



DELAWARE VOTER

The League of Women Voters of Delaware

Spring 2017
President: Jill A. Fuchs

lwvde@comcast.net

www.lwvdelaware.org

Volume 59 No. 4
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 of Women Voters of Delaware invites all members to its biennial CONVENTION, SATURDAY, JUNE 10, 2017 Dover Downs Hotel, the Delaware Room, 1131 N. DuPont Highway Dover, DE 19901

No experience required to become a delegate! Join us for an informative and productive day.
Convention and Registration at 8:30 – 9 am with Continental Breakfast Bar
Business meeting 9:00 am • speakers 11:00 – 12:15 pm • Luncheon at 12:30 pm with Speaker
• Business meeting 2:00 pm • Adjourn 3 pm

THEME: *Come together to make a difference: Be part of the solution*

At our LWVDE conventions every two years, we come together to take care of the business of the League. We elect state board members and officers, pass a budget, adopt policy positions, and amend bylaws. It's also a time to reflect on how we can become better citizens . . . how we can engage in the process of government. So join us on June 10th to take care of business, to listen to our presenters and our keynote speaker, and to bring meaning to our theme: ***“Come together to make a difference: Be part of the solution.”***

Presenters and Keynote Speakers



Keynote speaker at lunch: US Rep. Lisa Blunt Rochester

Lisa began her professional career as a problem-solver and an advocate. A caseworker for then-Congressman Tom Carper, Lisa helped people during challenging times with their Social Security benefits, disability insurance claims, IRS disputes and housing needs. She served in the cabinets of two Delaware governors as the first female African-American Secretary of Labor and the first African-American Deputy Secretary of Health and Social Services and State Personnel Director.

She also served as the CEO of the Metropolitan Wilmington Urban League – an action-oriented, public policy research think-tank focused on the inclusion of people of color.

Lisa grew up in Wilmington, graduated from Padua Academy, and worked her first job at the McDonald’s on Market Street. She majored in International Relations as an undergraduate at Fairleigh Dickinson University and later earned a Master’s in Urban Affairs and Public Policy from the University of Delaware. Lisa once again made history in 2016 when she was elected to Congress. She was the first woman and the first person of color to represent The First State in such a role. She serves on the House Committee on Education and Workforce as well as the House Committee on Agriculture.



Amy Hjerstedt, LWVUS Board Director, and liaison to the LWV of Delaware

Amy will speak about engaging the public and league members by using the new action kits on Money in Politics and Redistricting. She will update us on LWVUS activities as time allows. The League is deeply committed to reforming our nation's campaign finance system to ensure the public's right to know, combat corruption and undue influence, enable candidates to compete more equitably for public office and allow maximum citizen participation in the political process. Reform the redistricting process and voter protection is high on its priorities.

(Continued on page 2 **Convention 2017**)

(Continued from page 1 **Convention 2017**)

Amy activities include LWVUS Shur Fellow (2014-2016), diversity advisor (2015-2016), Young People's Task Force co-chair (2012-2014); LWV Arlington, VA: Board member, Social Media administrator (2015-2016); LWV Eastern Upper Peninsula (MI state unit): founder, president (2013-2015); LWV San Diego: co-chair Voter Service (2009-2012); LWV California Initiative Study Committee (2010-2012); LWV Portland, OR: Board member (2007-2009); U.S. Coast Guard veteran.

Personal Statement: "am truly honored to be a member of the LWV, as I am continually humbled by the commitment, enthusiasm and pride of our volunteers. As a LWVUS Board member, I will strive every day to promote the LWV as an all-inclusive organization that helps its members grow professionally and personally as we serve a cause greater than ourselves: democracy."



Eugene Young, Delaware Center for Justice Advocacy Director

Eugene is the Delaware Center for Justice (DCJ) Advocacy Director. He coordinates the agency's Stand Up for what's Right and Just (SURJ) at DCJ policy programming and legislative advocacy. He is the founder of Network Delaware. Network Delaware's mission is to leverage citizen-led community empowerment, research analysis, and leadership development to enact lasting socioeconomic change. It kicked off in January 2017. The organization was born from the mayoral campaign of Eugene Young, who narrowly lost the 2016 Democratic primary.

Prior to joining DCJ, Young served as Project Specialist & Aide to Senator Cory Booker, and has also served as a Legislative Aide in the Delaware House of Representatives. Eugene has extensive experience working on state and federal policy, and is also the Co-Founder of Delaware Elite, a nonprofit that focused on youth leadership development in Wilmington. Young received his bachelor's degree from University of Maryland Baltimore County, and also holds a Masters of Public Administration from Wilmington University, and a Certificate in Nonprofit Management from the University of Delaware.

The Business of Convention 2015 includes:

ELECTION OF OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS; ADOPTION OF: PROPOSED PROGRAM 2017-2019, PROPOSED BYLAWS CHANGES and PROPOSED BUDGET(S) for 2017-18 AND 2018-19

Registration Information, RSVP by May 30

Registration: \$40.00. Send your check to LWVDE 2400 W 17th Street, Clash Wing, Room 1, Lower Level, Wilmington, DE 19806 or go to lwvdelaware.org and scroll down to LWV Delaware donation button to make payment.

Call or email your local League president (listed below) and let her know that you will be a delegate or visitor. Send your name, contact information and the League you are representing to the office lwvde@comcast.net or call the office at 302- 571-8948.

If you are a nominee not currently serving on a board, you are encouraged to represent your local League as a delegate. All League members are encouraged to be a delegate or visitor. Visitors are welcome and pay \$40

Note: If you are a current state board member and also serve on a local League board, please register as a state board delegate. This will enable the local Leagues to send a local League delegate in your place.

- LWVNCC – Emily White – mcculloughem5@aol.com
 - LWVKC – Phyllis Edamatsu – pyedamatsu@earthlink.net
 - LWVSC – Jane Lord – jtlord1@yahoo.com
 - State Board – Jill Fuchs - jill.fuchs@comcast.net
- You can also leave a message at 302-571-8948, the LWV Office.

A Deli Luncheon Buffet will be served.

Name(s) _____

Address: _____ Tel. _____

Email: _____ \$40.00 (each person) _____

Total: _____

Send your check to LWVDE 2400 W 17th Street, Clash Wing, Room 1, Lower Level, Wilmington, DE 19806 or go to lwvdelaware.org and scroll down to LWV Delaware donation button to make payment.

302-571-8948 lwvde@comcast.net

(Convention items continued on page 3)

(Convention items continued from page 2)

BE A DELEGATE FOR YOUR LOCAL LEAGUE: NO EXPERIENCE NEEDED.

STATE BOARD allowed 11 delegates.

LWV KENT COUNTY 9 delegates.

LWV NEW CASTLE COUNTY 22 delegates.

LWV SUSSEX COUNTY 15 delegates.

REPORT OF THE NOMINATING COMMITTEE

OFFICERS

President Joann Hasse	(2017-2019)	(LWV NCC)
1st Vice President: Lisa Pertzoff	(2017-2019)	(LWVNCC)
2nd Vice President: Carolyn Page	(2017-2019)	(LWVKC)
Secretary: _____	(2017-2019)	()
Treasurer: Beverly Jackson	(2017-2019)	(LWVKC)

DIRECTORS

Janet Ambrose	2017-2019	(LWVSC)
Amystique Church	2017-2019	(LWVNCC)
Carol Jones	2017-2019	(LWVSC)
Coralie Pryde	2017-2019	(LWVNCC)
Sandy Spence	2017-2019	(LWVSC)
Ellen Wasfi	2017-2019	(LWVKC)

NOMINATING COMMITTEE

(not filled yet) Chair
Linda Barnet Committee member
(not filled yet) member
Two additional committee members will be appointed from the board.

LOCAL LEAGUE PRESIDENTS or their designees serve on the state board

The state president can appoint an additional 6 directors)

The Nominating Committee is working to fill the entire slate. Please give them a call or email with any recommendations for additional nominees

- Peggy Swygert: pjswygert@aol.com (LWV Kent County)
- Katharine Olinchak: katharineolinchak@comcast.net (LWV New Castle County)
- Mary Kay Eggers: camdenmke1@comcast.net (LWV Kent County)
- Letty Diswood: letty.diswood@verizon.net (LWV of New Castle County)

The Convention booklet will be emailed to delegates and a copy available at convention.

DR. JANET AMBROSE - DIRECTOR

Dr. Janet Ambrose is a resident of Sussex County where she is a Board member of the Sussex County LWV. She serves as chairperson of the Observer Corps in Sussex County, and is a moderator for candidate forums sponsored by the LWVSC. Before moving to Delaware in 2013, Janet served as a Board member for the Frederick County, Maryland League.

Dr. Ambrose holds a doctorate degree in special education from Virginia Tech. Prior to her retirement in 2012, she was an assistant professor in the education department at Hood College in Frederick, Maryland. She also held varied educational administration positions in Maryland schools, including Director of Special Education for the Harford County (MD) Public Schools. Janet resides in Lewes, DE, with her husband Marius. They are avid travelers, recently having visited Lithuania, Poland, Germany, the Czech Republic, Portugal and Spain. (Continued on page 4 **Nominations**)

(Continued from page 3 **Nominations**)

AMYSTIQUE Y. HARRIS CHURCH - DIRECTOR

Amystique Y. Harris Church is co-founder and managing Partner of Mystique Consultant Services, and the Associate Director of Operations (Office of Testing)/Adjunct Instructor at Delaware State University. Amystique Harris Church is currently enrolled in the Doctoral of Education program at Wilmington University, Higher Education Leadership concentration. You will always find Amystique with a book or some type of reading material in her hand. She loves to read. Amystique Harris Church is a member of Crossroad Christian Church (CCC). At Crossroad Christian Church, she currently serves in the CrossKidz ministry as a teacher assistant. She is honored to be serving under the leadership of Pastors Anthony and Margo Wallace and being a part of the Crossroad Christian Church family.

Amystique Harris Church actively volunteers in the community; she currently works with the Sisters of Faith (S.O.F.T.), and The Compassionate Friends-Bay Breeze Chapter. In addition, past involvement has included Junior Achievement Program, John S. Charlton Kent County Autism Partnership Program, African American Heritage Project, Women Empowerment Workshop-First State Community Action Agency, Make-A-Difference Day and Habitat for Humanity, House of P.R.I.D.E., CBC soup kitchen and DSU Mentoring Program. She previously served as Co-Advisor to a few student organizations at DSU Association of Women in Communications (AWC), Pinnacle Honor Society – Non Traditional Learners, Public Relations Student Society of America (PRSSA) and Miss DSU/Royal Court. Amystique has a strong passion to help others and make an impact on her community and surrounding areas.

JOANN HASSE - PRESIDENT

Joann Hasse joined the League in WV in 1961 and, in addition to her four times as a member in DE, has been a member (and board member) of Leagues in Texas (twice), MD and MA. She served as LWVDE Action chair '82-'86 and as state president 5/86-1/87 and '88-'93. She has served as LWVDE chair for health care policy since 1993 (she's a long retired RN), served on the LWVDE board '93-'13 and is one of the League's volunteer lobbyists. She was a member of the LWVUS nominating committee '90-'92. She has been on the LWVNC Board since '13, serving as secretary for the past two years. She represents the LWVDE on the Patient and Consumer Advisory Committee of the newly created Delaware Center for Health Innovation and has served on several other State healthcare related committees over the years. She and her husband Ron have four sons, two grandsons and two granddaughters.

BEVERLY JACKSON - TREASURER

Beverly Latimer Jackson joined the LWV in Connecticut and served as her local league treasurer. She moved with her husband to Dover in September 1992 and shortly after her arrival was contacted by Ellen Wasfi, president of the Kent County League. Beverly served several terms as treasurer and assists with Candidate Debates and consensus meetings. She is an avid reader and the only time she's ever lied about her age was to get her first library card, telling the librarian (who regularly played Bridge with two of her aunts) that she was seven when in fact, she was only six. She got the card and was the topic of conversation at the next Bridge game.

CAROL JONES - DIRECTOR

I go back a long way with the League – from pre-retirement life in NJ to post-retirement life in Delaware. I joined the Sussex County League in 1997, served on a few committees, chaired Voter Service for SC and went on to become president of LWVSC. I became active with the State LWV early on and have served there as President and Finance Chair (a position which I currently hold). Additionally, I'm developing a video series on Civics for Adults for LWVDE. I also serve on the state board of the Delaware Humanities Forum. In my spare time I read and enjoy time spent with friends and my awesome extended family.

CAROLYN PAGE - DIRECTOR

Mrs. Carolyn Page identifies herself as a transplant from Louisville, Kentucky. She has lived in Magnolia, Delaware, for the last 1 1/2 years and is now a Realtor. Prior to moving to Delaware, Carolyn spent several years as a Bankruptcy Law Paralegal and 6 years as an Advocate for the National PTA and as Legislative chairperson for the 15th District of Kentucky's PTA. Carolyn was awarded an Emerging Minority Leader by the National PTA. She also served on the Kentucky Department of Education Principal Steering Committee, as well as the Healthy Hometown Committee. It was noted that she was a student of the Neighborhood Institute to garner knowledge and experience in civic engagement. Carolyn also participated with the League of Women Voters in Kentucky.

(Continued on page 5 **Nominations**)

ELIZABETH B. PERTZOFF - DIRECTOR

Elizabeth B. Pertzoff (Lisa) was born in Wilmington, Delaware, and has lived in New Castle County for most of her life. Professionally, she is a nationally certified addictions counselor in alcoholism, drug abuse and compulsive gambling. She recently retired after having worked as executive director of the Delaware Council on Gambling Problems for 30 years. During her long career in the addictions field, she has been on the Governor's Advisory Council for Substance Abuse and Mental Health, the board of directors the Delaware Council on Alcoholism, the Delaware Council on Gambling Problems, The National Council on Problem Gambling, and the Addictions Coalition of Delaware, of which she was a co-founder. She has also served on the board of directors of the League of Women Voters.

Her passionate love of animals and interest in native plant gardening was the driving force behind her long-standing involvement in environmental issues. Throughout her childhood, her parents emphasized the importance of persistence in "leaving the place a little better than you found it." As a native Delawarean, she knows that its size can be an advantage, in that anyone willing to expend the time and energy required to become armed with accurate information can influence good public policy through public education, community involvement, and legislative action. Since she was also taught to "put your money where your mouth is," she strives to be a part of the solution rather than the problem through her service for two statewide agencies.

She serves on several committees for the Delaware Nature Society.

She is currently wrapping up her term as Secretary of the League of Women Voters of Delaware. In addition, she is a member of the Advocacy Corps; the Land Use Committee; and co-chair of the Environmental Committee.

CORALIE PRYDE- DIRECTOR

Coralie was raised in southwestern Wyoming. She has a Master's degree in Organometallic Chemistry from the University of Massachusetts. Her work at Bell Laboratories, and later DuPont Electronics, focused on polymer chemistry and materials science. She has had a long-term interest in environmental issues including preservation, limiting toxic chemicals in the environment, recycling and "zero waste", and development of renewable energy sources. She is also concerned about maintaining open, accountable government at all levels and sustainable development at the local level. Along with co-chairing the LWVDE Environment Committee, she chairs committees for the Sierra Club of Delaware and is a member of the Delaware Nature Society Advocacy Board, the board of the Delaware Coalition for Open Government (DelCOG), and the Civic League of New Castle County.

SANDY SPENCE - DIRECTOR

A retired association executive, Sandy immigrated to Delaware in 2003 from Washington, DC. Currently, she serves as LWVDE board member and Advocacy Chair. She was president 2009-11 and treasurer 2007-09 and 2012-14. She served LWVSC as membership chair, Observer Corps member, and program chair/organizer of a public forum series on land use issues 2009-10.

Sandy also served on the Delaware Housing Coalition board, 2006-2014 and Sussex County Habitat for Humanity, 2003-2006. She earned a BA from Allegheny College and an MA from Rutgers, both in political science. When not working on League stuff, she's probably walking her rescued dog Dusty.

ELLEN WASFI - DIRECTOR

A native New Yorker, Ellen Wasfi received her B.A. from Barnard College with a joint major in sociology and history, and her M.A. in International Relations from The Johns Hopkins School of Advanced International Studies. She was a Fulbright exchange scholar in Merida, Venezuela, and worked as a research consultant for the US Senate Foreign Relations Committee and the US Senate-House Joint Economic Committee where she authored two studies on the US aid program in Latin America.

Ellen has served on the state board for the last two years. She has been a board member of the League of Women Voters of Kent County for 32 years and served as its president for over 15 years. She has moderated the League's Candidate Night debates and initiated the Dover League's monitoring of Resident Advisory Council Elections at sites of both the Delaware and Dover Housing Authorities.

(Continued on page 6 **Nominations**)

(Continued from page 5 **Nominations**)

She chairs the League of Women Voters of Kent County International Relations Committee, moderates its Great Decisions discussion program on global issues, and has taught courses on foreign policy to Dover public school teachers under the Capital School District's in-service program. In 1992-95, she was appointed to the State of Delaware Social Studies Curriculum Frameworks Commission which revised and updated the State's elementary and secondary school social studies program.

She has served on the Capital School District's Diversity Committee and has been a facilitator and administrator for YWCA Study Circles on Racism and Race Relations in Kent County. She was on the organizing committee of SURJ (Stand Up for What's Right and Just), the statewide effort to reform Delaware's criminal justice system. She has been awarded the Central Delaware NAACP Community Service Award, the DEMCO (Delaware Multicultural and Civic Organization) Shofar Award for public service, and in 2010, LWVDE honored her with its Flame of Democracy Award. In 2002, she was appointed by the Dover City Council to the Dover Human Relations Commission where she currently serves as Commissioner.

She was married to the late Dr. Sadiq H. Wasfi, Professor of Chemistry at Delaware State University. They have three children – Yasmine S. Wasfi (Baeringer), M.D., Ph.D., Dahlia S. Wasfi (Caputi), M.D. and Ammar S. Wasfi, Esq. – and two grandchildren, Charles R. and Laith J. Baeringer.

LINDA BARNETT - Nominating Committee

Linda joined the LWVNCC in the summer of 2015. She has become an active member of the Advocacy Corps, focusing primarily on legislative proposals dealing with health care and education. Linda has lived in Delaware since 1978, working for the Delaware Department of Health and Social Services as a planner for over 35 years. She and her husband made a variety of locales home prior to settling in Delaware – including Gainesville, Florida; Los Angeles; Flagstaff, Arizona; and Omaha, Nebraska (moves prompted by her husband's career as a Sociologist and then Professor of Law). Linda has served on the LWVNCC Nominating Committee this past year, and will be serving as president for AAUW Delaware for 2017-18.

LWVDE Acting on Public Policy Issues

Sandy Spence, Advocacy Chair

5/15/2017 The Advocacy Corps has been exceedingly busy since the last Voter. With one exception, we wish to defer a report until the Summer Voter where we will present a summary of the status of all important bills and actions. Meanwhile, we are also updating the lwvdelaware.org website to provide updated information.

There's one major exception. HB 125 that will reinstitute the Death Penalty passed the House on a vote of 24-16 with one person absent. So we urge you to talk to your Senator urging him or her to oppose this bill. You can indicate that you are a member of the League if you think your Senator will appreciate that. Our updated position paper is included in this Voter to give you some thoughts, or you can attach it to an email to your Senator. To find your Senator go to <http://legis.delaware.gov/Senate> and click on your Senator's name to find his or her email address and phone number.

The following **Advocacy Position Papers** that our lobbyist use to advocate at Legislative Hall are available on www.lwvdelaware.org listed under **Our Advocacy Work**: Absentee Voting; Auto Insurance; Coastal Zone; Dental Care for Medicaid Recipients; DIMER Position; Human Trafficking; Minimum Wage; National Popular Vote; Open Space and Farmland Preservation; 2014 Overview of Poverty in Delaware; Pay Equity; Special Education Funding K-3; Transit; Wilmington Education Improvement Commission; Voting Machines and Paper Trail; Work a Day.



(At Right) Press conference April 26, 2017. The House Chamber approved House Bill 1, which removes wage history as the basis of negotiation for perspective employees. Dozens of Delaware lawmakers and advocates rallied to support the bill, including AAUW Delaware, League of Women Voters, Delaware Commission for Women and Delaware ERANow.

League Day in Dover was held on April 4, 2017 at The Duncan Center in Dover.

Topic was **JUSTICE: The Solution to Poverty**



Sponsored by the League of Women Voters of Delaware (LWVDE) and the American Association of University Women of Delaware (AAUW). Cosponsors: ACLU of Delaware; Delaware Coalition Against Gun Violence; Delaware ERANow; Delaware Commission for Women; Southern Delaware Alliance for Racial Justice

The program addressed League issues related to poverty, specifically: Education, Health Care, and Housing. We had a great turnout and presenters provided a hard hitting picture of the challenging situation that exists in Delaware.



Charlotte King, founder of the Southern Delaware Alliance for Racial Justice and a past president of the LWVDE, framed the issues by relating how justice would work toward solutions in each of the areas addressed. Professor Dan Rich, Policy Director, Wilmington Education Improvement Commission and Professor of Public Policy at the University of UD, spoke about education and poverty in Delaware. Stephen Groff, Director of Medicaid, spoke about what programs currently exist. Jeanine Kleimo, Dover Interfaith Mission for Housing and board member of NCALL spoke about affordable housing and homelessness in Delaware



We also commemorated Equal Pay Day, which happened to be April 4. This day is designated annually to reflect how far into the new year women must work to achieve the same amount of pay as men in the previous year. Our primary co-sponsor, the American Association of University Women, arranged the luncheon talk on Equal Pay by retired Senator Karen Peterson.

After lunch with legislators, attendees went to Legislative Hall. There was a press conference on pay equity in Delaware, and the General Assembly adopted a resolution commemorating Equal Pay Day. We gave each legislator a packet with position papers on pending legislative issues.



April 26, 2017 Members of the Muslim community and their allies rallied Legislative Hall Wednesday weeks after a state senator denounced their religion. About 200 people gathered on the east steps of Legislative Hall, linked hands and sang in a show of unity.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



Dear Members,

A recent Members Tea in Kent Country had invited guests who had an opportunity to listen to various members present information regarding all the different projects that have been accomplished and those projects that are currently on going. Later an invited guest shared with me that she had no idea we did anything other than registering voters.

I think it is time for us to put more emphasis on all the projects we take on to keep voters informed on all issues pertaining to the value of life in our great democracy. Our Advocacy Corps, Studies and Projects that are ongoing speak to the dedication of our members to inform, advocate and educate. I challenge all members to share our work with your friends and neighbors.

June 10th is the LWV of Delaware Biennial Convention which will be taking place at Dover Downs Hotel. It is a perfect time to bring a guest, giving them an opportunity to see the League in action. What better time to get a new member involved in an activity of their choice. If nothing else you will be creating promotion and information that may spread word of mouth among their community of friends. There are many exciting projects in the works right now that could motivate a new member into action.

On a personal note I need to thank all of you for your help and understanding during a difficult time in my personal life. You have propped me up and covered many of the duties that fall to the president of this great organization. You know who you are! I thank you for the trust you have had in me and I am determined to continue in League.

In closing, fill out the enclosed registration form, include a guest and come to Dover on June 10th for exciting presenters and speakers. See you there.

In service,
Your President

Jill A. Fuchs

LAND USE/TRANSPORTATION ACTIVITY REPORT

Probably the most compelling activity of the Land Use/Transportation Committee this year has been participation in a legal appeal, in partnership with the Delaware Audubon Society, against a ruling of DNREC's Secretary which allows the Delaware City Refinery to set up an ethanol shipping business. Although the Refinery is a heavy industry grandfathered under the Coastal Zone Act, bulk transfer is specifically prohibited by the Act. Having been found by the Coastal Zone Industrial Control Board to lack standing, the appellants have appealed that decision to the Superior Court, and are currently awaiting a hearing date.

The Committee has sent to the Governor a request that he convene an advisory committee made up of environmentalists, business interests, and prominent public citizens, led by an independent facilitator, and supported by DNREC, to review the Coastal Zone Act and its Regulations and to recommend any needed changes. We received no response.

The Land Use/Transportation Committee has participated in numerous New Castle County citizen groups, invited by the Land Use Department to discuss three new county land use ordinances to be incorporated into the Unified Development Code. Although our Committee's recommendations to include the term "mixed use" in the ordinances was rejected, our suggestion to include public transit infrastructure in development plans even if no transit service was currently available, was met with approval.

The League lobbyist provided testimony at numerous hearings before the State Legislature, urging support for both Farmland and Open Space preservation, at the \$10 million and \$9 million levels, respectively. The Open Space Program must receive at least \$4.1 million or it will lose an opportunity to leverage \$9+ million in federal and other funds. Although the state's budget is out of control this year, in 2010 we had a shortfall of \$800 million, and the Legislature still managed to fund the Farmland Preservation Program at \$3 million. (Continued on page 9 **Land Use/Transportation**)

(Continued from page 8 **Land Use/Transportation**)

This year marks the first time the League of Women Voters of Delaware has been a partner on the annual Walkable Bikeable Delaware Summit (with Bike Delaware, Nemours, the American Heart Association, DelDOT and DART, among others). This year's Summit focused on Healthy and Transit-Friendly Development and Delaware's new Complete Communities law (prime sponsors Sens. McDowell and Bonini and Reps. Osienski and Keeley), whose passage the League supported. A prominent Pennsylvania developer gave the keynote speech, which focused on the regulatory and transportation infrastructure barriers to walkable, bikeable and transit-supportive development. Troy Mix, a U.D. policy scientist, presented an analysis on the requirements and process for designing Complete Community Enterprise Districts and noted specific areas in Delaware suitable for such designations.

In the fall the League was commended in a Resolution by the New Castle County Council for its even and fair statements before this body, and was termed the "conscience of the Council."

Beginning in May, Barbara Mobarak took over the leadership of this committee. Barbara has a wide-ranging background in architecture, planning, and design. Jane Dilley and Peggy Schultz will continue their activity as committee members, and Peggy will retain her post, at least for the time being, as Land Use/Transportation portfolio chair for the LWVDE.

Peggy Schultz

LWVUS ADVOCACY UPDATES

Upcoming Opportunities to Participate in the Campaign to Revive Civility and Respect ★

LWVEF has recently partnered with the National Institute for Civil Discourse (NICD), a nonprofit, nonpartisan institute based at the University of Arizona. Its programs are designed to create opportunities for elected officials, the media and the public to engage different voices respectfully and take responsibility for the quality of our public discourse and effectiveness of our democratic institutions. Discussion guides and training materials will be available to interested Leagues to help them develop a range of activities including mayoral proclamations and citizen pledges in support of reviving civility, small group dialogues, citywide conversations, one-on-one "Unlikely Friendship" conversations, and an innovative text messaging platform.

Timing: With Leagues now building their calendar of events for this fall and beyond, we want to alert you that September 2017 will be a key month when interested Leagues will have the opportunity to get involved locally or regionally in NICD activities. Be sure to watch upcoming League Updates to learn more about NICD resources and programs and how you might participate in the Campaign to Revive Civility and Respect.

Using LWVUS Positions for Local Action ★

Leagues at all levels are encouraged to use LWVUS positions contained in *Impact on Issues* to act. State and local Leagues are not required to ask for permission to use national positions. For more information about using League positions, [review a 2016 webinar presentation](#) on the topic and check out the section in *Impact on Issues* called "[Taking Action in the Community](#)". *Impact on Issues* is available for sale through Amazon.

League Calls American Health Care Act "UnAmerican" ★

Last week the U.S. House passed the American Health Care Act. The League [called the legislation](#) "anything but American." We will continue to lobby Congress as this bill moves forward. Stay tuned for details on contacting your Senators.

League Recommends U.S. Senate Reject Efforts to Overturn Methane Regulation ★

The League joined a [letter](#) recommending Senators oppose H.J Res. 36 and S.J. Res 11. The resolutions of disapproval that sought to use the Congressional Review Act to overturn the Bureau of Land Management's Methane and Natural Gas Waste Rule. On May 10 [the resolution failed](#) to pass the Senate after a 49-51 vote on the floor

League Supports Funding for Puget Sound Recovery Efforts ★

LWVUS and LWV Washington joined a [letter](#) to members of the U.S. Senate asking for continued funding for the recovery of Puget Sound.

Join the Conversation!

find us on **facebook.**

follow us **twitter**

Twitter provides a quick digest of the nation's leading headlines, while Facebook gives us an open forum where we discuss the important issues of the day. All posts and points-of-view are welcome as long as our nonpartisan and inclusive policies are being respected.

To join Facebook, go to www.facebook.com and follow the instructions. Once you join, search for the League of Women Voters of Delaware and send us a "friend request." To join Twitter, go to www.twitter.com and follow the instructions. Once you join, search for @lwvde and "follow" us!

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Note: No one suggested dropping the studies that are listed as continuing, except under Health Care which has proposed wording for expanded scope.

STATE GOVERNMENT

Delaware General Assembly - Support of measures to promote a more effective and responsive legislative branch of state government, including strengthening the committee system and use of the budgetary process to review and evaluate state programs.

Ethics - Support of ethics legislation in the areas of campaign finance, conflict of interest, financial disclosure and lobbying disclosure.

Delaware State Constitution - Support of a Constitution for the State of Delaware which would be confined to broad principles and would promote more efficient and responsive government.

Public/Private Partnerships - Support the use of public/private partnerships by governments in Delaware if a project can be better undertaken with public/private cooperation. Public input, careful controls and adequate safeguards need to be part of these partnerships.

Reapportionment/Redistricting - Support for an open unbiased process for reapportionment and redistricting with opportunities for public participation.

SOCIAL POLICY

Justice System - Continuing Study: A re-evaluation of Delaware's criminal justice system and the impact of the current policies and practices on society. (Action will continue to be taken under LWVDE current positions.)

The study is worded intentionally broad so that the study committee can start where its sees the most effective effort and timeliness.

Support for the adoption of consistent policies which, within budgetary constraints, will permit the disposition of offenders in the best interests of society, the victim(s), and the offenders and their families.

We oppose mandatory sentencing.

We support the expansion of drug courts and mental health courts for all nonviolent offenders and the appropriate science based health and mental health treatment of all offenders.

Family Court, Related State Programs for Children, Domestic Violence - Support of uniformity in operation of the Family Court system; automatic expungement of certain juvenile records; state provided diagnostic services, care, education and treatment to age 21 for youths and young adults who have mental or physical illness or who are developmentally delayed or are substance abusers or abused/neglected; strong educational programs on the rights of victims of family violence.

Before and After School Child Care - Support for state government involvement in encouraging, establishing and/or supporting child care programs.

Financing Public Education - Support for methods of financing public education that will promote equal opportunity for quality education and improve both the local districts' and state's budgeting while maintaining a high level of local control.

Education - Continuing Study: *A study of the public education system in Delaware with special focus on financing, charter schools, and transparency and accountability to citizens.*

Gun Control - Protect the health and safety of citizens through limiting the accessibility and regulating the ownership of handguns and semiautomatic weapons. Support regulation of firearms for consumer safety. (LWVUS position applies)

Health Care: New Study: *A study of the financing and delivery of health care in Delaware with emphasis on following the work of the Delaware Health Care Commission and its related committees and the activities of the Delaware Center for Health Innovation.*

Note: Joann Hasse proposes this new wording to replace the continuing study below.

~~**Healthcare—Continuing Study:** *A study of the financing and delivery of health care in Delaware with emphasis on following the work of the Delaware Health Care Commission and related committees.*~~ LWVDE also acts under the LWVUS health care position: "Promote a health care system for the United States that provides access to a basic level of care for all U.S. residents and controls health care costs."

Needle Exchange Programs - Support for comprehensive needle exchange programs, which also offer education and referrals to appropriate services, as part of a public health effort to reduce the spread of infectious diseases such as HIV/AIDS and Hepatitis C.

Public School Libraries - Support policies and funding for public school library media centers that promote their central role in providing equal opportunity for all children to achieve educational excellence.

NATURAL RESOURCES

(Note the new consensus on carbon will be added once it has been submitted and approved by the LWVDE board.

Renewable Energy Portfolio – Support for an increase in the percentage of renewable energy sources in Delaware’s Renewable Energy Portfolio Standard (RPS) provided that they: have minimum environmental impact; use the best current technology as measured by reliability, proven effectiveness, and being state-of-the-art; have long range cost effectiveness including all net costs such as health and environmental costs, state and federal subsidies, and price stability. Support of measures ensuring that total electricity sales in Delaware be required to meet the RPS.

Transmission and Distribution – Support for maximizing the development and delivery of renewable energy to Delaware when designing and developing new transmission plans for the region. In addition to delivering reliable, adequate electric service to Delaware, the key factors to be considered in making a decision on any transmission plan/transmission enhancements are: Degree of environmental impact; Degree of utilization of the transmission for renewable resource power vs. fossil-fuel generated power; True cost, including all cost-externalities; Safety and security of the grid.

Energy/Climate Change - supports an aggressive and comprehensive energy use/climate change plan for Delaware. Some key points that should be included:

Accelerate bringing new green businesses, jobs and industries to Delaware, and investigate emerging energy technologies. Set targets and a timetable for reducing Delaware’s total greenhouse gas emissions. Plan for extensive adaptation measures at all levels of government for climate change impacts that cannot be avoided---especially sea level rise.

Support public education and outreach; expand renewable energy and climate change in Delaware curriculum standards. As Delaware calculates energy costs, full life cycle analyses* with all externalities** must be included. Social and economic justice must be considered in implementing energy and climate change policy.

Coastal Zone - Support for Coastal Zone planning which considers the best possible outcome for people, the land, and the coastal environment.

Critical Land Areas - Support for preservation and/or protection of certain critical areas (ecologically fragile estuaries and coastal areas, farmland, flood plain, aquifers, and natural areas); erosion and sedimentation controls; and coordination among all levels of government in decisions involving major facilities.

Farmland - Support of a farmland preservation program.

LAND USE/TRANSPORTATION

Support of the regulation of growth and optimum use of land through comprehensive planning policy. Monitoring of land use

policies and procedures and their relationship to human needs, population trends, transportation planning, and ecological and socioeconomic factors. Encouragement of continuing cooperation among governmental agencies.

Support of a balanced, intermodal transportation system interconnected with land use and based on interagency and inter-jurisdictional coordination.

Support reducing transportation-generated greenhouse gas emissions by wiser land use planning and by enhancing public transit options.

Some key points that should be included:

Direct development towards growth zones, except for environmentally sensitive areas within those growth zones; assure availability of infrastructure, services and walkability before developing. - Build compact, or dense, development within established development areas in which pedestrians can safely and conveniently access services; reduce vehicle miles traveled (VMT). - Modify Delaware’s paratransit fee schedule to establish separate classifications for ADA* and non-ADA** service. - Reform the system to establish fairer pricing for non-ADA paratransit use. - Tighten eligibility requirements for all paratransit use in situations where the state has discretion. Establish a dedicated funding stream for public transit; explore a variety of funding sources.

CALENDAR

Wednesday, May 17, 2017 5:30 - 7:45 pm	Kent County Library, 497 South Red Haven Lane, Dover, DE 19901 (302) 744-1919.	LWV of Delaware board and LWV Education Fund Board
Wednesday, June 7, 2017 9:30 - noon	Tatnall Building, 3rd Fl. Conf. Rm. <u>150 Martin Luther King Jr Blvd South Dover, DE 19901</u>	Advocacy Corps meeting. Contact Committee Chair Sandy Spence for details (302-841-2882) or <u>sandyspence325@gmail.com</u>
Saturday, June 10, 2017, 8:30 am - 3:00 pm	Dover Downs Hotel Dover, DE 1131 N. DuPont Highway, Dover, DE 19901	LWVDE Biennial Convention. "The League in Action" Dover Downs Hotel, the Delaware Room - All details in this newsletter. No experience required to become a delegate. Call 302-571-8948 or <u>lwvde@comcast.net</u>

League of Women Voters of Delaware

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