



DELAWARE VOTER

The League of Women Voters of Delaware

Spring 2013
President: Carol Jones

lwvde@voicenet.com

www.lwvdelaware.org

Volume 55 No. 4
Editor: Letty Diswood

The League of Women Voters, a nonpartisan political organization, encourages informed and active participation in government, works to increase understanding of major public policy issues, and influences public policy through education and advocacy.

**League of Women Voters of Delaware invites all members to its biennial
CONVENTION, SATURDAY, MAY 18, 2013
Sheraton Dover Hotel, 1570 N. DuPont Highway
Dover, DE 19901**

No experience required to become a delegate! Join us for an informative and productive day.

Convention and Registration at 8:30 – 9 am with coffee/teas/decaf/water

**Business meeting 9:00 am • Workshop 10:45 – 12:00 am • Luncheon at noon • Speaker at 12:40 pm
• Workshop at 1:30 pm • Business meeting 2:30 • Adjourn 4 pm**

REGISTRATION INFORMATION ON PAGE >>>> 2

WORKSHOPS



Leadership/Membership Development – presenter: Deborah McMillan, LWVUS board member

Deborah Macmillan, the national coach working with the local Leagues in the League of Women Voters of Delaware's Membership and Leadership Development program, looks forward to meeting Delaware Leaguers in person at Delaware's state convention. In addition to her work at the national, state, and local levels in the MLD program, she is also president of her own local LWV of East Windsor-Hightstown in central New Jersey and a member of the LWVNJ Committee on Immigration. In the past she served as state president for LWVNJ and as a member of the LWVUS study committee on immigration. She is retired from a career in academics and survey/market research. She particularly appreciates the chance to broaden her knowledge of Delaware and its Leagues as her prior knowledge was restricted to passing

through on Interstate 95 and US 13, conducting research for DuPont in Wilmington, and canoeing and birding in Delaware's state parks and wildlife refuges.

Learn How to Read and Understand a Financial Report – presenter : Cheryl Carncross of Brandywine Accounting

Cheryl A. Carncross CPA MST – is currently the senior tax accountant at Brandywine Accounting LLC. Cheryl holds a B.S. in Accounting from the State University of New York at Buffalo. She also holds a M.S. in Taxation from Widener University. Cheryl has several years experience in both the private sector and public accounting. She is a member of the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants (AICPA) and the Delaware Society of Certified Public Accountants (DSCPA). Cheryl currently is a broad member and treasurer for the City Theater Group in Wilmington. She currently resides in N. Wilmington.



Keynote Speaker: Ed Kee, Delaware Secretary of Agriculture. He has been given the premise of the LWVUS study and questions that will update our agriculture policy positions adopted in 1988. Local Leagues will be invited to participate in this important League study later in 2013.

Delaware Secretary of Agriculture Ed Kee has spent his entire career in Delaware agriculture and has headed the Department of Agriculture since 2009. He worked as an extension agent for the University of Delaware from 1978 to 2008, and worked for Hanover Foods until being appointed Secretary by Gov. Jack Markell.

Secretary Kee is a nationally and internationally recognized expert on vegetable science, with more than 30 articles in scholarly journals. He is the author of two books - "Delaware Farming," which includes a collection of historic photographs of First State agriculture, and "Saving Our Harvest: The History of the Mid-Atlantic Canning and Freezing Industry."

He is has been the recipient of the Rattledge Award for Outstanding Public Service from the University of Delaware; the Secretary's Award for Distinguished Service to Agriculture from former Secretary of Agriculture Michael Scuse; and the Edward H. Ralph Medal of Achievement from the Delmarva Poultry Industry.

A sixth-generation Delawarean, Secretary Kee is a 1969 graduate of William Penn High School. He holds a bachelor's of science, a master's degree in agriculture, and a master's degree in liberal studies from the University of Delaware. He lives on a farm near Lincoln with his wife, Debbie.

The Business of Convention 2013 Includes:

NOMINATIONS OF OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS and BIOS see pages 3-6. PROPOSED PROGRAM AND NEW STUDY for 2011-2013 with new Education Study see page 6, PROPOSED BYLAW CHANGES see page 7. PROPOSED BUDGET(S) for 2013-14 AND 2014-15 available at convention. Outgoing President Carol Jones Report listed on page 3, League Day Highlights page 8, Action Alerts page 9-10.

REGISTRATION INFORMATION

\$30.00 Registration is paid at the registration Table.

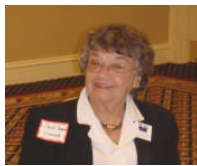
Express Deli Luncheon: Tossed Garden Salad, Chef's Chilled Salad Selection, Individual Deli Baguettes and Wraps to Include: Tender Roast Beef, Smoked Turkey, Chicken, Tuna Fish Salad and Chef's Selected Cheese, Appropriate Condiments, Fruit Medley, Coffee, Fine Tea Selection, Decaf, Iced Tea, Chef's Selection of Desserts

Call your local League president (listed below) and let her know that you will be a delegate. Send your name, contact information and the League you are representing to the [office lwwde@voicenet.com](mailto:lwwde@voicenet.com) or call the office at 302- 571-8948. Payment for registration is taken day of event at registration table. (Note LWVNCC delegates pay \$20.00, LWVSC and state delegates pay \$30, LWVKC pay \$15. Reduced rates are possible when local Leagues subsidize their delegates. *If you are a nominee not currently serving on a board, you are encouraged to represent your local League as a delegate/or visitor. Each League decides how much its budget allows to subsidize its delegates.*

LWVNCC – Peggy Schultz – schultz_peggy@yahoo.com
 LWVKC – Phyllis Edamatsu – pyedamatsu@earsthlink
 LWVSC – Anne Riley – shrinkear@pobox.com
 State Board – Carol Jones – sundiallee@aol.com

Slate of Nominees and biographical statements on next pages

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



Our biennial Convention will take place on Saturday, May 18th at the Sheraton Hotel in Dover. You have already received your call to Convention.

I urge you to fill your full complement of members from your local Leagues. It's a way for more people to learn something about how League works, to meet members from other Leagues, and to help move the work of the LWV forward. Kent County has 8 representative seats, New Castle 14 and Sussex 11. In addition, the state board has 10 seats and we are encouraging state board members to attend in their capacity for the state and encouraging local Leagues to fill their quotas with officers and members from each local league.

In addition to attending to the business of the League (we have a budget to pass, amendments to our by-laws to deliberate and a program to approve), we are having two seminars and a keynote speaker at our luncheon. Our morning seminar will be on the topic of "Membership/Leadership Development" and will be led by Deborah Macmillan, our national coach. Our keynote speaker is Delaware's Secretary of Agriculture, Ed Kee. The national LWV study for the next year is agriculture and who better to prepare us than Secretary Kee? He will take us from "Seeds and Breeds to the Table," a broad survey of the complex business of agriculture. Our afternoon seminar will be led by Cheryl Carncross, an associate at Brandywine Accounting, who will help us unravel the murky world of reading financial reports. She has promised to make it light and humorous so you will barely know you're actually learning something useful.

We hope for a full complement from each League – and if there are those who wish to attend who will not be representing their Leagues, we encourage that. We want more people to become familiar with the overall picture of how the League functions and why.

See you on the 18th!
Carol

2013 SLATE OF NOMINATED OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS 2013-15

NOMINEES' BIOGRAPHICAL STATEMENTS FOR CONVENTION 2013*

PRESIDENT: CHARLOTTE KING

Charlotte is a retired licensed clinical social worker who worked for more than 40 years on behalf of high risk families and children. She worked in every aspect of the family and child welfare field from direct service, training and the administration of statewide programs. During her career she developed and implemented many social service programs, and wrote social policy to protect children and to enhance the quality of life for them and their families.

During her career she also worked in the mental health field providing individual and group therapy to children, families and adults.

Charlotte has a B.A. Degree from St. John's College in Annapolis, Maryland and a MSW Degree from Fordham University, School of Social Work in New York.

Charlotte has a long standing interest in the League of Women Voters. Currently she is the Chair of the Advocacy Corps of the State League and as such is able to lobby for legislation deemed important to our Delaware

residents and to work collaboratively with other groups with similar goals.

Charlotte currently resides in Lewes, Delaware. She is an active volunteer with several organizations such as St. Peter's Church, and The Rehoboth Film League. She was appointed to serve on the Delaware Commission for Women.

FIRST VICE-PRESIDENT: JILL FUCHS

Jill Fuchs describes herself as a Community Activist. She has been President of her Homeowners Association and has served on the State Manufactured Home Installation Board and currently is an advocate for the Leased Land Homeowners Coalition.(LLHC) Jill recently has accepted a role as an advocate for AARP.

In 2010 she was a candidate for State Representative.

She resides in Camden with her husband of 52 years and their rescue dog Wally. Kenneth and Jill raised two daughters and have 4 grandchildren.

(Continued on page 4 *Bio – Jill Fuchs*)

(Continued from page 3 **Bio – Jill Fuchs**)

Jill has worn many hats in her lifetime. Starting out as a child performer she enjoyed an early television and theater career. She was a New York Certified Substance Abuse Counselor who worked in the mental health field as well as an Adjunct Professor at Long Island University and St. Francis College in New York. She has also been a Director, Choreographer, and Board Member of both The Heights Players and Cobble Hill Players.

Jill is a Realtor and her husband Kenneth retired from a Real Estate career in Historic Brooklyn Heights New York.

Currently she is Secretary on the Kent County LWV Board and is honored to be considered as a part of the LWVDE family.

**SECOND VICE-PRESIDENT:
JANET PHILLIPS KRAMER**

Janet is a retired physician who practiced internal medicine and adolescent medicine in Wilmington for twenty-three years prior to serving as Director of Adolescent and Young Adult Medicine at Christiana Care Health System from 1985 through 2000.

She joined the League of Women Voters in 2002, was President of LWNCC from 2003-2007, Co-Chair of the Urban Health and Justice Committee of LWNCC from 2006 to 2009, and served on the LWVDE Board, initially as the representative of LWNCC and from 2007 through the present with responsibility for the Justice portfolio. Janet also chairs the Finance Committees of LWVDE and LWNCC.

In addition, Janet was appointed by Governor Markell in 2009 to the Adult Correction Healthcare Review Committee and served as its chair for the first three years; is past board president of the Delaware Center for Justice (DCJ) and continues as a DCJ board member; is a member of the Delaware Superior Court's Criminal Justice and Mental Health Task Force and is a physician surveyor for the National Commission on Correctional Health Care. For the last eight years Janet has been the Board member and treasurer for the Attention Deficit Disorder Association (ADDA) and in this capacity she represented ADDA in a partnership with DCJ which conducts a pilot program for the diagnosis and treatment of ADHD in inmates into Delaware correctional facilities and expands ADHD treatment capacity in the Delaware community. Her major area of interest in retirement is health and justice public policy as it impacts the chronically ill.

SECRETARY: CAROLE WALSH

Carole Walsh has served as State Board Secretary since 2003. She was State Board president from 1993 to 1995 and Voter Services Chair for the 1996, 1998, 2004, 2008 and 2010 elections. She was president of the Newark League from 1985 to 1987 and chaired the committee that orchestrated the merger of the Newark and Wilmington Leagues into the LWNCC in 1994. Carole joined the League in 1968 with a primary interest in environmental issues, especially clean air. She was a League lobbyist for natural resources issues, including the "Bottle Bill," and reproductive choice for many years. In recent years she has done voter registration for LWNCC at many sites.

Carole and her husband Bill (also a League member) enjoy four grandchildren, volunteering and hiking in White Clay Creek State Park and Rocky Mountain National Park.

TREASURER: Seeking a candidate – are you interested?

DIRECTOR NOMINEES: (In alphabetical order)

MARY K. EGGERS (Kent County)

Education:

PhD from University of Pittsburgh
Special focus in Aging, Memory and Depression

Work Experience:

Dean of Students Penn State University Beaver Campus
Assistant Director, Rockland County NY Office for the Aging
Adjunct Professor at Delaware State University, Penn State University & Dominican College (NY)
Social Service Coordinator for Rosebud Sioux Reservation
High School and College Psychological Counselor

Currently retired

Volunteer Experience:

Past Chairman of Rockland County Alzheimer's Association
Co-founder of Interfaith Volunteer Caregivers of NY
Past Director, Meals on Wheels Board (Rockland County NY)
Successful grant writer for several non-profit organizations
34th District Democratic Committee Member
President of Barclay Farms Homeowners Civic Association

Family: Husband (Dohn E. Harshbarger), one son, no grandchildren

(Continued on page 5 **Biographies**)

DIANE MAXWELL (New Castle County)

Diane Maxwell is a professional columnist, journalist, political and church writer, communications consultant, and technical writer. She has written for Cam-Glo weekly newspapers in Blackwood, N.J.; the League of Women Voters in Camden County, N.J. and New Castle County, Del.; Toastmasters International (Moorestown, N.J. chapter); and Christ Church in Delaware City.

Her past community service includes municipal chairperson, Borough of Pine Hill, N.J.; vice president, Lower Camden County N.J. Regional High School District Board of Education; and member, National School Boards Association's Federal Relations Network.

Diane holds a bachelor's degree in journalism from Glassboro State College (now Rowan University) in New Jersey. She also holds a master-of-arts in writing degree from Rowan. She is a retired communications representative from Lockheed Martin Corporation and was also a senior adjunct professor of English at Burlington County College. She is currently employed by Delaware Technical Community College in Dover, Del, as the public information officer.

Diane and her husband, Mike, have four children and six grandchildren, with another one on the way.

WILLIAM FRANCIS O'CONNOR (Sussex County)

Personal: Born Nov. 9, 1928 in New York City. Married (1954) to Rosalind Hayes Shea of Waterbury Connecticut. Eight children and nine grandchildren.

Education: BS in philosophy and psychology, Fordham College 1951. Ph.D., Experimental Psychology, Fordham University, 1959.

Military Service: LT. U.S. Navy Medical Service Corps Research Psychologist, 1954-1961. Human factors research in aviation, Pensacola, Florida. Was Navy representative on Project Mercury selection team that chose John Glenn.

Professional Work History: More than half of my career was spent in the research and studies business, in both the public and private sector, including running my own consulting and studies firm. Research areas included human factors in military and civil aviation, including air traffic control; studies of health manpower utilization and job design in civilian and military settings, analysis of health systems costs and outputs. Was Staff officer at National Academy of Sciences directing a study to establish staffing tools for setting manpower levels for the federal Veterans health care system. Served two years as Director of Selection for Latin America Peace Corps Volunteers. Last 15 years was spent in the Veterans Administration's central

office, where I managed continuing education programs for VA health personnel.

Teaching: Over the course of my career I held part-time academic appointments in psychology and statistics at two universities, an MBA program and a medical school. Currently Instructor at Osher Lifelong Learning, Lewes.

Community service: Member, Delaware Health Resources Board, Boy Scouts, Kiwanis, Teen Club Advisor, President of the Board of a sheltered workshop, LWV.

SANDY SPENCE (Sussex County)

Since moving to Delaware ten years ago from Washington, DC, Sandy Spence has served as Board Secretary, Treasurer and Housing Advocate/lobbyist for Sussex County Habitat for Humanity. She also currently serves on the Delaware Housing Coalition board.

She has served as Vice President for Membership for the LWV of Sussex County and LWVDE Treasurer and President. She is active in the LWVDE Advocacy Corps, chairing the housing portfolio. She also co-chaired the LWVDE Membership Recruitment Initiative and is now a Shur Fellow/National Coach for Kentucky and Oklahoma in the LWVUS Membership/Leadership Development program.

In Washington, DC, Sandy served on the DC Habitat for Humanity Board, chaired its Development Committee, and was Board Secretary. Sandy was a registered lobbyist in Washington during her career with the National Association of Counties, the California Department of Transportation, Amtrak, the Association for Commuter Transportation (ACT) and others. She served as Executive Director of ACT, the Society of Glass & Ceramic Decorators and others. As Executive Director of ACT, she lobbied for six years to secure an amendment to the federal Tax Code to allow employers to provide tax-free transit passes, as well as carpool and vanpool benefits. That law is now used widely throughout the nation, including Delaware, to secure private/employer subsidies for commuting benefits.

LESTER STILLSON (Kent County)

Lester recently retired as the State Operations Manager for the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service in Delaware where he was responsible for managing and directing all NRCS field operational functions involved in developing and implementing a comprehensive conservation program for Delaware. Specific leadership responsibilities included direct supervision of all field operations, workload analysis, program assessment,

(Continued on page 6 **Bio – Lester Stillson**)

(Continued from page 5 **Bio – Lester Stillson**)

strategic planning, and quality assurance.

Before coming to Delaware, he served as the NRCS Team Leader in Jakarta, Indonesia assisting Indonesian Ministries to develop and implement rural development projects on the Island of Java.

He has over 42 years of diverse professional experience working in eight states (Maine, New York, Oklahoma, Kentucky, Connecticut, Rhode Island, Kansas, and Delaware) and three foreign countries (Iran as Peace Corps Volunteer family from 1973 to 1975, Haiti, and Indonesia). He was raised on a small dairy farm in Vermont and is a graduate of the

University of Maine with a degree in Forest Science.

His wife, Christine, recruited Les several years ago. He has served as LWVDC 2nd Vice-President, LWVDE 2nd Vice-President and is currently the LWVDC VOTER Editor. He also serves on the LWVDE Finance Committee.

Les and his wife Christine live in Wyoming, DE. When he is not working on a League related activity, his leisure activities include working out at the YMCA, cooking, home repair, gardening, reading and beach walks.

ELLEN O. WASFI (Kent County)

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

She has been a board member of the League of Women Voters of Kent County for 32 years and served as its president for over 15 years. She has moderated the League's Candidate Night debates and initiated the Dover League's monitoring of Resident Advisory Council Elections at sites of both the Delaware and Dover Housing Authorities. She was a contributor to the Delaware Housing Coalition's Tenant Council Election Manual.

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

and updated the State's elementary and secondary school social studies program.

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

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

*Note: Nominees were asked to submit brief biographical statements. No further directions were given. Statements are presented here as submitted except that home addresses, telephone and email addresses have been removed.

NOMINATING COMMITTEE

Christine Stillson, Chair
Carol Jones (Sussex County)
Pat Todd (New Castle County)
(Two additional members to be appointed from board)

RECOMMENDED PROGRAM FOR ADOPTION AT CONVENTION 2013

The state board recommends the re-adoption of the current program listed in the Convention book.

The state board recommends:

A study of the public education system in Delaware with special focus on financing; charter schools; and transparency and accountability to citizens.

Convention: ***Proposed Bylaws Changes on page 7.***

PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO THE LWVDE Bylaws

NOTE- the 2011 language is in non bolded type and proposed changes are **bolded** and *italicized*. Eliminated areas are in ~~strike through~~.

Article IV Officers

SECTION 5. THE TREASURER. The Treasurer, or her/his duly appointed assistant, shall collect and receive all moneys due. The Treasurer shall be custodian of these moneys, shall deposit them in a bank or banks designated by the Board of Directors and shall disburse the same only upon order of the Board of Directors. If the office of treasurer is vacated, the LWVDE Board President shall assume the functions and responsibilities of that office until the President is able to appoint a new treasurer.

In the situation where a financial professional is employed by the LWVDE to perform the bookkeeping functions of the LWVDE, the Treasurer shall approve all invoices and service contracts for payment in addition to his/her responsibilities which include oversight for the timely payment of vendors, PMPs, other invoices; oversight of timely invoicing for shared expense and timely applications, registrations, and submissions for state registrations and the IRS. The Treasurer shall report to the Board at the time the applications, registrations and other financial legal documents are submitted. Copies of the applications, registrations, and submissions and copies of the receipt shall be placed in the LWVDE file and retained for the appropriate period of time according to the LWVDE Policies and Procedures.

The Treasurer shall present periodic statements to the Board at its regular meetings, and an annual report to the Convention. The books of the Treasurer shall be audited biannually at the end of each term **and may be subject to an internal audit anytime on request of the LWVDE Finance Committee approved by the LWVDE Board.**

Article VIII Financial Administration

SECTION 1. FISCAL YEAR. The fiscal year of the League of Women Voters of Delaware shall be July 1 to June 30.

SECTION 2. BUDGET. The Board shall submit to the Convention for adoption a budget for the ensuing two years. A copy of the budget shall be sent to each local League President within one week following the regularly scheduled April State Board Meeting in that year.

SECTION 3. ~~BUDGET COMMITTEE~~ FINANCE COMMITTEE The budget shall be prepared by a committee which shall be appointed for that purpose at least four months in advance of the Convention **by the Finance Committee which shall be appointed after the LWVDE Convention by the LWVDE President with approval of the LWVDE Board.** The Treasurer shall be an ex-officio member of the ~~Budget~~ **Finance** Committee but shall not be eligible to serve as chairman.

In addition to developing the LWVDE budget, the Finance Committee shall provide ongoing fiscal oversight of financial transactions, including recommendations, planning and oversight of audits and shall provide quarterly reports to the Board in regard to LWVDE fiscal affairs. The Financial Committee shall review all contracts which will require funding by LWVDE and evaluate proposals for all non-budgeted acquisitions, and report to the Board concerning the fiscal impact of the contract and acquisition.

(Submitted by LWVDE Finance Committee April, 2013 for consideration by LWVDE Board and if approved, by the 2013 LWVDE Convention)

JUDY TAGGART NAMED UDWC 2013 WOMAN OF THE YEAR



The University of Delaware Women's Club has announced that League member Judy Taggart has been elected as the **2013 Woman of the Year**. Judy has a long and distinguished history of working with non-profits and volunteering to help others in the community. She is truly an inspiration to those around her! Starting in the 1960s, Judy was an elementary school reading teacher and principal. Later, she worked in the UD Adult & Community Education Program. She also served as the CEO of the Arundel YMCA, Director of the Delaware Ronald McDonald House and with the Girl Scouts in Maryland and as Director of the Girl Scouts of the Chesapeake Bay Council. Her retirement in 2008 saw Judy active continuing to help others. She is currently President of the Friends of the Newark Free Library, and recently served as President of the New Castle County League of Women Voters. She is also on the Delaware State Commission for Women and the AARP of Delaware Executive Council. Judy is also a weekly reading volunteer at Maclary Elementary School in the Reading ASSIST Program.

HIGHLIGHTS OF LEAGUE DAY IN DOVER held on Wednesday, March 27, 2013

Held at the Outlook at The Duncan Center Dover

Public Education Trends and Issues Sponsored by the League of Women Voters of Delaware

Summaries of presentations will be posted in the near future at www.lwvdelaware.org. The forum was very successful with over 80 people attending the workshops and 75 staying for lunch. Thanks go to the Advocacy Corp members and the workshop coordinators: Charlotte King, Mickey McKay, Bill O'Connor, Will Garfinkel, and Sandy Spence. We are grateful to the following cosponsors for their generous financial support: *American Association of University Women, Caesar Rodney Institute, Civic League for New Castle County, Delaware Coalition for Open Government, Delaware Press Association, Delaware Commission for Women, Delaware Council on Gambling Problems, Delaware Repeal Project.*



Above: Charlotte King, Advocacy Corps chair and moderator provided a framework to the morning presentations.



Above: Presenters at the workshop on transparency and accountability at school, district, and state levels. From L-R: James E. Hosley, Director, Center for Education Excellence, Caesar Rodney Institute, Pat Sine, (Retired) University of Delaware, Director, Information Technologies, Client Support and Services, Dr. Nikki Castle, Independent Researcher, Castle Consulting.



Mark Dufendach, Ed.D., Assistant Superintendent, Polytech School District presented Delaware education trends, including innovations, charters and privatization



Pat Sine explaining issues surrounding accessing information within local school districts.



John H. Carwell, Charter School Officer, Delaware Department of Education, discussed public education funding and equalization issues



Keynote Speaker, Senator David P. Sokola, provided a broad perspective of Delaware's educational system.

LOCAL LEAGUE HIGHLIGHTS

Sussex Forums Address Fair Housing.

At the first of two recent public forums, Amy Walls, President of the Diamond State Land Trust and a member of LWVSC, discussed the background and outcome of the Diamond State Community Land Trust law suit and fair housing complaint that led to a recent settlement between Sussex County and the U.S. Department of Justice and voluntary compliance agreement with the US Department of Housing and Urban Development. The HUD press release about the settlement is on the LWVSC website at <http://sussexlwv.org/oldnews.html>.

A second LWVSC forum on the topic featured Nick Mirro, from the state Division of Human Relations, who gave a comprehensive and fact-filled presentation, comparing Delaware's law with that of the federal government. He also outlined the role of the Human Relations Division in implementing and enforcing the law as well as advising citizens on their rights vs. when they may not have a fair housing case. Cape Gazette coverage of his presentation and his Power Point presentation can be found on the LWVSC website at <http://sussexlwv.org/News.html>.

Last of Sussex Education Forums The last in the series of six "Education in Sussex County" forums that the Sussex League has sponsored was held in Georgetown on March 16th. It addressed inequities in school financing. The speakers were Nancy Feichtl, an educator with very wide experience in Sussex County school administration, retired Senator George Bunting, Rep. Timothy Dukes, both with a strong interest in education, and Kevin Carson, a highly experienced education consultant in Delaware.

Everyone agreed that the cause of the inequity among Sussex school districts is the way equalization funds are allocated. They are based on the property tax base in each district. This is a problem because there has not been a property reassessment since 1974, and land values in Sussex County have changed dramatically in that time-- as have the poverty levels. The equalization formula does not reflect this. Everyone agreed that this was the cause of the lack of equality in county school funding. Unfortunately, they also agreed that politicians would regard it as political suicide if they pressed for reassessment. This inequity problem was also a hot topic at League Day in Dover, and it is one aspect of a proposed state education study that will be considered at the LWVDE Convention on May 18.

ACTION ALERT!!

Please call or email your Delaware **Senator** and urge a vote **FOR PASSAGE OF:**

1. The Senate vote on the **marriage equality bill (HB 75)** will be coming up shortly. **Civil Marriage Equality and Religious Protection Act of 2013 (HB 75)** -- the bill that will extend marriage to all loving couples.

Please call or email your Delaware **Senator** and urge a vote **FOR PASSAGE OF:**

2. **Senate Bill 16 will require lost or stolen guns to be reported within 48 hours of discovery and will help reduce "straw purchases" that traffic guns to those who otherwise would not pass a background check. This is an important measure that will reduce "straw purchases," where guns are purchased on behalf of those who would not pass a background check and later claimed to be lost or stolen by the purchaser. We make it too easy for corrupt gun owners to traffic guns by claiming to police that they "lost" a gun when in reality they sold it to a criminal. For law enforcement officers investigating gun crimes, this ready-made excuse stops their crime investigation dead in its tracks. Recent Delaware polling data shows overwhelming support (86%) for this legislation.**

Please call or email your Delaware House of **Representative** and urge a vote **FOR PASSAGE OF:**

3. **HB 58 (limiting high-capacity magazines)** This bill would prohibit the manufacture, sale, purchase, transfer or delivery of large-capacity magazines, which are defined as ammunition feeding devices with the capacity to accept more than 10 rounds.

HB 35 passes Senate. Thank you for your support and outreach! Supporters of sensible gun laws designed to reduce gun violence in Delaware achieved an important legislative victory this week.

House Bill 35, which will require background checks for almost all sales of guns in Delaware and help keep guns out of the wrong hands, passed the Delaware State Senate on Thursday, April 18, by a vote of 13-8. Please thank those **senators who supported** the bill. HB 35 now awaits signature by Governor Markell, which is expected.

Thank YOU for your support and outreach to legislators. Your phone calls and emails to legislators do make a difference! We have achieved an important victory in Delaware, but please don't give up the fight for common sense solutions to prevent gun violence.

ACTION ALERT!!!!

On Wednesday, after hearing 2 hours of moving testimony, **the House Judiciary Committee took no action on Senate Bill 19**, the bill which would repeal the death penalty in Delaware.

Nearly 100 supporters of repeal gathered at legislative hall in support of SB 19, but the measure needs to be signed out of committee before it can be voted on by the Delaware House of Representatives. We need your help to ensure that happens. **This bill deserves a chance to be heard.**

We urge you to contact your Representative and **urge them to release SB 19 from committee to allow for a full floor debate.** A full text of the legislation can be found [here](#).

Even if you have reached out to your Representative before, we need you to do it again. With the bill currently stalled in committee, here are the best things you can do:

1. **Contact the Chair of the House Judiciary Committee, Rep. Rebecca Walker, and ask her to release the bill from committee.** You can email her at Rebecca.Walker@state.de.us or call her at 302-744-4022.
2. [Contact your Representative](#)
3. Read and share this recent [News Journal editorial](#) by Judge Norman Barron, who was once known as "The Hanging Judge" for his willingness to impose death sentences. He wrote this important editorial about how he now opposes the Death Penalty because the costs outweigh the benefits.
4. Share this email with your friends, neighbors, and networks.

Every phone call and letter matters, now more than ever. We thank you for your continued support of this effort.

SB 48 would create an 11 member Independent Redistricting Commission. The League supports this bill with reservations because it is a major initial step towards an improved process. While the appointment of the 11 members by General Assembly legislators is not ideal, the legislation will allow for more public input and more transparency in the redistricting process.

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

CALENDAR

The Advocacy Corps meets the 1st Wednesday of the month in Dover. Call 302-571-8948 or send an email lwvde@voicenet.com for locations. Generally it is in one of the new Dover Public Library meeting rooms or at the Downtown Dover Partnership Office at 101 W. Lockerman St. in Dover.

Friday, May 17, 2013	1:30-3:30	Please contact Pat Todd if you'd like to attend.	Energy Committee meeting. The meeting will focus on Sept. 14-22 Sea Level Rise Awareness Week.
Saturday, May 18, 2013	8:30am-4pm	Sheraton Dover Hotel	LWVDE Convention. Registration at 8:30am. Program begins at 9am and adjourns at 4pm. See details in this <i>VOTER</i> . 1570 N. DuPont HighwayDover, DE 19901
Friday, June 14, 2013-Monday, June 17, 2013		The National Conference Center (near Dulles Airport)	LWVUS Council 2013. The National Council of Leaders meeting offers the League a great opportunity to come together as state and national leaders, to discuss the issues facing our democracy and how together we can address those issues. It also provides you the opportunity to access training and leadership development sessions to support you as state League leader. For more information see http://www.lwv.org/content/first-call-lwvus-council-2013
Thursday, June 20, 2013	6-8:30 pm	Roma Restaurant 3 President's Drive Dover, DE 19901	LWVDE Board Meeting. RSVP to the League office if attending. Letty will give you information and directions.

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