



THE

# VOTER

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



Sandra Powell of Kentucky River Foothills urged Madison Countians to “open their eyes” to the growing Hispanic community during the Sept. 27 meeting in Richmond.

## Immigration: Fact versus Myth

Join LWV of Berea and Madison County as we continue exploring myths and facts about immigration in the United States and our values and principles on immigration to reach a consensus on policy initiatives for national LWV.

At the Oct. 23 meeting, we’ll hear viewpoints on immigration policies including citizenship processes, worker/guest worker initiatives, and border control and border justice from top-notch panelists. Then, based on our values-based discussion from Sep-

**Tuesday, Oct. 23, 7 to 9 p.m.**  
**Berea College Seabury Center,**  
**Trustees Room**  
**(Hwy 595 between Main St. and Ellipse St.)**

tember, we’ll talk in small groups about where policy initiatives and our core values intersect.

Panelists will include

- **Juan Pena** with the Kentucky Commission on Human Rights in Frankfort who will address migrant worker issues and impacts

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## Bean poll provokes interest at festivals

BY ELIZABETH CROWE

During festivals in September, League of Women Voters of Berea and Madison County reminded citizens of the importance of voting with an unofficial “bean poll.”

The LWV booths at Richmond’s Pottery Festival and again at Berea’s Spoonbread Festival allowed people to vote for gubernatorial candidates by dropping pinto beans into the jar of their favorite: Republican incumbent Ernie Fletcher or Democratic challenger Steve Beshear. Participants could grab up to five beans, depending on their enthusiasm for their candidate, to indicate their support.

LWV member Jeanne Hibberd said the poll was a fun way to remind voters to become informed on the candidates, and exercise their right to vote on Nov.



Nancye Spicer and Elizabeth Crowe answered questions about voting and registered voters at the Richmond Pottery Festival Sept. 8. About 50 persons filled out voter registration cards at the LWV booths during the two festivals in Richmond and Berea.

6. “Traditionally, voter turnout is lower in non-presidential elections,” said Hibberd. “But voting is our most basic form of civic engagement, and we hope people will remember the importance of this governor’s race.”

Annriette Stolte, who tended the booth at the Spoonbread Festival, enjoyed reactions from poll participants.

“Some people were quite enthusiastic about one of the candidates; others wished we had a jar for undecided, and still others asked for a jar that said ‘none of the above!’”

The results? Fletcher’s 578 beans to Beshear’s 1,273. Of course these results won’t amount to a hill of beans...unless voters go to the polls on Nov. 6.

# Immigration study continues with forum, movie

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that immigration policy may have on civil and human rights in Kentucky;

- **Marilyn S. Daniel**, director of the Maxwell Street Legal Clinic in Lexington, who will discuss citizenship issues for Kentucky's immigrant populations; and

- **Dorothy Chao**, who will share her experiences working on the U.S./ Mexico border and reflect on the debate about border security and border justice.

This is the second of several LWV meetings in 2007 addressing immigration policy. The public is invited to join LWV for these informative, interactive and free meetings as we prepare to respond to national LWV about a consensus position on immigration policy.

A third event is scheduled for Tuesday, Nov. 13 to show the Appalshop film *Morristown*. The viewing is scheduled to begin at 7 p.m. at Berea College in the Woods-Penninen Commons Room.

In this hour-long documentary, director Ann Lewis chronicles nearly a decade of change in Morristown, Tenn., through interviews with displaced or low-wage Southern workers, Mexican immigrants, and workers and families impacted by globalization.

The film shows how working-class people in Mexico and eastern Tennessee



Berea College students under the supervision of Professor Billy Wooten have developed informational displays on immigration issues at the Richmond branch of Madison County Public Library (above) and at the public library in Berea and at the Berea College library.

are caught in the throes of massive economic change, challenging their assumptions about work, family, nation and community.

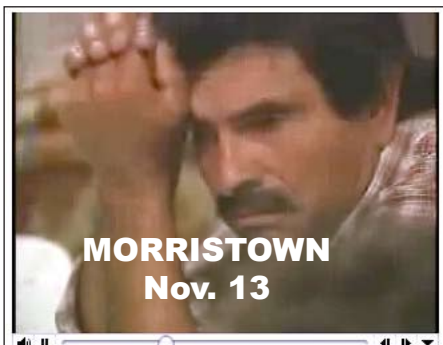
You can view trailers of the film at the University of Texas site: <http://rtf.utexas.edu/faculty/lewis/trailer.html>

A discussion of the film is ongoing at YouTube: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=T1tdfW0ccOY>

Locally grown popcorn and other refreshments will be provided. The event is free and open to the public, but donations for LWV will gladly be accepted.

Following the film there will be an optional, informal discussion of the themes in the documentary, and how they relate to our values and on proposed immigration policy.

For more information please contact Harriet "Jenny" Bromley at 623-5007.



## LWV\_EVENTS

7 p.m. Oct. 23  
**Member Meeting: US Immigration Policy**  
 Trustees Room  
 Seabury Center  
 Berea College

Nov. 6 Election Day  
**Board Meets 6:30 p.m.**  
 Libby Fraas home

Nov. 13  
**Popcorn & Movie**  
*Morristown*  
 Woods-Penninen Commons  
 Berea College

Dec. TBA  
**Holiday Party**

### VOTER DEADLINES

Nov. 1 for November Voter  
 Dec. 1 for December Voter

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To report ideas or corrections, contact Voter Editor Libby Fraas  
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 P.O. Box 254, Berea, KY 40403.

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

**THANKS** to these members and others who volunteered to work our booths at the fall festivals and to Bill Stolte and Steve Boyce for setting up at Berea.

Nancy Lee-Riffe  
 AnnaLou Ritchie  
 Nancy Spicer  
 Libby Fraas  
 Elizabeth Crowe  
 Jenny Bromley

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Ruth Butwell  
 Annriette Stolte  
 Gail Waldeck

## LWVKY busy this fall

State league hosted two televised candidate forums to educate voters for the Nov. 6 election. They included a governors forum Oct. 16 in Frankfort and an attorney general forum Oct. 17 in Louisville.

LWV of Louisville is also sponsoring a dinner and discussion of election returns on Nov. 12.

The speaker is MARK HEBERT, WHAS-TV 11 political news reporter who you may often see on television's COMMENT ON KENTUCKY. Dinner begins at 6 p.m., followed by announcements that include candidate/elected officials remarks and Mark Hebert speaks at 6:45 p.m.

Note: For details and reservations, RSVP please to teenahal@aol.com so they know how much food to prepare. Dinner costs \$10 for members and \$15 for nonmembers (half is cost and half is donation).

## Call to National Convention

LWVUS 48th National Convention will be June 13-17 at the Hilton Portland & Executive Tower in Portland, Ore.

Every two years state and local Leagues and ILOs participate in the LWVUS Program Planning process by making recommendations concerning program issues. Program Planning materials, including the Leader's Guide and Response form, to assist your League in this process, can be found by going to <http://www.lwv.org/ProgramPlanning>.

## Immigrant workers a reality, not a crime, panelists say

Changes in the global economy brought about by NAFTA and multinational corporations have caused much of the problems associated with immigration issues in America, panelists at the Sept. 27 meeting of LWV said.

Freddy Peralta of the Kentucky Coalition for Comprehensive Immigrant Rights pointed out that the U.S. economy requires about 500,000 under-skilled workers each year, a huge vacuum drawing workers from Latin America. But only 50,000 work visas are available each year, creating a crisis for "undocumented workers," those who come without papers or overstay their visas.

With few jobs in their own communities, workers are attracted to earning \$75 per day in America, he said.

Peralta said the system is broken and must be revised to address the reality of undocumented workers in our communities. He



Richmond's Human Rights Commission chair Karen McClain Wright (left), talked with panelists after the Sept. 27 meeting at the library in Richmond.

warned that using local and state law enforcement officials to identify and deport undocumented workers can lead to a breakdown in the trust that has been developing between Hispanic communities and local police. Some have been reluctant to report child or spouse abuse or crimes of missing persons because of the fear of retribution, he said.

Peralta urged the public to support the need for these workers to have local identification cards and drivers licenses, which

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## Have YOU paid your member dues?

*Thanks for your support for our candidate forums, voter registration and voter education materials. Make check payable to League of Women Voters (LWV).*

**Mail to P.O. Box 254, Berea KY 40403.**

DONATION amount \_\_\_\_\_

Interested in MEMBERSHIP? Please join now.

Yearly Membership Dues: *Individual \$40 ; Family or Household \$60 ; Student \$5*

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# Immigrants growing part of community

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would require testing and insurance while they are awaiting for documentation from the immigration office.

Panelist Sandra Anez Powell urged local citizens to look around the community for signs of the growing Hispanic population, from grocery stores to churches. Many immigrants share a rural background with Madison Countians. "We have more things in common with immigrant families from Latin American than we do from our fellow Americans from New York City," she said.

She urged Richmond to revisit a plan to issue local identification cards to workers in the community. "This is not going to change their legal status," she said, "but will provide needed identification in



Freddy Peralta described "push-pull" factors in the global economy which have forced thousands of workers to better-paying jobs in America, where they are often victimized by a "broken" immigration system.



Professor Billy Wooten (right) and students from Berea College attended the meeting.

the case of an emergency."

LWV board member Harriet "Jenny" Bromley presented a viewpoint on the immigration issue articulated by Michael Rivage-Seul of Berea College. The economy

is skewed toward the bottom line of international corporations which for example have dumped subsidized U.S. corn on the market in Mexico, hurting local farmers in that country. Suggestions included developing a global minimum wage to prevent worker exploitation.

About 50 people participated in break-out sessions. One value articulated was an economy that delivers a fair wage in a work setting that is not injurious to workers and treats workers with the basic dignity due all human beings.

## 2007-08 BOARD

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*We need you!*

Members are needed to help with fund raising, voter registration drives and meetings. Contact LWV by phone number listed above or by sending an e-mail to lwvbmc@yahoo.com to volunteer.



LWV of Berea & Madison County

P.O. Box 254

Berea, KY 40403

**Oct. 23 meeting  
U.S. immigration  
what are the  
facts?**