

Date Printed: 06/11/2009

JTS Box Number: IFES_74
Tab Number: 14
Document Title: The Kentucky Voter
Document Date: Sep-98
Document Country: United States --
Kentucky
Document Language: English
IFES ID: CE02251



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**"We must...take the necessary leap of trust
in ourselves to allow the LWV to soar."
—Former LWVUS President Becky Cain**

The Kentucky Voter

September 1998 Volume 54, Number 3

Want
to
help
edu-
cate your
community
about Cam-
paign Finance
Reform?
Contact local
groups in
your town
and/or
county. Then
call the State
Office to ar-
range for a
LWV KY
speaker. Call
502.875.6481
or
502.769.1262.

Six KY Delegates Attend National Convention

Delegates attending the LWVUS National Convention in San Diego, CA June 13-17 were Lee Ann Henderson, Betty Hilliard, Kathy Loomis, Terry Naydon, Sally Smathers, and Nita Smith. The following report was written by Nita Smith:

Upon arrival in San Diego on Saturday afternoon, we were met by our State President Betty Hilliard and her husband, Jim, who, along with Hardin County President Lee Ann Henderson and her husband Dennis, chauffeured us around. They not only took all of us to our hotel, but were also kind enough to take a delegate from Iowa also. How's that for League hospitality? We made it just in time for the first plenary session at 1 p.m. where we did much convention business but also the "fun" (it's always exciting to see which states are alphabetically challenged! I am happy to report that our state president had no problem finding the correct spot!) roll call of the states.

At the plenary session, we also began discussing the Not Recommended Items for Consideration. This is always a lively and heart-felt session. Items up for discussion were Sustainable Communities, the UN, Full Voting Congressional Rights for Washington, DC, Proportional Representation for Elections, Acknowledging the Global Fisheries Problem, Gun Control Additional Measures, Welfare Reform and the Amending of our International Position.

That night we attended a social hosted by

the local San Diego League where we met terrific delegates from Idaho and Alabama. Remind us to tell you about our \$45.00 hot dog and "Southern Belles" made of steel. Later that night there were caucuses and networking sessions on Sustainable Communities, Gun Violence Prevention, Making Democracy Work and the 1998-2000 National Program.

Sunday began with Democracy in DC and Fair Campaign Practices caucuses and the second plenary at 9 a.m. Sunday afternoon Becky Cain, our national president, addressed the plenary. A few points she spoke on were the LWV successes in Motor Voter Registration, the redirection of campaign finance reform in Congress and our ability to keep politics a process for the people. Becky said we still have several challenges and one is the continuation of citizen participation through voting. She reminded us that democracy does not end with this voter participation. We must be an empowered and informed people. We must keep politics a process for the people.

Sunday was a day for much discussion concerning LWVUS Bylaw Amendments and the vote to raise Per Member Payment. Those in favor of raising the PMP considered the following reasons: LWVUS needs money for national programs and public relations, which would give the LWV empowerment on the national level. Those (see page 3)

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From the President

LWWUS Convention voted to continue *MAKING DEMOCRACY WORK* as our major emphasis for the next two years. We at the State Board are continuing our efforts for Campaign Finance Reform. We have a Speaker's Bureau and are willing to come to your community if you need us. Many civic organizations want speakers, so contact Rotary, Lions, Women's Clubs, etc.

We all continue to register voters. It has been suggested that we join forces with other organizations in the state and have a state-wide Voter Registration Drive in September. Are you interested? Let us know. We have been contacted by Toyota about a major effort they are planning to register their employees. More later!

The emphasis in *MAKING DEMOC-*

RACY WORK this cycle, however, is civic participation. To encourage the people we register to actually inform themselves and come out to vote. We need to mount *Get Out the Vote* campaigns in each of our communities. The workbook provided by LWWUS suggests we begin with one precinct. We can get the information we need from our county clerk and then make calls and go door to door urging people to vote. The messages people respond to are in the workbook also—telephone and others. We have some very important races in KY this year. Yet, officials expect a very low turnout. Why don't we get started encouraging people to join us in *Making Democracy Work*?

—Betty

Community Action Council Reveals Trends for Future

by Marge Keller

The Community Action Council for Lexington-Fayette, Bourbon, Harrison, and Nicholas Counties, meeting to develop a five-year plan to serve the needs of their clients, discussed political and social policy trends at the national, state, and local levels. The trends included:

National: There is general satisfaction of general public with the current presidential leadership. The Republican control of the House of Representatives seems very tenuous and there is dissension within the Party; the state of the economy will affect the 1998/2000 elections; there will be more initiatives like Welfare to Work, and greater recognition of children's needs, as well as increased activity in health care coverage and greater interest in problems of low income urban youth; but less funding for transportation, housing and the homeless. Also, electric and natural gas utility service probably will be deregulated.

State: Trends show an increased interest in child development and child welfare; problems meeting welfare reform participation rates; a transportation brokering system.

Local: Some local trends which will be noted in most of the state include: greater local decision-making in social programs; increased influence of the business community on social service

delivery systems; and increased partnerships for delivering services.

Various staff members discussed trends such as marital status changes, literacy problems, demographic shifts, globalization, and technologies that are leaving the poor behind. Issues of child care indicate the need for more centers and the increased need for businesses to provide child care. Securing and retaining well-trained staff will be a major problem. There will be more child safety regulations. Rural transportation will continue to be underfunded and a problem.

Suggestions for developing technological skills included: open access to computers in schools and libraries by lengthening evening hours, installing computers in community centers, as well as other places. Agencies and relevant organizations must adjust their hours to fit the needs of working people.

Three important social trends were the need to change the thinking of youth to link their future success and education, the tendency to blame parents too quickly for problems, and continued movement of businesses toward family-friendly environment.

More details about these trends may be obtained from Marge Keller at 606-263-5997.

Legislative Follow-Up: Bottle Bill

One of the highlights of a difficult Legislative Session this spring was seeing the participation and impact of Estill County High School students at the House Natural Resources and Environment Committee hearing where they discussed the Container Deposit Bill (HB 371) sponsored by Rep. Grady Stumbo who proposed it after hearing about their interest in such legislation.

HB 371 became a study item for the next 2 years. LWV has supported such legislation for many years at national and state levels of government. We testified for it here again this session. I encourage you to call the LRC and ask when meetings will occur. Showing interest will help. At this point, the position of the Cabinet is that we need a tax to cover the costs of picking up bottles and other litter.

Sally Smathers,
Natural Resources
Chair

Carolyn Jefferson-Jenkins, our new national president was asked by a reporter if the LWV was still relevant. Her answer was "Yes, as long as we live in a democracy."

Campaign Information—On-line

LWVKY Web page:

<http://cis.ilicc.uky.edu/organizations/lwvky>

Campaign Disclosure: On Line

www.KYCampaignDisclosure.org

Project Vote Smart:

www.vote-smart.org

KY Selected for Pilot Project Campaign Disclosure: On Line

Six states (Connecticut, Indiana, Kentucky, Oregon, Rhode Island, and Washington) have been selected to participate in a pilot project funded by Campaign Finance Reform, a non-profit organization, whose goal is to educate the public about the need for campaign finance reform. All federal candidates in these six states have been asked to provide the project with copies of the reports filed with the Federal Election Commission. These reports will be posted on the project web page and Kentucky will have its own section. All campaign contribution information will be available to the public immediately (www.KYCampaignDisclosure.org). Readers will be able to type in questions such as "How much money was contributed by PACs?" or "How many contributions were from out-of-state?"

Kentucky organizations publicizing the project are LWVKY, Common Cause, and Kentuckians for the Commonwealth. Citizens without on-line service at home will be able to access the web-site from their public library.

Notes from National Convention (cont.)

against this raise cited fear of loss of membership and exclusion of those who could not afford to join. There were many motions and amounts made. Finally, the delegates voted for the PMP to increase from \$19.00 to \$21.00.

On Monday we began with a breakfast sponsored by The Center for Women's Health at Eli Lilly. The fruit was great but those pancakes tasted a little "too" healthy! Freda Lewis-Hall spoke to us about the fact that we all need to "get an attitude" where our health is concerned. Did you know that the #1 leading disease for incapacitation in the developing world is Depression? Did you know that the #1 killer of women is now heart disease? Did you know that lung cancer is now more prevalent than breast cancer among women?

Also on Monday we were privileged to hear from Bill Lann Lee, Acting Attorney General for Civil Rights. Mr. Lee spoke about the right to vote being a badge of dignity and a duty of citizenship. He called the lack of voter participation scandalous. He spoke about diversity and that we must not give up hope in registering ALL voters.

Anita Perez Ferguson, President of the National Women's Political Caucus, spoke to us about the problems women encounter in running for office. In the 1970's, women were asking about the process (what papers do we complete?). In the 1980's women were asking about financing (how do we get the money?). In the 1990's, women are asking how to keep their past in the past (as women are still judged differently than men).

On Monday afternoon we all attended different Workshops on Diversity.

On Tuesday we met for the last time to formally adopt our national program for the next two years and to elect our new board of directors. Carolyn Jefferson-Jenkins, Ph.D was elected our new national president. Kay Maxwell was elected first vice president. The board is very diversified and should be interesting to follow.

And to all environmentalists out there, you will be happy to note that with over 1200 delegates and visitors that all paper, cans, and glass were recycled at the conference!

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WANT HER
BACK! THEY
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SUCH A GREAT
MEMBER!!
SORRY FOR
THE ERROR!
-SUSAN

Coming Events

September 14-15	Voter Registration at Toyota
September 19	Ky. Conservation Committee at Shakertown
October 13	Medicare Dialogue—Hardin County
October 30	LWVKY Board Meeting—Frankfort
November 3	ELECTION DAY!
November 7	Medicare Dialogue—Lexington

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The Kentucky Voter

NONPROFIT ORGAN.
 U.S. POSTAGE PAID
 (Louisville, KY)
 PERMIT NO. 1032

ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

Kentucky Voter
 Published quarterly by the League of Women Voters KY. LWV-KY is a nonpartisan political organization dedicated to promoting political responsibility through informed and active participation of citizens in government, and to act on selected governmental issues.

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Hardin County	Lee Ann Henderson	297 Thicket Lane Elizabethtown 42701	502.737.3009
Hopkinsville-Christian County	Bonnie Lynch	412 E. 23d. Hopkinsville 42240	502.885.6554
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