

## LWV OF KENTUCKY

### SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

Charter School message sent to state officials. See pg. 3.

Candidate Training Workshops Scheduled pg 6

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# The Kentucky Voter



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## LWVKY Represented at National Council

By **CINDY AND RICHARD HEINE**

We were privileged to represent Kentucky at the League of Women Voters Council, June 22 – 25, in Leesburg, Va., with representatives from 43 other states where we provided feedback and guidance to LWV US board and staff as they rethink the League's Mission for Impact, Engagement and Sustainability.

The League is having an impact, is financially healthy and is growing in members and engagers (especially after the 2016 election). This is a critical time in our democracy, and an amazing time of opportunity for the League with the renewed interest in state and national politics. Making Democracy Work will continue to be the League's primary focus as we work to engage more citizens.

We focused on Five Transformational Objectives, created by a smaller group of League leaders from across the country earlier this year including:

1. **Retaining & Expanding engage-**



**ment of new individuals** with a focus on diversification and taking advantage of new and renewed interest in the League.

2. **Increasing External Perception of the League by exploring shared data and fundraising opportunities local-state-national.** Nonmembers don't understand or care about whether they are engaging at the local, state or national League level; they just want to engage

and make a difference with trusted guidance. The League is piloting plans to engage more people by having everyone "join" at national (like Sierra Club), with funds flowing down to state and then local levels, eliminating some of the time-consuming administrative tasks for local volunteers.

3. **Discussing ways to increase outreach and impact and sharing among state and local Leagues** (a (cont'd on p. 3)

# President's Message

**By BONNIE LYNCH**



President Wanda  
"Bonnie" Lynch

I am so grateful for the opportunity to serve the League of Women Voters of Kentucky for the next two years. It is an honor to serve with so many wonderful women and men, each eager to Make Democracy Work!

It is an exciting time in the nation and in our state. So many issues to read about, so many meetings to attend, and so many folks we must inform of the current issues.

I encourage every member to wear your League of Women Voters button and be a "presence" in as many

meetings as possible. Visibility is important in making the League a vital part of any debate.

Many thanks to the committees that are working diligently.

I would like to urge League members to do three things to engage fellow citizens in the League's goal of Making Democracy Work.

First, invite citizens (your friends and family) who are tired of the partisan bickering, to any of your local events to learn more about the League.

Second, encourage friends and family who want to "do something" about our political systems to sign up for the

League's Action Alerts at <http://lwv.org/>. You don't have to be a member of the League to be on this email list! Any concerned citizen may take part.

Lastly, encourage friends who do not have a local League in their community to join the League as a state Kentucky Member-At-Large by emailing [LWVKY@gmail.com](mailto:LWVKY@gmail.com)!

Engaging citizens in the League takes personal contacts! You can make a difference.

And finally, watch for the Redistricting Committee report. Members are working hard and plan to release it later this fall! This is another important effort in Making Democracy Work.

## *Ideas to Combat the Hate from Charlottesville*

**By SARAH COURTNEY**

We continue to grapple with the hateful events that were displayed in August in Charlottesville. In that vein, the League of Women Voters of the United States would like to offer the following opportunities to act on an individual level with faith and social justice groups from around the country.

1. Call your state legislator and tell them to protect the protesters. Free speech and the right to peaceably assemble are

among the cornerstones of our democracy.

2. Share your story through Communities Against Hate. If you or someone you know has experienced or witnessed a hate incident, please encourage them to share their story.

3. Amplify #BeTheLightForJustice on your social media channels. Leaders in the faith and racial justice communities, including the NAACP and Religious Action Center of

Reform Judaism, are teaming up to share positive messages of individuals standing up for justice.

### **Ky Legislative Lines**

To leave a message for your state representatives, check bill status and daily calendars call:

Legislative Message Line	(800) 372-7178
Bill Status Line	(866) 840-2835
Calendar (Meetings) Line	(800) 633-9650
TTY Message Line	(800) 896-0305
En español	(866) 840-6574

These toll-free numbers work only in Kentucky

## LWV Sends Request to KDE

By **CAROL O'REILLY**

The League of Women Voters remains concerned about the recent Kentucky charter school legislation because of the threat it poses to public schools. We are sending a letter to Education Commissioner Stephen Prewitt because of our concern. In it, we urge that the Annenberg Rules should serve as the primary guide for implementing charter schools.

The Annenberg document, "Public Accountability for Charter schools: Standards and Policy Recommendations for Effective Oversight" (2013) includes the following:

Traditional districts and charter schools should work together to ensure a coordinated approach that serves all children.

School governance should be representative and transparent. Charter schools should ensure equal access and prohibit "cherry-picking" by which charters discourage or push out expensive-to-educate students, such as the poor, English language learners and students with disabilities.

Charter school discipline policy should be fair and transparent. They should have adequate school facilities.

Charter schools should be strong and fully funded by the state. In return, they should be closely monitored.

While the above standards seem reasonable and mesh with the Kentucky legislation, the League sees the need to move forward judiciously. As noted in the re-



port, "...uneven academic performance; practices that pushed or kept students out of charter schools; overly harsh discipline policies; funding patterns that destabilized traditional schools; and a lack of representative governance, transparency, and oversight have led to potential

conflicts of interest and instances of fraud and other problems." Caution is urged as Kentucky proceeds.

Read the rules in their entirety at <http://www.annenberginstitute.org/sites/default/files/CharterAccountabilityStds.pdf>.

### *LWV KY Represented at Council in Leesburg, Va.*

(con't from pg 1)

- new website design is underway).
4. **Adjusting local league guidelines for quicker onboarding of new leagues and shifting some responsibility to state leagues.** The National board adopted a new definition of local Leagues in April, making it easier to create a league, so more people can begin to focus on Making Democracy Work more quickly. Still required: nonpartisan policy; speaking With One Voice; using League guidelines for candidate debates/forums. This new process is optional for states. Kentucky's board will discuss new policies at our Dec. meeting.
  5. **Evaluating the proposed framework for national and state opportunities to test new approaches** (Conducting pilots to try new ways to collect dues, create new Leagues and more.)

In addition, we were encouraged to join together with other groups with similar interests to expand our impact.

Council was a stimulating experience and we are enthusiastic about new approaches and strategies discussed through the council work and through networking with League leaders across the country.

## More Members for Lobbying Study

By **GEORGE SCHUHMANN**

The study on lobbying in Kentucky approved at the State Convention in April needs your help.

We have five members, but we need five more to make this a truly statewide effort. Some from the Lexington area would help to fill a gap. While most of our work can be done individually with coordination by con-

ference phone calls, we will also gather information from elected officials, lobbyists and others using two-person teams to interview — one to ask the questions and the other to keep a record of the responses.

To volunteer, or simply for more information, please email to [g.s.schuh@gmail.com](mailto:g.s.schuh@gmail.com), or call (502) 802-5833.

# Louisville Hosts 2017 Convention

By **IVONNE ROVIRA**

Bonnie Lynch of Hopkinsville took the helm of the League of Women Voters of Kentucky when Louisville hosted the League's State Convention at Lang House on April 1.

Lynch is replacing outgoing Co-Presidents Terry Naydan and Nita Smith, both of Lexington.

Thirty-three delegates from Louisville, Lexington and Hopkinsville gathered to determine League policy and strategy for the upcoming year. Additional

League members also attended.

Delegates also elected other new officers for the state League: Vice President Fran Wagner, Louisville; Vice President for Arrangements and Publicity Donna Blue, Lexington; Treasurer Donna McIntyre, Hopkinsville; Lauren Wallace of Hopkinsville was elected Director for Communications to fill the remaining year vacancy created when Donna Blue was elevated to one of the vice presidencies.

At the meeting, Caroline Self of Hopkinsville urged that the League capitalize on the new interest in people wanting to work for

change since the election.

Carolyn said it was unfeasible to travel around the state to fulfill all of the requests for speakers on democracy and good government.

"What we can do is start more leagues," she said, adding that she had gotten calls from six areas in Kentucky wanting to start their own Leagues.

At the meeting, those attending heard from League member Marsha Weinstein, the national chair for the Women's Trail. She's helping the League prepare for 2020, when both the League of Women Voters and the



Jason Bailey, executive director of the Kentucky Center for Economic Policy, served as the keynote speaker.



The League of Women Voters of celebrates the election of a new board: (from left to right) Nita Smith, George Schuhmann, Fran Wagner, Carol O'Reilly, Harriette Seiler, Cindy Heine, Bonnie Lynch, Donna Blue, Mary Jo Rodgers, Steve Senft, Tammy Fagley, Richard Heine, Terry Naydan and Anita Simmons.



Nineteenth Amendment, which granted women suffrage, mark their 100th anniversary. (The



**Marsha Weinstein**

Women’s Trail, like the Bourbon Trail or the national Underground Railroad Trail,

will provide a map to areas nationwide that were instrumental to the advancement of women.

As part of this celebration of women’s suffrage, the Frazier Museum will be staging an exhibit in 2019 or 2020. There will also be a documentary and a companion book.

Weinstein would also like to reproduce a suffrage parade. A thousand women marched in a suffrage parade for 1913 inauguration of President Woodrow Wilson — including 75 women on horseback!

“See how much fun that would be?” she said.

Even though women have accomplished so much, Weinstein said, it’s important for there to be public displays about their accomplishments. For example, if girls don’t see women leaders in public art, “they’ll think women didn’t do anything,” she explained.

Speaking at the dinner on March 31, *Courier-Journal* reporter Deborah Yetter led a lively discussion on “fake news,” while the keynote speaker on April was Jason Bailey, executive director of the Kentucky Center for Economic Policy. He discussed different types of tax reform, including how statistics show that income taxes generate more and fairer economic growth than sales taxes.



**Bonnie Lynch of Hopkinsville is the new president of the League of Women Voters of Kentucky.**

## *LWVKY Approves Board Officers*

### **Currently Serving 2-year terms (2017–19)**

#### **OFFICERS**

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

### **Currently Serving 2-year terms (2016-18)**

#### **DIRECTORS**

Tamara Fagley	Lexington
Cindy Heine	Lexington
Carol O’Reilly	Lexington
Joan Lindop	Louisville
Harriette Seiler	Louisville
George Schuhmann	Louisville
Lauren Wallace*	Lexington
Meryl Ward	Middlesboro

\*filling the remaining year vacancy created when Donna Blue was elected to a vice presidency

### **NOMINATING COMMITTEE (2017-19)**

Steve Senft	Lexington
Mary Jo Rogers	Louisville
Anita Simmons	Hopkinsville



## League of Women Voters of Kentucky

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Phone: (502) 875-6481

Email: kentuckylwv@gmail.com

Facebook: League of Women Voters of Kentucky

## Return Service Requested

### ***LWV KY Submits Comments on Medicaid Waiver***

KY League president, Bonnie Lynch, sent a letter to Vickie Yates Brown, Secretary, Cabinet for Health & Family Service, commenting on the state's plan to redesign the current Medicaid program. Read the letter and press release at [lwvky.org](http://lwvky.org).

### ***Leagues to Host Candidate Training Workshops: Please Share!***

Lexington and Hopkinsville Leagues are hosting candidate training workshops to provide information to citizens interested in running for public office. Lexington's Sat. Oct 21 workshop will be at Imani Baptist Church, 9 to 3 (ET). Registration is required. Cost \$30. For details: [lwvlexington.com](http://lwvlexington.com) or 859-494-3203.

Hopkinsville's Sat. Nov. 18 workshop is co-hosted by the local League and the Hopkinsville Alumnae Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta, at the Murray State Regional Campus in Hopkinsville. For more details, contact Martha White, [BKMNS7@yahoo.com](mailto:BKMNS7@yahoo.com) or Felicia Earthman, [N2u\\_42240@yahoo.com](mailto:N2u_42240@yahoo.com).



## Calendar

**Sat. Oct 21, 9—3p.m. Candidate Training Workshop,**  
Imani Baptist Church, Lexington

**Sat. Nov 18: Candidate Training Workshop,**  
Murray State Regional Campus, Hopkinsville

**Sat. Dec 2, 10 a.m. League of Women Voters of Kentucky Board meeting.** Location TBA.

**Fri-Sat, April 13-14, State Convention,** Lexington  
**June 28-July 1: LWV US 2018 Convention,** Chicago