



# VOTER

The League of Women Voters of New Castle County, Delaware

December 2017

www.lwvdelaware-newcastlecounty.org

Vol. 22, No.5

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

## UPCOMING TED DISCUSSIONS

The LWVNCC TED viewings are free and open to the public; we'd love to see you there! The format is simple... we watch an inspiring, thought-provoking TED video, and then talk about it afterward. See [meetup.com/LWVNCC-TED-Discussion-Group-Bear](http://meetup.com/LWVNCC-TED-Discussion-Group-Bear) for more information or to RSVP.

Upcoming TED viewings...

- ❖ **Saturday 12/9**, 11am at the Bear Public Library: **Luma Mufleh** - "*Don't feel sorry for refugees -- believe in them*" (filmed April 2017)

This is a powerful and emotional talk by Luma Mufleh, a Jordanian immigrant and Muslim of Syrian descent who founded the first accredited school for refugees in the United States. Mufleh shares stories of hope and resilience, explaining how she's helping young people from war-torn countries navigate the difficult process of building new homes.

**Special guest Lourena Gboeah**, Program Coordinator for the Refugee Integration Support Effort (RISE) Program at Jewish Family Services of Delaware, will speak with us at the Dec 9 session about the challenges and successes of Syrian refugee families settling in Delaware.



Lourena Gboeah, MSW

As a former refugee from Liberia, West Africa, Lourena is committed to serving the public through her volunteer, work, and educational experiences. In addition to her work with RISE, Lourena volunteers with *YesLiberia* -- a US-based international organization committed to innovative education methods for disadvantaged students in Liberia, and serves as a State of Delaware Delegate to the Refugee Congress, a volunteer advocacy organization grant-funded by UNHCR to advocate for refugee issues within the 50 states.

- ❖ **Thursday 12/14**, 6:30pm at the Newark Senior Center: **Ashton Applewhite**, "*Let's end ageism*" (filmed April 2017)

Author and activist Ashton Applewhite urges us to dismantle the dread and mobilize against the last socially acceptable prejudice. "Aging is not a problem to be fixed or a disease to be cured," she says. "It is a natural, powerful, lifelong process that unites us all."



## Highlights of HOT TOPIC LUNCH held Monday, November 27. Topic: Clean Water: Delaware's Clear Choice



Chris Klarich, Campaign Manager, Delaware Nature Society and Laura Miller, Outreach Coordinator, Delaware Nature Society gave an informative presentation on the Clean Water Campaign. Important facts: 90% of Delaware's waterways are polluted and the current funding for clean water projects does not meet the needs across the state. That's why this campaign is advocating for securing additional funding for clean water initiatives that improve wastewater systems, flood reduction initiatives, innovative toxic removal technologies, and investments in drinking water quality.



If you would like more information, please see the campaign website: [Clean Water: Delaware's Clear Choice](#). You can also check out the [Clean Water and Flood Abatements Task Force's report](#) which outlines their findings, recommendations, and draft legislature.

There were many questions and recommendations that came up during the presentation! One of the campaign goals is to create neighborhood teams of Water Warriors, our citizen advocates and scientists. If anyone is interested and has a passion for ensuring a healthier and safer environment, you can join one of these neighborhood teams. More and more people are turning to advocacy to bring change, but do not have the training on how to have their voice heard.

Please contact Laura Miller, Outreach Coordinator, Delaware Nature Society, (302) 239-2334 Ext 123  
[Laura@DelNature.org](mailto:Laura@DelNature.org), [www.delnature.org](http://www.delnature.org)

### PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



While I was waiting in the dentist's office last week, I picked up a recent copy of The Economist which had a section on issues for 2018. One was entitled Sister Suffragette by Anne McElvoy. "On votes for women, the world is not yet practically perfect in every way". In the article she refers to the upcoming revival in London of Mary Poppins with the fiery suffragette, Mrs. Banks. The revival is timed to coincide with the centenary of women's suffrage in Britain. For some history: In 1918, Parliament granted the franchise to female householders over 30. Canada offered women the vote nationwide that same year. However, New Zealand gave women the vote in 1893, Finland in 1906, the US in 1920 and Sweden in 1921. What would Mrs. Banks think about 2018? Since 2015 Saudi Arabia has allowed women to vote in local elections, though not national ones. Cultural barriers exist in many places with only 16 percent of Lebanese women going to the polls. Case studies of countries with low women's turnout, from Guatemala to Burundi and Pakistan, suggest the best way to drive change is wider voter registration and ease of access to polling stations. In Egypt, lack of identity cards meant that in some parts of the country up to 80 percent of women did not vote in 2014 and overall only half of eligible women did so. In 2014 Afghanistan prioritized female voters in elections with sex-separated polling stations. In the US more women are lining up to run for office in 2018. So there is cause for Mrs. Banks to celebrate, but more work to be done.

In the US in 2016 only 58 percent of eligible voters (men and women) went to the polls in an election in which 14 states had new restrictive voting laws, particularly targeting minorities—this after the Supreme Court struck down a key provision of the Voting Rights Act in 2013 that required federal approval on any state election law. The League's mission is focusing on the Campaign for Making Democracy Work, championing voting rights, voter protection and mobilization, election reform, campaign finance/money in politics and redistricting. Join us in this effort and get others to join us also. Consider giving a gift of membership in the League of Women Voters to one of your loved ones (male or female) this holiday season.

I wish you all a very happy holiday and a politically active new year!

Marj Johnson

# ***Restorative Justice - What Is It? What Are the Possibilities?***

**Monday, December 18**

**6:00 – 8:00 p.m.**

**Las Americas ASPIRA Academy Auditorium  
326 Ruthar Drive, Newark DE 19711**

This is free and open to the public. Educators, law enforcement, organizers, faith communities, are encouraged to attend. The Delaware Coalition to Dismantle the New Jim Crow – Newark, is pleased to have Barbie Fisher as our presenter for Dec. 18.

Please join us!

Barbie Fischer is Executive Director of Restorative Encounters, a non-profit offering training and capacity-building in the field of restorative justice ensuring all those impacted by harm are receiving the care and support they need. Ms. Fischer has over 15 years of experience in restorative justice, working in community and program development with various organizations around the world. She has guest lectured, presented numerous workshops, and conducted countless training on restorative justice and trauma healing. Her work has included developing and implementing reentry programming for former child soldiers in Uganda, Africa and Sri Lanka; working with veterans and family members on the transition to civilian life; along with assisting in healing processes for crime victims, incarcerated people, and their families.

Ms. Fischer also has assisted in restorative processes for those involved with child welfare and restorative disciplinary processes for schools. Her passion is uncovering restorative ways to heal trauma at all levels of society and sharing that information with others. She holds an M.A. in Conflict Transformation with a focus in Restorative Justice and Trauma from the Center for Justice and Peace building at Eastern Mennonite University, where she was trained by world renowned Howard Zahra, and a B.S. in Cross-cultural Communications from Great Lakes Christian College. She and her team are sought after by many organizations who utilize their creativity to implement restorative practices in their own work.

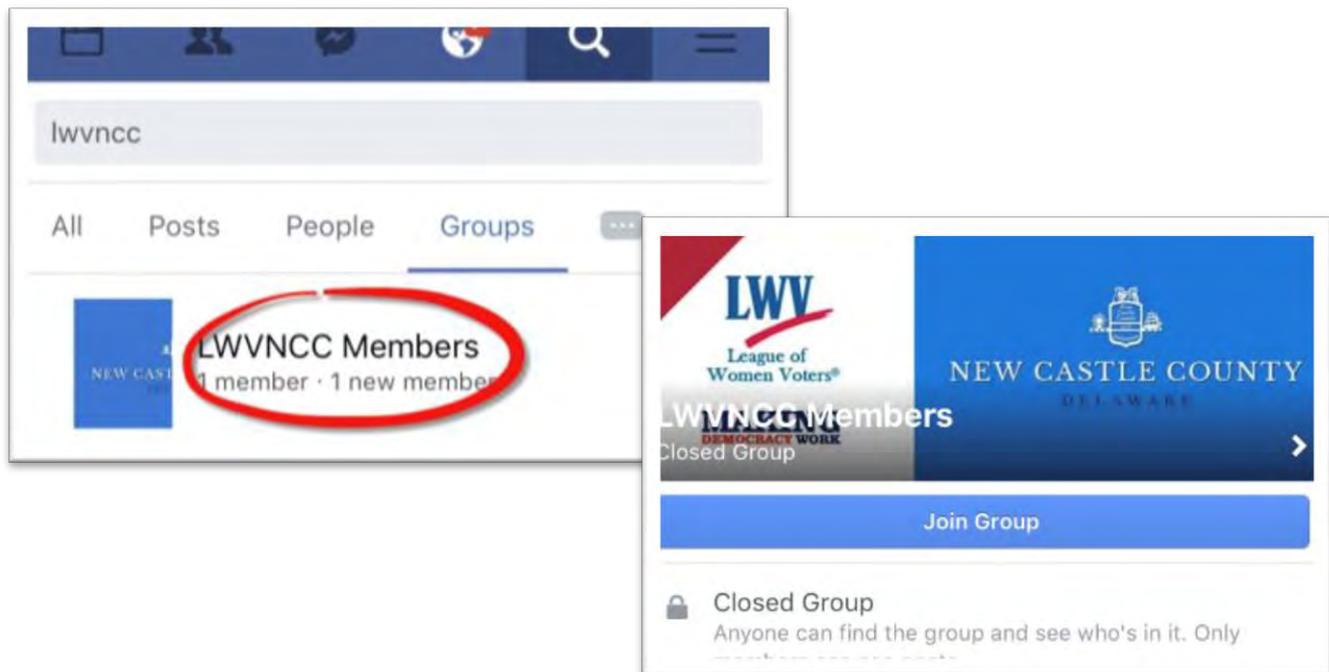
For more information contact Cami Seward at [camiseward@gmail.com](mailto:camiseward@gmail.com)



## NEW "LWVNCC MEMBERS" GROUP ON FACEBOOK

The League of Women Voters of New Castle County has a new "**LWVNCC Members**" group on Facebook. This group is a communication forum to discuss member business, local topics and events. This is a closed group and members must request to join. The initial group administrators are Cara Gaudino and Kim Wells.

To join the LWVNCC Members group, type "LWVNCC" in the Facebook search bar, select "LWVNCC Members" in the search results, and then click "Join Group." When prompted "Are you a current member of the LWV New Castle County?", type YES, and click "Send Response." It may take a while for the join request to be processed; check back in an hour or **two to see if you are in!** Click "**Members**" at the left side of the page to see a list of group members, or "**Discussion**" to get back to the main conversation area.



Please note that the public, statewide group at Facebook.com/groups/LWVDE still remains intact and is a good place to post newsworthy topics relevant for all Delawareans.

## MEMBERSHIP UPDATE

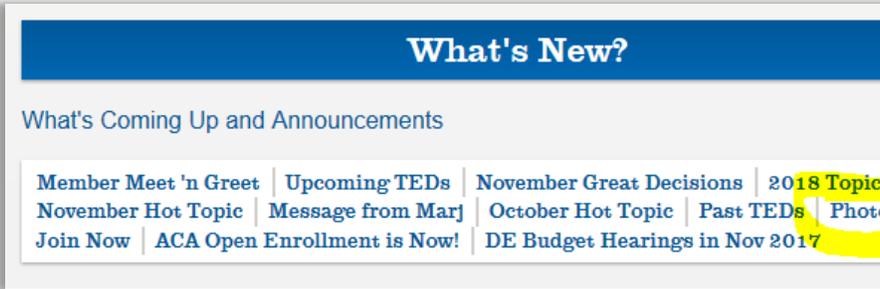
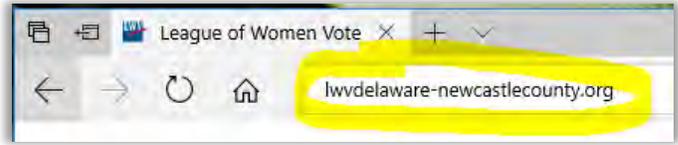
**THANKS TO ALL MEMBERS WHO HAVE RENEWED THEIR MEMBERSHIP TO THE LWV.**

**REMINDER:** If you have received a letter in the mail, it is that time of year to renew your membership in the LWV. Whether you are active, or not, we need your financial support. The membership fee is shared with the LWVUS \$32.00, LWVDE, \$11.00, which leaves \$8.00 to fund your local League out of the \$51.00 it collects. The LWVNCC pays for part of the rent, office insurance, Internet, copier and printer costs, as well as all its programming and one part-time staff. We depend on donations either to the LWV Education Fund (NCC account) and your donations to the LWVNCC above the dues rate.  
Your Membership Committee

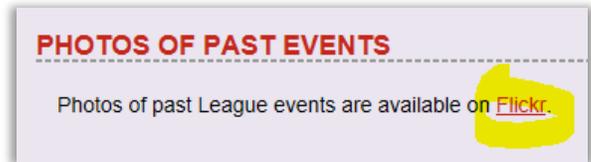
# LWVNCC Tech Tip #1 – Viewing League Photos

The New Castle County League posts photo albums on Flickr, for everyone to see. Use the following steps to view the photos from our website:

1. Type <http://lwvdelaware-newcastlecounty.org> in the address bar of your web browser (or just click the link above)
2. Click on the “WHAT’S NEW?” menu item at the left of the home page:
3. On the “WHAT’S NEW” page, click the “Photos” menu option:

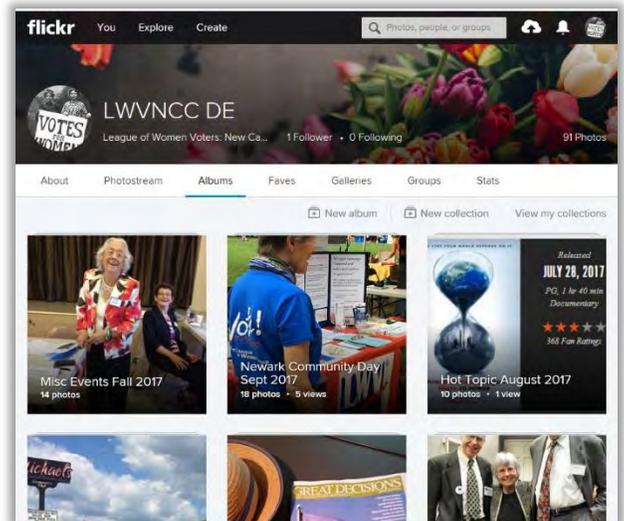


4. Click the link under the “PHOTOS OF PAST EVENTS” header to go to Albums tab of our [Flickr](#) page:
5. Select one of the Albums and enjoy!



Alternatively, you can bypass our website and find our photo albums directly on Flickr....

- Go to **Flickr.com**
- Type “LWVNCC DE” in the search area
- Click the “Search people” option
- Select “LWVNCC DE” from the search results
- Click “Albums”



## VOTE411.ORG - 2018 IS AN ELECTION YEAR - COME JOIN US!

The League of Women Voters of New Castle County will be participating in VOTE411.ORG. This is a nationwide LWVUS sponsored online voters' guide. Leagues sign up to participate.

This will provide a wonderful opportunity to become involved in a meaningful way in the upcoming 2018 elections.

Volunteer opportunities to serve on the Vote411.org Committee:

- ✓ **We are looking for a NCC Vote411.org administrator who would be the chair of the NCC section of the voters guide. (It can be a co-chair as well).**
- ✓ **Volunteers to serve on this committee to plan and get organized during the months leading up to July - September.**
- ✓ **We are looking for volunteers who would do follow up calls to candidates during the August, September time frame.**

If you are interested call the office at 302-571-8948 or send an email to [lwncc@comcast.net](mailto:lwncc@comcast.net) and leave your name, telephone number and email. You do not have to be a league member to participate.

## LWVUS UPDATE - ADVOCACY - EDUCATE - <http://www.lwv.org>



### **MAKING DEMOCRACY WORK** Message from Chris Carson, President, LWVUS

Americans have a right to know who is paying for political advertisements—whether it is organizations with ties to foreign governments or wealthy special interests here at home.

In the 2016 election, 65 percent of Americans identified the internet, or an online platform, as their leading source of information.

Yet our outdated transparency rules — which still include references to telegrams and typewriters — don't require adequate disclosure for online ads.

**The Federal Election Commission (FEC) has asked for comments on whether they should modernize these rules or keep things the way they are.**

[Act now to protect our elections.](#) More than three in four Americans — 78 percent — want full disclosure of who paid for political ads posted to social media platforms. That includes 80 percent of Republicans and 82 percent of Independents.<sup>1</sup>

[Tell the FEC to require online campaign ads to include disclaimers about who is paying for them — as is required for television and print advertisements.](#)

**U.S. elections should be about U.S. voters not special interests – and especially not about the secretive influence of hostile foreign governments and entities.** We must use every lever at our disposal — including ending secret online political ads — to prevent meddling in our elections and to ensure that Americans know the source of political messages.

[Demand that the FEC require online ads to include disclaimers identifying who paid for them.](#)

## CALENDAR

December 6, 2017 9:30 - 11:30 am End early to go to Holiday Lunch	Legislative Hall, House Majority hearing room, <a href="#">411 Legislative Ave. Dover, DE 19901</a>	<b>LWVDE ADVOCACY CORPS MEETING.</b> Contact Committee Chair Sandy Spence for details and if interested in attending ( <a href="mailto:sandyspence325@gmail.com">sandyspence325@gmail.com</a> )
<b>December 6<sup>th</sup> at noon</b>	Dover Downs, North DuPont Hwy, Dover, DE Valet parking available	<b>ANNUAL LEAGUE HOLIDAY LUNCHEON - Festival Buffet - Carpooling encouraged.</b>
Saturday, December 9, 2017 11am-12:30	Bear Library <a href="#">101 Governors Place Bear, DE 19701</a>	<b>TED DISCUSSION - REFUGEES (Bear).</b> LWVNCC presents a viewing and discussion of Luma Muflih's April 2017 TED Talk, <i>"Don't feel sorry for refugees - believe in them."</i>
Thursday, December 14, 2017 6:30-8pm	Newark Senior Center <a href="#">200 White Chapel Dr Newark, DE 19713</a>	<b>TED DISCUSSION - ENDING AGEISM (Newark).</b> LWVNCC presents a viewing and discussion of Ashton Applewhite's April 2017 TED Talk, <i>"Let's end ageism."</i>
Wednesday, January 3, 2018, 9:30 am - 12 pm	House Majority Caucus Room, <a href="#">411 Legislative Ave. Dover, DE 19901</a>	<b>LWVDE ADVOCACY CORPS MEETING.</b> Contact Committee Chair Sandy Spence for details and if interested in attending ( <a href="mailto:sandyspence325@gmail.com">sandyspence325@gmail.com</a> )
Monday, January 8, 2017 6:30-8:30pm	Immanuel Church, Highlands <a href="#">2400 W 17th Street Wilmington, DE 19806</a>	<b>LWVNCC BOARD MEETING.</b> Meeting of the League of Women Voters of New Castle County Board of Directors. Go to League office. Note usually we would have met in the Common Room, but not this time.
Monday, January 22, 2018 11:30-1:00 pm	Michael's Restaurant, 1000 Churchman's Rd, Newark, DE 19713	<b>PRETRIAL REFORM.</b> Speaker : Kate Parker, Delaware Center for Justice
Monday, February 26, 2018	Michael's Restaurant, 1000 Churchman's Rd, Newark, DE 19713	<b>HEALTHY AND TRANSIT FRIENDLY COMMUNITIES.</b> <b>Speaker</b> Troy Mix
Wednesday, March 21, 2017	Outlook at the Duncan Center, Dover	<b>LEAGUE DAY IN DOVER: ANNUAL LEGISLATIVE DAY</b> Topic: Financing State Government: Everybody's Business (Let's Stop Kicking the Can Down the Road)
Monday, March 26, 2018	Michael's Restaurant, 1000 Churchman's Rd, Newark, DE 19713	<b>AMERICAN PROMISE - CAMPAIGN FINANCE REFORM EFFORTS</b>

**League of Women Voters of New Castle County**  
**2400 W 17th Street, Clash Wing, Room 1, Lower Level**  
**Wilmington, DE 19806**  
**302-571-8948 [lwnvnc@comcast.net](mailto:lwnvnc@comcast.net)**