



DELAWARE VOTER

The League of Women Voters of Delaware

Fall 2013

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www.lwvdelaware.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.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Dear Fellow League Members,



As the younger potential voter and League member might say, "Our commitment and work continues to be **Awesome.**" Always aware of our Mission "To encourage informed and active participation in government , work to increase understanding of major public policy issues and influence public policy through education and advocacy, the local and state Leagues have been active. In September the local Leagues co-sponsored four public forums on Sea Level Rise. The state and local Leagues in response to National Voter Registration Day, established registration booths throughout the state. League members supported and participated in events such as the Restorative Justice conference and the Repeal of the Death Penalty event convened by other groups. These are just a few examples of League activities during the last several months.

The efforts of all of our Leagues need to be supported by a stable, strong organization and so I will continue to give priority attention to membership/leadership development, fund raising, communication and publicity development and resource development. Your help is always welcomed. Please send me your ideas and suggestions about effective strategies for development in these areas.

Please make note of the following three dates.

- ▲ **Wednesday, March 19, 2014**League Day in Dover
- ▲ **May 16-18, 2014**.....LWVDE Annual Retreat/Council
- ▲ **June 6-10, 2014**LWVUS Convention in Dallas, Texas

These events will provide the opportunity to meet, inform and be informed about local, state and national League work in which we all share ownership. I look forward to seeing you at these events.

Charlotte King, President, LWVDE

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 Oct. 30th by Sussex League member Janet Orlando and has 46 "friends" participating on the page. Our Twitter page was started Oct. 23 by New

Castle League member Diane Maxwell and has 12 "followers." The League of Women Voters US is one of our followers and has already "retweeted" one of our "fast facts" posts!

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!

Diane Maxwell and Mary Eggars, PR co-chairs

League Members Welcome New Citizens at the NATURALIZATION CEREMONY HELD THURSDAY, DECEMBER 5 AT CLAYTON HALL, UD.

At each ceremony a folder of civic information is provided to each new citizen by the League. Other groups also provide flags and the constitution to new citizens. Thank you to Connie Georgov, coordinator for LWV, Letty Diswood, and Nancy Lopez who helped out at this ceremony.



Above: Foreign born taking the oath to become citizens of the United States.



Above: Nancy Lopez after handing out folders to new citizens.

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF DELAWARE BOARD ORIENTATION.

About 30 + state and local board members as well as committee members attended the orientation at Barclay Farms Clubhouse, 1 Paynter's Way, Camden, DE on Saturday, August 24, 12 noon to 4 pm

The Board Orientation provided a great opportunity for local and state board members to meet together and share their respective and common interests and receive training to be effective board members/leaders. Thank you to Jill Fuchs, Mary Edgar, Sandy Spence, Charlotte King and Les Stillson for making this training exciting and fun.



Above L-R: Janet Orlando and ___ Jones (LWVSC)

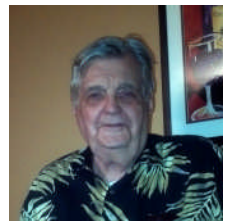


Above L-R: Fiona Mulligan, Roberta Ray and Sue Bryson. (LWVNCC)

Are you concerned about public education in Delaware? Join the new LWVDE Education Study Committee

HIGHLIGHTS LWVDE EDUCATION STUDY'S first meeting

Members interested in serving should please contact Charlotte King (302 645-7074, charlottefking@aol.com) or Bill O'Connor (302 644-1143, wfoconnor@verizon.net).



The Delaware LWV Study Committee on Public Education met November 22, 2013 at the Cendel Building, 101 Loockerman Avenue, Dover DE. Co-chairs, Charlotte King and Bill O'Connor presided and opened with each participant making a brief self-introductory statement.

Background: Charlotte King summarized the LWVDE Board's 2013 decision to review the LWVDE position on public education. (Continued on page 3 *Education Study*)

(Continued from page 2 **Education Study**) This review shall include applying the LWV study process to possibly develop policy position in three areas:

- Educational financing and allocation and funding systems
- Transparency issues in public education
- Purchasing of educational services, including charter schools

Process: Bill O'Connor spoke to the LWVDE Education Study modus operandi. He briefly described the LWV study process, which is designed to formulate evidence-based policy positions. These positions in turn serve as the factual foundation for LWV advocacy and lobbying efforts. The study effort for these three areas could well extend for two or three years. LWVDE can draw upon education studies conducted at the national level or by other league.

LWVDE also could adopt policy positions in education areas other than the three specified by LWVDE board, if these positions have been adopted via the study process by other LWV groups, and LWVDE judges them appropriate for Delaware. O'Connor cited public funding of early childhood education as an area we may wish to explore.

Assumptions: A key consensus was reached with respect to the purposes of public education. The group endorsed the following statement proposed by Bill O'Connor:

*“Communities and states established public education as a public responsibility in the nineteenth century to educate future citizens and to sustain our democracy. The essential purpose of the public schools, the reason they receive public funds, is to teach young people the rights and responsibilities of citizens. As citizens, they will be expected to discuss and deliberate issues, to choose our leaders, to take an active role in their communities, and to participate in civic affairs. A secondary purpose was to strengthen our economy and culture by raising the intelligence of our people and preparing them to lead independent lives as managers, workers, producers, consumers, and creators of ideas, products, and services. A third purpose is to endow every individual with the intellectual and ethical power to, pursue his or her own interests and to develop the judgment and character to survive life’s vicissitudes. (p 267, **Reign of Error** by Diane Ravitch)*

Lines of Activity: Charlotte King emphasized that we had no deadlines to meet and our priority was on doing thorough studies, and that the study may well take two or three years. The pace and scope will depend on the size and composition of our committee which is still in development. Not everything we choose to address needs to be done immediately.

To assist in delineating the scope of our effort and establishing our priorities, Bill O'Connor offered as a temporary framework the organization of issues employed by the California LWV in their 2005 Comprehensive Study of Education. The California structure had six master issue areas:

- Finance:** Roles, responsibilities, categorical funds, adequacy & equity issues
- Governance:** State & local structures, charter schools
- School District Organization:** Coordination of services issues
- Accountability:** Who is responsible for what and to whom
- Teaching:** Defining teacher quality, hiring, retention, professional development
- Curriculum/Programs:** Standards, articulation, authority for

There was ready agreement that the finance should be a priority area, and after some discussion it was felt it must also be taken up with related issues in the governance arena. Charter schools were seen to be a different enough issue to be not included in the finance-governance effort. The next meeting may include a presentation on education finance in all its complexity. Individual participants volunteered to follow up on accountability area to develop an atlas of Delaware education, enumerating and describing roles and relationships of all the actors in the K-12 arena. Recommendations were not to get into areas of curriculum issues. Grants will be pursued to fund this study.

Next Meeting of the Education Study Committee: Thursday, January 16th, 2:00 to 5:30 PM at the DSU Sheraton.

Attention: LWV of Delaware’s new email address is lwvde@comcast.net

GOVERNOR MARKELL SIGNS EXECUTIVE ORDER 41

Dr. Chad Tolman presents information on the science behind climate change

Sept. 12, 2013- Governor Jack Markell kicked off Sea Level Rise Awareness Week today with Executive Order #41, taking everyone by surprise. This is the Executive Order for which the League's Climate Chair, Chad Tolman, has been campaigning for three years, with the League's support. Executive Order #41 creates the



Dr. Chad Tolman presents information on the science behind climate change

Governor's Committee on Climate and Resiliency, described as a new, long-term effort to get Delaware ready for the effects of climate change and sea level rise. It would require all state agencies to include sea level rise projections in their plans for state-financed projects. It also "requires development of strategies to make state facilities and operations better prepared to deal with sea-level rise, and to share findings with local governments," according to an article in delawareonline.com. A two-year study by DNREC's Sea Level Rise Advisory Committee, of which Tolman is a member, concludes that the state will have to pay huge costs in just the coastal areas of Delaware if the projections of a 5-foot sea level rise by 2100 actually take place. Following the signing of the Executive Order Gov. Markell handed commemorative pens to Sarah Cooksey, head of Coastal Programs, and to Chad Tolman.

HIGHLIGHTS OF THE LWV OF DELAWARE ADVOCACY CORPS (AC)

Meeting held Wednesday, November 6, 2013 IN Dover

Sandy Spence is our new Advocacy Corps chair. She takes over from Charlotte King who is our fearless LWV of Delaware president.

HOUSING: Jill Fuchs presented the Leased Land Homeowners Coalition (LLHC) - **Manufactured Homeowners Legislative priorities for 2014. Three main concerns for this year (carried over from 2013)**

◆ **ENFORCEMENT** of current laws/cleanup/rewrite of enforcement provisions of title 25, chapter 70 that establishes state protections for persons living in manufactured home communities. This will include some "tweaking" of the rent justification law. This is being led by the Attorney General's Office, the DE Manufactured Housing Relocation Authority (DEMHRA), and concerned legislators.

◆ **DISCLOSURE:** This would ensure that people who are considering purchasing a manufactured home in a leased land community are fully aware of what they are buying into. While it will not necessarily help those who are already in these communities, it will go along way in keeping others from falling into a trap that they will have a hard time getting out of.

◆ **ESTABLISHMENT OF STATE DIVISION /COMMISSION/OFFICE OF OMBUDSMAN FOR MH** Currently DEMHRA is the only state agency with any capacity to assist manufactured home owners and their authority is restricted to certain areas. The Consumer Protection Unit of the Office of the Attorney General is charged with enforcing Chapter 70, however they are severely understaffed and limited in what they can do to resolve home owner problems. Other state agencies with statutory responsibility included, but not limited to, the Dept. of Health and Social Services for safe drinking water and the Dept. of Natural Resources and Environmental Control for environmental violations. The role of ombudsman would be to serve as a liaison with State agencies and the Office of Attorney General consumer Protection Unit to provide coordinated action for the manufactured housing community.

(Continued on page 5 Advocacy Corps Highlights)

(Continued from page 4 Advocacy Corps Highlights)

TITLE 15 (ELECTIONS) TASK FORCE REPORT

- Letty Diswood reported that her committee includes Sue Bryson (NCC), Janet Orlando (S), and Ellen Wasfi (D) Members of the committee are observing the Task Force meetings.

The Task Force meets at 1 PM. The Taskforce reviewed Senate Concurrent Resolution which created the Taskforce. SCR 20 mandates that the Taskforce report its findings by March 30, 2014 to the President Pro Tempore of the Senate and the Speaker of the House. The Taskforce shall also meet monthly.

- First Meeting: Governance, Voter Registration, Ballot Access
- Second Meeting: Primary Elections, General Elections
- Third Meeting: Special Elections, Municipal Elections
- Fourth Meeting: Absentee Voting, Early Voting
- Fifth Meeting: Campaign Finance

The meetings scheduled for September through December will be held at the Dept. of Elections for New Castle County Warehouse, Parkway Industrial Park, 220 Lisa Drive, New Castle. The January and February meetings will be held in the Office of the State Election Commissioner, 925 S. Governor's Avenue, Dover.

Other areas affecting Elections are also to be considered: National Voter Registration Act (NVRA); Help America Vote Act (HAVA); Uniformed and Overseas Citizen Absentee Voting Act (UOCAVA); as well as Voting Accessibility for the Elderly and Handicapped Act.

FOIA - CAPITAL SCHOOL DISTRICT ISSUE – Will

Garfinkel and Mickey McKay: Mickey discussed exploring lack of transparency and accountability in the budgets and school board meetings and received approval to do an OP ED article for the Dover newspaper.

Will explained what he learned about school budgets. It is hard to figure out governance of school districts and who is accountable. He wants to find out how school districts do their financial reporting. The State Education Department allows local school districts to customize its budgets, so they are not following the legislation passed some years ago and is hard to compare school district budgets and difficult to understand.

FAMILY & CHILDREN: Charlotte King noted that many of the bills covering families and children are also covered by the Justice and Health Care portfolio. She will be tracking SNAPP which is going into effect. Charlotte will be chairing the **Education portfolio**.

A discussion followed about the task force that is holding meetings on Family Court and its mission to fact find opening up some Family Court proceedings to the public. The AC recommended that more research is needed for the League to take a position for or against opening up some of the currently closed proceedings.

LAND USE/TRANSPORTATION/NATURAL RESOURCES, ENERGY AND CLIMATE COMMITTEE: Peggy Schultz and Jane Dilley, members of this combined

committee: Peggy reported that the committee is looking at the Coastal Zone Act that prohibits heavy industry in certain areas (but has some grandfathered heavy industry remain in the coastal zone.)

Grandfathered industry can expand, but not enlarge its foot print in the coastal zone. There were several legal challenges currently: 1. Caesar Rodney Institute challenged the Bloom Box construction and its suit was dismissed for not having legal standing because the person who filed the claim does not live there and does not speak for the flora and fauna. 2. The Delaware Refinery was sued by the Audubon Society and the Sierra Club regarding the rail loop that was built outside of the coastal zone, but will/or does ship crude oil offloaded from the rail cars to New Jersey refinery. This suit was dismissed because the organizations have no legal standing and there was no damage done by this business. The court agreed with the Coastal Zone Board.

So the committee will look at operation and enforcement of the law and the regulations. The committee sees no problems with the Act. It is a good piece of legislation. They will look at and study **the Goals and Environmental Indicators** (100 pages) that were never implemented, but are required in the Act/law.

The AC members encouraged Peggy and Jane work as a statewide committee and solicit names from other local Leagues to participate by conference call or Skype.

The next meeting of this combined committee will design questions for DNREC and look at the Goals and Environmental Indicators

(Continued on page 6 Advocacy Corps Highlights)

(Continued from page 5 **Advocacy Corps Highlights**)

PROPOSED STATEMENT ON DART FEE

RESTRUCTURING – Peggy Schultz The statement was reviewed and many suggestions were made. (Editor’s note: However the statement ultimately did not get final approval in time for submittal.) Some of the concerns were that the League should not give the impression of pitting the disability community/ paratransit against the nondisabled riders of DART. It was agreed that some increase in the bus fares and paratransit is necessary. It was also agreed that expanded fixed routes are needed especially in Kent and Sussex counties and that there needs to be a better or permanent source of funding for transit in Delaware.

AC APPROVED A REQUEST FOR LWVDE TO JOIN THE “STOP THE DELAWARE RIVER FISH KILLS CAMPAIGN AND APPROVED A STATEMENT.

AC approved to send a letter to the Census Bureau urging them to count prisoners at their home address nationwide in the 2021 Census.

UPDATE ON LWVDE EDUCATION STUDY – Bill O’Connor reported that individuals interested in working on the study committee will meet. He gave an outline of this first official meeting of the committee for Friday, Nov. 22nd, from 9 AM to 12:30 PM, at the Cendel Building, 101 West Loockerman Street, Dover DE.

PLANNING FOR WEDNESDAY, MARCH 19, 2014 LEAGUE DAY. Les Stillson & Joyce Johnson

The topic will be Agriculture and issues involved in the current LWVUS Agriculture study (updating current policy positions) – Letty Diswood has secured the Duncan Center and extra room for this event.

NATIONAL VOTER REGISTRATION DAY HIGHLIGHTS

The League of Women Voters of Delaware (LWVDE) registered voters in all three counties on September 24. Information and forms were available outside Wal-Mart in Millsboro, Giant Supermarket in Georgetown, Acme Market in Dover, Delaware Technical and Community College’s Wilmington and Stanton Campuses, and the University of Delaware in Newark. The Delaware Commission for Women and the League of Women Voters also partnered at Delaware Tech’s Kent County Economic Summit in

Dover to publicize National Voter Registration Day and to register voters. “For democracy to work, Americans need to exercise their right to vote,” observed LWVDE President Charlotte King. “One in four Americans is not registered to vote. The League of Women Voters of Delaware joined others across America on this day and assumed the responsibility of verifying the registrations and delivering the completed forms to the appropriate Boards of Election.”

The League of Women Voters has been striving to “Make Democracy Work” for over 90 years. To find out more about voter and advocacy programs offered by the League or for information on joining the League, contact Letty Diswood, lvvde@comcast.net, 302-571-8948.

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. VOTE411.org is the place to go for the election information you need.

Photos:



LWVDE members Esther Shelton, Janet Ambrose and Connie Jones registered voters at the Walmart in Georgetown. Above Connie Jones and Sue Claire Harper also registered voters that day.



LWVDE members Alex Cook and Jerry Schultz of Newark, register voters at the University of Delaware.

**THE LWV PRESENTS NEWARK MAYORAL
CANDIDATES' FORUM**

Nearly 400 Newarkers stood or sat in rapt attention for the League of Women Voters of New Castle County Mayoral Candidates' Forum on Thursday, November 14. Candidates responded to a wide range of topics in questions posed by members of the audience. Following a warm welcome by Co-President Joyce Johnson, Carole Walsh deftly handled the questions brought to her by League members Danielle Emerling, Vicky Kleinman, Judy Taggart, and Emily White. Coordinator of the Voters' Service Committee which organized the event was Helen Hoffman. Letty Diswood helped to register attendees.

Transparency in government, budget, town and gown issues, and the proposed Data Center were included in the topics covered by the questions. Donald DeCollo objected to the excessive use of water by the proposed Data Center and says he will do something about Newark's traffic. Robyn Harland says that neither the University nor the Data Center have been forthcoming in presenting the facts. Mark Morehead said he would be the one to "frame the question," and urged a strong voter turnout. Rebecca Powers would like to see better enforcement of laws regarding student rentals, and noted the importance of improving communication among City departments. Amy Roe noted her experience in advocating for residents' rights in the past, and said that if she were mayor people could expect to be treated respectfully.

Both the *Wilmington News Journal* and WHYY covered the event. You can follow these links to read their detailed comments.

<http://www.delawareonline.com/article/20131115/NEWS02/311110078/Seven-Newark-candidates-make-their-case-mayor>
<http://www.newsworks.org/index.php/component/flexicontent/item/61924-newark-mayoral-candidates-take-center-stage-?Itemid=1>



photo courtesy peggyjoschultz.com

Thank you to our members and friends who have generously contributed to the LWV Education Fund and the LWV of Delaware. Contributors are listed since the last newsletter published in August 2013.

Susan Brynteson, Sheila E. Cassels, Letty & Larry Diswood, Marion R. Godfrey, Mary E. Craft, Jane & Frank Dilley, Phyllis N. Faulkner, Rona G. Finkelstein, Nancy G. Frederick, Jane & Robert Frelick, Carol Giesecke, Jacqueline & Jack Harris, Elizabeth Higginbotham, Helen & Bruce Hoffman, Joyce Johnson, Joy W. Jones, Catherine W. Kallal, Janet & Brian Kramer, Jane T. Lord, Virginia S. Mayforth, Barbara A. Mullin, Patricia Pope Rocket, Nadyne Rosin, Esther Shelton, Peggy & Jerold Schultz, Sarah Straughn, Pat Todd, Fay G. Whittle, Diane I. Maxwell, Elizabeth M. Von Frankenberg, John Walsh, Kate Zak

**LWV of Delaware in memory of
June MacArtor**

Thomas D. Whittington, Virginia S. Shreve, June MacArtor death benefit, Lorraine M. Fleming

Delaware Community Foundation (LWVDE)
Sandy Spence

LWV of Delaware

Susan Brynteson, Sheila E. Cassels, Letty & Larry Diswood, Nancy G. Frederick, Jane & Robert Frelick, Joyce Johnson, Kathryn P. Harris, Jacqueline & Jack Harris, Jane Lord, Virginia S. Mayforth, Diane Maxwell, Lois Myoda, Elizabeth B. Pertzoff, Nadyne I. Rosen, Peggy & Jerold Schultz, Esther Shelton, Sarah Straughn, Pat Todd, Elizabeth M. Von Frankenberg, John G. Walsh, Carole & Bill Walsh, Joan T. White

(Continued on page 8 Contributors)

(Continued from page 78 *Contributors*)

June MacArtor Leaves Special Gift to LWVDE

Demonstrating her long-time commitment to the League and our work, June MacArtor, who died on June 13, 2013, left a special gift to LWVDE. One of the first women attorneys in Delaware, June served in the Attorney General's office as Counsel to the Department of Natural Resources where she worked vigorously to establish Delaware's environmental management codes and policies and was a driving force in defending the landmark Coastal Zone Act. In the 1980's she was Chief of the Environmental Law Group for DNREC. She retired in 1990 as Deputy Director of the Division of Air and Waste Management.

June's special gift was \$7,000 -- her state death benefit. To ensure that this generous gift would "keep on giving," the Board voted to transfer \$5,000 of that amount to our "Fund Builder" Account at the Delaware Community Foundation. That donation allowed us to achieve full status as a DCF endowment fund, which now has a balance of \$10,412, entitling us to a share of DCF investment earnings that have averaged 7% per year over the past several years.

The Endowment Fund is intended to build over time to ensure the long-term financial stability of LWVDE. In addition to cash donations, DCF can accept gifts of stock -- an advantage for those with highly appreciated stock -- the donor can claim a charitable donation worth the current value and avoid paying capital gains taxes on the appreciated value. Also, those whose employers match charitable donations can double their gift by donating to the DCF Fund. It is our hope that June's gift will inspire other League members to remember LWVDE in their wills, trusts, IRA or insurance benefits and other special gifts," said assistant treasurer Sandy Spence. For more information on ways to support this special fund, contact Sandy at 302-645-9559 or sandyspence325@gmail.com.

June was featured as one of "50 Who Matter" by the Wilmington News Journal in April 2010. Her inspiring video interview is available at <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Vil2yZrEOtg>.

Sandy Spence, Assistant Treasurer



SUMMARY OF LWVUS KEY 2012 ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Election Administration and Voter Protection

Defeated laws in 11 states that would suppress voter turnout through photo ID requirements, reduced early voting, elimination of same day registration, illegally purged voter rolls, and ending independent registration drives.

Defeated proposed constitutional amendment in Minnesota requiring a photo ID to vote. Conducted public education campaign that reversed public opinion from 80% in favor to a majority in opposition.

Voter Registration and Mobilization

Re-launched VOTE411.org, our one-stop online elections resource that has helped 20+ million Americans since 2006 find factual, nonpartisan information about polling place locations, absentee and early voting options, registration deadlines, ID requirements, candidates' positions on issues, and more.

Provided crucial election information to 2+ million voters in 2012 through VOTE411.org on 11,000+ races, including, for the first time, all federal, statewide and state legislative offices throughout the nation.

Offered 2+ million print Voters' Guides and 600+ candidate debates nationwide through state and local Leagues.

Main source of information for public and media on polling place changes in areas affected by Hurricane Sandy.

(Continued on page 9 *LWV 2012 Key Accomplishments*)

(Continued from page 8 LWV 2012 Key Accomplishments)

A lead organization for National Voter Registration Day on September 25, and the largest on-the-ground participant among 1,200+ organizations across the country, registered 350,000+ voters in 250 communities in 44 states.

Researched best practices for registering high school voters and registered 8,500+ new voters in 166 predominately minority high schools in 21 diverse communities nationwide.

Helped tens of thousands of new citizens register to vote at their naturalization ceremonies.

Money in Politics

Created new LWV Campaign Finance Reform Task Force to evaluate proposed legislation in response to Citizens United. Participated in Independent Sector Working Group to help the nonprofit community differentiate itself from new groups created under the 501(c)(4) code solely to funnel funds into electoral races.

With other groups, submitted 42,000+ petitions to President Obama, urging him to address money in politics and fix the dysfunctional Federal Elections Commission by replacing five members whose terms have expired.

Forcefully advocated for passage of legislation requiring financial disclosure of campaign contributions and expenditures by outside groups, while launching a targeted media and public education campaign to build support for action to curtail special interest money in politics.

Conducted campaign with the Annenberg Public Policy Center of the University of Pennsylvania, getting TV stations in key battleground states to reject or request corrections to misleading ads from 3rd party groups.

Impact of LWVUS credibility and reputation for non-partisan, factual information

LWVUS President Elisabeth MacNamara testified before the Senate Judiciary Committee on the continuing importance of the Voting Rights Act and the impact of the Citizens United case.

LWVUS President MacNamara testified before the Senate Rules Committee in support of the DISCLOSE Act of 2012, which would require complete disclosure of the sources of big money spent on advertising in candidate elections.

Action alerts sent by the League generated nearly 20,000 letters of support to Congress.

Participated in Presidential signing ceremony for the Stop Trading on Congressional Knowledge (STOCK) Act.

Cited in some 14,000 news stories and earned potentially 11 million Twitter impressions and 2.7 million Facebook impressions during the election season.

Redistricting Reform

Pushed for redistricting reform through an Ohio coalition, delivering 750,000+ signatures in support.

Building off targeted 2011 effort to ensure more fair and transparent redistricting processes in eight states, the League released *Shining a Light: Redistricting Lessons Learned in 2011*, which highlighted opportunities to improve the process over the next decade and helpful practices for all advocates.

Climate Change and Clean Air

Urged President Obama to make Climate Change a priority, as stated in his State of the Union address.

With LWV allies, presented 3+ million public comments, the largest number of comments ever submitted to EPA during a public comment period, on EPA's proposed rule on carbon pollution standards for new and existing power plants, alerting policy makers that the public wants air pollution curbed and climate change addressed.

Generated 1+ million comments with our coalition partners to the State Department on the negative effects and pollution risks of the Keystone XL pipeline.

Gun Safety Submitted a statement to the Senate Judiciary Committee in support of gun safety measures, including universal background checks, ban on assault weapons, limits on the size of ammunition magazines, and increased penalties for straw-man purchases of guns.

(Continued on page 10 LWV 2012 Key Accomplishments)

(Continued from page 9 LWV 2012 Key Accomplishments)

Generated 6,500 letters to the Senate as part of a larger grassroots effort urging common sense gun legislation.

Health Care Reform

Defended the Affordable Care Act (ACA) from legislative and U.S. Supreme Court challenges; prompted 10,000 messages to Congress in favor of protecting women’s access to contraceptives.

Facilitating Global Democracy

Served as the U.S. State Department’s only nongovernmental partner for the 9th Forum for the Future of the Broader Middle East and North African Initiative to address civil society issues such as women’s empowerment, economic governance and entrepreneurship, and freedom of expression and association.

Strengthening the League

Increased membership and strengthened the League’s organizational capacity through ongoing program of targeted training and coaching of League leaders in membership growth and leadership development strategies.

Launched Young People’s Task Force to advise national League Board on engaging young people as members.

CALENDAR

| Date & Time | Place | Description |
|--|--|---|
| Friday, December 13, 2013 1 pm | Looking Glass Restaurant Kent Poly Tech High School 823 Walnut Shade Road Woodside, DE 19980 | Holiday Luncheon. The League of Women Voters Holiday Luncheon, a statewide fun event for New Castle, Kent, and Sussex County Leagues. A perfect venue to socialize with League members as well as to introduce friends and family to the League. The menu offers a choice of three main dishes: Broiled Salmon, Roasted Rosemary Chicken, or Italian Style Vegetarian Baked Ziti. The entrees include Chef's choice for salad or soup, two vegetables, roll, dessert and beverage. The cost is \$25.00 Reservations are necessary. Send check and entree preference to Crystal Hamilton, Kent County Treasurer, 1450 Peach Basket Road, Felton 19943 by November 29, 2013. |
| Wednesday, January 8, 2014 9:30 am – noon | Legislative Hall, Dover | State Advocacy Corps meets in Dover, call 302-571-8948 for details |
| Thursday, January 16 th , 2:00 to 5:30 pm | Del.. State University conference room at the Sheraton | Education Study Committee |
| Thursday, January 23, 2014 6-8:30 pm | Roma Restaurant 3 President Drive Dover, DE 19901 | State Board Meeting. Monthly meeting of the state board of directors. |

Save these dates: .

- ⤴ **Wednesday, March 19, 2014..... League Day in Dover TOPIC: AGRUCULTURE**
- ⤴ **May 16-18, 2014.....LWVDE Annual Retreat/Council**
- ⤴ **June 6-10, 2014LWVUS Convention in Dallas, Texas**

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