

League to Spotlight Lobbying

By JOAN LINDOP

The League of Women Voters of Louisville will host a forum featuring information about lobbying in general and the League's 2015 lobbying effort in particular.

Titled *Legislative Agenda: 2015*, the forum will take place on **Monday, Jan. 19**, at Lang House. The soup-and-salad 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.

Engineer Jack Barnett, president of the Kentucky Solar Energy Society (KySES), will discuss plans for a clean-energy initiative to replace the



Rep. Marzian



Jack Barnett



Nancy Givens

tax credits that expire in 2016, and Nancy Givens, also with KySES.

State Representative Mary Lou Marzian will explain the fundamentals of effective lobbying and discuss bills that she will be sponsoring and supporting.

In addition to the various environmental initiatives, the League will be supporting the restoration of voting rights to felons who have paid their debt to society and public financing for

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February Forum Focuses on Minimum Wage

By NICOLE GEORGE

Is the federal minimum wage of \$7.25 per hour enough?

According to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, 1.7 million Americans make minimum wage. Jason Bailey, director of the Kentucky Center for Economic Policy, and a representative of the Louisville Chamber of Commerce have been invited to speak.

Titled *Increasing the Minimum Wage: Whose Reality Is It?*, the forum



will take place on **Monday, Feb. 16**, 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.

After proposing an eventual increase to

\$10.10, the Louisville Metro Council last month voted to increase the city's minimum wage to \$9 per hour by 2017; the reversal came after a veto threat from Mayor Greg Fischer.

Adjusted for inflation, 1968's minimum wage would be \$10 today.

The University of Louisville already established \$10 as its minimum wage.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

- Dinner and Democracy: *Legislative Agenda: 2015*, Jan. 19
- Dinner and Democracy: *Increasing the Minimum Wage: Whose Reality Is It?*, Feb. 16
- Feb. 25: League Lobby Day, Frankfort

LWV Works for Change in 2015 Session

By **PAT MURRELL**

I hope that everyone has had a wonderful holiday season and that the beginning of 2015 finds everyone hale and hearty after an unusually virulent flu season.

The League has been busy, but much remains to be done, both close to home and afar.

Thanks in part to League member Vicky Markell's lobbying, Mayor Greg Fischer signed the Cities for CEDAW Resolution. (See p. 3.)

In addition to Vicky's statement to the Metro Council, I also addressed that body, in support of the changes in the ethics ordinance. The committee had approved the changes on a bipartisan and unanimous 7-0 vote.

Francis Cotton, Education Committee Chair, and I spoke before the Jefferson County School Board. The Education Committee studied the consultant study of magnet schools in relationship to the League's position on Optional Schools. Some recommendations were supported, but the areas that the



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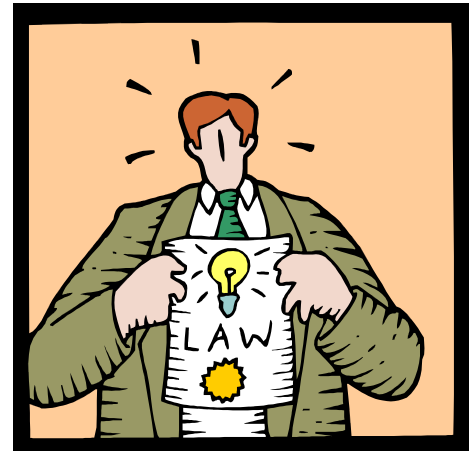
League wants more consideration of are maintaining diversity in magnet programs; fair and equitable selection processes for magnet schools; and establishment of community advisory committee.

The Kentucky General Assembly is scheduled to begin its 2015 session Jan. 6. The League will be supporting SB 16, last term's Domestic Violence bill, BR 21.

We will support the Restoration of Felon's Voting Rights bill (HB 70). Senator Gerald Neal has prefiled this bill. Representative Darryl T. Owens has also prefiled BR 84 to restore rights.

BR 19 - the Abolition of the Death Penalty bill (HB 48). Sen. Neal has prefiled this bill.

There will probably be a few gun control bills we can support. Along with environmental bills, we should have quite a few bills to lobby for or against. (We will be exploring the energy and environment bill at our Jan. 19 community forum. See p. 1.)



Welcome, Members!

The League of Women Voters of Louisville would like to extend a warm greeting to its new members.

New Members

Lisa Willner

Returning Members

Julie Namkin

∞ In Memoriam ∞

We are saddened at the death of **Susan Kitchin Goellner**. She had been a member about three years, and continued to pay dues even when she could no longer participate. We appreciated her thoughtful contributions to our discussions. We send our deepest sympathy to her family and friends.

Also, we send our condolences to our member Christina Feeney at the sudden accidental death of her husband **Charles "Chaz" Feeney** on Oct. 24. Our sympathy also to our member Betsy Mengel, Christina's mother.

Mayor Greg Fischer Signs Cities for CEDAW Resolution

By JANE BLACK REISS

Mayor Greg Fischer signed the Cities for CEDAW Resolution, making Louisville Metro the second city in the country to do so.

CEDAW, the Convention on the Elimination of all forms of Discrimination against Women, a global treaty for girls and women, has been around since the late 1970s and the League of Women Voters continues to advocate for it at the national and international levels. The mayor signed the resolution on its behalf on Nov. 17.

The Cities for CEDAW Resolution simply states that the Louisville Metro Government is committed to eliminating all forms of violence against women and girls, to promoting the health and safety of women and girls, and to affording them equal academic, economic and business opportunities.

In July the Louisville League joined the Louisville Coalition for CEDAW with League member Victoria Markell serving as our official representative. Since then the League has been very active in the Coalition and assisted in drafting the resolution introduced by District 9 Councilwoman Tina Ward-Pugh on Oct. 9.

Ms. Markell coordinated the speakers for each of the three hearings held by the Metro Council Committee on Health, Education and Housing and made a presentation on Oct. 15 on behalf of the Louisville League.

On Nov. 6, after a frequently contentious debate, the Metro Council passed the Resolution with strong bi-partisan support by a vote of 20-3.



From left to right: Michael Aldridge (ACLU); Teena Halbig (UNA-USA, KY Div); Tina Ward-Pugh (Metro Louisville councilwoman); Mary Sue Barnett (chair, Louisville CEDAW Coalition); Sariena Sampson (JCPS educator); Victoria Markell (League of Women Voters)

Schuhmann Gets LWVUS Appointment

George Schuhmann, deputy chair of our Campaign Finance Reform Committee, has recently been appointed as one of 10 members on the League of Women Voters of the United States's Money In Politics (MIP) Committee.

"I am delighted with the prospect of working on this Committee and thank [Pat Murrell] for bringing it to my attention and recommending me to serve in this capacity," Schuhmann said.

A retired attorney, Schuhmann, has been an activist regarding this matter since the 2010 U.S. Supreme Court decision in *Citizens United*, which greatly expanded the amounts



Schuhmann

that can be spent to influence elections. The MIP committee is charged with providing education and activities to inform LWV members and the citizenry about complex issues around money in politics.

It is charged with preparing an update on the League's position as to whether financing a political campaign is protected speech under the First Amendment. This will involve two years' of study and a consensus process to prepare a leaders' guide and consensus questions for LWVUS Board approval.

League Seeks Volunteers to Register New Citizens to Vote

By JAN PHILLIPS

For years, the League has been a regular presence at the U.S. District Court's Naturalization Ceremonies. Following the program, the new citizens are congratulated and invited to register to vote. The response has been enthusiastic, and League volunteers leave with a sense of pride and accomplishment.

The court invites the League to participate in the six largest ceremonies each year. They are held in different locations each time — local high schools, libraries, non-profit organizations, or public events. Depending on the size of the class and the number of volunteers we have, the League is able to register from 25 to 50 new citizen voters each time.

If you are interested in helping with this project, give the League a call at the office (895-5218), and we will be glad to talk to you and put your name on the list of volunteers. The first ceremony in the new year is **Friday, March 13, at 11 a.m.**, at Doss High School, and we can always use more help!



Maxine Mellman, Voter Service chair, with newly registered citizens following their swearing in at a naturalization ceremony. Photo by Jan Phillips

Join State LWV Members in Frankfort

By TERRY NAYDAN

Please plan to join us on Feb. 25 for our annual “Day at the Legislature.” League of Women Voters members from across the state will be converging on the State Capitol on this day.

We will be visiting our own legislators to discuss bills we are supporting. We will be observ-

ing legislative committee meetings as well as a session of the full House or Senate.

We will also have lunch in the cafeteria as a group where we usually get to speak to House or Senate members in an informal atmosphere.

If you have never seen our Kentucky representatives in action, please join us. We think you will enjoy the experience.

League Hosts Forum on Lobbying, 2015 General Assembly

(Cont'd from p. 1)
candidates for the Kentucky Supreme Court.

Recent court decisions remove all restrictions on contributions to judges, making them incredibly vulnerable to undue influence of big contributors. In addition, judicial candidates have to spend valuable time raising money to match campaigns



controlled by Big Money sources. Establishing a “Clean Election” process for Kentucky judges would reduce this threat to justice.

Passing state Representative Jim Wayne's Clean Election of Supreme Court Judges bill (BR

109) is a major LWVKY Action in the KY legislature this year!

Leagues from across Kentucky will gather in Frankfort on **Wednesday, Feb. 25**, for *A Day in Frankfort — League Day at the Legislature*, a day of lobbying members of the General Assembly. Why not learn the basics of lobbying and then join fellow League members from far and wide working to make a better Kentucky?

Lang House Renovation: Everything Old Is New Again!

By **IVONNE ROVIRA**

After three years and \$50,000, Lang House sparkles due to renovations overseen by League Vice President Mary Jo Rodgers and a cadre of League members. A new roof, an eye-catching new sign, elegant new awnings, new brass light fixture, and new landscaping are just some of the improvements to the League of Women Voters' headquarters.

The League's Capital Campaign made quite a few changes inside Lang House possible as well: 10 tables, 60 folding chairs, a chair rack, a new sign, a vacuum cleaner, a new air conditioner; a new computer along with its surge protector, software

and installation; and a new all-in-one photocopier and printer.

We also removed mold from the office and made electrical repairs.

Whew! However, even with all this, the improvements funded by the Capitol Campaign are not yet complete. Stay tuned for even more!

Thanks to all of the League members who donated hundreds of volunteer hours to turn Lang House back into a great source of pride! Your effort has made such a big difference, as you can see below.



Before the repairs, the rear of Lang House looked shabby and unwelcoming. Photo by Patty Stocker



Nowadays, Lang House sports dashing new awnings, elegant new lighting fixtures, an attractive walkway (still accessible!), and an inviting bench by the new door. How cozy is that?

None of these much-needed improvements would have occurred without the generosity of the League's members, both in time and in donations. Photos by Jane Black Reiss





The Louisville Voter

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League Seeks Mystery Quilter

The University of Louisville's Hite Art Institute received the quilts that had been made for Judy Chicago's Dinner Party that were not used in the final exhibit.

One of these featured the League Women Voters and was attributed to

Katy Christopherson. She has seen it, but she did not make it. She would like to know if anyone can identify the League quilter who made the League piece. Her telephone number is 561-3133.

Calendar

Wednesday, Jan. 14, 5:45 p.m.: Campaign Finance Reform Committee. **Lang House.**

Monday, Jan. 19, 5:30 p.m.: Dinner and Democracy: *Legislative Agenda: 2015*. Speakers: State Representative Mary Lou Marzian, and Jack Barnett and Nancy Givens, both of the Kentucky Solar Energy Society (KySES). Donations accepted for the dinner. Dinner served at 5:30 p.m.; program begins at 6 p.m. **Lang House.**

Thursday, Jan. 22, noon: Book discussion of Senator Elizabeth Warren's *A Fighting Chance*. Discussion Leader: Judy Lippmann. **Lang House.**

Monday, Feb. 2, 6 p.m.: LWV

Board meeting. **Lang House.**

Monday, Feb. 16, 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.**

Wednesday, Feb. 25: *A Day in Frankfort — League Day at the Legislature.* **Frankfort.**

Monday, March 2, 6 p.m.: LWV Board meeting. **Lang House.**