



LWVUS MISSION STATEMENT

The League of Women Voters, a non-partisan political organization, encourages informed and active participation in government, works to increase understanding of major public policy issues, and influences public policy through education and advocacy.

OUR 2013-2015 LWVSC BOARD



From left: Connie Jones, Jane Lord, Janet Orlando, E. Anne Riley, Valerie Driscoll, Jo Klinge, Esther Shelton, Sue Claire Harper, Sheila Zanine (not present: Carole Somers)

At the Annual Meeting of the LWVSC on Monday, May 13, a quorum of members of the League of Women Voters of Sussex County elected the following officers and directors:
President, Jane T. Lord; Vice-President, Jo Klinge; Treasurer, Valerie Driscoll
Directors: Sue Claire Harper, Connie Jones, Janet Orlando, Anne Riley, Esther Shelton, Carole Somers, Sheila Zanine. Because there was no candidate for Secretary, Sheila Zanine has agreed to stay on in that role until her replacement is found. Thank you, Sheila. Brief biographies of the Board members begin on page 4.

Annual reports were distributed and brief summaries given. The reports are included in this issue of The Voter and will be included on our website.

CALENDAR OF COMING EVENTS

For additional information go to the calendar page at www.sussexlww.org or email sussexlww@gmail.com

June 10, Monday, 10:00 AM

June 24, Monday, 10:00 AM – 3:00 PM

June 28, Friday, noon

August 8, Monday, 10:00

August 26, Monday

September

LWVSC Board Meeting, Sheila Zanine's Email for directions

LWVSC Retreat, Jo Klinge's Email for directions

Fun Lunch, 1776, Midway Shopping Center Coastal Highway

LWVSC Board Meeting. Date Time may change following 6/24 retreat

Women's Equality Day Celebration, Time and location TBA

Lavender Fields Fundraiser Date TBA

LWVSC RETREAT ON MONDAY, JUNE 24

The LWV Sussex County will hold a one-day planning retreat on June 24, to address our programs, events, schedules and special needs for the coming year. The retreat will be held at Jo Klinge's (email or call for directions and to indicate your attendance.) We welcome your participation.

STATE CONVENTION NEWS

2013-2015 Board Elected

Congratulations, Charlotte King, who succeeds Carol Jones as President of the LWVDE Board.

Officers and Directors for the State Board of the League of Women Voters of Delaware were elected at the LWVDE Biennial Convention held on Saturday, May 18, in Dover, Delaware. They are:

Officers

President, Charlotte King (LWVSC); First Vice-President, Jill Fuchs (LWVVC);
Second Vice-President, Janet Kramer (LWVNCC); Secretary, Carole Walsh (LWVNCC);
Treasurer, no candidate.

Directors

Mary K. Eggers (LWVVC), Diane Maxwell (LWVNCC), William F. O'Conner (LWVSC),
Sandy Spence (LWVSC), Lester Stillson (LWVVC), Ellen O. Wasfi (LWVVC).

Brief biographies of these Board members can be found on the website: www.lwvdelaware.org

Convention Program

Ed Kee, Delaware Secretary of Agriculture, was the Keynote Speaker, seeding the ground for the LWVUS study for next year which is agriculture. Two workshops were also presented: one on "Leadership/Membership Development" led by Deborah McMillan LWVUS Shur Fellow working with the Delaware leagues, and one led by Cheryl Carncross (Brandywine Accounting) on "Learn How to Read and Understand a Financial Report. "

WELCOME NEW LWVSC MEMBERS

Frances and James Bazzoli

Joan Decandia

Lorraine de Meurisse

Jennie Keith

Lacey Lafferty

Peter Schott

Cathy Hartman joined last fall; her name is now Cathy H. Thompson.

If you know any of the new members, make it a point to welcome them.

Considering the question that current members will be asked on the Membership Renewal Form for 2013-2014, new members were asked a similar question:

What prompted you to join LWV Sussex County?

The responses were very interesting. One LWVSC new member isn't new to the League at all. She was a member for many years in Pennsylvania before joining this League after retiring here. Another new member has spent most of her employment in male dominated fields. She said, "I want to reach out and connect with women...." Bearing in mind that we are not for women only, a new male member said that he's been impressed with the work the local League does and felt it was time to begin working with it on improving life for the residents of Sussex County. Two of the new members made it a point to say they want to work locally and with LWV Delaware.

Our hope is these new members will find the activity within the LWV Sussex County that satisfies the reason for joining and enriches their lives as the LWVSC works to make Sussex County an equitable place for everyone to live.

BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCHES OF THE 2013 BOARD MEMBERS

Jane T. Lord, President

Jane Lord has been a member of the LWV for over 30 years. After serving as president of the Moorestown Area (N.J.) League and on the N.J. state board in the 1980s, she took a hiatus to resume her pre-childrearing career in human service administration and to go back to school to earn an M.A. in sociology and a Ph.D. in rhetoric and linguistics. While teaching at Indiana University of Pennsylvania, she joined the board of the Indiana County LWV, donning a variety of hats.

Jane was initiated into politics in the 1970s, when she became a "town father" in Pemberton Borough, N.J. (the first woman elected to the town council), and she is a charter member of the N.J. Association for Elected Women Officials. Over the years, her interests in social issues expanded from local to global, and she has participated in international seminars on social and environmental problems in 12 countries spanning 5 continents. She and her husband, Tom, retired to Cadbury at Lewes in 2012

Jo Klinge, Vice President

Jo has been a member of the League of Women Voters Sussex County since 2008, when she made the permanent move from Wilmington to Rehoboth Beach.

As a LWVSC member she edits the Sussex Voter and serves on the Observer Corps and the LWVSC Board. She served on the 2013 Nominating Committee for LWVDE. As a founding member of *Women in Process*, she designed and led professional and personal development workshops for women (and, eventually, for men) in businesses and non-profits in the US and Canada. With her husband, Ed (also a LWVSC member), Jo is active in the Interfaith Coalition Building Blocks for Wilmington, a non-profit which works with faith leaders and residents of West Center City Wilmington; the journey from Rehoboth to Wilmington is a familiar one.

Other interests include reading (primarily fiction), governing processes (observing county government is an eye-opener), cooking (when several friends and/or family are involved) and staying connected with said friends and family.

Jo is a graduate of Butler University in Indianapolis.

Valerie Driscoll, Treasurer

Valerie has been a resident of Delaware for forty years dividing the time between northern New Castle County and Sussex County. The first ten years were focused on raising her children and volunteering in a variety of roles. For the next twenty years, she worked in positions that invariably had financial responsibility which led to her becoming a financial planner with IDS (American Express Financial Advisors.) In 2003 she became a full-time resident of Sussex County and joined the LWVSC a couple of years later. She became the LWVSC treasurer in 2008 and currently serves as Treasurer and as Membership Chair.

Growing up an Army Brat, traveling is in Valerie's blood. Her three sons with their families and her mother all live in different states giving her frequent opportunities to travel to share their lives. In 2012 she traveled to Haiti with a group from St Peter's Episcopal Church, and recently spent two weeks touring the southern coast of Spain and Barcelona.

Sue Claire Harper, Director

Following her 2011 move to Rehoboth from Madison, NJ, Sue Claire joined the League of Women Voters Sussex County in order to become familiar with local issues of concern. She currently serves on the Observer Corps and attends Cape Henlopen Board of Education meetings. During 40 years in Madison, Sue Claire served as both PTO president and vice president on all three levels of the schools' organizations. She was the founding director of Time Out, a social day care program for dependent adults. When this organization merged with the non-profit 200-year-old Family Services of Morris County, Sue Claire served on their Board of Managers helping to oversee their diverse social service programs. Subsequently, she served on Madison's Board of Health, which supervised the mandated public health needs of 12 towns. Prior to her retirement, Sue Claire was a registered nurse, certified in Rehabilitation and Case Management, most recently managing the medical needs of the catastrophically injured and the elderly. Sue Claire volunteers at All Saints Thrift Shop, is an avid gardener, enjoys traveling abroad, and relishes spending time with her grandsons, family and friends.

Sue Claire completed both undergraduate and graduate studies at Massachusetts' Springfield College. She subsequently obtained her nursing degree at County College of Morris.

Connie Jones, Director

Connie came to coastal Delaware after more than 20 years with the DuPont Company, Wilmington Delaware. Her B.S. in Biology from Penn State University fit well with the company's technical orientation. At DuPont she held many different sales/marketing management positions situated in major cities across the United States. After leaving DuPont, she became a management partner in a multi-million dollar spin off company for the next five years. The varied management roles coupled with exceptional skills training enabled development of strong problem solving and people management skills.

Now retired, she continues an active lifestyle. She is involved in several civic organizations, including the League of Women Voters, where she served as Co-Chair of Voters Services for the past year. She strongly believes in continued education and takes full advantage of the opportunities afforded by Osher Lifelong Learning. Her other passions include overseas travel, ancient history and, most importantly, her daughter and two grandchildren.

Janet Orlando, Director

Janet has been a member of LWV Sussex County for two years and has served as Chair and Co-chair of Voter Services for most of that time. She served for one year as a member of the Advocacy Committee of the LWV of Delaware and as Technical Committee Chair for VOTE411 LWV of Delaware.

Janet is originally from New York, moving to the Ft. Lauderdale area of Florida in 1997 and to Lewes, Delaware in February 2011. She has attended Mercy College, Yorktown, NY, SUNY, Binghamton, NY and IBM Technical schools. Over her 35-year career with IBM, she served as a graphic arts technician, librarian, programmer, IT Specialist, Network Administrator and Database Administrator.

She has three children, three grandchildren and one cat and her interests include stained glass work, books, music, politics, government, learning, travel, movies, theater, people, crafts, etc....

E. Anne Riley, PhD, Director

Anne has lived on Big Assawoman Bay near Fenwick Island since 1983, but she is only in Delaware long weekends. The rest of the week she has a full time practice in College Park, where she is somewhat politically active. She's had a Saturday psychotherapy practice in DE for 27 years. Her mother was a LWV member in Montgomery Co., MD. When her mother was born, women still did not have the vote! Anne joined the Sussex League about 2007 but did not become active until elected vice-president and then president. Anne joined the LWV in Prince George's County, MD in the 60's for a few years but shift work and court appearances as a DC police woman interfered with attendance. Anne has testified in Annapolis and before the DC Council on a number of occasions. She lobbied both in MD and on Capitol Hill for years as a member of the Mental Health Association and of the National Association of Social Workers, DC Metro, of which she was president. She sends emails to both DE and MD congressional reps but votes absentee in DE. (MD does not realize she left.) She has long been a progressive activist and feminist. She has forensic and courtroom testimony experience and mental health expertise. She volunteers for The Center for the Inland Bays and the MD Inland Bays. Her interests include water issues, sea rise and the environment. Her hobbies include reading professionally, kayaking and her garden.

Esther Shelton, Director

Esther joined the LWVSC, seven years ago. Four months after joining, she was elected President and served for two terms. She found the experience most rewarding because of all that she learned about the way things work in Sussex County and Delaware. She also had the privilege of working on important issues with some very bright women (and men), who made my job easy. She has also served on the LWVDE Board for six years, and was Vice-President of the Education Fund Board for two years, as well as serving on the Advocacy Committee.

Esther grew up in Coral Gables, Florida and graduated from the University of Florida with a BA in English Literature in 1956. From there she went to work for the CIA in Washington, D.C. as an analyst. She became an army wife in 1958 when she married, Sam, and regretfully had to leave her job to follow him. Three children, Sam, Leslie, and Celia, and many moves later, she decided to get an Education degree, and followed that with a Masters degree in English Literature from East Carolina University in 1994. When her husband retired, they moved to Fremont, N.C, and she got a job at Beddingfield High School, where she taught English and journalism and served as the English Dept.

Chair for twelve years. Esther was also active as Vice-President of the Wilson County Preservation Society, and as President of the Wilson County Humane Society for three years.

After her husband's death, she moved to Raleigh, N.C. to take care of her aged parents. When they died, she moved to Lewes to be near her daughter Celia, and son, Sam, who lives on Long Island.

Carole Somers, Director

Concern about the environment led Carole to become involved in the League of Women Voters Sussex County in 2009. Since joining the League, she helped to establish the Observer Corps, which she has coordinated for the past four years. In that capacity, she has also served on the LWVSC Board.

Before retiring in 2008 and moving to Lewes full-time from New Jersey, Carole had a more than 40-year career as a Registered Nurse working in a wide variety of settings from hospital to hospice to community-based programs. Her final position was with an innovative program in Philadelphia that helps to keep frail elders in their own homes rather than nursing homes.

Carole and her husband Mack met when they were both students at the University of Pennsylvania. Mack, a League member, is a retired college professor of chemistry and mathematics.

Growing up in a home where current events and politics were frequent topics of discussion, Carole is somewhat of a "news junkie". She is especially concerned about climate change, health care, control of weapons, land use planning and social justice issues.

Carole's other interests include her children and grandchildren, growing and making things, reading and the arts.

Sheila Zanine, Director

Sheila was born in Philadelphia and attended 12 years of Parochial school. Right after high school, she was hired by The Prudential Insurance Company of America. In 1974, she transferred to the Prudential Property and Casualty Company, a subsidiary of Pru that handled auto and homeowner claims. When she left, in 2005, she was unit manager with a staff of 45. She married her husband Jack in 1983. Jack worked for USPS for 47 years retiring in 2003. In 2006, they moved from Huntingdon Valley PA to Lewes, DE. Sheila says it was one of the best decisions they made.

Sheila and Jack cared for six foster children in four years. They started out with a precious little 6-year-old boy and were very sad when that ended. His dad took him, his 4 brothers and a sister back after finding employment. Sheila enjoys reading, mostly fiction and mystery novels. She loves gardening and spending most of her free time working on the yard. It wasn't until 1994 that she became very interested in the government and politics in general. That had to do a lot with President Clinton and the controversy surrounding him. She is still very interested in the political parties and when she's not gardening, she's watching the news.

Sheila served as Secretary on the LWVSC Board from 2011-2013. She has graciously volunteered to continue in that role until a new Secretary is elected.

The members of LWV Sussex County greatly appreciate the work done by the past Board members and look forward to two more years of interesting leadership.

ANNUAL REPORTS, 2012/2013

These reports will also be printed on our website.



2012-2013 President's Annual Report LWV Sussex County

Convention LWVUS- 6/2012

Attendance gave the attendees a different, broader perspective than that of narrower DE issues. Power the Vote was the emphasis of the convention held in Washington, D.C. They did an impressive job. The speakers were inspiring and informative. I highly recommend it.

Great Decisions

For the second year, we co-sponsored the discussion group about Foreign affairs with the Unitarian Universalist Church which has been beneficial to both groups in terms of membership.

Reviving the Dead Ladies

We have had fun with "Reviving the Dead Ladies" and the play has been well accepted by the groups, for which we were invited to perform, in period costumes and mood-music topped it off. We presented it several times and gained some new LWV members as a result.

Membership

Valerie Driscoll attempts to have personal contact with each new member. A volunteer poster was designed to obtain more active participation from our members. Presently, we have 99 members and have remained in the 90's for three years.

Public Relations and Communications

Efforts have increased to obtain more information in order to contact the many news papers in our county in the form of an extensive list. Jo Klinge handled many aspects of our relationships with members and the public. We had a request from a political reporter to meet for an interview. Jo Klinge, Communications Chair, and Valerie Driscoll, Membership Chair, represented us incredibly well and the resulting Cape Gazette article was terrific.

Calendars

Two types of calendars were developed. One was an outline of events that repeat every year, listed month by month so that we no longer miss important time lines. The other, "Save the Dates," was from the Sussex LWV website list, which contained our current dates for unique presentations, forums and events.

Election Year Events

Numerous members were involved in some aspect of Voter Services' many activities organized by Janet Orlando and assisted by Connie Jones and others. We held candidate meetings, offered Vote 411 online services, attended festivals, and registered voters, to name but a few events. The hurricane forced some planned events to be cancelled. They Represent You is in the process of being published as a service to the community. The town of Milton respects and trusts the League so much that they requested it to assist them in their election

The Observer Corps

Carole Somers has had incredible numbers of attendees at County Council and some school board meetings. We're dearly hoping for more volunteers across the county to cover other school boards. A few highlights of the Observer Corps include its annual report to County Council, which received great media coverage, its success in improving attendance at Planning and Zoning Commission meetings, and the Board of Adjustments. The recruitment of a leader to assist our

Coordinator is underway. Use of the Freedom of Information Act to access information related to legal expenses involving suits against the county.

Fun Lunches

Once a month we met in numerous restaurants, one of which was with the Kent Co. LWV arranged by our secretary, Sheila Zanine. We welcome suggestions to make them more meaningful.

Program-Forums

We began with a series on Privatization regarding water and waste water, roads and schools. An emphasis was placed on Sussex County education issues this year with four more forums, ending with an investigation about equity in funding. Our forums are some of the most important and informative of our activities. Esther Shelton over saw two forums on fair housing as well. As Esther points out, we emphasize issues involving ACTION, not just interesting talks.

Website and Social Media

We have a terrific website thanks to Sandy Spence and Tara Smith who have moved to other responsibilities. Janet Orlando is our new webmaster.

LWV Delaware

League Days in Dover focused on education issues and was very informative. After the presentations we went to the legislature to lobby. We look forward to the LWV Delaware state convention held later this month, also in Dover. Several of our members are involved in the Advocacy Corps.

Finances

Finances continue to be of concern because we only receive \$9.00 of the \$50 dues. Nevertheless, we are reluctant to raise the dues amount to a prohibitive level. Therefore, we expect to do more fund raising this coming year.

The Voter

The Voter is due out very soon. If you have any suggestions about content, etc., please let our esteemed and hard working editor, Jo Klinge, know of ideas for improvement. It is hoped we can find a way to add pictures of officers to add so members can identify us by face and not just names.

Future Efforts

We will be changing and bringing our By Laws up-to-date for our members to vote on next year. We have some fun and instructive fund raising events planned in a few months. We want member input regarding programs.

In Closing

One has an opportunity to grow and learn in 2 years as an officer. It concerns me that our officers often burn out and disappear, taking all that knowledge with them. Never forget that VOLUNTEERING leads to multiple rewards such as less depression, increased happiness, self worth, a sense of mastery and personal control or a "helper's high." Research also indicates there is a cascade of positives such as a sense of confidence, optimism and usefulness or meaningfulness! So, don't delay, volunteer today.

E. Anne Riley, PhD, President, 2011-2013

COMMUNICATIONS COMMITTEE ANNUAL REPORT, May 13, 2013

The Communications Committee monitors the various vehicles by which the LWVSC communicates with its members and with the public. Its members are Jo Klinge, Chair and Voter

Editor; Janet Orlando, Webmaster; Valerie Driscoll, Gmail account manager; Sheila Zanine, interim Secretary of LWVSC Board, and Sandy Spence/Ann Nolan, co-administrators of our Facebook site.

The Voter is a quarterly newsletter which highlights coming events, reports on past activities, lists the quarterly calendar and provides general information to the membership. Articles come from various sources. The Voter published in June and October 2012, and in January 2013. The 2013 Spring Voter will be distributed by the end of May. Suggestions, articles and photos for the Voter can be sent to Jo Klinge at sussexlwv@gmail.com

The Website (www.sussexlwv.org) is open to the public. Janet Orlando will become the new Webmaster. Please visit the site frequently; it has up-to-date calendar information and other data of help and interest to League members.

Our Facebook page ([lwvscde@groups/facebook.com](https://www.facebook.com/lwvscde@groups)) is a site to share information and comments. Current administrators are Janet Orlando, Ann Nolan, Jules Jackson, Sandy Spence, and Ed Klinge. The name of the Group is League of Women Voters of Sussex County, Delaware. Facebook Friends do not have to be members of the LWVSC.

Gmail (sussexlwv@gmail.com) is open only to Board members to communicate with LWVSC members. We seek to limit the flow of emails that our members receive from LWVSC to messages directly related to our local league and its events and notices. Members with access to membership lists are asked NOT to use them for other mailing purposes, i.e. do not share the list with other organizations to which you belong. Valerie Driscoll manages the Gmail account and is the one person authorized to send Board-approved messages to the membership.

Public Relations is currently being handled by Jo Klinge. We are seeking a volunteer to assume this responsibility. Persons in charge of an event or issue are responsible for preparing draft press releases or messages for the media. The draft should be received by Jo Klinge three (3) weeks prior to the event to allow for editing and distribution to meet various newspaper deadlines. Again, use sussexlwv@gmail.com

Secretarial Communications: Board minutes, thank-you notes, etc. are the responsibility of the Board Secretary. Sheila Zanine will continue to serve in this position as Interim Secretary until her replacement is elected.

Submitted by Jo Klinge, Communications Chair

ANNUAL FINANCIAL REPORT

The complete Financial Report is printed on the website and includes the Profit & Loss Budget vs. Actual, (also known as the Statement of Activities for non-profits) and the Balance Sheet Previous Year Comparison (also known as the Statement of Financial Position for non-profits.)

The Balance Sheet shows the current balances in the ING Savings (now called Capital One 360), the LWV United States Education Fund, and the WSFS checking. It shows that with all of the 2012-2013 expenses paid, LWVSC is prepared to meet its upcoming 2013-2014 financial obligations.

The Profit & Loss Budget vs. Actual shows where income came from and where it was spent. Even though there were Public Forums and Candidate Forums, the expenses for both were low, thanks to Beebe Medical Campus, Cadbury, and Brandywine not charging LWVSC for the use of their conference rooms.

The \$3,075 income for They Represent You was a budget item from Sussex County Council to cover the costs of printing. Joan Deaver and George Cole gave \$900 from their District Grant Funds to print the additional 11,000 copies needed to address the population increase.

The LWVUS Education Fund was used for the 2012-2013 first quarter Per Member Payment. That made it possible to have funds available for other activities.

The LWVSC accounts were audited by Alice Hanke in February with a report given to the Board at the March 2012 meeting. Hanke suggested LWVSC change to a calendar year rather than a fiscal year. It would have the income and expenses easier to follow. She also recommended adding Other Current Liabilities for the LWVUS and LWVDE Per Member Payment obligations that are incurred with each member's dues. The Board is very grateful for the work that Alice Hanke did on its behalf, and the assurance she gave them that the accounts have been properly handled.

In the past a two-year budget has been proposed and adopted at the bi-annual Annual Meeting. Hanke suggested the meeting for Budget presentation/approval be held in the Fall. LWVUS and LWVDE frequently raise their PMP rates at conventions held after the local budget is approved making the local budget ineffective as a guide for spending. This year LWVSC will begin that new budget approval process.

If you have questions about the Financial Reports, you may contact me at sussexlww@gmail.com.

Respectfully submitted by Valerie Driscoll, Treasurer

OBSERVER CORPS ANNUAL REPORT, 2013

The Observer Corps continues its watchdog role as Observers are present at County Governmental and School Board meetings. This the fifth year for the Observer Corps which began in February 2009 and it maintains a group of eleven participants. As in previous years, there has been some turnover with new and returning Observers replacing those who can no longer take part.

Highlights of 2012-2013 for the Observer Corps include:

- The presentation of its annual report to County Council, which once again got excellent media coverage, highlighting the need for a County Planner.
- Use of the Freedom of Information Act to access information related to legal expenses involving suits against the county. This process not only revealed information about these expenses, but also that the County's new FOIA procedure is effective and responsive.
- Success in improving attendance at Planning and Zoning Commission meetings.
- Consistent Observer attendance at Cape Henlopen School District Board of Education meetings and beginning Observer activity in the Laurel School District.
- Recruitment of a leader to assist and support the Coordinator.

Goals for 2013-2014 include:

- Continue to grow the Observer Corps.
- Increase attendance at Board of Adjustment meetings.

- Increase by at least one, the number of School Districts having Observers at Board of Education meetings.
- Establish a leadership transition for the Observer Corps
- Continue to promote open, responsible government by observing and reporting on issues of interest to the League of Women Voters

Respectfully submitted by Carole Somers, Observer Corps Coordinator

PROGRAM REPORT: 2012-2013

Because we were busy with the elections—voter registration, candidate forums, etc.--the Sussex County League did not begin our fall forums in 2012 until after the elections. We had just finished participating in a LWVUS Study on Privatization, which investigated a growing trend in which both national and local governments to turn over functions to the for-profit public sector in the belief that they can do a better job. Sometimes they can, and sometimes they can't.

The specific privatization that we decided to investigate was Sussex County *public services*. These forums began on January 12, 2012 with *"Water/Waste Water, Public or Private in Sussex County: Who owns it? Should you care?"* The panel of speakers, moderated by Madeleine Russell, discussing how water and sewage treatment are operated in Sussex County, some by the county, some by private companies like Tidewater Utilities, and others by individual subdivisions. There was a good bit of unhappiness with Tidewater.

That forum was followed by *"Who owns your roads? Who pays?"* on February 14, 2012. What we learned is that there are no county roads in Delaware. DELDOT is responsible for all public roads outside most municipalities. If you live in a subdivision, your HOA is responsible for maintenance and snow removal. The panel discussed how the system worked and didn't work, as well as what the requirements are for subdivisions to set aside funds for future repair.

In March, we had scheduled a forum on *"Contracts: The Tie That Binds"*, but unfortunately we were unable to find anyone willing to address that issue. The contracts referred to here are the ones that homeowners in subdivisions may find themselves committed to because the developer did so. They may not learn about this until after they have bought their homes. That speakers were afraid of business repercussions if they spoke tells us that this issue really should be investigated.

The last of the Privatization programs came on April 11, 2012 when the League presented the forum: *"Sussex County Education: Public or Private. Should I be Concerned?"* The program explored the history and the way charter and private schools have grown in past few years and how this growth has impacted public education. The panelists represented public, charter, and independent private schools. Although the growth of charter schools gives parents choices for their children's education, which can be good thing, it can also be bad by taking concerned parents, as well as funding, away from already underfunded public schools.

On Sept. 12, 2012, we went back to school with a forum that began an investigation specifically on *Education in Sussex County*. Paul Harrell, a director from the Delaware State Dept. of Education (DOE) was the speaker. He explained what the state's responsibilities were to Sussex school districts.

Cognizant that for the US to compete successfully in the global economy, our schools need to teach the new skills needed in the highly technological world we now inhabit, we decided to look at how Sussex County was doing in this competition. On Oct. 10, 2012, we presented a forum titled *"Public Education for the 21st Century."* Curriculum and teaching methods may need

to change in order to teach the skills that are now needed. Two teachers from the New School at Indian River High School are conducting an experiment in new approaches to current education. They explained that they are using a “learn it by doing it” approach. All the disciplines are taught in projects using whatever is applicable—math, English, science, whatever fits the particular project, but also practicing other skills that are also necessary for business success, skills like knowing how to organize, collaborate, lead, report, and suggest while carrying out the projects they have chosen. Students volunteer for this school.

In January, 2013, we took a slight break from the education focus. The LWVUS has been involved in housing policies on non-discrimination since 1980, in response to the housing crisis confronting low income families. This continues today and is a big problem in Sussex County.

The speaker for this forum was Amy Walls, the Assistant Community Reinvestment Act Director for Discover Financial Services, and President of the Diamond State Community Land Trust. The forum’s focus was on the events and actions leading to the suit and the ongoing actions that followed. She referred to the lawsuit filed in federal court by the Land Trust against the Sussex County Council in regard to a 2010 denial by the council for a subdivision for the New Horizons Community.

The Land Trust also complained to the US Dept. of Housing and Urban Development in November 2012 against the Sussex County Planning and Zoning Commission and the Sussex County Council for failing to further fair housing when it denied a Preliminary Plan to develop New Horizons, a 50 single-family affordable homes development for low and medium income households. The Land Trust and the county reached a settlement, and HUD will be keeping an eye on the county to make sure that it does not discriminate again.

On March 16, 2013 we returned to Education with a forum on *“Equity in Sussex County Public School Financing.”* The speakers were Nancy Feichtl, an educator with very wide experience in Sussex County school administration, Rep. Timothy Dukes, from the 20th District, Kevin Carson, a highly experienced education consultant in Delaware, and Senator George Bunting, with a long history of interest in education. Everyone agreed that the cause of the inequity among Sussex school districts is the way equalization funds are allocated. They are based on the property tax base in each district. The problem comes in because there has been no reassessment of property taxes since 1974 in Sussex County, and much has changed since then. For example, in 1974, the eastern part of the county with all those beaches was not regarded as being especially valuable. The central and western portions of the county were more highly assessed because they had more businesses. Today, property values on the eastern side have soared, but their taxes are still based on the 1974 assessment. On the other hand, property values in the central and western parts of the county have plunged, but they, too, are still paying property taxes on a much higher valuation. The result is that in towns like Laurel and Delmar, where the poverty level is pretty high, residents are relatively paying much higher school taxes than people in the east. Although everyone knows what needs to be fixed, no one is willing to do it because it is regarded as political suicide to raise property taxes. The only suggestion on how to cope with this lack of will, so far, is to sue the state!

In recognition of Fair Housing Month, we sponsored a suitable forum: *“Housing for All: Fair and Affordable”* on April 10, 2013. The speaker was Nic Mirro, a lawyer and investigator, representing the Delaware Human Relations Commission, Sussex County Office. He outlined the requirements of fair housing legislation, the role of his office and how those laws are enforced.

Submitted by Esther Shelton, Program Chair

VOTER SERVICES ANNUAL REPORT MAY 13, 2013

They Represent You

Our project for the past 3 months has been our Sussex County information booklet, “They Represent You”. This is a listing of all elected officials for Sussex County residents and contains addresses, contact information and lots more. As soon as the elections were over, we began updating the booklet with information on the newly elected officials. We’ve been hard at work getting that done. Unfortunately, this year, we have had several challenges in completing these tasks but we are hopeful that our informative booklet will be available to Sussex County residents very soon. As soon as the printing has been completed, we will be providing the booklets to you at locations such as the Dept of Elections, Libraries, County and City offices, etc.

Vote411.org Report – Election 2012

- 26 of 36 Sussex County Candidates responded (3 of the 10 non-responders were running in uncontested races)
- Color Editorial Cartoon donated to LWVUS for ‘carte blanche’ use by artist Chris Wildt from Cape Gazette
- Digital ads at Midway Movies, posters, newspaper listings

Voter Registration 2012

- Conducted a Voter Registration Agent Training Workshop - 13 League members are now *Certified Voter Registration Agents*
 - Esther Shelton, Betty Kirk, Ann Nolan, Barbara Mullin, Carol Jones, Eli Ramos, Eva Cieniewicz, Lauren Mund, Pat Makos, Sue Claire Harper, Connie Jones, Janet Orlando
 - Others who helped with voter registrations: Charlotte King, Anne Riley, Valerie Driscoll, Tara Smith, Sheila Zanine, Carole Somers, Julie McCall, Linda Dunham, Barbara Rudd, Laurie Staub
- Conducted 13 voter registration events including 3 festivals, AFRAM in Seaford, Hispanic Festival in Millsboro and Coast Day in Lewes
- National Voter Registration Day, September 25th – our event was aired on WMDT (our local ABC TV news affiliate) on 10pm news
- Registered NEW, or otherwise assisted, nearly 200 voters in Sussex County (i.e. address changes, name changes, party changes), as well as a few for Kent and New Castle County

Candidate Forums 2012

- 4 Candidate Forums planned
- 1st Candidate Forum held in Lewes at Cadbury
 - candidates running in races from State Senatorial Districts 6 and 20, and State Representative Districts 14 and 20 were invited to participate
- 2nd Candidate Forum held at the Georgetown Public Library

- candidates running in races from State Senatorial Districts 18, 19, and State Representative Districts 36 and 37 were invited to participate
- 3rd and 4th Candidate Forums were unfortunately cancelled due to hurricane Sandy – we were unable to conduct Forums for the following;
 - candidates running in races from State Senatorial District 21, and State Representative Districts 35, 39, and 40 at Seaford Public Library
 - candidates running for Sussex County Council Districts 1, 2 and 3, and those running for the office of the Sussex County Clerk of the Peace at Georgetown Public Library
- Facebook posts and radio mentions on WDDE 91.1
- Publicized in local newspapers and flyers

Please remember, there is always something fun going on and you can volunteer for only as much or as little as you wish to do – every bit helps!! So send us an email or give us a call and join in the fun!!

Janet Orlando and Connie Jones, Voter Services Co-Chairs

THE PRESIDENT’S CORNER

Farewell Musings

E. Anne Riley, PhD

4/18/13

This is my last report for the Voter as president of the Sussex County League. I have mixed feelings about leaving office as it will free up some time for me, but I will probably miss the interesting series of challenges. When this office fell to me so unexpectedly, it became a challenge balancing my full-time private practice with the other demands that the presidency presented. Adding to that challenge was the fact that I am in Delaware only four (4) days a week.

The Environment and Sustainability

Earth Day reminded us of our obligations to all the creatures of the earth, plant life and the seas. It is my belief that we must fight for survival on many fronts but as fellow Delawareans Sea Rise should be our special focus and an area of much more study. We have addressed the issue in the past. Sussex County has a unique problem. The recent news that DE is believed to be the state that will be the worst impacted of all the Atlantic states is sobering. The fact that the melting ice is causing the seas to rise finds the problem compounded by the warning that DE is also sinking! That also has been happening in Japan. The majority of our County Council members do not seem to understand the impending crisis. A woman council member is the only one I have ever seen at the conferences on the subject . Our federal flood insurance policy costs will increase significantly next year. I’m told that some people in Florida are already paying up to \$8,000 a year or more before the raise!

Hunger in Delaware

I was startled to learn that of the states having the worst food hardship, Delaware is the 3rd worst of the 50 states.

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| 1 | Mississippi | 24.9% |
| 2 | Alabama | 22.9% |
| 3 | Delaware | 22.1% |
| 4 | Georgia | 21.6% |

One in five (5) Delawareans are said to be struggling to buy the food their families need. Yet the Senate's Farm bill of \$4.4 billion in cuts, including SNAP, will further harm seniors, children, and working families in particular. Please bring non-perishable **food** to the Friday Great Decisions meetings and I will see that it gets to Sussex food banks. Please remember to support your local food bank even after my tenure as president is completed.

Our Great Decisions group on foreign policy issues is held at the Unitarian Universalist Church at 33739 Marsh Rd., Lewes. The dates for the last sessions have been changed to 6/14 and 6/28/2013. Please make a note of these changes; we wouldn't want to miss seeing you there!

Fun Lunches

It is my opinion that Fun Lunches seem to sometimes need more substance. Something like a pertinent 20 minute presentation would add to the experience. Would exploring a topic help bring you out to these activities or do you prefer only socializing, introductions and some reporting on League activities? Let the board members know. Also, feel free to make suggestions as to preferred restaurants.

Program

The League has highlighted two (2) main areas in recent months, Education and Housing. We have had well attended forums and praise from many attendees. You really missed an opportunity if you did not attend League Day in Dover which concentrated on education. (It was also my first visit to Legislative Hall.) We are likely to continue to focus on both topics. In addition, government transparency and accountability are always concerns of the League.

Volunteerism

Volunteering is one of the actions that research has found contributes to the volunteer's level of happiness. It will also contribute to your Sussex LWV board's happiness. Too few are doing too much. There are so many more issues that we could cover if we had more help and it sure is fun and stimulating. We need more people to help the Observer Corps, especially in attending the variety of school board meetings. We need more folks to watch over the Board of Adjustments. We also need a PR person to send notices out to all the media, and we have materials to help one with that process. We really want people familiar with finances to volunteer with the administration of our League. Don't wait to be asked. Step up and offer and you will get hugs all around. What a terrific group of women and men we are!

Thank you for the opportunity to serve you and Sussex County.