

LWV Hosts Forum on Gun Violence Locally

By DEE PREGLIASCO

On average, 36 Americans die from gun violence every single day. But how severe is the problem in Louisville?

Find out when the League of Women Voters of Louisville presents a forum, *Gun Violence: A Louisville Problem?* on **Monday, March 21.**

Speaking will be Commonwealth's Attorney Tom Wine, who will provide a prosecutor's viewpoint. Sylvia Burns, a volunteer leader with a new national organization called Moms Demand Action for Gun Violence, will also speak. Metro Police will also provide a representative on the panel. Dinner will be served at **5:30 p.m.**, while the program begins at **6 p.m.** and ends at **7:30 p.m.** Donations will be accepted for the dinner, and, as with all of our Dinner and Democracy programs, the public is invited.



Burns will be introducing the new Moms Demand Action for Gun Violence, which she says opposes not guns but gun violence.

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Committee on Adjuncts Presents Its Findings

By NICOLE GEORGE

What are adjunct professors? They teach classes at universities, but they aren't considered employees. They're part-timers paid by the class, don't get benefits, and aren't ever going to be eligible for tenure.

The League of Women Voters launched a committee to study the impact of part-time teaching on the educational experience of students at local four-year universities. Over the last two months, the committee has been busy collecting qualitative data in the form of interviews and reviewing literature.



The committee will present its findings on **Monday, April 18, at Lang House.** Dinner will be served at **5:30 p.m.**, while the program begins at **6 p.m.** and ends at **7:30 p.m.** Donations will be accepted for the dinner, and, as with all of our Dinner and Democracy

programs, the public is invited.

The discussion on this important issue will continue at a May meeting, scheduled for **Monday, May 16, also at Lang House.** The dinner will be served at **5:30 p.m.**, while the program begins at **6 p.m.**

Find us on Facebook:
www.facebook.com/lwvlouisville

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

- Dinner and Democracy *Gun Violence: A Louisville Problem?*, March 21
- Dinner and Democracy Findings of the Adjunct Committee, April 18
- Primary Election, May 17

LWV Issues Statement on Education

By **PAT MURRELL**

The Board of Directors of the Louisville League of Women Voters has asked me to make this statement reaffirming our commitment to public education.

The sole purpose of the League of Women Voters is to make democracy work. We believe that free, public education is essential for democracy. The purpose of public education is the development and improvement of our citizens, our society, and our democratic government. The future is determined by how well each generation is educated. It is only enlightened self-interest to support quality public education.

Democracy is at work in Kentucky through the Site-Based Decision-Making (SBDM) Councils which offer an opportunity for parents and



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citizens to become involved. The Site-Based Decision-Making Council at each school requires parent representation. These are open meetings that anyone can attend. The public, especially those advocating for more parent involvement, needs to be better informed about SBDM Councils. Meeting times should be widely announced.

Democracy is better served when democratically elected local school boards manage the schools, rather than non-elected bodies. Each time I attend a school board meeting, I learn something exciting, something reassuring, something new, about what is happening in JCPS — career and magnet programs, professional development programs, student support programs, community partnerships.

More people, especially parents, need to visit and see firsthand the many opportunities there are and exciting things happening at JCPS.

So that you can follow up on the recommendation to visit a Site-Based Decision-Making (SBDM) Council, here is how to find out when each school's SBDM meets:

- ◆ Go to the website <http://www.jefferson.k12.ky.us/programs/sbdm/index.html>.
- ◆ From here, click on the tab that says **School Community Member Resources**. It should be on the left side of the webpage.
- ◆ At the top of this new page, there is a title called **Council Meeting Dates**. Next to this, you'll find the links to the Elementary, Middle, Special and High School dates and times.
- ◆ Click on the link that matches the category of school for which you are trying to find the date and time. This link will take you to a PDF with dates and times for each individual school in the category you selected!

Welcome, Members!

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

New Members

Anne D. Greenwald
Eunice Payne
Katherine P. Quigley
Ann Ramser
Rebecca Wall
Randolph Wieck

Returning Members

Claudia Riner
Tom Riner

Give an LWV Gift Membership

By **IVONNE ROVIRA**

Why not give the gift that goes on giving? That would be a gift membership to the League of Women Voters of Louisville!

Giving a gift membership to a like-minded person exposes that person — be it spouse, daughter or son, friend or colleague — to all that the League of Women

Voters does. And it greatly increases the likelihood that the recipient of a gift membership renews the membership next year.

An individual membership costs \$55. Each additional membership in that family is a mere \$25.

So what are you waiting for? Give the gift of League today.

Legislators: Budget, Pensions Are the Focus

By MARY JO RODGERS

Nearly 50 were in attendance when the League of Women Voters of Louisville held our annual Meet and Greet with the Jefferson County Legislative Delegation on Jan. 18.

Legislators were unanimous on the focus of the 2016 General Assembly.

“Pensions and budgets — that’s going to dwarf everything else,” said Representative Phil Moffett.

Senators attending were Morgan McGarvey (19th District), Ernie Harris (26th) and Perry B. Clark (37th). House members in attendance were Tom Burch (30th District), Phil Moffett (32nd), Mary Lou Marzian (34th), Tom Riner (41st) and Darryl T. Owens (42nd).

The Commonwealth is facing a large debt principally owed to the Kentucky Retired Teachers Pension Fund and the Kentucky Employees Retirement Fund. This debt was accrued over a 13-year period of non-funding or partial funding of the ARC (the actuarial recommended contribution), i.e., the employer’s contribution. The legislators felt that

it will take many years to restore their solvency.

“We have kicked the can down the road on so many issues,” lamented Riner.

Harris said that 1,400 bills were being proposed, although only a fraction would get a hearing, much less become law.

The audience exchange of ideas included the legalization of medical marijuana, treating drug addicts, mental health, felony re-

enfranchisement, State Police salaries and the viability of an urban coalition.

This well-attended forum provided attendees with topical information and a greater appreciation for the work of our elected representatives.



A good turnout and the presence of nearly a dozen legislators made the annual legislative meet-and-greet a great success. Clockwise from top: Representative Tom Moffitt regales Beverly Moore with a fine joke. Below, Representative Darryl Owens discusses restoring voting rights to felons while fellow legislators look on. Bottom left, Senator Ernie Harris poses with Mary Jo Rodgers after the meeting. Top left, former Metro Council member Attica Scott poses with Patty Stock before the event. Photos by Jane Black Reiss

LWV Receives Intern, Volunteers at Lang House

By JAN PHILLIPS

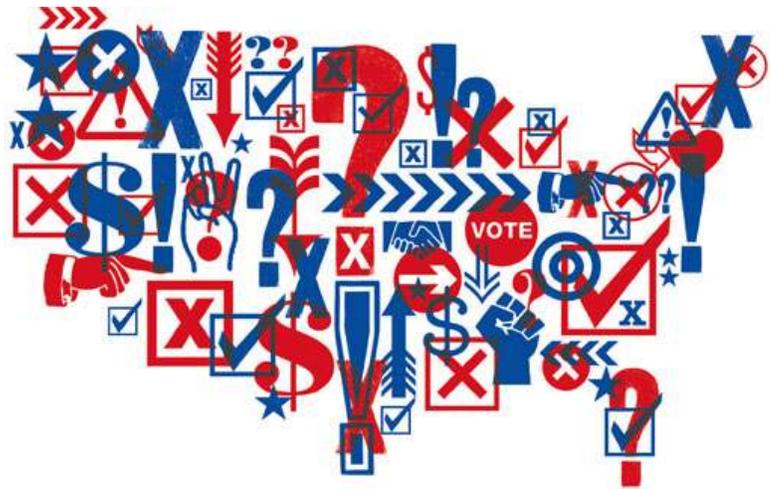
Welcome aboard to our new intern, Alex Marquardt! Alex is a student at the University of Louisville, and she will be spending the spring semester at the League of Women Voters of Louisville.

One of Alex's primary responsibilities will be assisting with the effort to register high-school students to vote.

Also, once again, the League of Women Voters of Louisville is fortunate enough to have two students from Holy Cross High School volunteering at Lang House.

Karena Cash and Laura Moran performed community service for six Tuesdays in the months of January and February.

Thanks to Holy Cross for providing this great gift to the League!



Help Register High Schoolers to Vote

By PAT MURRELL

In Jefferson County, about 6,000 will turn 18 this year. That's 6,000 potential new voters. You can help make that a reality!

During March, the League of Women Voters of Louisville will be registering high school students to vote. Our University of Louisville intern, Alex Marquardt, is leading this effort.

You will be getting emails, as dates are set, offering you the opportunity to register voters at a high school near you.

The 2016 election features many issues particularly important to young people — health care, the high cost of college tuition, income inequality. With your help, these 18-year-olds can have a say on their future.

Remembering Ginny Krueger, Natalie Scharre

Virginia Lee Krueger, 1934 – 2016

Ginny Krueger was a dedicated League member for decades.

She served on the LWV board of directors several times, and was very active. Even when she could no longer attend meetings, she offered to telephone for us. We remember her fondly and with gratitude for all that she contributed to the League.

Natalie Scharre, 1922 – 2016

Natalie Scharre also was a dedicated League member for decades. Her activities included the Membership Committee and diversity committee, and she served on the League of Women Voters' board for several years. Natalie is also remembered fondly by many League members.

The League of Women Voters of Louisville today stands on the shoulders of Natalie, Ginny and women like them.

CFR Consensus Responses to be Collected into New Position

By **GEORGE SCHUHMAN**

Since the last issue of *The Louisville Voter*, the League of Women Voters of the United States' Money in Politics Committee has kicked off the process of evaluating the 337 responses received from state and local leagues.

Some areas have shown a strong consensus, and we are now in the first stage of developing proposed language to update the national League's position on campaign-finance reform, which has not been updated since 1982. Needless to say, the field of campaign finance has experienced a complete transformation since then!

Our Committee work will go to the Education Committee by March 1, and from there to the national League's Board, which can update the campaign-finance reform position based on the

consensus formed by League members.

Those changes will be part of the League's positions, which will be presented and reviewed at the 2016 Convention June 16 to 19 in Washington, D.C.

I have made my reservation to attend the Convention, and I hope that we will have a strong presence from Louisville and Kentucky.

Hope to see you there!



Former School Board member Debbie Wesslund, ex-Metro Council member Attica Scott and Judge Gina Calvert joined League President Pat Murrell in taking questions about the influence of campaign money in local politics at a forum in February. Photo by Philip Wolfe

League to Host More of Its Popular Book Discussions

By **IVONNE ROVIRA**

The League of Women Voters of Louisville's brown-bag book discussions have proven to be a crowd-pleaser, so quite a few more are scheduled. All the scheduled book discussions will be at **Lang House**.

Next up will be a discussion of the environmental classic *Silent Spring* by Rachel Carson. Sarah Lynn Cunningham will lead the discussion on **Wednesday, March 23, at 12:30 p.m.**

On **Wednesday, April 13, at 12:30 p.m.**, Fran Wagner will lead the discussion of *A More Perfect Constitution: 23 Proposals to Revitalize Our Constitution and Make America a*

Fairer Country by Larry Sabato.

Have a book you've really liked? Why not lead a brown-

bag book discussion of it? Contact the League office at 895-5218.





The Louisville Voter

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Calendar

Wednesday, March 2, 5:30 p.m.: Adjunct Study Committee meeting. **Lang House.**

Monday, March 7, 6 p.m.: LWV Board meeting. Open to all members. **Lang House.**

Wednesday, March 9, 2 p.m.: Campaign Finance Reform Committee meeting. **Lang House.**

Monday, March 21, 5:30 : Dinner and Democracy: *Gun Violence — A Louisville Problem?* Speakers: Commonwealth's Attorney Tom Wine and Sylvia Burns of Moms Demand Action for Gun Violence, Donations accepted for the dinner. Dinner served at 5:30 p.m.; program begins at 6 p.m. **Lang House.**

Wednesday, March 23, 12:30 p.m.: Book discussion of Rachel Carson's *Silent Spring*. Discussion Leader: Sarah Lynn Cunningham. **Lang House.**

April 1: Nominations for Citizen Award due.

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

Wednesday, April 13, 12:30 p.m.: Book discussion of Larry Sabato's *A More Perfect Constitution*. Discussion Leader: Fran Wagner. **Lang House.**

Monday, April 18, 5:30 p.m.: Dinner and Democracy: Adjunct Study Report. Donations accepted for the dinner. Dinner served at 5:30 p.m.; program begins at 6 p.m. **Lang House.**

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

Monday, May 16, 5:30 p.m.: Dinner and Democracy: Conclusion of the Adjunct Study. Donations accepted for the dinner. Dinner served at 5:30 p.m.; program begins at 6 p.m. **Lang House.**

Tuesday, May 17: Primary Election

Monday, June 6: Annual Meeting