

LWV VOTER

League of Women Voters of Central Delaware County

January 2024

Gathering 2024: Celebrating Our League

Don't forget to sign up for our **2024 Gathering: Celebrating Our League**, which will be held on Saturday, Jan. 6, as an in-person event at the **Springhaven Club 600 S Providence Rd, Wallingford**. We are scheduled to begin the celebration at 11:30 a.m. with lunch served at Noon in the Large Dining Room which allows for social distancing while enjoying our luncheon celebration.

Our plan is to ring in the New Year with a focus on getting right back to work in the 2024 election year. We will celebrate the work of our League and the LWV mission to **Empower Voters and Defend Democracy** all year.

At the luncheon, we will introduce our new PALWV executive director, Dr. Amy Widestrom, who will have started work just five days before, on Jan. 1. Amy is a political scientist with a Ph.D. from Syracuse University and a wealth of experience working in the political world, including on the staff of the U.S. Senate Committee on Banking, Housing and Urban Affairs.

Our hardworking members will be out there again to register voters, conduct candidates' forums, and participate in get-out-the-vote and voter information activities. We will also hold issue-related Hot Topic events, support diversity, equity, and inclusion within our League and

with partner organizations, and promote [Vote411](#) throughout Delaware County.

You must register in advance to participate in the celebration: [click HERE](#)



Dr. Amy Widestrom

Besides picking your entree when you register, we would appreciate it if you answer the following question: *What does living in a democracy mean to you?*

Menu Options: Chicken Florentine or Vegetarian Risotto

Cost: \$40 per meal

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

Cash at the event venue registration table, or online via the LWVCDC DONATE button - [click HERE](#).



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PALWV 2023 impact Report

Take a look at the state LWV's [2023 Impact Report](#) to see what our state League did in 2023, despite losing two valuable staffers and a months-long search for a new executive director.

In case you missed it, [here](#) is the PALWV announcement on the hiring of Amy Widestrom as the new executive director.



President's Message

As President of the League of Women Voters of Central Delaware County ([LWVCDC](#)), I wish you, our members, a very Happy and Healthy 2024.

The mission of the League of Women Voters (LWV) is to Empower Voters and Defend Democracy. Our LWV in 2023 was very busy advancing the League mission and to find a review of our work visit our [About page](#) or [CLICK HERE](#).

We believe that 2024 will prove to be a very busy year for all levels of the LWV in living and sharing our mission, therefore; our upcoming luncheon and gathering being held on **January 6 at the Springhaven Club** has a strong focus on our democracy and how best we League members can empower voters. Event details and registration are on our website www.lwvcdc.org or [CLICK HERE](#).

As part of the registration process we asked the question, ***What does living in a democracy mean to you?*** Below are a few of the statements shared by members:

- It means free and fair elections, leadership that a majority of us chose, and rule of law that fosters order and calm and holds our leaders accountable.
- It also means a government that implements the mission stated in the preamble to the U.S. Constitution.
- Civil and credible discourse on governance, without fear of retribution, along with an unhampered and easily accessible voting process for all.
- Right to assemble, freedom of speech, voting rights, civil rights and economic opportunity and being able to access all that is available fairly.
- Living under a government that is decided by the majority of people.
- Democracy values equality and fairness in our society. It ensures an individual the right to vote in local, state and national elections which is why it is important to make an informed decision when voting for a candidate.
- Having your voice heard, having all elected officials who are ethical and open-minded, who care and address concerns of everyone in the country, and that our officials be selfless in performing their responsibilities.
- That it's fragile and we all have to work hard to preserve it. Freedom to vote and have your vote counted.

Help us ring in the New Year with a focus on the 2024 election year by celebrating the work of our League and the mission to **Empower Voters and Defend Democracy**.
In League,

Anne Mosakowski

What's up in Harrisburg in 2024?

The Hot Topic **What's Up in PA: Dynamics Driving PA Legislation in 2024** will be presented on **Friday, Jan. 26, at Noon on Zoom**. Our presenters are PA Representative Carol Kazeem (159th House District) and PA Senator Amanda Cappelletti (17th Senate District). Both legislators will share their committee work and upcoming legislation.

Representative Kazeem represents Delaware County consisting of the City of Chester and the townships of Lower Chichester and Upper Chichester and the boroughs of Eddystone, Marcus Hook, Parkside and Trainer. Carol is a resident of Chester. She graduated from Ridley High School in 2010.

She then went on to Keiser University for paralegal training and Anthem College for medical coding. She worked in healthcare for over 10 years as a caregiver, medical coder, and behavioral and mental health specialist. Before she was elected to the State House in 2021, she served as a trauma-informed outreach worker and violence interrupter in the city of Chester.



Rep. Carol Kazeem

She serves on the following committees:

- Children & Youth Education
- Subcommittee on Basic Education
- Subcommittee on Career and Technical Education
- Environmental Resources & Energy
- Local Government
- Subcommittee on Boroughs

Senator Cappelletti represents Radnor Township in Delaware County and most of Montgomery County. Amanda is an attorney with a Master's in Public Health. She has worked in Harrisburg to advance progressive policy. She worked as a Fellow for the ACLU of Pennsylvania,

in the governor's office and at the Department of Human Services as an advocate for children. She also served as director of policy for Planned Parenthood advocating for reproductive health. In 2017, Sen. Cappelletti was elected to East Norriton's Board of Supervisors and was elected to the Senate in 2019. A life-long resident of Pennsylvania, she grew up in Boyertown and graduated from Boyertown Area Senior High. She attended Chestnut Hill College for her undergraduate degree, and received her law degree and Master's in Public Health from Temple University.



Sen. Amanda Cappelletti

Her committees include:

- State Government (Minority Chair)
- Communications and Technology
- Environmental Resources & Energy
- Health and Human Services
- Judiciary

Moderator: Jodine Mayberry, League of Women Voters of Central Delaware County Member, Legislative Advocacy Committee chair and The Voter Editor. Jodine will lead a wide-ranging discussion on topics, such as election security, state and local government, children and youth, education, environment, health and human services and the judiciary.

To register for this FREE event and to receive the Zoom link CLICK [HERE](#)

This Hot Topic is being presented by our Civic Education and Legislative Advocacy Committees.

Event Contact: Jodine Mayberry at jodinemayberry@comcast.net

Our 2024 Voter Services Work Starts in 3, 2, 1...

Need to register to vote or need to bring your voter registration status up to date? Our League volunteers will help you. Visit us at the **Wallingford Swarthmore School District MLK Community Day of Service, Monday, Jan. 15, from 8:30 to 12:30, at the Strath Haven Middle School** 200 Providence Road, Wallingford PA.

Our League of Women Voters will also share information about

empowering voters and defending democracy.

For nonpartisan Voter Information visit our League of Women Voters resources:

- [Voter Toolkit](#)
- [Mail-in Voting](#)
- [Vote411](#)

County LWV Creates Environmental Clearinghouse

Thanks to CDC President Anne Mosakowski, who wrote the grant application, the Delaware County League of Women Voters has received a grant from the state League, PALWV, to create an environmental clearinghouse for all county environmental groups and the public to use.

The site will keep the public informed of developments affecting the City of Chester and Delaware County, such as a proposed LNG export terminal in Chester, a proposed hydrogen hub that manufactures high volumes of hydrogen fuel, proposed for South Philadelphia, the County Sustainability Commission's master plan, and the county's upcoming 10-year "Zero waste" solid waste plan.

It is also intended for organizations to use to recruit volunteers, to join forces with environmental allies, to publicize their issues and events and to inform one another.

In addition, Delaware County residents will be able to use the site to find out who their municipal officials are and what their municipalities do about trash collection, recycling, single-use plastic bags, composting, shredding and electronic recycling days.

The LWV of Delaware County, the umbrella organization for the county's two local leagues, received the grant from PALWV as part of the state League's efforts to "Reimagine

sustainability" and promote environmentalism around the state. Since receiving the grant, members of the LWVDC Environment Committee have been working feverishly with two website developers to create the site.

The workhorses on the site development have been LWVDC President Olivia Thorne, site developers Jim Furst and Sophie Greer, Environment Committee Chair Carol Butler and Committee Members David Director, John Shaw, Jodine Mayberry and Debbie Bergen.

Debbie will be the chief web-master of the site to start. We are hoping to obtain additional grant money to operate and improve the site later. Other members of the committee who have contributed their insights and ideas to the site include Cynthia Jetter, Linda Carpenter and Roberta Winters.



Chester Creek walking trail

The website will be published by Thursday, Jan. 4, under the URL, www.enviodelco.org. Please look at it then, search for issues of interest to you, and let us know if we have missed any local organizations or if any features don't work. Also please tell us about any news, reports, videos or other information you think should be posted on the site. Email comments and suggestions to Carol at butlercarol@verizon.net.

Civic Education Project and New Voters Guide on Tap

The LWVDC Voter Services Committee has undertaken to present two civic education programs in March at Broomall Manor, a skilled care community in Broomall, to educate both residents and staff about government and elections in Pennsylvania.

The programs will be presented Saturday March 2 and Wednesday March 6. Broomall Manor Life Enrichment Director Sonia Sherrod reached out to the League, saying the residents would like to learn more about elections, the voting process and local government.

To prepare for the presentations, Voter Services decided to revise an old voters guide LWVDC had produced years ago and Board member Jennifer Breen undertook the revision. You can access and download a PDF of the booklet [here](#).

Copies of the handbook will be printed for the Broomall attendees, thanks to a grant from the Delaware County League of Women Voters (our two local Leagues' umbrella organization) and a small grant from LWVDC.

Members of the Voter Services Committee include Jennifer Breen, Marilyn Gilroy, Kathleen Peterson, Peggy Wilson, Joanna Nealon, Marilyn Berberich, and Anne Mosakowski.

If this program is successful, we may be able to offer it to other residential communities and schools as well.

If you would like to help the Voter Services Committee with this project or any of dozens of voter information and registration tables and school visits they do throughout the year, contact Marilyn Gilroy at zzpixel@yahoo.com.