



League of Women Voters  
of Kent County

# The VOTER

The Price of Liberty Is Still Eternal Vigilance

**AUGUST-2019**

President Mary K Eggers – [camdenmke1@comcast.net](mailto:camdenmke1@comcast.net)

## Calendar of Upcoming Events

- August 3: LWVVC Voter Registration, Wyoming Peach Festival (see inside)
- August 18: LWVVC Picnic: **CANCELLED DUE TO UNUSUALLY HOT WEATHER.**
- August 26: Women's Equality Day
- August 27: LWVVC Board Meeting, Barclay Farms, 2 PM\*
- Sept 18: Annual Potluck / Program: 6 PM:  
ST. Paul's Episcopal Church, Camden. (see page 2)
- Sept 24: LWVVC Board Meeting, Barclay Farms, 2 PM\*
- Sep 24: National Voter Registration Day (Watch for updates)
- October 22: LWVVC Board Meeting, Barclay Farms, 2 PM\*

**Please watch for calendar updates**

\*LWVVC Board meetings are held on the 4<sup>th</sup> Tuesday of the month unless notified otherwise

**All members are welcome to attend LWVVC Board meetings.**

**SAVE THE DATE----- SAVE THE DATE!!!!!!**

**Annual September Pot Luck and Program**

to kick off the 2019-2020 League year

**September 18<sup>th</sup> at 6 PM at St. Paul's Episcopal Church in Camden.**

Following the meal, a program will focus on the 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the 19<sup>th</sup> Amendment.

This event brings League members back together after the long and hot summer break and is a chance to gather with League friends and meet newer members!

Members are asked to bring a dish to pass—appetizers, main dish or dessert or --be creative!! Beverages will be provided.

**Please be sure to RSVP by September 14th**

**Contact Peggy Swygert at 302-335-4064 or [pjswygert@aol.com](mailto:pjswygert@aol.com)**

The event is open to the public. Friends, potential members and family are welcome!

This is an opportunity to share ideas for programs that interest you during this celebratory year!

Your passion and purpose are welcome!

**Please stay tuned for more program details!!**

**Newly elected and continuing LWVKC Officers and Directors**

President:	Mary K Eggers
1 <sup>st</sup> Vice President:	Christine Stillson
2 <sup>nd</sup> Vice President	Vacant
Secretary:	Mary Ann Coe
Director:	Peggy Swygert
Director:	Ellen Wasfi
Director:	Chandra Owens
Director:	Lester Stillson
Director:	Suzanne Campos
Director:	Crystal Hamilton
Nominating Committee:	Vacant

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Dear members,

As you know our mission as a nonpartisan political organization is to encourage informed and active participation in government and to influence public policy through education and advocacy. This mission is particularly significant in the light of the recent Supreme Court ruling regarding gerrymandering. Also significant for many of us this 2019-20 year, is the 100<sup>th</sup> birthday of the creation of the 19<sup>th</sup> Amendment to our Constitution. We hold our commitments dear and need to join together in providing education, aiding in the right to vote for all eligible citizens, and advocating for good legislation.

Your help is needed to execute monthly programs that you believe important to address our mission. Together we can accomplish much. Bring your ideas to share at the picnic on August 18 and the September potluck on the 18th. If your preference is simply to register citizens to vote, you will need training. Some of you may need to be recertified. In either case contact Christine Stillson to schedule training. If you are interested in participating in a little historical fun walking to commemorate "votes for women" in the August 3 Wyoming Peach Festival Parade, please contact Donna Reed.

The Advocacy Corp is coordinated by the State League, but they are always interested in new members. Mention your interest to one of the Board members and they will direct you.

Please join me in thanking Mary Ann Coe for her work to get our website back-up and running. Hopefully, it will be operational by the time you receive this newsletter. Thank you, Mary Ann.

I would also like to take this opportunity to thank the Stillsons for organizing the LWVKC Annual Meeting. Christine did an outstanding job organizing and conducting the Kent County Annual Meeting. Panera Bread provided a delicious lunch.

A special thanks goes out to Christine and Les Stillson, Donna Reed and multiple others for an exceptional State Convention. Since Dover is centrally located, the 2019 League of Women Voters Convention for Delaware was held in Kent County. The Kent League arranged the venue, set-up, clean-up and food arrangements. Donna Reed was there hours before registration setting-up, making coffee and seeing that all went smoothly. Thank you all.

Here's to a productive and enjoyable year for us all.

Mary K Eggers, PhD  
President

## **Update on Recent Voter Registration Events**

On June 21, Jill Fuchs and Donna Reed staffed a voter registration table at **Westminster Village**, Dover. Resident and LWV member, Micky McKay identified a need for residents who are either new Delawareans or residents with recent address changes to ask questions and update their voter registration information. The event was also open for staff and visitors to register to vote. Donna and Jill hope to schedule additional voter registration events in the Fall.

At the **Wyoming Peach Festival** on August 3<sup>rd</sup>, LWVKC had a VOTER Registration on the Stillson's corner under the shade of the State Tree. This event and having the table and League banner there has become an annual activity of the League. The table, staffed by Donna Reed, and Christine Stillson, attracted numerous persons with questions about registration, and about the League itself. Several people registered to vote--one was a young woman who had just turned 18. Always a genial event, the sun and heat brought out lots of persons enjoying the day. Friends and League members Phyllis Edamatsu, Sharon Morgan, Louie Phillips, Suzanne Campos, and Mary Muffley stopped by the table. Thanks to Les Stillson for setting up the site and keeping the League staffers hydrated.

### **Voter Registration Training:**

Any League member wishing to participate in Voter Registration activities and events may sign up for training by calling Christine Stillson at 302-697-8600 or email her at [cstillson@verizon.net](mailto:cstillson@verizon.net). Training sessions are scheduled for the second Tuesdays at Kent County Department of Elections. Register with Christine so that a reservation for League members can be organized.

## **ANNUAL MEETING MINUTES**

### **League of Women Voters of Kent County - MAY 16, 2019 - Dover Library, Dover, DE**

#### **PROGRAM/SPEAKER**

Prior to the Business Meeting, Ellen Wasfi, Board Director, welcomed attendees and provided an introduction of the speaker, Carol Jones, from LWV Sussex County who is also First Vice President of LWVDE. The topic of the program, entitled "We're the WE in We the People" provided the rationale and an overview of the work done by Carol in developing a 10-part video series which is comparable to Civics 101 for the average person. The series is focused on educating citizens about how their government works, civics being something many Americans know little about. She is also in the process of doing a similar video on the 19th Amendment. The presentation was informative and League members appreciated Carol's remarks.

A lunch catered by Panera followed the presentation.

A prepared printed packet containing the agenda and supporting information was distributed before the meeting.

The Annual Business Meeting of the League of Women Voters of Kent County was called to order at 12:30 PM by Christine Stillson, First Vice President.

Minutes of the last annual meeting: Beverly Jackson made a motion, to dispense with the reading of the minutes and to accept the minutes as published in the packet. The motion was seconded by Les Stillson, voted on and the motion carried.

Treasurer's Report: Beverly Jackson distributed a handout providing a brief report of the period ending March 31st: The ending balance was \$ 2595.36, pending deposits of \$336. The Education Fund balance was \$3,406.07. The Report was filed for audit review.

Proposed Budget for 2019-2010: Beverly Jackson, Finance Committee, presented the budget, having been distributed in the Annual Meeting packet. Few changes were made from the prior year, and members were reminded to acknowledge and record their in-kind donations so that the actual costs of League business can be illustrated. A motion was made by Ellen Wasfi to approved the budget, seconded by Les Stillson, and voted on. The motion carried.

Recommended Bylaw, Policy and Program changes: Christine Stillson noted the recommended changes as printed in the Annual Meeting Packet. She also noted that the first change below to the bylaws was mandated by LWVUS.

As recommended at the Annual Bylaws/Policy/Program Review, the following changes were proposed, motions made, seconded, and a discussion followed, a vote taken, and approved:

### **Bylaws: Article III Membership**

Replace current Section 1 and 2 with:

Sec. 1. Eligibility. Any person who subscribes to the purposes and policy of the LWVUS shall be eligible for membership.

Sec. 2. Types of Membership.

A. Voting Members. Persons at least 16 years of age who join the League shall be voting members of the local League (LWVKC), state League (LWVDE) and of the LWVUS; (1) those who live within an area of a local League may join that League or any other local League; (2) those who reside outside the area of any local League may join a local League or shall be state members-at-large; (3) those who have been members of the League for 50 years or more shall be life members excused from the payment of dues.

B. Associate Members. All others who join the League shall be associate members.

### **POLICY changes were:**

Board- (In first paragraph and line beginning "Each Board member..... and ending "carrying out League activities.")

Added: "Each Board member must have access to electronic communication (Email.)"

Candidate Meetings and Debates: Added: new # 8:

"8. Printed copies of these debate guidelines to be available at the door of the debate. "And Change the current #8 to #9.

### **STUDY ITEMS -- Under "HEALTH CARE IN DELAWARE"**

Currently reads: "With support taken from the state position, examine evolving Delaware health issues as they arise in the areas of quality, access and accountability.

Deleted period and Added: “including the Opioid Crisis and End of Life Options.”

### **Report of the Nominating Committee:**

Gina Miserendino announced the Slate of Officers Prepared by her Nominating Committee: Annie Norman, Chair, Julie Price, and Peggy Swygert.

President: Mary K Eggers  
1st Vice President: Christine Stillson  
Secretary: Vacant  
Director: Peggy Swygert  
Director: Ellen Wasfi  
Director: Chandra Owens  
Vacancy: 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President  
Vacancy: Nominating Committee

**A motion was made from the floor by Donna Reed to nominate Mary Ann Coe to complete the term left vacant for Secretary and to accept the nominated officers as listed. The motion was seconded by Mary K. Eggers, a vote was taken and the motion carried.** Christine thanked the new officers for accepting their new positions and asked the new officers to stand up and also those continuing in their office terms.

### **Annual Report of the President: Christine Stillson, First Vice President.**

“For the past almost two years, the League of Women Voters of Kent County has been led by Jill Fuchs, President since May 2017. She recently resigned as President due to family and health issues and we all acknowledge her tireless work in carrying out the business of our League and still being very active in the LWVDE’s Advocacy Corps.

In examining the year in review, I am reminded that historically, the League’s main mission since its inception in 1920 is to educate and advocate. Almost a hundred years later the League continues to be an activist, grassroots organization that believes people should play a critical (and active) role in democracy. We often don’t think about how important it is to take action locally and be involved in issues of local and statewide concern. A major activity in the Delaware Leagues is advocacy at the state level. And being a small state, it means we have a lot more access to lawmakers and making our voices heard. Several of our Kent County members are working hard on our behalf in the league’s Advocacy Corps.

The Kent County League’s main focuses this year have included the Opioid Crisis Part II (holding a Hot Topic lunch with speakers), Candidates Nights in October (collaborating with AAUW and DSU), helping assist the newly formed DSU-LWVKC student unit, Voter Registration (having Registration tables at Pride Day in Dover, Wyoming Peach Festival, the Dover YMCA, Dover Public Library, and Bowers Beach Festival and a major Voter Registration effort at DSU), concurrence on Utah LWV’s “Death with Dignity” Position (lunch and speaker Paul Baumbach), attending various activities on supporting the National Popular Vote Compact, and members actively supporting desirable legislation at the State Level. Our League also organized the Annual Joint League Holiday Luncheon, a time for all three Leagues to share ideas and to brainstorm.

Currently four LWVKC members serve on the LWVDE State Board, and four members serve on the LWVDE Advocacy Corps.

Great thanks go to those who remain actively involved in these many League activities. We are a small League, but we can and do accomplish much. We welcome any member or potential member to become more involved in these exciting activities. Energy, commitment and a will to getting things done are valuable assets to making a difference. Go LWVKC!! “

Christine also welcomed and introduced new League members Mary Ann Coe and Chris Asay and thanked them for their enthusiasm. She also thanked all for coming and for their passion in working in the League.

A motion to Adjourn was seconded and the Meeting adjourned at 1:50 PM

Respectfully submitted, Mary Ann Coe and Christine Stillson