

## LWV OF KENTUCKY

### SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

- Check out Election Calendar, p. 4

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# The Kentucky Voter



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SUMMER 2018

## LWVKY Delegates Attend Nat'l Convention

The League of Women Voters of the United States conducted its 53rd National Convention from June 28 to July 1 in Chicago.

The event kicked off a two-year celebration of the upcoming 100th anniversary in 2020 of the Nineteenth Amendment that granted women the vote and the establishment of the League of Women Voters.

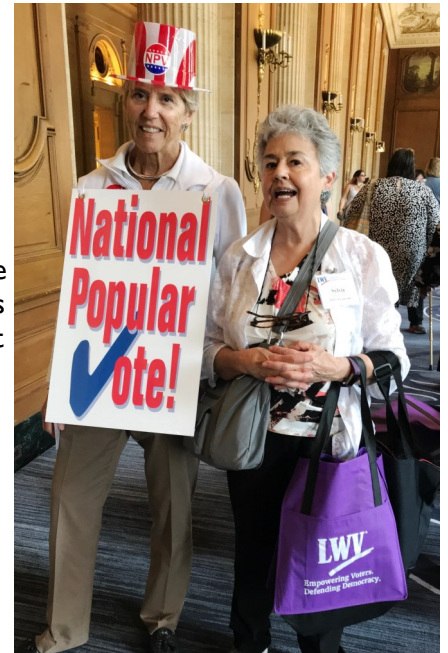
More than 1,000 League leaders from 49 states and the District of Columbia attended leadership workshops and heard speakers discuss League priorities.

Over the four-day Convention, delegates voted on the national organization's priorities and resolutions. There were several discussions about the Electoral College system of electing the U.S. President and Vice President. The Convention overwhelmingly passed a resolution reaffirming the League's long-held position that the Electoral College should be abolished in favor of a popular vote system.

"There are many reasons why now is the time to eliminate the Electoral College system," said Wanda Lynch, president of the

League of Women Voters of Kentucky and a delegate to the national convention. "The Electoral College discourages people from voting because they feel their votes do not count, and it magnifies the divisiveness in our country by emphasizing a false Blue State/Red State divide."

No delegates spoke in opposition to the resolution. The League of Women Voters first called for an  
**(Cont'd on p. 3)**



Sylvia Lieshoff was one of the delegates to the national convention. Photo by Bill Lieshoff

## Women's Equality Day in Louisville

By **IVONNE ROVIRA**

Do yourself a favor and be sure to attend the Women's Equality Day celebration at the Frazier History Museum in Louisville.

The theme for the free program on Saturday will be *Speaking Out: Educating Women*. This celebration of the 98th anniversary of the passage of the Nineteenth

Amendment begins at 10:30 a.m. at the Frazier History Museum, 829 W. Main St

All three female university presidents (Tori Murden, Spalding University; Susan Donovan, Bellarmine University; and Neeli Bendapudi, University of Louisville) will speak.

The event is free and open to the public.

# President's Message

By **BONNIE LYNCH**

The 53rd National Convention was an awesome experience! We were very fortunate to have a delegation of seven (nine including the husbands) representing Kentucky.

The theme of the convention "Creating a More Perfect Democracy" focused on our core priorities: voter service and protecting voting rights. The information shared in each session encouraged and motivated us to prepare for the

challenges we will encounter this election year.

The recommended programs: The Campaign for Making Democracy Work focuses on Voting Rights, Improving Elections, Money in Politics and Redistricting. The Redistricting Committee has already completed the study and will begin sharing the report with other leagues and groups this fall. That only leaves the three programs and all the candidates forums and oh yes, voter regis-

tration. Oh yes, I forgot about the charter school issues and the felon's rights issue! The list continues, but one thing I know: Whatever the challenges, the League of Women Voters of Kentucky will accomplish each task with sweat on our brow and a smile on our face.

I hope many of you will attend Women's Equality Day in Louisville on Saturday, Aug. 26.

**Time to get to work!**



President Wanda "Bonnie" Lynch

## State League Forgoes PMP for Students

By **CINDY HEINE**









At its May retreat, the board of League of Women Voters of Kentucky adopted a policy to follow the lead of the League of Women Voters of the United States in not charging per-member payments (PMP) for students. The policy is effective immediately and will continue until 2021 when its impact will be reviewed.

Local Leagues will no longer be required to make per-member payments to the State or National Leagues for student members. It is up to each local league to determine what, if any, local dues

they will charge.









The purpose of this policy change is to encourage young people to join the League, become politically active and continue to be involved even after graduating from student status.



**Not registered to vote? You can register online at [GoVoteKY.com](http://GoVoteKY.com). Make sure your vote is heard!**

**You can also use [GoVoteKY.com](http://GoVoteKY.com) to verify precinct location and legislative districts.**

# LWV of Kentucky Attends National Convention in Chicago

(Cont'd from p. 1)

end to the Electoral College in favor of a popular vote system in 1970. The issue received more attention after the 2000 and 2016 Presidential elections, when the winners in the Electoral College lost the popular vote.

The League's position on the Electoral College is just one part of its Campaign for Making Democracy Work®, which includes ensuring a free, fair, and accessible electoral system for all eligible voters.

The League of Women Voters of Kentucky was represented by Lynch and Glistine Jones, both from Hopkinsville, and State Directors Mary Jo Rodgers and Joan Lindop, both from Louisville. Becki Harmon from the Louisville League also attended as a delegate.



Delegates from across Kentucky gathered at the League of Women Voters of the United States' Convention in Chicago last summer. Pictured, from left to right, are State President Bonnie Lynch of Hopkinsville, and Sylvia Lieshoff and Barbara Cambron of Louisville. Photo by Bill Lieshoff

## Lexington Hosts League of Women Voters of Kentucky Council

From Board minutes taken By **HARRIETTE SEILER**

The League of Women Voters of Kentucky Council 2018 met in Lexington April 13-14.

Friday evening's speaker, Fayette County Clerk Don Blevins, Jr., spoke about the challenges clerks face with elections. He indicated there is one small way hackers could get into Lexington's voting systems and that he expects we will go back to some form of paper ballot in the future.

He said there is very little election fraud except for old-fashioned "vote buying." Fayette County has had very few instances of people trying to vote who were not eligible. On Saturday, April 14, Council met in the Narthex of Faith Lutheran Church, with 25 eligible delegates, representing Hopkinsville, Louisville, Callaway County, Bell County and Lexington. The members elected new directors

and adopted General Fund and Education Fund budgets.

Members also adopted amendments to the by-laws, providing for accepting Kentucky At-Large members (formerly members at-large or MALs) and State-Administered Leagues (SALs). Our first state-administered League, Calloway County, was represented by new (at-large member, Janice Thomasson.

## Christian County LWV Hosts Forums

By **MARTHA WHITE**

The League of Women Voters of Hopkinsville-Christian County had a very busy primary election season! With 29 candidates running for seven offices, it was a challenge to schedule all for a forum. But schedule we did, and all went off without a hitch.

Thanks to Hopkinsville, we had the use of their council chambers, and they recorded the sessions so that they could be run later on their TV channel. We also managed to livestream at least a few of the sessions which we posted on Facebook for

those who couldn't attend.

We had four people running for Christian County Coroner: two Democrats and two Republicans. Those forums were held on April 24, as was the one for Circuit Court Clerk. Two candidates fought for that top spot, and it was a hotly contested race. Lots of supporters for both sides attended, but everyone behaved themselves.

On April 26, we hosted the forums for the Hopkinsville City Council race.

Six people were vying for one of three spots. Then, on April 20, we held the forums for Christian County Sheriff, where two Republicans and five Democrats were vying. Those running for Christian County Magistrate turned out at forums held on May 3, with three seats open and two running for each seat.

The final scheduled primary forum was on May 8 for Congressional candidates and a state representative race.

Because there were so many forums on so



The LWV accommodated 29 candidates running for seven offices with candidate forums. Here are some of the candidates.

### Election Calendar

**Tuesday, Oct. 9:** Last day to register to vote for the general election.

**Wednesday, Oct. 10 – Monday, Nov. 12:** Registration books are closed.

**Friday, Oct. 19 – Monday, Nov 5:** Voter may make application to vote absentee in county clerk's office at least 12 working days preceding election.

**Tuesday, Oct. 23 – Nov. 6:** Voter and his/her spouse may request paper ballots because of a medical emergency..

**Tuesday, Oct. 30:** Last day to apply for an absentee ballot.

**Tuesday, Oct. 30 – Monday, Nov. 5:** Armed service members who suddenly learn they're confined to a military base on Election Day can apply to vote absentee.

**Tuesday, Oct. 9:** General Election Day, 6 a.m.–6 p.m.

many days, we held a moderator training session late in April so that we had plenty of moderators and time keepers. Questions were provided by League members and the public, who were asked to submit questions ahead of time.

Following the forums, the League sponsored a "Meet the Candidate" lunch on May 18. Lunch was provided by League members, and most of the candidates showed up to this long-standing "meet and greet." It was a very busy and successful spring!

# State League Council Meets in Lexington

(Cont'd on p. 5)  
(Cont'd from p. 3)

Local Leagues reported on their activities this year with the usual voter registration, candidate forums, issues studies and forums, and one new project: Jefferson County's plan to host a FLASH MOB.

Terry Naydan and Nita Smith provided a legislative update — their last as they will be stepping down from this job.

Susan Perkins Weston and Cindy Heine shared information about our redistricting efforts and asked for member reaction to becoming



Members gather at Friday night's dinner at the League of Women Voters of Kentucky's Council meeting in Lexington in April.

Photo by Bill Lieshoff



President Bonnie Lynch distributes name tags Saturday at the LWVKY's Council. Photo by Bill Lieshoff

co-sponsors of a statewide redistricting competition before the next redistricting in 2022, to raise awareness of and engage citizens in this issue. The Committee was directed to move ahead with cau-

tion, getting final approval from the Board as we learn more.

Lunch speaker Allyson Cox Taylor, director of the Office of Child Abuse and Human Trafficking Prevention and Prosecution in the Attorney General's office, discussed human trafficking in Kentucky and provided contacts to report suspected trafficking. She mentioned that young people from "out of town" going door to door selling books, candy, etc., are frequently the target of traffickers, which surprised many members.

Priorities for the coming year include:

- Updating our candidate forum policies (feedback from members will be discussed at the next board meeting);
- Education including implementation of charter schools and the proposed state take-over of Jefferson County schools. Terry Naydan will take over as chair, due to Carol O'Reilly's resignation;
- Restoration of voting rights

for felons;

- Health care, following concerns about the Governor's redesign of Medicaid; pharmaceutical costs and state contracts with pharmacy benefit managers;
- The need for help with social media;
- Membership Committee work at the state level to take advantage of renewed interest in League work, looking for a new chair;
- Money in Politics work, led by George Schuhmann;
- Redistricting, looking for new chair;
- The need for Tax Reform to generate revenue, and
- Centennial/League 100th anniversary. Each local League is asked to sponsor a celebratory event in their town.



## League of Women Voters of Kentucky

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### 2018-19 LWV KY OFFICERS

President: Bonnie Lynch, Hopkinsville  
First Vice-President: Fran Wagner, Louisville  
Second Vice-President: Donna Blue, Lexington  
Secretary: Harriette Seiler, Louisville  
Treasurer: Donna McIntyre, Hopkinsville

### DIRECTORS

Soraya Assar, Greenville  
Cindy Heine, Lexington  
Joan Lindop, Louisville  
Terry Naydan, Lexington  
Mary Jo Rodgers, Louisville  
Steve Senft, Lexington  
Nita Smith, Lexington

### NOMINATING COMMITTEE:

Richard Heine, Lexington  
Mary Jo Rodgers, Louisville  
Anita Simmons, Hopkinsville

### KY VOTER EDITORS

Soraya Assar, Greenville  
Ivonne Rovira, Louisville



## Calendar

**Saturday, Aug. 25,  
10:30 a.m.:** Women's  
Equality Day program:  
*Speaking Out: Educating  
Women.* **Frazier History  
Museum, 829 W. Main  
St.**

**Saturday, Aug. 25, 1:30  
a.m.:** League of Women  
Voters of Kentucky Board  
meeting. **Lang House,  
Louisville.**