

LWV VOTER

League of Women Voters of Central Delaware County

February 2024

County Council Luncheon Feb. 21

The League of Women Voters of Delaware County invites everyone to come to their annual Lunch with Delaware County Council on **Wednesday, Feb. 21, at 12:30 p.m. Springfield Country Club**, 400 West Sproul Road in Springfield.

This is a perfect chance to meet with members of Delaware County Council and talk about issues that affect the county, including the voting process, the county prison system, the county health department, plus other issues you feel are important. Each council member will describe their role on council and there will be time for questions as well. We have also invited the county Executive Director Barbara O'Malley, Director of Election Operations Jim Allen, Election Board Chair Ashley Luckenheimer and Chief Sustainability Officer Francine Locke.

The League of Women Voters is a non-partisan organization known for positions on public policy, its educational programs, and its voter service activities. The League hopes you will attend this unique opportunity to discover how our county government functions. Friends and spouses are most welcome to attend.

The cost is \$40 per meal. This includes a choice of entrees: chicken picante, tilapia with lemon and butter sauce or penne with grilled vegetables. Please specify your menu choice on the registration form.



County Council from left to right: Vice Chair Richard R. Womack, Christine A. Reuther, Chair Dr. Monica Taylor, Elaine Paul Schaefer and Kevin M. Madden.

Payment Options: Check mailed to LWV of Delaware County & Mailed to PO Box 131, Wallingford, PA 19086 or brought on the day of the event.

Cash or check at the event venue registration table. No credit cards.

NOTE: Even if you plan to pay at the door, you must submit a registration form in advance or contact

the event contact person so the venue has an accurate meal count and your menu choice.

To register for the luncheon [CLICK HERE](#).

When you register you will be given the opportunity to submit questions in advance that will be shared with members of Delaware County Council prior to the event.

Event Contact: [Rosemary Kesling](#) or Text 610-368-2011

LWV-CDC Officers 2021-2022

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No Proposed Changes to LWV CDC Bylaws:

Upon review of our League of Women Voters (LWV) of Central Delaware County (CDC) [Bylaws](#) which were last updated June 2023 and in light of the National League of Women Voters (LWVUS) Framing the Future changes coming in 2025 the **Bylaws Committee is recommending that NO CHANGES be made to our bylaws in 2024.**



President's Message

The League of Women Voters has three levels of organizational structure consisting of national, state and local levels. Through my President's message in February, March and April I will share how the League of Women Voters advocates to influence public policy.

WORKING TOGETHER TO INFLUENCE PUBLIC POLICY

In the League, we tend to focus our efforts on influencing legislative measures in the US Congress and state and local legislative bodies by preparing testimony, lobbying legislators, and initiating advocacy campaigns on issues of interest to our members. We also file lawsuits, file "friend of the court" (amicus) briefs in court cases, and monitor and comment when regulations are being written for executive branch agencies.

LWVUS General Guidelines

General guidelines for action, followed by the role of the national office and staff in advocacy are listed in the League of Women Voters **Impact on Issues** to take action at the state and local levels, and finally how state and local Leagues can request permission to take national action on non-priority federal issues. **The goal is to work collaboratively among the levels of League with consistent messages and strategies.**

Effective advocacy efforts on national issues depend on a partnership at all League levels — lobbying in Washington and constituent lobbying at home. This one-two punch reinforces the League's impact in influencing national and state legislation.

Working Together to Influence Public Policy

The process used in formulating positions and acting at the grassroots level makes the League unique and sets the League apart from other organizations. The fact that we are members of not only a local League, but a state League and the League of Women Voters of the United States, makes us a powerful force.

Speaking with One Voice

"Speaking with one voice" is one of the most important tenets of the League. The national League is responsible for determining strategies and action policies that ensure that the League's message on national issues is consistent throughout the country. Similarly, state Leagues are responsible for a consistent state message, and local Leagues must cooperate with one another to ensure that regional issues are addressed in a manner consistent with neighboring Leagues. Typically, the president of the national, state, or local League is the only person who speaks for the League in an official capacity, unless another person has been designated as the official spokesperson on a specific issue. This may be a League expert, a senior staff person, or a former board member. The key is that this designation is explicitly made by the appropriate Board. **This helps to ensure that the League speaks with one voice, which is essential for our effectiveness as an advocacy and lobbying organization.**

For the LWVUS full document **Impact on Issues** [CLICK HERE](#).

Anne Mosakowski

International Committee Has New Meeting Place



The **February 13, 2024 discussion will be held at 12:30 PM** at **Wesley Enhanced Living, 100 Halcyon Drive, Media, 19063**, in the Art Room. If you wish, you can bring a bag lunch or purchase food at the Bistro Cafe located at the facility.

The International Relations Study Group uses the **Great Decisions Briefing Book** resources put out by the [Foreign Policy Association](#) to generate and focus discussions. To obtain a copy of the **Great Decisions 2024 Briefing Book** Order online ([CLICK HERE](#)) or contact sales at 1 (800) 477-5836.

The topic for **Feb. 13** is **Science Across Borders**, which reviews how scientific advances benefit from collaboration between researchers, but what happens when material, such as Artificial Intelligence (AI) is controversial and important to a nation's national security?

For additional information contact International Relations Committee Chair Joan Hazbun jchazbun6@gmail.com.

Mourning the Sudden Death of our LWVUS President

WASHINGTON — It is with profound sadness that the League of Women Voters of the United States announces the passing of our esteemed president, Dr. Deborah Ann Turner, who died Sunday, Jan. 28, from complications of a pulmonary embolism.

Dr. Turner, who practiced gynecologic oncology for 35 years, was a fearless advocate for voting rights and women's rights. She devoted her life's work to impacting meaningful changes in the lives of voters across the nation. As the 20th president of the 103-year-old voting rights organization, Dr. Turner played a pivotal role in fighting for a more fair and representa-

tive union, while championing racial equity in the League's work.

Dr. Turner first joined the League of Women Voters of Metro Des Moines in 2010 and later served as president until 2015. At the same time, she also served on the LWV of Iowa board as the state vice president from 2011 to 2015, before joining the national board in 2016. She was elected LWVUS president in 2022.

Dr. Turner's remarkable life and accomplishments extended far beyond her League work, including 12 medical missions to Tanzania. See her full obituary [here](#).



Dr Deborah Ann Turner

Upcoming Programs — Save These dates

The Civics Education Committee of LWVCDC and the Healthcare Committee of LWV of Delaware County are putting together some terrific programs for later this spring. Upcoming Voter newsletters will provide full details but for now, mark your calendars so you won't miss any of these programs:

March 21 (Thursday): The Jeanette Ross Environmental Lecture this year will be "The Plastic Pollution Crisis in Pennsylvania." LLWVCDC League Member and State LWV Board Member Kathy Cook will present the program by Zoom at 7:30 p.m.

April 5 (Friday) — Hot Topic: Moms Need Healthcare Access — They're Dying without It. Noon by Zoom.

May 3 (Friday) — Hot Topic: Immigration Issues in Southeastern Pennsylvania. Part 1 of a two-part program on immigration. Noon to 1:30 p.m. by Zoom.

May 10 (Friday) — Hot Topic: Being an Immigrant in Southeastern Pennsylvania. Part 2 Noon to 1:30 p.m. by Zoom.

Black History Month — A look at Black Suffrage

In honor of Black History Month, LWVDC acknowledges and appreciates the role of Black Americans in the voting rights movement. We're sharing this information concerning the history of Black Suffrage.

African American Women Leaders in the Suffrage Movement - [CLICK HERE](#)

Women's Suffrage at 100: The Key Role of Black Sororities - [CLICK HERE](#).

Facing History & Ourselves **Dr. Carol Anderson** (professor, historian, and National Book Critics Circle Award winner) **on Racial Justice and Voting** - [CLICK HERE](#)

Library of Congress - **Voting Rights for American Americans** - [CLICK HERE](#)

National Archives - **Black Americans and the Vote** - [CLICK HERE](#)

National Park Service - **Between Two Worlds: Black Women and the Fight for Voting Rights** - [CLICK HERE](#)

League of Women Voters - **Black Women Who Define(d) the Voting Rights Movement** - [CLICK HERE](#)

League of Women Voters - **Voting Rights History is Black History** - [CLICK HERE](#)



LWVDC Members Anne Mosakowski, Rosemary Kesling, Cynthia Jetter, Cathy Yungmann and Linda Carpenter at Media NAACP luncheon in December. Cynthia is president of the Media Area NAACP.

New LWVPA Executive Director Dr. Amy Widestrom speaks to the LWVDC membership at our Jan. 6 League Celebration. We had more than 40 attendees.



New Members

LWVDC currently has 183 members after our recent membership renewal drive, completed Jan. 31 by Membership Chair Olivia Thorne, Treasurer Denyse McCurdy and the Membership Committee.

New Members since October include:

Isha Shah, student member; James Furst, and Adrienne Coon, Wallingford; Easton Edellblut, student; Patricia Tuggle Cleary and David Cleary, Glen Mills; Kimberly Allen-Stuck, Havertown, Laura Riese, Newtown Square; Marilyn Henkelman, Claire Thurman, and Linda and Brooke Porch, Swarthmore; Addie Chauhan, student, and Fran Boyle, Holmes.

Welcome aboard. See you soon at our 2024 programs.

Join us for Legislative Meet and Greets

We are in the process of setting up meetings with our legislators and we are looking for members who would be interested in attending.

The meetings will be over Zoom and may be either with the legislator themselves or their district director. Timing will be subject to their availability and they will probably take place during the daytime.

We will pair up less experienced people with more seasoned members. We have received a list of suggested topics based on the state League's priorities.

These are the suggested topics to address during the

meeting: Election Administration and Funding, Voting, Representation, Social Policy and Environmental Policy.

These broad priorities are broken down into suggested, specific issues [here](#).

Realistically, there should only be one or two issues designated for a particular meeting. We should provide supporting and/or clarifying documentation and clearly state our interests. After the meeting, we will be expected to provide a written summary for the LWVPA. Peggy Wilson is coordinating the meetings. Email her at <mailto:kevsmom@aol.com>.

If you are interested in attending one of these meetings, please complete [this form](#).