



# *P DELAWARE VOTER*

The League of Women Voters of Delaware

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www.lwvdelaware.org

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

## League of Women Voters of Delaware *HOLIDAY LUNCHEON*

**December 6, 2017 ~ 12:00 to 3:00**

**Dover Downs Festival Buffet**

North DuPont Highway, Dover, DE  
Valet Parking Available

**A Statewide Fun Event For  
New Castle, Kent and Sussex Leagues**

*A perfect holiday venue to socialize and network with League members and introduce friends and family to League*

**Holiday Buffet ~ \$20.00 ~ All Inclusive**

**RSVP to Crystal Hamilton by November 30**

Contact: 302-270-6568 ~ [cborangespider@gmail.com](mailto:cborangespider@gmail.com)

Please pay at the League Registration Table on December 6  
either by cash or by check made out to LWVDC



## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE -Personalizing Denial of the right to vote...



To those who have never been denied the right to vote, the current court cases—several having been brought by Leagues in various states—may seem like an academic exercise or something to be challenged on principle. It is almost a part of our League DNA since we our organization is a daughter of the women’s suffrage movement. I have had some personal experiences which probably color my view and make it more than that.

I have been denied this basic right twice because of state residency requirements. The first time was when we were transferred from Delaware to Parkersburg, West Virginia in July, 1960 and the second when we were transferred from Delaware to Orange, Texas in September, 1968. (My parents had moved from Wisconsin to Florida in August, 1968 and were able to vote there, but they also could have voted absentee, for President and Vice-president at least, in Wisconsin.) It is a very frustrating experience—one still has to endure all the rhetoric and ads of the campaign

while knowing one has no voice in the outcome!!

Fortunately, long state residency requirements for voting were declared unconstitutional in a 1972 Supreme Court decision. The Dunn-Blumstein decision said that one year, or even three months, was too long a requirement for voting because it doesn’t serve a compelling state interest and penalizes individuals for moving. States may still set requirements and the limits are unclear, but it was major progress for those affected. (Information from the National Conference of State Legislatures “The Canvas” May 2016).

My other remembrance of arriving in Texas in 1968 is huge billboards saying “Register to Vote **FREE**”. I was mystified until I learned that Texas had just gotten rid of the poll tax.

My other story is not personal and is more an “attempt to deny”. My first League was in Parkersburg and one of the services we offered in 1962 was rides to the polls. Late on Election Day we received a call from a woman who lived quite close to her polling place. We were a little surprised at the request but when her League driver (with her children in tow) arrived, she discovered the woman was quite crippled and could not have walked the relatively short distance. Her husband, however, didn’t like the way she was going to vote and refused to take her!!

It is definitely more than academic when you are the one whose right is denied! Anyone else with a “denied” story they wish to share?

*Joann Hasse, President*

## LWVDE Acting on Public Policy Issues

You would think the **Advocacy Corps** would not be very busy in between legislative sessions (July – December). But we have been! We’re trying to decide on priorities for 2018 among many big issues, preparing testimony for agency hearings providing input to the Governor’s budget for fiscal year 2019, and planning League Day in Dover for 2018, among other things.

**New voting machines.** Although the session doesn’t start until January 9, we got a very early start on one of our top priorities for 2018. LWVDE, together with the American Civil Liberties Union, Common Cause and the Delaware Alliance for Community Advancement (DACA), held a press conference in Legislative Hall shortly before the August 10 meeting of a legislative task force established to develop criteria and review proposals for new voting machines.

LWVUS, at its 2006 convention, affirmed strong support and preference for voting systems which employ a voter-verifiable paper ballot or other paper record which can be verified by the voter while still in the process of voting,

**Rep. Paul Baumbach and Sandy Spence were discussing his Death with Dignity bill HB160 at Legislative Hall near the end of Session.**



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and which can be independently hand-counted for audits and recounts. LWVDE's Advocacy Corps adopted a Fact Sheet in January supporting funding for new voting machines that meet the LWVUS paper record criterion.

Delaware has about 1,600 voting machines, purchased in 1995. Those machines were state of the art 22 years ago, but they're now outdated and in desperate need of replacement. And Delaware is one of only *five states* that almost exclusively use paperless systems.

In addition to the need for voter-verifiable paper ballots, updated voting machines are necessary for things like same-day voter registration and early voting, which the current system cannot handle. While those two policies would have to be put in place by the General Assembly, the state currently lacks the infrastructure to implement them.

Representing the League at the press conference, Advocacy Chair Sandy Spence called for the legislature to include in the budget for the fiscal year starting in July 2018 sufficient funds for machines that are the "best that money can buy, in order to protect the security and integrity of our voting system." It is essential that funding be provided in this next fiscal year, so that the new systems can be put in place for the 2020 elections.

In testimony prepared by Letty Diswood for presentation at a hearing of the Office of Management & Budget which is preparing the next budget for the Governor, LWVDE adds that funding should also include sufficient funds for electronic poll books, an election management system and an absentee system, in that order of priority. Julie Price presented the statement at the hearing on November 9. It will be posted on the website at [lwvdelaware.org](http://lwvdelaware.org) soon.

**League Day in Dover 2018.** Save the date now! It's Wednesday, March 21, 2018, at our usual location – The Outlook at the Duncan Center in Dover. The topic is **"Financing State Government: Everybody's Business (Let's Stop Kicking the Can Down the Road!)"** Details will be out in early 2018. We promise League Day 2018 will be interesting, relevant and important to you and all Delawareans.



Peggy Schultz- a regular at Legislative Hall

**OMB Budget Hearings.** November is a busy month for AC members because it's when the Office of Management and Budget holds hearings with each agency to hear what they would like to see in the Governor's budget for Fiscal Year '19 -- July 1, 2018 to June 30, 2019.

The budget is a way that departments express their priorities and greatest needs for that next fiscal year and our lobbyists are paying a lot of attention this year. We know that all our advocacy for state programs come to naught if the budget is inadequate to finance them.

The hearings are public and some of them are interesting. You might want to visit Legislative Hall to listen in. AC members will present at several of the hearings and their statements will be posted on our website at [lwvdelaware.org](http://lwvdelaware.org) after the hearing. Watch for them there. For a schedule of remaining hearings, go to <https://publicmeetings.delaware.gov> and search for OMB. That will bring up the entire list, starting at the latest ones first.

As mentioned above, at the Board of Elections hearings, Julie Price presented a statement prepared by Letty Diswood calling for full funding for new voting equipment and related systems.

Charlotte King testified at the hearing for the **Office of Defense Services (Public Defender)** on behalf of both the League and the Southern Delaware Alliance for Racial Justice. She was shocked to find herself the only member of the public who spoke at this early opportunity to influence the budget that is supposed to give Delaware the capacity to provide adequate representation for those accused of crime, as required by both our federal and state constitutions.

*(Continued on page 4 OMB Hearings)*



*(Continued from page 3 OMB Hearings)*

At a hearing on the **Department of Agriculture** where there were numerous advocates, Charlotte presented a statement prepared by Peggy Schultz who was unable to attend that hearing. As in years past, Peggy's statement called for farmland preservation funding at the historic \$10 million level set in 2001.

Linda Barnett testified at the **Health & Social Services** hearing with a statement prepared by Joann Hasse. It focused on the need for funding DIMER, a program that enables Delawareans to attend medical school out of state since we do not have a medical school in-state, needle exchange that helps prevent the spread of Hepatitis C and HIV, and the need for dental care for Medicaid recipients, three top priorities for our health care portfolio. Quoting a former ad campaign: "Pay me now or Pay me later," the statement suggested that the "Pay me later" price tag can be very high for both the State and those affected when prevention and/or treatment are delayed, and health conditions develop or worsen.

At press time, Linda had completed a statement she would present on November 16 representing both the League and the American Association of University Women in support of full funding for the new **Office of Women's Advancement and Advocacy** in the **new Human Resources Department**. She also had a statement ready for testimony on the **Department of Education** scheduled for November 20. In addition, Jill Fuchs and Gina Miserendino were preparing for the **Housing** hearing and Sandy Spence was working on testimony for the **Department of Correction** hearing.

Watch for the League statements from the budget hearings that will appear on our website at [www.lwvdelaware](http://www.lwvdelaware) soon.

Following the hearings, the Office of Management and Budget will face the challenging task of developing a balanced budget that the Governor will present to the Legislature in January. After three weeks of three-day sessions, the General Assembly will recess while the Joint Finance Committee and the Capital Improvement Committee (usually called the Bond Bill Committee) hold their hearings on the Governor's budget proposal between January 29 and March 1. By law, the legislature is required to complete the budget by June 30, although the difficulty of achieving sufficient support to enact the budget by that deadline this past June resulted in an extraordinary late ending of the Session on Sunday, July 2, 2017.

Reminder: plan on attending our March 21 League Day in Dover 2018 to learn more about the big issues that face our legislators as they work to come up with a balanced budget that meets the needs of all Delawareans.



Senator Margaret Rose Henry speaks at a press conference celebrating Equal Pay Day in April. Sen. Henry, a strong supporter for many League issues, will be missed; she is retiring and will not seek another term.

## THANK YOU TO OUR CONTRIBUTORS

Contributions to the LWV of Delaware since June 2017: Barbara D. Crowell, Joann Hasse, June Kleban, Ronald Martin, Frances Wetmore

Contributions to the Delaware LWV Education Fund: Delaware Humanities Forum, Joy Jones, June Kleban

## LOCAL LEAGUES ACTIVITIES

### LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF SUSSEX COUNTY UPDATES

#### Land Use Committee Activities

Since January 2015, the League of Women Voters of Sussex County has focused on educating the public regarding their pivotal role in the drafting of the state mandated Sussex County 2018 Comprehensive Plan. During 2015, the Land Use Committee presented five public workshops, one in each of the council districts, to educate the public on the process of developing a new Comprehensive Plan. Since then, eleven more forums have been held. In addition to educating residents on the significance of this plan to the future development of the county, the importance of active involvement by the public in drafting this plan has been stressed.

The most recent Land Use Forum was held on Wednesday, November 1 in the County Council Chambers in Georgetown. This forum was entitled “Renewable Energy: Benefits and Opportunities in Sussex County.” Speakers for the program were:

- Dale Davis, President of CMI Solar and Electric
- Jennifer Clemons, Chairperson of Del Tech Renewable Energy Programs
- Bonnie Ram, Senior Researcher, Center for Carbon-free Power Integration at the University of Delaware

Each panelist delivered a presentation, followed by a moderated question and answer period, with questions generated by audience members.

Additional forums are planned to further develop topics related to the final development and implementation of the Comprehensive Plan.

#### Communication Committee Activities

The LWVSC has now implemented the change-over of its website to the My League Online (MyL0) website for League information and postings. Members have been brought into the Members Only feature, which will allow for additional communication opportunities specifically related to Sussex County League members. Members are pleased with the new features and new look of this updated website.

The Communications Committee has also launched live streaming through Facebook of League programs, most notably Land Use Forums. This allows additional access to the public of programs held at various times and places within the county. A video of the sessions is also posted on our website for viewing after the event.

#### General Membership Activities

LWVSC now has 97 members on its rolls. A general membership meeting was held on Tuesday, November 7. Featured presenter of the evening was Chris Bason, Executive Director for the Center for the Inland Bays. The topic of his presentation was the importance of waterways buffers and how League members can participate in advocating for this issue.

## LWV OF NEW CASTLE COUNTY UPDATE

The topic for the **HOT TOPIC LUNCH** on Monday, November 27, 2017 will be "*Clean Water: Delaware's Clear Choice*," with speakers Chris Klarich and Laura Miller of the Delaware Nature Society. Michaels Restaurant, [1000 Churchman's Rd, Newark, DE 19713](#)

**MEMBER MEET 'N GREET.** All members are invited to a LWV of New Castle County "Meet and Greet" on Thursday November 16th, 6:30-8:30 pm, at Patti Christopher's home in North Wilmington.

*Meetup*



Kim Wells has started a TED Discussion Group to reach out to individuals in some areas where the LWVNCC has not provided program activities in the past (Bear, New Castle, southern NCC) and in the Newark area where we have many members and some activities.

### Upcoming TED Discussions:

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

Upcoming TED viewings...

**11/15 or 11/18: Noy Thrupkaew** - "Human Trafficking is all around you. This is how it works" (2015)

### Previous TED Discussions

(Click the links to download the discussion handouts)...

**10/12 & 10/14, 2017: Bryan Stevenson** - [We Need to Talk About an Injustice](#) (TED2012)

**10/25 & 11/4, 2017: Johann Hari** - [Everything you think you know about addiction is wrong](#) (2015)

**11/9 & 11/11, 2017: Lawrence Lessig** - [We the People, and the Republic we must reclaim](#) (2013)



### HUMAN TRAFFICKING PROGRAMS.

Under the dedicated leadership of Fay Whittle, chair of the Justice Committee and president of Prison Ministries, Inc. LWVNCC held four human trafficking forums in different areas of NCC. These forums educated the public about this issue, that it is happening in Delaware and what is being done about it, as well as, how to recognize it, and what anyone can do.

## LWV OF KENT COUNTY UPDATE

October 24: Homelessness in Dover, Part six: "Working the Plan," Dover Library, 6 PM.

October 25: Hot Lunch Topic: "The Opioid Crisis," Part I, Franco's Restaurant 1 PM

November 4th: "Human Trafficking", Price Community Center, 103 Dorman Street, Harrington, 9 AM Saturday

November 29th: Hot Topic Lunch: "Opioid Crisis, Part II," Vincenzo's Rest. Dover, 1 PM

December 6th: JOINT LEAGUE HOLIDAY LUNCHEON: Festival Buffet, Dover Downs, 12 noon. More details and flyer will follow at a later date. PLEASE put this on your calendar NOW !!

## LWVUS ADVOCACY UPDATES - details at [lww.org](http://lww.org)

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

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

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

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

Act now to protect our elections.

More than three in four Americans — 78 percent — want full disclosure of who paid for political ads posted to social media platforms.

That includes 80 percent of Republicans and 82 percent of Independents.<sup>1</sup>

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

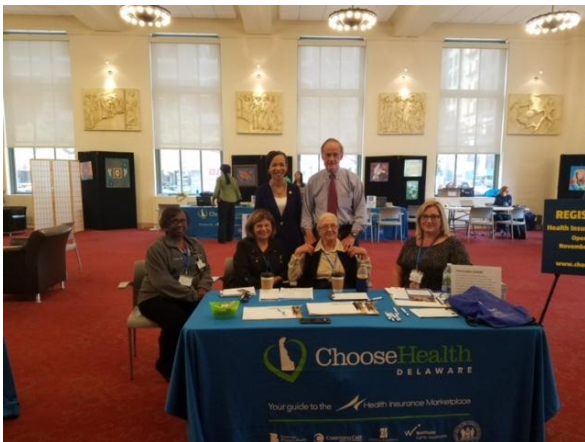
**U.S. elections should be about U.S. voters not special interests – and especially not about the secretive influence of hostile foreign governments and entities.** We must use every lever at our disposal — including ending secret online political ads — to prevent meddling in our elections and to ensure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

Demand that the FEC require online ads to include disclaimers identifying who paid for them.

### **League Joins Amicus Brief in *Masterpiece Cakeshop, Ltd. v. Colorado Civil Rights Commission* ★**

The League joined the National Women's Law Center and other organizations by signing an [amicus brief](#) in the case of [Masterpiece Cakeshop, Ltd. v. Colorado Civil Rights Commission](#). The case involves a bakery in Colorado which refused to make a wedding cake for a same-sex couple citing religious objections. The brief that the League joined argues that allowing the bakery to refuse service violates public accommodations laws and opens the door to discrimination of other groups. Arguments in the case will be heard by the U.S. **Supreme Court on December 5, 2017.**

### **Spread the Word: It's time for Health Care Open Enrollment! ★**



Many state and local Leagues have worked to assist with the open enrollment process under the Affordable Care Act in the past. This year the window for open enrollment is shortened and the budget for marketing the period was drastically cut by the administration. It's up to organizations like the League to spread information about how to sign up. [Check out these great resources and toolkits](#) from like-minded organizations and spread the word about open enrollment today!

[Pictured left are League members who volunteered to helping out as greeters at open enrollment at Wilmington Public Library. U.S. Senator Carper is standing beside U. S. Representative Lisa Blunt Rochester.]



## MAKING DEMOCRACY WORK CAMPAIGN

### Asheville-Buncombe Gerrymander 5K ★

The Gerrymander 5k walk/run put on by the League of Women Voters of Asheville-Buncombe was [a huge success with over 350 people registered, over \\$9,500 raised and national and international press, including NPR, The Guardian, and Slate.com!](#) The planning group has been contacted by people from around the country interested in putting on a similar event and so they are hosting a webinar on their process for putting on the event and to help connect and coordinate groups around the country in organizing similar events. November 29th, 5:30 EST. Join the webinar through [this link](#) and/or contact them at [info@lwvab.org](mailto:info@lwvab.org).

### UN Conference of the Parties (COP 23) for climate change on Nov 6-17, 2017 ★

Nine members of the League of Women Voters of the United States will attend the UN Conference of the Parties (COP 23) for climate change on Nov 6-17, 2017. The members are: Robin Tokmakian (Monterey County, CA and official LWV UN Observer for Climate Change), Rebecca Boyd (Wilmotte, IL), Sarah Diefendorf and Elaine McCarty (Oakland, CA), Michelle and Tony Dorsey (Phoenix, AZ), Yvonne Flores (Las Cruces, NM), Adrienne Kaltman (Ft. Lauderdale, FL), Claudia Keith (Corvallis, OR), and Peggy Schultz (DE). We will be blogging about our experiences at [lwvusunclimate.wordpress.com](http://lwvusunclimate.wordpress.com) and tweeting with the handle @LWV\_UN\_CLIMATE. The focus of our interest will be the climate impacts on rural women and children as well as the Children's Trust Lawsuit. In addition to learning about how UN climate negotiations advance, we will explore opportunities for international collaboration on climate related problems. Information on the conference can be found at [cop23.unfccc.int](http://cop23.unfccc.int) with links to which sessions are being live webcast.

## CALENDAR

Wednesday, November 15, 2017, 5:30-7:30 pm	Dover City Library <a href="#">35 Loockerman Plaza</a> <a href="#">Dover, DE 19901</a>	<b>LWVDE &amp; ED FUND BOARDS.</b> Board meetings for the Delaware state-level league. RSVP to <a href="#">Joann Hasse</a> .
December 6, 2017 9:30 - 11:30 am End early to go to Holiday Lunch	Legislative Hall, House Majority hearing room, <a href="#">411 Legislative Ave.</a> <a href="#">Dover, DE 19901</a>	<b>LWVDE ADVOCACY CORPS MEETING.</b> Contact Committee Chair Sandy Spence for details and if interested in attending ( <a href="mailto:sandyspence325@gmail.com">sandyspence325@gmail.com</a> )
<b>December 6<sup>th</sup> at noon</b>	Dover Downs, North DuPont Hwy, Dover, DE Valet parking available	<b>DOVER DOWNS FESTIVAL BUFFET ~ A Statewide Fun Event For New Castle, Kent and Sussex Leagues.</b> <b>\$20.00 ~ All Inclusive.</b> <b>RSVP to Crystal Hamilton by November 30, Contact: 302-270-6568 ~</b> <a href="mailto:cborangespider@gmail.com">cborangespider@gmail.com</a> , Please pay at the League Registration Table on December 6, either by cash or by check made out to LWVKC
Wednesday, January 3, 2018, 9:30 am - 12 pm	House Majority Caucus Room, <a href="#">411 Legislative</a> <a href="#">Ave.</a> <a href="#">Dover, DE 19901</a>	<b>LWVDE ADVOCACY CORPS MEETING.</b> Contact Committee Chair Sandy Spence for details and if interested in attending ( <a href="mailto:sandyspence325@gmail.com">sandyspence325@gmail.com</a> )

### League of Women Voter s of Delaware

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