

Forum to Examine Planning Commission

By EMMA SMITH

The League of Women Voters of Louisville will host a forum on Louisville's Planning Commission. Speaking will be Stephen T. Porter, attorney, Realtor and acknowledged expert in land use and planning

Titled *Is the Planning Commission an Echo Chamber?*, the forum will take place on **Monday, March 16**, at Lang House. Dinner will be served at **5:30 p.m.**, while the program begins at **6 p.m.** Donations will be accepted for the dinner, and, as with all of our Dinner and Democracy programs, the public is invited.

The forum will explain the Board of Zoning Adjustment, examine the



Walmart hullabaloo, and explain why citizens need to care about planning and zoning.

Porter represented a group opposed to Walmart's skirting of the city's design rules at its proposed big-box store at 18th Street and Broadway.

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April Forum Focuses on ACA and Kynect

By HARRIETTE SEILER

One year after the rollout of the Affordable Care Act (ACA), the League of Women Voters of Louisville will be examining how far Ken-

tucky has come — and how far it has to go.

Titled *How Has Kentucky Been Doing Under the ACA?*, the forum will take place on **Monday, April 20**, at

Lang House. Dinner will be served at **5:30 p.m.**, while the program begins at the **6 p.m.** Donations are always welcomed.

Kentucky has been praised nationwide for the efficient rollout and implementation of the ACA

via the Kynect exchange and the concomitant expansion of Medicaid.

The Governor's office has just released a one-year study by Deloitte Consulting and the University of Louisville's Urban Studies Institute, *Medicaid Expansion 2014*; the report includes a county-by-county analysis of enrollment data and the potential impact of expansion on the state's economy. (You can see the document at <http://governor.ky.gov/healthierky>.)

(Cont'd on p. 2)



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MARK YOUR CALENDAR

- Dinner and Democracy: *Is the Planning Commission an Echo Chamber?* March 16
- Dinner and Democracy: *How Has Kentucky Been Doing Under the ACA?*, April 20
- Dinner and Democracy: *Increasing the Minimum Wage: Whose Reality Is It?*, May 18

LWV Works for Change in 2015 Session

By PAT MURRELL

At our January meeting we gave champagne toasts to Katy Christopherson for raising the money for the capital campaign, and to Mary Jo Rodgers for getting all of the repairs and renovations completed! The back entrance is now beautiful and inviting. Thank you, thank you!

These past few months have been a time of *active citizenship!* Thanks to all of you who have responded to our state and national action alerts and contacted your officials. A big thanks to members Beverly Moore and



**THE LEAGUE OF
WOMEN VOTERS**
Louisville

Richard Beliles for testifying on behalf of HB63 (public financing for judicial races) and to members Joan Lindop, Fran Wagner, George Schuhmann and Ron Schneider for going to Frankfort to represent the League

Coming up are two activities on which you can spend as much

or as little time as you desire: high school visitations to see the many different career and magnet programs that are available — you will be surprised at the number and variety — and, second, in March and April, we will be visiting high schools to register voters.

Forum Examines ACA in Kentucky

(Cont'd from p. 1)

In 2011, the U.S. Census Bureau estimated that 621,000 Kentuckians, 14.4 percent of our total state population, had no health insurance. The Deloitte study cites national data indicating that, as of mid-2014, the percentage of uninsured in Kentucky had dropped to 11.9 percent, or about 523,040 persons.

The League is pleased that more Kentuckians have access to insurance coverage; however, we realize that access alone will not ensure that our people receive quality care. At our LWV State Conference in 2013, delegates approved a recommendation that members monitor the implementation of the ACA in Kentucky, insisting on “transparency, oversight of contracts and accountability in order to maintain the focus on equitable distribution of health services.”

We are planning a program that will go beyond the numbers

to explore the effects of the recent reforms on patients, on physicians, and on other providers. Challenges remain. Items now called into question include the affordability of private insurance plans, higher deductibles, the rising costs of prescription drugs, and recent developments in Medicare.



☞ In Memoriam ☜

We were all saddened at the death of Metro Councilman Jim King. He was an outstanding role model of good citizenship. He made a lasting contribution to our community.

Remembering Mary Elizabeth Baker

By ELIZABETH BLEETE

For many years, we have received a contribution annually in memory of Mary Elizabeth Baker, given by her daughter, Elizabeth Bleete, née Betty Baker. Mrs. Baker had been active in League of Women Voters; she died in 1993. I have a brief memory of Mrs. Baker, but most of our members do not know her, so I asked Mrs. Bleete to give us a brief biography of her mother.

— Pat Murrell

Mary Elizabeth, née Turner, was born in Louisville on March 16, 1906. She grew up in Shelbyville and attended Science Hill School for Girls.

She spent one year at Sweet Briar College, decided it was too far away from any men, and transferred to Wellesley College, from which she graduated in 1927. She hoped to have a career in the diplomatic corps, and passed the very difficult written test, but not the oral. She claimed that at the oral the men giving the test were looking out the window instead of paying attention!

She married Lisle Baker, Jr. and lived briefly with him in Frankfort while he was a banker. When Roosevelt closed the banks, they took the train to Louisville to bring gold for the reopening of the Louisville bank, and she carried it in a shoebox so it would not seem important.

After her husband came to work at *The Courier-Journal* and *The Louisville Times* and they moved to Louisville, she became active in the League of Women Voters, and gave her children to understand that the League sits at the right hand of God. She was also a fervent supporter of the United Nations, and



when her children were grown, she opened a United Nations gift shop selling handicrafts from

around the world. She recruited many of her friends as volunteers. The profits went to the United Nations, and her children received a steady stream of Christmas and birthday gifts, such as Moroccan leather change purses and Chinese satin slippers.

She managed a gubernatorial campaign for her friend Ben Kilgore, and, although he did not win, he showed such strength that her children understood he was later offered the Democratic nomination but declined it.

She traveled with and without her husband to many foreign countries and always kept up on all international developments.

She died in June of 1993 in Louisville at the age of 87.

2 Brown-Bag Book Talks Scheduled

By PAT MURRELL

The League of Women Voters of Louisville continues its series of informal book discussions with two more interesting talks.

Barbara Kelty will lead the discussion on *Blindspot: Hidden Biases of Good People* by Mahzarin R. Banaji and Anthony G.

Greenwald, on **Thursday, March 12, at noon at Lang House.** The book is in the library, but may not be on the card catalog — so be sure to ask. Also available at HalfPrice Books.

For April, Pat Walker will lead the discussion on *America's Bitter Pill* by Steven Brill, a study and update on the impact of the Affordable Care Act. Bring your brown bag lunch on



Thursday, April 16, at noon, at Lang House.

Do you have a book on history, policy, politics, or current events that you think would be great to discuss? Please consider leading a brown-bag book discussion on your favorite book. Time, day and date for each book will be determined by the discussion leader.

League Addresses School Board on Magnet Schools

By **FRANCES COTTON**

League of Women Voters President Pat Murrell and I, the chair of the League's Education Committee, testified before the Jefferson County Board of Education. We stressed to the School Board that the League supported the recommendation of an outside company that a community task force develop the purposes, mission and goals of the various magnet schools.

In its 1990 study on magnet schools, the League concluded that such magnet schools should be diverse, promote achievement and attract students from across racial and economic lines.

"The League believes that the recommendations regarding equity and diversity merit special attention" Pat said.

"JCPS schools vary extremely in the socio-economic situations of their students, as well as the racial percentages; those inequalities among schools are reflected in the large gap in achievement scores between schools with many advantaged students and those with many impoverished students.

"The inequalities can be corrected, but that requires intentionally modifying selection criteria. Selection criteria and procedures can be constructed to provide more equitable access to magnets."

Pat noted that the outside evaluator firm, Magnet Schools of America, had recommended a lottery for magnet schools. While some magnet schools, such as the Brown School, current operate with a lottery, others — most notably DuPont Manual — do not.

In my testimony, I ended

by saying: "Magnets should be terminated when evaluation so indicates or when a program itself can be incorporated into regular school programs."

Pat and I made our comments to the School Board in November.



Planning Commission Forum

(Cont'd from p. 1)

Porter has been an attorney since 1968, when he graduated from Uof L's Brandeis School of Law. He owns Steve Porter, Realtors, a real estate brokerage firm. As an adjunct professor at U of L

Brandeis School, he teaches Land Use and Planning Law and Local Government Law. He has long been involved in planning, land development, preservation activities.



On the 1965 march from Selma to Alabama was a white college senior from Duke University who had driven up an interracial group from Durham, N.C., to participate in the march. That college senior was Steven T. Porter, our speaker on March 16. Here he is pictured during that march with the Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King.

League Seeks Nominations for Annual Citizens Award

By PAT MURRELL

The League of Women Voters of Louisville is calling for nominations for the League Citizens Award.

The award honors someone who, *as a volunteer*, personifies the mission of the League of Women Voters, which is to promote informed and active participation in the democratic process.

Most recently, the award was presented to Blaine Hudson in 2012. Other previous honorees include Nelle Horlander, James Rosenblum, Carolyn Hutto, Lyman John-

son, Virginia Burbank, Janet Dakan, and Stephanie Bateman.

The honoree's contributions should impact our geographic area. The honoree *need not* be a League member. At the time of the award, the honoree should not be holding, nor a candidate for, elective office. The award may be given posthumously.

Nominations are due in the League office by **April 1**,



and any League member or other citizen of this area may make a nomination.

If an award is made, it will be given at the annual meeting in June. The award will be given only when an exceptional contribution has been made.

Contact the League office to get the nomination procedure; call 895-5218 or email info@lwvlouisville.org

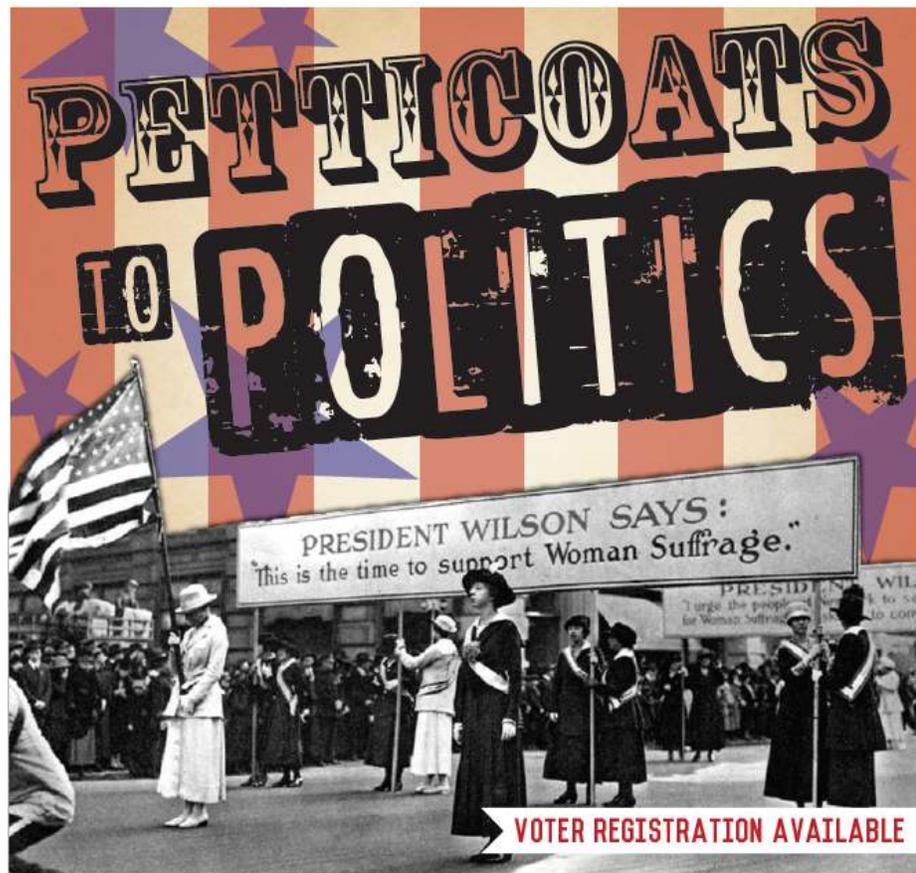
League to Discuss Politics, Then and Now

At the invitation of the Southwest Branch of the Louisville Free Public Library, President Pat Murrell and member Marsha Weinstein will be speaking about women in politics, 100 years ago and today.

The program, *Petticoats to Politics*, is scheduled for **Wednesday, March 18, at 6:30 p.m.** The library describes that those in attendance that evening will “discover the hard journey women took to acquire the right to vote, and learn how you can be a part of the political process.”

The Southwest Branch is located at 9725 Dixie Highway.

The League will be registering new voters at the event.





The Louisville Voter

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of Louisville

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Calendar

Monday, March 2, 2 p.m.:

Planning and organizing committee for high-school voter registration. **Lang House.**

Monday, March 2, 6 p.m.:

LWV Board meeting. **Lang House.**

Wednesday, March 11, 5:45

p.m.: Campaign Finance Reform Committee. **Lang House.**

Thursday, March 12, noon:

Book discussion of *Blindspot: Hidden Biases of Good People* by Mahzarin R. Banaji and Anthony G. Greenwald. Discussion Leader: Barb Kely. **Lang House.**

Monday, March 16, 5:30 p.m.:

Dinner and Democracy: *Is the Planning Commission an Echo Chamber?* Speaker: attorney Stephen T. Porter. Donations accepted for the dinner. Dinner served at 5:30 p.m.; program begins at 6 p.m. **Lang House.**

Wednesday, March 18, 6:30

p.m.: *Petticoats to Politics*, a program on the battle for suffrage on who women — and men — can get involved today in the political process. Speaker: Pat Murrell. **Southwest Regional Library**, 9725 Dixie Hwy.

Monday, April 6, 6 p.m.: LWV Board meeting. **Lang House.**

Thursday, April 16, noon:

Book discussion of *America's Bitter Pill* by Steven Brill. Discussion Leader: Pat Walker. **Lang House.**

Monday, April 20, 5:30 p.m.:

Dinner and Democracy: *How Has Kentucky Been Doing Under the ACA?* Speaker: TBA. Donations accepted for the dinner. Dinner served at 5:30 p.m.; program begins at 6 p.m. **Lang House.**

Monday, May 4, 6 p.m.: LWV Board meeting. **Lang House.**

Rescheduled: Monday, May 18, 5:30 p.m.: Dinner and Democracy: *Increasing the Minimum Wage: Whose Reality Is It?* Invited speakers: Jason Bailey, director of the Kentucky Center for Economic Policy, and a representative of the Louisville Chamber of Commerce. Donations accepted for the dinner. Refreshments served at 5:30 p.m.; program begins at 6 p.m. **Lang House.**