



VOTER

The League of Women Voters of New Castle County, Delaware

January 2015

www.lwvdelaware-newcastlecounty.org

Vol. 21, No. 4

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

The League of Women Voters of NCC invites all to JANUARY Hot Topic Lunch (formerly called FUN LUNCH)



Tom Lehman, a reporter at 1150 AM WDEL whose beat is the City of Wilmington, will be featured. He will talk about his work, his experiences as a reporter and what he has to deal with in his assignments. A lifelong Delawarean and Wilmington native, he joined WDEL in 2012. Tom graduated from the University of Delaware, where he served as a managing editor of the school's independent student newspaper, The Review.

Monday, January 26, 2015, 11:30 am - 1:00 pm

Michael's Restaurant 1000 Churchman's Rd, Newark, DE 19713 (302) 368-4230

Save the date for February's Hot Topic Lunch, February 23, 2015: Seamen's Center.

Joan Lyons, Executive Director, Seamen's Center of Wilmington, Inc.

A Widener University graduate, Joan has been the Executive Director of the Seamen's Center of Wilmington for fourteen years. Her managerial background combined with her own volunteer experience have proven to be a winning combination as she and the Center's 40+ volunteers endeavor to greet, assist and befriend more than 10,000 seafarers annually that come into the First State. The volunteer driven, community supported Seamen's Center is open 7 days a week and welcomes crew members from more than 450 ships a year.

All welcome.

The purpose of HOT TOPIC LUNCHES is to become informed on a wide variety of topics, check in with current and longtime friends, make new friends, and invite others (your friends, neighbors, colleagues) to experience the League in an informal setting.

Buffet lunch is \$14.00 paid at time of the luncheon/. Please pay in cash if at all possible.

RSVP at lwgde@comcast.net or 302-571-8948 by Saturday, January 24, so the restaurant knows how many to expect.

Please feel free to come even if you did not call in. If you need a ride, leave a message on the League Office phone or e-mail when you RSVP. FOR CAR POOLING- CALL 302-571-8948 AND LEAVE A MESSAGE.

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

Celebrate Martin Luther King, Jr. Day with YWCA!

YWCA Delaware Confronts Institutional Racism
Monday, January 19th
10:00 AM - Noon

"The Issue of Race Deeply Shapes America"

YWCA Delaware recognizes MLK, Jr. Day each year by presenting an Action Forum to raise awareness and inspire action to affect social change around issues of racial disparity and race relations. Join us for this year's Action Forum to address **institutional racism** based on the fact that race continues to be a significant factor in every dimension of life such as employment, education, economics, housing, health care, crime, political candidates and public policy.

The focus of the forum is to engage the community, willing executives and public policymakers to become proactive in finding common ground to close the racial divide in Delaware communities.

Where:

**The Episcopal Church of Saints Andrew and Matthew
719 N. Shipley Street, Wilmington, DE**

Register online now to guarantee your seat or by calling 302.224.4060 ext. 218.
The Action Forum is FREE, but seating is limited.



Michele Greene



George Higgins



Dr. Yasser Payne



Roy Sudler, Jr.

Panel Discussions: Confronting Institutional Racism

This forum will create opportunities for the community, business, government and political leaders together to have open and honest dialogue regarding racial justice issues that broadly impact the success of people of color and the entire Delaware community. The panelists will be talking about the need to develop workable solutions in the workplace and our communities, placing emphasis on the fact that diversity has real purpose and in our collective strength lies unity. We must move beyond racial dialogue and develop more integrative workplaces by creating risk-free environments that allow people to freely contribute their best ideas by genuinely being included. Influential people must move out of their comfort zone and serve as examples for others to do the same by establishing circles of inclusion.

THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF KENT COUNTY

PRESENTS

A LUNCHEON EVENT FOR THE NEW YEAR

**WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 21, 2015; 11:00 A.M. - 2:00 P.M.
EAST WING CONFERENCE ROOM
MODERN MATURITY CENTER, 1121 FORREST AVENUE, DOVER**

TOPIC: ISSUES FACING THE DELAWARE CRIMINAL JUSTICE SYSTEM

SPEAKER: JOANNA CHAMPNEY

Chief of Planning, Planning & Research Unit, Delaware Department of Correction;
Former Executive Director, Delaware Center for Justice and SURJ

Ms. Champney will highlight some of the major projects underway affecting the Delaware Department of Corrections inmate and probation populations, including creation of a program for pregnant females, a community-based program for pretrial defendants whose low risk level makes them well suited for community supervision in lieu of pretrial detention, and the implementation of evidence-based risk assessment tools in Delaware's prisons and with probationers. She will also answer questions about the current agenda of the Delaware Center for Justice.

We enthusiastically invite all members and guests to attend. All League meetings are open to the public, however, luncheon reservations are required. Please detach the registration form below and mail to Crystal Hamilton, Treasurer, LWV of Kent County, 1450 Peach Basket Road, Felton, DE 19943, by January 14, 2015.

The luncheon menu is: Chicken Breast, Cranberry Drizzle, Mashed Potatoes, Vegetable, Dessert, Beverage

The cost is \$12.00/person.

Name_____

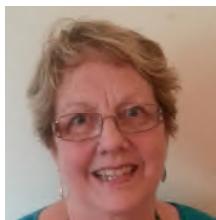
Organization_____

Address_____

E-mail and Telephone No._____

Number of Reservations and Amount enclosed_____

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



Social Justice Concerns

The following questions are of a rhetorical nature, and are intended to pique your awareness regarding your knowledge of Social Justice, regarding people of color and related issues. How do you feel regarding homeless people; why does the homeless population continue to grow? Have you ever personally known a homeless family with children? Have you ever given money to a person on the street? If you noticed a bag lady, or an obviously homeless person, would you take them for a meal at a nearby fast food restaurant/diner, or give them your coat, if they weren't dressed warmly enough for the weather?

How do you feel about crime in Urban Centers? What causes such dramatic crime statistics in Wilmington, DE? Do you feel comfortable going to a meeting or an event in Wilmington, day or night? If your answer is no, why do you feel this way? What do you think about the rising interest in/institution of, the "Body Camera"? Do you think it is a worthwhile expense?

Do you personally know anyone who has a prison record? What do you think the best method is for decreasing recidivism? Have you ever worked with inmates as a volunteer?

Have you ever provided shelter for children as a foster parent? Would you feel comfortable serving as a mentor for children/young people in state care?

Would you invite people of color to your home for an evening meal, or for cocktails? This question does not include highly-educated people from the University. This reference is directed toward having someone over who appears to need a friend or an introduction to community social circles.

*Emily White
LWVNCC President*

GREAT DECISION DISCUSSION GROUPS

Great Decisions North met Thursday, January 8, 2015 at 10 am in the parlor of Immanuel Episcopal Church (where the LWV office is located). Since we missed one meeting in 2014, our discussion concluded the 2014 book with Topic 8: U.S. Trade Policy.

Topic 1 in the Great Decisions 2015 book will be discussed February 12, 2015, same time and place. Visitors are always welcome. Please call the League office (302-571-8948) or Joyce Johnson for further information.

Joyce Johnson/Jackie Harris

The Monday Great Decisions group will open 2015 on Feb. 9th [the 2nd, instead of the 3rd Monday because of Presidents Day] with a discussion of "Russia and the Near Abroad" at the Newark Free Library from 1:30 to 3:30. As usual, many of us will meet for lunch at noon at the Bamboo House beforehand.

Vicky Kleinman

MEMBERSHIP

Welcome New Members

- Andrew (Drew) J. Serres, 503-507-9135 H, 302-656-2721 drew@delawareada.org
- Levine Coates, 302-593-9914 levinecoates@yahoo.com

Thank you to all our members who have renewed their membership in the LWV.

Reminder - all members, whose memberships are up for renewal, have received a reminder to continue membership. **Each one of you is important, no matter if you are inactive, just read our newsletters or respond to an action alert. Numbers matter and your financial support is vital.**

*Moonyeen Klopfenstein
Letty Diswood, Membership Co-chairs*

Pictured Below:

2nd Annual Holiday Luncheon of the League of Women Voters, DE held Wednesday, December 17, at Looking Glass Restaurant at Polytech High School, Woodside DE



THANKS TO ALL MEMBERS WHO GAVE A CONTRIBUTION to LWVNCC BEYOND THE MEMBERSHIP FEE.

(Listed are contributors since the last newsletter in November)

Katherine Flaherty, Vicky Kleinman,
Mitzi Law, Roberta Ray

**CONTRIBUTORS TO THE
LWV EDUCATION FUND (NCC ACCOUNT)**

Katherine Flaherty, Joyce Johnson,
Lois Myoda, Pat Todd

ACTION - LEAGUE SUPPORT FOR MPDU - MODERATELY-PRICED DWELLING UNIT

Last month a representative of the Land Use/Transportation Committee of the League of Women Voters of New Castle County read before County Council a Board-approved statement in support of the County administration's proposed Moderately-Priced Dwelling Unit legislation.

This new ordinance was designed to replace the previous Workforce Housing legislation, under a year-long moratorium. The old Workforce Housing legislation was being used by developers to threaten neighbors with workforce housing if they didn't agree to zoning changes.

The new legislation supported by the League is mandatory for all developers of 25 units or more who seek zoning changes, so the legislation's use as a bargaining chip is no longer an option. Under the new legislation, ultimately approved by all but four councilpersons, people of moderate income can buy homes at less than market value. These less-than-market-priced homes must remain in the program for ten years; the ten year (rather than fifteen year) time period is a compromise worked out by the bill's sponsors to satisfy some of the councilpersons who would otherwise not have voted for the ordinance.

There are currently several federally-funded programs for people who receive low incomes, but moderate income people have not had this same opportunity. The League supported this ordinance under its equal housing position.

Save the dates!

**League Day in Dover
Our Annual Legislative Day
Wednesday, March 25, 2015**

**LWV of Delaware Convention
June 6, 2015**

IN MEMORIAM



Katherine L. Esterly, M.D. "Kitty", age 89, of Hockessin, DE, passed away peacefully on Tuesday, December 9, 2014.

"Dr. Esterly was a recipient of the LWV of New Castle County Carrie Chapman Catt Award and a League member for many years."

(Below reprinted from *The News Journal Paper*.)

Born in Norristown, PA on October 11, 1925, Kitty was the daughter of the late Harold D. Esterly and Inez M. Morgan Esterly. After completing her undergraduate degree at Ursinus College, she attended medical school at Temple University, graduating in 1951. Soon after, she relocated to Delaware to begin her internship and residency at the Delaware Hospital. Dr. Esterly became a practicing pediatrician in 1954 and would serve as an associate in pediatrics for the Children's Bureau of Delaware from 1954 until 1968. During this time, she was a champion to countless adoptive and foster children. She was appointed as director of the organization in 1968 where her outstanding leadership skills and dedication to her profession were recognized by all.

In 1967, after the merger of Wilmington's community hospitals, the Medical Center of Delaware was formed and a new department of pediatrics was created. Dr. Esterly quickly identified the need for the state of the art facility to include a skilled neonatologist, so she underwent additional training and in 1975 became the director of the neonatology division. Throughout the 1980's, she worked tirelessly to expand the department which became a beacon of hope to thousands of families and their newborns.

Additionally, Dr. Esterly would serve as the chairman of the department of pediatrics at Christiana Care Health Services, as well as an attending neonatologist at A. I. duPont Hospital for Children and as a clinical Associate Professor of Pediatrics at Jefferson Medical College in Philadelphia. She was also a consultant for St. Francis Hospital and for Delaware's Child Development Watch program.

Deemed the "Mother of Delaware Neonatology" by the state's leading newspapers, she was described by her colleagues as one who never took "no" for an answer. Dr. Esterly possessed a steel will in her approach to caring for her tiny patients and maintained the highest of standards for both herself and her fellow practitioners. Her warm personality, gentle hand and skilled communication style were an instant comfort to parents facing difficult times and it was her life's mission to make sure that the best possible care was provided no matter what.

Dr. Esterly was a driving force behind the advancement of neonatal nurse practitioners and she helped create programs for schools in both Delaware and New Jersey. Her commitment to the medical community as a whole and her willingness to share her vast knowledge led to her being appointed as the chair of the state's Perinatal Board in 1995. A scholarship fund bearing her name and to which she personally contributed was created for students in the College of Health Sciences at the University of Delaware.

Dr. Esterly's professional legacy will help ensure that the exceptional care she provided will be preserved for countless Delaware families and future generations of pediatric caregivers for many years to come.

She is survived by her niece, Suzan F. Freitas (Manny) of Carmel, CA; great niece, Synthia F. Walden (Chad) of El Dorado Hills, CA; and great nephews, Bradley and Jake.

"A memorial service was held at 7 pm on Tuesday evening, December 16, 2014, at the Episcopal Church of Saints Andrew and Matthew, 719 Shipley Street (Shipley Street at Eighth Street), Wilmington, DE..

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to a children's [charity of the donor's choice](#).

New Castle County Council Meetings

New Castle County Council Meeting, October 14, 2014

Councilman Joseph Reda announced under the heading, "Introduction of Ordinances," that a new ordinance to adopt revised floodplain maps would not be introduced. He gave no explanation.

Councilman Dave Tackett offered for Council's consideration the plan for the first build-up of Whitehall, the large hamlets and villages development just south of the Canal. Village One will have 501 residential units and 80,900 square feet of non-residential use on 145.22 acres. Councilman David Tackett paid homage to Stephanie McClellan, former County Councilwoman who oversaw the development of the hamlets and villages ordinance.

Another ordinance also passed handily, this one dealing with the establishment of a "Route 9 Innovation District", to be highlighted by a community library/innovation center. (This center has been in the limelight recently when several Council members questioned the costly national and international travel of New Castle County librarians who traveled to distant innovation center prototypes in order to strengthen their sense of how such a center should be configured and operate.)

Developers of Westhampton were given permission to proceed with a 24 semi-detached, 81 townhouse community near McKean High School. Councilwoman Janet Kilpatrick was full of praise for the developers, who oversaw numerous focus groups. The developers will provide ten offsite affordable housing units.

Peggy Schultz, League Observer

New Castle County Land Use Committee Meeting, October 21, 2014

The first item on the agenda was review of a 54-unit development project called Lighthouse Farm, on the north side of Port Penn Road. Council members had a number of questions on the project, so further discussion was postponed until the November 10th Land Use Committee meeting. Councilman Robert Weiner wondered in particular about the Level of Service (LOS), and what the nature of the road widening would be; he also questioned the nature of the buffer which will protect the view shed. Knowledgeable staff

from the developer's office were not available to respond to these and other questions.

The major portion of the meeting was devoted to an explanation of the new iteration of workforce housing. In discussion which followed the presentation a somewhat larger number of councilpersons appeared to oppose the proposal, compared with those who favor it. The presentation was held in the large space of the Council chambers to accommodate an expected large number of visitors. However, only two members of the public were identified: your League observer and one other.

A consulting firm handled development of the housing report. Two of their number were on hand to respond to questions, though they sat at a table which did not have a microphone and they were difficult to hear. They listed problematic aspects of the former workforce housing law:

- a) The income of households being served by the ordinance were at 120% of the area median income....too high, and already served by the existing market;
- b) the land use density bonus was considered too high, resulting in some developers requesting rezoning for the density and avoiding the voluntary program.

The consulting team's recommendations are as follows:

- a) Call it the Moderately Priced Dwelling Unit Ordinance (MPDU).
- b) Require that all re-zonings, 25 units or larger, should be subject to the requirements of the MPDU.
- c) Provide a voluntary density bonus option of 20% for 10% MPDUs.
- d) Apply the MPDU ordinance to rental developments, as well as to home ownership developments.
- e) Two income levels of homebuyers should be served: 50% of the MPDUs should be affordable to households with up to 90% of the regional average income level, and 50% should be affordable to households with incomes up to 75% of the regional average income level.
- f) Current fee ordinance fee structure should be maintained.
- g) Provide for a payment,-in-lieu-of an option and an option to have some of the units off-site.

The same 15 year compliance period would also apply to the new ordinance. Several Councilpersons felt that this was a decided shortcoming of the new ordinance.

Peggy Schultz, League Observer

NEW CASTLE COUNTY COUNCIL MEETING,

November 25, 2014

This Council meeting took place with little or no controversy on any of the agenda items. A re-zoning of 12.46 acres from NC21 to ST Zoning for a single-family and attached unit project called Walker Farm Estates was unanimously accepted, without anyone from either the public or from the Council accepting the President's invitation to comment.

Federal funds of \$99,750 were accepted by the Department of Community Services for the USDA Farmers Market promotion program. Thanks were extended to Councilman William Powers, Jr. for bringing these funds to the attention of County officials.

An ordinance to raise the pay of Assessment Office Administrator was voted down. Councilman George Smiley commented that such raises ought to be included in the annual budget, and not as an independent ordinance. A separate ordinance to change the titles of certain row office employees passed. There was no pay increase involved in this ordinance.

NEW CASTLE COUNTY COUNCIL MEETING,

December 9, 2014

The main action at this month's only Council meeting concerned the controversial Moderately-Priced Dwelling Units (MPDU) ordinance. Joining the ordinance's author, Councilman Penrose Hollins, to co-sponsor the legislation were Council President Christopher Bullock and Council members Weiner, John Cartier, and Lisa Diller.

Councilman James Bell argued that the lack of a public transit requirement for this legislation was a deal breaker for him. He had seen too many plans for low cost housing that were isolated and required a personal automobile for the residents to get to work, in order to give assent to this new ordinance. The Land Use Department's Attorney, Mary Jacobson, responded that the Federal Government would find a public transit condition discriminatory, since other housing in the county did not require such infrastructure. Councilman Bell countered that he would like a review of all new development in terms of infrastructure such as public transit, adequate traffic lights, and shopping.

Councilman Bell also noted that the Planning Board had voted negatively on this ordinance.

Early in the evening Councilman Hollins noted that the ordinance had been revised to require only a 10 year

residency in an MPDU before the pricing would revert to prices charged on the open market, rather than the original 15 year requirement.

Councilman Powers reiterated the complaint of Councilman Bell, that there is no public transit requirement in the ordinance.

Counsel Jacobson pointed out that federal courts look with suspicion on moratoria that last longer than one year. The moratorium on workforce housing is almost at the one-year limit.

Councilman Jea Street voiced his opposition to the ordinance, saying that it would not benefit his constituency, and that the ordinance would give too much power to one person in the administration. Councilman Weiner opined that the ordinance encourages architectural excellence.

Several members of the public rose in support of the legislation, though some with mild caveats. The Builders' Association said that it was neutral, calling on Council to make the MPDU voluntary and to include a provision for rentals if the housing does not sell. Leon Weiner was represented by Kevin Kelley, who asked that the ordinance not be mandatory. A private citizen, the President of the New Castle County Realtors, and representatives of the Delaware Housing Coalition, the New Castle County Housing Office, and the League of Women Voters of New Castle County also voiced their support for the ordinance. The legislation passed, 9 in favor and 4 opposed. Those opposed included Councilpersons Bell, Kilpatrick, Powers, and Tackett. Councilman Reda paused for several seconds before announcing his affirmative vote, as though he were undecided until that moment.

NEW CASTLE COUNTY LAND USE COMMITTEE

MEETING, December 2, 2014

The major business of the meeting was a presentation and discussion on the proposed Moderately-Priced Dwelling Unit ordinance.

Eileen Fogarty, General Manager of the County's Land Use Department reviewed the essential qualities of the proposed ordinance. This ordinance is designed to replace the Workforce Housing Ordinance, currently under a moratorium until a new ordinance can be designed to take its place. The former ordinance, a

(Continued on page 9 NCC Land Use Com. Meeting)

(Continued from page 8 NCC Land Use Com. Meeting) voluntary program offering increased building densities to builders who included a certain percentage of below-market rate housing for qualified buyers, had become a bargaining chip for developers who wanted to change the zoning of their proposed projects; the developers threatened to put in Workforce Housing if the neighbors balked at the zoning changes.

While the earlier program had put an upper limit of 120% of the Area Median income (AMI), the new ordinance would allow applicants to have only 75% to 90% of the AMI; lowering the income requirement would allow more families to participate. The time requirement for a new MPDU homeowner to be obliged to remain in his/her home before putting it on the open market was 15 years. The 15-year requirement would allow the home to remain in the MPDU program for a time longer than the average home ownership time period for staying in one home, and would not allow the program to become a profit-making scheme for the new homeowners; it would remain a means for a family of moderate means to live in a home slightly more expensive than one which they would ordinarily be able to afford. The new program would be mandatory for projects of 25 homes or more which involve a zoning change. The Land Use Department's professional consultant on this ordinance pointed out that voluntary programs which include a percentage of housing set aside for families of moderate income simply do not work. A special accommodation was included in the ordinance for a fee-in-lieu-of for high priced projects whose homeowner fees were likely to be far beyond the reach of a moderate income family.

Ms. Fogarty pointed out that there is a definite need for this program. Low income families in New Castle County received \$35 million in federal housing funds this past year, but the County has no accommodation at all for middle income families. These families include nurses and other health and safety personnel, as well as teachers.

Councilman Hollins, the ordinance's champion, read a short statement noting the many supporters of the ordinance, as well as other positive features of the new bill. A home builder representative remarked on his group's opposition to the mandatory nature of the ordinance, as well as to the prohibition against renting for-sale units which do not readily sell. Councilwoman Kilpatrick objected to the long time period requirement which would make it impossible for a qualified

homebuyer to sell the home before the required 15 year time period. Habitat for Humanity and the Housing Coalition both voiced their support of the ordinance. The League of Women Voters representative also read a statement describing the League's support of the ordinance, a support basically founded on its equal housing opportunities position.

Peggy Schultz, League Observer

DID YOU KNOW!!

On January 9th in 1859, Carrie Chapman Catt was born in Wisconsin. While we all know that Carrie Catt fought tirelessly for women's suffrage both here and abroad and that she founded the League of Women Voters, here are some facts about this remarkable woman of which we may not be aware:

- Originally interested in practicing medicine, [Catt received a Bachelor of Science degree in general science in 1880](#). She was the only woman in her class.
- Before working in the suffrage movement, [Catt served as a teacher, principal and superintendent in Iowa](#). Catt began her career as a political activist at the age of 27[when she joined the Iowa Woman Suffrage Association](#).
- When her husband died in 1885, [Catt made a living by becoming San Francisco's first female newspaper reporter](#).
- By 1900, [Catt succeeded the 80-year-old activist Susan B. Anthony as president of the National American Woman Suffrage Association \(NAWSA\)](#), the organizational predecessor to the League.
- She served as president until 1904 when internal political issues within NAWSA caused her to take a break to advocate for the rights of women across the globe, not just in the U.S. As the president of NAWSA, she founded the International Woman Suffrage Alliance (IWSA).
- Catt returned to NAWSA as president in 1915. Catt's relentless campaigning is [credited with helping win President Woodrow Wilson's respect and support](#) — which ultimately lead to the passage of the 19th Amendment.
- Catt was [close friends with Eleanor Roosevelt](#), a [fellow League leader](#) and women's rights pioneer.
- In her later years, Catt advocated on behalf of working women [and tirelessly lobbied for world peace efforts](#).
- She supported efforts for both the League of Nations and the United Nations, [the latter of which the League of Women Voters helped establish](#).
- For decades throughout the women's suffrage movement, [Catt traveled across the country](#) to make speeches and lead parades. Even when she was in her late 70s, she remained an effective and impassioned speaker.

(Continued on page 10)

- Carrie Catt described the League as a “mighty experiment”. Nearly 95 years later the League is still a mighty experiment in making democracy work through

citizen education and engagement. No doubt, Mrs. Catt would be exceedingly proud of her legacy.

CALENDAR

Monday, January 12, 2015, 6:30 - 8:30 P.M	Kirkwood Library, 600 Kirkwood Highway, Wilmington, DE 19808	LWV of NCC Board Meeting. Monthly meeting of the NCC board of directors.
Monday, January 12, 2015 7:00 pm	Home of Peggy Schultz (please email or call Peggy Schultz for directions at schultz_peggy@yahoo.com , 302-235-7182)	Land Use/Transportation Committee Meeting. We will review a statement on the Croda Coastal Zone application, discuss the Coyle and Stone interviews and the opportunity to support transit-oriented development legislation. Please phone ahead no later than the morning of the meeting if you wish to participate by Skype. League members throughout the state are encouraged to attend, either in person or by Skype.
Wednesday, January 14, 2015 9:30 am-12:00 pm	Legislative Hall (Location to be confirmed)	LWVDE Advocacy Corps meeting - Call Sandy Spence for details 302-841-2882
Thursday, January 15, 2015, 6-8:30 PM	Roma Restaurant 3 President Drive Dover, DE 19901	State Board Meeting. Monthly meeting of the state board of directors
Monday, January 19, 2015 10:00 am - 12 noon	The Episcopal Church of Saints Andrew and Matthew 719 N. Shipley Street, Wilmington, DE	MLK Action Forum. Join League of Women Voters of New Castle County president Emily White as she moderates a panel of speakers for the YWCA Action Forum. "YWCA Delaware recognizes MLK, Jr. Day each year by presenting an Action Forum to raise awareness and inspire action to affect social change around issues of racial disparity and race relations." For more information please click the link below to be taken to the YWCA website: http://www.ywcade.org
Monday, January 26, 2015, 11:30 am -1 PM	Michael's is located at 1000 Churchman's Road, Newark. http://michaelsde.com/directions/	HOT TOPIC LUNCH (formerly Fun Lunches) WDEL RADIO Reporter Tom Lehman will discuss his work and his Wilmington beat.
Monday, February 9, 1:30-3:30 pm	Newark Free Library, 750 Library Ave. Newark, DE 19711	GREAT DECISIONS Monday group, Newark. Study topic: Russia and the Near Abroad. Lunch for the hungry at noon at Bamboo House. Please phone Vicky Kleinman, 731-495, if you'd like to join the group for lunch.

League of Women Voters of New Castle County
2400 W 17th Street, Clash Wing, Room 1, Lower Level
Wilmington, DE 19806
302-571-8948; lwncc@comcast.net
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The League of Women Voters of NCC invites all to FEBRUARY Hot Topic Lunch

Monday, February 23, 2015, 11:30 am - 1:00 pm

Michael's Restaurant 1000 Churchman's Rd, Newark, DE 19713 (302) 368-4230



TOPIC: The Seaman's Center of Wilmington

The mission of the Seaman's Center of Wilmington, Inc., is to meet the needs of the seafarers who visit the Ports in the State of Delaware. The goal is to make their time in port a rewarding one by providing personal, practical and spiritual assistance. A warm welcome is extended to ease the pain of loneliness and isolation and to offer a respite from the hazards of the sea.

The Seaman's Center of Wilmington serves approximately 500 ships, representing more than 80 countries, annually. These vessels bring 10,000+ seafarers to the Ports in the State of Delaware.

Joan Lyons, Executive Director, Seamen's Center of Wilmington, Inc. will discuss how the Center operates, its needs and the many challenges seafarers face as they travel the world.

A Widener University graduate, Joan has been the Executive Director of the Seamen's Center of Wilmington for fourteen years. Her managerial background combined with her own volunteer experience have proven to be a winning combination as she and the Center's 40+ volunteers endeavor to greet, assist and befriend more than 10,000 seafarers annually that come into the First State. The volunteer driven, community supported Seamen's Center is open 7 days a week and welcomes crew members from more than 450 ships a year.



Joan had the privilege of being honored as the recipient of the Port of Wilmington Maritime Society's 2004 John E. Babiarz Award which is presented annually to an individual who has made a significant contribution to the Port of Wilmington. In 2010 and again in 2014 the Seamen's Center of Wilmington was nominated as one of the best seafarer centers in the world.



As seafarers arrive at the ports in the State of Delaware (Port of Wilmington, Oceanport Industries and the Delaware City Refinery), ship visitors from the Seamen's Center of Wilmington are there to welcome the crew, assess their needs and inform them of the Center's work. Seamen's Center volunteers act as free TWIC (Transportation Worker Identification Credential) escorts while on port properties to allow the crews to have their much needed shore leave.

All welcome.

The purpose of HOT TOPIC LUNCHES is to become informed on a wide variety of topics, check in with current and longtime friends, make new friends, and invite others (your friends, neighbors, colleagues) to experience the League in an informal setting.

(Continued on page 2, Hot Topic Lunch)

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RSVP at lwgde@comcast.net or 302-571-8948 by Saturday, February 21, so the restaurant knows how many to expect.

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

GREAT DECISION DISCUSSION GROUPS

The Monday Great Decisions group

Just looked at the calendar and saw that February is upon us. That means the start of the 2015 series. So, we're off;

WHAT: Russia and the Near Abroad

WHEN: Monday, Feb 9th, 1:30 [This is the 2nd Monday because the Library is closed on the 3rd Monday for Presidents Day]

WHERE: Newark Free Library

WHO: Judy Villamarín will lead the discussion

What else: Lunch for those who'd like to join us

When: Noon - 1:15, Where: Bamboo house

How: Call Vicky Kleinman (302) 731-4950 to let her know how many to reserve for.

Hope you all had great holidays and are ready to jump back in.

Great Decisions North will meet Thursday, February 12, 2015 at 10 am in the parlor of Immanuel Episcopal Church (where the LWV office is located). Read *Topic 1: Russia and the Near Abroad*.

Incidentally, I scanned the new video and it is much improved over last year's.

For those who wish to join us, lunch will follow at a nearby restaurant. Visitors are always welcome! Please call the League office (302-571-8948) or Joyce Johnson for further information.

Joyce Johnson/Jackie Harris

MEMBERSHIP

Welcome New Members

- **Theda M. Ellis**, 302-731-0753, 303-388-9798
cell thedaellis@me.com

Thank you to all our members who have renewed their membership in the LWV.

*Monyeен Klopfenstein
Letty Diswood, Membership Co-chairs*

Dear League Member:

Interesting and interested people

Doing interesting work and

Having interesting dialog...

**Does this sound like a group
that might interest you?**

An experience to remember: demanding, rewarding, challenging, satisfying...join the LWV of New Castle County Board of Directors to be part of a dynamic, fun group of people.

You will be able to:

- share your League successes with other Leagues,
- build your leadership skills,
- learn to use your skills to make things happen for the League and for your community,
- help to set the direction for the LWVNCC,
- expand your commitment to the League,
- raise your visibility.

If this sounds like an opportunity you or someone you know might want to pursue, please contact any one of our LWVNCC Nominating Committee members:

Monyeен Klopfenstein: 302-999-9059
bobklop@aol.com

Flo Waibel: 302-737-7848 fmwaibel@udel.edu

Judy Taggart: 302-738-5969
JudithTaggart1@verizon.net

Letty Diswood: 302-478-8224
letty.diswood@verizon.net
or
call 302-571-8948

LWVNCC Program Planning for 2015-2017

This year the LWV of Delaware will hold its Biennial Convention June 6, 2015 and LWV of New Castle County will hold its Annual Meeting June 15, 2015.

For these meetings we ask all our members to provide some input to its boards so they can put together a Proposed Program for 2015-17, that will be voted on at these meetings.

Every two years state and local Leagues participate in the LWV Program Planning process by making recommendations concerning program issues – *this is how we remain a grassroots organization.*

Note: *Program is NOT planning a calendar of activities for the year,* but the Program Planning process is an important League tool for identifying issues for study. It gives members and Leagues the opportunity to balance the pros and cons, assess possible support, and consider the viability of issues.

Pages 4-6 of this newsletter list a summary of the current LWV of New Castle County positions, and LWV of Delaware positions.

Selecting an issue for study

Program, a three-part process that is a core component of the League's mission, is composed of program planning, study and consensus, and advocacy. While it is important to hold a Program Planning meeting to discuss possible issues for study at the local and state level, **it is not essential for every League to select an issue.**

At the last LWV of New Castle County board meeting it was decided not to hold a membership meeting on program planning, but to provide our membership an opportunity to send their comments and recommendations to the LWVNCC board by March 1, 2015 either by mail or email.

When looking at League Program keep in mind possible issues by asking, for example:

- Is there widespread member interest?
- Is this a timely issue?
- Is government action the most effective way to address the problem?

New Study, Review and Update, or Concurrence

Our League members have the option to propose new studies, or review and update, or recommend a concurrence with a position of other Leagues, or to make no recommendation.

Members at the annual meeting and state convention will still be asked to re-adopt the current **program listed on pages 4-6.**

The state League is considering recommending a **concurrence on a minimum wage for Delaware. They will be providing some background information and the wording for the proposed new position to local Leagues before the March state board meeting.**

Resources and Volunteer Time

Before recommending a study, review and update or concurrence, members need to consider the resource commitment required for our League as well as for the state League. A recommendation of a new study, review or concurrence is a request to give the recommendation a high priority for the biennium at both the local and state League levels.

Please send your comments to:
lwwde@comcast.net.

Or mail your comments to:

**LWV of New Castle County
2400 W 17th Street
Clash Wing, Room 1, Lower Level
Wilmington, DE 19806.**

**For further information call the office at
301-571-8948.**



**LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF NEW CASTLE COUNTY
SUMMARY OF CURRENT PROGRAM 2013-2015**

GOVERNMENT

Support of programs and policies which promote ethical, efficient and effective government.

Revenue Structure: Support for fiscal measures to provide revenue sufficient for essential government services for the entire county, including municipalities such as the Cities of Wilmington and Newark which serve the County.

NATURAL RESOURCES

Support of policies that protect air and water quality in New Castle County.

[Current Emphasis: The Energy/Climate Change/Natural Resources committee is focusing on sea level rise, fracking, statewide climate change goals, air, water, solid waste and recycling. Further details on energy and climate change positions may be found on the state website at www.lwvdelaware.org. Go to "Studies"]

LAND USE/TRANSPORTATION

Continuing study item

Examine developments and concepts in land use and transportation.

[Current Emphasis: The Land Use/Transportation Committee subscribes to the LWVDE positions on land use and transportation which supports reducing transportation-generated greenhouse gas emissions by wiser land use planning and by enhancing public transit options. Further details may be found on the state website at www.lwvdelaware.org.]

Land use: Support of the regulation of growth and optimum use of land in New Castle County through a comprehensive planning policy. Monitoring of land use policies and procedures in NCC and their relationship to human needs, population trends, transportation planning, and ecological and socioeconomic factors. Encouragement of continuing cooperation among governmental agencies

Transportation: Support for a balanced, inter-modal transportation system interconnected with land use and based on inter-jurisdictional coordination.

SOCIAL POLICY

Urban Health/Justice System

Continuing Study - A re-evaluation of Delaware's criminal justice system and the impact of the current policies and practices on society. The re-evaluation is kept broad so that attention will be placed where there is the most impact.

Urban Health: Support the improvement of the quality of urban life by encouraging citizen input and review of the economic, environmental, and service development and regulation in the towns and cities.

Needle Exchange Programs: Support for comprehensive needle exchange programs, which also offer education and referrals to appropriate services, as part of a public health effort to reduce the spread of infectious diseases such as HIV/AIDS and Hepatitis C. (Adopted 12/2005).

Housing: Support for measures to assure equal housing opportunities and decent, affordable housing in the incorporated and unincorporated areas of New Castle County.

Library Services: Support for a county-wide public library system, efficiently managed and adequately funded to provide library services for the citizens of New Castle County.

Public School Libraries: Support policies and funding for public school library media centers that promote their central role in providing equal opportunity for all children to achieve educational excellence.

Next pages are Position summaries of LWV of Delaware



LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF DELAWARE
A SUMMARY OF CURRENT STATE PROGRAM 2013-15

STATE GOVERNMENT

Revenue Sources – Continuing Study: *A Study of State Government Revenue Sources*

Delaware General Assembly - Support of measures to promote a more effective and responsive legislative branch of state government, including strengthening the committee system and use of the budgetary process to review and evaluate state programs.

Ethics - Support of ethics legislation in the areas of campaign finance, conflict of interest, financial disclosure and lobbying disclosure.

Delaware State Constitution - Support of a Constitution for the State of Delaware which would be confined to broad principles and would promote more efficient and responsive government.

Public/Private Partnerships - Support the use of public/private partnerships by governments in Delaware if a project can be better undertaken with public/private cooperation. Public input, careful controls and adequate safeguards need to be part of these partnerships.

Reapportionment/Redistricting - Support for an open unbiased process for reapportionment and redistricting with opportunities for public participation.

SOCIAL POLICY

Justice System - Continuing Study: *A re-evaluation of Delaware's criminal justice system and the impact of the current policies and practices on society. (Action will continue to be taken under LWVDE current position.)*

The study is worded intentionally broad so that the study committee can start where its sees the most effective effort and timeliness.

Support for the adoption of consistent policies which, within budgetary constraints, will permit the disposition of offenders in the best interests of society, the victim(s), and the offenders and their families.

We oppose mandatory sentencing.

We support the expansion of drug courts and mental health courts for all nonviolent

offenders and the appropriate science based health and mental health treatment of all offenders.

Family Court, Related State Programs for Children, Domestic Violence - Support of uniformity in operation of the Family Court system; automatic expungement of certain juvenile records; state provided diagnostic services, care, education and treatment to age 21 for youths and young adults who have mental or physical illness or who are developmentally delayed or are substance abusers or abused/neglected; strong educational programs on the rights of victims of family violence.

Before and After School Child Care - Support for state government involvement in encouraging, establishing and/or supporting child care programs.

Financing Public Education - Support for methods of financing public education that will promote equal opportunity for quality education and improve both the local districts' and state's budgeting while maintaining a high level of local control.

Education - *A study of the public education system in Delaware with special focus on financing, charter schools, and transparency and accountability to citizens.*

Gun Control - Protect the health and safety of citizens through limiting the accessibility and regulating the ownership of handguns and semiautomatic weapons. Support regulation of firearms for consumer safety. (LWVUS position applies)

Healthcare - Continuing Study: A study of the financing and delivery of health care in Delaware with emphasis on following the work of the Delaware Health Care Commission and related committees. LWVDE also acts under the LWVUS health care position: "Promote a health care system for the United States that provides access to a basic level of care for all U.S. residents and controls health care costs."

Needle Exchange Programs - Support for comprehensive needle exchange programs, which also offer education and referrals to appropriate services, as part of a public health effort to reduce the spread of infectious diseases such as HIV/AIDS and Hepatitis C.

Public School Libraries - Support policies and funding for public school library media centers that promote their central role in providing equal opportunity for all children to achieve educational excellence.

NATURAL RESOURCES

Renewable Energy Portfolio – Support for an increase in the percentage of renewable energy sources in Delaware's Renewable Energy Portfolio Standard (RPS) provided that they: have minimum environmental impact; use the best current technology as measured by reliability, proven effectiveness, and being state-of-the-art; have long range cost effectiveness including all net costs such as health and environmental costs, state and federal subsidies, and price stability.

Support of measures ensuring that total electricity sales in Delaware be required to meet the RPS.

Transmission and Distribution – Support for maximizing the development and delivery of renewable energy to Delaware when designing and developing new transmission plans for the region. In addition to delivering reliable, adequate electric service to Delaware, the key factors to be considered in making a decision on any transmission plan/transmission enhancements are: Degree of environmental impact; Degree of utilization of the transmission for renewable resource power vs. fossil-fuel generated power; True cost, including all cost-externalities; Safety and security of the grid.

Energy/Climate Change - supports an aggressive and comprehensive energy use/climate change plan for Delaware. Some key points that should be included: Accelerate bringing new green businesses, jobs and industries to Delaware, and investigate emerging energy technologies. Set targets and a timetable for reducing Delaware's total greenhouse gas emissions. Plan for extensive adaptation measures at all levels of government for climate change impacts that cannot be avoided---especially sea level rise.

Support public education and outreach; expand renewable energy and climate change in Delaware curriculum standards. As Delaware calculates energy costs, full life cycle analyses* with all externalities** must be included. Social and economic justice must be considered in implementing energy and climate change policy.

Coastal Zone - Support for Coastal Zone planning which considers the best possible outcome for people, the land, and the coastal environment.

Critical Land Areas - Support for preservation and/or protection of certain critical areas (ecologically fragile estuaries and coastal areas, farmland, flood plain, aquifers, and natural areas); erosion and sedimentation controls; and coordination among all levels of government in decisions involving major facilities.

Farmland - Support of a farmland preservation program.

Land Use/Transportation

Support of the regulation of growth and optimum use of land through comprehensive planning policy. Monitoring of land use policies and procedures and their relationship to human needs, population trends, transportation planning, and ecological and socioeconomic factors. Encouragement of continuing cooperation among governmental agencies.

Support of a balanced, intermodal transportation system interconnected with land use and based on interagency and inter-jurisdictional coordination.

Support reducing transportation-generated greenhouse gas emissions by wiser land use planning and by enhancing public transit options.

Some key points that should be included:
Direct development towards growth zones, except for environmentally sensitive areas within those growth zones; assure availability of infrastructure, services and walkability before developing. - Build compact, or dense, development within established development areas in which pedestrians can safely and conveniently access services; reduce vehicle miles traveled (VMT). - Modify Delaware's paratransit fee schedule to establish separate classifications for ADA* and non-ADA** service. -Reform the system to establish fairer pricing for non-ADA paratransit use. - Tighten eligibility requirements for all paratransit use in situations where the state has discretion. - Establish a dedicated funding stream for public transit; explore a variety of funding sources.

Senate Approves Keystone XL Pipeline

01/29/2015 | by Kelly Ceballos |

"The President must veto. Keystone is not in our national interest," says League

Washington, DC - "Today's vote in the U.S. Senate to approve construction of the Keystone XL Pipeline is profoundly disappointing. It is a harmful, short-sighted decision that endangers the health and safety of Americans," said Elisabeth MacNamara, President of the League of Women Voters of the U.S.

"Our nation's reliance on fossil fuels should not be more important than the health and well-being of Americans and our environment," said MacNamara.

"We urge President Obama to continue his commitment to people not polluters," added MacNamara. "The President must veto this misguided legislation."

"The Keystone XL Pipeline is not in our national interest," MacNamara said. "It is bad energy policy: It threatens the safety of our drinking water and increases the greenhouse gases in our atmosphere that contribute to climate change."

"Today, the U.S. Senate put polluters' interests ahead of those of ordinary Americans and acted irresponsibly in this time of climate change. We call on President Obama to follow through and veto this harmful legislation in order to protect the health and safety of all Americans. A veto by the President is the only thing that will protect us now," concluded MacNamara.

Save the date!

CANDIDATE FORUM for NEWARK CITY COUNCIL CANDIDATES

TUESDAY, MARCH 24, 7:00 P.M

Newark Senior Center

The League will be joined by AAUW Newark and the Newark Senior Center
as sponsors.

If you are interested in helping out that night
please call Carole Walsh 302-731-5487.

CALENDAR

Monday, February 9, 2015 1:30-3:30 pm	Newark Free Library <u>750 Library Ave</u> <u>Newark, DE 19711</u>	Monday Great Decisions Group. The Monday Great Decisions group will open 2015 on Feb. 9th [the 2nd, instead of the 3rd Monday because of Presidents Day] with a discussion of "Russia and the Near Abroad" at the Newark Free Library from 1:30 to 3:30. As usual, many of us will meet for lunch at noon at the Bamboo House beforehand. Please contact Vicky Kleinman for more details.
Monday, February 9, 2015, 6:30 - 8:30 P.M	League office, 2400 W 17th St., Wilmington	LWV of NCC Board Meeting. Monthly meeting of the NCC board of directors.
Wednesday, February 11, 2015 9:30 am- 12:00 pm	CenDel Building, 101 W. Loockerman Street, Dover	LWVDE Advocacy Corps meeting - Call Sandy Spence for details 302-841-2882
Thursday, February 12, 2015, 10:00 a.m.,	Immanuel Episcopal Church, Parlor, 2400 W 17th, Wilmington	GREAT DECISIONS Thursday Group, Wilmington. The group will discuss). Read <i>Topic 1: Russia and the Near Abroad</i> . Lunch will follow for those interested. For questions, please phone the League office 571-8948. Meet in the parlor.
Thursday, February 19, 2015, 6-8:30 pm	Roma Restaurant <u>3 President Drive</u> <u>Dover, DE 19901</u>	State Board Meeting. Monthly meeting of the state board of directors
Monday, February 23, 2015 11:30 am - 1:00 pm	Michael's Restaurant 1000 Churchman's Rd Newark, DE 19713 (302) 368-4230 <u>http://michaelsde.com/directions/</u>	Hot Topic Lunch February 2015: Seamen's Center.. speaker will be Joan Lyons, Executive Director, Seamen's Center of Wilmington, Inc. The volunteer driven, community supported Seamen's Center is open 7 days a week and welcomes crew members from more than 450 ships a year. RSVP at <u>lwvde@comcast.net</u> or 302-571-8948 by Saturday, January 24, so the restaurant knows how many to expect. Please feel free to come even if you did not call in. If you need a ride, leave a message on the League Office phone or e-mail when you RSVP. FOR CAR POOLING- CALL 302-571-8948 AND LEAVE A MESSAGE.
Tuesday, March 24, 7 pm	Newark Senior Center	Candidate Forum for City of Newark candidates
Wednesday, March 25, 2015	Dover, Delaware	League Day: Annual Legislative Day. 8:30 am registration, 9-12 program, lunch with legislators 12:15-1:30 pm visit Legislative Hall in the afternoon

League of Women Voters of New Castle County
2400 W 17th Street, Clash Wing, Room 1, Lower Level
Wilmington, DE 19806
 302-571-8948; lwvncc@comcast.net
www.lwvdelaware-newcastlecounty.org



VOTER

The League of Women Voters of New Castle County, Delaware

March 2015

www.lwvdelaware-newcastlecounty.org

Vol. 21, No. 6

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

CANDIDATE FORUM NEWARK CITY COUNCIL

The League of Women Voters of New Castle County (LWVNCC), American Association of University Women of Newark (AAUW) and Newark Senior Center invite the public to attend a candidates' forum for City Council Districts 1, 2 and 4. All candidates who are ballot-qualified have been invited to participate.

WHERE: Newark Senior Center
200 White Chapel Drive

WHEN: Wednesday, March 24.

TIME: Doors will open at 6:30 p.m.

Members of the LWVNCC and AAUW Newark will moderate and staff the event. The audience will be encouraged to submit written questions for the candidates, which will be posed to the candidates by the moderator.

Candidates for District 1 are incumbent Mark Morehead, Joseph Charma and Willard Webber.

Candidates for District 2 are incumbent Todd Ruckle and Glenn Schmalhofer.

Candidates for District 4 are incumbent Margrit Hadden and Ronald Walker.

In compliance with federal regulations for nonpartisan forums, at least two candidates for the same office must be present in order for the candidate to participate in the formal program; no stand-ins are allowed.

The LWVNCC, AAUW Newark, and the Newark Senior Center are nonpartisan organizations that do not support any political candidate or party. The election is Tuesday, April 14, 2015.

(Continued on page -- **Directions Candidate Forum**)

ANNOUNCEMENT!! There will be no Hot Topic lunch in March so we can all go to the Candidate Forum and League Day in Dover. You will find details in this *Voter*.

April's Hot Topic will be about the new Community Library Proposal for Route 9 area in New Castle. It will be scheduled for an evening program in one of the NCC Libraries, therefore we will not have a noon lunch that month. **Sophia Hanson, General Manager of Community Services will be the presenter.**

Highlights of the Hot Topic Lunch held in February are on page 2.

GREAT DECISION DISCUSSION GROUPS

Great Decisions - 2nd Thursday

What: We will view the DVD and discuss the second topic Privacy in the Digital Age

When: Thursday, March 12, 10 AM

Where: in the parlor of Immanuel Episcopal Church, 2400 W. 17th Street, Wilmington.

Following the disclosure of classified government documents by Edward Snowden, this should prove an interesting and informative discussion. For those interested, lunch will follow at a nearby restaurant. Questions? Call the LWV office (302-571-8948)

Great Decisions - 3rd Monday

What: Privacy in the Digital Age

When: Monday, March 16th; 1:30 -3:30 pm

Where: Newark Free Library

Who: Meta Little will lead the discussion

What else: Lunch for those who wish it

When: Noon to 1:15 pm

Where: Bamboo House

How: Call [302-731-4950] or email [kraver@udel.edu] Vicky Kleinman to let her know you'll be eating with us.

Seamen's Center at the Port of Wilmington, Delaware



Joan Lyons, the Director of the Seamen's Center, along with a host of volunteers, is the connection between the crews of commercial vessels and the terra firma at the port. The Seaman's Center, at the Wilmington port opened in 1990, because of the crews' myriad needs when their vessels are in Delaware: contacting a Doctor for serious illnesses or injuries, clothing needs, internet with Skype, a lounge with a guitar and keyboard and international reading material, telephone access with phone cards, and access to an in-house store that provides anything from tooth paste to Band-Aids, many of the comforts of home.

If the weather is inclement, the usual 48 hour turn-around may expand into 5 days in port. Joan's ingenuity kicks in when this happens. The crew members will be accommodated. The size of the crews vary from 28/30 to 7 or 8. A few times, there have been crew members as young as 16 years and as old as 60 years. The men usually sign on for a 9-month contract, so homesickness can be an issue. Joan and her volunteers are friendly faces and listening ears to seamen a long way from home. When crewmen work for the same shipping company for many consecutive years, they visit Delaware many times. They develop friendships with Director Joan and the many volunteers at the Seaman's Center.

As Director of the Seamen's Center, Joan has mediated conflicts that arise on shipboard. She is an advocate for crew members when ships arrive with no heat and out of food. Nine months away from home is a long time! The Center's purpose is to offer respite from the dangers of the sea and to provide a home away. Over the years, the Center has been dubbed, "The Little Yellow House". The volunteers become a lifeline between land and sea.

If a vessel originated in the Philippines and arrived in Delaware on a snowy day, the crew would likely be wearing flip-flops and a T-shirt with shorts. After traveling the high seas in winter, a ship may arrive in port covered in ice. Because of the ice, it could take days, rather than the usual 48 hour turn-around to unload the cargo. The Center provides donated clothes more suited to the winter weather to the men.

The Center has Church Services three times each week. It is a welcome comfort for seamen when the ships are in Port. "Christmas at Sea" is a celebration that has become a great tradition. Volunteer churches and community groups pack shoe boxes with a variety of useful travel items. Every box is topped with a handmade knit hat and scarf. Episcopal Church of the Ascension has been a standout supporter of Seamen's Center. Their goal is to extend a warm welcome and offer a respite from the loneliness and isolation of life at sea.

Dole and Chiquita are the firms contracted to serve our 3 ports. Their vessels bring 10,000 seafarers to the Ports in Delaware: Port of Wilmington, Delaware City and Claymont. Delaware's ports are among the busiest in the Nation.

Interesting trivia: 1,000 – 5,000 pregnant Holstein cows are shipped to the Middle East and Russia each year. A veterinarian is always on board in the event of early deliveries! Bananas and fruit juices come to us from Honduras. We export GM and military items. The U.S imports scrap steel. We receive clementines from Morocco. These are just a few of the items involved in the nation's import/export businesses. Seamen's Center serves approximately 500 ships a year, representing over 80 countries. **Women sometimes serve as cooks and stewards.

If you'd like to volunteer, have a community group offer support or make a donation to the Seamen's Center, please call 302-575-1300. Formerly used items of clothing are always welcome.

Emily White, LWVNCC President

MEMBERSHIP

- **The updated Membership Roster for 2014-15 will be available middle of April.**
- Thank you to all our members who have renewed their membership in the LWV.

*Moonyeen Klopfenstein
Letty Diswood, Membership Co-chairs*

VOTER REGISTRATION TRAINING

WHEN: Tuesday, April 7, 2015

6:00 - 7:30 pm Pizza, iced tea, soda and water

WHERE: LWV Office, 2400 W 17th Street

CALL: 302-571-8948 to reserve a seat. Or email:

lwncc@comcast.net

ALL WELCOME - NO EXPERIENCE REQUIRED

PRESIDENT'S MESSSSAGE

Volume 2; March 2015



I find it unacceptable that we have Black History “advertised” for one month out of the calendar year. What is up with that? African **Americans**, Black People are Americans every day of the year! Even after the Emancipation

Proclamation, Blacks were struggling to gain freedom from slavery; **read The Warmth of Other Suns: the Epic Story of America's Great Migration**. Perhaps enlightenment could be found in Michele Alexander's **The New Jim Crow**. There are several groups around the State offering Book Groups studying **The New Jim Crow**. Let's start a reading list of worthwhile books to add to these two. Help?

Just to bring us all up to date, I'd like to “advertise” just a few examples of Black artists from our **American** history. Through the next volumes from this writer, we'll discover much more information.

Art Smith, Jewelry designer in the 1950; NYC; African tribal-like styles

Sarah Breedlow, the 1st African **American** female, self-made Millionaire; her company, Madam C.J. Walker, is still in business today.

Edward Mitchell Bannister, was a 19th century artist/Painter; Afro-American Art catalogued in the Metropolitan Museum of Art.

Babyland Ragdoll; “Topsy Turvey” black face/white face ragdoll; **American** folk art

Trivia: A Willie Mays jersey, from 1950 recently sold at auction for \$25,000.00! Willy Mays was a famous African **American** baseball player.

This is Volume 2, look for more important, NOT trivial information to learn about the African **Americans** in this great Nation, the **United** States of America. We will learn about the many contributions. (The news media will keep us apprised of the myriad cases of death and discrimination happening to African **Americans** in current 2015.)

Emily White LWVNCC President

Dear League Member:

- ❖ Interesting and interested people
- ❖ Doing interesting work and
- ❖ Having interesting dialog...
- ❖ Does this sound like a group that might interest you?

An experience to remember: demanding, rewarding, challenging, satisfying...join the LWV of New Castle County Board of Directors to be part of a dynamic, fun group of people.

You will be able to:

Share your League successes with other Leagues. Build your leadership skills. Learn to use your skills to make things happen for the League and for your community. Help to set the direction for the LWVNCC. Expand your commitment to the League,- raise your visibility.

If this sounds like an opportunity you or someone you know might want to pursue, please contact any one of our LWVNCC Nominating Committee members:

Moonyeen Klopfenstein: 302-999-9059 bobklop@aol.com

Flo Waibel: 302-737-7848 fmwaibel@udel.edu

Judy Taggart: 302-738-5969 JudithTaggartI@verizon.net

Letty Diswood: 302-478-8224letty.diswood@verizon.net

or call 302-571-8948

Land Use/Transportation Committee Meeting

A representative from the Land Use/Transportation Committee observed New Castle County Council meetings on Jan. 13, Feb. 3, Feb. 10. She observed County Land Use Committee meetings on Jan. 6 and Jan. 20. Reports of these meetings can be found on the Observers' Page of our website at: [Observer Notes - LWV of New Castle County](#)

Land Use/Transportation also represented the League of Women Voters of New Castle County at the Wilmington Area Planning Council (WILMAPCO) Public Advisory Committee on Feb. 23rd, where she raised a question about the wisdom of the state's promotion of development at Fort DuPont, an area currently subject to frequent flooding and projected to be almost totally inundated by 2100. Jane Dilley, Co-Chair of the Committee, served on the citizen committee which advised staff relative to the newly published report on Transportation Justice in New Castle County.

Peggy Schultz & Jane Dilley,
Land Use/Transportation Committee

The LWV of Sussex County Invites you to a
BUS TOUR of POLLUTION AND COASTAL ZONE ACT SITES

Friday, April 17, 2015
Bus leaves Lowe's Parking Lot in Lewes at 9:00am,
returning around 3:00pm

Deadline for registration is March 25. Tour cost is \$19.95. Please mail checks or money orders to LWVSC, P.O. Box 163, Lewes DE 19958. Registration forms and additional information are available at www.sussexlww.org. (Or attached.) The bus leaves from the Lowe's parking lot (Lewes) at 9am and returns at approximately 3:00. Participants are asked to congregate at 8:30am and bring their own box lunch and beverage. Coolers provided.

During the tour, citizen scientists will be available to provide key information concerning eco-hazards at the various tour stops. Tour highlights include:

- **Mountaire Poultry Plant** (Millsboro) — Plant is required to have a Coastal Zone (CZA) permit. The League spokesperson will highlight CZA regulations.
- **NRG Power Plant at Indian River** — NRG is working on a long-term remediation plan with DNREC to address hazards associated with a coal ash mound on Burton Island.
- **Vlasic Pinnacle Foods Plant** - EPA brownfield site. Purchased by Allen-Harim for future chicken processing plant, provided that cleanup terms are met.
- **Selbyville Wells** - Robert Dickerson, Town Manager, will discuss groundwater contamination issues with the town's wells
- **Selbyville Waste Water Plant** - Bettina Stern, Selbyville Superintendent, will describe sewage treatment and sludge overflow.
- **South Bethany's Forebay storm water**
- **Superfund sites, a borrow pit, ocean outfalls**

The League of Women Voters is a non-partisan organization that takes a position on issues only after extensive study and consensus. On a national level, the League believes that protection and management of natural resources are responsibilities shared by all levels of government. On a state level in Delaware, the League supports Coastal Zone planning, which considers the best possible outcome for people, the land, and the coastal environment.

REGISTRATION FOR LWVSC BUS TOUR of Pollution and Coastal Zone Act Sites

Due BY MARCH 25, 2015

Per Person Cost: \$19.95

Mail check(s) to

LWVSC, PO Box 163,

Lewes DE 19958

Name(s) _____ email _____

Address _____ Total included _____

Phone _____

THEY REPRESENT YOU 2014-16 - A LISTING OF ELECTED OFFICIALS in Delaware is now available. It is online at lwvdelaware-newcastlecounty.org and also has been send to you with this newsletter as a separate file. Call 301-571-8948 if you would like a paper copy.

LEAGUE DAY IN DOVER

Wednesday, March 25, 2015

Christ Episcopal Church, 302-734-5731 at the corner of East State and Water Streets, Dover, Delaware.

Five Key issues in Delaware's 148th General Assembly:

Voting; Campaign Finance; Housing; Justice; Environment-Coastal Zone

Sponsored by the League of Women Voters of Delaware. Cosponsors: ACLU, Delaware ADA, DelCOG, Inland Bays Foundation

Come learn, advocate with the League on five key issues the LWV of Delaware and our cosponsors are addressing during the 148th session of our General Assembly: Voting; Campaign Finance; Housing; Justice; Environment/Land Use - the Coastal Zone. Hear from speakers on topics, enjoy lunch with fellow members and legislators, then visit Legislative Hall with a volunteer, registered lobbyist to meet with your Representative and Senator to present Fact Sheets that express our views on each of these issues. We will also be honored by passage of a House and Senate Resolution celebrating LWV's 95th Anniversary during our visit to Legislative Hall.

8:30-9 AM Registration and refreshments

PROGRAM

9:00 AM Welcome: Charlotte F. King, President

9:05 AM Moderator: Sandy Spence, Advocacy Corps Chair will introduce and frame the issues and introduce speakers. Each speaker's schedule will include time for Q&A

9:15 AM VOTING: How are we doing in Delaware? What can be done to make it possible for Same Day Voter Registration, early voting, changing date of last day to register closer to an election in this legislative session? **Elaine Manlove, Delaware Commissioner of Elections**

9:45 AM CAMPAIGN FINANCE REFORM: Discussion of legislation remaining to be enacted to accomplish reforms to Delaware's campaign finance laws recommended in a detailed study undertaken by retired Chief Justice Norman Veasey. **John Flaherty, President of DE Coalition for Open Government**

10:15 AM HOUSING: Homelessness and affordable housing. **Susan Starrett, Senior Program Manager, CSH, The Source for Housing Solutions, NYC.** & former Exec. Director, Homeless Planning Council

10:45 AM Break 15 minutes

11:00 AM JUSTICE: Focus on sentencing reform, and issues dealing with violence prevention in the current legislative session. **Joanna Champney, M.A. Chief of Planning, Delaware Department of Corrections and former Executive Director of Delaware Center for Justice**

11:30 AM ENVIRONMENT: The Coastal Zone Act implementation issues and the challenges it is facing from industry, and proposed increased activities in the coastal area. **Richard Fleming, Ph.D. and Lorraine M. Fleming, Delaware Nature Society**

12:15 PM BUFFET LUNCH with legislators (Catered by 33 West Ale House and Grill (Dover)

1:30 PMAttendees will visit legislators to provide them with fact sheets on the issues discussed today. Individuals are encouraged to attend legislative sessions where the House and Senate will adopt resolutions celebrating LWV's 95th anniversary and legislative committee hearings in Legislative Hall in the afternoon.



REGISTRATION FORM

Five Key issues in Delaware's 148th General Assembly:

Voting; Campaign Finance; Housing; Justice; Environment- Coastal Zone

Sponsored by the League of Women Voters of Delaware. Cosponsors: ACLU, Delaware ADA, DelCOG, Inland Bays Foundation

REGISTRATION DEADLINE FRIDAY, MARCH 20, 2015

NAME (S) _____ \$20.00 EACH _____

NAME(S) _____ \$20.00 EACH _____

NAME (S) _____ \$20.00 EACH _____

TOTAL \$ _____

ADDRESS: _____

TELEPHONE _____ EMAIL _____

RECEIPT REQUESTED _____ LWVDE Fed tax ID 516021961 [501(c) 4]

CREDIT CARDS ARE ACCEPTED—Please complete the following:

CHECK: _____

CREDIT CARDS ACCEPTED: Discover _____ Master Card _____ Visa _____

CREDIT CARD NUMBER: _____

CREDIT CARD EXPIRATION DATE: _____

Send this form and check (if using check) to LWVDE, 2400 W. 17TH Street, Clash Wing, Room 1, Lower Level, Wilmington, DE 19806-1311. Please call the League office at 302-571-8948 or e-mail lqvde@comcast.net if you have any questions. www.lqvdelaware.org

Newark City Council Candidate Forum DIRECTIONS

Directions: Going South on I-95:

Take Exit 3 (Route 273 West – Newark). Follow Rt. 273 for approximately 3.5 miles (Avon, & FMC). At the 9th traffic light, you will see a Shell Gas Station on your left and a red “84 Lumber” sign on your right. Turn left at this light, onto Marrows Road (note: there is no street sign at this corner). Go 7/10’s of a mile and turn right at the third stoplight onto White Chapel Drive. Go 1/10th of a mile and the Newark Senior Center will be on the right. There is a sign out front, the Newark Senior Center is a tan stucco and brick building with white pillars.

Going North on I-95 and from Route 4:

Take Exit 1 and follow signs for 896 North. Go 1 mile on 896 North to the 3rd traffic light (Route 4). Turn right onto Route 4 – East. Go 1.4 miles to the light at Marrows Road (there is a Dairy Queen on the corner) and turn left onto Marrows Road. Go 8/10’s of a mile to the light at White Chapel Drive (see signs for “Gardens at White Chapel” and a green Del Dot sign that says “Newark Senior Center”). Turn left onto White Chapel Drive. Go 1/10th of a mile, the Newark Senior Center will be on your right. There is a sign out front and the Newark Senior Center is a tan stucco and brick building with white pillars.

Update - LWV IN ACTION

League Joins People's Voting Rights Manifesto

The League joined civil rights organizations in issuing the [People's Voting Rights Manifesto](#) in honor of the 50th Anniversary of Bloody Sunday and the Selma to Montgomery March on March 8, 2015. This document will be distributed at the re-enactment of the Selma March and the celebration of the Voting Rights Act.

Senate Fails to Override Presidential Veto on Keystone XL Pipeline

This week, in a 62-37 vote, the [U.S. Senate failed to override a presidential veto](#) on legislation to approve the Keystone XL pipeline. Last week’s veto by President Obama was lauded by the League in a [coalition letter](#) and [press release](#). The League is proud to stand behind the President’s veto because the pipeline is not in our national interest. *But the fight is not over*—President Obama and the U.S. State Department must still make a final decision on the Keystone XL pipeline. [Thank President Obama for vetoing the pipeline legislation and urge him to reject final approval of the Keystone XL pipeline once and for all!](#)

League Opposes H.R. 412 and H.R. 195

The League sent [a letter](#) to the U.S. House of Representatives Committee on House Administration urging Representatives to vote no on H.R. 412 and H.R. 195. These bills would repeal the presidential public financing system and terminate the Election Assistance Commission (EAC).

League Supports Presidential Library Reform Act

The League sent [letters](#) to the U.S. House Oversight and Government Affairs Committee and the U.S. Senate Homeland Security and Government Affairs Committee in support of H.R 1069 and S. 558, the Presidential Library Reform Act. This bipartisan legislation would introduce a measure of transparency to fundraising for presidential libraries.

VOTER REGISTRATION TRAINING

WHEN: **Tuesday, April 7, 2015 - 6:00 - 7:30 pm** Pizza, ice tea, soda and water

WHERE: LWV Office, 2400 W 17th Street

CALL: 302-571-8948 to reserve a seat. Or email: lwncc@comcast.net

ALL WELCOME - NO EXPERIENCE REQUIRED

CALENDAR

Monday, March 9, 2015, 6:30 - 8:30 P.M	Kirkwood Library Conference Room, Kirkwood Hwy.	LWV of NCC Board Meeting. Monthly meeting of the NCC board of directors.
Wednesday, March 11, 2015 9:30 am-12:00 pm	CenDel Building, 101 W. Loockerman Street, Dover	LWVDE Advocacy Corps meeting - Call Sandy Spence for details 302-841-2882
Thursday, March 12, 2015, 10:00 a.m.,	Immanuel Episcopal Church, 2400 W 17th, Wilmington	GREAT DECISIONS Thursday Group, Wilmington. The group will discuss "Privacy in the Digital Age". Lunch will follow for those interested. For questions, please phone the League office 571-8948. Meet in the parlor.
Thursday, March 19, 2015, 6-8:30 pm	Roma Restaurant 3 President Drive Dover, DE 19901	State Board Meeting. Monthly meeting of the state board of directors
Monday, March 16, 2015 1:30-3:30 pm	Newark Free Library 750 Library Ave Newark, DE 19711	Monday Great Decisions Group. Discussion of "Privacy in the Digital Age" at the Newark Free Library from 1:30 to 3:30. As usual, many of us will meet for lunch at noon at the Bamboo House beforehand. Please contact Vicky Kleinman for more details.
March 19, 2015 1:30 -3:30 pm	Pat Todd's 302-763-5995	Environmental Committee Meeting
Monday, March 23, 2015, 1:30-3:30 pm	Peggy Schultz. Please phone or email Peggy for instructions. 302-235-7182 or schultz_peggy@yahoo.com	Land Use/Transportation Committee Meeting. Continuing discussion of Coastal Zone issues. We'll discuss next steps in making good Coastal Zone information available to the public.
Tuesday, March 24, 2015, 7:00 pm	Newark Senior Center, 200 White Chapel Drive, Newark	Candidate Forum for City of Newark candidates. Candidates for Districts 1,2, and 4.
Wednesday, March 25, 2015, 8:30 am	Dover, Delaware	League Day: Annual Legislative Day. League Day: Annual Legislative Day. 8:30 am registration 9-12 program lunch with legislators 12:15-1:30 pm Visit Legislative Hall in the afternoon
Tuesday, April 7, 6 -7:30 pm	LWV office in Immanuel Episcopal Church, 2400 W 17th, Wilmington	Voter Registration Training - Refreshments - pizza, iced tea - soda and water
Saturday, June 6, 2015	Dover Downs Hotel	League of Women Voters of Delaware Convention.
Monday, June 15, 2015 in the evening	To be determined	LWV of New Castle County Annual Meeting

League of Women Voters of New Castle County
2400 W 17th Street, Clash Wing, Room 1, Lower Level
Wilmington, DE 19806
302-571-8948; lwncc@comcast.net
www.lwvdelaware-newcastlecounty.org



VOTER

The League of Women Voters of New Castle County, Delaware

April 2015

www.lwvdelaware-newcastlecounty.org

Vol. 21, No.7

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

You are invited to explore the **"LIBRARIES OF THE FUTURE IN NEW CASTE COUNTY"**

LWV of New Castle County, the American Association of University Women, Newark and Wilmington, and the NCC Libraries are sponsoring a program on

LIBRARIES OF THE FUTURE IN NEW CASTE COUNTY

MONDAY, APRIL 27, 2015

7 TO 8 P.M.

KIRKWOOD HIGHWAY LIBRARY

6000 KIRKWOOD LIBRARY, WILMINGTON, DE 19808

Visiting libraries in Denmark, Sophia Hanson and Marlene Esposito saw how Denmark's very progressive libraries benefit its citizens. Insights and wonderful photos of libraries will be shared. Plus, hear about the concept behind the development of the new Route 9 Library incorporating the newest innovations in libraries.

Sophia Hanson is General Manager of New Castle County Department of Community Services. Ms Hanson oversees a wide variety of services including libraries. Marlene Esposito is Administrative Librarian for New Castle County Department of Community Services. Marlene has worked in the New Castle County Library system for over 10 years.

Refreshments will be served.



The event is free and the public is welcome.

For carpooling call
302-571-8948 or email
lwncc@comcast.net.



CANDIDATE FORUM FOR NEWARK CITY COUNCIL HELD

Over 95 interested citizens attended the Newark Candidates Night cosponsored by LWVNCC, AAUW, Newark and the Newark Senior Center. Welcomes were provided by Carla Grygiel, Executive Director, Newark Senior Center; Sophia Sotilleo, President, AAUW Newark; and Emily White, President, LWVNCC. Two districts were represented and one district was not able to participate because only one candidate was willing to participate. This is an IRS regulation because of the nonprofit status of the sponsoring organizations.

Approximately 75 questions were submitted by the audience. Members of the Candidates Night committee combined similar questions for use by moderator, Carole Walsh. The moderator has an extremely complicated and detailed oriented position which Carole Walsh, Co Chair and Moderator handles deftly. Bill Walsh served as timer.

The evening was recorded by Ric Edevane, Creative Media Group and was placed in its entirety on the leagues website, www.lwvdelaware-newcastlecounty.org then left side click on What's New.

Thank you to committee members: Letty Diswood, Danielle Emerling, Nancy Gray and Vicky Kleinman for their assistance in planning and implementing the evening.

Judy Taggart, Co Chair, Candidates Night

Pictures are taken from the *Newark Post*

NEWARK POST PHOTO BY KARIE SIMMONS



Mark Morehead, Joseph Charma



Ronald Walker, Margit Hadden



Todd Ruckle and audience members

THEY REPRESENT YOU 2014-2016

A LISTING OF ELECTED OFFICIAL

in Delaware is now available. It is online at lwvdelaware-newcastlecounty.org and also can be sent to you. Call 301-571-8948 if you would like a paper copy.

VOTER REGISTRATION TRAINING

WHEN: Tuesday, April 7, 2015 - 6:00 - 7:30 pm

Pizza, ice tea, soda and water

WHERE: Parish Hall, where LWV Office is located, 2400 W 17th Street, Wilmington

CALL: 302-571-8948 to reserve a seat.

Or email: lwncc@comcast.net

ALL WELCOME - NO EXPERIENCE REQUIRED

LEAGUE DAY IN DOVER, held Wednesday, March 25, 2015 provided Governor Jack Markell the opportunity to present to the LWV of Delaware a proclamation commemorating the 95th Anniversary of the LWVUS.



Pictures by Larry Diswood

Pictured above: L-R seated: Sandy Spence, Charlotte King, Coralie Pryde, Jill Fuchs, Lisa Pertzoff, Aimee Wiest. L-R standing: Letty Diswood, Roberta Ray, Peggy Schultz, Carol Giesecke, Katharine Olinchak, Crystal Hamilton, Diane Maxwell, Jeanne Dunn, Jacqueline Vogle, the Hon Jack Markell, Pattie Christopher, Esther Shelton, Joann Hasse.

Pictured below: Elaine Manlove, Del. Election Commissioner addressing attendees of League Day in Dover, March 25 at Parish Hall, Christ Church, Dover.



PRESIDENT'S MESSSAGE



Random Acts of Kindness

Does the above listed phrase fall under any position held by the LWVDE/US? This question is rhetorical, as the League stands behind bills to repeal the **Death Penalty**; The League most certainly supports **Justice for All**. How do we stand on **Voter Registration?** We support same-day voter registration, as well as reform for laws that **deny voter rights to convicted felons**.

The LWVUS stands behind **Equality for All**. That is reflected in the support given to **LGBT causes** across the United States. There are innumerable cases, since just the beginning of 2015, of discrimination against **People of Color**: ranging from the shooting of unarmed people to the beating of a visitor to the U.S., resulting in paralysis. We stand behind equal wages for equal work, as well as workers making a minimum, living wage.

Where are the **Random Acts of Kindness**? Certainly not present in a road rage incident where a police officer swore at, and mocked the accent of an Uber Taxi driver. The **Positions** of the **League** represent a bigger picture than each **individual statute and Bill in Committee**. Our model of activism can be a personal model as well, as we portray and practice **Random Acts of Kindness**.

Emily M. White
LWVNCC President

The League of Women Voters Sussex County is sponsoring a BUS TOUR of Sussex County Pollution & Coastal Zone Act Sites

Friday, April 17, 2015 9:00 AM to 3:00 PM
(Meet at Lowe's parking lot in Lewes by 8:35 am)

Reservation Deadline Extended until April 14th Cost:
\$19.95 Pay by 3-25 -15 *Bring own bag lunch & beverage (DVD video shown on board) Coolers provided; Facilities aboard Various relevant sites and informed speakers For Info. Contact:
www.sussexlwv.org Handouts available on bus.
The public is welcome.

League of Women Voters Sussex County POLLUTION & COASTAL ZONE ACT Sites Bus Tour Reservation Deadline Extended until April 14th Due by 3-25-15 Cost \$ 19.95

Name(s) _____

eMail: _____

Address _____

Phone(s) _____ Amount \$ _____

Make checks out to: L WVSC Mail to: PO Box 163 Lewes, DE 19958

GREAT DECISIONS DISCUSSION GROUPS

Great Decisions - 2nd Thursday

What: We will view the DVD and discuss the third topic, *Sectarianism in the Middle East*, written by Lawrence Potter, deputy director of a research and documentation project about the Persian Gulf states based at Columbia University.

When: Thursday, April 9, 10 AM

Where: The parlor of Immanuel Episcopal Church, 2400 W. 17th Street, Wilmington.

For those interested, lunch will follow at a nearby restaurant.

Questions? Call the L WV office (302-571-8948)

Great Decisions - 3rd Monday,

What: Great Decisions: Sectarianism in the Middle East When: 3rd Monday, April 20th, 1:30 - 3:30 pm

Where: Newark Free Library

Who: Emily White will lead the discussion

What Else: Lunch for those who wish it When: Before the discussion: noon - 1:15 pm

Where: Bamboo House restaurant

How: Let Vicky Kleinman [731-4950] know so that suitably-sized table[s] can be set up

NOMMINATING COMMITTEE CALL OUT!!!

We are putting together a great board of directors, but we are still seeking a treasurer who does not need to know QuickBooks, but can work with Excel files. And we are searching for a vice-president.

If this sounds like an opportunity you or someone you know might want to pursue, please contact any one of our LWVNCC Nominating Committee members:

Moonyeen Klopfenstein: 302-999-9059 bobklop@aol.com
Flo Waibel: 302-737-7848 fmwaibel@udel.edu
Judy Taggart: 302-738-5969 JudithTaggart1@verizon.net
Letty Diswood: 302-478-8224 letty.diswood@verizon.net or call 302-571-8948

Meet the League: Cheryl Graeve (taken from LWV.ORG)

If you have ever attended LWVUS Convention or Council, it is Cheryl Greave, who is a fountain of knowledge, enthusiasm and warmth, as she helps delegates get their issues addressed and she works to make the convention experience memorable and worthwhile to all delegates. I want to thank her for the work she does above and beyond her job description. She truly loves the League!

Thank you Cheryl.

Letty Diswood,
LWVDE/NCC office manager

By: Renee Davidson 03/26/2015



In honor of [95 years of Making Democracy Work ®](#), LWWVUS staff members are sharing stories about their work with the League.

Cheryl Graeve, Senior Director, Membership and Field Support

Pictured: Cheryl Graeve, far left, with other League staff and volunteers

Years at LWVUS, other positions held (if applicable):
16 years

I care about the League's work because:

I fundamentally believe in democracy and the power of people uniting to create better, more just communities. I especially care about the League's work because we work hard to genuinely expand the voting franchise, to [register](#) and engage all voters – without a partisan lens. I care about the League's work, too, because of the thousands of volunteers who are as passionate about democracy as I am, and I love being in that community of passionate activists!

My favorite experience with the League has been:

There are so many it's hard to choose! Perhaps one moment stands out as really touching my heart. It was when former national staffer, Betty Taira, shared her experience of being at the Heart Mountain Japanese Internment Camp in Wyoming as a little girl during WWII with the LWVUS interns and young staffers. I was so struck that she would come out of that experience, not bitter, but dedicated to educating others and actively participating in democratic organizations like the League to ensure that things like that don't happen again. That intergenerational, civically-minded moment is one of my favorite League moments.

The most inspiring thing I've learned from the League and its members is:

That persistence matters. Being involved in issues for the long haul is what will really make long-term change, and League members hold that long, persistent and passionate view and tenacity not to give up. I guess it makes sense, since the League was born out of several generations of women fighting for the right to vote!

In 2015 and beyond, I look forward to the League:

[As we march toward our 100th anniversary](#), I look forward to a League that stands out, strong, visible and proud and carries our mighty trusted democracy muscle forward with bold voices that protect the right to vote, that reduce the power of money and that engage a new generation of leaders to carry our democracy forward.

The League of Women Voters is celebrating 95 years of Making Democracy Work® at every level of government. In 1920, the League was founded as an outgrowth of the movement that secured women the right to vote to help new voters engage with their government. Today, the League empowers all voters to improve their local, state and national government. [Learn more about the League of Women Voters and join our celebration!](#)

CALENDAR

Tuesday, April 7, 6 -7:30 pm	Parish Hall where the LWW office is in Immanuel Episcopal Church, 2400 W 17th, Wilmington	Voter Registration Training - Refreshments - pizza, iced tea - soda and water
Wednesday, April 8, 9:30 am-12:00 pm	CenDel Building, 101 W. Loockerman Street, Dover	LWWDE Advocacy Corps meeting - Call Sandy Spence for details 302-841-2882
Thursday, April 9, 10:00 a.m.,	Immanuel Episcopal Church, in the Parlor, 2400 W 17th, Wilmington	GREAT DECISIONS Thursday Group, Wilmington. The group will discuss " <i>Sectarianism in the Middle East</i> ". Lunch will follow for those interested. For questions, please phone the League office 571-8948. Meet in the parlor.
Monday, April 13, 6:30 - 8:30 P.M	Kirkwood Library Conference Room, Kirkwood Hwy.	LWW of NCC Board Meeting. Monthly meeting of the NCC board of directors.
Thursday, April 16, 6-8:30 pm	Roma Restaurant <u>3 President Drive</u> <u>Dover, DE 19901</u>	State Board Meeting. Monthly meeting of the state board of directors
Monday, April 20, 1:30-3:30 pm	Newark Free Library <u>750 Library Ave</u> <u>Newark, DE 19711</u>	Monday Great Decisions Group. Discussion of " <i>Sectarianism in the Middle East</i> " at the Newark Free Library from 1:30 to 3:30. As usual, many of us will meet for lunch at noon at the Bamboo House beforehand. Please contact Vicky Kleinman for more details.
April 24, 1:30 -3:30 pm	Pat Todd's 302-763-5995	Environmental Committee Meeting
Monday, April 27, 7-8 pm	Kirkwood Library Conference Room, Kirkwood Hwy	Libraries of the Future in New Castle County. Visiting libraries in Denmark, Sophia Hanson and Marlene Esposito saw how Denmark's very progressive libraries benefit its citizens. Insights and wonderful photos of libraries will be shared. Plus, hear about the concept behind the development of the new Route 9 Library incorporating the newest innovations in libraries. This event is free to the public. Please check out our What's New page on our website for more information.
Saturday, June 6	Dover Downs Hotel	League of Women Voters of Delaware Convention.
Monday, June 15, in the evening	To be determined	LWW of New Castle County Annual Meeting

League of Women Voters of New Castle County
2400 W 17th Street, Clash Wing, Room 1, Lower Level
Wilmington, DE 19806
302-571-8948; lwncc@comcast.net
www.lwvdelaware-newcastlecounty.org



VOTER

The League of Women Voters of New Castle County, Delaware

May 2015

www.lwvdelaware-newcastlecounty.org

Vol. 21, No.8

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

The League of Women Voters of NCC invites all to **MAY Hot Topic Lunch**

Monday, May 18, 2015, 11:30 am - 1:00 pm

Michael's Restaurant 1000 Churchman's Rd, Newark, DE 19713 (302) 368-4230

TOPIC: Clean Water Campaign - Delaware's Clear Choice

Speaker: Blaine Breeding

Clean Water Campaign Coordinator

Delaware Nature Society



Delaware is faced with issues of polluted water, due to failing infrastructure, population growth, and contamination from chemicals, pesticides, and other harmful contaminates. 67% of Delawarean's think about the quality of their water and believe that their drinking water is contaminated. 1/3 of Delawarean's believe locally caught fish and seafood are not safe to eat. But it's not too late to fix the problem, together we can start to turn to make a difference. From changing some of our habits at home to making larger changes on a State level, we can have clean, clear water that we can be proud of and enjoy. We (Delaware Nature Society)will be working throughout the State, gathering support and educating on the need for action. In addition, we will be working to have our State leaders ensure funds are used to clean our waters.

Blaine Breeding is a native who was born in Sussex County and moved to New Castle County about 10 years ago. He has lived in North Wilmington with his wife and son. Blaine has worked for Governor Minner and the Delaware House of Representatives. He started with the Delaware Nature Society, as their Clean Water Campaign Coordinator, to help build awareness and grassroots support to secure funding for clean water.



The purpose of HOT TOPIC LUNCHES is to become informed on a wide variety of timely topics, check in with current and longtime friends, make new friends, and invite others (your friends, neighbors, colleagues) to experience the League in an informal setting and to be motivated to explore the issues further.

All welcome.

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

RSVP at lwyde@comcast.net or 302-571-8948 by Sunday, May 17, so the restaurant knows how many to expect.

Please feel free to come even if you did not call in. If you need a ride, leave a message on the League Office phone or e-mail when you RSVP. FOR CAR POOLING- CALL 302-571-8948 AND LEAVE A MESSAGE.

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

THEY REPRESENT YOU 2014-2016 A LISTING OF ELECTED OFFICIAL Rev. #5

is now available. It is online at lwvdelaware-newcastlecounty.org and also can be sent to you. Call 301-571-8948 if you would like a paper copy.

Thank you to all who participated in the VOTER REGISTRATION TRAINING session held Tuesday, April 7, 2015 - 6:00 - 7:30 pm where we enjoyed pizza and were updated on everything about registering to vote in Delaware.

NOTE: Anyone can go online to register to vote at <https://ivote.de.gov/>.



Pictured above: Deborah Grier, from the Del. Election Commissioner's office training session at the Immanuel Church Highland.



Pictured at right are: Patti Christopher, Judy Taggart, Peggy Schulz and (Alice Davis not in picture) who registered 37 Padua High school students last week.

At <http://ivote.de.gov> you can register to vote and also have access to the following information:

- *Am I registered to vote in Delaware? How am I registered?*
- *How do I register to vote or update my registration?*
- *What is the status of my voter registration application?*
- *Where do I vote on election day? [Not Available]*
- *How can I ask for a polling place card?*
- *Who are my representatives?*
- *Was my absentee ballot affidavit received?*
- *Was my absentee ballot received and counted?*
- *Was my provisional ballot counted?*

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

The Hon. Polly A. Sierer, pasierer@comcast.net

Kathryn (Katie) and Rob Gifford, katig@udel.edu

Libraries of the Future
Model: Denmark, Scandinavia

LWVNCC Hot Topic Evening

April 27, 2015

Kirkwood Library Conference Room

Marlene Esposito and Sophia Hanson, two women with distinguished credentials, are heading up a new Library facility in the Route 9 corridor in Delaware. They have been challenged with innovating a state-of-the-art Library facility to serve the people of the Rose Hill area of New Castle County. Marlene and Sophia initiated a global quest, in search of an advanced Library system to be their model.

The research led them to Denmark, a country with global models for Library systems. During eight days of sun up/sun down travel, tours through MANY libraries, and the countryside in Denmark, Marlene and Sophia developed a list of “must haves”, along with many items for a wish list. Reading, communication and the Arts are fundamental to all cultures and the expression of their people. Denmark, particularly, supports this axiom by supporting an immense library system. \$800,000.00 is allotted each year, to support the operations of its more than 500 libraries, for a population of 5.5 million people.

Marlene Esposito and Sophia Hanson brought back ideas and dreams for the Delaware Route 9 Library Project. They’re in the planning stages with the architect, working with the reality of State and county funding. Friends of the Library are stepping up and listening to these dreams, assisting to the best of their ability, turning dreams into a facility that will be a model library here in Delaware: reading rooms, a small auditorium, art work throughout, a bookshop and perhaps a café. They’ve seen the best and now Marlene Esposito and Sophia Hanson are dreaming big.

Marlene Esposito is an Administrative Librarian for the New Castle County Department of Community Services. Prior to coming to Wilmington, she served 27 years as an Elementary School Principal. Under her leadership, the libraries created and published, *Love Your Library*, a cookbook. Sister Marlene has just celebrated her Golden Jubilee as a Sister of Saint Joseph. She is a graduate of Villanova University, where she received a Master’s Degree in Library Service (MLS).

Culture Yard Library Located in Elsinore Shipyard Denmark



Sophia Hanson is the General Manager of the New Castle Department of Community Services. As General Manager, Sophia oversees a wide variety of services, including Housing and Community Development, Libraries, Senior Services and the County's Park and Recreational programs. Prior to this position, Sophia worked for the City of Wilmington (DE) in Community Development and Historic Preservation.



Sophia Hanson is a graduate of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, with a Master’s Degree in City Planning.

During Sophia Hanson’s work with Historic Preservation, she became involved in the restoration of the former home of Dr. William Goens, in the historic East Side of Wilmington. A major discovery was made in the form of a mural painted on the wall in the home. The artist, Aaron Douglas, a major figure in the Harlem Renaissance. In that era, canvas was applied to the wall, and the artist painted on the canvas. Marlene Esposito and Sophia Hanson are exploring the logistics of incorporating this historic mural in the new Library. Good luck to you both and to the remarkable Library of the Future. We all look forward to updates as your work progresses.

Power Point by Sophia Hanson, Summary by Emily M. White, LWVNCC President

PRESIDENT'S MESSSAGE



Public School education as we know it today, in no way resemble the democratic ideals of the founding fathers. Public schools are government owned, government run, and centralized, bureaucratic institutions. Thomas Paine is credited with lobbying for the idea that government should pay private school tuition for families too poor to pay for their children's education. Thomas went farther, "A country that presumes to run itself, must educate itself." Early choice options cropped up in the south with the advent of Civil Rights Legislation. Religious schools, but not very giving.

As I launch into a passion-driven message regarding present-day public school education, it's vital to tell you I come from a strong education background, with a B.S. (K-12) and a Master's Degree in Educational Administration, for Grades K-8. My 27 years in the classroom were in different geographic locations in the U.S. South Carolina, North Carolina, Massachusetts, Cincinnati, OH and Rhode Island. My experience as an Administrator was in Rhode Island, with urban schools. I collaborated with Social Workers, Counselors, School Nurses, Classroom teachers and parents. Sometimes, the Police.

My experience varied from traditional structures, to Site-Based Management with Facilitators, rather than a Principal and Site Based Management, as a principal; I served as a Middle School Administrator in a traditional structure: Little input from teachers, and the budget was negotiated by the Administrator. If teachers wanted/needed extra materials for their students, it was necessary to hold fund raisers.

This public education system is being encroached upon by Charter Schools, Magnet Schools and schools that specialize in a College Preparatory classes, just to name a few. Students who are role models for learning, behavior and creative ideas in a classroom are swept away to more inviting venues, where teachers are hand-picked; Materials and supplies are plentiful.

Urban schools suffer from insufficient funding; dollars are allocated by School Board Members who, generally, are not educators. Why does this matter? Educators/teaches are looking out for the needs of their students. School Boards are the result of political elections, rarely with prerequisites in education. The classrooms suffer if the school needs a new athletic field. **Successful** urban teachers are in tune with the issues that confront their students every day. They have no say before the school Board, and can hope only that the school principal will lobby for the needs of their students.

Charter schools are NOT the saving grace of Public Schools as we head farther into the 21st Century. We need funding for counselors, social workers, psychologists, in addition to money to support curriculum and salaries that will attract quality teachers. Teaching to a test, one above the comprehension level of students, does not accurately reflect students' abilities. Students are coached to learn answers, not to learn common knowledge, reading, math, science, the arts and learning just for the joy of learning.

Please, pay attention to trends and legislation surrounding education. Think about the future of our Country. Business leaders complain about college graduates who can't write, think logically, or display a viable work ethic. The Public Schools in the United States are in dire straits. No solutions have evolved.

**My remarks are personal opinions, and do not represent a Position of the League of Women Voters.

Emily M. White
LWVNCC President

NOMINATING COMMITTEE CALL OUT!!!

We are seeking a treasurer who does not need to know QuickBooks, but can work with Excel files. If this sounds like an opportunity you or someone you know might want to pursue, please contact any one of our LWVNCC Nominating Committee members:
Moonyeen Klopfenstein: 302-999-9059 bobklop@aol.com, Flo Waibel: 302-737-7848 fmwaibel@udel.edu, Judy Taggart: 302-738-5969 JudithTaggart1@verizon.net, Letty Diswood: 302-478-8224 letty.diswood@verizon.net, or call 302-571-8948

GREAT DECISIONS DISCUSSION GROUPS

Great Decisions - 2nd Thursday

What: We will view the DVD and discuss the fourth topic, ***India Changes Course***, written by Barbara Crossette, former New York Times bureau chief in Southeast Asia.

When: Thursday, May 14, 10 am and
Thursday, June 11, 10 am (Topic 5: The U.S. and Africa)

Where: The parlor of Immanuel Episcopal Church, 2400 W. 17th Street, Wilmington. For those interested lunch will follow at a nearby restaurant.

Questions: Call the LWV office (302-571-8948)

Great Decisions - 3rd Monday,

What: Great Decisions: India Changes Course

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

Where: Newark Free Library

Who: Mae Carter will lead the discussion

What else: Lunch, for those who wish it

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

Where: Bamboo House

How: Call Vicky Kleinman before Friday, 5/15 (or Judy Taggart after Friday, but before Sunday, 5/17) to arrange adequate tables

ACTION ALERT

Support Repeal of Delaware's Death Penalty

The Delaware Repeal Project, of which the LWV of Delaware is a member, has issued an action alert.

We have moved one step closer to ending the death penalty in our state. This is of great importance because as you may know there have been several cases that have shown that our justice system is by no means perfect, and we risk the chance of killing the innocent.

As you may know SB 40, a bill that seeks to end the death penalty in Delaware, was passed in the state Senate and is now moving over to the house. We officially have a hearing date for the bill in the House judiciary committee. The hearing will start tentatively at 12 noon.

We need to come together to fill Legislative Hall like never before for the hearing on May 13th.

We are asking all of our supporters to come down to legislative hall, in Dover, on May 13 and meet in the cafeteria as early as 10:30am. If for some reason you cannot make it that day, we will be having lobby days up until that point on April 29 and May 6 (On these days you can arrive at 12noon to come and talk to your representatives). If you can't make it on any of these days, don't hesitate to call your representative to let them know you support repeal. If you need help with any of this, don't be afraid to call (302) 230-6141.

Also don't stop sending letters to the editor to nearby newspapers. For assistance with that please email me Rachel@derepeal.org or ellen@derepeal.org. You can also find facts on the issue in DE Repeal Briefing Book. Thanks for your help.

Min. Rachel B. Livingston, BSME, MDiv, Field Organizer , The Delaware Repeal Project
Chuck Singleton, 302 559 6856, chucksingleton@comcast.net

LWV US Action Alert!

Protecting our Environment from Fracking

By: Jessica Jones 04/27/2015



As a leader in the environmental community, the League of Women Voters looks for solutions to address climate change, protect our natural resources and promote a clean energy economy. As part of this work, the League recently endorsed, and is encouraging members of Congress to cosponsor and support five pieces of legislation known as the "[Frack Pack](#)." These bills seek to keep our air and water safe while holding big polluters responsible for the process known as [hydraulic fracturing or 'fracking.'](#) The Frack Pack bills will close loopholes in the Safe Drinking Water, Clean Water, Clean Air, and Resource Conservation and Recovery Acts while establishing mandatory testing of water resources to contain contamination.

Hydraulic fracturing commonly is the process used to extract natural gas and oil from deep inside the earth. The process involves injecting a highly pressurized fluid consisting of chemicals, water, and sand into the earth to hold open or create cracks in deep rock formations in order to increase access to and allow for oil and gas to flow more freely. Drilling and fracking is continuing to expand across the country, and the League believes we must have updated laws to hold the oil and gas industry accountable and to ensure our planet and its resources are protected.

Many, including the League, are concerned about the impact that fracking may have on our natural resources and public health. Pro-fracking advocates argue that increasing access to these fossil fuels enables new energy sources that have a positive impact on our economy. But environmental advocates, including the League, argue it puts our air and water, two key environmental resources, in danger. Specifically, there are concerns that the water used for fracking, which is infused with sand and chemicals, [contaminates ground water](#) that may be used as drinking water. Fracking also uses anywhere from [70-140 billion gallons of water](#) a year across the United States. [With water resources in jeopardy in most of the western United States](#), this could have a major impact on the depletion of the fresh water supplies we need to survive. Questions also remain about the effect that releasing methane gas, which contributes to climate change, into the atmosphere will cause. During the fracking process, methane is released into the air through the venting of wells to reduce pressure and through leaks in the system. [The League has called on the Environmental Protection Agency \(EPA\)](#) to regulate methane from the oil and gas industry as a key part of the President's pledge to reduce greenhouse emissions in the [Climate Action Plan](#).

The League also wants to make sure that the oil and gas industry is held accountable for the chemicals used in the fracking process. The public deserves [full transparency and disclosure](#) of the chemicals being used, so that communities across the country can be aware of any dangerous health risks that may affect them. In addition to lobbying to gain support for the Frack Pack in Congress, the League has also worked to address the issue of fracking by [providing comments](#) (PDF) to the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) about the need for regulations on fracking on federal lands. [The League has also testified](#) to the EPA's Science Advisory Board (SAB) about the need for a comprehensive, transparent, science-based, peer-reviewed study on its potential impact on drinking water resources. Eighteen state Leagues cosigned the testimony. Numerous state Leagues across the country are also working in their own communities to educate the public on the effects fracking may have on public health and our natural resources.

A path toward a clean energy future will strengthen our economy by opening up millions of jobs to Americans while also rescuing America from its dependence on fossil fuels, reducing threats to our health, protecting the natural resources that we depend upon for survival and creating millions of domestic jobs. As the United States shifts towards establishing an economy around renewable energy and decreasing the size of its carbon footprint, the League will be there to ensure that we're also establishing accountability and safeguards to protect public health and the environment.

Persons:

[Jessica Jones](#)

ACTION ALERT! LWV Asks U.S. Representatives and Senators to cosponsor "Frack Pack" Bills

The **FRAC Act** (H.R. XXX, S. XXX) would close the so-called Halliburton Loophole in the Safe Drinking Water Act (SDWA) that exempts fracking from protections for underground sources of drinking water unless diesel is used in fracking fluid. This loophole was created in 2005 by Congress to benefit Halliburton and other fracking companies. It's time to reverse this unwarranted loophole for special interests. The FRAC Act would not ban fracking, mandate a new process, or require disclosure of proprietary trade secrets or confidential business information, but it would allow EPA to protect drinking water from contamination caused by fracking, require disclosure of fracking chemicals to the public, and help guard against earthquakes linked to fracking.

The **BREATHE Act** (H.R. XXX) closes loopholes in the Clean Air Act (CAA) that allow the oil and gas industry to emit significant amounts of toxic air pollution. Scientific evidence shows that oil and gas-related air pollution could cause major health impacts in communities. This pollution can even harm those who don't live in close proximity to wells, since some pollutants, like ozone, affect a whole region. The oil and gas industry is exempt from the CAA requirement that the emissions of multiple related sources under common ownership be aggregated to determine total emissions. As a result, closely associated wells and related facilities do not have to meet the same air quality standards for emissions of hazardous air pollution (including volatile organic compounds, smog-forming nitrogen oxides, and carcinogens) that other industries must meet.

The **FRESHER Act** (H.R. XXX) would close the loophole in the Clean Water Act (CWA) that endangers water quality near oil and gas production activities. The CWA is the foundational law that protects American rivers, streams, wetlands, and other waterways from pollution. Under the CWA, a permit is required for large-scale, ground-disturbing activities that increase stormwater runoff and the risk of water pollution. This important permitting requirement, however, has been waived for oil and gas production, even though the runoff from oil and gas well pads and related infrastructure can be contaminated with dangerous pollutants. Such runoff can and has polluted waterways—degrading water quality and damaging aquatic habitats. There is no reason oil and gas sites should be treated less stringently than industries like real estate development.

The **CLEANER Act** would close the loophole in the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA) that currently allows toxic wastes from oil and natural gas production to avoid hazardous waste requirements. RCRA requires the safe handling, transport and disposal of hazardous wastes. In the 1980s, however, Congress exempted wastes from oil and gas exploration and production from RCRA's requirements for toxic waste, even though these wastes contain dangerous substances including benzene, acids, lead and other heavy metals, hydrocarbons including diesel fuel, and radioactive materials. As a result, oil and gas wastes are subject to a patchwork of inadequate state regulations, leading to the widespread mismanagement of these dangerous materials.

The **SHARED Act** would require testing of water sources near planned oil and gas operations before fracking begins, in order to establish baseline water quality conditions. Baseline testing is essential for an effective water protection regime. Among other things, it is an important tool in determining the source of water contamination and can reduce the costs of investigations. The U.S. Secretary of Energy Advisory Board called for mandatory background water measurements prior to production activity in order to provide an objective baseline for determining if drilling and hydraulic fracturing activity are responsible for water contamination. It is a win-win solution to improving water contamination investigations.

IN MEMORIAM



DR. BLANCHE MILES FLEMING, AGE: 96 • WILMINGTON died Sunday, April 19, 2015 in Wilmington, DE. Dr. Fleming was retired from the Delaware Public School System as an Educator and School District Administrator. She was a long time member of the League of Women Voters of New Castle County and her interest was in affordable housing, access to affordable housing and the issues related to it.

CALENDAR

Monday, May 11, 6:30 - 8:30 P.M	Kirkwood Library Conference Room, Kirkwood Hwy.	LWV of NCC Board Meeting. Monthly meeting of the NCC board of directors.
Wednesday, May 13 9:30 am- 12:00 pm	CenDel Building, 101 W. Loockerman Street, Dover	LWVDE Advocacy Corps meeting - Call Sandy Spence for details 302-841-2882
Thursday, May 14, 10:00 a.m. - 12	Immanuel Episcopal Church, in the Parlor, 2400 W 17th, Wilmington	GREAT DECISIONS Thursday Group, Wilmington. The group will discuss " <i>India Changes Course</i> Lunch will follow for those interested. For questions, please phone the League office 571-8948. Meet in the parlor.
Monday, May 18, 11:30 am - 1:00 pm	Michael's Restaurant 1000 Churchman's Rd Newark, DE 19713 (302) 368-4230 http://michaelsde.com/directions/	Hot Topic Lunch May 2015: Clean Water Campaign - Delaware's Clear Choice Seamen's Center.. speaker will Blain Breeding, Clean Water Campaign Coordinator. RSVP at lwvde@comcast.net or 302-571-8948 by Saturday, May 17, so the restaurant knows how many to expect. Please feel free to come even if you did not call in. If you need a ride, leave a message on the League Office phone or e-mail when you RSVP. FOR CAR POOLING- CALL 302-571-8948 AND LEAVE A MESSAGE.
Monday, May 18, 1:30-3:30 pm	Newark Free Library 750 Library Ave Newark, DE 19711	Monday Great Decisions Group. Discussion of " <i>India Changes Course</i> at the Newark Free Library from 1:30 to 3:30. As usual, many of us will meet for lunch at noon at the Bamboo House beforehand. Please contact Vicky Kleinman for more details.
May 20, 1:30 -3:30 pm	Meet at Pat Todd's call 302-763-5995.	Environmental Committee Meeting date change one time only for May.
Thursday, May 21, 6-8:30 pm	Roma Restaurant 3 President Drive Dover, DE 19901	State Board Meeting. Monthly meeting of the state board of directors
May 26, 1:30 -3:30 pm	Meet at Peggy Schultz home call 302-598-9427	Land Use/Transportation Committee Meeting
Saturday, June 6	Dover Downs Hotel	League of Women Voters of Delaware Convention.
Monday, June 22, in the evening	Kirkwood Library Conference Room, Kirkwood Hwy.	LWV of New Castle County Annual Meeting

League of Women Voters of New Castle County
2400 W 17th Street, Clash Wing, Room 1, Lower Level
Wilmington, DE 19806
302-571-8948; lwvncc@comcast.net
www.lwvdelaware-newcastlecounty.org



VOTER

The League of Women Voters of New Castle County, Delaware

June 2015

www.lwvdelaware-newcastlecounty.org

Vol. 21, No.9

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

You are invited to come to the LWV of New Castle County Annual Meeting

- We will honor League members who have been members for 50 years or more.
- We will celebrate the 95th Anniversary of the League of Women Voters.
- An Honorary Resolution will be sponsored by Councilman Bob Weiner at New Castle County Council Meeting on June 11 at 6:30 P.M.

Celebrate with us!

When: Monday, June 22, 2015

Where: Kirkwood Library Community Room
6000 Kirkwood Highway

Time: 5:30 - 6:15 P.M. Refreshments
6:15-6:30 P.M. Honoring of 50-Year Members
6:30 - 8:00 P.M. Annual Meeting

There will be delicious finger foods and desserts. We invite you to bring your food creations and enjoy! Beverages will be provided.

Please RSVP by Thursday, June 18 to the Office at 302-571-8948.

50 YEAR MEMBERS DO NOT NEED TO BRING ANYTHING---YOU ARE OUR GUESTSWE.

Honorees are members who have been in LWV for 50 years or more in Delaware, and in other Leagues throughout their "league" lives.

Harriet Ainbinder; Yetta Chaiken; Betty Devine [founder '53]; Jane Dilley;
Jean Colbert; Joann Hasse; Joyce Johnson; Joy Jones; Kit Kallal; June Kleban; Vicki
Kleinman; Dorothy Munroe; Peggy Schultz; Ruth Siegel; Jerry Trabant;
Cay Trask; Bettie von Frankenberg; Franne S. Wetmore; Sybil Zeftel

ANNUAL MEETING * NOMINEES & AGENDA & REPORTS pages 3 - 7

The annual meeting business will include the adoption of PROPOSED BYLAW CHANGES, BUDGETS, A SLATE OF NOMINEES, AND PROGRAM FOR 2015-17.

NOMINEES FOR 2015 - 2016

Officers:

President:	Emily White	2015-2017
1st Vice President	vacant	2015-2017
2nd Vice Pres:	Moonyeen Klopfenstein	2015-2016
Secretary	Joann Hasse	2015-2017
Treasurer	vacant	2015-2016

Directors:

Patti Christopher	2015-2017
Joyce Johnson	2015-2017
Marj Johnson	2015-2017
Meta Little	2015-2017
Beatrice Webb	2015-2016

Nominating Committee:

Peggy Schultz
Letty Diswood

One more nominee from the general membership is needed for the nominating committee to fulfill bylaws requirements.

There will be two additional members appointed from the new board at a later date.

Continuing in office:

Liz Fite	2014-2016
Fay Whittle	2014-2016

Submitted by the Nominating Committee Members:
Judy Taggart, Moonyeen Klopfenstein, Flo Waibel,
Letty Diswood

JOANN HASSE - SECRETARY

Joann Hasse joined the League in WV in 1961 and, in addition to her four times as a member in DE, has been a member (and board member) of Leagues in Texas (twice), MD and MA. She served as LWVDE Action chair '82-'86 and as state president 5/86-1/87 and '88-'93. She has served as LWVDE chair for health care policy since 1993 (she's a long retired RN), served on the LWVDE board '93-'13 and is one of the League's volunteer lobbyists. She was a member of the LWWUS

nominating committee '90-'92. She has been on the LWVNCC Board since '13.

She is a member of the Delaware Healthcare Acquired Infections Advisory Committee, represents LWVDE on the Patient and Consumer Advisory Committee of the newly created Delaware Center for Health Innovation and has served on several other state healthcare committees and boards in recent years.

MARJORIE JOHNSON - DIRECTOR

Marj worked for 42 years as a pediatric physical therapist and retired in 2006. Since then, she has become active with DeNATO (Delaware Neighbors Against the Occupation) working for justice for the Palestinians. She joined the LWV and worked on Urban Justice and was active in voter registration. She continues to be active in her church, Concord Presbyterian, teaching Sunday School for adults and children and serving on leadership boards. She loves to garden, and to travel, recently going to Ireland, South Africa and Israel/Palestine. Her daughter, son-in-law and two grandsons live nearby, and she is busy helping to care for and transport her grandsons, ages 14 and 7, to their various activities.

JOYCE JOHNSON - DIRECTOR

Joyce joined the League of Women Voters in 1959 (that date is not a typo)! She has participated in a number of activities almost from Day 1, Voters Service (remember the Voters Guide?), local LWV co-president with Becky Panichelli, LWVDE co-president with Sue Soltys, Carrie Chapman Catt committee, to name a few. Joyce continues to enjoy concerts, plays, singing in her church choir, keeping track of her children (Portland, ME and Portland, OR) and scattered granddaughters

MOONYEEN KLOPFENSTEIN - SECOND VICE-PRESIDENT

Moonyeen Klopfenstein MS,RN, has been 2nd Vice-President 2014-2015 and has co-chaired Membership, Leadership, and Development committee plus LWVNCC Hot Lunch Educational program. She recently again started assisting with Voter Registration.

Moonyeen started assisting with Voter Registration when she was in college in Connecticut.

She has been the recipient of numerous awards: She was inducted into the Hall of Fame of Delaware Women; Top Nurse of DE Today Magazine, 2013-15; Past President of DE Nurses' Association, as well as Organizations of Nurse Executives and DE End-of-Life Coalition; founder of the "Loving Arms support group" (for parents grieving the loss of a child); Vice-Chair for DE Stroke Initiative. She has been a registered Nurse at Christiana Care Health System since 1966, childbirth educator for over 40 years, teaching parents, nurses and doctors and Director of Maternal Child Patient Care Services; Psychiatric Care and Infectious Diseases from 1985-1995. She has recently joined the Neonatal Intensive Care Unit. "Kloppy", as most people know her, is highly respected in her field.

META LITTLE - DIRECTOR

Meta Little is a retired nurse educator, birder, reader, gardener and traveler. She holds a BSN degree in nursing from Simmons College, Boston and a MSN from the University of Delaware. She is a past president and council member of the Delmarva Ornithological Society. She served as treasurer of the local and state American Association of University Women (AAUW). She is active in numerous citizen science studies of bird populations throughout Delaware and is a keen observer of the environmental changes occurring throughout the state. She lives in Newark, Delaware near all three of her grown children and their dogs.

PEGGY SCHULTZ - NOMINATING COM.

Peggy Schultz was born in the territory of Alaska in 1934, and then moved to the lower 48 in 1940, when she was six. Her dad, Westport, Washington's only socialist, was a commercial fisherman who spent his free time writing letters to the editor. Peggy graduated from Cal, Berkeley, in the days before that school charged tuition, with a major in English literature. She and a female cousin the same age were the first of any of their families to attend college. She taught elementary school for 15 years, joining the Newark League in about 1970. She was that League's first Land Use Committee chairperson. Peggy served as convener for the LWVNCC for two years, and then as Co-President for one year. She has a husband, Jerry (also a League member), four grown-up kids, three regular grandkids, three step grandkids, and one little step great-grandson. She loves photography and shows her work now and again.

She likes serving as Co-Chair of the Land Use/Transportation Committee with Jane Dilley. When she's not doing Land Use or Environment or church or photography, you'll probably find her weeding her flower beds.

EMILY M. WHITE - PRESIDENT

Emily White started her professional life as a teacher in West Ham, London, England. During the period that she lived in England, she performed with the BBC Chorus and the St. Marylebone Operatic Society. The time spent in Great Britain was the birth of her life-long interest in different cultures. When she returned to the U.S., she moved to Cincinnati with her husband and son, Matt.

With a B.S. in Voice and Choral Music from Winthrop University, her career branched into a myriad of leadership opportunities. Community outreach was a passion and was fulfilled by collaborating with the parents of her Appalachian students. She was named Teacher of the Year for her role as Liaison to the Appalachian Community for her Junior High School and recruited to publish an article about her work by the National Music Educators Journal. The next year she was awarded Teacher of the Year for District Five of the Cincinnati Public Schools, a massive urban school system. During this time she completed a Master's Degree in Educational Leadership from Xavier University. Her passion for involvement with different cultures and justice for people of all colors was taken to a new level during her 23 years in the classroom in Cincinnati.

When her husband's job relocated them to New England, Emily began to utilize her Administrative degree, serving as a School Principal for 11 years before her retirement in 2007. In 2010, Emily and Paul looked at heading a little south and landed in Delaware, just 2 hours from her son, Matt, whose job had taken him to Alexandria, VA. Emily fortuitously met a neighbor who was a member of the LWVNCC, and attended a League-sponsored Great Decisions group. (Emily had been a League member in Andover MA in 1964-65.) That connection lead to joining the LWVNCC Board a year later where she served as Secretary, 2013-14 and President 2014-15.

The passion for outreach to other cultures is still realized, as Emily has been working with an immigrant from Yemen, teaching her English and coaching her for her citizenship exam.

League of Women Voters of New Castle County
ANNUAL MEETING,
Monday, June 22, 2015
Kirkwood Highway Public Library

5:30 – 6:45 P.M. REFRESHMENT & SOCIAL

6:45 – 6:30 P.M. HONORING OUR 50 YEAR MEMBERS

AGENDA

6:30 CALL TO ORDER (Emily White, President)

- Acceptance of the Minutes of 2014 Annual Meeting (copy available)
- Appointment of Parliamentarian
- Appointment of two people to approve the 2015 minutes
- Year-end Treasurer's Report Letty Diswood (copies available)

6:45 NEW BUSINESS (for action by the members)

- Proposed Bylaws Amendments
- Proposed per-member-payment for FY 2015-16 \$50.50; additional household member \$25.25; Student membership \$15.25; and scholarships available)
- Proposed per-member-payment for FY 2016-17 \$51.00; additional household member \$25.50; Student membership \$15.50; and scholarships available. (Joyce Johnson) (Finance Committee: Joyce Johnson, chair, Pat Todd, Letty Diswood)
- Presentation and adoption of Proposed Budgets 2015-16 and 2016-2017
- Presentation and adoption of the Proposed Education Fund Budgets 2015-16 and 2016-2017:
- Presentation and adoption of Proposed Program 2013-2015
- Slate of proposed Nominees (Nominating Committee: Judy Taggart, Flo Waibel, Moonyeen, Klopfenstein, Letty Diswood)
- Nominations from the Floor
- Election of Officers and Directors 2015-2016
- President's Address: Emily White
Recognition of board members
- Directions to the New Board
- Announcements

8:00 pm Adjourn Annual Meeting business

Contact for LWVNCC 302-571-8948; lwncc@comcast.net, www.lwvdelaware-newcastlecounty.org

PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO THE LWVNCC BYLAWS

Amend Article V by adding:

SECTION 9. ELECTRONIC VOTING

To facilitate prompt decision making between Board meetings when delay seems inadvisable, an electronic vote of Board members may be taken using the following procedure:

- a. the President deems a prompt decision is necessary;
- b. sufficient background information is supplied to Board members to enable them to cast an informed vote;
- c. Board members must send their electronic yea or nay vote to all Board members;
- d. a majority of the Board must vote affirmatively for the proposed action to be approved
- e. Board members who do not have access to electronic mail must be polled by telephone or in person with background information having been supplied,
- f. The electronic vote shall be affirmed at the next regularly scheduled Board meeting so the results can be recorded in the minutes.

Amend Article VII, Section 3 Quorum :

Delete "Twenty members"

Add : Ten percent (10%) of the number of members reported to the L WVUS on January 31 shall constitute a quorum at all general meetings of the LWVNCC.

The Proposed Budgets for 2015-16 & 2016-17 are attached in a separate file for email recipients and inserted in the VOTER for those receiving it by post mail. There is a slight increase in the per-member-payment.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



CHANGE: That four letter word! Perhaps you counted six letters. No! **CHANGE IS A FOUR LETTER WORD!**

Change is not a word that the average person wants to hear. How far back does history record the riots and wars, discrimination and exclusion that have been caused by CHANGE. Actually, the memory needn't go back further than the past decade. No need for enumeration of global wars and discrimination/killings in the U.S.A. Those actions, along with graphic videos on UTube, are horrifying to view.

Why do people kill others in the decades (centuries?) of wars in the Middle East? Different is not acceptable. People deemed as terrorists seek recruits, seemingly, just for the purpose of killing, gaining control. The real purpose becomes a blur.

Speaking of decades of killing, how about the racial discrimination in our country, the United States of America? For several centuries, African-American people were sold as commodities, snatched from their home countries, families separated, put on ships to a strange land and forced into slave labor. Many hundreds of years later, after minimal progress from the Emancipation Proclamation, Civil Rights Legislation, people are still being gunned down because of the color of their skin. Racial profiling is alive and healthy in many states. **Change** is still killing people, in the most literal meaning of the term.

Do you know how to soften this word, CHANGE? Do you know how society can adjust to moving forward, to accept people who are of a different skin color or those who speak a different language? Be a role model for change. Learn the language of change. Reach out to someone of a different culture. Be open to people who are different.

There is a huge reward for those who achieve this goal. You will become the leaders in moving our nation, the whole world, towards peace. Let's get rid of that four letter word!

Emily M. White, LWVNCC President

ANNUAL REPORTS

LAND USE/TRANSPORTATION ACTIVITIES OF THE LWVDE DURING THE PAST TWO YEARS, June, 2015

For the past two years the Land Use/Transportation Committee has focused its efforts on the Coastal Zone Act. We have talked with those in the Department of Natural Resources and Environmental Control who supervise its implementation and who interpret its policy, and with those in the community familiar with its historic origins. We conclude that DNREC is implementing the Act unevenly and is in noncompliance with the Act's regulations in that it has never implemented the Goals and Indicators. The Department also has an unfortunate history of not including carbon dioxide emissions among the pollutants for which it requires offsets. The Committee has provided testimony in four cases in which Coastal Zone permits were requested, repeatedly asking for implementation of the Goals and Indicators, and in the last three statements we have requested that DNREC include CO₂ as a pollutant requiring offsets.

In the fall of 2015 the Committee organized a Coastal Zone bus tour of significant Coastal Zone sites in New Castle County.

We are partnering with Bike Delaware in support of a Complete Community Enterprise District bill which will try to encourage communities to apply for this status in order to receive preferential consideration by DelDOT. In exchange for special consideration the communities would agree to allow density sufficient to support public transit.

The Committee has also offered testimony several times in support of land acquisition under the Open Space Program and conservation easements under the Farmland Preservation Program. We gave verbal testimony recently in support of HB 124, a bill to amend the State Constitution so that the General Assembly is required to take from realty transfer taxes \$10 million annually for the Farmland Preservation Program.

VOTER SERVICE ACTIVITIES

This past year the League sponsored **CANDIDATE FORUMS** that were well attended for the following races:

The LWV of New Castle County and the American Association of University Women of Newark and Wilmington cosponsored a candidate forum for State of Delaware Representative District 4, on Wednesday, October 29, 2014, 7:00 -8:30 P.M . Highlands Elementary School, 2100 Gilpin Avenue, Wilmington.

The LWV of New Castle County, the American Association of University Women Newark Branch, the Newark Senior Center and the LWVNCC Education Fund sponsored a forum for candidates for Newark City Council Districts 1,2,4 on Tuesday, March 24, 2015 at 7:00 P.M. at Newark Senior Center..

Some of the forums were video recorded and posted on or website.

We held **VOTER REGISTRATION TRAININGS** and have been registering voters at high schools and community events including participating in Newark Community Day. We are receiving requests for registering voters for June and July community events. If interested call Patti Christopher, voter registration coordinator at 764-0309 or wjcjr4@verizon.net to volunteer.

A HUGE THANK YOU

There have been at least 9 **NEW CITIZEN CEREMONIES** at which our volunteers hand out welcome folders to the new citizens. Thank you to all volunteers who make this possible under the leadership Connie Georgov, coordinator. These 800 + folders are collated thanks to Bob Hasse. This month there will be 270 sworn in at UD Clayton Hall.

A huge THANK YOU to all our volunteers and especially our funder for the welcome folders, the **Delaware Community Reinvestment Action Council and the Delaware League of Women Voters Education Fund**.

We have also engaged in raising funds for our **EDUCATION ACTIVITIES** and paying for a portion of our **OFFICE EXPENSES** that is shared with the state League and the Delaware Education Fund.

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Enough money was raised in a special fundraiser to **buy video equipment and new banners**. Thank you to the many contributors who have made a contribution above the membership fee. Each newsletter lists those who have contributed. And this month we thank Joann Hasse.

VOLUNTEERS - There are many members who help out in so many ways planning activities and helping out in all the task that keep this organization vital: These include all board members and committee members, and those who help out in the office, and do our many voter service projects and activities, too many to mention, but know that everyone is appreciated.

HOT TOPIC/FUN LUNCHES AND SPECIAL PROGRAMS ROUNDUP

Fun Lunches are now called Hot Topic Lunches and generally take place at Michael's Restaurant
1000 Churchman's Rd, Newark, DE 19713
(302) 368-4230 at 11:30 A.M.- 1:00 P.M.

- May 2015, **Clean Water Campaign - Delaware's Clear Choice**, Speaker: Blaine Breeding, Clean Water Campaign Coordinator Delaware Nature Society.
- April 2015, "**LIBRARIES OF THE FUTURE IN NEW CASTLE COUNTY**" held in the evening with refreshments, at Kirkwood Library, Speakers and presenters of the power point presentation: Sophia Hanson, General Manager of New Castle County Department of Community Services and Marlene Esposito, Administrative Librarian for New Castle County Department of Community Services. Sponsored by the LWV of New Castle County, American Association of University Women, Newark and Wilmington.
- February 2015, **The Seamen's Center of Wilmington**, speaker: Joan Lyons, Executive Director
- November 2014, **Advocating in Legislative Hall?** Speaker: Sandy Spence, Advocacy Corps Chair, LWV Delaware.
- October 2014, "**Latest & Greatest in Delaware's Elections**": Speakers: Anthony J. Albence, Director and Howard Sholl, Deputy Director, State of

Delaware, Department of Elections for New Castle County

- September 2014, **Special Bus Tour of the Coastal Zone in New Castle County** sponsored by LWVNCC; Co-Sponsored by Delaware Wild Lands. Phil Cherry, Delaware Department of Natural Resources and Environmental Control spoke about the Coastal Zone Act, and discussed sites on the tour in the context of that groundbreaking legislation. Lorraine Fleming was on hand to add environmental comments.
- May 2014, **The Coastal Zone Act**, Speaker: Vic Singer, longtime Delaware Coastal Zone Act advocate.
- July 2015, **Innovation-Re-entry, from Prison, with re-entry to Society, in the state of Delaware**. Speaker: Mr. Sayge, Jr. will speak about re-entry needs, past results, and the future of re-entry in Delaware.

GREAT DECISIONS DISCUSSION GROUPS

When: Thursday, June 11, 2015 Group will meet at 10
What: We will view the DVD and discuss the fourth topic, Topic 5 - The U.S. and Africa: the rise and fall of Obamamania. Author Adekeye Adebajo, Executive Director of the Centre for Conflict Resolution in Cape Town, South Africa, has also served on UN missions in South Africa, Western Sahara and Iraq. As a Rhodes Scholar he obtained his doctorate from Oxford University.

Where: The parlor of Immanuel Episcopal Church, 2400 W. 17th Street, Wilmington. For those interested lunch will follow at a nearby restaurant.

Questions: Call the LWV office (302-571-8948)

When: 3rd Monday, June 15, 1:30 - 3:30 pm

What: Great Decisions: US Policy towards Africa

Where: KIRKWOOD LIBRARY, 6000 Kirkwood Hwy, Wilmington

Who: Brenda Toomey will lead the discussion

What else: Lunch before discussion, for those who wish it

When: 11:30 am - 1:15 pm

Where: SOFFRITTO ITALIAN GRILL, 1130 Capitol Trail, Newark

How: Let Vicky Kleinman know so appropriate reservation can be made. [kraver@udel.edu or 302-731-4950]

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

Beatrice (Bea) Webb 302-892-9724
beawebb123@comcast.net

10 Ways the League of Women Voters Has Helped Improve Our Country By: Renee Davidson 02/04/2015

This year, the League of Women Voters celebrates its 95th anniversary. Founded by [suffragist Carrie Chapman Catt](#) on February 14, 1920 – just six months prior to passage of the 19th Amendment – [the League was charged with “finish\[ing\] the fight”](#) to ensure that every eligible voter has free and fair access to the polls. Ever since, the League has been at the forefront of efforts to empower citizens to play an active role in our democracy. In honor of 95 years of Making Democracy Work®, here are 10 ways the League has helped strengthen our democracy and ensure equality throughout the past century.

The [Sheppard-Towner Act of 1921](#), a groundbreaking law providing federal funding for maternity and child care, was the League's first major success.

Following World War II, [the League helped lead the effort to establish the United Nations](#).

The League of Women Voters was one of the first organizations in the country officially recognized by the United Nations as a non-governmental organization. [We maintain an official observer U.N. status today.](#)

In 1952, the League joined NBC and Life magazine in sponsoring the first-ever televised U.S. presidential debate. We served as the [official presidential debate sponsor from 1976-1984](#). Today, Leagues across the country continue to sponsor candidate debates at the state and local levels.

U.S. Presidential Debate, New York, March 1976

McCarthyism and the witch hunt period of the 1950s [inspired the League to help educate Americans on their individual rights and liberties](#) as guaranteed by the Constitution. This work culminated when LWVUS President Percy Maxim Lee testified before Congress against Senator Joseph McCarthy's abuse of congressional investigative powers in 1955.

Between 1950 and 1970, the League increased its effectiveness in regard to both public education and advocacy, [prompting Senator George Aiken to remark](#), "Only 135,000 of them? I thought there were millions."

League members advocating for environmental protection; Jefferson Parish, LA, 1963.

Throughout the 70s and 80s, [passing the Equal Rights Amendment \(ERA\) was a top League priority](#) at the national and state levels. The League organized the National Business Council (NBC) for ERA, the first formal structure to bring major business leaders into the fight for ratification.

CALENDAR

Saturday, June 6, 2015 8:30 A.M. - 3 P.M. Dover Downs Hotel, LWVDE CONVENTION. The Biennial Convention will be held in the Chesapeake Room, with Civil Rights and Social Justice in Delaware as the program theme

Wednesday, June 10, 2015, 9:30 A.M.-Noon LWVDE Advocacy Corps meeting, CenDel Building, 101 W. Loockerman St , Dover, DE 19901, Call Spence at 302-841-2882 for details.

Monday, June 22, 5:30 - 8 P.M. LWV of New Castle County Annual Meeting, celebrating LWV 95th Anniversary and honoring 50-year members. Kirkwood Library Conference Room,

**League of Women Voters of New Castle County
2400 W 17th Street, Clash Wing, Room 1, Lower Level
Wilmington, DE 19806**

The 1972 LWVUS National Convention overwhelmingly approved support of “equal rights for all regardless of sex” as a necessary extension of the League’s long-term support for equal opportunity for all.

In 1990s, the [League was at the forefront of the fight to pass the National Voter Registration Act](#), better known as Motor Voter. We even have President Clinton's pen from the signing!

Following five years of campaigning, [the League helped pass the McCain-Feingold bill, better known as the Bipartisan Campaign Reform Act \(BCRA\), in 2002](#). The legislation closed the most significant loopholes in campaign finance regulation at the time, making historic strides in helping protect our nation’s elections from secret money..

In 2006, the League launched [VOTE411.org](#), the go-to online resource for voter registration and elections-related information. In 2014, over 1.5 million people used [VOTE411.org](#) to find the election information they needed to vote.

In 2014, [the League and our partners helped collect 8 million public comments](#) encouraging the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to cut carbon pollution and fight climate change. We’re still pushing ahead in 2015.

Members of the League of Women Voters at the [2014 People's Climate March](#), the largest climate rally in history.

The League is one of our country’s oldest and strongest nonpartisan civic organizations. Ninety-five years after the League was founded, we continue to hold fast to the belief that our nation is at its strongest when citizens are engaged with our democracy, from voting rights and voter education to campaign finance reform and environmental defense.

"There will never be a true democracy," said Chapman Catt, "until every responsible...adult in it, without regard to race, sex, color or creed has his or her own...voice in government."

Cheers to that – and to the next 95 years and counting!

The League of Women Voters is celebrating 95 years of Making Democracy Work® at every level of government. In 1920, the League was founded as an outgrowth of the movement that secured women the right to vote to help new voters engage with their government. Today, the League empowers all voters to improve their local, state and national government. [Learn more about the League of Women Voters and join our celebration!](#)