



# DELAWARE VOTER

The League of Women Voters of Delaware

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www.lwvdelaware.org

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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/PAY EQUITY DAY

Tuesday, April 4, 2017

Outlook at the Duncan Center, 500 West Lookerman Street, Dover, DE 19904

### 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

Come learn, and advocate on four key issues the LWV of Delaware and the AAUW, along with our cosponsors, are addressing during the 149th session of our General Assembly. Hear from speakers on these topics: Justice, Education, Health and Affordable Housing, plus our Luncheon speaker, the Honorable Senator Karen Peterson, who will discuss the impact of the gender pay gap and how it is leading many women into poverty. Enjoy lunch with fellow members and legislators, then attend a press conference about Pay Equity in Delaware, visit Legislative Hall with a volunteer, registered lobbyist to meet with your Representative and Senator to present Position Papers that express our views on each of these issues

8:30-9 AM Registration and refreshments

9:00 AM **Welcome: Jill Fuchs, League President**

9:05 AM **Sandy Spence, Advocacy Corps Chair**, introducing the topic and the speakers as well as plans for the day.

9:10 AM **Charlotte King, founder of the Southern Delaware Alliance for Racial Justice** and a past president of the LWVDE, will frame the issues by relating how justice would work toward solutions in each of the areas addressed.

9:20 AM **Education and Poverty in Delaware.** Professor Dan Rich, Policy Director, Wilmington Education Improvement Commission and Professor of Public Policy at the University of UD, will speak to this issue. Q & A

10:00 AM **Break**

10:15 AM **Health.** **Stephen Groff, Director of Medicaid**, will speak about what programs currently exist. Q & A

10:50 AM **Affordable Housing and Homelessness in Delaware.** **Jeanine Kleimo, Dover Interfaith Mission for Housing** and board member of NCALL. Q & A

11:30 AM **Lunch with Legislators (buffet)**

12:00 PM **Key Note Speaker: The Honorable Senator Karen Peterson (retired) will discuss the impact of the gender pay gap and how it is leading many women into poverty . Q & A**

1:15 PM Press conference on Pay Equity in Delaware in Legislative Hall. Attendees may also visit legislators to provide them with fact sheets on the issues discussed today as well as other LWVDE and AAUW issues. Individuals are also encouraged to attend legislative sessions of the House and Senate.

**REGISTRATION FORM ON PAGE 6.**



### **Sandy Spence, Advocacy Chair**

**League Day in Dover.** The Advocacy Corps has spent a good part of its time during the last several months on planning for League Day in Dover 2017. See page 1, for details.

**The State Budget.** Focus on the state budget has consumed much of our attention as well. As you surely have learned, at press time a deficit of \$386 million has been projected. Since Governor Carney did not take office until mid-January, Governor Markell developed an initial budget for the fiscal year that begins on July 1, 2017. He announced this budget in January and it was introduced as HB 25, the operating budget, and SB 16, the capital improvement bill.

Shortly after the Markell budget was announced, our new Governor took office. He has been holding a series of "Budget Reset" meetings throughout Delaware to gather citizen input. Governor Carney was scheduled to announce his proposals on March 23. The Joint Finance Committee, which already held budget hearings with the agencies in February, will begin "Mark-up" from May 22 – June 1. In the Mark-up, they review the Governor's proposal and vote each item up or down and often add their own provisions.

Meanwhile, a little-known group that has a significant impact on the state's multi-billion operating budget is analyzing Delaware's revenue streams and predicting their performance for the upcoming fiscal year and beyond. The Delaware Economic and Financial Advisory Council (DEFAC) meets six times annually: September, December, March, April, May and June.

Unlike the federal government, Delaware's Constitution requires a balanced operating budget that spends no more than 98-percent of anticipated revenues. DEFAC's June forecast will set the ceiling for the budget that must be enacted no later than July 1st.

One major unknown is funding recommendations for the Department of Correction (DOC). The uprising and murder of a correctional officer at the James T. Vaughn prison on February 1 occurred two days before the scheduled budget hearing for DOC. This led the Joint Finance Committee to cancel that hearing.

Steps to resolve years of deferred expenditures for correctional officers and other prison staff, security measures, and other expenses, hopefully including measures to ensure humane treatment of inmates, are certain to increase the deficit. At a "Budget Reset" event in Lewes, Governor Carney stated that nothing will be done to improve conditions for inmates until safety inside the prisons is addressed.

Peggy Schultz, Charlotte King, Sandy Spence, and possibly others, spoke up at hearings in their respective communities. At his Budget Reset hearings, Governor Carney has made some telling statements about how he might approach the deficit.

- "The best solution to the problems we have is stronger economic growth...You don't want to do anything that affects [hurts] growing your economy because ultimately, that is the solution to the problem."
- "Education is the most important investment we can make to improve our economy."
- The governor said the state needs to do a better job of producing graduating students with skills that employers need and value. "I can't tell you how many people I talk to that can't find a good welder. Can't find a good diesel mechanic."
- "If we have one-percent greater economic growth, and a one-percent reduction in health care costs, that solves a lot of [our fiscal] problems."
- "The hardest conversation I am going to have over the next year will be with state employees over health care costs....the trajectory of [employee's] health care costs is unsustainable."

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- While not opposed to the concept of consolidating Delaware's 19 school districts, the governor said he did not know if "it was worth the political fight it would take to get it done."
- On shifting costs to county governments and school districts: "It doesn't make a lot of sense to me to fix a fiscal problem for the state and create a problem on the local level."
- "What I am thinking about is not doing something to fix [state finances] this year that makes it more difficult next year."
- In response to citizens who applauded his statement that unpopular budget proposals made by Governor Markell in January were dead, Gov. Carney said: "My guess is that there is going to be a lot in our budget you are not going to like either."

## **League Action on the Budget.**

Volunteer lobbyists for the League spoke at several of the February budget hearings:

- Joann Hasse urged continued funding for a 50-year-old program called DIMER that addresses Delaware's lack of a medical school by yearly payments to two Philadelphia medical schools in return for those schools guaranteeing 25 slots for qualified Delaware residents. This results in those students undertaking training opportunities in Delaware hospitals where they will often locate after completing their medical education, helping to provide a steady stream of new medical personnel to the state.
- Linda Barnett spoke in favor of dental care for Medicaid recipients. Lack of such care can lead to other serious medical problems that will increase costs in the future.
- Linda also testified for funding to implement recommendations of the Wilmington Educational Improvement Commission to provide supplemental funds based on the number of low income students. Family income is not a factor in the current school funding formula. [The Governor has already stated that this will not be in his budget.]
- Peggy Schultz urged funding for farmland preservation and for the state's open space program.
- Sandy Spence urged funding for the Division of Professional Regulation that would enable them to inspect massage parlors in an effort to eliminate human trafficking that is practiced in some parlors.
- Sandy also spoke at the hearing on the Office of the Public Defender, urging improved funding to ensure adequate representation of defendants who can't afford a private attorney.

*Pictured below: Sandy Spence and Charlotte King were on the Senate floor to see LWV member Stephanie Hansen, get sworn in as the 10th District Senator on March 15. She is seen surrounded by her extended family while addressing the Senate.*



**Covering New Legislation.** Aside from planning League Day in Dover and participating in the budget process, Advocacy Corps members are already busy reviewing new bills to determine whether the League should support, oppose or simply monitor them. Some of the key bills addressed to date include:

**HB 11** would eliminate a lifetime prohibition of eligibility for persons convicted of a drug felony to receive TANF (Temporary Assistance for Needy Families). TANF is designed to help needy families achieve self-sufficiency. We support; Charlotte King testified in the House Committee.

**HB 12** would add state funding for basic special ed for K-3rd grade; pre-K is funded for this program, but it is cut off for K-3, then picked up again for grades 4 and up. Who knows why! We support; Sandy Spence spoke at hearing.

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**HB 35** would require massage parlors to be licensed, so they will be regulated and inspected. Focus on dealing with human trafficking. We support. Sandy Spence spoke at hearing.

**HB 36** would make possession or use of tobacco products by a minor a criminal offense. [It is already illegal for a minor to purchase tobacco products]. We oppose. This simply adds to the school-to-prison pipeline that ruins the lives of many of our young people. Less life-changing measures should be implemented.

**HB 47** removes the requirement for applications for absentee ballots to be notarized. We support. Charlotte King testified in House Committee.

Several additional bills have been introduced but not yet reviewed by the Advocacy Corps. Although not yet in the form of legislation, the Advocacy Corps has voted to support:

- taxation of e-cigarettes at the same rate as regular cigarettes plus increase in that tax;
- a bill to have Delaware join the National Popular Vote Compact that would require our members of the Electoral College to vote for whoever gets the most votes for President, regardless of how Delawareans vote (based on a LWVUS position);
- oppose legislation, expected soon, to reinstitute the death penalty.

**Do you get the impression that the Advocacy Corps is very busy? We are! Why not attend a meeting to see if you'd like to work with us to expand our work even further? You don't need to become a lobbyist. We need lots of other help researching and writing fact sheets, testimony, letters to the editor, etc. We meet in Dover on the first or second Wednesday of each month from 9:30 – noon. It's a great way to learn a lot about the state's legislative process and politics. Contact: [sandvspence325@gmail.com](mailto:sandvspence325@gmail.com).**

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



Dear Members,

I would like to take this opportunity to welcome all our new members and invite them to attend activities offered by your local League. If there is an issue in which you are interested, know that you can make a difference on that issue. Your talents and participation keep the League current and strong.

The involvement of each member of the League in our endeavors and the promotion of helpful knowledge is vital to the health and wellbeing of our society.

These are frustrating times for many of us. The need to mobilize and remain vigilant is a way to alleviate those frustrations. Your willingness to support the League in our efforts to study and take appropriate action will be helpful.

Attend our League Day April 4<sup>th</sup> at the Duncan Center where we will focus on Justice, Poverty and Homelessness, as well, as celebrate Pay Equity Day.

We are also in the planning stages of our Biennial Convention scheduled for June 10<sup>th</sup> at Dover Downs, where we will focus on “being part of the solution” locally and nationally.

I look forward to meeting you all and hearing about your personal passions that can result in action.

In service as your President,

*Jill A. Fuchs*

## **Change for Delaware**

**Dear League Members:**

**Interesting and interested people**

**Doing Interesting work and**

**Having interesting dialog . . .**

**Does this sound like a group that might interest you?**

An experience to remember: rewarding, challenging, satisfying . . . join the LWVDE Board of directors to be part of a dynamic, fun group of people.

**You will be able to:**

- help to set the direction for the LWV of Delaware
- share your League successes with other organizations,
- build your leadership skills,
- learn to use your skills to make things happen for the League and for your community,
- expand your commitment to the League,
- raise your visibility.

If this sounds like an opportunity you or someone you know might want to pursue, please contact the Nominating Committee.

**The Nominating Committee of the League of Women Voters of Delaware is meeting and is looking for individuals who would like to serve in various capacities on the LWVDE board.** This is a great opportunity to work with a group of dedicated people planning activities for the next two years: Where to focus its advocacy. How to get out the vote for the next elections. Continue to make the League relevant in a changing world, while having fun and learning new skills. You can nominate yourself, or someone else.

**Positions open, all two-year terms:**

President

1st Vice presidents

2nd Vice president

Secretary

Treasurer

Directors: Up to 6 directors.

The president can appoint additional directors after the **Convention June 10, 2017.**

**Skills needed:** Social Media, fundraising, taking minutes, public relations (assist with press releases, updating media contacts), voters service, assisting with website updating, events planning, finance chair, fundraising, membership, advocacy.

**Be brave, try something new.**

Send a email or call anyone of the Nominating Committee members listed below:

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)

## APPEAL OF DNREC'S SECRETARY REGARDING ETHANOL PROJECT

You may have heard by now that the LWVDE has appealed the ruling of DNREC's Secretary which allowed the Delaware City Refinery to implement what it calls its "Ethanol Marketing Project." The project would ship out by barge and/or truck up to 10,000 additional barrels of ethanol per day. It is already using 2,000 barrels of ethanol per day to produce gasoline. This new ethanol activity reveals that what was once a refinery is now a refinery plus a logistics hub business for receiving and transshipping raw materials into and through Delaware's Coastal Zone

When Collin O'Mara was Secretary he gave the Refinery a letter of permission to transport raw crude oil to its sister plant up the river in Paulsboro, New Jersey. That permit was a stretch in terms of the Coastal Zone Act, which forbids bulk transfer on the river. This permission was abused, and shipments to other refineries ensued. Out of concern for this and other "stretches," the League of Women Voters of Delaware joined the Audubon Society in appealing the Secretary's ruling on the permit which would allow the Refinery to ship 10,000 barrels of ethanol in one door and out the other. Ken Kristl, Esq., has generously offered his services *pro bono* for this appeal.

The first step in this appeal was an appearance before the Coastal Zone Industrial Control Board. Both DNREC and the Refinery are defending the Secretary's ruling. DNREC made no objections to the standing of the two appealing organizations, though the Refinery vehemently objected to the testimony of the three people who spoke on behalf of the appellants. The whole issue of standing is based on complicated legal language, and there's a possibility that not all of the members of the CZICB fully understood the issues when they voted 5 to 1 to deny standing. The Delaware Supreme Court had earlier ruled that "'any person aggrieved' for purposes of standing to appeal a final decision under the Delaware Coastal Zone Act must demonstrate an injury in fact and that such injury is within the zone of interest protected by the statute."<sup>1</sup>

The LWVDE Board of Directors has voted to carry the appeal to the Superior Court, and to argue there the issue of standing. If the Superior Court decides that our members have standing, the appeal will then return to the CZICB for an argument on the issues.

The League feels that two principles are at stake here: 1) Clarification of the standing issue so that what citizens understand to be a misinterpretation of the law can be legally considered. 2) The gradual erosion of the Coastal Zone Act must be stopped.

*Peggy Schultz,*  
*Land Use/Transportation Committee Chair*

1. J. Breck Smith, "Delaware Supreme Court Clarifies Standing Requirements to Appeal Issuance of a Coastal Zone Act Permit" In the Zone Oct., 2013 <http://www.foxrothschild.com/publications/delaware-supreme-court-clarifies-standing-requirements-to-appeal-issuance-of-a-coastal-zone-act-permit/>

### 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](http://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](http://www.twitter.com) and follow the instructions. Once you join, search for @lwvde and "follow" us!

**LEAGUE DAY IN DOVER/PAY EQUITY DAY/Tuesday, April 4, 2017**

Outlook at the Duncan Center, 500 West Lookerman Street, Dover, DE 19904



**REGISTRATION DEADLINE THURSDAY, MARCH 30, 2017**

NAME (S) \_\_\_\_\_ \$30.00 EACH \_\_\_\_\_

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

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

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

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

*CREDIT CARDS ARE ACCEPTED—YOU CAN GO TO LWVDELAWARE.ORG AND PAY THROUGH PAY PAL*

*OR Please complete the following:*

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

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

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

CREDIT CARD EXPIRATION DATE: \_\_\_\_\_ SECURITY CODE \_\_\_\_\_

**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)**



Press Conference at Legislative Hall protesting the first ban on Muslims entering the US. Several diverse groups sponsored this demonstration.

## CALENDAR

<p>Tuesday, April 4, 2017 8:30 am - 3:00 pm</p>	<p>The Duncan Center, 500 Loockerman St, Dover, DE 19904</p>	<p><b>LEAGUE DAY IN DOVER/PAY EQUITY DAY 2017.</b> The morning program will address League issues related to Poverty, specifically: Education, Health Care and Housing.</p> <p>We will also be commemorating Equal Pay Day, which happens to be April 4 in 2017. 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.</p> <p>After lunch attendees will head over to Legislative Hall to be present while the General Assembly adopts a resolution commemorating Equal Pay Day. And we will distribute packets with League Position Papers on legislative issues pending at that time to all legislators. Attendees are encouraged to wear red.</p>
<p>Monday, April 10, 2017 2-4 pm</p>	<p>Home of Peggy Schultz. Call or email for directions: 302- 235-7182, <a href="mailto:schultz_peggy@yahoo.com">schultz_peggy@yahoo.com</a></p>	<p><b>LAND USE/TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE meeting..</b> The meeting's agenda will include an update on Coastal Zone issues and state funding for open space and farmland preservation</p>
<p>Wednesday, April 12, 2017 9:30 am - 12 pm</p>	<p>To be determined.</p>	<p><b>LWVDE ADVOCACY CORPS MEETING.</b> Contact Committee Chair Sandy Spence for details (302-841-2882). Agenda items include reviewing the Governor's new budget, deciding whether to support, oppose or monitor recently introduced bills, testifying at hearings and critiquing League Day in Dover 2017.</p>
<p>Wednesday, April 19, 2017, 5:30-7:45 pm</p>	<p>Kent County Public Library, 497 South Red Haven Lane, Dover, DE 19901 (302) 744-1919</p>	<p><b>LWVDE BOARD &amp; EDUCATION FUND MEETINGS.</b></p>
<p>Monday, April 24, 2017</p>	<p>To be determined Contact Pat Todd 545-5198 cell ptoddwilm@aol.com</p>	<p><b>LWVDE ENVIRONMENTAL COMMITTEE MEETING.</b></p>
<p>Wednesday, May 3, 2017 9:30 am - 12 pm</p>	<p>Location to be determined</p>	<p><b>LWVDE ADVOCACY CORPS MEETING.</b> Contact Committee Chair Sandy Spence for details (302-841-2882) or sandyspence325@gmail.com.</p>
<p>Thursday, May 4, 2017 all day</p>	<p>The Green in front of Legislative Hall Legislative Avenue Dover, DE 19901</p>	<p><b>BIKE SUMMIT--2017.</b> The League of Women Voters of Delaware is partnering with Bike Delaware and others in support of the 2017 Bike Summit. The theme of this year's summit is an outgrowth of the passage of SB 130 of last year: "Healthy and Transit-Friendly Development." Admission is free, but you'll need to pre-register: <a href="http://www.bikede.org/summit/">http://www.bikede.org/summit/</a></p>
<p>Saturday, June 10, 2017 8:30 am -3:30 pm</p>	<p>Dover Downs Hotel, Dover</p>	<p><b>LWVDE BIENNIAL CONVENTION "The League in Action".</b> Stay tuned to learn more about the program as details are worked out.</p>

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