



THE

VOTER

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Newsletter of the League of Women Voters of Berea & Madison County

Register's service to community to earn LWV award on April 17

LWV's annual dinner and meeting is set for Monday, April 17 at the meeting room of the Kentucky Artisan Center in Berea. Dinner will start promptly at 6 p.m. with members and guests going through the buffet line.

Besides reviewing our activities of the past year and electing a new board, the LWV board will also recognize the *Richmond Register* with a community service award at our annual meeting.

This award is a special recognition of the important role the Register has played in informing citizens about local government with thorough and timely news coverage, editorials and commentary on issues of vital local concern. The paper has provided balanced perspectives, raised important questions and encouraged public involvement and participation in decisions that affect our community.

The LWV's goal is to educate citizens about the importance of their involvement in our democratic government. Our local league adopted a specific focus last summer as we planned our activities for the year with the theme *Madison County 2025: What's your Vision?*



Our efforts to encourage public participation and to educate citizens about the process and background of planning were enhanced by the Register's thorough, balanced and professional coverage of the issues.

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Candidate forums — They're here May 1

Thanks to the hard work of Jeanne Hibberd, Joe Gershtenson and the rest of their committee, two pre-primary forums are planned for the month of May and televised for live

presentation and cable TV replay.

EKU's Center for Kentucky History and Politics, which Gershtenson directs, has joined LWV as a sponsor and has helped

with much of the planning. EKU's Division of Media Resources is providing the studio and staff to make the events possible under the direction of Jo Brosius,

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ANNUAL MEETING

Here's your to-do list...

- ✓ Invite a friend, co-worker or neighbor interested in LWV and our issues to attend.
- ✓ Save some gas by carpooling. Pick up another member or guest and go Dutch at the Artisans Center.
- ✓ Bring your checkbook to pay your annual membership dues: \$40. Consider a donation to help support league's activities and publications.
- ✓ If you can't make the meeting on April 17, please send in your membership dues. You can use the form inside on Page 3.
- ✓ Plan now to be involved in LWV activities in 2006-07. Consider volunteering to help with our candidate forums, voter registration drives, fund-raising efforts, local programs and issues. Or volunteer for a specific job such as folding and mailing the Voter.

D I R E C T O R ' S C O R N E R

Welcome State Council

As this month's Voter goes to the printer, final arrangements are being made for the State Council meeting April 7 in Berea. Expect a full report in our May Voter.

Our local league is hosting the LWVKY annual meeting at Boone Tavern and the keynote speaker is William Fortune, a University of Kentucky law professor.

His topic is "Who's Got the Gavel? Current Threats to the Judiciary System." He is a member of the Kentucky Judicial Campaign Conduct Committee and a presenter on judicial campaign speech to judicial candidates.

He will address recent challenges to the integrity and independence of the judicial system at both the state and national level.

Much credit for this program goes to LWV veteran Joan Peoples, who stepped in as acting president of the state league last month.

Join LWV now!

Our Annual Meeting set for April 17 is traditionally the date to renew your annual LWV membership. The \$40 membership dues includes the per-member payment to the LWVKY and LWVUS giving you membership in all three levels of LWV. You will receive the National Voter as well as our local Voter newsletter.

To publicize our work this year on the theme Madison County 2025: What's Your Vision?, we have been mailing the Voter to a number of potential members

in hopes to encourage LWV participation.

We would love for you to join LWV. Please use the membership form on page 3 to mail in your dues. Or use the form to make a financial donation to support LWV activities.

PDF or Print?

If you have not joined LWV, but would like to continue to receive the Voter, please send me an e-mail. I can continue to send you the link to a PDF version of our newsletter. This will save on our printing and mailing costs.

Some of our members prefer to receive the Voter via this electronic version and print out on their home printers. Send me an e-mail if you prefer to do that.

If you have e-mail addresses and/or mailing addresses of those who should get the Voter, please send those to me also and we will put them on our list for a while.

There is value in continuing to mail out printed copies of the Voter and making extra copies available to friends, neighbors, co-workers and government officials. We have benefitted from our relationships with other groups such as Kentuckians for the Commonwealth (KFTC) and Community Action for Barnes Mill Neighborhood (CABN) and want to encourage communication with those groups as we work for common goals.

— Libby Fraas
<lfraas@adelphia.net>

Member updates

■ **Mae Suramek** "From March 31 to May 12, I am taking Berea College on the road with the Sesquicentennial Great Commitments Relay! For more information about the relay, to find out about events, or to follow our journey through my daily blog, please visit <http://www.berea.edu/150/relay>."

■ **Pat Jones** has delivered "Happy Birthday — It's time to register to vote" messages to Madison County schools. School officials will get the cards to students who are turning 18 this year and are thus eligible to vote for the first time.

LWV_EVENTS

■ **April 7-8, State Council State LWV meeting hosted by us.** Boone Tavern, Berea

■ **April 17, 6 p.m. Annual Dinner & Meeting.** Kentucky Artisan Center, Berea

■ **May 1, 6 p.m. Candidate Forum for county primary.** EKU Perkins Building

■ **May 8, 7 p.m. Candidate forum for state senate primary.** EKU Perkins Building

■ **May 15 or May 16, tba. LWV planning meeting for 2006-07 board**

■ **June 10-13 National LWVUS Convention.** Minneapolis, Minn.

VOTER DEADLINES

May 8 for May Voter

The Voter is a monthly publication of the League of Women Voters of Berea and Madison County.

To report ideas or corrections, contact Voter Editor Libby Fraas
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or call 859 624-1292.

E-mail LWV

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Please accept e-mails from this address in your mail accounts.

Mail information to

LWV of Berea &
Madison County,
P.O. Box 254, Berea, KY 40403.

Copies of the Voter are
on the Web at
<http://lwvbmc.iclub.org>



LWV board members Libby Fraas, Mae Suramek and Suzanne Robinson met at the Artisan Center to plan the annual Meeting, which will be April 17.

Buffet dinner set for April 17

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The LWV board created the award in an effort to commend the paper's efforts this year.

"The Register has demanded accountability from both public officials and citizens," said LWV president Elizabeth Crowe.

"The paper has challenged our public officials to be more open and forthcoming in their decision-making and challenged citizens to participate in the future of their communities by be-

ing informed and involved,"

Buffet-style

The meeting will start promptly at 6 p.m., with members and guests going through the buffet line and moving to the meeting room. Reservations are not necessary. The program will start once those attending are seated.

The Kentucky Artisan Center is located at Exit 77 off I-75 in Berea.

Viewers may phone in questions during the live show

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media operations manager.

A forum for those candidates running in primaries for their party's nomination for Madison County offices will be held Monday, May 1 from 6 to 9 p.m. These include contests within the Democratic Party for county clerk, sheriff, and jailer and for all four magistrate districts for Fiscal Court representation. Whoever wins the primary on May 16 will run against a Republican in November if a Republican has filed.

A second forum will be held Monday, May 8 with two Republicans, Barry Metcalf and Albert Spencer who are running for their party's nomination for the 34th state senate district. The victor will face incumbent Sen. Ed Worley in November.

All the candidates were sent invitations to attend by certified mail.

Part of the forum will be a viewer call-in. LWV members and volunteers will take phoned-in questions to forward to the moderator. That phone number is 800.895.4584.

The programs will be shown over both Berea and Richmond public access channels.

Besides Hibberd and Gershtenson, the committee includes Cecile Schubert, Yvonne Riding and Elizabeth Crowe.

The committee will meet 11:30 a.m. Tuesday, April 11 at EKV's Perkins Building to discuss details of the event. Volunteers are needed to help with the forum on both May 1 and May 8.

Please e-mail or call Jeanne Hibberd if you can help at <jmhibberd@hindmansettlement.org> or 986.1512.

Renew your membership... or join LWV for the 1st time

League of Women Voters-Berea and Madison County
 P.O. Box 254
 Berea, KY 40403

NAME(S) _____
 ADDRESS _____

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT

MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO: THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS
 P.O. BOX 254
 BERE A, KY 40403

FOR OUR RECORDS, PLEASE CHECK BELOW.

- PERSONAL CONTRIBUTION
- BUSINESS CONTRIBUTION
- MEMBERSHIP DUES
 (\$40 INDIVIDUAL/\$60 HOUSEHOLD
 \$\$ STUDENT)
- PLEASE SEND ME MORE INFO
 ABOUT THE LEAGUE.

Note: although the LWV is non-profit and non-partisan, because we take positions and lobby on issues, your gift is not tax deductible as a charitable contribution.

A calendar of visionary April events

- **April 10** Madison County Greenways & Trails Association will meet Monday, at 7 p.m. in the Berea City Hall Community Room located at 212 Chestnut Street. The group has formed an organization with officers and membership dues and plans a monthly meeting the second Monday of every month alternating between Richmond and Berea. If you are interested in the group's goals, contact Eddie or Kristin Farray at <eddiefarray@peoplepc.com> or 626-0863.
- **April 12** "Valuing Kentucky's Resources" with Tom Fitzgerald, director, Kentucky Resource Council. 12:20 p.m. Kennamer Room, Powell Building, EKU.
- **April 22** 5K Race/Fun Walk for the Planet 9 to 9:45 a.m. registration. 10 a.m. start. Outside Stratton Building, Kit Carson Drive. Earth Day T-shirt a perk.
- **April 21-23** Berea College hosts the Campus-Community Partners Sustainability conference and LWV is a co-sponsor of the event. The kickoff session at Phelps-Stokes Chapel **7 p.m. Friday, April 21** is free and open to the public and features Pat Murphy, who has designed active solar homes. Of particular interest to LWV members and friends is a **Saturday** afternoon session in Draper 216/217 presented by **Danielle Chynoweth**, Urbana Illinois City Council, talking about "partnering with local government to increase community sustainability." Danielle is a community organizer who is serving her second term on the Urbana Illinois City Council. She co-founded the Urbana-Champaign Independent Media Center in 2000 and negotiated its recent purchase of the downtown post office building for conversion to a Community Media and Arts Center. She runs an election school for progressive candidates: 9 out of its 10 participants have won elections. Danielle will present on past and current projects such as establishing a neighborhood of affordable housing that has reduced its energy use by 90 percent. She will discuss strategies for establishing "inside/outside" links between local government and community groups to work together to build sustainable, democratic communities. For more information, go to <<http://www.berea.edu/sens/ccp>> or call 859-985-3593.
- **April 25 Kentucky Riverkeeper Fundraising Golf Scramble**, Arlington Golf Course. Call 622-3065 to play and register a team.



LWV of Berea & Madison County
P.O. Box 254
Berea, KY 40403

- **Annual Dinner Meeting at Ky. Artisans Center 6 p.m. April 17**

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