



DELAWARE VOTER

The League of Women Voters of Delaware

Summer 2017
President: Joann Hasse

lwvde@comcast.net

www.lwvdelaware.org

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

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

For those of you who don't know me I am going to repeat some of the things I said in my last President's message—written in 1993. Yes, I'm being recycled! Unlike many of our members, I do not have a college degree. My original schooling was in a three year hospital school of nursing (which essentially no longer exists). My "college" education has been via the University of the League of Women Voters at "campuses" in several states in addition to Delaware. My advanced degrees were acquired as LWVDE president for five years as well as serving a two-year term on the LWVUS Nominating Committee. Since my "retirement" as president I have served as chair for health care public policy, generally representing the voice of the patient/consumer. Some of the work is legislative (I am one of the League's volunteer lobbyists) but much of it has been attending meetings where frequently the League voice was the only one which wasn't representing a government agency or a group which was a vendor to an agency. I could raise issues which others sometimes couldn't. It has been a wonderful and educational experience. Lots of work but most days I considered it worth my effort—one can't say that about all of life's chores. Pretty obviously, I think the League of Women Voters is a wonderful organization!



But the world changes and so must the League. The LWVUS National Council meeting which Letty and I attended in June emphasized just that. Recent national events have interested many more citizens in getting involved beyond simply casting their vote. The League would like to capitalize on this fact but this may require some changes in our methods and, at times, rather slow procedures. Keep tuned as we--- our national, state and local Leagues-- work through the process!

One thing that will not change is our commitment to nonpartisanship. I'm sure all of you know that the League as an organization never supports or opposes parties or candidates. What is not as well understood, however, is that League members unless they are serving on a Board or as lobbyists are free to be active in partisan politics. Also misunderstood is that our nonpartisanship DOES NOT mean, nor has it ever meant, that the League does not take stands on issues. The suffragists who formed this organization were ACTIVISTS!! They didn't want just the vote. They wanted their voices heard on issues and they started with a long list. We have always taken stands on issues!

Sometimes when the "to-do" list seems overwhelming I think it might be nice to be a one issue organization. Then I think of how my own horizons have been broadened by attending League meetings and learning about things in which I initially had zero interest and I reject that thought. I believe it is one of our great strengths. May we all continue to expand our own horizons, help others to expand theirs and to help in whatever way we are able "to promote political responsibility through informed and active participation in government and to act on selected government issues" (our purpose as stated in our bylaws). As the League of Women Voters prepares to celebrate its 100th anniversary in 2020, let us also remember with gratitude the suffragettes and early League leaders who started us on this journey.

Joann Hasse, President

LAND USE/TRANSPORTATION STATE LEGISLATIVE ACTIVITY

In spite of numerous statewide calls for our members to contact members of Delaware’s General Assembly, personal contacts by the League’s land use/transportation lobbyist, several public statements in opposition, and the united and relentless opposition of partnering organizations, SB 190 was voted into law, and was signed by the Governor on August 2. **SB 190 is an amendment to the Coastal Zone Act** which will allow new heavy industry on fourteen grandfathered Coastal Zone sites, and will allow river shipment of bulk products. Both activities are forbidden under the original Coastal Zone Act. Going forward with Regulations to support SB 190, the League will speak up for an official declaration of carbon dioxide as a pollutant, and will urge the implementation of environmental indicators required by earlier Regulations and never put into action.



***Pictured Left:** In testimony drafted and coordinated by Peggy Schultz, four League members testified against HB 190 that "guts" the Coastal Zone Act. Following opening comments by Peggy, representing the LWVDE, Lisa Pertzoff testified for LWVNCC, followed by Sandy Spence, LWVSC and Julie Price, LWVKC shown here. Their testimony was in vain as the bill passed both the House and Senate by wide margins.*

The League lobbyist provided testimony at numerous hearings before the State Legislature and spoke with senators and representatives, **urging support for both Farmland and Open Space preservation**. The Open Space Program had to receive at least \$4.1 million or it would lose an opportunity to leverage \$5.6 million in federal and other funds. Ultimately, \$1.25 million

was allowed solely for helping with the purchase of a plot of environmentally sensitive open space on Route 4 in New Castle County. Just \$3 million of the \$10 million supported by the League was finally budgeted for the Farm Preservation Program.

HB 83 would have formalized DeIDOT’s obligation to notify residents of decaying or inadequate sidewalks. This bill was tabled. Another bill (**HB 161**) supported by the League would have required DeIDOT to submit annual reports on expenditures of community transportation funds. This money is currently used by legislators for street repair in their districts. DeIDOT has said that the legislation is not necessary because such reports are easily obtained through the FOIA process. On or about July 13 three members of the Advocacy Committee requested reports of their legislators’ expenditures from this fund. We will be interested to see when the reports arrive, and how complete they are. As of July 25th no one had received a report. HB 161 was not acted upon by the committee.

*Peggy Schultz, Co-chair
Land Use/Transportation Committee*

VOTING AND ELECTIONS

LWV action is based on our position "Citizen’s Right to Vote - Protect the right of all citizens to vote; encourage all citizens to vote."

Elections bills were left to the very last days of the legislative session while legislators concentrated on the budget deficit. There were some technical bills passed, but the more controversial bills that would make registering and voting more convenient and easier, languished. **High on our agenda is voting security.**

League members have been attending the **Voting Machine Task Force meetings** which are tasked to recommend the type of voting machines to be purchased to replace the outdated machines currently in use.

(Continued on page 3, Voting)

(Continued from page 3, **Voting**) The criteria for new voting machines the League supports: should be systems that are secure, accurate, re-countable, accessible and transparent. This would require:

- that they employ a voter-verifiable paper ballot or other paper record, said paper being the official record of the voter's intent that the voter can verify, either by eye or with the aid of suitable devices for those who have impaired vision,
- that the paper ballot/record accurately reflects his or her intent;
- such verification takes place while the voter is still in the process of voting;
- the paper ballot/record is used for audits and recounts;
- the vote totals can be verified by an independent hand count of the paper ballot/record;
- routine audits of the paper ballot/record in randomly selected precincts conducted in every election, and
- the results published by the jurisdiction.



Members of the Lobby Corps celebrated the end of the legislative session with a traditional English tea..

Bills passed that the LWV supported:

HB 47 removes requirement for applications for absentee ballots to be notarized. This is important because notarizations usually are not free and are a time-consuming inconvenience to working people and the poor. LWV has supported removing the notarization for many years.

HB 135 eliminates "10-day hold" by the Department of Elections before registering a voter who is eligible to vote. It also allows Department of Elections in lieu of the Board of Elections to remove voters who no longer reside in Delaware.

HB 138 gives the Department of Elections, instead of State Board of Elections, authority to cancel registrations of persons who authorize cancellation because they are no longer permanent residents.

HB 139 allows the election cycle regarding contributions from political parties and political action committees to reset after Primary Election as it does for other contributors.

Bills that did not pass this session but will be a high priority for LWV come January 2018:

HB 63 is the first leg of a Constitutional amendment to remove restrictions on Absentee ballots from the Constitution. It authorizes the General Assembly to set the rules. The bill is out of the House Administration Committee and on the ready list.

HB 79 with HA 1; SA 1 allows for automatic voter registration via the Division of Motor Vehicles (DMV) when a person applies for, renews, or replaces a driver's license. A person must '**opt out**' to prevent the information from being automatically shared with the Department of Elections for registration. Six states and the District of Columbia have enacted similar policies. The bill has been assigned to the House Administration Committee.

HB 89 HA 1; SA 1 PWB moves primary elections for statewide, county, and municipal office to 4th Tuesday in April which is the presidential primary in presidential election years. Deadlines for submitting & withdrawing notification of candidacy, minor parties selecting its candidates, filing certificates of nomination, and "closed" period when voters may not change party affiliation to match the 60-day limit adjusted accordingly. HA 1 restores original deadline for filing certificates of nomination for minor parties to Aug 1. SA 1 strikes HA 1, requires minor parties to select candidates by April primary. Currently, Delaware holds its presidential primaries for both major parties on the fourth Tuesday in April. However, the First State's primaries for statewide and local political offices are held on the second Tuesday after the first Monday in September. The separate dates can create confusion among voters, while turnout for the state primary dramatically drops off from the presidential primary. It increases costs by \$1 million in presidential years. Passed House and assigned to Senate Government Affairs Committee.

House Bill 90 would have Delaware join the other 34 states that have early voting, allowing residents to cast ballots before Election Day. The measure would require the Department of Elections to offer early voting for 10 days before a general, primary or special election, including the weekend before Election Day. Maryland and New Jersey are among the states that offer early voting. The bill is out of House Administration Committee and on ready list.

Letty Diswood, Voting/Elections Chair

EDUCATION

League position on education: to promote equal access to education in a safe environment.

Education received moderate attention during this Session, with the focus mostly on funding issues. Public education is the biggest single expenditure in the Operating Budget, at \$1.4185 billion, which equates to 34.5-percent of the budget. But even with that, the Department of Education's budget was reduced, as were all Cabinet Departments. Still, one new program was added - namely, Opportunity Grants, which are to be used to provide competitive sub-grants to districts and charters for the purpose of providing integrated student services and trauma-informed supports to low-income students.

Education Bills we supported that passed:

HB 23, which requires parental consent when a student wishes to drop out of school at age 16. Schools are mandated to offer an exit interview to such parents and students, to see if supportive services would provide a basis for the student to remain in school.

HB 99, defers the school property tax credit for residents 65 yrs and older until they reside in Delaware for ten years. (Residents living in Delaware as of December 2017 are grandfathered in.)

HB 143, which removes the "performance assessment" requirement for new teachers, in an effort to help with recruitment.

HCR 39, which creates a task force to study the issue of consolidating Delaware's school districts. The report is due January 31, 2018.

Linda Barnett, Education Chair

SOCIAL POLICY

League Position on Social Policy: To promote social and economic justice, equal rights, and the health and safety of all Americans.

Social Policy Bills we supported that passed:

HB 1, which forbids employers from requiring job candidates to reveal their wage history during the application process. The goal of this legislation is to enable women (and men) to compete for jobs without being held back by prior low paying employment.

HB 4, which creates a new Office of Women's Advancement and Advocacy, replacing the Commission for Women but creating a new one with the mission of advising this new Office. It also continues the Women's Hall of Fame and creates a Women's Workforce Council, the goal of which is gender equality in Delaware workplaces by eliminating the gender-based wage gap, removing the visible and invisible barriers to women's advancement, and ensuring that every person, regardless of gender, has an equal opportunity for advancement. The legislation also creates a whole new Cabinet level Department of Human Resources, within which this new Office will be located.

HB 35, which creates authority for the regulation of massage parlors. This initiative is directed at giving law enforcement more authority to curtail human trafficking.

HB 80, which adds regulations to personal insurance (such as that covering automobiles and personal homes), prohibiting insurers from increasing rates for customers solely for having reached age 75 or due to the death of the spouse.

SB 5, which ensures that women have freedom of reproductive choice, in alignment with the Supreme Court decision of Roe v. Wade.

Social Policy Bills we supported that did not pass:

HB 5, a measure to add an Equal Rights Amendment to the Delaware Constitution.

Linda Barnett, Social Policy Chair

HEALTH

The most important health care legislation this session was the **final budget which contained 10% cuts to many programs under the Department of Health And Social Services**, including the Needle Exchange program which we have long supported, as well as immunizations, the Infant Mortality Task force and developmental screening. The old advertising phrase “Pay me now or pay me later” comes to mind when we consider the long-term effects many of these cuts will have on public health. The Department was especially concerned about cuts to the Needle Exchange program with the possibility of many more cases of Hepatitis C.



Advocacy Corps members discussing action to be taken.

Funding for DIMER (Delaware Institute for Medical Education and Research) which pays to reserve a certain number of slots at both Jefferson Medical School and the Pennsylvania School of Osteopathic Medicine for qualified Delawareans, helps to support our hospital residency programs and enhances our ability to attract practitioners to underserved areas, was preserved at a minimal level. Arguing that the DIMER program is basic to keeping a robust health care system in Delaware, the League had lobbied hard for this with op-eds and testimony at both the Governor’s budget hearings and the Joint Finance committee hearings.

Among other cuts was the Delaware Prescription Assistance Program (DPAP) which has helped eligible Medicare enrollees with the cost of their prescription drugs. Funding of DPAP came from the 1999 tobacco companies’ settlement. It was to be a 25-year program, but to help balance the 2018 budget DPAP was defunded as of August 31, 2017. The 5000-plus Delawareans currently enrolled have received letters announcing the termination of the program.

We followed several other health care related bills but they were mainly adjustments to previously enacted legislation.

Joann Hasse, Health Chair

JUSTICE ISSUES

The Advocacy Corps’ Justice portfolio included 30 bills we reviewed in 2017, including eight that we just monitored. We opposed two – reinstatement of the death penalty (HB 125) and another one (SB 33) that added to existing felonies the offense of fleeing in a vehicle while an officer is effecting an arrest or detention. We felt that this bill was simply adding a complication to the criminal code where other offenses could cover the relevant crime. Although HB 125 passed the House and could be taken up by the Senate in 2018, SB 33 failed to be released from the Senate Committee.



Peggy Schultz ready to testify at the hearing to reinstate the death penalty.

Ten bills we supported passed both House and Senate. Six of these reflect the increased attention to reforming our juvenile justice system, along with several that did not yet make it through the committee process:

HB 6 codifies a juvenile's right to counsel in Family Court delinquency proceedings. (It is Delaware’s practice to require this, but the bill makes it a requirement of law.)

HB 8 expands eligibility criteria for the Juvenile Civil Citation Program.

HB 9 allows judicial discretion when juveniles are charged with certain offenses that those aged 16 or older or 15 in one case must be charged as an adult. The League strongly supports judicial discretion.

HB 141 authorizes Family Court to interview children outside the presence of parties to a Protection from Abuse order.

HB 181 updates handling of reports of child abuse or neglect to adopt “best practices.”

SB 54, expands juvenile expungement where the offender was found guilty in multiple cases as juveniles but had not been adjudicated or convicted of another crime for a period of time after reaching adulthood.

(Continued on page 6, Justice)

(Continued from page 5, *Justice*)

Three of these related to Human Trafficking:

HB 164 restructures the Human Trafficking Coordinating Council.

SB 56, implements part of the bipartisan federal Preventing Sex Trafficking & Strengthening Families Act to promote greater “normalcy” for youth in foster care.

SB 75 updates Delaware’s human trafficking crimes to be consistent with other provisions of federal law.

We also strongly supported a major human trafficking bill assigned to the social policy portfolio. HB 35 requires regulation of massage parlors as a way to enforce laws against trafficking.

Another one addresses issues of “collateral consequences” of arrests and convictions:

HB 82, that among other things eliminates a pending criminal charge as a basis for denying licensure for mental health and chemical dependency professionals, signed by the Governor.

Other important bills that we supported did not make it through the legislative process but will hold over for action in 2018:

HB 205 is a major bail reform bill that has been under study by all parts of the law enforcement system for at least three years and was the subject of numerous public hearings. It passed the House 38-3 but was threatened with 13 amendments by Senator Bonini when it was ready for Senate consideration in the waning days of the session when reconciling the budget was top priority. It is expected to be considered early in 2018.

HB 7 recognizes that a criminal charge can have lasting collateral consequences for a juvenile on employment and education opportunities, this bill raises the age in which a juvenile’s information, such as their name and mug shot, may be released by the state.

HB 42 addresses prison overcrowding by allowing defendants serving consecutive sentences to petition the court to consider concurrent rather than consecutive sentences. The law was changed in 2014 to allow this but did not apply to those sentenced prior to that change.

HB 97 gives the Board of cosmetology increased discretion to grant waivers for felony convictions if a certain number of years have elapsed, depending on seriousness of the crime. This is intended to help ex-cons with employment opportunities upon release.

SB 34 simplifies drug laws and eliminates aggravating factors that may cause drug laws to be enforced unfairly. Although we supported the bill, we did express concern about a provision that enhanced minimum mandatory sentences for certain drug dealing offenses.

SB 58 ensures victims of crime are afforded as much information as is available to assist them through the trial, sentencing, and post-conviction phases of a criminal case.

SB 81, suspends child support for those incarcerated or involuntarily committed for over 180 days unless the defendant has the means to pay support while incarcerated or committed, is incarcerated for domestic violence against a custodial relative or supported child, or is incarcerated for failure to comply with an order to pay child support.

Sandy Spence, Advocacy Corps Chair

CAMPAIGN FINANCE

There was little interest in this subject in 2017. **SB 30** that requires political committees to report a contributor’s occupation and employment information was the only significant one introduced. It was reported out of the Senate Elections and Government Affairs Committee with 2 on its merits and 2 unfavorable on April 27. Since it never went to the full Senate for a vote, it can be assumed that there were insufficient votes for passage.

This was legislation which was recommended by retired Judge E. Norman Veasey who was appointed to conduct an independent investigation by the late Attorney General Beau Biden after a federal investigation led to criminal charges against Christopher Tigani of NKS Distributors in 2011.

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(Continued from page 6, *Campaign Finance*)

The federal investigation uncovered possible violations of state law by candidates for state office. Although Tigani was sentenced to 2 years in federal prison for his federal violations, Veasey was unable to find evidence sufficient to charge him with the state violations.

OPEN GOVERNMENT

HB 57 requires registered agents to check lists created under federal national security laws to ensure that existing and proposed Limited Liability Corporations (LLC's) are not on those lists. It was tabled in the House Judiciary Committee.

HB 75 requires all public bodies subject to FOIA to respond to requests for information from non-residents, allowing a higher fee. Amendments would have required all public bodies subject to FOIA that meet 4 or fewer times a year to post draft minutes within 20 days and to post approved minutes within 5 working days of approval; also removes a new provision requiring public bodies to allow a person at an open meeting to make audio and/or video recording of meeting if doing so is not disruptive; and removes an extension of time to file a lawsuit challenging the validity of any action of a public body, retaining current deadlines. It failed to be released from the House Administration Committee.

HB 161 is discussed under Transportation.

GENERAL GOVERNMENT



LWVDE Advocacy Corp meeting

Two bills that we categorized as general government issues also failed to move this year.

SB 27 would establish an Independent Redistricting Commission; it specifies criteria to be used and membership, for use when the next Census is done. Although this bill passed the Senate, it died in the House Administration Committee and is not expected to be revived.

SB 29 would remove legislators' exemption from laws governing conflict of interest and Code of Conduct; it also restricts legislators' use of public assets for private or partisan political purposes. This one never made it out of Committee.

HOUSING

Most of the bills we addressed in this category related to manufactured housing. LWVDE has supported reform in the treatment of homeowners living in manufactured home communities since at least 2008. Although a rent justification bill passed a couple years ago, many issues remain for those owning homes in this significant form of affordable housing. Most important were:

HB 131 that sets forth the framework by which a homeowner will pay the disputed land rent increase to the community owner until final resolution of the dispute. It was released from Committee but failed make it for a floor vote.

Senate Substitute 1 for SB 23 clarifies the formula for rent increases relating to capital improvements that are classified as "fees." It defines how these fees would be collected and makes it clear they are not a base rent increase. The substitute bill was introduced on June 6, but no action was taken.

SB 47 clarifies procedures for Homeowner Associations wishing to purchase their community when it is offered for sale. Although it passed the Senate late in the Session, there were insufficient votes to bring it to the floor in the House. It may be brought up there in 2018.

SB 49 was the only housing bill we supported that did not relate to manufactured housing. It established a Homeless Bill of Rights, but never made it out of Committee.

Sandy Spence, Advocacy Corps Chair

LWVUS BIENNIAL NATIONAL COUNCIL

The League of Women Voters of Delaware was represented by Joann Hasse, President and Letty Diswood, Office Manager, at the League of Women Voters of the United States (LWVUS) biennial National Council held June 22-25, 2017 in Leesburg, VA. 43 states and the District of Columbia were in attendance. League leaders from across the country participated in strategic conversations about the future of the 97-year-old organization and embracing a transformational change to sustain the organization for years to come.



“As the League approaches our first centennial, we want to become the most powerful organization we can be,” said LWVUS president **Chris Carson**. “It is a critical time in our democracy, and an amazing time of opportunity for the League as we expand and attract new members.” League leaders discussed the important role and impact of the League, as well as how the group will evolve to be the most effective organization on voting rights and election services.

“We know there are going to be challenges, but we are going to get there together because we are a stronger League when we speak with one voice,” said LWVUS CEO **Wylecia Wiggs Harris**. “We all want to see this organization be as influential as it can be because our democracy needs us.”

A reception was held to honor and to thank Carole Conor (left of podium) for her decade of leadership of the all volunteer Lobby Corps in Washington DC, and that she will be continuing as a member of Lobby Corps for years to come. Melody Webb and Jackie will be the new co-chairs. Under their leadership, the Lobby Corps will be open to considering new and different approaches to its work. Together, Melody and Jackie bring policy and lobbying experience from their backgrounds in the government relations and legal professions to the organization.



Carol Conor being honored at LWVUS Council. LWVUS board members and staff are behind podium.

LWV OF DELAWARE CONVENTION HIGHLIGHTS

THEME: *Come together to make a difference: Be part of the solution*



The LWVDE convention held June 10, 2017 elected state board members and officers, passed a budget, adopted policy positions, and amended bylaws.

Our speakers inspired us to work for change and never give up. Keynote speakers were Delaware **US Rep. Lisa Blunt Rochester**, **Amy Hjerstedt**, LWVUS Board Director, and liaison to the LWV of Delaware, and **Eugene Young**, Delaware Center for Justice Advocacy Director.



Board members for 2017-18 AND 2018-19

President: Joann Hasse; 1st Vice President: Lisa Pertzoff; 2nd Vice President: Carolyn Page; Treasurer: Beverly Jackson. **Directors:** Janet Ambrose, Amystique Church, Carol Jones, Coralie Pryde, Sandy Spence, Ellen Wasfi. Nominating Committee: Linda Barnet, Letty Diswood, one slot not filled yet. Two additional committee members will be appointed from the board. The secretary position is not filled.

LWVDE HOSTS AFRICAN STUDENTS PART OF UD STUDY OF THE U.S. INSTITUTES-WOMEN'S LEADERSHIP (SUSIWL)



On July 13, LWV of Delaware members hosted 20 students from sub-Saharan Africa for an afternoon of roundtable discussions, and visiting Delaware's House and Senate chambers in Dover, Delaware. As pictured at left, you can see how much fun they had taking selfies and pretending to lead the imaginary legislative session.

The focus was on women's empowerment and the role groups and individuals can have in promoting and influencing politics, talking about the strategies used by the League, and what we have learned from promoting women's engagement. There were many questions and we learned much from them.



Dover Mayor Christiansen welcomed students and held a lively Q & A about local government and life as a mayor of a small town. League members who organized and lead the discussion were Jill Fuchs, Sandy Spence, Beverly Jackson, Letty Diswood, and attending the event were Amystique Church and a student from Del State University.

The Study of the U.S. Institutes for Student Leaders (SUSI), by the Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs at the U.S. Department of State, are 5-6-week academic programs for foreign undergraduate students and scholars hosted by colleges and universities across the United States. These programs are designed to provide participants a deeper understanding of U.S. society, culture, and institutions through leadership training, civic engagement, a domestic study tour, and interacting with Americans of all walks of life.



The University of Delaware hosted the SUSI-WL participants from sub-Saharan Africa. Twenty participants engaged in an academically grounded program that included community service and cultural activities throughout Newark, Delaware and in nearby metropolitan areas. In addition to the Delaware-based components, study tours included trips to Atlanta, Georgia, New York City, Lancaster, Pennsylvania, and Washington, D.C.

LWVUS ADVOCACY UPDATES - DETAILS AT LWV.ORG

Reject the 'Election Integrity' Commission's Voter Suppression Agenda! ★

Join the [12,000+ League supporters](#) who have signed the petition saying they will not let the 'Election Integrity' Commission's efforts to investigate voter fraud threaten their ability to exercise their right to vote.

Continue Opposition of Senate Health Care Plan ★

Legislation to repeal and replace the Affordable Care Act [failed to pass a late-night vote in the U.S. Senate](#) in a 51-48 vote. This victory is shared by the thousands of League supporters who wrote letters and made phone calls to Congress! Despite our recent victory, we must remain engaged in this debate as rumors of *(Continued on page 10 LWVU Advocacy)*

(Continued from page 9 *LWVU Advocacy*) continued discussions around fixing the ACA continue. Please remain vigilant and urge your members of Congress to protect access to affordable health care for millions of Americans through the August recess. To find a forum or town hall meeting near you check out the great resources available from the [Town Hall Project](#).

Invitation to a Third Webinar: Managing Risk by Pricing Carbon ★

As the evidence of accelerated climate change and its impact on society mounts, there is an increasing sense of urgency to find solutions. Join a webinar hosted by the LWVUS [Price on Carbon Steering Committee](#) and [PriceonCarbon.org](#) to learn more about why scientists, economists and world leaders view pricing carbon as an essential strategy for reducing greenhouse gas emissions. [RSVP](#) to join us on Monday, August 28, 1:00-2:00 pm PDT, for an insightful and informative presentation on how carbon pricing can be a major element in managing the negative risk of climate change. [Dr. Bob Litterman](#), founder of Kepos Capital, former partner and head of risk management for Goldman-Sachs, and much awarded leader in risk management, will share his expertise on risk and investment management as it applies to carbon pricing. Recordings of our previous webinars are available on the Price on Carbon website [here](#). For more information, please contact Eleanor Revelle, Chair, LWVUS Climate Change Task Force, at er@revelle.net.

Partnership Opportunity ★

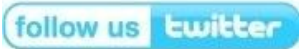
Earlier this summer, LWVEF entered into a partnership with the [National Institute for Civil Discourse](#) (NICD), a nonprofit, nonpartisan institute based at the University of Arizona. Its programs are designed to create opportunities for elected officials, the media and the public to engage different voices respectfully and take responsibility for the quality of our public discourse and effectiveness of our democratic institutions. NICD is launching a new website with resource modules and other materials in September. This new website will provide do-it-yourself modules with scalable activities, civility training, a civility pledge, and other resources. Watch future League Updates for more information.

JOIN THE CONVERSATION!

Since we began our social media presence in 2013, our online communities certainly have grown! We have 307 Facebook members who keep our page interesting and fresh. Many people, including the deputy attorney general, Delaware Department of Justice, are logging in to see what our League’s positions are and what we are advocating. Twitter’s 88 followers include many Leagues and non-profits, as well as elected officials such as Lt. Gov. Hall Long. Our diverse group also includes Chick-fil-A Christiana and Delaware DMV.



Twitter provides a quick digest of the nation's leading headlines, while Facebook gives us an open forum where we discuss the important issues of the day. All posts and points-of-view are welcome as long as our nonpartisan and inclusive policies are being respected.



To join Facebook, go to www.facebook.com and follow the instructions. Once you join, search for the League of Women Voters of Delaware and send us a "friend request." To join Twitter, go to www.twitter.com and follow the instructions. Once you join, search for @lwvde and "follow" us! *Diane Maxwell, Social Media Chair*

CALENDAR

Wednesday, August 23, 2017, 5:30 - 7:45 pm	Dover Public Library, 35 Loockerman Plaza, Dover, DE 19901	LWVDE and Ed Fund boards. First monthly meetings of new boards for 2017-2018 year.
Wednesday, September 6, 2017, 9:30 am - 12 pm	Legislative Hall, House Majority hearing room, 411 Legislative Ave. Dover, DE 19901	LWVDE Advocacy Corps meeting. Contact Committee Chair Sandy Spence for details and if interested in attending (sandyspence325@gmail.com).
Wednesday, September 20, 2017, 5:30 - 7:30 pm	Kent County Public Library 497 S. Red Haven Lane Dover, DE 19901	LWVDE and Ed Fund board meetings. Monthly meeting of the LWVDE and Ed Fund boards.

League of Women Voters of Delaware

2400 W 17th Street, Clash Wing
 Room 1, Lower Level
 Wilmington, DE 19806
 (302) 571-8948 lwvde@comcast.net
lwvdelaware.org