



DELAWARE VOTER

The League of Women Voters of Delaware

Fall, 2011

lwvde@voicenet.com

www.lwvdelaware.org

Volume 54 No. 2

President: Carol Jones

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.

News: FLASH! Our new State Website is off and running.

If you are viewing this newsletter on line please click [here](http://www.lwvdelaware.org) to find us at <http://www.lwvdelaware.org>



You will find us at <http://www.lwvdelaware.org>. Please go there, review it and let us know what you think. Look at the index on the left hand side of the front page and pick a topic of interest. There are a lot to choose from. You'll definitely want to go to the "Members" section and we have links to all three local Leagues and other organizations we think League members may be interested in.

Thanks to Roberta Ray for getting the project off the ground, to Sandy Spence for implementing it, and to Letty Diswood for her ever present assistance.

If you have something you want included on our new website, please let Sandy Spence (sandyspence325@gmail.com) or Carol Jones (sundiallee@aol.com) know. We're looking for a web master. Any volunteers? Meanwhile, Sandy and Carol will be responsible for content.

We hope you like our new look. We value your comments.

President's Message



For this issue of the Voter, we have a small victory to report. Gov. Markell made the decision to vote against loosening the regulations on hydro-fracking in the Delaware River Basin and against lifting the moratorium on hydro-fracking. The Delaware State League joined with the State Leagues of New Jersey, New York and Pennsylvania, along with many other organizations in all four states, in an effort to hold off further drilling in the Marcellus Shale until the full scientific study of the EPA on the impact of fracking in the watershed of the DRB was completed. Governor Markell and

Governor Cuomo of New York registered their no votes and concerns to the Commission prior to the scheduled November 21st meeting. Since a majority in either direction was uncertain, the meeting was

*(Continued on page 2 **President's Message**)*

(Continued from page 1 **President's Message**)

canceled. We have only won a delay, but it was an important one and we are pleased that our efforts helped make it happen. We will continue our activities to make the Delaware River Basin safe in terms of public health and environmental health.

On the home front, we have set the dates for a retreat/council at the Indian River Marina on April 13 through 15 in 2012. This is the same venue as the retreat held two years ago. Feedback from that event was so positive we decided to do it again. All League members are cordially invited. Please save the dates. Details will be sent after the first of the year.

Speaking of saving dates, League Day in Dover is scheduled for Wednesday March 21st in Dover. The topic this year will be "Campaign Finance and Lobbying Reform."

Thanks for your generous response to our annual request for donations to help support the League. Because 2012 is a general election year, we'll have quite a few activities to fund. We're excited about the Voters Guide program called VOTE411. We expect to provide information on candidates at the national, state and local levels both on line and in print, we'll do our candidates' nights as we always do, and we'll use all forms of media from Face Book to newspapers, radio and TV to get information out to the citizens of Delaware.

We have some fund raisers in mind that we think you'll enjoy. More on that after the first of the year but just to pique your interest, they include some theatrical productions.

We still have positions in communications and public relations to fill. And we're always looking for volunteers in all areas to work with current committee chairs. If you want to become more active with the League, just ask. We'll find a spot for you, guaranteed. My email address is: sundiallee@aol.com.

Thanks to all for your time, your hard work, your financial support. And a huge thank you to our standing committees for the outstanding work they do.

Carol Jones, President, LWV Delaware

T H A N K Y O U

Kudos to all our volunteers who have done the work of the League, using their talents and time, presenting programs, registering voters, and working on the new state web page, organizing events and lobbying on the issues we all care about. The League would not exist without your enthusiastic support and consistent help.



Thank you to the following League members, friends and businesses for their generous financial contributions to the LWV of Delaware. Listed are contributors since the publishing the summer, 2011 newsletter THE VOTER.

Marion Boom
Susan Brynteson,
Sheila Cassels
Marian Delp
Jane & Frank Dilley
Joyce Johnson
Richard Faulk
Jane & Robert Frelick
Helen & Bruce Hoffman
Janet & Brian Kramer
Lois Myoda
Lisa Pertzoff
Karol Hitt Rowan
Michael and Sue Soltys
Sandra Spence
Sarah Straughn
Philip Troxler
Joan T. White

The next listing will be in the winter newsletter 2012

T H A N K Y O U

And thank you to the League members, friends and businesses for their generous financial contributions to the Delaware LWV Education Fund. Listed are contributors since the publishing the summer, 2011 newsletter THE VOTER.

Jean Bauer & Robert Bauer

Marion Boon

Nancy Breslin

Kay F. Brown

Susan Brynteson

Sheila E. Cassels

Paul J. Collins

Paulette Delaveaux

Marian Delp

Mary Anne Edwards

Phyllis Faulkner

Richard Faull

Elizabeth Von Frankenberg

Christine H. Frazer

Carol & Ray Grandfield

Jackie & Jack Harris

Joann Hasse

Helen & Bruce Hoffman

Joyce Johnson

Joy Jones

Carol D. Jones

Kit Kallal

Melba & Gerald Lucas

Barbara Mullin

Joan T. White

Sandy Spence

Sarah Staughn

Pat Todd



The next listing will be in the winter newsletter 2012

Make a Gift that will Keep on Giving

The LWVDE Endowment Fund

Would you like to make a contribution to the League of Women Voters of Delaware that will "keep on giving"? Consider a tax-deductible gift to help ensure the League's long-term financial viability and educational activities here in Delaware by supporting our growing Endowment Fund.

The Delaware Community Foundation program gives smaller organizations that can't afford the normally required \$10,000 the opportunity to start with a minimum of \$2,000 and a commitment to bring this amount to \$10,000 within five years. By December 31, 2010 (the second year of our Fund Builder program at the DCF) we had raised \$4,151.51. FOR 2011 \$2000 IS NEEDED.

Once we reach \$10,000, the funds will be invested as part of the multi-million dollar funds managed by the DCF. Annual returns and donations made after that can be used to support important LWV DE Education Fund projects such as our outreach to newly naturalized citizens, eligible portions of our League Day in Dover programs and candidate forums, and other citizen education projects that will support our efforts to "make democracy work." Returns on investments at the DCF are generally much better than most other institutions where we could invest for the future.

This program could be especially relevant to anyone who wishes to donate highly appreciated stock as stock can be transferred directly to the DCF. Also, DCF is set up to accept matching funds from companies who match gifts made by their employees. So, employed members can double the value of their gift if their employer has such a program. If you would be interested in either of those possibilities, please contact Sandy Spence for details on how to do it. You can reach her at sandyspence325@gmail.com or 302-645-9559.

If you wish to send a check, it can be made out to the Delaware Community Foundation with "**DE LWV Endowment Fund**" in the memo field and sent to LWVDE at 2400 W. 17th St., Clash Wing, Lower Level, Wilmington, DE 19806-1311.

Advocates in Transparency in Government Meet



The Delaware Coalition for Open Government, in partnership with the Delaware Press Association, and the League of Women Voters of Delaware presented a **“We the People” Program - Freedom of Information in a Digital Age: The Current FOI Landscape**”.

Ken Bunting, Executive Director of the National Freedom of Information Coalition, gave an overview of the free flow of information nationwide and explored how the ability to share public information electronically in a modern

digital age affects access to open government and open records. He also focused on increasing costs to access public records in Delaware, general weaknesses in Delaware’s Freedom of Information Act, state lobbying law reforms and more.



(L-R Ken Bunting and Chad Livengood)

The program was held at the University of Delaware’s Goodstay Center, Monday, November 14, 2011.

THE LWVDE ENERGY COMMITTEE REPORT ON SEA LEVEL RISE

The Delaware Sea Level Rise Advisory Committee has been working for several months to assess Delaware’s vulnerability to sea level rise in three categories: Natural Resources, Society and Economy, and Public Safety and Infrastructure. The committee is made up of representatives from several state departments, county and city governments, business advocacy organizations, and citizen advocacy organizations. Chad Tolman and Peggy Schultz represent the LWVDE. (For the committee’s website see: <http://www.dnrec.delaware.gov/coastal/Pages/DESLRAdvisoryCommittee.aspx>)

In November the committee issued a progress report titled **Preparing for Tomorrow’s High Tide**, and held a number of public engagement sessions across the state. .

Sea level rise (SLR) for three possible increases above mean high tide have been considered: 0.5 meter (20 inches), 1.0 m (40 inches) and 1.5 m (60 inches). Some of the findings are:

- All three counties – not just Sussex - will experience significant impacts.
- SLR is expected to affect up to 99% of Delaware’s tidal wetlands.
- 2% of actively farmed land could be inundated by a 1 m SLR, and shallow irrigation wells could be contaminated by seawater.

(Continued on page 5 **Sea Level Rise**)

(Continued from page 4 **Sea Level Rise**)

- 2% of the state's businesses, 3% of its homes, and 22% of its parks could be inundated by a 1 m SLR.
- 4% of the state's roads, 5% of its law enforcement stations, and 7% of its publicly owned wastewater treatment plants could be inundated by a 1 m SLR.
- At 0.5 m over 30% of the docks, cargo transfer areas and warehouses at the Port of Wilmington could be inundated.
- Southbridge, a poor mostly minority community in Wilmington, New Castle, and Delaware City are very vulnerable, as are many of the manufactured homes in Sussex County.

In order to allow those interested to see what areas will be inundated in more detail, DNREC has developed a mapping tool that you can use to zoom in to any part of the state. At: <http://www.dnrec.delaware.gov/Pages/SLRMaps.aspx>. For more information contact the DNREC Coastal Programs Office at: 302-739-9283.

The committee will next consider the public comments received at the public engagement sessions and turn to formulating recommendations for adaptation to SLR. There are three basic options: elevation (e.g., of buildings and roads), protection (e.g., dikes and sea walls) and managed retreat . All will have major economic impacts. For example, at an increase of 1 m level, 3% of 411,000 homes (about 12,000) is about 100 times the number lost in Glenville, which cost the state about \$32 million to buy out. Social justice is also going to be a significant issue – especially in times of very constrained financial resources.

Sea level rise is a powerful reason why Delaware should adopt a comprehensive energy/climate change plan like the one the League and several other organizations and individuals have asked Governor Markell to establish by Executive Order. Delaware is at Ground Zero for climate change and should be a leader both in mitigating its effects and adapting to its consequences.

Submitted by Chad Tolman
chadtolman@verizon.net

FACT SHEET ABOUT UNIVERSAL CURBSIDE RECYCLING

June 2009 – SB 234 DE Universal Curbside Recycling Act passed General Assembly and signed by Governor

Dec. 2010 – 4 cent fee on beverage glass and plastic bottles went into effect
No longer collected 5 cent deposit on glass and plastic bottles

Sept. 2011 – haulers and municipalities offered curbside recycling to all single family residential customers

Jan. 2013 – haulers and municipalities provide curbside recycling to multifamily residential Complexes – grants will be given out in spring of 2012

Jan. 2014 – haulers provide curbside recycling to commercial businesses

(continued on page 6 **Recycling**)

(Continued from page 5 **Recycling**)

Dec. 2014 – 4 cent bottle fee ends

The recycling diversion rate from the landfill in 2010 was 34%; the legislations calls for a diversion rate goal of 50% by 2015 and 60% by 2020.

Prices for Recycled Materials (changes weekly – as of 11.22/11):

Cardboard -- \$130/ton	Aluminum – 50 cents/lb. = \$1,000/ton
Newsprint -- \$70/ton	PET plastic – 5 cents/lb. o= \$100/ton
Hi-quality paper -- \$285/ton	Glass – 0 to \$5/ton

New Materials to be Recycled --coming soon -- call your hauler:

Rigid plastics such as laundry baskets, yogurt containers, some TV tray dinners, etc. (See Recycling Guide below)

Important Website Information:

Delaware Recycles at www.recycling.delaware.gov provides links to:

Waste haulers (by County) telephone contact numbers

Recycling FAQs

What's Recyclable in Delaware?

Yard Waste Information

Recycling Guide – soon to be on this website or go to Delaware Government page, type in “How to Recycling in Delaware Guide” or

www.dnrec.delaware.gov/Recycling/Documents/how%20to%20recycle%20booklet.pdf

Save this date!!

League Day in Dover – Our Annual Legislative Day

Wednesday, March 21, 2012

FOCUS IS ON CAMPAIGN FINANCE AND LOBBYING
A top priority for the League

LOCATION: The Outlook at the Duncan Center, 500 W. Loockerman St., Dover DE 19904

Tentative schedule:

9:00 AM Registration and refreshments

9:30 AM- 12 NOON Program

12:15-1:30 PM BUFFET LUNCHEON with legislators invited

Save this date!

LWV of Delaware Council 2012 and Retreat

(Refresh, Learn and Have Fun)

**Where: Indian River Inlet State Park Cottages for overnight stays
Meetings held in The Inland Bay Conference Center located
right next to the cottages**

Friday – Sunday, April 13-15

For all League members - Interested? Leave your contact information 571-8948

HYDRAULIC FRACKING DRILLING VOTE DELAYED—THANK GOVERNOR MARKELL

On November 21st, the Delaware River Basin Commission (DRBC) was to meet to vote on regulations that would determine the environmental and public safety of drilling for natural gas reserves in the Marcellus Shale Formation. This vote did not take place because Governors Markell and Cuomo both indicated that they would vote no on the regulations. Hundreds, maybe thousands of protesters were due in Trenton that day. For those reasons, the DRBC cancelled the meeting. Governor Markell sent a letter to the Commissioners saying that the public has not had sufficient opportunity to comment on the regulations nor is there sound scientific knowledge that the public and the drinking water supply will be protected. So we shall wait until there is more scientific data.

The Delaware League of Women Voters joined with its counterparts in New Jersey, New York and Pennsylvania to urge that the vote be delayed. The four leagues compiled an Op-Ed article which would have been published in Saturday's News Journal had not the meeting been cancelled. Since spring, the LWVD has written to Governor Markell, Secretary O'Mara, President Obama asking for a delay.

There are several troubling issues that we learned of in the past few months that you should be aware of:

- Delaware gets 81.5% of its drinking water from aquifers and surface water that could be at risk.
- While drilling would not take place here in Delaware, it would have in NY, PA and NJ. We wonder whether homeowners who lease their land to drilling companies are told that if there is a spill, their property becomes a hazardous waste site which they are responsible for cleaning up, not the drilling company. Just allowing drilling and insertion of toxic chemicals under their soil, may cause their property to be subject to cleanup in the future at the homeowners' expense.
- Mortgages on properties have stipulations that drilling is prohibited. That means a leaseholder could lose his/her mortgage.
- 25% of the properties leased in the Marcellus Shale Formation have absentee landlords, some of them foreigners who have purchased land as an investment.

Going forward, the League hopes that one of the first items of DRBC's business is to have public hearings on the proposed regulations that were posted on November 7, 2011. The last proposed regulations received over 69,000 public replies. The Environmental Protection Agency has begun a study of what is needed to protect the drinking supply—that study needs to be completed and available to the public. Thirdly, leaseholders need to be educated about legal responsibilities.

If you have not thanked Governor Markell for his forceful stand, please do.
Carol Jones and Pat Todd



WHEELER • WOLFENDEN • DWARES

Certified Public Accountants

Sarah E. Timmons, CPA

17577 Nassau Commons Blvd. • Suite 204 • Lewes, DE 19958
Phone (302) 360-2040 • Fax (302) 644-1281 • Email: stimmons@wwd-cpa.com

*Delaware Council on
Gambling Problems, Inc.*

*[www .dcgp.org](http://www.dcgp.org)
888-850-8888*

The *VOTER* is published 3-4 times a year by the League of Women Voters of Delaware. Subscription is free by e-mail with a membership in the LWVDE. President: Carol Jones, LWVDE Home page: www.lwvdelaware.org and e-mail: lwvde@voicenet.com Editor: Letty Diswood

League of Women Voters of Delaware
2400 W 17th Street, Clash Wing
Room 1, Lower Level Wilmington, DE 19806

WHAT ACTION HAS THE LWVUS TAKEN? Go to www.lwv.org for details

National Organizations Opposing The Balanced Budget Amendment

The League of Women Voters joined with 277 other organizations in a letter to members of the House of Representatives and Senate opposing passage of a so-called Balanced Budget Amendment to the Constitution. The League has long opposed the balanced budget amendment as a danger to the economy and the balance of powers between the three branches of government.

Statement of President MacNamara before House Judiciary Committee Forum on Voting Laws Changes.

League Urges Senate to Oppose Termination of EAC

The League sent a letter to Senators today urging them to oppose the termination of the Election Assistance Commission, the only federal agency that devotes its full resources to improving American elections.

League Calls on President to Make Nominations to the FEC

In a letter and press conference, the League and coalition partners called for changes in the dysfunctional Federal Election Commission.

League Urges Opposition to Legislation that Would Block Pollution Controls

The League and coalition partners sent a letter to the Senate urging them to oppose S. 1786, which would block the EPA's ability to clean-up life-threatening toxic air pollution.

League Asks Senators to Promise to Protect Public Health

League President, Elisabeth MacNamara, sent a letter urging Senators to protect America's children and families from dangerous air pollution.

League Submits Comments to UN Committees

The League submitted comments to the United Nation's Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) and the Committee on the Rights of the Child (CRC) on CEDAW and the Right to Vote and Hold Office.

League urges Committee Leaders to Post Submissions to Deficit Committee

The League sent a letter to the Chairs and Ranking Members of all House and Senate Standing Committees urging them to post their submissions to the Deficit Committee online as soon as possible, for public review in order to fully embrace transparency in the Super-Committee's process.

League Urges Senators to Oppose Voiding of Life-Saving Rule

The League and coalition partners sent a letter to Senators urging them to oppose the Congressional Review Act resolution sponsored by Senator Rand Paul which would void the life-saving Cross-State Air Pollution Rule (CSAPR).