

This is What Democracy Looks Like



**This is
What Democracy
Looks Like!**

**KFTC 2013 Annual
Membership Meeting**

General Butler State Park
Carrollton, Kentucky

This book belongs to:

KFTC's VISION

We are working for a day when Kentuckians – and all people – enjoy a better quality of life. When the lives of people and communities matter before profits. When our communities have good jobs that support our families without doing damage to the water, air and land. When companies and the wealthy pay their share of taxes and can't buy elections.

When all people have health care, shelter, food, education, clean water and other basic needs. When children are listened to and valued. When discrimination is wiped out of our laws, habits and hearts. And when the voices of ordinary people are heard and respected in our democracy.

KFTC Mission Statement

Kentuckians For The Commonwealth is a statewide citizens organization working for a new balance of power and a just society. As we work together we build our strength, individually and as a group, and we find solutions to real life problems. We use direct action to challenge – and change – unfair political, economic and social systems. Our membership is open to all people who are committed to equality, democracy and nonviolent change.

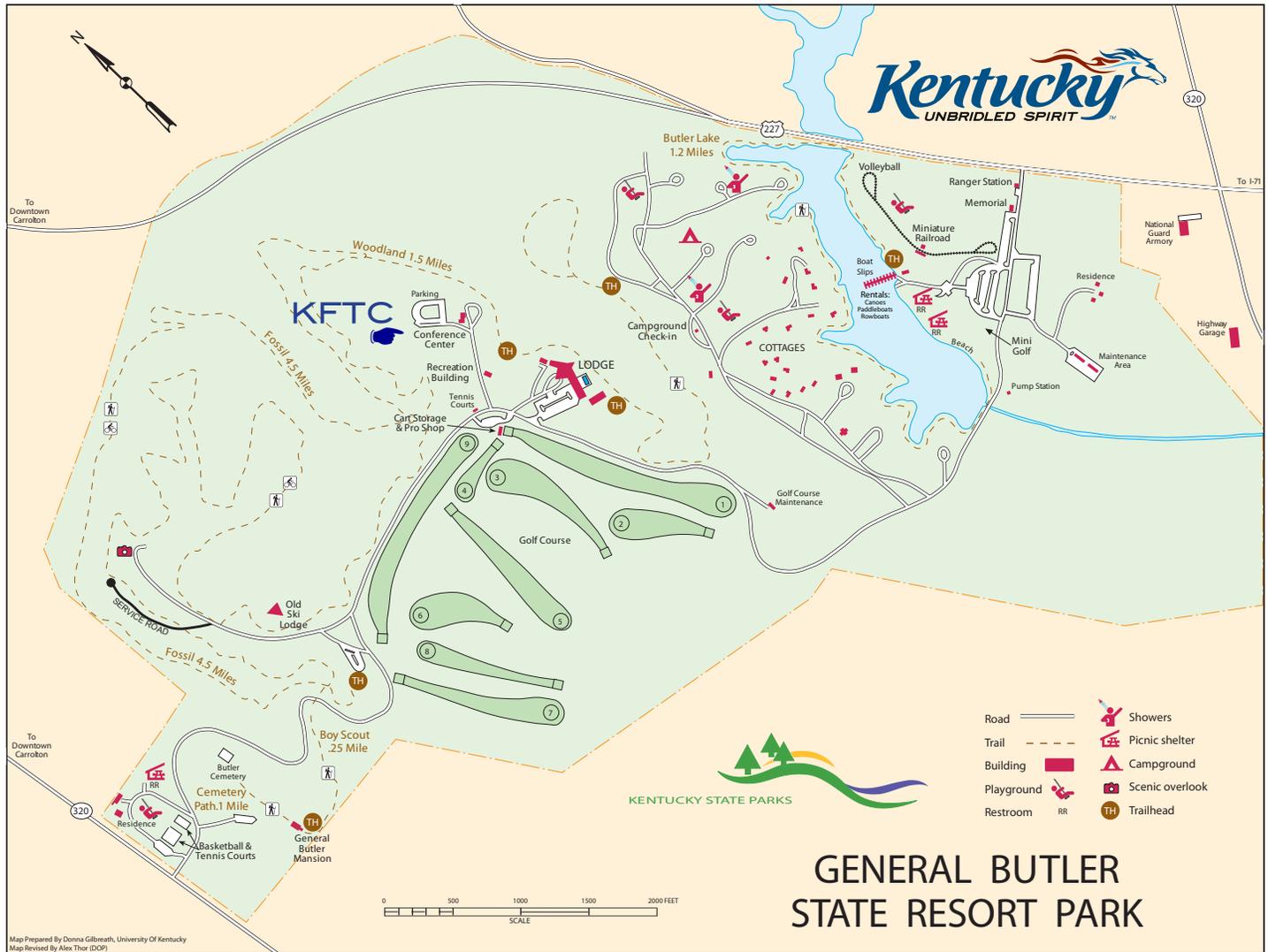
Welcome to the 2013 Annual Membership Meeting



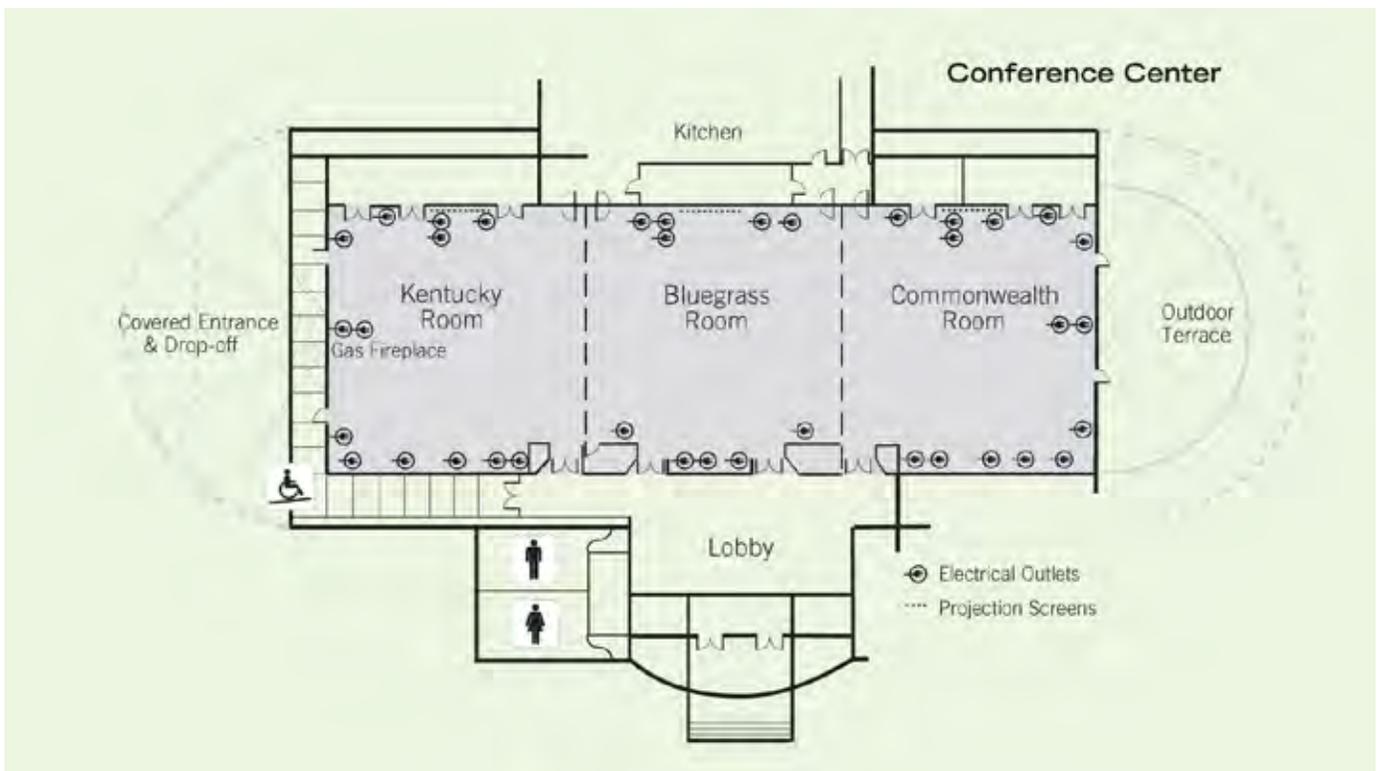
August 16-18, 2013
General Butler State Park
Carrollton, Kentucky

KFTC staff members will be present throughout the meeting to assist with any needs. Please let us know if there is any way we can make the meeting more informative and enjoyable for you.

Thank You for joining us!
We hope you have a great time and learn a lot!



GENERAL BUTLER STATE RESORT PARK



This is What Democracy Looks Like!

Welcome to the 2013 KFTC Annual membership meeting!

“This is what democracy looks like!” was selected as our theme to highlight the many important ways that KFTC members work to foster democratic values and build a stronger, healthier, more participatory democracy in Kentucky. With a big election year coming up in 2014, we are of course gearing up to register, inform and motivate tens of thousands of voters and invite candidates to take strong positions on a broad range of important issues. We are closer than we’ve ever been to securing enough support in the legislature to pass a constitutional amendment restoring voting rights to former felons – and with your help will win that issue in the coming year. We’ll also continue to train and support hundreds of KFTC members to participate in scores of other ways, including lobbying in Frankfort, participating in nonviolent direct actions, testing the quality of the water in our creeks, speaking up at public hearings, making our voices heard in the media, and encouraging new people to join and support KFTC.

Most of us who join and participate in KFTC are motivated strongly by certain issues. For some it may be voting rights. For others, a driving concern might be climate change, health care, poverty, strip mining, economic justice, immigration reform, air or water quality, racial justice, Appalachian transition or opportunities for our youth. Through our organizing, we’ve learned that all of these issues are connected, and it’s not wise or even possible to address them in isolation. And one of the common threads uniting all of our efforts is the urgent need to imagine and build a healthy democracy in our state.

As KFTC’s chairperson Sue Tallichet has explained,

“To make meaningful progress, we need to build new power, and I mean that in every sense of the word. For starters, new power means new, clean energy power. Imagine if ... Kentuckians generated more of our own electricity from small-scale renewable energy systems – including micro-hydro, solar, biomass and wind? We’d create good jobs and keep money circulating locally instead of lining the pockets of utility companies. New power also means new economic power. Imagine if we built strong worker cooperatives, farmers’ markets, artist guilds and other locally owned businesses? Or if we didn’t just think about retraining workers, but also supported them to start their own businesses? And new power certainly means building new political power. Just imagine what could be possible if we consistently elected leaders who shared our vision and are dedicated to building healthy and strong communities? Wouldn’t that make a difference?”

**We are glad you’ve joined us for this weekend of fun, fellowship and learning.
Together, we can build a bright future for all Kentuckians.**

KFTC’s Silent Auction

Look for the tables in the conference center with a number of crafts and other items displayed. Beside each item, you will find a bid sheet. Make sure to check whether there is a minimum bid! Throughout the weekend, write your bid for that item on the sheet. Check back often to see who may have outbid you. The highest bidder on Saturday night will be the lucky buyer.

Be sure to pay for your item and take it home with you!

Notice to All Parents with Children Attending the 2013 Annual Meeting

Welcome! We are glad you and your family are with us. There are many ways that people of all ages can get involved and have fun this weekend. Please note that every child and young person must participate in some form of organized activity, whether it be children's activities or the adult program. Thanks for your cooperation!

Parents with Infants, Toddlers and Young Children

Children's supervised activities are provided the Recreation Center, which is located between the main Conference Center and the Lodge. These activities will be provided:

Friday evening	7:00 p.m. – 9:30 p.m.
Saturday	8:30 a.m. – 12:15 p.m. (when the children will come to the Center for our group photo) 1:45 p.m. – 3:45 p.m. 6:30 p.m. – 9:00 p.m. (a pizza party and movie night!)
Sunday	8:45 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.

Please be prompt in getting your children to these activities and in picking them up. There will be a sign in/sign out sheet for childcare. All children must be signed into childcare. No child will be allowed to leave the childcare space until he/she has been signed out by a parent/guardian. If you have older children who will be participating in childcare, please discuss this sign out policy with them.

You are responsible for your children at all other times during the weekend: meals, long breaks and in the evenings.

We encourage you to keep your infant children with you, if possible.

If your child becomes extremely unhappy or disruptive, we may ask you to step in to help so that the folks providing childcare can attend to the other children.

We will be providing snacks on Saturday and Sunday morning. Also, on Saturday evening, we will provide a separate dinner for the children so that parents can participate in the KFTC Awards Dinner.

Parents with Teens and Pre-Teens

Young people are expected to participate in the group activities throughout the weekend.

You are responsible for your children during meals, long breaks and in the evenings. Please help your teens understand and respect basic rules of respect for each other, other people and the facility. Please monitor their activities, especially during the evening hours.

A Note to Teens at the Annual Meeting

Welcome! We are glad you're with us and hope you will take an active role in this meeting – and KFTC too! Thanks for being here to share your ideas and perspective.

When no meetings are scheduled, there is a lot of great space to hang out in – both inside and outside. Be sure to let someone know where you're going if you decide to explore this beautiful park. Have fun and please help us keep this space safe for everyone! To ensure many Annual Meetings to come, it is very important that we follow the law. It is everyone's responsibility to prevent underage drinking, drug use, abuse, etc. Feel free to talk with any KFTC staff person if you need anything or have questions.

Thanks! And again, we're glad you're here!

PROGRAM

This is What Democracy Looks Like!

Friday, August 16, 2013

- 4 p.m. Registration Opens** (Butler Lodge)
Register and receive your room or cottage key at the KFTC registration table in the foyer of Butler Lodge.

 - 7 p.m. Registration Continued** (Conference Center)
If you arrive after 7 p.m., please go directly to the conference center to register. You will receive your room or cottage key at the KFTC registration table in the foyer of the conference center.

 - 7:30 p.m. Opening, Welcome, and Keynote Address by Wendell Berry** (Conference Center)
We are pleased to welcome Wendell Berry as our keynote speaker on Friday night of the 2013 KFTC Annual Membership Meeting. Wendell’s address on Friday night will focus on the economic changes in Kentucky that have led to a loss of self-determination, local knowledge, and affection. He asks, “How does it come about that a people can be discarded? How have we become reduced to living by jobs that are associated with nobody, and with no place in particular?” He will reflect on ways these changes in our economy affect our well-being and democracy. And he will suggest a set of ideas about what is needed to re-imagine ourselves and resettle our communities.
Facilitator: Beverly May

 - 9:30 p.m. Square Dance & Social Hour Evening Entertainment**
Please join us following the evening program for some light snacks, social time, and a good old-fashioned square dance. No square dance experience necessary! Square dancing is a great way to connect with new friends and have fun. *Facilitators: Randy Wilson (caller), Paw Paw Pickers (music), and Sara Pennington*
-  **9:30 Shuttle** – Conference Center front parking lot to Lodge & Cottages
-  **11:00 Shuttle** – Conference Center front parking lot to Lodge & Cottages

Saturday, August 17, 2013

- 7:45 – Breakfast** (Conference Center)
8:45 a.m. Breakfast will be available until 8:45 a.m. in the conference center. Please arrive before 8:45 a.m. if you would like to eat breakfast.

 - 9 a.m. KFTC Welcome and Opening for the Day** (Conference Center)
Join us to kick off the day. We will make a few announcements about the weekend, hear chapter highlights and petitions, and more. *Facilitator: Sue Tallichet*

 - 9:45 a.m. Strengthening Democracy** (Conference Center)
We’ll start the weekend off by learning from the experience of social change leaders in Florida and ways they are working to build a stronger, healthier democracy. Our panelists include Gihan Perera, Executive Director of Florida New Majority, and Johann Joseph, an active grassroots leader with that organization. FNM uses direct action organizing and electoral strategies to “overcome the dark days of racism and divisiveness in the Sunshine State and bring the new light of fairness and equity to all residents.” In 2012 FNM’s electoral efforts reached more than 250,000 voters across the state and helped elect 10 new progressive candidates to state and federal office. Current campaigns focus on felon voting rights, immigration reform, fighting mass incarceration and standing up for women and young people.
Facilitator and panelists: Linda Stettenbenz, Gihan Perera and Johann Joseph
-  **8:00 Shuttle** – Cottages to Conference Center
-  **8:05 Shuttle** – Lodge to Conference Center

Saturday, August 17, 2013

10:45 a.m. Break

11 a.m. Strengthening Democracy Continued (Conference Center)

Hear from a panel of Kentuckians working to expand democracy and civic participation here at home. Panelists will share their experience working for increased democracy, their vision for what democracy could look like in Kentucky and what it will take to get their. *Panelists and Facilitators: Elizabeth Sanders, Ray Tucker, Elizabeth Sawyer, Kristah Lavalley, and Mantell Stevens*

12:15 p.m. Group Photo (Front Steps of Conference Center)

Please join us for a few minutes on the front steps of the conference center for the famous KFTC group photo. All children in childcare will be brought to the front steps to join their parents for the picture. *Photographer: Tim Buckingham*

12:30 p.m. Lunch (Conference Center)

Lunch will be served buffet-style in the conference center from 12:30 to 1:30 p.m. Please enjoy your meal with old friends or by making new friends.

LUNCH DISCUSSIONS: There will also be a few optional, informal lunch topic discussions. The topics are **Implementing health care reform** in Kentucky, Stopping the proposed **bluegrass pipeline**, and Advancing **racial justice** in the wake of the Trayvon Martin verdict. The different topics will be in the different corners of the room. (Look for the table markings to help find the right spot). Depending on the size of the groups that form, you may need to move chairs or tables to accommodate the size group. Facilitators for each group are Lisa Abbott (racial justice), health care (Cara Stewart), and Mary Dan Easley (pipeline).

2 p.m. Afternoon Break-Out Workshops (3 in Conference Center, 3 in Lodge, 1 in Rec Center) *choose one*

Campaign Finance Reform (Commonwealth Room)

Citizens United was a game-changer, and reversing it might seem daunting. Important efforts are underway with good opportunities to organize, and we'll talk about those, but there are also opportunities to impact the landscape right here in Kentucky. This workshop will build a shared understanding of campaign finance reform strategies on the federal and state level, and will start with the assertion that we **can** build a democracy independent of influence of corporations and wealth. *Facilitators: Steve Wilkins, Jessica Hays Lucas, Kevin Pentz*

Economic Democracy (Lodge Burley Room)

Learn more about models for cooperatives – from rural electric co-ops to worker-owner cooperatives. What are they? How can we make them work here in Kentucky to help build New Power? *Facilitators: Martin Richards, Jessie Skaggs, Sara Pennington*

Democracy for all: Immigration Reform (Bluegrass Room)

While immigration reform prompts heated debate in Congress and the media, a vibrant immigrant rights movement is also pursuing equality and justice at the grassroots level. The movement seeks a healthy democracy in which basic rights, responsibilities, and opportunities are accessible to all Americans, regardless of documentation. Guest speakers Steve, Marco, and Pedro will talk about the Dream 9, a group of young people (including Pedro's brother and Marco himself) whose recent detention has highlighted the need for authentic freedom and lasting change. Learn more about the Dream 9, the day-to-day realities and injustices our immigration system creates, and how we can support immigrant rights in our own communities. *Facilitators: Steve Pavey, Tanya Torp, Marco Saavedra, Pedro Santiago*

Saturday, August 17, 2013

2 p.m. Afternoon Break-Out Workshops (continued)

The Struggle for Voting Rights: Where Do We Go From Here? (Kentucky Room)

Fifty years after the passage of the federal Voting Rights Act, the struggle to ensure that all Americans enjoy a fundamental right to vote is far from over. Join us for a discussion about significant challenges to voting rights at the national level, as well as efforts to protect and expand voting rights here at home. A dynamic panel of guests will share perspectives about the Voting Rights Act, redistricting, voter ID laws, and the campaign to restore voting rights to former felons in Kentucky. Together we will discuss why voting rights matter to our communities and identify opportunities to take action. *Facilitators: K.A. Owens, Elizabeth Jones, Rep. Mary Lou Marzian, Michael Hiser, Lisa Abbott, Joe Gallenstein*

KFTC 101: 32 years of action for justice (Lodge River Room)

New to KFTC? Join this session to learn, share, and celebrate the history, hard work, big victories, and ongoing journey for social justice in communities from Paducah to Pikeville. *Facilitators: Jeff and Sharman Chapman-Crane, Alicia Hurle, Tanya Turner*

Media & Democracy (Woodland Room in Lodge)

Democracy can only thrive in an environment where citizens have access to truthful and thorough information. How we get our news is a key piece of a strong democracy. In this workshop, participants will learn about the impact of media in our communities, share how KFTC and others have used media to share their stories, and discuss what participants can do to use media to strengthen our democracy. *Facilitators: Ralph Davis, Beth Bissmeyer, Teri Blanton*

Youth Workshop (in the Rec Center)

Kids 8 to 12 are invited to attend their own workshop to learn about the importance and power of democracy, how KFTC builds democracy through conversations, and how they can build democracy by telling their own stories. If a younger child wants to attend the workshop, we suggest bringing an adult to help. *Facilitators: Morgan Brown, Amy Hogg, Heather Roe Mahoney*

3:30 p.m. Break

Hang out with old friends or meet new friends during the afternoon break. Below are some free group activities to join in on!

- **4 p.m. – Guided Hike:** Meet on the front steps of the lodge at 4 p.m. for a hike guided by Cathy and Joe Gilbert. Depending on the size of the group, we may break into a shorter/easier hike and a longer/medium level hike. *Facilitators: Cathy and Joe Gilbert*
- **4 p.m. – Softball:** Meet near the main entrance to the park and by the lake. There is a big open field where we will build our own softball field and play a friendly game. Bring a bat and glove if you have it. All ages and skill level are welcome! *Facilitator: Heather Roe Mahoney, Josh Saxton*
- **4 p.m. – Yoga:** Meet near the large picnic shelter by the lake for group yoga. *Facilitators: Beth Howard, Colleen Unroe*
- **Other activities available at General Butler State Park** – swimming, mini golf (small fee), paddle boats (small fee), basketball, tennis, and volleyball.



3:45 Shuttle – Conference Center front parking lot to the Lodge and Cottages

RECREATION OPTIONS

- 9-Hole Regulation Golf Course
- 18-Hole Miniature Golf (Seasonal)
- Pedal Boats, Canoes & Rowboat Rentals (Seasonal)
- Team-Building
- Nature Trails (6 miles)
- Mountain Biking Trail (4.5 miles)
- Outdoor Pool (Seasonal)
- Planned Recreation
- Playground
- Picnic Tables

Saturday, August 17, 2013

- 7 p.m. Dinner & Awards Ceremony** (Conference Center)
Join us for a buffet-style banquet. Once everyone has been through the buffet line and is seated we will begin the evening program. The annual KFTC Awards Banquet is an opportunity to recognize both the KFTC legends for whom the awards are named (*see pages 19-20*) and the current members who have made exceptional contributions to our work during the past year. Over the years, many KFTC members have been arrested, lost jobs and overcome great personal adversity in the pursuit of change. These annual awards recognize courage, sacrifice, hard work, passion and commitment. There will also be some chapter petitions during the program. *Facilitator: George Eklund*
-  **6:45 Shuttle** – Cottages to Conference Center
-  **6:50 Shuttle** – Lodge to Conference Center
- 9:00 p.m. Silent Auction Closes** (Conference Center)
Please make your final bids for the silent auction on Saturday evening before heading out for the evening entertainment. We will allow a bit of time after the awards ceremony ends for final bids and then make announcements as the silent auction draws to a close. We encourage everyone who is staying until Sunday to pay for and pick-up your items on Sunday when you leave, to allow staff time to close out the auction on Saturday evening. If you must receive your items on Saturday night, arrangements can be made by inquiring at the KFTC information table.
-  **9:00 Shuttle** – Conference Center front parking lot to Picnic Shelter, Lodge and Cottages
- 9 p.m. Cultural Sharing Showcase & Dance Party** (Large Picnic Shelter Pavilion by the lake)
All are welcome to join us for an evening of cultural sharing followed by a good ol' fashioned dance party. This is a great opportunity to share our diverse talents and customs with one another. Showcase participants will have the stage for three minutes and can share their talent (i.e. singing, dancing, poetry, acrobatics, etc.) or part of their culture (i.e. cultural customs, a prayer, family heirloom, etc.). There will be a sign up sheet posted outside in the Conference Center all day Saturday. After the showcase we will keep the party going with some funky music and yummy snacks! *Facilitators: Alicia Hurle, Joe Gallenstein*
-  **11:00 Shuttle** – Conference Center front parking lot to Lodge & Cottages

Sunday, August 18, 2013

- 7:45 – 8:45 a.m. Breakfast** (Conference Center)
Breakfast will be available until 8:45 a.m. in the conference center. Please arrive before 8:45 a.m. if you would like to eat breakfast.
-  **8:00 Shuttle** – Cottages to Conference Center
-  **8:05 Shuttle** – Lodge to Conference Center
- 9 a.m.: Sunday Morning Workshops:** Join us for the final set of breakout workshops. *Choose one*
- Movement Building: Alliances, Collaboratives, Coalitions and Allies** (Lodge River Room)
A look at how and why KFTC is involved with movement building in the region and across the country. What movements are we already involved with? What movements do we need to build stronger connections to? What does it mean to be a movement-building organization? Join us for a discussion of our work beyond the borders of KFTC and its importance for our work. *Facilitators: Mary Love, Carey Henson, Teri Blanton*
- Powerful Citizen Lobbying** (Commonwealth Room)
Citizens talking to and educating their elected officials is a powerful way to increase democracy and civic participation in Kentucky. Join us at this workshop to learn tools and tricks for strong citizen lobbying – from city council members to state lawmakers and everywhere in between! *Facilitators: Virginia Johnson, Carissa Lenfert, Tanya Turner*

Sunday, August 18, 2013

Art & Democracy: “Poetry, Like Bread, Is for Everyone” (Woodland Room in Lodge)

William Morris said, “History has remembered the kings and warriors, because they destroyed; art has remembered the people, because they created.” In this workshop, we will discuss together the importance of art in building democracy and a better world. We will look at ways many forms of art have helped KFTC’s activism, and focus on creative writing. We will share examples of inspiring poems and generate new work.

Facilitators: Beth Howard, Sara Pennington

The Powerful Organizing in Simple Grassroots Fundraising (Lodge Burley Room)

Are you paralyzed by the thought of fundraising? Do you think fundraising is going to be tons of hard work? While sometimes it can be, more often grassroots fundraising is as simple as asking in creative ways. It often makes an “ask” easier, more connected, and FUN. It also helps people become invested and informed about our important work. Come learn how to bring the FUN in fundraising and improve your fundraising success! *Facilitators: Tanya Torp and Colette Henderson*

Building People Power Through Elections (Kentucky Room)

When KFTC members work in elections, our primary goal is to build people power (New Power!) for progressive change in Kentucky. Join us in this workshop to explore strategies and skills you can put to use, and key roles you can play, during the big election year ahead. We’ll discuss best practices for registering, informing and motivating new and unlikely voters. We’ll share strategies for communicating about important issues with candidates and voters. And we’ll identify roles you can play to connect with people in your community so they turn out on Election Day and become more involved in efforts to move Kentucky forward. *Facilitators: Kristah LaValle, Tayna Fogle, Joe Gallenstein, Lisa Abbott*

Everyday Democracy (Bluegrass Room)

Democracy doesn’t begin and end on Election Day. In this workshop, participants will share experiences and ideas about ways to build inclusive democratic communities, such as participating in local government meetings, neighborhood groups, local utilities coops, local and statewide non-profits, school boards, and engaging with state and federal officials before and after elections. We’ll discuss how to engage in these spaces in ways that build up community while maintaining and encouraging open democratic principles.

Facilitators: Doug Doerrfeld, Ray Tucker, Pam Newman, Kevin Pentz, Beth Bismeyer

10:30 a.m. Break

10:45 a.m. Business Meeting

This is the time when we review and vote on KFTC’s issue platform and elect statewide officers. Copies of the proposed platform will be available throughout the weekend – at the information table and in the business meeting. A description of our election process is on page 10, and a list and brief bio of nominees for election on page 11. There also will be final chapter petitions and we’ll approve new and returning KFTC chapters. Then we’ll fill out evaluation forms and say good-bye. *Chairperson: Sue Tallichet*

12 p.m. Adjourn!



12:00 Shuttle – Conference
Center front parking lot to
Lodge and Cottages

**Pickup up your silent auction items
and make your final purchases at the
KFTC merchandise table before leaving!**

KFTC Election Process for Statewide Officers

During the Annual Business Meeting on Sunday morning, after an overview of KFTC's nomination and election process, elections will be held for the following positions, in order:

Chairperson – Vice-Chairperson – Secretary-Treasurer – At-Large Member

For each officer position, the Steering Committee's proposed candidate will be presented. Nominations from the floor will be accepted for each position until a motion to close the nominations is called for and accepted. A vote will be held for each officer position, with the winner receiving a simple majority of eligible members present and voting. Only members whose dues are current are eligible to vote. Statewide officers will begin serving in their respective capacities for one-year terms immediately upon election.

KFTC Officer Positions and Responsibilities

Chairperson – serves as chairperson and voting member of the KFTC Steering Committee and Executive Committee, as well as the chairperson of the Board of Directors of KFTC and the Kentucky Coalition; presides at all annual meetings, Steering Committee meetings, Executive Committee meetings and Board of Directors meetings.

Vice-Chairperson – serves as vice-chairperson and voting member of the KFTC Steering Committee and Executive Committee, as well as the vice-chairperson of the Board of Directors of KFTC and the Kentucky Coalition; presides in the absence of the chairperson at all annual meetings, Steering Committee meetings, Executive Committee meetings and Board of Directors meetings.

Secretary-Treasurer – serves as secretary-treasurer for KFTC and the Kentucky Coalition; is responsible for recording minutes at all annual meetings, Steering Committee meetings, Executive Committee meetings and Board of Directors meetings; is responsible for maintaining accurate financial books and records; serves as the chair of the Finance Committee; serves as a voting member of the KFTC Steering Committee and Executive Committee, as well as the Board of Directors of KFTC and the Kentucky Coalition.

At-Large Member of the Executive Committee – serves as a voting member of the KFTC Steering Committee and Executive Committee, as well as the Board of Directors of KFTC and the Kentucky Coalition.

These four elected members are joined on the Executive Committee by the Immediate Past Chairperson

Kentucky Coalition Board of Directors

Since 1984, the Kentucky Coalition has been an independent organization but closely affiliated with KFTC. It is recognized as a 501(c)(3) organization by the IRS, meaning that donations and foundation grants it receives are tax deductible. It supports grassroots community organizing, public education around public policy issues and leadership development but is limited in how much lobbying it can support. The Kentucky Coalition's board is the same five individuals who make up the KFTC Executive Committee plus three others elected at the Annual Business Meeting.

As KFTC is a 501(c)4 organization heavily involved in promoting and influencing legislation (with plans to do even more with voter empowerment work), separation is needed in the governance of the two organizations. The KFTC Steering Committee and the Kentucky Coalition board (previously just members of the Executive Committee) decided a few years ago to expand the Coalition's board by three members – the ones we'll elect on Sunday morning. The process by which these three directors are elected will mirror the process by which the KFTC Executive Committee is elected, described above.

Nominees for 2013-2014 Statewide Officers

The Steering Committee acknowledged the dedicated service of KFTC's hard-working statewide officers, and has recommended a diverse set of community leaders to serve in those positions for the coming year. The proposed slate includes Sue Tallichet as chairperson, Dana Beasley Brown as vice-chair, Megan Naseman as secretary-treasurer, and Carl Shoupe as the at-large representative. If Tallichet is elected as chairperson, Steve Boyce would continue in the position of immediate past chairperson.

This slate, based on a recommendation from the Leadership Development Committee and approved by the Steering Committee, will be voted on the membership in attendance at the Annual Business Meeting on Sunday morning. Other nominations may be made from the floor at that time.

Together, KFTC's five statewide officers make up the organization's Executive Committee. KFTC's officers are elected for one-year terms and may serve no more than two consecutive years in the same position.

Below are the nominees:



Chairperson: Sue Tallichet is an active member of the Rowan County chapter, Land Reform Committee and Litigation Team. She has served for a number of years on KFTC's Steering Committee, currently as chair. She is a brave and effective spokesperson about mountaintop removal mining

and its impacts on land, water and people. She is the author of the book **Daughters of the Mountain: Women Coal Miners in Central Appalachia**.

Vice-Chairperson: Dana Beasley Brown was one of the driving forces behind the formation of the Bowling Green KFTC Chapter. She serves on KFTC's Steering Committee as vice-chair and the Economic Justice Committee, and is deeply involved in local efforts to improve the quality and affordability of housing in her community. Dana has spoken before several legislative committees and has been a guest on the KET program *Kentucky Tonight* about the need for fair tax reforms.



Secretary-Treasurer: Megan Naseman lives in Berea. As a college student, she was captivated by KFTC while working with Bev May to protect her hollow in Floyd County. After graduating from Berea College, Megan thought she might be bound for the west coast; but at the end of one year in Seattle, she heard this Bluegrass State calling her back to what is now her home. Besides working with KFTC, she finds great joy in baking pies, hiking, playing banjo and singing with the band Sugar Tree.



At-Large: Carl Shoupe is a long-time member from Harlan County who is a leader in the local chapter and has served several years on the KFTC Steering Committee. He is a former miner, mine worker organizer and Vietnam veteran. He was a major part of the planning for the Appalachia's Bright Future conference and is actively involved in organizing projects to follow up on the ideas and momentum from that event.



Kentucky Coalition Board nominees

Homer White: Homer has served on the Steering Committee for the Pike County chapter (long ago) and more recently the Scott County chapter. He is a math professor at Georgetown College. He serves on the Economic Justice Committee and



is a chapter leader on fairness, non-discrimination, voting rights, recycling and tax reform issues.

Mary Love: Mary is a long-time member who represented the Jefferson County chapter for several years on the Steering Committee. She is co-chair of the Land Reform Committee and an active member of the Leadership Development, Litigation, and New Energy and Transition committees. She is a retired Presbyterian minister.



Doug Doerrfeld: Doug has been one of the local leaders in the Rowan County chapter for many years. He is a past chairperson of KFTC, serving from 2006-08, and was on the Executive Committee for many years. He is co-chair of the Land Reform Committee and serves on the Litigation Team.



SHUTTLE SCHEDULE



If you are at the Annual Meeting without your own transportation and need a ride from the conference center to other areas of the park (your cabin, the lodge, etc.) KFTC can help provide transportation. KFTC staff person Kevin Pentz will be driving a van and below are the listed times he will be providing shuttle service. Please sign-up at the KFTC information table so Kevin can know to expect you on the shuttle and make sure we have enough seats in the van. If you need additional transportation beyond these times, please indicate on the sign-up sheet at the information table and we will do our best to provide “on-call” shuttle service. If you have trouble finding Kevin and the shuttle at any point, please feel free to call him directly on his cell phone at 606-335-0764. And Kevin only accepts tips in the form of smiles!

Friday, August 16

Pickup Location	Pickup Time	Drop-Off Location
Conference Center front parking lot	9:30 p.m.	Lodge & Cottages
Conference Center front parking lot	11:00 p.m.	Lodge & Cottages

Saturday, August 17

Pickup Location	Pickup Time	Drop-Off Location
Cottages & Lodge	8 and 8:05 a.m.	Conference Center
Lodge	8:05 a.m.	Conference Center
Conference Center front parking lot	3:45 p.m.	Lodge & Cottages
Cottages	6:45 p.m.	Conference Center
Lodge	6:50 p.m.	Conference Center
Conference Center	9 p.m.	Picnic Shelter, Lodge, Cottages
Picnic Shelter	11 p.m.	Lodge & Cottages

Sunday, August 18

Pickup Location	Pickup Time	Drop-Off Location
Cottages & Lodge	8 and 8:05 a.m.	Conference Center
Conference Center	12 p.m.	Lodge & Cottages

Facilitators, Resource People, Staff

Lisa Abbott – Lisa is the Organizing and Leadership Development Director for KFTC. She began work with KFTC in 1992 as a community organizer in Floyd, Pike and Lawrence counties. She received a Master’s Degree in Public Policy with an emphasis in Leadership Development from the University of Maryland in 2001. She lives in Berea with her husband Justin and two boys, Myles and Hollis.

Beth Bismeyer – Beth joined KFTC’s staff at the start of 2013 and works with our Madison County and Wilderness Trace chapters. She grew up in Louisville’s South End, on the same street her parents lived as children, and earned her B.A. in English from Berea College. Before joining KFTC’s staff, Beth was an active member in our campaigns on ending mountaintop removal, sustainable energy, and voting rights. She previously worked as an organizer for a youth environmental organization and a congressional campaign. Beth now lives in Berea with her partner, Tony, and enjoys hiking, reading, watching PBS, failing at crosswords, and spending time with loved ones.

Teri Blanton – A long-time KFTC leader, Teri became the first KFTC Fellow in August 2007. Her work focuses on building a strong Canary Project Leadership Network on the range of KFTC coal and energy issues. Teri is from Harlan County and has served in numerous KFTC leadership positions, including chairperson in 2003-04. She is the mother of two grown children and the grandmother of three. She lives in Berea.

Denney Breeding – Denney joined the KFTC staff in January 2013 as an organizer for KFTC’s Southern Kentucky chapter based in Bowling Green. She grew up in Letcher County before attending Lindsey Wilson College and Western Kentucky University, where she completed a Bachelors degree in Social and Behavioral Sciences. Denney has more than 15 years of experience in working with children and families across Kentucky in areas of advocacy, prevention, training, and education in an effort to strengthen communities.

Morgan Brown – Morgan was hired in July 2009 as our first full-time Administrative Assistant. She was born, raised and still lives in Barbourville, surrounded by her extended family. Morgan spends her free time with her daughter Kerigan, and husband David. She works in our London office.

Tim Buckingham – Tim joined the KFTC staff in March 2007, filling the position of Communications Associate. He lives in Lexington with Amy, his wife, two dogs Ellie Mae and Michael, his daughter Joleigh, and his son Hagan. He is bicycle advocacy nut, a homebrew brewmeister, and a tri-athlete. Tim has an MA in critical media studies from the University of Kentucky and works out of the Lexington office. Tim is a founding member of the Broke Spoke Community Bike Shop in Lexington (thebrokepoke.org).

Jeff and Sharman Chapman-Crane – Sharman and Jeff are artists and activists from Letcher County. As a full-time professional artist Jeff has created many graphic designs for KFTC campaigns, and his sculpture about mountaintop removal “The Agony of Gaia” has been shown in Washington, D.C., Chicago, New York and throughout the coalfields of Kentucky, Virginia, West Virginia and Tennessee. Jeff has been a member of Kentuckians For The Commonwealth for over 31 years. Sharman is from Wooster, Ohio, and has lived in Letcher County since she and Jeff were married in 1984. Since moving to Kentucky she has worked in a variety of capacities, including artist, community advocate, mission worker with both the Presbyterian and Mennonite churches, and social activist. A member of KFTC for nearly 30 years she has served as steering committee representative and is a long-standing member of the land reform committee.

Featured Speaker

Wendell Berry is a noted Kentucky farmer, author and poet. He and Tanya, his wife, are also beloved members of KFTC. Their support, encouragement and vision have helped shape the direction and character this organization in important ways over three decades. Few of us at I Love Mountains Day in 2008 will forget Wendell’s speech when he declared that he was ready – and he hoped we were – for nonviolent civil disobedience. Some time later he joined with a dozen or so other KFTC members for a three-day sit-in in the governor’s office to demand an end to destructive strip mining and greater commitment to a just transition in the mountains.

It was a full two decades earlier when Wendell declared that, in his view, KFTC represented a new political party in Kentucky, one that represents the land and the people. We

have been working hard to grow into that vision ever since! We are pleased to welcome Wendell Berry as our keynote speaker on Friday night of the 2013 KFTC Annual Meeting.

Wendell’s address will focus on the economic changes in Kentucky, especially rural Kentucky, that have led to a loss of self-determination, local knowledge and affection. He asks, “How does it come about that a people can be discarded? How have we become reduced to living by jobs that are associated with nobody, and with no place in particular?” He will reflect on ways these changes in our economy affect our well-being and democracy. And he will suggest a set of ideas about what is needed to re-imagine ourselves and resettle our communities.



Facilitators, Resource People, Staff

Doug Doerrfeld – Doug is a carpenter and woodworker who for 33 years has lived with his family on the headwaters of Big Caney Creek in Elliott County. A citizen activist he has been a member of KFTC for 16 years and has served on the Steering Committee, Executive Committee, Finance Committee, Land Reform Committee, Personnel Committee, Litigation Team and as chairperson from 2006 - 2008. He also is a member of the Kentucky Resources Council, Kentucky Waterways Alliance and Kentucky Heartwood.

Robin Daugherty – Robin was welcomed to the KFTC staff team in June 2006 as office manager. Originally from eastern Tennessee, Robin has lived in Kentucky for 10 years, currently just outside of London with a very special weimaraner named Lucy and five cats. Robin has a Bachelor's degree in business management from the University of Tennessee and brings more than 20 years of experience and training in office management, specialized administrative skills and community service.

Ralph Davis – Ralph is an Appalachian journalist, with more than 20 years of experience leading newsrooms for eastern Kentucky newspapers, as well as reporting for web, mobile and social media in a variety of formats on his website, www.ralphbdavis.com. He recently completed a Master's degree in New Media Journalism, during which he produced the film and multimedia project, "Appalachia 2050," as part of his thesis. The project is an effort to initiate grassroots discussion about economic development, as the War on Poverty reaches the half-century mark.

Tayna Fogle – Tayna is a mother, grandmother and former Lady Cat basketball player for the University of Kentucky. She is also a former felon and a powerhouse leader within the campaign to restore voting rights to individuals who have served their sentence. Tayna is a long-time member of KFTC and has represented the organization as a member of the Voter Empowerment Strategy team, a spokesperson, a voter empowerment organizer and an active member of the Central Kentucky Chapter. Tayna lives in Lexington. She is committed to helping other people in recovery and re-entry to overcome obstacles, find their own voice, and contribute in a positive way to their families and communities.

Joe Gallenstein – Joe first joined KFTC in 2005 as a student at UK. After graduating college he returned home to Boone County in 2009, and has been lucky enough to work for KFTC since 2010. He currently lives in Burlington with his partner Alex and their 7-month-old son Dylan, and they are all excited to be celebrating their first annual meeting as a family this year!

Jessica George – Jessica is our Development Director and is responsible for organizing our grassroots fundraising efforts. A native of Louisville, she received a degree in sociology from Antioch College. Jess has a background in nonprofit housing issues and social justice organizing.

Cathy and Joe Gilbert – Cathy has lived in Carrollton most of her life. Joe came here about 40 years ago with a company that built bridges named Bristol Steel and is originally from Bristol, Tennessee. They first became acquainted with KFTC in 1980 when KFTC put them in touch with a young lawyer named Tom Fitzgerald who came to Carrollton in a yellow pinto and spitting chewing tobacco. They made out all right in a court hearing about a local chemical company thanks to Fitz.

Jerry Hardt – Jerry is KFTC's communications director. He has worked with KFTC for 32 years in various roles, including *balancing the scales* editor, media coordinator and occasional financial manager! He lives in Louisville.

Carey Henson – Carey Henson lives in Berea with her children and a menagerie of pets. She is a member of KFTC's Land Reform Committee, and represents KFTC on the Alliance For Appalachia's steering committee and training team. In addition to working on coal and water issues, Carey spends her time hiking, gardening and reading.

Michael Hiser – Michael has been out of prison for 6 years and has paid 15,000 dollars in taxes. He graduated with high honors from Jefferson Community and Technical College with an Associate's degree in human services. He graduated with a bachelor's degree in Pastoral Ministry from Campbellsville University, is a licensed minister, and is currently working on his master's degree as a Licensed Marriage and Family Therapist. He is an adjunct instructor for Jefferson Community Technical College and will be teaching almost 100 students this semester while being the volunteer chaplain at two community custody corrections institutions for the past six years. He was released from parole early for good behavior and he still does not have the right to vote. But does have the right to be taxed.

Virginia Johnson – Virginia lives in southern Kenton County with her husband, Jeff Hampton, who also is a member of KFTC. She has two daughters who live in Ohio. Virginia is on the voter empowerment, environmental, and economic committees with the KFTC chapter in northern Kentucky. She is an avid organic gardener, and in her spare time enjoys reading biographies and history.

Jessica Hays Lucas – Jessica became KFTC's Tax and Economic Justice Organizer in September 2006. She grew up in south-central Kentucky, graduated from the University of Kentucky, and moved away for a time for school. She got involved with KFTC in 2004 when she moved back to Kentucky. Jess lives in Lexington with her husband Shawn, their sons, and too many animals. Jess helps build statewide support for fair and adequate tax reform, helps local chapters with economic justice work, and is the Deputy Organizing Director for Leadership Development, focusing on the New Power Leader Program.

Facilitators, Resource People, Staff

Colette Henderson – Colette joined KFTC’s staff in June 2008 as our Jefferson County Organizer and transitioned to Development Associate in 2013. Originally from Washington State, she received her undergraduate degree from Earlham College in Richmond, Indiana and has lived in Louisville since 2002. She completed her graduate degree in social work at the Kent School at University of Louisville. In her free time, Colette enjoys writing about food, preparing lavish meals with local foods, traveling to strange new worlds, and indulging in playful mischief. She shares her home with her partner Drew and her spoiled dogs Gracie and Musket.

Michael Hiser – Michael has been out of prison for six years and has paid \$15,000 in taxes. He graduated with high honors from Jefferson Community and Technical College with an Associate’s degree in human services. He graduated with a bachelor’s degree in Pastoral Ministry from Campbellsville University, is a licensed minister, and is currently working on his master’s degree as a Licensed Marriage and Family Therapist. He is an adjunct instructor for Jefferson Community Technical College and will be teaching almost 100 students this semester while being the volunteer chaplain at two community custody corrections institutions for the past six years. He was released from parole early for good behavior and he still does not have the right to vote – but does have the obligation to pay taxes.

Amy Hogg – Amy joined KFTC’s staff team in 2008. As Program Associate, she works with fundraising, communications and administration. She’s originally from Letcher County and now lives in Berea with her husband, Mike, and their daughters, Ellie and Claire. When she’s not writing, Amy enjoys watching her daughters on the stage and on the soccer field. Her first book, a novel for children called *Callie Rose*, was published in 2012.

Beth Howard – Beth Howard is the new organizer working with the Central Kentucky Chapter of KFTC. Beth grew up in West Liberty (Morgan County). She is a graduate of Eastern Kentucky University with a Master’s in English with an emphasis in Creative Writing. Beth served for five years as a lead organizer with a grassroots organization in Daytona Beach, Florida called Fighting Against Injustice Toward Harmony (FAITH). She returned to Kentucky in 2011 and worked as a case manager facilitating classes in parenting, job coaching, and interpersonal skills for a multi-county program based in West Liberty. Beth is a student and teacher of yoga, she is rarely ever without a book, and lives in Lexington with her dog Sandy.

Erik Hungerbuhler – Erik is our Website Manager/E-Organizer. He grew up in Corbin and is a graduate of the University of Kentucky. He was involved with KFTC in a number of different roles as a member before joining the staff and is excited about integrating the website and social media into our organizing strategy. He currently lives in Lexington with his wife and daughter. He spends some of his free time geeking out on sci-fi, playing board games, and helping at his wife’s yarn store, [Rebelle](#). He is an accomplished knitter and always willing to teach others.

Alicia Hurle – Alicia is originally from Louisville and holds a Master of Public Administration from the University of Louisville with a concentration in Non-Profit Management and a Graduate Certificate in Pan-African Studies. On her free time, Alicia enjoys running, cycling, hiking, watching indie films, traveling, and spending time with friends and family.

Elizabeth Jones – Elizabeth is a graduate of Georgetown Law Center. She teaches classes in the Pan-African Studies department at the University of Louisville. She recently opened the Human Rights Legal Center with Women in Transition, where she’s trying to build a non-profit to assist poor people needing legal assistance. She is a Doctoral Fellow in Urban and Public Affairs at the University of Louisville.

Kristah Lavalle – Kristah is a Jefferson County member who first joined Kentuckians For The Commonwealth in 2011, and who worked as a Voter Empowerment Organizer for KFTC in 2012. She has been active in a lot of KFTC’s work to engage voters in Louisville, from registering, informing, and mobilizing them to vote.

Featured Speaker

Johann Joseph migrated to South Florida in 2007 at the age of 16 from Port Au Prince, Haiti. Johann is a single mother of two beautiful girls and has been heard saying that her girls are her inspiration to turn her city and state around. She first got involved with Florida New Majority as a canvasser for the



Fight for a Fair Economy campaign in 2011. Since then she has taken up leadership roles during the 2012 Presidential elections. In early 2013 she spoke to Florida’s state legislators of the importance to make voting a fundamental right. One of Johann’s great electoral-activism accomplishments was forming and co-leading a team of volunteers to vet, endorse and help elect the first woman mayor of the City of North Miami. Johann continues to remain engaged in local activism and organizing efforts in South Florida.

Facilitators, Resource People, Staff

Shekinah Lavalle – Shekinah was transplanted to Kentucky in 2000, and after living in a number of states, finally found a place that she wanted to call “home”. After meeting some folks from KFTC, she became enamored with their vision and their focus on positive, values-based change. She began working on Tax Reform with KFTC, helped to craft tax legislation through the Partnership for Kentucky’s Future coalition, and joined the Economic Justice committee where she has served since 2010. Shekinah spends much of her free time talking about tax reform to anyone who will listen, trying to find excited new leaders to share their stories, and studying tax policy, tax structures and anything else pertaining to best economic practices. When she isn’t working as a member, she can be found knitting, watching Star Trek or famously bad films, but usually, she’s talking to someone about tax reform.

Burt Lauderdale – Burt is our Executive Director. He is a graduate of Auburn University and has been with KFTC since 1983. His responsibilities include leadership identification and development, campaign development, organizer training, strategy development and fundraising.

Carissa Lenfert – Carissa grew up outside of Louisville, in southern Indiana, and joined the KFTC staff team in 2008. She has a bachelor’s degree from Ball State University and a Master’s degree in Public Administration from George Mason University, with a concentration in nonprofit management. She previously worked as a grassroots organizer for Iowa Citizens for Community Improvement where she focused on organizing family farmers and rural residents. She lives with her husband, Alan, in Louisville and enjoys spending time telling bad jokes, learning how to prepare new recipes in the kitchen, and taking weekend naps on the couch.

Mary Love – A native of Knoxville, Mary has lived in and around Louisville for 25 years. Her roots in Appalachia are deep, with family having settled in eastern Tennessee near the Smoky Mountains in the late 1700s. She retired in 2010, which gives her more time for volunteer work with her church and with KFTC, the Kentucky Sustainable Energy Alliance and The Alliance for Appalachia.

Mary Lou Marzian – Mary Lou represents Kentucky’s 34th House District in the General Assembly. She is a registered nurse and provides leadership in many ways, including through the League of Women Voters, Kentucky Nurses Association, and the Metropolitan Louisville Women’s Political Caucus. She was first elected to her current positioning 1994. As a legislator, she has championed many issues important to her constituents and KFTC members, including the Clean Energy Opportunity Act. She is an effective advocate on a broad range of social justice issues, including human and civil rights, workers rights, clean elections and the environment.

Bennie Massey – Bennie worked for 30 years as an underground coal miner with US Steel and Arch Coal. He’s lived in the community of Lynch, Kentucky all his life. He has served as a deacon at the Mount Sinai Church since 1972, and as a volunteer with the local fire department for at least 30 years. Bennie has been elected 17 times to the City Council in Lynch, where he continues to serve today. He’s quick to point out that he is not alone in any of these efforts, and appreciates his many friends and colleagues who work together for the needs of their community.

Beverly May – Bev is a long-time KFTC member from Floyd County, Kentucky. She served on KFTC’s staff during the broad form deed campaign. Bev has been an active leader in the Floyd County chapter, on KFTC’s Land Reform Committee, and on the Steering Committee. She is one of the movers and shakers in the Floyd County chapter who organized the annual Growing Appalachia conference, a one day conference focused on skills related to small scale farming, sustainable forestry and clean energy solutions. Bev is a family nurse practitioner and is pursuing a PhD in public health at the University of Kentucky.

Pam Newman – Pam Newman uses her awesome every day abilities for good as a superhero representing love and justice. She is also a Network Organizer focusing her powers on housing while building a better Louisville (and ultimately a better Earth) alongside her fellow avengers at the Network Center for Community Change. She first learned of her superpowers as a young lady while earning the Girl Scout Gold & Silver awards in her hometown of Philadelphia, PA. When not professionally saving the world, she is a huge nerd, hilarious storyteller and quasi-professional rock star always on the lookout for excuses to travel.

K.A. Owens – K.A. is a long-time KFTC member. He has served in many capacities including as Jefferson County Steering Committee Representative, and for many years on KFTC’s Executive Committee, including two years as chairperson. He is a leader on issues of economic justice and has served on KFTC’s Economic Justice Committee. K.A. also is co-chair of the Kentucky Alliance Against Racist and Political Repression, a civil rights organization headquartered in Louisville. He is a former member of the Coordinating Committee of the Fairness Campaign and is still on their Leadership Council. He earned a Bachelor’s degree in Communication and a Master’s degree in Humanities with a concentration in Civic Leadership from the University of Louisville. He is a native of Louisville.

Steve Pavey – Steve is an applied anthropologist and artist engaged in activist scholarship as a Senior Research Scientist at the One Horizon Institute, Lexington, Kentucky. He utilizes collaborative and participatory research methods alongside activism and art with communities organizing for immigrant justice. He is a member of the steering committee for the Southeast Immigrant Rights Network, as well as close ally to the National Immigrant Youth Alliance. You can learn more about his collaborative work with undocumented poet and painter Marco Saavedra by visiting www.shadowsthenlight.com.

Facilitators, Resource People, Staff

The Paw Paw Pickers – The Paw Paw Pickers are a string band who began playing together at the Windy Corner restaurant on Bryan Station Road outside Lexington. The Paw Paw Pickers were organized by David Wagoner whose CSA is one of the providers of local produce for Windy Corner. The band performs bluegrass music and also fiddle music for square dances. Other members of the Paw Paw Pickers include John Harrod and Tona Barkley of Owen County and Mason Colby of Lexington.

Sara Pennington – Sara joined KFTC's staff in April 2009 as a New Power Campaign Organizer, working to reform Kentucky's rural electric cooperatives and move them toward more energy efficiency and clean energy. She currently lives and works in Berea and will be moving to Whitesburg later this month. Originally from West Virginia, Sara will have a chapbook of poems published this fall. The poems tell story of her family in the 19th century in the Guyandotte Valley of West Virginia.

Kevin Pentz – Kevin is the Canary Project organizer. After working as an organizing intern with KFTC in 1996, he moved west to work with an organizing group in Montana. He returned to KFTC as an organizer in 1999. He has a degree in Environmental Science from Saint Lawrence University.

Heather Roe Mahoney – Heather grew up on a farm in Lewis County, Kentucky and graduated from the University of Louisville more years ago than she'd like to admit. She came to KFTC in 2005 after working for seven years at Democracy Resource Center, first as project coordinator, then as co-director. She works closely with the Executive Director, helps with foundation fundraising, provides administrative oversight for KFTC, and staffs several of our leadership teams including the Steering Committee, Executive Committee, and Finance Committee. She lives in Lexington with her son, Kaden.

Featured Speaker



Gihan Perera is a nationally recognized progressive strategist, community organizer and leader in the U.S. social justice movement. He is currently the executive director of the Florida New Majority, a statewide civil rights and civic engagement organization working to connect and empower Florida's diverse communities.

Perera is co-founder and former executive director of the Miami Workers Center, a community organizing institution for low-income Black and Latino communities in south Florida. His decade-plus leadership of the center helped turn it into a national peer anchor to a number of strategic initiatives including the U.S. Social Forum, the Right to the City Alliance, and a number of other efforts to build the theory, practice and capacity of work happening at the intersection of race, gender, the economy and the environment.

Perera sits on the board of directors for the Advisory Committee of the Philanthropic Initiative for Racial Equity and Social Justice Leadership. He also is the co-founder and chair of the Right to the City Alliance, a national alliance across eight urban centers of the U.S. dedicated to expanding human rights and democracy. The alliance, which includes more than 50 grassroots organizations, legal service providers, academics and policy organizations, looks to forge an urban human rights agenda to win racial justice, participatory democracy and systemic policy and institutional change.

Perera began his activism as a high school student in Los Angeles and then at UC Berkeley. While organizing against the first Gulf War, Perera hosted a radio program on a local station melding his passion for social and racial justice and music. Prior to founding the Workers Center he was a union organizer, leading campaigns in Miami and South and North Carolina for seven years, with Amalgamated Clothing and Textile Workers Union (ACTWU). He was also a trainer and west coast recruitment director for the AFL-CIO's Organizing Institute.

Perera is a regular contributor to The Miami Herald and The Huffington Post and is often featured in national publications and events exploring urban poverty, racial disparities, civic engagement and social justice in the U.S.

Martin Richards – Martin is the Executive Director of Community Farm Alliance. Previously, Martin was KFTC's economic development organizer. As a tobacco farmer, he was a member of the Burley Tobacco Growers Cooperative Association. He lives with his family in Berea.

Marco Saavedro – Marco is an undocumented poet and painter. Originally from Oaxaca, Mexico, he was raised in New York, studied in Massachusetts, Ohio, & Washington, D.C. Currently he works with the National Immigrant Youth Alliance, educating & organizing & helping in stopping deportations.

Elizabeth Sawyer – Elizabeth Sawyer is the Executive Director of Emerge Kentucky, a training program for women seeking public office. Prior to joining Emerge, Elizabeth served as Development Director for the ACLU of Kentucky and managed the successful 2012 and 2010 campaigns of Congressman John Yarmuth, whose Washington staff she first joined in 2007. Born and raised in Louisville, Elizabeth was a McConnell Scholar at the University of Louisville, and interned for Senator Ted Kennedy on the U.S. Senate Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions and for the National Education Association. In 2003, Elizabeth became the first UofL student in a decade to be named a Truman Scholar. She has also worked for UofL, EMILY's List and two women-owned small businesses. Elizabeth volunteers with the Louisville Independent Business Alliance, the Network Center for Community Change, and the Metro Louisville Women's Network.

Facilitators, Resource People, Staff

Elizabeth Sanders – Elizabeth was raised in eastern Kentucky. She is committed to building stronger and healthier communities so young people in the region have the option to stay and make good lives in the places they call home. She is a member of the STAY (Stay Together Appalachian Youth) Network and provides leadership and service through WMMT 88.7 FM, Central Appalachian Prisoner Support Network, and KFTC. She represents the Letcher County KFTC chapter on the Steering Committee and was very involved in planning and hosting the Appalachia's Bright Future Conference held in Harlan earlier this year.

Jessie Skaggs – Jessie is working as the KFTC organizer for the Perry County chapter, especially around water testing and public health. She is a graduate of the University of Louisville with a degree in graphic design and worked in that field for four years. She holds a Master's Degree in Public Affairs from Indiana University, with an emphasis on sustainable development. Jessie lives in Johnson County and enjoys cooking, gardening, and shopping for books.

Linda Stettenbenz – Linda is an active member of KFTC who lives in Louisville. She serves on KFTC's Economic Justice committee and has represented the organization as a spokesperson in many public forums and settings, including the 2012 Blue Ribbon Tax Commission. Linda also served as a Voter Empowerment Organizer with KFTC, helping to register a record number of new voters in 2012.

Mantell Stevens – Mantell is a fairly new Central Kentucky member who is involved with the Voting Rights Strategy Team. He was born and raised in North Lexington, is self-employed, and volunteers and works at Imani Baptist Church. Mantell was instrumental in organizing a screening of Central Park Five this month, a film about racial profiling, to further a community conversation about race-based stops. He has been involved in several key meetings with senators about the Voting Rights Bill.

Ray Tucker – Ray Tucker Jr. is a farmer in Pulaski County. He has a long history of working for strong, involved communities through his professional experiences and his participation in community groups. As a member of Pulaski County Concerned Citizens, he fought for local control over solid waste issues. He has worked in non-profits dedicated to community improvement, and is a past KFTC chairperson.

Tanya Turner – An Eastern Kentucky University grad from Bell County, Tanya has been organizing with KFTC since 2010 in southeast Kentucky. She recently served two years on the Advisory Committee for Highlander's Seeds of Fire inter-generational leadership development program. Tanya is a part of The STAY (Stay Together Appalachian Youth) Project and recently joined the board of the Appalachian Community Fund. She likes to swim and dance and cook and tell tales.

Randy Wilson – Randy is a fifth generation eastern Kentuckian who is the folk arts director at the Hindman Settlement School in Hindman. He has been a member of KFTC for 25 years serving on the personnel committee and the land reform committee. Randy helped begin KFTC's Renew East Kentucky campaign by running for the utility board for Jackson Energy, a rural electric cooperative. Randy follows a long line of banjo players and dance callers since his ancestors crossed the Cumberland Gap with Daniel Boone from Surry County, North Carolina. He calls dances in the longest running community dance in Kentucky atop a mountain in Carcassone. He has called dances in cultural exchanges from Latino communities in San Antonio, Texas, to native communities in Alaska to Arab communities in Dearborn, Michigan. For 30 years, from San Francisco to Onion Blade, Kentucky, Randy continues to weave communities together on the dance floor.

Steve Wilkins – Steve is a member of the KFTC Madison County chapter and alternate representative to the Steering Committee. He is the co-chair, along with the CEO of Owen Electric, of the energy efficiency and demand-side management work group of the Clean Energy Collaborative, of which KFTC is a member along with our allies, the East Kentucky Power Cooperative, and 16 rural electric co-ops. Steve was instrumental in the recent recommendations for clean energy solutions that came out of that Collaborative, and continues to work to make Kentucky more just. He is retired from Eastern Kentucky University and lives in Berea with his wife and dog.

KFTC Annual Awards

KFTC members do great work all year long, and at the annual meeting we recognize some of that work with a variety of awards. We'll recognize grassroots fundraising and membership recruitment efforts, an exceptional ally and sometimes a courageous funder and give a number of special awards. Some of our most coveted awards are named after individuals. Below and on the next page is some information about those special people.



The **Daniel Thompson Bridge Builder Award** is presented to the member who diligently and faithfully works to bring together diverse groups of people within KFTC. Daniel and his wife Pauline were long-time members of the Greenup County KFTC chapter and a local group formed to fight a massive landfill. After decades of factory work in Michigan, they returned to north-eastern Kentucky for retirement. Daniel had a fourth grade education, but often said, "I've learned a lot

through living." Having helped unionize several factories as a younger man, Daniel knew the value of organizing and the importance of solidarity. He used to say, "I may not be able to do very much, but I can show up. If you've got an action, we'll be there." He played a key role in KFTC's history when the organization was learning its way on the fairness issues. In 1994 Daniel said as an annual meeting panelist, "It don't matter if you are white, black, gay, lesbian, or disabled...we all deserve basic human rights." It was, in many ways, a turning point for many people in the room and the organization as a whole.

In 1989 we established the **Alice O. Martin Award** presented to the member who has done the most work behind the scenes to strengthen KFTC as an organization. Back in the 1980s, and especially during the broad form deed constitutional amendment campaign, we had an almost daily volunteer in our Prestonsburg office (KFTC's main office at the time). Alice would answer the phone, stuff envelopes, call people on the phone, travel with us to events, or do whatever she could and was needed to help KFTC succeed. She was one of the most dedicated volunteers we've ever had and one that asked for no personal recognition.



When Gladys Maynard's kids enrolled in the Martin County schools, she wanted to find out how to get involved in their education. But she found out that school board meetings were closed to the public. That started her on a life of activism that included sit-ins to force the school board to hold open meetings, challenging the local housing authority that wanted to force dozens of families from their homes to make way for a coal mine, and eventually becoming KFTC's first chairperson. The **Gladys Maynard The Start of Something Big Award** is presented to a member whose commitment and action leads to the development of a major movement or event in the cause of justice.



Hazel King was a hero to thousands of people, including many she never met. She was born and raised in Harlan County, lived away during a 21-year career in the military, and then moved back home. Hazel loved her community of Cloverfork. She loved the mountains. But she hated strip mining. In 1978, Hazel filed the very first citizen complaint under the new federal strip mine law that resulted in a cessation order. For the next 25 years, Hazel was a most determined, active, consistent citizen advocate for the mountains, for the water, for coal miners, and for her extended community – our community. She took responsibility, she shared credit, she stepped up and out to do what was right, and it is all too appropriate that the **Lifetime Achievement Award** is named in her honor.

When a coal company mined on Everett's property without his consent and destroyed



Everett Akers

his land, he confronted the company and was arrested on his own land for "terroristic threatening." As a former legislator and small business owner, he fought long and hard to win new protections for land-owners. He also learned to support community organizing and citizen activism. In 1988, Everett learned he was dying of cancer. He decorated his hospital wheelchair with broad form deed bumper stickers and spent many days passing out campaign literature in the hospital hallways. He was able to attend the broad form deed victory celebration, and died shortly thereafter. He was known for being tough and determined and for always telling it like it was.

The **Joe Begley and Everett Akers Award** is presented to the member who is jailed, loses a job or faces some other major adversity because of their work for social justice.

According to Tom Gish, "Joe was a man of rare courage who never failed to take a solid stance on issues affecting mountain people." Fighting strip mining was foremost on that list. Joe helped form the Citizens' League to Protect the Surface Rights in

1970, later part of the Appalachian Group to Save the Land and People. He believed that everyone should spend at least one night in jail, standing up for what they believe. Joe was a colorful and engaging person and people would turn to him where there was a problem. The C. B. Caudill Store in Blackey run by Joe and Gaynell Begley was as much a community center as it was a place of business. Joe died in 1999.



Joe Begley

KFTC Annual Awards



Evelyn was a long-time member of the Knott County KFTC chapter. She spent much of her adult life in New York City as a social worker and eventually returned with her husband to his home in Red Fox, Kentucky. As an African American woman, Evelyn was proud to be part of a thread of history that connects all those who resist oppression and stand up for justice and equality. When an oil and gas company insisted that it had the right

to come on her land without permission. Evelyn and a dozen or so KFTC members blocked the road, prepared to risk arrest as part of a nonviolent direct action. No arrests were made; the company backed down. Evelyn worked tirelessly for the passage of local and state laws to give landowners greater protections. The **Evelyn Williams Award** is presented to the members who persevered against great obstacles and over time to win an important victory.

Joyce Wise was a determined and hopeful woman who was full of life and humor even as her own health and economic conditions worsened. She was an active member of the Rowan County chapter and also participated in several statewide committees. She was an effective grassroots lobbyist, and worked the halls in Frankfort many days on behalf of bills on KFTC's diverse issues. When her health worsened and Joyce lost her leg below one knee, she strapped on a prosthesis, picked up a cane, and continued to work. She was deeply committed to quality health care for all, overcoming racism and nurturing a sense of solidarity across KFTC's diverse membership. The **Joyce Wise Award** is presented to the KFTC member who has overcome personal adversity to help others.



Sister Marie was an early and long-time member of the Knott County Chapter, and served as KFTC's chairperson from 1997-98. As a member of the Sisters of Divine Providence she taught high school physics and science classes for many years. Later, as a KFTC member, she was active in efforts to oppose destructive strip mining and protect landowners from other abusive practices by oil and gas drillers and loggers. Sister Marie's commitment to grassroots fundraising was legendary. She is remembered as an inspirational fundraiser and skilled yard saler, but was best known as the champion raffle ticket seller. She sold literally thousands of KFTC raffle tickets to anyone and everyone, helping the Knott County chapter consistently raise the most chapter funds for the organization, despite the county being among the state's smallest in population and least wealthy. She

was as committed to KFTC's vision and mission as anyone ever has been. The **Sister Marie Gangwish Award** is presented to the member who has worked steadily and creatively to raise the grassroots funds that support KFTC's success.

NOTES, ADDRESSES, EMAILS

Tweeting about the annual meeting? Use #kftc hashtag.

KFTC Goals of Organizing

Our work focuses on accomplishing the following nine goals:

- 1) **Help people participate** — We have always believed that for a democracy to flourish, all people must be active and participate. A basic premise of our work is that all of us have a right and responsibility to participate in the decisions and processes of our self-government.
- 2) **Empower individuals** — We develop citizens into community leaders! Members are urged to try new experiences, learn new skills and celebrate their growth and achievements. We teach basic leadership and organizing skills, and then give people the chance to practice these skills in a variety of ways.
- 3) **Overcome racism and other forms of discrimination** — We have learned that the existence and exercise of oppression of any person or community creates the divisions and barriers that keep all of us from realizing our finest hopes and vision. We work to overcome the discrimination that creates and sustains these divisions in our society, our organization and ourselves.
- 4) **Foster democratic values** — KFTC is shaped, directed and run by its membership. Our organization endeavors to become a model of the type of democracy we are working for in society.
- 5) **Challenge and change unjust institutions** — Our members want to create a shared balance of power and equal enjoyment of benefits within our political, economic and social systems. We identify and tackle the root causes of problems to ensure long term, systemic change.
- 6) **Build organizations** — We make sure that energy is given to building local community groups as well as the statewide group. Strong organizations, based on strong principles, make it possible to achieve these other goals.
- 7) **Communicate a message of what is possible** — shift our worldview — to have a better community, we must work for a better community. To work for a better community, we must believe that a better community is possible. All of us are influenced by the messages that surround us every day. We work to develop and communicate new messages of what is possible on a large and small scale.
- 8) **Win issues that affect the common welfare** — KFTC deals with real concerns and shows tangible results. The issues that we tackle are chosen, actively addressed and solved by the membership.
- 9) **Have fun** — KFTC is living proof that hard work is not all drudgery. We take the time to celebrate large and small victories, and recognize individual and group achievements.

