



VOTER

The League of Women Voters of New Castle County, Delaware

November 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, NOVEMBER 28, 2016

TOPIC: "My Baby Was NOT Born Addicted": Opiate Use in Pregnancy

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

Featured speaker is Wendy M. Felts APRN, MSN, NNP-BC. Felts is the Nurse Manager of the Pediatric Unit at Christiana Hospital, which houses the Continuing Care Nursery. This nursery allows for extended hospital stays for any newborn, including those being observed for or showing signs of substance withdrawal. She also covers as a Neonatal Nurse Practitioner and manages the Maternal/Child per diem pool, also at Christiana.

Wendy currently lives in Elkton, Maryland with her son and 2 grandsons whom she assumed care of when her daughter passed away last August of a Fentanyl laced heroin overdose.

Felts received her Diploma Graduate from Nursing School of Wilmington in 1985, Bachelor's Degree from Wilmington College in 2003 and Master's Degree as a Neonatal Nurse Practitioner in 2004 with a special interest in the substance exposed newborn.

Currently Felts is enrolled at Wilmington University and hopes to graduate spring 2017 with a second Master's in Management and Health Care Administration.

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 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, November 26, so we can let the restaurant know how many to expect. 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. Call 302-571-8948 and leave a message.

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

You are invited to a RECEPTION for ELECTED OFFICIALS
Monday, December 5, 2016 5:30 to 8:30 p.m.
Dover Room at the **Ed Oliver Golf Course**, 800 N. DuPont Road, Wilmington, Delaware

The Delaware Coalition for Open Government, the LWV of New Castle County, and many other good government organizations are sponsors. The reception is an opportunity to discuss ideas on numerous "quality of life" issues that are facing our elected officials and to catch up with friends, community activists and neighbors.

There will be a cash bar plus cheese, crackers, fruit, crudités/dip, and other hors d'oeuvres. A \$3 cover charge is requested and is paid at the door for all those - except the elected officials - who attend.

ALL ARE WELCOME

The Delaware Price on Carbon (DEPOC) Study and the LWVUS Price on Carbon (LWVPOC) Initiative

Since the successful effort by the LWVDE in 2014 at the LWVUS Convention to pass a [Resolution](#) supporting an increasing price on carbon dioxide emissions as a key policy option to reduce the damage done by climate change, members of the Delaware League have been working with others to develop carbon pricing at the state, regional and national levels through the Delaware Price on Carbon Study and the LWVUS Price on Carbon Initiative.

The DEPOC Study group members include: Chad Tolman, Peggy Schultz, Pat Todd and Ellen Wasfi from the LWVDE, Dick Bingham from the Delaware Nature Society Advocacy Committee, Michael Honeychuck from Warren Energy Engineering, and Linda Swift from the LWVCA. Linda has developed a [Price on Carbon](#) website that has been endorsed by the LWVUS. The study group is now preparing a report with background information and questions for consideration at consensus meetings to be held with local Leagues in New Castle, Kent and Sussex counties. Our next virtual meeting is on Nov. 21.

The 4-member LWVUS POC Initiative Leadership Team includes Eleanor Revelle (LWVIL), Launa Zimmaro (LWVMA), Linda Swift (LWVCA) and Chad Tolman (LWVDE). Eleanor is the Chair of the LWVUS Climate Change Task Force and is also the webmaster of the [LWV Toolkit for Climate Action](#). After the election we plan to start a series of webinars for League members across the country to share their ideas, goals and experiences - with Naomi Oreskes (author of [Merchants of Doubt](#)) as our first keynote speaker.

Chad Tolman, LWVDE Climate Change Chair

OCTOBER HOT TOPIC ROUNDUP

"Making a Killing: Guns, Greed, and the NRA" film is available to anyone free of charge.

Brave New Films, a social justice documentary film non-profit organization, recently released, '***Making a Killing: Guns, Greed, and the NRA***'. The film tells stories of how gun violence affects the lives of everyday Americans. It features personal stories from people who have been affected by gun violence, including survivors and victims' families. The film looks into gun tragedies including unintentional shootings, domestic violence, suicides, mass shootings, and trafficking - and what we can do to put an end to this profit-driven crisis.

The goal of the film is to serve as a tool for individuals and organizations to use to create a dialogue and inspire action in their communities. The screening was scheduled in two homes. North Wilmington location attendees also enjoyed lunch with good conversation after the viewing. However the offered Newark location had no takers. It may have been the time (late in the afternoon) that discouraged attendance. We thank Brenda Toomey and Letty Diswood for hosting the screenings.

VOTER OUTREACH



HELP GET OUT THE VOTE!! GIVE A RIDE TO THE POLLS

League of Women Voters of New Castle County members and friends!!!!

If you would like to volunteer to provide a ride to the polls for person(s) who need it. Please send an email to lwncc@comcast.net or call 302-571-8948 and provide your contact information: Name, Telephone/cell and address before November 8. The following procedure will be followed:

- ✓ A person calls or emails the office to request a ride to the polls and provides their name, telephone, and address.
- ✓ Letty Diswood will call a volunteer with the information provided by the person who requests a ride.
- ✓ That volunteer then calls the person who needs a ride and makes the arrangements with that person.

It would be helpful if you can give a time frame when you are available.

The video of the candidate debate for the Wilmington Mayoral primary is posted on our website lwnccdelaware-newcastlecounty.org and U-tube. It was held September 8, 6:30 pm, at Salesianum High School and sponsored by the LWV of New Castle County and the Triangle Association.

A video of the candidate debates for US Congressional candidates and Insurance Commissioner is posted on lwnccdelaware.org and U-tube. The forum held Wednesday, October 26, 2016, at 7:00 P.M. at Delaware State University. This event was hosted by the League of Women Voters of Kent County, the American Association of University Women (AAUW), Dover Chapter, and Delaware State University. The League of Women Voters moderated the debate.



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



“Black Lives Matter”... given the state of our country, this is a subject that is going to be addressed, one way or another. The **explicit racial** issues are always out there: voter suppression, police shootings of black people before a crime has been established, abusive treatment of black people by police during initial investigations or interrogations and redistricting of voting precincts. There are SO many more issues that are addressed by advocates and activists. The first African-American President faced road blocks for his eight years in office, because of the color of his skin.

Having attended segregated schools all the way through college, I became very aware of implicit racial bias. I was raised primarily by African-Americans, as my Granny and both my parents worked. It was with those women with whom I bonded. My family was covert in their racial biases. We never heard racially derogatory terms, but the underlying philosophy was always evident. Our maid always ate in the kitchen; it was a given. There were “special” plates set aside for her, as was the case for the seasonal gardener who helped my mother with heavy digging in the yard. Even though my mother was kind hearted, it didn’t alter her racial attitudes. There was a strict divide.

Have those things changed? On the surface perhaps, but the **implicit biases** create a wide divide in embodying a consistent growth in racial understanding. When a person comments, and I quote, “I don’t understand the big uproar. I’ve not seen any racial discrimination in Newark.” To me, that is a sad commentary. I did step up and give my two-cents

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worth to the person, although her life experience did not provide the clarity to see the depth of implicit biases.

Do your part in your everyday life to speak up when there is an incident of implicit racial bias in conversation or by actions against someone. Be aware of small things. As political activists, we readily recognize discrimination against women. We know the history; finally have a woman running for the President of the United States. Step up, speak out, and help to crush the deep barrier of implicit racial biases.

October newsletter inadvertently missed the president's report. Here it is.

Delaware Historic Museum and African-American Heritage Wing had a Grand Opening on Saturday, October 1, 2016. The event drew a large number of people; Wilmington, Delaware was indeed alive! Inside the Museum was a Voter Machine, for young people to investigate, as they anticipate the day when they can cast a vote. The League of Women Voters and Urban Volunteers were present to register voters. There were quite a few notable Wilmington Political faces around and about.



On Market Street, the Grand Opening was supported by a small parade, a juggler, who also tied balloons into airy animal figures, supported by an assistant who accomplished fantastic face painting! Four Food Trucks supplied sustenance; A DJ/Announcer from Radio 93.7 HD3 and 1510, WFAI, Delaware's Inspirational Radio Station moved the activities and visitors to various attractions. In addition to the educational and historic value, the event was family-friendly fun and enjoyed by all who attended.

THANK YOU TO OUR VOLUNTEERS who helped with registration drives, candidate forums and the new citizen ceremonies, organizing events, and keeping the League relevant. It has been a wild ride for all this year. Special thank you to Patti Christopher, Voter Registration Coordinator, who kept everyone on track; Judy Taggart and Carole Walsh, Candidate Forum Chairs; Hot Topic Coordinators Moonyeen Klopfenstein and Letty Diswood; Hot Topic organizer Fay Whittle, Justice Chair; Brenda Toomey, Emily White, Judy Butler, Judy Taggart and anyone I missed.



THANK YOU TO OUR CONTRIBUTORS

A HUGE thank you to our contributors who made contributions to the LWV of New Castle County and to the LWV Education Fund (NCC account). We are grateful and appreciate your generosity. Listed are contributors since the October newsletter.

LWV NCC

- Liane Sorenson*
- Letty & Larry Diswood*
- Pat Todd*
- Lorraine Fleming*
- Virginia Mayforth*

**LWV Education Fund
(New Castle County account)**

- Lisa Pertzoff*
- Geraldine Crock*
- Karol Hitt Rowan*

REMINDER: Please renew your membership to the League. Those who are up for renewal should have received a first class letter in the mail. We need you, in numbers and your financial assistance to keep the League going and growing.

WELCOME NEW MEMBER Jo Anne Klinge, (moved from Sussex County.) edjoklinge@mindspring.com

GREAT DECISIONS DISCUSSION GROUP - Note!!! There will be no meetings in December and January.

What: Great Decisions: **Cuba and the US**
When: 3rd Monday, November 21st; 1:30 - 3:30 pm
Where: Newark Free Library
Who: Pat Brill will lead the discussion
What else: Lunch, for those who wish it
When: Before discussion, noon - 1:15 pm
Where: Bamboo House
How: Call Vicky Kleinman, 302-731-4950, to arrange seating

LWVUS update MAKING DEMOCRACY WORK CAMPAIGN

League Joins Amicus in *McCrorry v. Harris*

The League joined an [amicus in the case of *McCrorry v. Harris*](#). The case will be argued at the U.S. Supreme Court on December 5, 2016. The brief argues that the North Carolina legislature's redistricting map was intentionally gerrymandered on the basis of race and therefore cannot be legalized by using the explanation that it was a political gerrymander.

League Urges State Election Officials to Prevent Voting Discrimination and Disruption

The League [joined 88 voting and civil rights groups](#) in urging state election officials to create plans to prevent voting discrimination in advance of the first presidential election in fifty years without a fully operable Voting Rights Act (VRA). Letters were sent to state elections officials in every state. LWVUS was joined by the state Leagues in Florida, Texas, Arizona, Georgia, North Carolina and Virginia on the letters in their states.

LWVTN Sends Letter Opposing Purging Voter Rolls Based on Non-Voting)

The League of Women Voters of Tennessee [sent a letter](#) to the TN Secretary of State urging him to consider allowing voters who had been purged from the voter rolls to be allowed to vote by provisional ballot. The League believes the recent court victory on the purging case out of Ohio could be used to ensure every Tennessee voter has the right to vote.

News of the Week

Across the country, Leagues are being recognized for [our strong election tools and resources on VOTE411.org](#) and our [efforts to advocate for voters' rights](#) and our leadership [addressing last minute election concerns for voters](#). The Tennessee League is leading the fight for their state to [change practices when it comes to purging inactive voters](#) from registration lists. In Florida, the League has partnered with Community Power Network, so that [homeowners and businesses can join together to bring down the cost of solar panels](#). Finally, congratulations to the Iowa League, 2016 winner of the ACLU of Iowa's Edward S. Allen Award, for their [unwavering stance on the protection of voting rights](#).

DC VOTING RIGHTS

Fixing the Hole in Our Democracy: D.C. Statehood and Voting Rights Additional materials are now posted on the LWV Website as part of the project to educate League members and the public on the need for full voting rights for D.C. citizens. The LWVDC will be spearheading this effort, called "Fixing the Hole in Our Democracy: Statehood and D.C. Voting Rights". Learn "[How the District of Columbia is Governed in 2016](#)" and "[Congressional Intervention the local affairs of the District of Columbia](#)". And don't forget to take our [quiz](#) to test your knowledge about D.C.! For further information, contact Betsy Lawson at blawson@lww.org.

Delaware Center for Justice, Inc. VISIONS OF JUSTICE 2016 forum addressing the pain of imprisonment in the 21st Century was held October 28 at the Hilton - Wilmington/Christiana, Newark

What does a justice system that does no physical or emotional harm to its participants look like, and how do we get there?

Featured speakers were Dr. Angela Browne - Dr. Browne is a specialist in policy research, use of incarceration, and strategic consulting and technical assistance. Angela founded the Vera Institute's 'Segregation Reduction Project' in January 2010 and has led comprehensive segregation assessments of the use of segregation/restrictive housing in 37 state prison facilities across six U.S. states Departments of Corrections. Recommendations were provided for reducing the use of segregation and enhancing responses to vulnerable and challenging populations — including mentally ill and other vulnerable prisoners, frequent violators, and gang members — and agencies were assisted as they implemented change.

Evie Litwok (pictured right) related her experiences. At age 60 she was convicted of tax evasion and sent to a Federal women's prison. Being an "out" lesbian in the early 1990s made her experience of incarceration particularly complicated - and difficult. A consultant, writer, speaker, and social activist, Litwok began collecting the stories of others while in prison, a process she has continued through her Witness to Mass Incarceration project (<http://witness tomass incarceration.org/>). She serves on the Criminal Justice LGBT Working Group and is an active member of NYC Jail Action Committee, dedicated to eliminating solitary confinement in New York City jails.



CALENDAR

Monday, November 14, 2016, 6:30-8:30 pm	League office, 2400 W 17th Street, Room 1, Lower Level, Wilmington, DE 1980	LWV of NCC Board Meeting. Monthly meeting of the NCC board of directors.
Wednesday, November 16, 6-8:30 pm	CenDel Building, 101 W. Loockerman St. & Bradford St. Dover, DE	LWVDE & Education Fund board meetings. -- parking lot at end of the block of Bradford
Monday, November 21, 1:30 -3:30 pm	Newark Free Library 750 Library Ave Newark, DE 19711	Monday Great Decisions Group from 1:30 to 3:30. Topic: Cuba and the US. As usual, many of the attendees will meet for lunch at noon Bamboo House, Newark beforehand. Contact Vicky Kleinman 302-731-4950 for more details.
Monday, November 28, 2016 11am- 1 pm	Michael's Restaurant 1000 Churchman's Rd Newark, DE 19713	HOT TOPIC. "My Baby Was NOT Born Addicted": Opiate Use in Pregnancy. Speaker Wendy M Felts APRN, MSN, NNP-BC, Nurse Manager of the Pediatric Unit at Christiana Hospital, http://michaelsde.com/directions/
Wednesday, November 30, 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).
Monday, December 5, 2016 5:30-8 pm	Ed Oliver Golf Club 800 N. DuPont Rd, Wilmington, DE 19807	RECEPTION FOR ELECTED OFFICIALS. This event offers the public an opportunity to meet new and previously elected public officials. It is co-sponsored by the Delaware Coalition for Open Government and many organization and civic associations, as well as the LWVNCC.

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