Schuster, Advocacy in Action and the 857 Coalition; Sherman Brown from McCarthy Strategies; Marion McClure Taylor (former executive of the Kentucky Council of Churches); and private political consultant Jared Smith.

Their advice for lobbying: be truthful; be passionate about your issues; be respectful and don't burn bridges; don't forget to thank legislators when they support your issues; be informed – know where bills are in the process; be willing to negotiate; know and work with partners when you can; be persistent and consistent with clear and focused messages; be ready to be gradual, nimble, attentive and social; ask others to help writing letters and making contacts; couch your arguments in economic terms whenever possible; and keep up the communication between sessions.



*Above right, League members learn about lobbying from a professional panel. At right, Donna Blue (left) and Cindy Heine take in Kentucky's beautiful Capitol Building. Below, left, incoming state League President Bonnie Lynch (left) and Donna McIntyre, both of Hopkinsville, listen intently. At bottom right, a panel of paid lobbyists delivered tips to League members. Pictured, League member Sheila Schuster, Sherman Brown, Marion McClure Taylor and Jared Smith. Photos by Cindy Heine*



# 2017 Convention Proposes 2 New Programs

By **CINDY HEINE**

Delegates to the League of Women Voters of Kentucky's State Convention on April 1 will have the chance to vote on two proposed programs.

This year's State Convention will be in Louisville. On the evening of March 31, League members from across the state can hear long-time *Courier-Journal* reporter Deborah Yetter discuss the ongoing problem of "fake news" — distorted or outright invented articles used to bring down candidates and issues.

The next day delegates will decide on adoption of two new proposed programs.

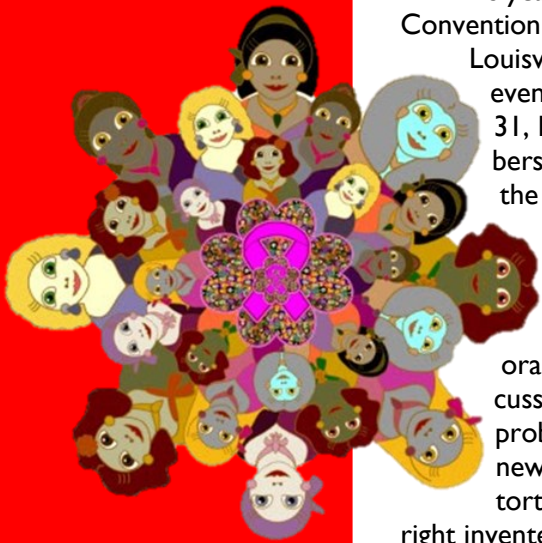
One proposal involves a study to develop a state League position on fair lobbying practices: The proposed study would examine how much paid lobbying eclipses the unpaid input of citizen advocates seeking support of public officials. Eventually, the League hopes to develop principles for fair lobbying practices that include balancing public and pri-

vate interests and enhancing rather than diminishing the influence of ordinary citizens who cannot afford the high-stakes aspect of lobbying. (See p. 5 for the related information on lobbying and SB75.)

The second proposal involves creating candidate-training workshops. The current political turmoil has generated more interest in civic engagement — including running for elected office. The League is perfectly situated to offer candidate-training workshops

in several locations across Kentucky to give potential candidates the information needed as they consider filing to run for public office.

The League has experience doing this. We are trusted. This is a service we can provide to support our democratic process. The League of Women Voters of Kentucky would provide an outline, directions for hosting a successful event and materials that could be used by local Leagues to offer one-day workshops.



LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF KENTUCKY  
GENERAL FUND PROPOSED BUDGET, 2017-2018

	2015-16 ACTUAL	2016-17 BUDGET	2017-18 PROPOSED
<b>INCOME</b>			
Fund-raising Auction	0	400	400
Fund-raising Letter	0	150	1,000
Member Contributions	350	150	150
PMP	2,167.50	3,000	2,500
State Convention	0	1,100	1,100
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>\$2,517.50</b>	<b>\$4,800</b>	<b>\$5,150</b>
<b>EXPENSES</b>			
Advocacy	0	0	100
Fund-raising Expense	157.52	250	200
General Admin	0	50	50
<i>Kentucky Voter</i>	302.84	400	400
LWW Brochures	87.72	100	100
National Council	1,745	2,000	2,000
Office Rent	234	200	200
Postage	0	0	50
President's Travel	0	0	500
Publicity	0	100	100
State Council Expense	0	1,000	1,000
Supplies	41.34	100	100
Telephone	234.45	250	250
Voter Svcs/Candidate Forum	0	100	100
Website	37.99	100	100
With 1 Voice	0	100	100
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>\$2,840.86</b>	<b>\$4,800</b>	<b>\$5,350</b>
<b>Net Difference</b>	<b>-323</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>-200</b>

# Support Convention's Silent Auction

By **NITA SMITH**

We need your help! Please donate items for our Convention Fund-raising Silent Auction! Make, paint, bake or donate gently used or white elephant items. Books and Gift Baskets are also welcome! Also, come to convention prepared to shop, helping support the important work of the League.

*Agenda and Registration Form  
enclosed with print copies or at  
**lwvky.org***

## Call to State Convention

By **TERRY NAYDAN & NITA SMITH**

Please join us for the 2017 League of Women Voters State Convention, hosted by the League of Women Voters of Louisville., March 31 and April 1.

Come for a fun evening and hear Deborah Yetter speak about "Fake News," and on Saturday hear Jason Bailey discuss "Tax Reform." Share important information and enjoy fellowship with League members from across the state. We will make decisions

for the League, electing new officers for the next two years; approving the 2017-18 budgets for General Fund (see at bottom left on p. 4) and the Education Fund (see below); and voting for programs for the coming year. (see p. 4)

Overnight accommodations are at Hyatt Place Louisville East, 701 S. Hurstbourne Parkway, just off Interstate 64 and close to Romano's Macaroni Grill where we will dine Friday evening.

See registration form for more details.

**LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF KY  
EDUCATION FUND PROPOSED BUDGET,  
2017-2018**

	2015-16 ACTUAL	2016-17 BUDGET	2017-18 PROPOSED
<b>INCOME</b>			
Fund-raising Letter	675	1,000	650
Member Contributions	125	100	100
Symposium Income	1,045	0	0
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>\$1,845</b>	<b>\$1,100</b>	<b>\$750</b>
<b>EXPENSES</b>			
Secretary of State	15	15	15
General Admin	38.73		
Office Rent	103	200	200
Program Study	47.39	300	250
Symposium Sponsorship	1,000	0	0
Telephone		250	250
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>\$1,204.12</b>	<b>\$765</b>	<b>\$715</b>
<b>Net Difference</b>	<b>640.88</b>	<b>335</b>	<b>35</b>

## Nominating Committee Report

The Nominating Committee, including Cecile Schubert, Carol O'Reilly, and Chair Pat Murrell, submitted the following report. Elections will be held at convention.

- President Bonnie Lynch, Hopkinsville
- 1st VP Fran Wagner, Louisville
- 2nd VP Donna Blue, Lexington
- Secretary Harriette Seiler, Louisville
- Treasurer Donna McIntyre, Hopkinsville
- Director Lauren Wallace\*, Lexington

\* to fill second year of 2-yr term for director vacancy created with Donna Blue's nomination for VP



By **GEORGE SCHUHMAN**

The League of Women Voters of the United States urges us to fight big money in politics. In Kentucky, there's an effort to double maximum donations to state and local candidates to \$4,000 per election year — and that goes up to \$8,000 when spouses combine their money. Who can afford to do that? Why does anyone think that more money sloshing around in Frankfort will improve things?

The pending bill Senate Bill 75 would permit **corporations** to give unlimited money to the political parties. Influence is up for sale to the highest corporate donors. Ordinary citizens are left in the lurch!

Take action! First call, Frankfort toll-free at (800) 372-7181 and leave a message for your state senator and representative. (Even if you don't know who they are, the operator can determine that from your home address).

Check out the materials available on the US League website: <http://forum.lwv.org/document/money-politics-action-kit>.



## League of Women Voters of Kentucky

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Email: kentuckylwv@gmail.com

Facebook: League of Women Voters of Kentucky

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## LWV of Kentucky Board Members

### Co-Presidents:

Terry Naydan

Nita Smith

### First Vice-President:

Bonnie Lynch

### Second Vice-President:

Steve Senft

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**Treasurer:** Richard Heine

### Directors:

Donna Blue

Tammy Fagley

Cindy Heine

Joan Lindop

Carol O'Reilly

Harriette Seiler

George Schuhmann

Meryl Ward

### Nominating Committee:

Pat Murrell

Cecile Schubert

**The Voter Editor:** Ivonne Rovira



## Calendar

### State Convention

**Registration Form:** [lwvky.com](http://lwvky.com)

**March 31, 6:30 p.m.** Dinner, kick-off, Speaker: Deborah Yetter, reporter for *The Courier-Journal*, discussing "Fake News."

**Romano's Macaroni Grill, 401 S. Hurstbourne Parkway, Louisville.**

**April 1, 8:30 a.m.**

**State Convention. Lang House, 115 S. Ewing, Louisville.**

**June 22-25:** League of Women Voters of the United States National Council. **The National Conference Center, Leesburg, VA**