

**Empowering Voters. Defending Democracy.**

**We envision a democracy where every person has the desire, the right, the knowledge, and the confidence to participate.**

## *President's Message – Tiffany Geyer Lydon*



Despite current events in the world, I hope everyone has found some time to enjoy the wonderful Autumn season. The transition to the cooler months and the visible transformations in nature provide good inspiration for reflection and evaluation. For our ancestors, the post-harvest period into Winter was a time to rest and regroup, a respite we typically don't have in these modern times as we approach the hectic holiday season.

But let's take a cue from the past and view this as a beneficial time to ponder and assess what works well for LWVDE and what does not. As members of LWVDE, we should all consider the role of LWVDE in supporting and promoting our Local Leagues, as well as our priorities and aspirations for our state. What do we want LWVDE to be and accomplish in 2024 and beyond?

By the time you read this, we will have had our first strategic planning session, but the process will be ongoing for some time. I truly would like all our members to participate in some way in the planning of the future and goals of the League. When we hold the next session by Zoom on January 10, I hope you can find some time to contribute your valuable ideas to LWVDE's strategic plan.

Before we know it, the Legislature will be back in session, and our fantastic Advocacy Corps will ramp up their efforts to do what we do best. On that note, I hope everyone can join the upcoming November 20<sup>th</sup> Zoom program on the 2024 advocacy agenda. The details and registration link are included in this newsletter. Finally, as you celebrate Thanksgiving this year, I urge you to take a moment to reflect and pay tribute to the original inhabitants of the land upon which we currently live.

*Pictured at right:* League of Women Voters of Delaware President Tiffany Lydon (left) joins Sussex League President Martha Rothenberg to welcome attendees at the October 12th presentation at the Wheelhouse Restaurant in Lewes where the League's 2023-24 Agenda and Priorities were discussed. As a nonpartisan organization, the league's central mission is to defend democracy by empowering voters through education and advocacy. For more information on the Sussex County LWV, go to [lwv.org/local-leagues/lwv-sussex-county](http://lwv.org/local-leagues/lwv-sussex-county).



**LOOKING TOWARD 2024:**

**The League's Advocacy Agenda**

**Monday, November 20 - 11:30 am - 1:00 pm**



Members of the League's Advocacy Corps will  
preview key issues to watch for in 2024:

*Calling on all League members to fulfill their role as  
Citizen Advocates*

Zoom registration link:

[https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZ0pduigpzMoEtEmDrXUIcw9F8uelIcCOWWd](https://us02web.zoom.us/join/9876543210)



Our mission: *Empowering Voters. Defending Democracy*

**League Day in Dover 2024 (Save this date!)**  
**March 20, 2024**

***Democracy at a Crossroads:  
Facing the Challenges of Disinformation and Misinformation***

**Location: Christ Church Parish Hall  
South State and Water Streets, Dover**

**Registration: 9 am**

**Program: 9:30 – Noon, with break mid-way**

**Lunch: Noon – 1 pm**

**Afternoon: On to Legislative Hall**

**Open to all League members and the public – legislators invited.**

**Have you ever considered joining a committee!**

It's a great opportunity to become knowledgeable about an issue, legislation or have an impact. Make new friends and have free discussions.



**ARE YOU CONCERNED ABOUT VOTING IN DELAWARE?**

If you are, please consider joining the **Elections and Voting Committee**. 2024 will be an exciting election year in Delaware, and we need your help with

- Vote411
- Voter education events
- Advocating for voting legislation in Delaware

If interested, please contact Jill Itzkowitz at [jillitzkowitz@gmail.com](mailto:jillitzkowitz@gmail.com). We meet by Zoom on the first Tuesday of the month at 11am. It is okay if you can't attend the meetings, you can still help.

grateful

**DID YOU KNOW?**

**VOTING HAS GOTTEN \*\*JUICIER\*\* IN DELAWARE!**

Delaware now has early voting... up to 10 days prior to election day... so everyone can make it to the polls.

**HAPPY THANKSGIVING FROM THE LWV OF DELAWARE**

## YOU ARE INVITED TO JOIN THE LWVDE HEALTHCARE PORTFOLIO COMMITTEE!

According to recent polling, the #1 concern for Americans remains access to high-quality, affordable healthcare (see, for example, this [2023 Pew Research Center poll](#) and [this PBS report of a 2022 AP-NORC poll](#))

Whether you're interested in gun violence prevention, access to affordable reproductive healthcare, the mental health crisis facing our young people, preventing medical-debt bankruptcy, preparing for the forecasted "silver tsunami" of retirees flocking to Delaware, and/or expanding end-of-life options, the Healthcare Portfolio committee is the place for you. To learn more or to join the committee, contact Judy Butler at [judyandhays@gmail.com](mailto:judyandhays@gmail.com).



## CRIMINAL JUSTICE REFORM NEEDED IN DELAWARE

Are you aware that Delaware puts more people in prison per capita than any other U.S. state, and far more than any other country in the world? We lock up Black people at a rate five times the rate we lock up White people. Are you also aware that police transparency in Delaware is the worst in the country? Want to do something about it? Join the Criminal Justice Reform Portfolio group and lend a hand! We meet monthly by Zoom, usually on the 4th Wednesday at 10 AM. Contact Chris Asay at [chrisasay@aol.com](mailto:chrisasay@aol.com).

## THANK YOU!



Thank you to all who made a financial contribution to our fall fundraiser for LWV of Delaware. Listed below are members and friends who have made a financial contribution for FY 2023-24.

As for all our dedicated volunteers who contribute their talents and time throughout the year, we thank you: Our board members, Advocacy Corps, committee members of all our committees statewide, Election, Climate Change, Land Use/Transportation, Voter Services, Criminal Justice and POWER group, webmasters, and social media volunteers.

We cannot survive as a volunteer organization without your support. We depend on you for the organization to thrive.

*Harriet Ainbinder  
Kathryn and Michael Brickner  
Susan Brynteson  
Janice Buckwalter  
Judith and Hays Butler  
Sheila Cassels  
Jane Dilley  
Letty and Larry Diswood  
Charlie Garlow and Joann Flaherty*

*Suzanne Claire Harper  
Barbara Hedges-Goettl  
Elisabeth Hellwege  
Edith Herron  
Janice Hyland  
Jill Itzkowitz  
Joyce Johnson  
Marjorie Johnson  
Charlotte King*

*Patricia Magee  
Sarah Millbury-Steen  
Kathleen Newdeck  
Vicki Sessoms  
Susan and Mike Soltys  
Lester and Christine Stillson  
Eric Teder  
Patricia Todd  
Carole and Bill Walsh*

## THE OFFICE HAS MOVED - LWVDE and LWNCC OFFICE UPDATE

Between July of 2022 and October of 2023, all the files in the LWV office were reviewed by Marj Johnson and Letty Diswood and sorted from the 1950's onward. Those files donated to the UD Library from LWVDE and LWNCC were organized and transferred to the library. They are available to the public in hard copy form at the library or online if they are electronic. The metal furniture and equipment were taken by the movers to the metal recycling center and the rest of the office was cleared out as well. Files and equipment that were retained were transferred to Letty Diswood's home where she set up an office room for the two Leagues. There is a separate computer for each League.

- **The new League address is: LWVDE (or LWNCC)**
- **PO Box 7224**  
**Wilmington, DE 19803-9995**
- **The phone number remains the same: 302-571-8948**
- **The emails remain the same: [lwvde@comcast.net](mailto:lwvde@comcast.net) [lwncc@comcast.net](mailto:lwncc@comcast.net)**

Letty's new title is Office Administrator.

The goal of this move was to save the Leagues the rent money, but also to organize each League with a minimum of files and equipment so that someone else from each League could begin to step in to be the administrator of their League and to provide for ease of succession.

A huge thank you to Marj Johnson, LWVDE Vice President, who helped Letty with the sorting, UD transfer of files, contracts for office move, PO Box Number set and change of addresses to many entities. Thank you to the Office Move Committee members: Tiffany Lydon, LWVDE President, Richard Johnson, LWNCC President, Jill Itzkowitz, LWVDE Treasurer, Ron McKinney, LWNCC Treasurer, and Letty Diswood, Office Administrator.

It was interesting to see all LWVDE/NCC activities, old pictures, awards, and letters, and studies going back to 1956. There were many handwritten or typed letters to government and league members. No email in those days. We had a lot of laughs.

Pictured below is a huge box found on top of a cabinet that held – surprise – a heavy duty display about the LWV. It had to be trashed as it was much too large and heavy to take on the road. Letty at her home office, and below an award for the People Powered Fair Maps Project received from the LWVUS.



# Update from the Land Use and Transportation Committee pages 6-7

By Anna Quisel, Chair  
November 2023

**Our committee aims to support quality of life in Delaware. Our two biggest issues are Vehicle Miles Traveled (VMT) and Open Space Protection.**

## ***Importance of VMT:***

Our committee supports land use and transportation patterns that lead to less road building and driving, i.e., less VMT. This one issue captures all the big issues that our committee has worked toward over the years.

Sprawling development throughout Delaware has led to a loss of community, farms, and natural lands as our towns and cities have become upstaged by extensive development in outlying rural areas. As homes, workplaces and shopping spots get increasingly scattered in Delaware, cars have become the only way to reach destinations. While driving can give a sense of independence, Delaware has built a system that traps us into having no alternative to driving to reach most of our destinations.

## **All this driving leads to problems including:**

- Climate change, since transportation, mainly cars and trucks, produces 26% of Delaware’s greenhouse gases making it the #1 contributor in our state.
- Air pollution that leads to asthma, lung cancer, cardiovascular disease, and more.
- Expense to own/maintain/fuel cars, ranking as the second highest expense for lower income families.
- A growing number of statewide road deaths, 165 last year,<sup>1</sup> and thousands of injuries statewide for drivers, passengers, people on bikes and pedestrians.
- Loss of natural spaces [see below for the importance of natural spaces] as we pave roads and parking lots and replace farms and forests with housing developments.
- Loss of farms by building housing developments in rural areas that would not be viable without driving.

Yet Delaware spends the vast majority of transportation funding on roadbuilding and maintenance. Comparatively few funds are left to provide public transportation and biking/walking trails. Even worse, Delawareans are getting older, and by [some estimates](#)<sup>2</sup> up to 30% of people (e.g. anyone who cannot afford a car, people without a driver’s license such as children and older persons, and people with significant vision or hearing impairments) cannot drive and do not fully benefit from this huge investment in driving.

By incorporating VMT into development and road-building decisions, Delaware can make independence an opportunity for more of us.

## ***Our Learning Journey:***

Since last fall, thanks to many of you for joining our VMT-learning through:

- a VMT Hot Topic with NCC County Land Use and DELDOT Leaders,
- a book group on “Walkable City” by Jeff Speck,
- and a Newark DE walking tour with a city planner to see how this town is becoming increasingly walkable.

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<sup>1</sup> Arehart, M. (2023, January 3). *Delaware saw 165 roadway fatalities in 2022, the most in decades*. Delaware First Media. <https://www.delawarepublic.org/politics-government/2023-01-03/delaware-saw-165-roadway-fatalities-in-2022-the-most-in-decades>

<sup>2</sup> *How Many People Do Not Drive?* (2022, June 7). All Aboard Northwest. <https://allaboardnw.org/blog/how-many-people-do-not-drive/>

**Actions:**

Our committee has begun to work toward solutions in Delaware. We support policies that make it easier for developers to build shopping, businesses, and homes in growth zones in State Strategy Levels 1 and 2, and policies that capture the actual cost of rural development, so people can enjoy walkable communities and simultaneously protect our remaining farms and natural areas.

We are currently advocating for changes to House Bill 103, which as written would impose a transportation impact fee ONLY in growth areas. We are working for changes in this bill that will not make it more expensive to build in growth areas compared to rural areas. We want this bill to ensure that developers pay a fair share of the road infrastructure needed to support the vehicular travel their developments will induce, with higher transportation impact fees in rural areas since vehicular travel is much higher when shopping, work, medical care, entertainment, and school are all distant from home.

We will keep our League members informed on HB 103 and we hope for your support when the time comes!

**Open Space Protection***Importance of Open Space Protection*

Our committee also supports open space protection, an important contributor to quality of life here in Delaware, aiming for 30% protected natural open space by 2030. According to environmental leaders in Delaware, 30% protection will take work to reach, but remains a realistic goal and has been adopted by our Committee. However, leading scientists even predict that for our survival we will need to protect 50% of Earth's waters and lands as natural spaces.<sup>3</sup> Natural open space protects us (provides "ecosystem services") by absorbing rain water to prevent floods, restoring water aquifers with clean drinking water, cleaning the air, providing habitat for birds, insects and all animals, and offering the opportunity to enjoy the outdoors. Predictions now show that sea rise will consume 65,000 of Delaware's acreage by 2100, much of it natural open space, so we face an urgency to invest now to ensure that future Delawareans have adequate protected natural open spaces.

**Our Learning Journey:**

Through joining the Delaware Land Protection Coalition (DLPC), with statewide Delaware non-profits including the Delaware Center for the Inland Bays, Delaware Nature Society, Delaware Wild Lands, Nature Conservancy, and more), our committee is learning about issues and solutions.

**Actions:**

We are supporting the DLPC's advocacy to increase funding for open space protection this year to keep pace with inflation and rising land prices. We may seek help from League members to write to government officials - we will keep you in the loop!

**INVITATION:**

Our Land Use and Transportation Committee invites you to join us! We also work to support actions at the county level and can help you strategize - we are mostly from NCC and actively follow NCC issues, but we hear despairing comments from many in southern Delaware, so we are especially looking to support members in Kent and Sussex Counties. We meet by Zoom on the first Wednesday of each month at 9 am.

- Please reach out to me with any questions at [annaquisel@gmail.com](mailto:annaquisel@gmail.com).

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<sup>3</sup> *What is the Half-Earth Project?* (n.d.). E.O. Wilson Biodiversity Foundation. Retrieved November 9, 2023, from <https://eowilsonfoundation.org/what-is-the-half-earth-project/>

**Save the Date! LWVDE will be a co-sponsor. The lead sponsor is the ACLU of Delaware.**

We will be hosting a panel discussion book event on February 13th, at the University of Delaware, and an additional 1:1 conversation style event at the Lewes Public Library, on March 13th. The events will focus on a newly published book by local retired attorney and author, Ron Collins, titled *Tragedy on Trial: The Story of the Infamous Emmett Till Murder Trial*. The panelists will discuss the impact of the trial and juxtapose it to current events in terms of what has changed and what has not for racial inequality.

To learn more about the book, the publisher has a webpage about it, located here:

<https://cap-press.com/books/isbn/9781531027490/Tragedy-on-Trial>.

## LWVDE COMMITTEE SCHEDULES

- **LWVDE Advocacy Corps Meeting** – 2nd Wednesday mornings. Chair Linda Barnett (advocacylwvde@gmail.com)
- **Climate Change and Energy Portfolio Committee** – First Fridays at 3 pm. Chair Peggy Schultz (schultz\_peggy@yahoo.com)
- **Criminal Justice Portfolio Team** – Fourth Wednesdays at 10 am. Chair Chris Asay (ChrisAsay@aol.com)
- **Elections & Voting Portfolio Committee** – First Tuesdays at 11 am. Chair Jill Itzkowitz (jillitzkowitz@gmail.com)
- **Government, Finance, Taxation Portfolio Team** – meeting as needed. Chair Jack Young (young@sandlerreiff.com)
- **Health Care Portfolio Team** – Fourth Fridays at 9:30 am. Chair Judy Butler (judyandhays@gmail.com)
- **Land Use/Transportation Portfolio Committee** – First Wednesdays at 9 am. Chair Anna Quisel (annaquisel@gmail.com)
- **Money in Politics Portfolio Team** – meeting as needed. Chair Chris Asay (Chrisasay@aol.com)
- **Natural Resources Portfolio Team** – meeting as needed. Chair Charlie Garlow (charliegarlow350@gmail.com)
- **Reproductive Choice Portfolio Team** – meeting as needed. Chair Linda Barnett (advocacylwvde@gmail.com)
- **Social Policy Portfolio Team** – meeting as needed. Chair Linda Barnett (advocacylwvde@gmail.com)
- **LWVDE Board meeting schedule for 2023-2024** Contact Tiffany Geyer Lydon, President tgeyer5382@comcast.net or call the LWVDE office at 302-571-8948. It meets on the fourth Wednesday unless otherwise indicated. Time 5 – 7 pm with check-in starting at 4:45 pm.





## **October Activities and Notes—LWV Sussex County**

### ***Planning for Election 2024 and Beyond***

The Board of Directors met on October 16 to begin framing our approach to accomplishing the program approved by members at the June 2023 annual meeting. We agreed our focus is to Get Out the Vote. After discussion of the unique contributions of each committee to this effort, we agreed on pursuing a GOTV coalition with other nonprofit organizations to reach a more diverse audience and to raise visibility of our message. A solid communications plan is essential to this work, and a small group of members met with Communications Chair Chelsea Wootten on November 4 to begin to define messages and media. The next big step will be an all-members workshop to solidify details of the plan and engage our members in committee activities to contribute to the GOTV mission. The planning workshop will take place on November 25 from 10-2 at the Lewes Library. For more information, contact Martha Rothenberg LWVSC president [lwvscde.president@gmail.com](mailto:lwvscde.president@gmail.com).

### ***League, Learning and Libation (“L3”) Events***

Sue Claire Harper and the Membership Committee have these early evening events rolling. Our October gathering featured LWVDE President Tiffany Lydon. At the next L3, Kim Hoey Stevenson, formerly of Sussex Planning and Zoning Commission (P&Z), will address League members and other members of the public, presenting her perspective on Sussex County’s future. The event will be held on November 14 from 5 – 7:30 pm, at Iron Hill Brewery in Rehoboth.

### ***Observer Corps***

The Corps is 6 members strong and is regularly reporting on County Council and P&Z meetings. They are now looking to cover school board meetings, which are available remotely via live streaming or recordings.

### ***Social Policy Committee***

Under Cristi Gillean’s able leadership, and in coordination with the LWVDE Advocacy Corps, the committee is moving forward with regular meetings and planning to address core Sussex County issues including homelessness and affordable housing, health care access, and the childcare crisis.

### ***Our New Tech Team!***

Finally, we are very excited about our new Tech Team, which comprises members Frances Hart, Karen DeSantis, Barbara Hedges-Goetti, and Denise Mueller. All of them bring solid tech skills and experience and will be essential in helping to promote the message, support Rain Tyler in the work of the website and social media and assist in the day-to-day needs of email and administrative chores.



If you missed this conversation here is a chance to check it out.

Thank you for joining our webinar [Productive conversations without confrontation](#), hosted in collaboration with the [National Institute for Civil Discourse](#) and the [League of Women Voters](#).

[In case you missed it, you can watch and share the link to the recording here.](#)

As we move into the holiday season and a presidential election year, we hope you feel more confident having difficult conversations with family and friends – whether you’re discussing viral rumors or political disagreements.

We also are hosting this webinar again at [7 p.m. ET/4 p.m. PT Thursday, Nov. 16. Register now or invite a friend!](#)

For a future founded on facts, The News Literacy Project

### Here are the resources mentioned during Tuesday’s webinar:

- [DeMario’s slide deck](#)
- [Carolyn’s slide deck](#)
- [Chelsey’s slide deck](#)
- [Webinar transcript](#)
- [NLP resource: How to speak up without starting a showdown](#)
- [NLP resource: Is it legit? Five steps for vetting a news source](#)
- [Join the RumorGuard](#)
- [NICD resource: Engaging Differences homepage](#)
- [NICD resource: Engaging Differences key principles and best practices](#)
  - [En español: Principios clave y mejores prácticas](#)
- [LWV resource: Vote411.org](#)
- [LWV resource: Your guide to mis- and disinformation](#)

## Calendar

Wednesday, November 1, 2023, 9:00 -11:00 a.m.	ZOOM meeting	<b>LAND USE/TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE MEETING</b> Contact Anna Quisel at <a href="mailto:annaquisel@gmail.com">annaquisel@gmail.com</a> to attend and to confirm time.
Friday, November 3, 2023, has been moved to Nov. 10 <sup>th</sup> . 3:00 p.m.-4:30 p.m.	ZOOM meeting	<b>CLIMATE CHANGE COMMITTEE MEETING.</b> Contact Peggy Schultz, Co-chair at <a href="mailto:schultz_peggy@yahoo.com">schultz_peggy@yahoo.com</a> to attend and to confirm time. Contact Peggy to confirm.
Monday, November 6, 2023, 6:00-8:00 p.m.	ZOOM meeting	<b>LWVDE STRATEGIC PLANNING SESSION</b> – all local league board and committee members are welcome.
Tuesday, November 7, 2023, 11 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.	ZOOM meeting	<b>ELECTION COMMITTEE MEETING.</b> (statewide) Regular committee meeting contact Jill Itzkowitz, Committee Chair <a href="mailto:jillitzkowitz@gmail.com">jillitzkowitz@gmail.com</a>
Wednesday, November 8, 2023, 10:00 – 11:30 a.m. (out of session meeting time)	ZOOM meeting	<b>LWVDE ADVOCACY CORPS</b> (legislative lobby group) Meets the 2 <sup>nd</sup> Wednesday of each month. For details or to attend, contact Advocacy Chair Linda Barnett <a href="mailto:advocacylwvde@gmail.com">advocacylwvde@gmail.com</a>
Monday, November 20, 2023, 11:30 a.m. – 1:00 pm	Zoom	<b>LOOKING TOWARD 2024: THE LEAGUE’S ADVOCACY AGENDA – LWVDE Advocacy Corps will present a program.</b> Registration link: <a href="https://us02web.zoom.us/join/register/tZ0pduigpzMoEtEmDrXUlcw9F8ucllcCOWWd">https://us02web.zoom.us/join/register/tZ0pduigpzMoEtEmDrXUlcw9F8ucllcCOWWd</a>
Wednesday, November 22, 2023, 10:00-11:30 p.m.	ZOOM	<b>CRIMINAL JUSTICE COMMITTEE MEETING.</b> Chris Assay, new committee chair: <a href="mailto:Chrisasay@aol.com">Chrisasay@aol.com</a>
Friday, November 24, 2023, 9:30 – 11:00 a.m.	ZOOM	<b>HEALTH CARE COMMITTEE</b> Contact Judy Butler: <a href="mailto:judyandhays@gmail.com">judyandhays@gmail.com</a>
Wednesday, November 29, 2023, 6-8 p.m. (date change)	ZOOM meeting	<b>LWVDE STATE BOARD MEETING</b> The meeting was moved due to Thanksgiving conflict. Contact Tiffany Lydon, President <a href="mailto:tgeyer5382@comcast.net">tgeyer5382@comcast.net</a>
Friday, December 1, 2023, 3:00 p.m.-4:30 p.m.	ZOOM meeting	<b>CLIMATE CHANGE COMMITTEE MEETING.</b> Contact Peggy Schultz, Co-chair at <a href="mailto:schultz_peggy@yahoo.com">schultz_peggy@yahoo.com</a> to attend and to confirm time. Contact Peggy to confirm.
Monday, December 4, 2023 11:30 a.m. – 1:30 p.m.	In person	<b>HOT TOPIC – Lisa Lock will lead a discussion of inspiring stories of LOVE YOUR MOTHER ~ 50 States, 50 Stories and 50 Women United for Climate Justice</b> At Applebee’s Restaurant <a href="https://www.applebee.com/locations/newark-de">900 Churchmans Rd, Newark, DE 19713</a> RSVP 302-571-8948 or <a href="mailto:lwncc@comcast.net">lwncc@comcast.net</a>
Wednesday, December 6, 2023, 9:00 -11:00 a.m.	ZOOM meeting	<b>LAND USE/TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE MEETING</b> Contact Anna Quisel at <a href="mailto:annaquisel@gmail.com">annaquisel@gmail.com</a> to attend and to confirm time.
Wednesday, December 13, 2023, 10:00 – 11:30 a.m. (out of session meeting time)	ZOOM meeting	<b>LWVDE ADVOCACY CORPS</b> (legislative lobby group) Meets the 2 <sup>nd</sup> Wednesday of each month. For details or to attend, contact Advocacy Chair Linda Barnett <a href="mailto:advocacylwvde@gmail.com">advocacylwvde@gmail.com</a>



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