



VOTER

The League of Women Voters of New Castle County, Delaware

February 2016

www.lwvdelaware-newcastlecounty.org

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The Mission of the League of Women Voters is to empower citizens to shape better communities.

HOT TOPIC LUNCH MONDAY, FEBRUARY 22, 2016

TOPIC: Principles and Practicalities of Transit-friendly Development (TOD) in Delaware and the Healthy and Transit-Friendly Development Act

Michael's Restaurant, 1000 Churchman's Rd, Newark, DE 19713

Buffet lunch is \$15.00 paid at time of the luncheon. Please pay in cash if at all possible.

Guest speakers are Heather Dunigan (WILMAPCO) and James Wilson (Bike Delaware).

Heather Dunigan (WILMAPCO) will discuss the principles and practicalities of transit-friendly development in Delaware. James Wilson (Bike Delaware) will discuss the League-endorsed Healthy and Transit-Friendly Development Act.



Pictured at left: James Wilson accepting a recent award from Association of Pedestrian and Bicycle Professionals President Jennifer Hefferan

James Wilson is the executive director of Bike Delaware, a non-government, member-supported, non-profit advocacy organization whose mission is to make cycling a mainstream and family-friendly transportation option in Delaware. He serves on the Delaware Bicycle Council and on the board of directors of Delaware Greenways, and is a member of the Association of Pedestrian and Bicycle Professionals and the Institute of Transportation Engineers. James was named the 2014 Professional of the Year, Nonprofit Sector, by the Association of Pedestrian and Bicycle Professionals. He holds engineering degrees from Yale University and the University of Texas at Austin."



Pictured at left: During her 20 years with **WILMAPCO**, **Heather Dunigan**, Principal Planner, has been working to promote transportation choices through community planning. Walking and bicycling have been central to the projects she has managed, including the East Coast Greenway Plan, Newark Bicycle Plan and a variety of community transportation plans. As coordinator for **WILMAPCO's Nonmotorized Transportation Working Group**, **Heather** has been able to educate and promote good pedestrian and cycling design to citizens, municipalities and our other agencies. **Heather** also is a member of the **Newark Bicycle Committee** and **East Coast Greenway Trails Council**. Personally, **Heather** sets an example by walking to work daily.

Join us at Michael's for a buffet luncheon and discussion. Great food choices and the price of \$15.00 per person covers lunch, beverages and gratuity.

Hot Topic meetings are the time to check in with current and longtime friends, make new friends, invite potential new members (your friends, neighbors, colleagues) to experience the League in an informal setting, and become informed on a wide variety of topics.

Please RSVP at lwvde@comcast.net or 302-571-8948 by Saturday, February 20, so we can let the restaurant know how many to expect. If you did not RSVP please come anyway. If you need a ride leave a message on the League Office phone or e-mail when you RSVP. There will be carpooling from Wilmington area and Newark. Call 302-571-8948 and leave a message.

Directions: Michael's is located at 1000 Churchman's Road, Newark. See <http://michaelsde.com/directions/>

MEMBERSHIP UPDATE

Welcome to New Members

Kay Jensen moved from New Jersey to Forwood Manor and is a life member of the League.

302-439-4080 carl.kay1@comcast.net

Stephanie Hanson 302-437-5024 H shansen724@gmail.com

James Wilson 302-722-4591 james@bikede.org

Thank You

TO OUR VOLUNTEERS who did the following work during January: Patti Christopher who coordinated three **Voter Registration Drives** and her helpers, Alice Davis, Marj Johnson, Judy and Bob Taggart; Liz Fite who does our **webpage** and will be leaving us end of January. Thanks to Emily White and Letty Diswood who invited members to their homes to **view a film** and enjoy chili and pizza; to Moonyeen Klopfenstein and Letty Diswood who planned and led the discussion

Money In Politics for consensus at the **Hot Topic Lunch**; Carole Wash, Judy Taggart, Emily White, Moonyeen Klopfenstein, and Joyce who are planning the **Use Your Voice - Voter Engagement** activities; Peggy Schultz and Jane Dilley, co-chairs of the **Land Use/Transportation Committee**, who met and wrote testimony for hearings; Lisa Pertzoff and Coralie Pryde, co-chairs of the **Environmental Committee**, who also met and wrote testimony for hearings; and Bob Hasse, who sent out **prospective member** packets.

Your Membership Committee

VOTER SERVICE UPDATE:



Alice Davis and Marj Johnson represented the LWV at our information/registration table for the 4th annual Martin Luther King Jr. Peace Parade and Community Celebration. The event was held inside the Be Ready Church on the corner of 4th and Rodney Street, Wilmington.

Pictured Left: Judy Taggart and Patti Christopher, voter registration table Thursday 1/28 from 8:30 AM – 10:30 AM at the Wallin School next to William Penn High School. The school offers special programming for students in the Colonial School District. The programs are an Intensive Learning Center for special education students in grades 6-12.

USE YOUR VOICE - VOTER ENGAGEMENT

The LWNCC is participating in a voter engagement opportunity through our national office! In the spring of 2016, Grammy-award winning folk artist Patty Griffin and two touring mates, Sara Watkins and Anais Mitchell, will be going on a 39-city tour entitled "Use Your Voice." In addition to sharing beautiful music in each city, the artists will be promoting the League's work and the importance of voter participation in 2016! They will also be providing financial resources to directly support local Leagues' 2016 voter service work.

They will be coming to Wilmington on Wednesday, March 2, 2016 and performing in the evening at the Grand Opera House. Patti Christopher, voter registration coordinator, and Carole Walsh, will be attending and speaking about League's voter engagement activities for a short time at the beginning of the concert. We are planning to have a voter information table at the venue.

You are all welcome to buy tickets from the Grand Opera House for the concert. The League does not get any profits for this concert. LWNCC is receiving a small grant for its voter service activities for 2016.

CARRIE CHAPMAN CATT AWARDS NOMINEES

Mark Tuesday, April 12, 2016 on your calendar for the Carrie Chapman Catt Award presentation!
Please plan to join us that evening at Arsht Hall as we honor three women who are truly community leaders. They are:

- **Monyeen Klopfenstein** (Kloppy), registered nurse at Christiana Care for over 50 years and founder of “Loving Arms”
- **La Vaida Owens-White**, Faith Community Nurse with over 50 years experience
- **Priscilla B. Rakestraw**, formerly Republican National Committeewoman and Development Director of DE. Breast Cancer Coalition; now Development Director for Ministry of Caring

GREAT DECISIONS DISCUSSION GROUP

GREAT DECISIONS

What: Great Decisions: **Middle East Alliances** and view the CD
When: Monday, February 22, 2016; 1:30 - 3:30 pm
Where: Newark Free Library
What else: Lunch for those who wish it
When: Noon - 1:15 pm, before the above meeting
Where: Bamboo House
How: Call Vicky Kleinman [302-731-4950] to arrange for seating.

PRESIDENT’S MESSAGE



A presentation I attended at the Wilmington Library (1-15-16) was entitled, “Racism and White Supremacy”. The language was somewhat startling to me, as I always related “White Supremacy” with the Klan (Ku Klux Klan), the Neo-Nazi movement and many other racially-based organizations. The purpose and strength of the language became apparent as the Seminar progressed, as we learned about the writing of *very early* African-American Scholars and their sufferings under racism.

I’ve carried the knowledge and bitter, violently damaging strength of racism for as long as I can recall. The issue, *racism and white supremacy*, or *white privilege* as *Christine Emba termed it in *The News Journal*, 1-30-16, is alive and well in the 21st century. White privilege is a *subtle* axiom. Explaining racism isn’t an easy task. If a person is fully aware, and in tune with different cultures surrounding him/her, no explanation is necessary. For someone who doesn’t relate well to people of color, life experience will be necessary to bring about a change in attitude.

Reaching out, developing/joining a network of multicultural people can bring about enlightenment to the continuing racial struggles that are all-pervasive in the U.S.A. Make a friend through creating a link to different cultures and colors of people. Expand your knowledge of these issues by asking questions, and sharing your thoughts. In a reading group, discussing The New Jim Crow, my husband’s friend, who is from Pakistan, commented, “I never thought about skin color, until I moved to the U.S. for graduate study.”

Step up, speak out, and reach out. Listen, observe and learn about people of color. Be a one-person emissary to help bridge the chasm of racism.

Emily White, President, LWVNCC

*(Christine Emba is the editor of In Theory, and writes about ideas for *The Washington Post’s Opinions section*.)
Reading suggestion: It’s the Little Things: Everyday Interactions that Anger and Divide the Races, Lena Williams

League of Women Voters

Outlining the League's Priority Federal Issues for 2016

By: Jessica Jones 01/12/2016

The League of Women Voters has the opportunity to play an active role on many priority issues in 2016. In addition to lobbying the 114th Congress in support of League priorities, we are working on a number of important policy proposals put forth by the President and agencies of the federal government. We will also be participating in litigation that could have a major impact on laws and regulations supported by the League.

Here's a sample of some of the important work the League will be focused on in 2016:



Voting and Elections: [Restoring the Voting Rights Act \(VRA\)](#) continues to be a top priority for the League. It's now been nearly three years since the [U.S. Supreme Court gutted key provisions of the VRA](#) and Congress has failed to act on historic legislation to restore the voting rights of Americans across the country. The League will continue to lobby House and Senate leadership, and engage grassroots support, to ensure that legislation to restore the VRA gets hearings and a vote in both houses of Congress.

In the area of voter registration, [LWVUS has called on the Obama Administration](#) to comply with the National Voter Registration Act (NVRA) when applicants apply for health insurance through the federal health exchanges under the Affordable Care Act (ACA). The League believes the exchanges are public assistance agencies and therefore must provide voter registration opportunities to all applicants, similarly to [other social services such as the Department of Motor Vehicles or Medicaid enrollment](#). Some states, [like California](#), that offer state-run health exchanges under the Affordable Care Act have begun to offer voter registration opportunities following pressure from the League. We believe proper implementation of the NVRA at the health benefit exchanges is an incredible opportunity to help every eligible American citizen participate and contribute to our democracy.

Money in Elections: As we enter a Presidential election year, billions of dollars are flooding into our political system and yet, voters still have no idea where the money is coming from. The League continues to push Congress to move the [DISCLOSE Act](#) to the forefront. We also continue to [address disclosure and independent expenditures](#) with the Federal Election Commission (FEC). The League hopes to build on our success of sending [nearly 30,000 comments](#) to the FEC encouraging them to redefine these two terms and end corruption in politics.

Climate Change: Now that the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has [finalized the Clean Power Plan](#), the historic regulations to limit carbon pollution from power plants, the implementation of these regulations heads to the states. State officials and legislatures must now follow the common sense building blocks developed by the EPA to meet the goals established in the plan. Leagues across the country are working to [build support for, and promote compliance with, the Clean Power Plan](#).

Redistricting: Late last year, the U.S. Supreme Court heard arguments in [Evenwel v. Abbott](#), a major case that could forever change the way we view the political map. [Evenwel](#) has the potential to upset the criteria for drawing state and local legislative districts so that districts would be determined by the total number of voters instead of total population. The League submitted [an amicus brief in Evenwel](#) that supports the current practice of drawing district lines based on population counts. Leagues around the country are also involved in their own redistricting processes. The [League of Women Voters of Ohio](#) helped pass a major ballot initiative to amend the state constitution and [change how the lines are drawn in Ohio's state legislative districts](#) (PDF).

2016 promises to be a busy year. Across the country, [state and local Leagues will continue to lead the way](#) to fight back against bad voter reforms and initiatives as well as for pro-voter reforms in their own legislatures. At the federal, state and local levels, Leagues will be working hard to influence public policy and encourage participation in government on these key issues and more.

Reforming Immigration

The United States is a nation of immigrants, and the League of Women Voters has a long history of encouraging their participation in American society. Immigrants have helped weave the fabric and identity of our nation, and we believe that it is critical for the U.S. to encourage their participation in our democracy. Our work around [comprehensive immigration reform](#) largely falls into the following categories:

Working for a path to citizenship– Helping immigrants become active participants in our democracy –

Advancing Health Care The League is dedicated to ensuring access to affordable, quality health care for all Americans. We believe that all Americans should have access to a basic level of care, including disease prevention, primary care (including prenatal and reproductive health), acute long-term care, mental health care and health promotion and education. Over the past 20 years, we have [lobbied at the national, state and local levels for health care policy solutions, including the Affordable Care Act \(ACA\)](#), to control costs and ensure a basic level of care for all.

Protecting and Implementing the Affordable Care Act

(Continued on page 5 [LWV Federal Priorities](#))

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Women's Reproductive Health – The League believes in the constitutional right to privacy, and [trusts women to make their own reproductive health care decisions](#)

Gun Safety America faces an [epidemic of gun-related violence](#) that puts us in great need of stronger gun safety measures. Every day, 32 Americans are murdered with guns, and 140 are treated for a gun assault in an emergency room. Death due to gunshot wounds is the second-leading cause of death for young people in the U.S., with a death rate that is nearly 12 times higher than that in other developed countries.

OTHER WORK: Fixing Fiscal Policy * Improving Government * Global Democracy

- ✓ **SAVE THIS DATE!!! League Day in Dover: Annual Legislative Day. Wednesday, March 23, 2016 at the Outlook, Duncan Center, Dover, Delaware**
- ✓ **SAVE THIS DATE!!! Tuesday, April 12, 2016. On that evening, at Arsh Hall, the LWVNCC will hold its **Carrie Chapman Catt award dinner**. We will recognize people who have made significant contributions to our community. Stay tuned for more details!!** Joyce P. Johnson, chair, Carrie Chapman Catt Award Celebration.

What in the World is Fusion Energy? - - Michele Greene

Most of us have not had a science class in many decades. When we hear the word “fusion” we are more likely to think of an automobile or a dance. But in order to participate in the real world it is my belief that we must continue to educate ourselves about scientific advancements as well as social issues.

Energy drives our world. We know that it comes from burning fossil fuels and that there are solar and wind alternatives being used and being further developed. Lest we forget, we also use nuclear energy. While nuclear fission energy has many of the same deficiencies as fossil fuel burning, fusion energy does not. It is a technology that has been just outside the grasp of scientists for the last half century or so. But if you read the following article, written by a group of seniors from the Osher Institute of Lifelong Learning, you will discover that these efforts are ongoing locally at Princeton, New Jersey, where research is currently ongoing. And you will discover the further secret in the last section of the article that has to do with funding this effort.

A League sub-committee to study these issues is being formed. If you have an interest, please contact Michele Greene at 302-442-1961 or bejakajo@yahoo.com.

Fusion Club Trip: Princeton Plasma Physics Lab

The OLLI Fusion Club, organized by Michele Greene, toured the Princeton Plasma Physics Laboratory (PPPL) on Friday, January 15. PPPL, funded by the federal Department of Energy and managed by Princeton University, is one of our country's leading fusion laboratories. PPPL conducts research directed towards producing energy from fusion, as well as more diverse research related to plasma physics. We watched two introductory videos and listened to introductory remarks by Dr. Stewart Hudson, a theoretical physicist from Australia. Then Dr. Hudson gave us a tour of the facility. Plasma is the fourth state of matter along with solids, liquids and gases. It consists of a partially-ionized gas, containing ions, electrons, and neutral atoms. Dr. Hudson told us that approximately 98% of the universe is made of plasma including stars and black holes. On earth plasmas occur naturally in only a very limited number of forms, principally lightning, the auroras and fire.

Fusion has the potential to produce large scale clean energy from the combination of small atoms such as hydrogen and deuterium with the conversion of a small amount of mass into a large amount of energy. Fusion is the sun's energy source. But fusion is difficult to achieve on earth because of the high temperatures and densities needed to overcome repulsion between the ions. One approach is to confine the plasma using magnetic fields. Dr. Hudson is involved in trying to determine the best magnetic field shapes to confine the plasma. Another approach is to use laser beams. Time (Nov. 12, 2015) detailed commercial efforts in the field, many of which are using this method.

Dr. Hudson stated that the major problem for the researchers is lack of sufficient funding, which would allow development of alternate geometries to optimize the design. At the end of the tour he showed us the magnets and vacuum vessel of an innovative design, the compact stellarator, which had been abandoned in 2008, prior to completion, for lack of funding. Continuing work at PPPL will complement experiments being done in other countries.

Notice: The LWVDE state board meeting will be held on the **third WEDNESDAY of the month**, but for February, we will still meet on **Thursday, February 18, 2016** at 6 pm at VINCENZO’S RESTAURANT, 1030 Forrest Avenue, Dover, DE. Then from March – June we are scheduled to meet on third WEDNESDAY of the month at Vincenzo’s.

Notice: The Advocacy Corps now will meet the **FIRST Wednesday** of the month **except for May** at Legislative Hall. (They had met the second Wednesday of month.)

CALENDAR		
Wednesday, February 3, 2016, 9:30 am-12:00 pm	Legislative Hall 411 Legislative Avenue Dover, DE 19901	LWVDE Advocacy Corps meeting. LWVDE Advocacy Corps meeting. Contact Committee Chair for details or call 302-841-2882.
Monday, February 8, 2016, 6:30 pm-8:30 pm	League office, 2400 W 17th Street, Room 1, Lower Level, Wilmington, DE 19806	LWV of NCC Board Meeting. Monthly meeting of the NCC board of directors.
Monday, Feb.15th, noon until 2,	Pat Todd's house 762-5995 ptoddwilm@aol.com	LWVDE/NCC Environmental Committee
February 22, 2016, 1:30-3:30 pm	Newark Free Library 750 Library Ave Newark, DE 19711	Monday Great Decisions Group. at the Newark Free Library from 1:30 to 3:30. As usual, many of us will meet for lunch at noon at the Bamboo House beforehand. Please contact Vicky Kleinman for more details.
Thursday, February 18, 2016, 6:00 pm- 8:30 pm	Vincenzo's Restaurant, 1030 Forrest Avenue, Dover	State Board Meeting. Monthly meeting of the state board of directors. Please call 302-478-8224 to indicate your attendance and for restaurant count. Each individual pays for food separately.
Monday, February 22, 2016 11:30-1:00 pm	Michael's Restaurant 1000 Churchman's Rd Newark, DE 19713	LWVNCC Hot Topic Lunch - http://michaelsde.com/directions/ Principle and Practicalities of Transit Oriented Development (TOD) in Delaware
Monday, Feb. 29, 2016, 1:30-3:30 pm	Home of Peggy Schultz Call 302-598-9427 cell, schultz_peggy@yahoo.com	Land Use/Transportation Committee
March 15, 2016, 6:30 pm	Newark Senior Center	Forum for Candidates for Mayor of Newark and Members of City Council
Wednesday, March 23, 2016 8:30-3:00pm	The Duncan Center 500 Loockerman St Dover, DE 19904	SAVE THE DATE: League Day in Dover 2016. Annual legislative day. Morning program relating to key criminal justice issues followed by Lunch and visit to Legislative Hall to meet with your legislators
Tuesday, April 12, 2016	University of Delaware's Arshat Hall, 2700 Pennsylvania Ave Wilmington DE	Carrie Chapman Catt Award. We will recognize people who have made significant contributions to our community.

League of Women Voters of New Castle County
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