



VOTER

The League of Women Voters of New Castle County, Delaware

April 2016

www.lwvdelaware-newcastlecounty.org

Vol. 22, No.9

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

Have you made your reservations? The League of Women Voters of New Castle County cordially invites you to attend the presentation of the Tenth Carrie Chapman Catt Award to Moonyeen Klopfenstein, LaVaida Owens-White and Priscilla B. Rakestraw

Tuesday, April 12, 2016

5:45 - 6:30 pm Social Hour (Cash Bar); 6:30 - 7:45 pm Dinner; 7:45 - 8:45 pm Presentations

University of Delaware, Arshat Hall, 2700 Pennsylvania Avenue, Wilmington, DE.



Moonyeen Klopfenstein, MS, RN, usually known as “Kloppy”, has been a registered nurse for 50 years and is still working at Christiana Hospital. The name Moonyeen is an Irish form of Mary.

Kloppy is the founder of the “Loving Arms” Support Group which was started in 1978 for parents who had lost a baby through an ectopic pregnancy, miscarriage, stillbirth or newborn death. The group continues to meet, making it the longest continuously running program in the country. It is available to grieving parents throughout Delaware.

She started, and continues a bereavement education program for medical students and residents entitled “How to Give Bad News Appropriately”. She also continues to teach a statewide program on preparation for end-of-life (at any age) called “What If? Make Your Wishes Known”.

Kloppy served as Director of Maternal-Child Health, Psychiatric Services and Infectious Diseases for Christiana Care. She has been the President of the Delaware Nurses Association, Delaware Organization of Nurse Executives, Delaware End of Life Coalition and was Vice-Chair for the Delaware Stroke Initiative. She was one of the first lactation consultants at Christiana Care.

Kloppy has been honored by many groups including the YWCA and the March of Dimes. She has been inducted into the Delaware Commission for Women’s “Hall of Fame”. Delaware Today magazine named her a Nurse of the Year for her 2013-15 volunteer services. She is currently serving as the 2nd Vice-President for the LWNCC.



LaVaida Owens-White is a Faith Community Nurse serving the congregation of Christ Our King RC Church in Wilmington, the Interdenominational Ministers Action Council of Delaware, the Delaware Ecumenical Council on Children and Families, the Delaware Region Health Ministries Network, the Interfaith Clergy Group of the Ninth Ward, and the State Chapter of the NAACP as well as the Wilmington Branch of the NAACP.

Ms. Owens-White has over fifty years of nursing experience in acute and long-term care, rehabilitation and community health. Ms. White retired from Christiana Care Health System in 2010 after 20 years of service, the last area being in Community Health and Education Outreach at the Helen F. Graham Cancer Center as Faith Community Nurse assisting congregations, synagogues, temples, in establishing congregational health ministries.

(Continued on page 3 Carrie Chapman Catt Awards)

(Continued from page 2 Carrie Chapman Catt Awards)

La Vaida earned her graduate degree in nursing at the University of Delaware, undergraduate degree in nursing at Wilmington University and associate degree at Delaware Technical Community College. She is a member of the American Nurses Association, the Delaware Nurses Association and Tau Eta Chapter of Chi Eta Phi Sorority, Inc., a professional nursing organization founded in 1932. The mission of Chi Eta Phi Sorority, Inc. is in providing “Service to Humanity”.

La Vaida is the proud mother of a daughter and son-in-law. She has four grandsons and one granddaughter, eight siblings and a host of nieces and nephews. Her enjoyment comes through family and friends.



Priscilla B. Rakestraw Among Priscilla’s extensive community, organizational, and fundraising activities, she has been Development Director for the Ministry of Caring since November, 2012. In recognition of her prior volunteer efforts, Brother Ronald presented her with the Caring Bowl, the symbol of caring for the homeless and hungry.

Priscilla joined the Delaware Breast Cancer Coalition in April, 2005 as Development Director and quickly developed a passion for the life-saving fight against breast cancer.

Priscilla’s work experiences include her career in human resources and career development at the Du Pont Company; elected office as New Castle County Register in Chancery (the first woman elected to that position). She helped develop the Du Pont Company’s sexual harassment and substance abuse programs, presenting these programs at sites throughout the country.

Priscilla was elected as Delaware’s Republican National Committeewoman in 1975 and served until August, 2012. She is the longest serving national committee member for either party in history. As Chair of the Credentials Committee, she addressed the national audience at the Republican National Convention in Dallas, Texas. She has chaired or co-chaired hundreds of local, statewide, and national campaigns, including the Delaware campaigns for Presidents Ronald Reagan, George H. W. Bush, George W. Bush and Senator John McCain. Priscilla has represented the Republican National Committee and the White House, leading delegations to Scotland, England, Mexico, and Taiwan.

An advocate for women in leadership, politics and government, she is a strong believer in the philosophy, “you do well when you do ‘good’”. And clearly, Priscilla practices what she preaches.

RESERVATION FORM - CARRIE CHAPMAN CATT AWARDS BANQUET, APRIL 12, 2016

Name(s) _____

Address: _____

Telephone _____ Email _____

I (We) will attend on April 12, 2016:

Platinum: \$250 or more _____ Gold: \$175 _____ Silver: \$125 _____ Bronze: \$75 _____

Make check out to LWV-NCC or use credit card: Visa _____ Master Card _____ Discover _____

Card Number: _____

Expiration Date: Month _____ Year _____ security code _____

Signature: _____

(Continued on page 3 - food selection)

(Continued from page 2 - Carrie Chapman Catt Awards - food selection)

Dinner Selection: Chicken Francese with Lemon Caper Sauce, roasted Vegetables and Herbed Orzo ____ Portobello Mushroom Cap stuffed with Boursin Cheese, Roasted Peppers, topped with Mushroom Duxelle and Wrapped in a Puff Pastry ____

Sorry, I am unable to attend but would like to make a contribution to the League:

Platinum: \$250 or more ____ Gold: \$175 ____ Silver: \$125 ____ Bronze: \$75 ____ Other: ____

RSVP by April 6, 2016

Mail to: League of Women Voters of New Castle County

2400 W 17th Street, Clash Wing, Room 1, Lower Level, Wilmington, DE 19806 302-571-8948

HOT TOPIC LUNCH MONDAY, APRIL 25, 2016

TOPIC: Human Trafficking in Delaware

11:30 A.M. - 1:00 P.M.

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 speaker Abigail R. Layton, Deputy Attorney General, works closely with the Human Trafficking Court which resides in the Court of Common Pleas. Human trafficking takes many forms throughout Delaware, the U.S. and the world. AG Layton is a prosecutor and cares deeply about what happens to the individuals caught up in these enterprises. Human trafficking can be found in universities, schools, certain jobs, and businesses.

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 lvvde@comcast.net or 302-571-8948 by Saturday, April 23, 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/>

*Thank
You*

TO OUR VOLUNTEERS who did the following work during March: Thanks to Carole Walsh, Patti Christopher and Letty Diswood who provided a table at the "Use Your Voice" concerts at the Grand; Judy Taggart, Pat Todd, Moonyeen Klopfenstein, Emily White and Letty for registering voters at schools, retirement homes and WHA housing. Thank you to Bob Hasse who collated the 161 folders for League Day in Dover and the welcome packets to new citizens for the naturalization ceremony to be held in April; Thanks also to Connie Georgov who coordinates the new citizen ceremonies. Thanks to Vicky Kleinman for organizing the Great Decisions group that meets at the Newark Library nearly every month. Thanks to Joyce Johnson, chair of the Carrie Chapman Catt Awards banquet planning committee and its members, who are working on final plans for this grand event this month.

Your Membership Committee

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



O.K., I'm just checking to see how many of you remember the LWVNCC Carrie Chapman Catt Awards Banquet 2 years ago? As luck would have it, there's another CCC celebration this spring, the evening of April 12. It's a major fund raising event for LWVNCC; if you haven't received an invitation, just call the League office and request one from office manager Letty Diswood, or leave a message. If you've attended the Carrie Chapman Catt Awards Banquet in past years, you'll remember it as a time to greet old friends and meet new ones, as well as an opportunity to recognize our honorees, people who have made outstanding contributions to the Community at large.

Later in the, spring, the weekend of May 6, 7 and 8, the LWVDE is sponsoring the bi-annual Council/Retreat at the Virden Center in Lewes. I went to my first Council/Retreat 2 years ago and learned so much from the seminars that were presented. A great bonus was meeting people from both Kent and Sussex Counties. There was time for socializing and getting to know each other, to communicate and collaborate with other League members outside your own county. The accommodations at the Virden Center are comfy-cozy and the food is good. It's not too late to make a reservation.

The events that I've mentioned are fun "get-to-gathers"! I encourage League members to attend and to help in sustaining the growth of the League of Women Voters of Delaware. We need the help of all to continue to make a difference for the State of Delaware and beyond.

Emily White, President, LWVNCC

Save the date!

League of Women Voters of Delaware Biennial Retreat and Council

Living the Legacy

Friday, May 6 – Sunday, May 8

Virden Retreat Center, Lewes, DE

The State League Retreat is a time to gather our wits—and we need *yours!* Please plan to join us as we step back from the fray to reaffirm our legacy, focus on our essential mission, and emerge with renewed conviction.

The Retreat begins with registration at 4 pm Friday afternoon and ends after our Biennial Council Meeting Sunday morning. The Saturday schedule will be packed with workshops and panel discussions, kicked off by Colleen Janz, Executive Director of the Susan B. Anthony Birthplace Museum, "the cradle of equal rights."



The Virden Retreat Center is a University of Delaware conference site, on the campus of the College of Earth, Ocean, and Environment, across the road from the Lewes Canal and just a five-minute drive from downtown Lewes and the Delaware Bay beach. Plan to come early on Friday or stay later on Sunday to stroll along Second St., tour historical sites, or dip your toes in the bay.

Retreat registration fees include meals and wine reception as well as costs of meeting rooms, AV equipment, and gratuities.

Full package with overnight accommodations (double occupancy): \$200.00

Package without overnight accommodations: \$110.00

Watch for an email with the detailed schedule and registration form. Call 302-571-8948 or email lwvde@comcast.net

VOTER OUTREACH

NEWARK CITY COUNCIL FORUM

Candidates for Newark City Council districts 3 and 5 fielded questions from residents of Newark at a candidates' forum in preparation for the city election April 12. About 75 people attended the event to learn the positions of the candidates on subjects concerning the city, including parking near Main Street businesses, the city budget, development, dealing with storm water and other issues.

Participating candidates were: District 3, Arlynn Hall and Jen Wallace; District 5, Luke Chapman, incumbent, and Donna Means. Mayor Polly Sierer and District 6 Councilman, Stu Markham are unopposed, but were in attendance to answer questions from residents following the forum.

The event was sponsored by the LWNCC, AAUW, Newark; and the Newark Senior Center. It was moderated by Carole Walsh, committee co-chair with Judy Taggart; Cami Seward coordinated the volunteers who reviewed questions. The forum was video recorded by Creative Media Group and is available, courtesy of Peggy Schultz, on the League website, lwwdelaware-newcastlecounty.org.

LWNCC RECEIVES RECOGNITION AT THE GRAND

The work of the LWNCC was recognized at a concert at The Grand in Wilmington last month. Singer-songwriters Patty Griffin, Sara Watkins and Anais Mitchell are touring the country encouraging people to "Use Your Voice" in this year's election and acknowledging the contributions of the League of Women Voters in promoting voter participation.

The artists donated \$500 to the League's Education Fund for voter services activities in appreciation of our on-going efforts to register and educate voters. Patti Christopher, Letty Diswood and Carole Walsh greeted concert-goers and shared their enthusiasm for the League's work.



(Left) Moonyeen Klopfenstein (Kloppy) and Judy Taggart registered over 30 students at **William Penn Jobs for Delaware Graduates Career Fair**, Tuesday March 22nd, 10:00 AM -noon, William Penn High School, Basin Road, New Castle.

Carole Wash, Emily White and Letty Diswood registered students at **James H Grove High School**, Monday March 7th and Thursday March 10th, 5:30 PM till 6:30 PM.

Pat Todd registered residents at three WHA high-rise buildings in the City of Wilmington.

(Right) Nostalgia: Kloppy registering students 50 years ago and now still actively volunteering, getting students involved in the political process.



ENVIRONMENTAL COMMITTEE

Issues currently being addressed include: supporting renewable energy proposals, a study on carbon pricing to reduce carbon dioxide emissions and other efforts to limit global warming, supporting clean water initiatives for Delaware, opposing seismic testing off the Atlantic coast, and working with Pennsylvania and New Jersey Leagues in opposing a toxic waste treatment facility on the Delaware River in Bucks County, PA. The next meeting will be 1:30-3:30 on April 18 at Pat Todd's apartment.

Coralie Pryde, Environmental Committee Co-Chair

LAND USE/TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE

The Committee has lobbied in Dover for the passage of SS2 to SB 130, the Healthy and Transit-Friendly Development Act. The bill has broad support from a diverse group of organizations, including the League, AARP, the Realtors Assoc., the Heart Assoc., Bike Delaware, Delaware Greenways, Delaware Nature Society, etc. It will come before the Senate for a vote the first day the legislators return from their spring break, on April 13th. We have also lobbied for HB 262, the Open Space Council and Land Protection Act. Unfounded rumors say that the Open Space Preservation Program will deprive landowners of their property rights, but this is contrary to the facts. The Committee is also following progress on the Port of Wilmington Task Force, and has offered a number of comments on the New Castle County Comprehensive Plan Update.

The next committee meeting date will be April 25, 2016, 1:30 - 3:30 pm at the home of Jane Dilley, jadilley@udel.edu.

Christina Board of Education meeting, March 8, 2016

On March 8th, Christina School District had its final Board of Education General Business Meeting prior to the March 23rd Operating Referendum. The audio file is available at

http://christinak12.org/apps/pages/index.jsp?uREC_ID=180377&type=d&pREC_ID=video&showMore=1&titleREC_ID=10004597. The Public Comment period began with a woman who has attended the last 5 board meetings who was concerned about contentious discussion among board members at the February 23 meeting. The next speaker described herself as a "fan" of Christina school district but said there are "dangerous, urgent issues" at Ebert-Palmer Elementary, where "bands of children" as young as first-graders are roaming the halls, "beating up" teachers and students in and out of classrooms. She said people should come into the schools to see what is going on, but to not go in alone, because it is unsafe. Next, a behavior support teacher at McVey Elementary said that each day she is "kicked, bit, slapped, punched and verbally accosted" and has suffered six human bites this year, and that she is afraid to go to work. The next speaker was a grandmother of a student at Thurgood Marshall Elementary, who said her grandson is being provoked, disrespected and racially profiled, and that he is having issues he did not have in the Indian River school district. Next, speakers from the custodial maintenance union and a teacher at Shue-Medill spoke in favor of the referendum.

Following public comment was the financial report and a brief update on WEIC, which appears to be moving forward. Christina will have three less schools, as its Wilmington schools will transition to the Red Clay school district. Next, an update of the referendum efforts described the provision of "scripts" to principals; using the Parent Link system to call CSD parents to vote; referendum fliers going home with report cards; and media outreach. Next Dr. James Flynn from University of Delaware's Institute for Public Administration (IPA) gave an overview of the components of a search process for a candidate to replace Acting Superintendent Andrzejewski. Dr. Flynn offered the free help of IPA for a board workshop which will be April 5th. Next was a brief presentation on Comcast internet essentials, a program that began in 2011. For \$9.95/month, families of kids in the free/reduced price lunch program can get wireless home internet with 10 MB (download speed) internet; also \$149 laptops are available through the program. The goal is to "bridge the digital divide" between low and higher income students. Subsequent action items included the definition of misdemeanor Assault III, the 2016-2017 school calendar, the consent agenda and board member comments. The next general business meeting of the Christina school board will be on April 12th.

On March 23rd, the **Christina School District Operating Referendum** passed with 6,770 votes (50.5%) in favor of the additional tax, and 6,625 votes (49.5%) against additional tax. The average taxpayer will now pay \$192 more each year. Turnout more than doubled compared to the last successful CSD school referendum in 2010, when just 6,072 people voted to approve a tax increase with 3,049 (50.2%) voting "yes". During a referendum planning workshop I attended several months ago, absentee ballots and the inclusion of a polling place at the Boys & Girls club were considered important strategic ways to get more "yes" votes. Instead, the referendum appears to have passed largely due to the traditional strongholds of "yes" votes in the City of Newark's boundaries, at Downes and West Park elementary schools and Newark high school.

(Continued on page 7, School Board)

(Continued from page 6, School Board)

For the referendum, the Christina school district adopted the slogan “Paving the Way to a New Christina” to reflect that a component of the referendum funds (\$100,000 out of \$16.2 million) will be devoted to making Christina more “marketable” to prospective students and their families.

Katie Gifford, School Board Observer

LEAGUE DAY IN DOVER held Wednesday, March 23, 2016, at the Outlook at the Duncan Center, Dover, and focused on
Access to Justice: Current Issues in Delaware’s General Assembly:
Bail Reform, Pre-trial Detention, Minimum Mandatory Sentencing, and Solitary Confinement.



Above left: Rep. J. J. Johnson, Chair, House Corrections Committee



Above right: Brian Bartley, Office of the Public Defender

The forum was well attended and informative. After lunch many attendees headed to Legislative Hall to distribute folders to all legislators. The folders contained fact sheets about issues and legislation high on the agendas of the League's and its cosponsors.

Sponsored by the League of Women Voters of Delaware. Cosponsors: American Association of University Women (AAUW); American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU); Coalition to Dismantle the New Jim Crow; Delaware Center for Justice (DCJ); Delaware Coalition Against Gun Violence (DCAGV); Delaware Coalition for Open Government (DelCOG); Delaware Commission For Women; Southern Delaware Alliance for Racial Justice; Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Newark

MEMBERSHIP UPDATE

The updated Membership Roster 2016 will be ready towards the middle of March. Those who paid for a paper copy will have it mailed to them. All members will receive the roster by email as well.

WELCOME TO OUR NEW MEMBEERS

John Crowley, crowfoot1985@hotmail.com

Ms. Jen Wallace, jenwallace@jwallace.com

GREAT DECISIONS DISCUSSION GROUP -

GREAT DECISIONS

What: Great Decisions

When: 3rd Monday, April 18, 1:30 - 3:30 pm

Where: Newark Free Library

What else: Lunch for those who wish it

When: Before the discussion, noon - 1:15 pm

Where: Bamboo House - How: Call Vicky Kleinman [302-731-4950] to arrange seating

Future Dates for Great Decisions: Monday, 5/16; 6/20.

CALENDAR		
Monday, April 4, 2016, 6:30 pm-8:30 pm Note change of date	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.
Wednesday, April 6, 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 Sandy Spence for details. (302-841-2882)
Tuesday, April 12, 2016, 5:45 - 6:30 pm Social Hour (Cash Bar;) 6:30 - 7:45 pm Dinner; 7:45 - 8:45 Presentations	University of Delaware, Arshat Hall, 2700 Pennsylvania Avenue, Wilmington, DE.	Presentation of the Tenth Carrie Chapman Catt Awards to Moonyeen Klopfenstein, LaVaida Owens-White and Priscilla B. Rakestraw
April 18, 2016, 1:30-3:30 pm	Newark Free Library 750 Library Ave Newark, DE 19711	Monday Great Decisions Group. Held at the Newark Free Library from 1:30 to 3:30. As usual, many of the attendees will meet for lunch at noon at the Bamboo House beforehand. Please contact Vicky Kleinman for more details.
Monday, April 18, 1:30 - 3:30 pm	Pat Todd's house 762-5995 ptoddwilm@aol.com	LWVDE/NCC Environmental Committee
Wednesday, April 20, 2016, 6:00 pm-8:30 pm	CenDel Building, 101 W. Loockerman Street, Dover	State Board Meeting. Monthly meeting of the state board of directors. Please call 302-478-8224 to indicate your attendance. ,
Monday, April 25, 2016, 11.30-1:00pm	Michael's Restaurant 1000 Churchman's Rd Newark, DE 19713	LWVNCC Hot Topic Lunch - Human Trafficking. Speaker Abigail R. Layton, Deputy Attorney General. 302) 368-4230 http://michaelsde.com/directions/
Monday, April 25, 2016, 1:30-3:30 pm	Home of Jane Dilley For directions : jadilley@udel.edu	Land Use/Transportation Committee
Friday, May 6 - Sunday, May 8, 2016	Viriden Center, Lewes, Delaware	LWV of Delaware holds Council every two years. Business is mostly devoted to workshops. Hold those dates.

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2400 W 17th Street
Clash Wing, Room 1, Lower Level
Wilmington, DE 19806

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