



# DELAWARE VOTER

The League of Women Voters of Delaware

Winter 2015

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www.lvvdelaaware.org

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President: Charlotte F. King

Editor: Letty Diswood

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 DAY IN DOVER: Annual Legislative Day Wednesday, March 25, 2015

Christ Episcopal Church, 302-734-5731 at the corner of East State and Water Streets, Dover, Delaware.

**Five Key issues in Delaware's 148<sup>th</sup> General Assembly:  
Voting; Campaign Finance; Housing; Justice; Environment-Coastal Zone**

**Sponsored by the League of Women Voters of Delaware. Cosponsors: ACLU, Delaware ADA, DelCOG, Inland Bays Foundation**

Come learn, advocate with the League on five key issues the LWV of Delaware and our cosponsors are addressing during the 148th session of our General Assembly: Voting; Campaign Finance; Housing; Justice; Environment/Land Use - the Coastal Zone. Hear from speakers on topics, enjoy lunch with fellow members and legislators, then visit Legislative Hall with a volunteer, registered lobbyist to meet with your Representative and Senator to present Fact Sheets that express our views on each of these issues. We will also be honored by passage of a House and Senate Resolution celebrating LWV's 95<sup>th</sup> Anniversary during our visit to Legislative Hall.

**8:30-9 AM Registration and refreshments**

### PROGRAM

**9:00 AM Welcome: Charlotte F. King, President**

**9:05 AM Moderator: Sandy Spence, Advocacy Corps Chair** will introduce and frame the issues and introduce speakers. Each speaker's schedule will include time for Q&A

**9:15 AM VOTING:** How are we doing in Delaware? What can be done to make it possible for Same Day Voter Registration, early voting, changing date of last day to register closer to an election in this legislative session? **Elaine Manlove, Delaware Commissioner of Elections**

**9:45 AM CAMPAIGN FINANCE REFORM:** Discussion of legislation remaining to be enacted to accomplish reforms to Delaware's campaign finance laws recommended in a detailed study undertaken by retired Chief Justice Norman Veasey. **John Flaherty, President of DE Coalition for Open Government**

**10:15 AM HOUSING:** Homelessness and affordable housing. **Susan Starrett, Senior Program Manager, CSH, The Source for Housing Solutions, NYC.** & former Exec. Director, Homeless Planning Council  
**10:45 AM Break 15 minutes**

**11:00 AM JUSTICE:** Focus on sentencing reform, and issues dealing with violence prevention in the current legislative session. **Joanna Champney, M.A. Chief of Planning, Delaware Department of Corrections** and former Executive Director of Delaware Center for Justice

**11:30 AM ENVIRONMENT:** The Coastal Zone Act implementation issues and the challenges it is facing from industry, and proposed increased activities in the coastal area. **Richard Fleming, Ph.D. and Lorraine M. Fleming, Delaware Nature Society**

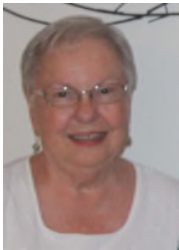
**12:15 PM BUFFET LUNCH with legislators**

**1:30 PM Attendees will visit legislators to provide them with fact sheets on the issues discussed today.** Individuals are encouraged to attend legislative sessions where the House and Senate will adopt resolutions celebrating LWV's 95th anniversary and legislative committee hearings in Legislative Hall in the afternoon.

**Registration form page 9 .**

## LWVDE Acting on Public Policy Issues

### Advocacy Corps Prepared for New Legislative Session by Sandy Spence.



The General Assembly returned to Dover for three weeks in January before recessing for six weeks of hearings on the budget for Fiscal Year 2016 and LWVDE is prepared to be there to advocate for our positions on bills relevant to League interests.

Our work in Dover is led by our nine volunteer registered lobbyists. In accordance with LWVDE Policies and Procedures, the Board has re-authorized eight members of the Advocacy Corps (AC) to continue serving as lobbyists and added one new lobbyist. Those authorized, with their primary focus, are:

Letty Diswood – Voting and Elections; Sandy Spence – Campaign Finance and General Government; Mickey McKay – Open Government; Charlotte King – Education and Social Justice; Peggy Schultz – Land Use and Transportation; Joann Hasse – Health Care; Lisa Pertzoff – Environment; and Jill Fuchs – Manufactured Housing. Gina Miserendino was authorized as a new lobbyist to address Affordable Housing.

### Most recently, the Advocacy Corps heard reports or accomplished the following:

- Updated plans for League Day in Dover (March 25) including:
  - Confirmed speakers and edited the program that will address key issues on Voting and Elections, Campaign Finance, Justice, Housing, and Environment (Coastal Zone).
  - Attendees will be urged to visit their legislators, accompanied by our lobbyists, to deliver Position Papers on the issues addressed in the morning session.
  - Arranged for both House and Senate to adopt a resolution commemorating the LWV's 95<sup>th</sup> Anniversary that afternoon.
  - Confirmed co-sponsors (to date: ACLU, DE ADA, DelCOG, Inland Bays Foundation).
- Agreed unanimously to recommend that the board adopt a position on **minimum wage** described below.
- Reviewed several bills relevant to LWV concerns that were introduced before the legislature recessed

*(Continued on page 3 Advocacy Corps)*

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE - Charlotte King

This is a good time to reflect on the accomplishments of our wonderful organization, the League of Women Voters, which is celebrating its 95th birthday this year. Please share your pride for the League with your membership and all others who you will interact with in the coming months. We anticipate that when the General Assembly convenes, it will initiate a Resolution, recognizing the work of the Delaware League, which has worked diligently towards the enactment of good legislation and public policy. We have remained consistent in our non-partisan stance, while working for a good governmental response to the needs of Delaware's citizens. There is no end to the work that needs to be done, so thanks to all of you for your ongoing valiant efforts.



Celebrating Martin Luther King's birthday, attending and participating in events during Black History month, I was reminded that we need to strengthen our focus on social justice and civil rights. In the last issue of the Voter I invited you to participate in a 7 week seminar on The New Jim Crow, by Michelle Alexander. The initial seminar series will begin in Sussex County on March 17. It is being co-sponsored by the Sussex Co. League and LRAC, the Lewes/Rehoboth Association of Churches. We hope to bring this program to our other counties through co-sponsorship with the local league and an interested social justice organization.

Our State League Convention will occur on Saturday, June 6, 2015. The program theme will be Social Justice and Civil Rights issues in Delaware. This will be a wonderful opportunity to hear about the new Civil Rights Office established by the new Attorney General Matt Denn, and about the legal concerns expressed by ACLU, the American Civil Liberties Union regarding the potential re-segregation of our schools. Your presence is encouraged since it is also the bi-annual opportunity to view the broader picture of our Delaware League in terms of program, budget needs, short and long term priorities. Your voice will help to make these determinations for our future growth. I look forward to seeing you at League Day in Dover, on March 25 and at the State Convention on June 6.

Save this date! LWV of Delaware Convention  
Saturday, June 6, at Dover Downs Hotel  
Theme: Social Justice and Civil Rights issues  
in Delaware

(Continued from page 2 *Advocacy Corps*)

for six weeks of budget hearings. Details will be updated and listed on the website at [www.lwvdelaware.org](http://www.lwvdelaware.org) by mid-March, along with position papers prepared for League Day.

Interestingly, most of the bills reviewed to date were related to **education**, which promises to be a big focus for legislators in the remaining months of the Session. Another hot issue will be the **decriminalization of a small quantity (one ounce) of marijuana**. **Same Day Registration** and a proposal to eliminate strict requirements for **absentee voting** from the state constitution and some **campaign finance** bills are also expected to take priority in the coming months. Watch the website for updates.

In addition to advocacy on legislation, our **Environment and the Land Use & Transportation Committees** have been especially active in preparing comments, approved by the LWVDE Board, on regulatory issues including a statement to the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection objecting to a proposal by **Elcon Recycling Center, LLC.**, to construct a hazardous waste treatment facility bordered on one side by the Delaware River that could threaten the water supply in Delaware; we are proud to report that the permit application was denied.

Another board-approved statement on a proposed increase in operations of **Croda Corporation in the Coastal Zone** did not take a position on the application, but focused mainly on weaknesses in the requirements of the Department of Natural Resources & Environmental Control (DNREC) to protect the Zone, specifically failure to adopt Goals and Indicators required by the 1971 Coastal Zone Act.

The two Committees are continuing to monitor and prepare statements on a pending proposal of the Delaware City Refinery, DNREC's position on the Renewable Portfolio Standard, and a proposal for the 2015 Weatherization Assistance Grant program.

#### **LWVDE Board Adopts Minimum Wage Position.**

LWVDE's Board, at its February meeting, adopted a new policy on minimum wage legislation. The statement reads: "The League of Women Voters of Delaware supports a minimum wage of up to \$10.25 adopted in at least two steps, indexing future increases to inflation, and raising the minimum wage for tipped workers beyond its current level of \$2.23 per hour." Here's the convoluted process that led to this action.

On January 26, 2014, LWVDE President Charlotte King testified in support of SB 6 that raised Delaware's

(Continued on page 4 *Minimum Wage*)

#### **How to Make Your Gift to the League Grow.**

**How to Make Your Gift to the League Grow.** By donating to the LWVDE Endowment Fund at the Delaware Community Foundation (DCF) you can make a gift that continues to give and grow. Our Endowment Fund, with a current balance of \$12,435, has achieved full status as a permanent fund by reaching DCF's \$10,000 minimum. This means that we can receive income each year to support our educational activities. Currently, DCF funds pay out 5% of the average fund balance over the previous twelve quarters. Endowment funds at DCF are professionally managed to ensure the funds remain strong over time.

The Board established our fund to ensure long-term financial stability and a permanent source of funding. It also enables members to donate, not only cash, but non-cash assets such as stock and real estate, insurance benefits, gifts through your will or trust, gifts that pay you income for life, or gifts of retirement plan assets.

Because our Fund is part of our 501(c)(3) Education Fund, all donations are tax deductible. In my own case, I donate stock that I inherited so long ago that the current value is so much higher than the original value that most proceeds, were I to sell the stock, would be taxed. Instead, I can take a charitable deduction for the current market value.

If you'd like to write a check, just make it out to the Delaware Community Foundation and write League of Women Voters Endowment Fund in the memo field. You could mail it directly to the League office where it will be recorded and forwarded to the DCF. For information on how to contribute stock or other kinds of assets, add the Fund to your will or trust, or donate other forms of gifts, contact David Fleming, Senior VP for Development, at 302.504.5224 or [dfleming@delcf.org](mailto:dfleming@delcf.org).

Give a gift that keeps on giving! Donate to the League's Endowment Fund.

#### **UMBRELLAS FOR SALE!!**



Be prepared for April showers! And consider how carrying them around will add visibility to the League of Women Voters. remind

people to vote leading up The high quality umbrella features a nifty push button to both open *and* close and has the League *logo* and text reading "**Be informed & VOTE**" on a blue background. They are for sale for \$18.

**Contact: Sandy Spence** 302-841-2882 cell or [sandyspence325@gmail.com](mailto:sandyspence325@gmail.com) to buy yours with funds going to the state League.



(Continued from page 3 **Minimum Wage**)

Minimum Wage bill from \$7.25 to \$7.75 on 6/1/14 and to \$8.25 on 6/1/15. Her statement was based on a national position on *Meeting Basic Human Needs* (quoted below). The bill was approved by both the House and Senate and signed by the Governor on January 28, two days after her testimony. Subsequently, we learned that in an LWVUS study undertaken several years ago, there was a specific question re minimum wage where no consensus was reached, so we were not supposed to advocate on the subject. A proposal was presented at the LWVUS Convention in June 2014, to adopt, by concurrence, a Kansas position on a living wage, also referring to minimum wage. There were various concerns about the language of the position and the convention failed to secure the super majority required for adoption of a position by concurrence.

Finally, after consideration in January, the LWVUS Board agreed to allow state and local Leagues to consider basing their own advocacy on the national position that we used as the basis for our 2014 testimony on SB 6. In her February 5 **League Update**, national president Elisabeth MacNamara wrote about that decision:

*A few weeks ago, President Obama, in his State of the Union address, devoted a lot of time to what he called middle class economics. Practical political considerations dictate that the League, at the national level, can most effectively work for the greatest good by focusing on core democracy issues. Much of the inequality, economic and otherwise, that exists in our society results from uneven and unequal access and participation at the ballot box and beyond.*

*However, the LWVUS Board reminds Leagues that we have a national position on Meeting Basic Human Needs that includes the following statement: "People who are unable to work, whose earnings are inadequate or for whom jobs are not available have the right to an income and/or services sufficient to meet their basic needs for food, shelter and access to health care." The Board is aware that...there are communities in which League Boards may find both the interest and the opportunity to take action on local or state legislation to which this position may apply. Every League Board has the serious responsibility to... judge whether there is member understanding and agreement that the proposed legislation meets the criteria quoted above. If it does, then the Board should carefully deliberate and make a decision based upon both the position and the needs of its own community....*

(Continued on page 5 **Minimum Wage**)

**Thank you to our members and friends who are generous contributors to the LWV of Delaware.**

**Also, thank YOU to all our VOLUNTEERS who spend their time and money advocating and educating for the issues we all care about. There are no reimbursements for mileage, gas or food. A HUGE THANK YOU.**

Jacqueline Andrews, David Baker, Lynda J. Brantley, Susan Brynteson, Judith A. Butler, Barbara D. Crowell, William H. Daisey, Alice Davis, Frank & Jane Dilley, Mary Anne Edwards, Jane H. Frelick, Sue Claire Harper (All Saint's Parish Thrift Shop), Jackie & Jack Harris, Joann Hasse, Ruth Helm, Edith Herron, Joyce P. Johnson, Carol D. Jones, Charlotte F. King, June R. Kleban, Janet P. and Brian Kramer, Joanne J. Little, Meta C. Little, Jane Lord, Lois Myoda, Virginia L. Noles, Elizabeth (Lisa) Pertzoff, Carol H. Reid-Grandfield, Martha J. D'Erasmus & Bob Rosenberg, Nadyne Rosin, Dr. John Seiferth, Esthelda R. Parker Selby, Sandra (Sandy) Spence, Lester & Christine Stillson, Sarah Straughn, Pat Todd, Frances M. Wetmore, Joan T. White, Sheila Zanine

**Organizations contributions to League Day**

ACLU, DelawareADA, DelCOG, Inland Bays Foundation, INC

**LWV Education Fund**

Jacqueline Andrews, Lynda Brantley, Susan Brynteson, Mae R. Carter, Sheila E. Cassells, Barbara D. Crowell, William H. Daisey, Alice G. Davis, Frank & Jane Dilley, Letty & Larry Diswood, Lynda R. Dunham, Katherine L. Esterly, Lorraine Fleming, Nancy G. Frederick, Connie Georgov, Nancy Gray, Jackie & Jack Harris, J. M. Huber Corporation (matching fund), Karol Hitt Rowan, Joyce P. Johnson, Carol D. Jones, Joy W. Jones, Catherine (Kit) Kallal, Dianne M. Kempinski, June R. Kleban, Janet P. and Brian Kramer, Meta C. Little, Judith McCormick, Katharine Olinchak, Carol Reid-Grandfield, Martha J. D'Erasmus & Bob Rosenberg, Dr. John Seiferth, Sandy Spence, Lester & Christine Stillson, Sarah Straughn, Peggy J. Swygert, Carole & William Walsh, Frances M. Wetmore, Fay G. Whittle, Sheila Zanine

**In Memory of Liz Ryan**

Letty and Larry Diswood, Linda Cheyney, Joann Hasse, Joyce Johnson, Ruth Helm, Janet and Brian Kramer, Meta C. Little

**Delaware Community Foundation LWVDE**

Sandy Spence

(Continued from on page 4 **Minimum Wage**)

....At the national level, Board and staff will continue to say that we have no member understanding and agreement as to a definition of a 'living wage' and that we cannot support a federal minimum wage. On the other hand, we do not presume to anticipate every possible legislative scenario that Leagues may confront in their own communities to which the language of the Meeting Basic Human Needs position may apply.

While adoption of a Delaware position on a living wage would require that we study what that really means here and whether our membership has an understanding and agreement on a definition of living wage, it seemed as if support for another increase in Delaware's minimum wage would be broad enough within our membership that we could support that, with board approval. Accordingly, the Advocacy Corps, in early February, voted unanimously to recommend Board adoption of the statement above and the Board voted unanimously a week later to do so.

Specifics of the statement support a study undertaken by a *Low Wage, Service Industry Task Force*, a group chaired by Sen. Robert Marshall and Rep. Michael Mulrooney. It is expected that the two will introduce a bill when the legislature returns from its current break for Joint Finance Committee hearings on the 2016 budget.

**Board Adopts Policy Easing the Process for Adopting Advocacy Positions Based on Concurrence.** Before learning of the LWVUS decision that we could adopt our own position on minimum wage, the Advocacy Corps sought a way LWVDE could adopt a position on minimum wage without waiting until 2017 for the slow process that would have been necessary for LWVUS to adopt a position on this topic.

What we learned is that there is a way to adopt a position by concurrence based on what we characterized as a "mini study." Using a model from LWV of California's policy manual with confirmation of its "legality" by a national board member, the LWVDE board adopted a new policy that sets forth how this kind of concurrence could allow us to adopt a position without basing it on a specific position already adopted by another state or local League. The new policy is available through a link on the website at [www.lwvdelaware.org](http://www.lwvdelaware.org).

The policy could be use by a committee of LWVDE or by a local League that wishes to have a new policy position adopted at the LWVDE Convention in June.

Sandy Spence, Advocacy Corp Chair

## Forum: The Black Experience in DE, Especially Sussex County

To honor Black History Month, a forum called, "The Black Experience in DE, Especially Sussex County" was held on February 10, 2015. Hosted by the League of Women Voters of Sussex County, the forum presenters comprised three adults and three high school students.

The adults panelists – Jane Hovington, Ric Moore, Idola Batson, and Moderator Charlotte King -- brought maturity and professional experience with Education, Religion and Social Services in Delaware.

But it was the students who moved the audience.

"I think we need more African-American teachers," said Kenya Neal. "It's hard to identify with teachers who don't look like you."

Mozella Matthews says that it's hard to live within the stereotypes that the teachers and students have for you. "I've always been in honors classes, but I've always been the only African-American. That is until Brandon moved to town and attended the honors class."

She was referring to Brandon Nixon, who told the audience that "I have always been told that because I take honors classes and can speak in front of people, I act white." Nixon, who is also captain of the football team said, "My athleticism is valued more than my academic achievement."

The forum speakers then fielded questions from the audience, where the challenge of making Delaware schools more supportive of a diverse community was discussed.



Panel members from left to right, Jane Hovington, Ric Moore, Idola Batson, Kenya Neal, Mozella Matthews, and Brandon Nixon

## JOIN OUR SOCIAL MEDIA COMMUNITIES!

The League of Women Voters of Delaware has joined the League of Women Voters U.S. and other Leagues around the nation in social media conversations taking place on Facebook and Twitter. These online communities share news from across the state and country. Our Delaware pages features "fast facts" about the league as well as calendar items and photos of League members who are involved in community events.



Our Facebook page was started October 30, 2013 by Sussex League member Janet Orlando. Our Twitter page was started October 23, 2013 by New Castle League member Diane Maxwell. The League of Women Voters U. S. is one of our followers and has already "retweeted" one of our "fast facts" posts!

To join Facebook, simply click on [Facebook](#) or go to <http://www.facebook.com>, search for the League of Women Voters of Delaware, and send us a "friend" request. To follow us on Twitter, click on [Twitter](#) or go to <http://www.twitter.com>, follow the instructions for joining, and then search for @lwvde and "follow" us!

Diane Maxwell and Mary Eggars, Public Relations Co-Chairs, LWVDE

### For Sale!

LWV of Kent County has the perfect pen for \$2. Contact Crystal at [cborangespider@gmail.com](mailto:cborangespider@gmail.com).

The LWV of New Castle County still has a few t-shirts for sale. If you plan to register voters or to distribute materials at New Citizens' Ceremonies or to serve at candidates' forums, you'll want one of these shirts to let people know who we are. Shirts are available in both men's and women's styles, at a price of \$20 each, except for 2X and 3X, which cost an extra \$2 each. These shirts are not only a great way to let people know that the League is here, but they're also a fundraiser. To buy a shirt is to support the League! To order call 302-571-8948. [lwvde@comcast.net](mailto:lwvde@comcast.net).



## News from LWV of Kent County

At our very successful Membership Tea on February 28, Julie Price gave us a heads-up concerning an upcoming series on **Climate Change/Justice at the Dover Library, Multi-Purpose Room B**, 35 Loockerman Plaza, Dover, DE 19901, *Registration is not Required*.

The first event is scheduled for March 12 at 6:30 pm. Paul & Sara Russell will present: "What We Did to Promote Climate Justice - The People's Climate March."

Sara & Paul are active in many social justice organizations and recently joined in the 400,000 people who participated in the September 2014 People's Climate March in NYC. They will share some of their learning from that event about the impacts of climate change, and recognizing that climate justice is an economic issue, a social issue (health and welfare), a political issue, a food supply issue, an issue of war and peace, as well as a moral issue. Using photos from the rally they will: 1) explore the "science behind the signs," 2) comment on the unifying appeal of the issue to a hugely diverse demographic, and 3) provide resources on ways that individuals can take action to create change.

These Public Forums will offer time for Q&A. The public is invited to attend and join in stimulating a deep and invigorating conversation about how we can effectively participate in creating an evolving response to climate change. For as Lewis Pugh has said: "Climate change is the Everest of all problems, the thorniest challenge facing humankind." We need to better understand it and our options. See you there.

For more information about the series please call either: Dr. Michael Balliro at [\(302\) 857-6794](tel:3028576794), or Michelle Hughes at (302) 736-7079.

### Notice:

**The update listing of elected officials is now available at [www.lwvdelaware.org](http://www.lwvdelaware.org) for the Delaware Government.**

**THEY REPRESENT YOU 2014-16.**

**The listing that includes New Castle County, Cities of Wilmington and Newark councils is also available at [www.lwvdelaware-newcastlecounty.org](http://www.lwvdelaware-newcastlecounty.org).**



## 6 WAYS THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS HAS IMPACTED YOUR LIFE

**Elisabeth MacNamara** Become a fan  
President, League of Women Voters of the United States  
Posted: 02/13/2015 4:42 pm EST Updated: 02/14/2015  
11:59 am EST

This year, the League of Women Voters celebrates our 95th anniversary. The League was founded by suffragist Carrie Chapman Catt on February 14, 1920 - just six months prior to the passage of the 19<sup>th</sup> Amendment, which secured women the right to vote. But working towards women's suffrage was just the very start. Our work - and our impact - expands far beyond 1920!

Over the past 95 years, state and local Leagues across the country have been fulfilling our mission of Making Democracy Work ® in the areas of voting rights, civic



engagement, money in politics, environmental defense, health care and more. And we have a lot to show for it!

In honor of our 95<sup>th</sup> anniversary, here's a list of six things Americans like you have in part because of the League's work at the local, state and national level.

### **1. Increased access to the ballot.**

Carrie Chapman Catt founded the League upon the belief that the vote is the "emblem" of equality. That's why our work today is dedicated to ensuring that all eligible voters - particularly those from traditionally



underrepresented or underserved communities, including first-time voters, non-college youth, new citizens,

minorities and low-income Americans - have the opportunity and the information to exercise their right to vote. Through our national Public Advocacy for Voter Protection Project (PAVP), teams of state-based volunteer activists work year-round to combat voter discrimination and promote pro-voter reforms. We actively oppose voter photo ID laws, advocate against barriers to the voter registration process, work to prevent last-minute Election Day barriers and help millions of voters get the information and any required documentation they need to vote.

### **2. Easy ways to register to vote.**

A longtime leader in the voter registration arena, the League was a key player in the fight to pass the 1993 National Voter Registration Act (NVRA), commonly known as Motor Voter. The law opened the voting process to millions of Americans by requiring states to provide the opportunity to register to vote at government agencies like Department of Motor Vehicles and social services offices, as well as through mail-in voter registration. We continue to protect and fight for expansion of the NVRA at the state and federal level to ensure our electoral process is accessible to all eligible citizens. At the same time, Leagues across the country hold thousands of voter registration drives each year at baseball games, high schools, college campuses, libraries, naturalization ceremonies, bus stops and more! League volunteers help hundreds of thousands of Americans register to vote in major election years.



### **3. Unbiased voter education information.**

Since 1920, the League has provided millions of voters with nonpartisan voter education information. In 2014, Leagues held nearly 600 candidate debates and forums and published hundreds of voters' guides covering over 20,000 candidates and 14,000 races. Millions of voters have visited VOTE411.org, the League's go-to online resource, to get the information they need to register to vote, find localized election-related information, and get ready to head to the polls.

### **3. A cleaner elections system.**

The League believes that Americans deserve a democracy that is free of political manipulation - one that is responsive to voters and not big money and

*(Continued on page 8 - 6 Ways...)*

(Continued from page 7 - **6 Ways...**)

special interests. That's why we're fighting against the flood of secret money in politics.

In 2002, we helped pass the McCain-Feingold Act, or the Bipartisan Campaign Reform Act (BCRA). The legislation made significant changes to the way campaigns were financed by amending the Federal Election Campaign Act (FECA). Since *McCutcheon* and *Citizen's United*, two disastrous U.S. Supreme Court cases that empowered special interests, we've continued to push for solutions to fight the corruptive influence of money in politics.



#### 4. **Cleaner air and water.**

Climate change is the greatest environmental challenge of our generation. From the 1930s on, the League's interest in clean water expanded to include environmental action on all fronts, including fighting attempts to weaken environmental protections and pushing for strong environmental safeguards in the reauthorization of the Clean Air Act and the Clean Water Act. Today, League supporters across the country actively campaign to urge the President and Congress to lead the world in the fight against climate change, including supporting the President's Climate Action Plan and opposing the construction of the Keystone XL Pipeline.



#### 5. **Improved access to health care and protection of reproductive rights.**

The League has long been dedicated to ensuring access to affordable, quality health care for all Americans. Over the past 20 years, we have lobbied at the national, state and local levels for health care policy solutions, including the Affordable Care Act (ACA), to control



costs and ensure a basic level of care for all. The League also has a strong commitment and belief in the right of individuals to make their own reproductive choices.

That's why Leagues across the country have fought against recent attempts by Congress to allow employers and health plans to block contraceptive services and discriminate against women.

**We've accomplished a lot in the last 95 years, but there remains more to be done to ensure a better future for all Americans.** As the League approaches its 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary, we're committed to stepping up our work to register more new voters and help all eligible voters participate in our electoral process. We'll also keep pushing for necessary legislation and regulations at the state and federal levels to protect our planet for future generations, keep secret money out of our elections and ensure that our elections are free, fair and accessible for all voters. Want to help make it happen? Join us in the fight.

Follow Elisabeth MacNamara on  
Twitter: [www.twitter.com/lwv](http://www.twitter.com/lwv)

#### Reception for Elected Officials 2014

The League of Women Voters of Delaware and New Castle County along with many community organizations held an Elected Officials Reception on December 1, 2014 at the Ed Oliver Golf Club in Wilmington.

The reception was well attended by state, county and municipal officials and many very lively members of the organizations that represented diverse interests and activism.

It was a wonderful opportunity to "meet and greet" the movers and shakers as well as the general public.







**REGISTRATION FORM**

**Five Key issues in Delaware's 148<sup>th</sup> General Assembly:  
 Voting; Campaign Finance; Housing; Justice; Environment- Coastal Zone**  
 Sponsored by the League of Women Voters of Delaware. Cosponsors: ACLU, Delaware ADA, DelCOG, Inland Bays Foundation

**REGISTRATION DEADLINE FRIDAY, MARCH 20, 2015**

NAME (S) \_\_\_\_\_ \$20.00 EACH \_\_\_\_\_

NAME(S) \_\_\_\_\_ \$20.00 EACH \_\_\_\_\_

NAME (S) \_\_\_\_\_ \$20.00 EACH \_\_\_\_\_

TOTAL \$ \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

TELEPHONE \_\_\_\_\_ EMAIL \_\_\_\_\_

RECEIPT REQUESTED \_\_\_\_\_ LWVDE Fed tax ID 516021961 [501(c) 4]

*CREDIT CARDS ARE ACCEPTED—Please complete the following:*

CHECK: \_\_\_\_\_

CREDIT CARDS ACCEPTED: Discover \_\_\_\_\_ Master Card \_\_\_\_\_ Visa \_\_\_\_\_

CREDIT CARD NUMBER: \_\_\_\_\_

CREDIT CARD EXPIRATION DATE: \_\_\_\_\_

**Scholarships may be available – Contact 302-571-8948**

Send this form and check (if using check) to LWVDE, 2400 W. 17<sup>TH</sup> Street, Clash Wing, Room 1, Lower Level, Wilmington, DE 19806-1311. Please call the League office at 302-571-8948 or e-mail [lwvde@comcast.net](mailto:lwvde@comcast.net) if you have any questions. [www.lwvdelaware.org](http://www.lwvdelaware.org)

## CALENDAR

Friday, March 6, 2015	Statewide, consult newspapers	<b>School Board Candidates Filing Deadline.</b>
Tuesday, March 17, 2015 7-9pm	St Peter's Episcopal Church <a href="#">211 Mulberry St Lewes, De 19958</a>	<b>Book Discussion: The New Jim Crow - Mass Incarceration in the Age of Colorblindness.</b>  <b>The book by Michelle Alexander 'The New Jim Crow - Mass Incarceration in the Age of Colorblindness' will be discussed. Pre-registration is required. To register call the office at St. Peter's at (302) 645-8479</b>
March 19, 2015 1:30 -3:30 pm	Pat Todd's 302-763-5995 <a href="#">2401 Pennsylvania Avenue Wilmington, DE 19806</a>	<b>Environmental Committee Meeting</b>
Thursday, March 19, 2015, 6-8:30 pm	Roma Restaurant, <a href="#">3 President's Drive Dover, DE 19901</a>	<b>State Board Meeting.</b> Monthly meeting of the state board of directors.
March 23, 2015 1:30-3:30 pm	Home of Peggy Schultz. Please phone or email Peggy for instructions. 302-235-7182 or <a href="mailto:schultz_peggy@yahoo.com">schultz_peggy@yahoo.com</a>	<b>Land Use/Transportation Committee Meeting. Continuing discussion of Coastal Zone issues. We'll discuss next steps in making good Coastal Zone information available to the public.</b>
Tuesday, March 24, 2015 7 pm	Newark Senior Center	<b>Newark City Council Candidates Night.</b> The public is invited to attend a forum for candidates for City Council Districts 1, 2, and 4. All candidates who are ballot qualified have been invited to participate. Doors will open at 6:30 PM. The audience will be encouraged to submit written questions for the candidates:
Wednesday, March 25, 2015 8:30 am - 1 pm	Christ Episcopal Church S. State and E. Water Streets Dover, DE 19901	<b>League Day in Dover 2015 !.</b> Learn and advocate on five key issues the LWV of Delaware is addressing during the 148th General Assembly session! Click <a href="#">here</a> for flyer and registration form. 8:30 am - Registration 9 am-12 noon - Program Voting (Elaine Manlove, DE Commission of Elections) Campaign Finance (John Flaherty, President, DE Coalition for Open Government) Housing (Susan Starrett, Sr. Pgm. Mgr, CSH) Justice (Joanna Champney, Chief of Planning, DE Department of Corrections) Environment/Land Use - the Coastal Zone (Richard Fleming, Ph.D. & Lorraine Fleming, DE Nature Society) 12:15 - Lunch 1:30 pm - Legislative Hall. Present Fact Sheets on each of these issues. LWV to be honored by adoption of a joint Resolution celebrating LWV's 95th anniversary.
Tuesday, April 14, 2015		<b>Newark City Council Election.</b>
Saturday, June 6, 2015 8:30 am - 4 pm	Dover Downs Hotel, Dover	<b>League of Women Voters of Delaware Convention,</b>
Friday, February 27, 2015 1:30-3:30 pm		<b>LWVDE Environmental Committee Meeting.</b>

League of Women Voters of Delaware  
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