



DELAWARE VOTER

The League of Women Voters of Delaware

Fall 2014

lwvde@comcast.net

www.lwvdelaware.org

Volume 57 No. 2

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.

LWVDE Acting on Public Policy Issues - WWW.VOTE411 your online Voters' Guide

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

November 4, 2014, is an important date. It presents an opportunity for those of us who recognize the need to protect our inalienable rights as citizens to exercise the great privilege of voting. League members have always advocated for this right to be used by all so that we truly have a democratic government process where "We the People" influence the direction of government. Currently, as is the case around our country, our national and state public policy is influenced by corporate money which dictates legislative decisions which may not be in the best interest of residents of our state. Please encourage all who you can to vote. That may involve offering transportation and support to those who can't make it to the polls in addition to traditional strategies such as voter registration.



December 15, 2014, is another important day for our consideration. It is referred to as Bill of Rights Day. It would seem extremely significant to the League of Woman Voters, given our Mission and efforts over many decades to educate and inform persons about their human and civil rights which are protected under the Constitution.



Charlotte King registering voters at the Kent County Economic Summit in Dover on National Voter Registration Day.

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

**2nd Annual
Holiday Luncheon of
the League of Women
Voters, DE**

Wednesday, December 17 at 12:30 PM
Looking Glass Restaurant at
Polytech High School, Woodside DE

Menu: Seafood Imperial, Roasted
Vegetable Medley, Cranberry stuffed
Chicken with gravy
Cost \$25.00 Per Person

Door Prizes, Sing a Long, A Special Holiday Guest
Inclement weather: check Polytech closings
To RSVP
Mail to : Crystal Hamilton
1450 Peach Basket Rd
Felton, DE 19943
302-284-2797
Make Checks out to LWV

Name(s): _____ \$25.00 each
_____ \$25.00 each

Email _____

Phone _____

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

In the last *Voter*, I hoped to initiate a co-sponsored discussion group on *The New Jim Crow, Mass Incarceration in the Age of Colorblindness*, by Michelle Alexander, which “explores racial control under changing disguises”. This book has inspired considerable debate and criticism around the country. Ecumenical clergy, legal professionals including attorneys and judges, community book clubs have convened group discussions of this book, followed by advocacy work with their legislators. The Social Justice group of the Y.W.C.A in Wilmington, held a six week seminar series on the book. This group, which included NCC League participants is continuing its assessment of the book's findings as they apply to Delaware. I am so proud that league members participated in this seminar. All of us need to read the book even if we are not able to participate in a group discussion. Moreover, in honor of Bill of Rights Day, let us plan informal discussions about the content of the book, perhaps at monthly Fun luncheons.

While the initial response to my request was minimal, I am hopeful that we as four respective leagues, connected by a common purpose, will come together to discuss this subject. Let us begin that discussion on December 15, 2014. I will arrange a place and time and notify you as soon as possible. Until then, I encourage all of us to reflect on the extent of progress that has or has not been made in assuring that all men, women and children in our state are enjoying the full protection guaranteed in the Constitution of the United States of America.

Charlotte King, President

ADVOCACY CORPS PLANNING FOR 2015



At its most recent meetings, held at Legislative Hall in Dover, the LWVDE Advocacy Corps (AC) began planning for League Day in Dover 2015 and setting legislative priorities for the 2015-16 Legislative Session that will open on January 13.

League Day is set for March 25, 2015, at Christ Episcopal Church, S. State and E. Water Streets, just two blocks from Legislative Hall. “We hope this location will make it easier for attendees to visit with their legislators after the program and a box lunch at the church meeting room,” said Advocacy Chair Sandy Spence. *(Continued on page 3 **Advocacy**)*

REFLECTIONS ON THE PEOPLE’S CLIMATE MARCH

The [People’s Climate March](#) in New York City on Sept. 21 was the largest demonstration for climate change action in history, with over 1500 [partnering organizations](#), including the League of Women Voters; estimates of participants ranged from about 300,000 to 400,000.



Chad with Signs at PCM. Picture taken by E. Siftar

Four buses (over 200 people) went from Delaware, with nearly half of them students from the University of Delaware and the St. Andrews School. (grades 9-12). It is very encouraging to see the interest on the part of the young. We started from West Park Ave. and 86th St. and ended at our buses on 12th Ave. and 23rd St. – nearly 4.5 miles. So many people started ahead of us that we moved only one block in the first hour! It was like a combination of a protest march and a circus, with brass bands, bagpipes, choral groups, chanting Hare Krishnas, floats, banners and balloons. It was great to see people of all ages and ethnicities from all over the country – all demonstrating for a livable future.

Sen. Bernie Sanders, I-Vt., walked in the March and said, “Environmental organization, unions, faith groups, social justice groups, schools, businesses, government leaders and grassroots organizers will all send a message that world leaders need to hear at the United Nations on Tuesday and that the Congress needs to hear when it returns to Washington, D.C. in November.” The next day the Rockefeller Brothers Fund (RBF) announced that it would [divest itself of fossil fuel assets](#). Students have led the fight to get universities to divest. There is reason for hope.

*(Continued on page 3 **Reflections**)*

(Continued from page 2 Advocacy)

A change in the format will feature expert speakers on five important topics for legislative action: Voting/Elections, Campaign Finance, Justice, Environment, and Affordable Housing. Attendees will hear from an expert on each topic and will be provided with a fact sheet explaining the League's position on one or two bills in each area. They will then have the opportunity to visit with their own legislators and other key Members of the General Assembly to advocate for those positions. AC members will join them to support them in their advocacy work.

At our most recent meeting, Roberta Ray briefed the AC on the 2016 budget process and urged members to attend agency budget hearings that lead to development of the Governor's budget for the fiscal year ending in June 2016. Some members may testify at relevant hearings. The Governor's budget is presented to the General Assembly in January. The legislature then adjourns for six week while the Joint Finance Committee holds hearings that lead to development of the final bill that will set the fiscal direction of the state for the coming year, voted on in June.



LWV Advocacy Corps meeting at Legislative Hall

Michele Greene, who is with the Social Justice Coalition and is participating in a study group on *The New Jim Crow*, spoke to the AC urging us to support legislation that would require all police agencies in the state to include a body camera as part of their uniforms. The AC discussed issues that would need to be addressed to progress such legislation. *USA Today* on 10/12/14 reported on "Police rush to buy body cameras" as a "Ferguson Fallout." The article pointed to the first comprehensive study conducted by the Rialto, California, police department. Complaints against the department were reduced from 28 in 2011 to 3 in 2012 and Use-of Force incidents fell from 60 to 25 in the same period when half of the department's 115 uniformed officers wore body cameras.

(Continued on page 4 Advocacy)

(Continued from page 2 Reflections)

REFLECTIONS ON CONVENTION 2014

Convention 2014 was unusual in its emphasis on climate change, with three caucuses sponsored by different groups:

- ***Stepping Up Our Game in Reducing Carbon Emissions*** sponsored by the LWVDE
- ***Combating Climate Change: What Your League Can Do***, sponsored by the LWV of Palm Beach County (FL)
- ***Protecting Our Planet: New Resources for Climate Action*** sponsored by the LWVUS Climate Change Task Force

All were well attended.

The following motion proposed by the LWVDE was adopted by a nearly unanimous vote of the convention delegates:

The LWVUS should support a price on carbon emissions that will increase in stages, as part of an overall program to improve energy efficiency and to replace fossil fuels with renewable energy, fast enough to avoid serious damage to the climate system.

After the vote, a group of us from California, Delaware, Florida and Illinois (including Eleanor Revelle, who chairs the LWVUS Climate Change Task Force) met with President McNamara to discuss what we could do to encourage local Leagues across the country to become more active in addressing climate change while there is still time to avoid the worst effects. We decided to form a Climate Action Network with a [website](#) maintained by the LWV of Berkeley, Albany and Emeryville, CA . The Network now has 120 member Leagues from 31 states, and has adopted a [Mission Statement](#) and improved communications among Leagues.

Save the Date!!

***League Day In Dover - Our Annual Legislative Day
Wednesday, March 25
Registration 8:30 am
Program 9 am -12
12-1:30 PM Lunch with legislators invited
Visit legislative Hall in the afternoon***

(Continued from page 3 *Advocacy*)

Joann Hasse briefed the Corps on legislation to establish “Delaware Medical Orders for Scope of Service” (DMOST). A “DMOST” bill introduced close to the end of the last session failed when opponents raised last minute issues. Joann expects legitimate concerns to be addressed in a new bill and the AC agreed that we should support an amended bill. A significant issue that the bill intends to correct is that current law requires paramedics to do everything possible to resuscitate a patient regardless of the patient’s desire expressed in a standing “Do Not Resuscitate” document.



Death Penalty Repeal Advocates

The AC meets again in Dover on November 19 for an all-day workshop planning where we will establish priorities in each of our “portfolios” for the 148th session (2015-16).

Portfolios address Voting and Elections, Campaign Finance, Open Government, Environment and Natural Resources, Justice and Public Safety, Families and Children, Health Care, Education, Land Use & Transportation, Affordable Housing (with emphasis on Manufactured Housing issues), and General Government. We also have a “Miscellaneous” category for legislation that doesn’t fit neatly into one of the other portfolios.

If you are interested in joining the Advocacy Corps to help us lobby or to support our work by helping to research important issues, draft testimony or otherwise assist, please contact **Sandy Spence** at 302-645-9559 or sandyspence325@gmail.com.

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**HIGHLIGHTS OF THE COASTAL ZONE BUS TOUR
IN NEW CASTLE COUNTY**

The very informative tour of the New Castle County portion of Delaware's Coastal Zone (Sept 13) was a rare opportunity to experience the rewards of the Coastal Zone Act of 1971. Twenty six participants heard from Phil Cherry, DNREC Administrator, who was present in the writing of the Act's regulations in 1996, and from Lorraine Fleming, who was on the Advisory Committee helping generate the implementing regulations. In Mr. Cherry's opinion the CZA has been very successful in protecting the Zone from a build-up of heavy industry.

The CZA does not, however, prohibit residential development with its significant infrastructure and space demands. Local land use plans and policies could direct new housing development away from the Coastal Zone but would need unusually strong public support for doing so.

Seeing “grandfathered” examples of refining and heavy industry operations up close was eye opening as to how the Zone could look had it not been for the CZA. At the time there was enormous pressure (even from the Federal Government) to make this convenient and accessible coastline home to energy operations and other important industries to serve the needs of the nation. We viewed the site of Metachem, now abandoned, and learned about the remediation process keeping the leftover contaminants contained.



Pictured above Fort Delaware bay view

Lorraine Fleming, with her extensive experience in environmental issues, pointed out examples of preserved valuable wetlands and unspoiled natural habitats. Wetlands along the coast have high value as nurseries to sea life.

(Continued on page 5 *Coastal Zone Bus Tour*)

UMBRELLAS FOR SALE!!



Be prepared. Not only will you need these nifty umbrellas next April, but they could come in handy during the predicted heavy snow this winter. Also, think about carrying them around to remind people to vote leading up to and on Election Day. The high quality umbrella features a nifty push button to both open *and* close and has the League **logo** and text reading "**Be informed & VOTE**" on a blue background. They are for sale for \$18.

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

RECOMMENDATION FROM THE LWVUS YOUNG PEOPLE'S TASK FORCE (YPTF) CAUCUS AT CONVENTION 2014

The YPTF was created as a collaborative effort between LWVUS President, Elisabeth McNamara and the LWVUS staff to seek ways of increase long-term membership sustainability while recruiting the next generation of League leaders. The committee is comprised of five under 35 year olds with two national board members, two Shur Fellow Membership Coaches and one LWVUS staff person serving as Ad hoc members of the Committee. For additional information, go to <http://www.lwv.org/content/lwvus-young-people-task-force>.

The YPTF committee held 2 caucuses at convention. The thrust of their message was young people want to join the League but needed to be courted (much as you would do on a date) to join. They describe the Millennial generation represented by the YPTF as:

- Afraid to talk about politics but want to learn more

(Continued on page 6 Young People's Task Force)

(Continued from page 4 Coastal Zone Bus Tour)

With sea level rise encroachment, existing wetlands now have room to begin to move inland. Unchecked industrial development, had it not been stopped by the CZA, would have already destroyed these important habitats.

Participants had an opportunity to enjoy another benefit: access to the Bay (a long walk) through the Blackbird Creek Preserve with access to a tidal marsh delta formed by the Appoquinnimink River and Blackbird Creek. While consuming Panera's box lunches on the bus as we moved from south to north we watched the video on the development and eventual passage of the Coastal Zone Act, a special piece of Delaware's history and legacy, thanks to then Governor Russell Peterson and the supporters of this vision for Delaware's coast. We hope to be able to complete the view of the Coastal Zone with a similar tour of Kent and Sussex Counties.

Jane Dilley
Land Use/Transportation Committee



Picture above: CZA blackbird Creek experimental trees

*Thank you to our generous members
who have made a financial contribution
in memory of Liz Ryan.*

*Linda M. Cheney
Joann Hasse
Joyce Johnson
Susan & Mike Soltys
Mary Margaret Williams*

(Continued from page 5 *Young People's Task Force*)

- Want to prove themselves and welcome competition
- Happy to be asked “what are your skills?” and then be offered training to enhance skills
- Want to be mentored
- Like to apply to serve on committees
- Need relevancy if they are to spend the time
- See the League as “educating smart voters”
- View “feminism” as an” issue of upper class older women”
- See everything as a “brand”
- Like “bling”- handouts/events
- League must earn their trust
- They like partnering with different groups, Girl Scouts, Boy Scouts and PTOs and suggest League should as well

Suggested activities or practices the League might use to gain the interest and attention of the Millennial Generation.

- 5:30-7 pm meetings (after work) – some Leagues have Hot Topic discussions at a Craft Beer Garden with the first 30 getting a “free beer” after work
- No dues the first year while Millennials get to know the League and become more involved
- Start Student Units
 - Students like to work on local issues
 - Students have limited time – want quality over quantity
 - Use honorary position on local League board or free membership as enticement
 - Student Unit at University of Hawaii has at least 30 young members, another has 50
- Prefer evening to week-end meetings and the use of Google Calendar to schedule/finding out availability of the group for activity/meeting
- Use Facebook to promote events – Twitter reaches more diverse group and Instagram with pictures reach a different audience

The speakers recommended we read the book ***Generations: The History of America's Future, 1584 to 2069*** by Neil Howe and William Strauss.

Letty Diswood
Delegate to LWVUS Convention

JOIN OUR SOCIAL MEDIA COMMUNITIES!

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



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

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

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

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SEARCH BY STATE & TOPIC

CALENDAR

Thursday, October 16, 2014, 5:30 - 9 pm	Irish Eyes Restaurant, 2nd floor 213 Angler's Rd Lewes, DE 19958	Love Our Inland Bays Dinner. Dinner honoring Governor Markell for his "Clean Water for Delaware's Future" initiative. Prepaid reservation needed by October 13th. Reservation form is here .
Thursday, October 16, 2014, 6-8:30 pm	Roma Restaurant 3 President Drive Dover, DE 19901	NOTE: State Board Meeting Rescheduled. October meeting of the state board of directors rescheduled to October 23, 2014.
Friday, October 17, 2014, 1:30 - 3 pm	Please click venue for instructions.	Natural Resources Committee Meeting. The meeting of the LWVDE Natural Resources Committee will be at Chad Tolman's residence.
Monday, October 20, 2014		General Election Registration Deadline. DEADLINE for uniformed and overseas citizens to register to vote before the General Election.
Thursday, October 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.
Tuesday, November 4, 2014, 7 am - 8 pm		GENERAL ELECTION. Polls are open from 7 am to 8 pm.
Monday, October 27, 2014, 11:30 AM-1 PM	Michael's is located at 1000 Churchmans Road, Newark. See http://michaelsde.com/directions/	HOT TOPIC LUNCH (formerly Fun Lunches) "Latest & Greatest in Delaware's Elections"? Speakers: Anthony J. Albence, Director and Howard Sholl, Deputy Director, State of Delaware, Department of Elections for New Castle County
Friday, November 14, 2014, 1:30 - 3 pm	Please click venue for instructions.	Natural Resources Committee Meeting. The LWVDE Natural Resources Committee meeting will be held at Chad Tolman's residence.
Thursday, November 20, 2014, 6-8:30 pm	Roma Restaurant 3 President Drive Dover, DE 19901	State Board Meeting. Monthly meeting of the state board of directors.
Friday, December 12, 2014, 1:30 - 3 pm	Click venue for instructions.	Natural Resources Committee Meeting. The meeting will be held at Chad Tolman's residence.
Wednesday, December 17, 2014 12 pm	Looking Glass Restaurant Polytech High School 823 Walnut Shade Road, Woodside, DE	LWVDE Holiday Luncheon. Come Celebrate!! A lovely luncheon, door prizes, and more! RSVP Crystal Hamilton , LWVDC Treasurer, or phone Crystal at 284-2797.

The Education Study Committee is in need of more assistance. Education reform is a major agenda item throughout the country. We need to update the Delaware League's Position on Education. Our next meeting is on Thursday, Oct 23, 2014 at 2:00 P.M. We meet at the Cendel Bldg on Lookerman St. in Dover. If interested contact Charlotte King at charlotteking@aol.com or 645 7074.

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

(302) 571-8948
lwwde@comcast.net
lwwdelaware.org
lww.org