



VOTER

The League of Women Voters of New Castle County, Delaware

Summer Voter 2018

www.lwvdelaware-newcastlecounty.org

Vol. 23, No.1

The Mission of the League of Women Voters is to empower voters and defend democracy.

You are INVITED!

**Please join us for a Meet and Greet
Tuesday August 14th, 6:00 PM to 8:00 PM
at Catherine Rooney's in Trolley Square, 1616 Delaware Ave, Wilmington, DE 19806
Cash Bar**

The League of Women Voters New Castle County will be greeting some of our partners in Voter Registration drives and activities. To help defray the cost for the bartender, we are asking for a \$1.00 donation at the door. There will be a little informational session about what the League and the Stand Indivisible groups do. People can order food and drinks, but are responsible for paying their bill.

Please RSVP by Saturday August 11th, so we can provide Catherine Rooney's an estimate of how many people to expect.

lwvpatti@gmail.com or aevantast@mac.com

Patti Christopher, Voter Registration Chairman

League of Women Voters - New Castle County

League of Women Voters of New Castle County

**HOT TOPIC LUNCH Monday, August 27, 2018
11:30 A.M - 1 P.M.**

Michael's Restaurant, 1000 Churchman's Rd, Newark, DE 19713



TOPIC: Part II, the All-Hazards Awareness Course

**This part will be going more into the details
Part I gave a broad outline.**

The All-Hazards Awareness course is designed to increase situational awareness of common and potential situations that could impose harm upon attendees. Topics discussed will include current issues such as criminal/terrorist acts, natural disasters, and man-made incidents. Further discussion will be given for biological, radiological and chemical hazards. Also included will be actions to mitigate harm to the student. Additional resources will be identified.

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James Tracy has over 30 years of experience in emergency management in various capacities. Several examples include responder, planner, trainer, and liaison. James has traveled to numerous states and several countries tasked to mitigate or respond to incidents and exercises.

The public is invited to all Hot Topic meetings to **become informed on a wide variety of topics**. It is also a time to check in with members of LWV, make new friends, invite your neighbors, and colleagues to experience the League in an informal setting.

MICHAEL'S RESTAURANT, 1000 Churchman's Rd, Newark, DE 19713, **Buffet lunch is \$15.00 and paid at time of the buffet luncheon. Please pay in cash if at all possible.**

RSVP at lwnvde@comcast.net or 302-571-8948 by Saturday, August 25, so we can let the restaurant know how many to expect. If you need a ride, leave a message on the League Office phone or e-mail when you RSVP 302-571-8948. **If you have not made a reservation please come anyway.**

CANDIDATE FORUMS

LWV sponsored or cosponsored candidate forums are planned:

October 14, 2018 for Attorney General and Dist. 4 candidates

Hosted by First Unitarian Church, LWNCC, Junior League and others, 730 Halstead Road, Wilmington, DE 19803

October 17, 2018 for Kent County candidates

Hosted by LWV Kent County, 7-9 p.m. at the Modern Maturity Center.

October 24, 2018 for statewide candidates

Hosted by LWV of Delaware and LWVKC, 7-9 p.m. at Delaware State University, Dover DE

VOTER SERVICES

Get the Vote Out Training - VOTE411

Thursday, August 9, 2018, 6:30 - 8:30 p.m.

Newark Natural Foods, 230 East Main Street, Newark, DE 19711

RSVP **Patti Christopher**, *Voter Registration Chairman*
League of Women Voters - New Castle County

The LWV has held many small registration training sessions for various members of civic organizations, as well as League members. Contact Patti Christopher if you are available to volunteer to assist in registering people to vote, and be part of the Voter Registration Committee.

SEEKING VOLUNTEERS FOR RIDES TO THE POLLS

We are also looking for volunteers to assist in driving people to the polls for **the Primary Election and the General Elections**. Contact the LWV office at 302-571-8948 or lwnvcc@comcast.net if you are available.

VOTE411

Delaware's VOTE411 online voters' guide for the 2018 party primary elections was launched on Monday July 16. This release of the VOTE411 guide reflects the voter's ballot for the Thursday, Sept 6, state-wide primary election. We held an online "[Virtual Launch Party](#)" with balloons, Facebook live videos, and Q&A which was lots of fun. Thanks, Jenn Wells, for all your hard work in pulling that off!

Since the launch, we've had lots of positive response from both the community and the candidates about VOTE411. Currently nearly 70% of primary candidates have entered their information into the guide, thanks to the efforts of our team members in all three counties. In New Castle County, many thanks to Sharon Kwiatkowski, Letty Diswood, Linda Barnett, Jill Itzkowitz, Sharon Gaudino, Sarah Bucic, Susan Mitchell and Peggy Schultz for calling, emailing, messaging and otherwise were convincing the candidates to participate.



Jenn and Kim Wells (plus one) at the VOTE411 Virtual Launch

There will be another round of candidate calling to be done in late August and early September, prior to the launch of the VOTE411 general election guide on or around Sept 7. Please contact Kim Wells if you are interested in helping with that.

In the meantime, the big effort is promoting the guide to the general public. We've had a handful of TV interviews up and down the state, public service announcements on Delaware radio stations, and a few newspaper articles downstate. Posters are starting to go up, and we're encouraging other civic-minded organizations to help us spread the word about VOTE411. But there are still lots of work to be done in the advertising arena! A huge thank you to Gloria and William Cooke for their financial contribution, which will allow us to reach more people, and to state League for funding the poster printing.

We can definitely use more hands to put up posters, take photos, write press releases or letters to the editor; contact other community organizations, etc. Just let Kim know if you'd like to join in the fun.

If you're unfamiliar with VOTE411, go to the www.vote411.org and check it out! Enter your home address to see a sample ballot for your location, compare the viewpoints of the candidates for those races, and even text or email yourself your candidate selections for later reference. For further instruction, watch this [15-minute video tutorial](#) on how to use the voters' guide feature of Delaware VOTE411.

Thanks for helping spread the word about this great voter education tool. We want Americans to vote, and **vote smart!**

In the spirit of democracy,

--Kim Wells

Director, Webmaster LWVNCC - www.lwvdelaware-newcastlecounty.org

2018 Delaware VOTE411 Coordinator

kimwells19702@gmail.com

302-836-4751 (h)

302-650-6897 (c)

VOTE411.ORG
ELECTION INFORMATION YOU NEED



GREAT DECISIONS DISCUSSION GROUP

What: Great Decisions: ***U.S. global engagement and the military***

When: **Monday, September 17, 1:30 -3:30 p.m.** Where: Newark Free Library

What else: Lunch, for those who wish it.

When: Before discussion, 11:30 a.m. - 1 p.m.

Where: At 11:30 at Skipjack Restaurant in the Shops at Louviers on Paper Mill Road.

How: Contact Flo Waibel fmwaibel@udel.edu All welcome.

Calendar: October 15, South Africa's Democracy, November 19, Global Health

Welcome New Members

Mary Katherine Tompkins (Kathy) 302-533-6917 H, 617-962-9617 cell kathytompkins@yahoo.com

Theresa Bengal, 302-658-6007 H, 302-507-0023 Cell

REMINDER: It is time to renew membership to the LWV. A membership renewal letter was bulk mailed last week to those whose membership is up for renewal for FY 7.1.2018-6.30.2019. Please don't cast that letter on a pile of to-do mail, and forget about it. This is an election year and your renewal and contribution keep the League financially able to do its work. Thank you in advance. We need you.

2018 LWVUS CONVENTION REPORT see Marjorie Johnson's report on our webpage.
<http://www.lwvdelaware-newcastlecounty.org/notices.html>



LWVNCC 2017-2018 ANNUAL REPORT - Marj Johnson, President

The meeting was held Monday, June 11, 2018, Michael's Restaurant, Newark, DE

At the last annual meeting you asked to have us report back on the suggestions and directions that you gave to the Board, so here goes:

VOTER REGISTRATION: Patti Christopher asked last year that we involve more young people and she should be careful what she asks for!

Since September the LWVNCC has been actively involved in the community with voter registration in many different venues:

Registering seniors in High Schools, Delaware Technical Community College, James Grove Adult High School, Various Church conferences, Farmers Markets, Community Events, and Political Community Awareness Marches and Conferences.

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- The LWVNCC has had training sessions for volunteers to instruct them with the universal form and to assist with VOTE411 and how to vote on line when needed.
- Due to the demand of many volunteers, we have partnered with various civic, and community groups.

The LWVNCC has made quite a presence since September with our volunteers. As stated above we have been approached by various groups to work with us due to our reputation for our fervent belief of “everyone having a right to vote” and our Non-Partisan participation.

Due to our ability to go into some of the High Schools, we have made connections that will give us contacts in other schools. Ultimately, all seniors graduating will be registered either by the League or the DMV.

The more diverse we become the more we can get into communities, where we weren’t previously and help our citizens with registering.

We all need more volunteers ready to go out into the community to register. Please think about signing up!!



Brandywine High School, May 24, 2018



Brandywine High School, May 24, 2018

VOTING: We began offering rides to the polls in 2016 on a limited basis, and will work to expand this for the 2018 elections.

SCHOOL BOARD ELECTIONS: You expressed concern about dismal turnout for school board elections. This remains a concern. The latest elections were held with little notice to the public and poor turnout in all districts. I sent a letter to the Supt of my school district (Brandywine) to complain about this and to ask for a plan to improve notification to the public, but have heard nothing. I encourage you all to contact the superintendents in each of your districts.

On a side note with schools, I did send a letter on behalf of the league to all the public high schools in NC County commending them and their students for participating in the school walkout for gun safety. That letter was also in the News Journal.

NEW CITIZENS: You asked that we provide more information to the new citizens. The packets were redone and now include an updated welcome letter, This Way to the Voting Booth 2018-A Citizen’s Guide to Registration and Voting, the Delaware Community Reinvestment Action Council brochure to give information on access to credit, housing, and information on taxes, the current list of federal and state legislators, and Ivote.DE.gov with information on the voter portal for registration and absentee ballots. At the many new citizen ceremonies, we welcomed citizens from 26 different countries all over the world.

VOTER FORUMS: You asked that we hold voter forums. Carole Walsh and Judy Taggart held successful **candidate forums** in a new format in Newark. They are also to be congratulated on being selected by the mayor of Newark to receive the Jefferson Award recognizing volunteer service.

We are also supporting and participating in **VOTE411.org** to get information out to voters for the next elections. Kim Wells and her team have been working tirelessly and effectively on this effort. Several planning picnics have taken place in June and July at Lums Pond, and planned for August. T shirts are still available.

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CAMERA: We asked last year for someone to learn how to use our video camera for a variety of events. Barbara Mubarak was going to do this, but became too busy with other things. So, we are still looking for someone to do this. In the meantime, we are grateful to Larry Diswood for all the photography he does at events and to Bea Webb for recommending a videographer for the voter forums in Newark.

PROGRAMMING/EVENTS: The Hot Topic Lunches and **Great Decisions Group** have continued to occur with many interesting and informative

discussions. In addition, Kim Wells started the **TED talks** to include more people who couldn't attend at other times. They have been popular with a small, but steady group of people. So, thanks to her and now to Kay Palmer who will be scheduling and leading them starting up again in the fall.

We supported **Ready to Run** which helps women wanting to run for office. We partnered with the **March for Racial Justice and Compassion** in Oct. in Newark. We presented two more **human trafficking programs** which were so well done and well received. Thanks to Fay Whittle for all her efforts on that.

In Oct. with the help of Cara Gaudino we created a members-only **Facebook page for LWVNCC**. Kim Wells helped us roll it out with instructions on how to access, and post questions, conversations, etc. I hope many of you are using it.

We had a successful and fun **Carrie Chapman Catt** event at The Rail honoring Lt. Gov. Bethany Hall-Long and also honoring Connie Georgov for her many years of service to new citizens. Thanks to Kim, Sharon, Patti, Letty and Peggy for all the work they put into it and to Patti for the wonderful table arrangements. Also, thank you to Marianne Roken for the wonderful slide show. We used it at that event and also at Council meeting for the other Leagues to see. The CCC event was our only fundraiser, although we had hoped to do more fundraising events. We definitely need to raise money and hope to create new ways to fundraise. It was the committee's opinion that we should continue an event of some sort every other year to honor someone who has contributed to the community, but not to focus on it as a fundraiser.



Bellevue Farmers Market, July 2018



Marj Johnson addressing the annual meeting at Michael's Restaurant.

Two other members recently received awards: Barbara Crowell, family court judge, received the YWCA Trailblazer award and Lorraine Fleming was honored by the Department of Natural Resources and the Environmental Control Division of Parks and Recreation.

Our advocates have been active in Dover and most recently with environmental bills, I was so proud and impressed to read all the emails going back and forth between the committee members to organize their presentations, get the facts straight and cover all the issues. It was an extraordinary, last minute effort, that isn't over yet! Thank you to all the advocates who have spoken on bills, or have turned up for important bills.

Next week the new Board will meet to be trained by Joanne Hasse, and in Sept. we are meeting for an extended time to do some strategic planning for the next several years, with some focus on the 100th birthday of the League in 2020. So, thank you to everyone for all your efforts on behalf of the League and its mission.

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Additional Highlights of Annual Meeting

MEMBERS urged the new board to pursue membership diversity, expanded high school and college voter outreach efforts, cleaner state voter registration rolls, and more effective fundraising efforts among the goals for the coming year, in addition to continued involvement and awareness in areas such as human trafficking and prison justice. Better coordination with other like-minded organizations, such as the Delta Sigma Theta Service Sorority who had three members in attendance, was also recommended.

VOTE411 Project Coordinator **Kim Wells** handed out information cards and encouraged members to "talk up" the VOTE411 website with their friends and neighbors this election season.

Advocacy Corps member **Joann Hasse** made a plea for each member to contact their legislators on at least one or two of the high-priority legislative items on the LWVDE list. Board member **Cami Seward** urged action also on SB 221 and SB 222, which continue the pre-trial justice reforms started with HB 204 earlier this year.

NOTICE: The updated **LOBBY HANDBOOK for Delaware** is available at

http://lwvdelaware.org/about_action.html .

Thanks to Joann Hasse and Sandy Spence for their work getting this frustrating project done.

CALENDAR

Wednesday, August 1, 2018 9:30 am-noon	Legislative Hall 411 Legislative Avenue Dover, DE 19901	LWVDE ADVOCACY CORPS Meeting. For details or to attend, contact committee chair Sandy Spence or our Office Manager .
Wednesday, August 1, 2018 4-7pm	Old Brandywine Village Market 19th and Market Street Wilmington, DE	VOTER REGISTRATION. We've been invited to have voter registration tables at the Old Brandywine Village Market on Wednesdays in July and August. These are fun evenings with vendors and free music. Contact Patti Christopher if you'd like to help out.
Tuesday, August 7, 2018 11am	Lemon Leaf Café 2 North Main Street Smyrna, Delaware 19977	LWVDE Elections Committee - kickoff meeting. Brand new advocacy committee - first meeting! If you are interested in voting/elections legislation and lobbying, contact Letty Diswood for details.
Friday, August 10, 2018 5-8pm	Bellevue Community Center 510 Duncan Rd Wilmington, DE 19809	VOTER REGISTRATION. We will have a voter registration table at the Bellefonte Farmers Market on Fridays throughout the summer. August 10 is the "Dog Days of Summer" Market. Contact Patti Christopher if you'd like to help out.
Tuesday, August 14, 2018 6-8pm	Catherine Rooney's 1616 Delaware Ave Wilmington, DE 19806	MEET & GREET with Stand Indivisible. Social hour with our frequent voter registration partners, Indivisible Highlands Borders; all League members are welcome. Please RSVP to the Office Manager by Thursday August 9. (Calendar continued on page 8)

Monday, August 27, 2018 11:30am-1pm	Michaels Restaurant 1000 Churchman's Rd Newark, DE 19713	HOT TOPIC LUNCH - Hazards Awareness 2. Second session of a two-part All-Hazards Awareness course presented by James Tracy of the Delaware Division of Public Health's Office of Preparedness. \$15 buffet lunch; RSVP to the Office Manager . The public is cordially invited to attend.
Wednesday, September 12, 2018 1-4pm	Location TBD	STRATEGIC PLANNING SESSION. The LWVNCC board will have an extended evening session for goal-setting and long-term planning items. Mark your calendar now!
Friday, September 14, 2018 5-8pm	Bellevue Community Center 510 Duncan Rd Wilmington, DE 19809	VOTER REGISTRATION. We will have a voter registration table at the Bellefonte Farmers Market on Fridays throughout the summer. September 14 is the "Fall Harvest" Market. Contact Patti Christopher if you'd like to help out.
Monday, September 17, 2018	Federal Building Wilmington, DE	New Citizen Naturalization Ceremony. Naturalization Proceedings for the U.S. District Court for the District of Delaware. Contact Lorraine Botticelli if you'd like to help distribute welcome packets at the ceremony.
Monday, September 17, 2018 1:30-3:30pm	Newark Free Library 750 Library Ave. Newark, DE 19711	GREAT DECISIONS. The group will discuss the topic " <i>U.S. global engagement and the military.</i> " As usual, many of the group will meet beforehand for lunch at Skipjack, The Shoppes of Louviers, 401 Louviers Dr., Newark, DE 19711. Contact Flo Waibel for information.
Thursday, October 4, 2018	Federal Building Wilmington, DE	New Citizen Naturalization Ceremony. Naturalization Proceedings for the U.S. District Court for the District of Delaware. Contact Lorraine Botticelli if you'd like to help distribute welcome packets at the ceremony.
Thursday, November 1, 2018	Federal Building Wilmington, DE	New Citizen Naturalization Ceremony. Naturalization Proceedings for the U.S. District Court for the District of Delaware. Contact Lorraine Botticelli if you'd like to help distribute welcome packets at the ceremony.
Thursday, December 6, 2018	Federal Building Wilmington, DE	New Citizen Naturalization Ceremony. Naturalization Proceedings for the U.S. District Court for the District of Delaware. Contact Lorraine Botticelli if you'd like to help distribute welcome packets at the ceremony.

League of Women Voters of New Castle County
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