



DELAWARE VOTER

The League of Women Voters of Delaware

Spring/Winter, 2011
President: Sandra Spence

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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.

**League of Women Voters of Delaware invites all members to its biennial
CONVENTION, SATURDAY, MAY 21, 2011
Dover Downs Hotel, 1131 North 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 am in Chesapeake Room and some Workshops: Sussex Room
Refreshments: coffee/teas/decaf/water

Workshops 9:00 – 11:00 am
Business meeting 11:00 am
Break for lunch at noon and served at 12:15 pm
Business meeting and workshops at 1:00–4 pm

The workshops scheduled to date are

- Observer Corps – presenter: Carole Somers
- FOIA focused on open meetings and specially aimed at folks interested in being observers or already involved in that activity - presenters: Mickey McKay with Deputy Attorney General Judy Hodas
- Leadership in Transition – presenter: Christine Stillson and Shayna Howell, LWVUS Shur Fellow
- Using the Ed Fund – presenter: Becky Panichelli
- How to write letters to the editor –presenter: Julie Price
- Redistricting, if time permits – presenters: Sandy Spence & John Sykes

The business of Convention 2011 includes:

NOMINATIONS OF OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS and BIOS see pages 2-6. PROPOSED PROGRAM AND NEW STUDIES for 2011-2013 pages 7-8, with new Energy Use and Climate Change and Land Use/Transportation positions see page 11-12-13, PROPOSED BYLAW CHANGES see page 6. PROPOSE BUDGETS for 2011-12 AND 2012-13 available at convention, and Action Report page 10. Outgoing President Sandy Spence Report listed on page 7-8, Action Reports, League Day Highlights page 8, and contributors pages 13-14.

REGISTRATION INFORMATION NEXT PAGE 2

(Continued from page 1 **Convention**)

REGISTRATION FEE (that covers only food and beverages)

\$26.00 Registration is paid at the registration table.

Donations towards room rentals are welcome.

LUNCH includes: Lunch: Seasonal Mixed Greens, Parmesan Chicken with Basil Cream Sauce, freshly baked rolls, butter, iced tea/coffee/decaf both and dessert Strawberry Delight. If you require any restrictions on your diet (vegetarian) please let us know. See below.

Call your local League president (listed below) and let her know that you will be a delegate. Send your name, contact information and League you are representing to the office lwvde@voicenet.com or call the office at 302- 571-8948. Let us know which workshops you would like to attend.

League Office address: 2400 W17th Street, Clash Wing, Room 1, Lower Level, Wilmington, DE 19806

LWVNCC – Carrie Hutson - camay15@hotmail.com

LWVKC – Christine Stillson - clstillson@verizon.net

LWVSC – Esther Shelton - eshelton01@comcast.net

State Board – Sandy Spence - sandyspence325@gmail.com

PROPOSED NOMINEES TO SERVE 2011-2013 & BIOGRAPHIES

Officers:

President: Carol Jones (SC)
1st Vice President: Charlotte King (SC)
2nd Vice President: Lester Stillson (KC)
Secretary: Carol Walsh (NCC)
Treasurer: Valerie Driscoll (SC)

Directors:

Joann Hasse (NCC)
Janet Kramer (NCC)
Roberta Ray (NCC)
Peggy Schultz (NCC)
EstherShelton (SC)
Kim Walker (KC)

(Local League presidents, or their designee(s), serve on the state board. The state president may appoint up to six additional board members with approval of the board.)

Nominating Committee:

Jean Bauer (KC)
Jo Klinge (SC)

(The new board will seek a person to fill the position of Chair. Two additional members will be appointed from the board.)

Get to know your new board!

CAROL JONES - President

Carol was born in North Dakota, grew up in Oregon, attended the University of Southern California, lived in NYC and NJ, and retired to Rehoboth Beach. She has held a variety of jobs from newspaper reporter to PA to the chairman of the board of a multinational corporation and is currently church secretary at Westminster Presbyterian in Rehoboth Beach.

Carol was involved as a volunteer in public school organizations from the time her children started school until the last one graduated, and was on the board and served as president of a child care center in NJ. She joined the League of Women Voters during the time they lived in NJ, served on committees and was a moderator. When the family moved to Delaware she rejoined the League, became president and later voter service chair of LWVSC.

Carol's late husband, Lee, also joined the Sussex County League and they teamed up for candidates' forums with Carol as moderator and Lee as time keeper. They have three children and 5 grandchildren, all of whom are exceptional, of course. Lee was a great guy and would have been proud of the honor you have given me--as am I.

CHARLOTTE KING - 1st Vice President

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. She was a member of LWV while residing in various counties in Maryland. Her retirement in Delaware allows her to be an active member, currently serving on the action committee as the chair of the social policy portfolio.

Charlotte currently resides in Lewes, Delaware. She is an active volunteer with several organizations such as Beebe Hospital, St. Peter's Church, and First Town Club of Lewes. She was recently appointed to the Delaware Commission for Women.

LESTER E. STILLSON - 2nd Vice President

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, 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 LWVNC 2nd Vice-President and is currently the VOTER Editor. He also serves on the LWVDE Finance Committee. Christine verifies that he has been very active in supporting local League activities and functions (even before he became a bona fide member!)

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.

CAROLE WALSH - Secretary

Carole has served as State Board secretary since 2003 after filling in several times for Rita Smith. 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 LWVNCC 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. She 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.

VALERIE DRISCOLL - Treasurer

Valerie Driscoll has been a resident of Delaware for forty years dividing the time between northern New Castle County and Sussex County. The first ten years were focused on raising her children and volunteering in a variety of roles with Christmas Shop, Winterthur, and Trinity Episcopal Church. For the next twenty years, she worked in positions that invariably had financial responsibilities which led

(Continued on page 4 **BIOGRAPHIES**)

(Continued from page 3 **BIOGRAPHIES**)

her to becoming a financial planner with IDS (American Express Financial Advisors).

In 2003 she became a full-time resident of Sussex County and joined the LWV a couple of years later. She became the LWV Sussex County treasurer in 2008 and was elected to LWVDE's Board as Treasurer in 2009. In 2010 she became the LWV New Castle County Treasurer.

Having one person fill three of the four League of Women Voter Treasurer positions in Delaware has been helpful to the League and the Governance Committee as it looks for ways to streamline responsibilities.

JOANN HASSE – Director

Joann joined the League in WV in 1961 and, in addition to her four times as a member in DE, has been a member of Leagues in Texas (twice), MD and MA. She served as Action chair '82-'86 and as LWVDE president 5/86-1/87 and '88-'93. She has served as chair for health care policy since 1993 (she's a long retired RN) and is one of the League's volunteer lobbyists. She is a public member of the Delaware Health Resources Board and the Hospital Acquired Infections Advisory Committee. She was a member of the LWVUS nominating committee '90-'92. She and her husband Ron have four sons, two grandsons and two granddaughters.

JANET PHILLIPS KRAMER – Director

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 LWVNCC from 2003-2007; Co-Chair of the Urban Health and Justice Committee of LWVNCC from 2006 to 2009; and served on the LWVDE Board initially as the representative of LWVNCC and from 2007 through the present with responsibility for the Justice portfolio.

She continues to volunteer as co-editor of the New Castle County LWV *Voter*. In addition, Janet was appointed by Governor Markel in 2009 to the Adult Correction Healthcare Review Committee and serves as its chair, 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. Her major area of interest in retirement is health and justice public policy as it impacts the chronically ill.

ROBERTA S. RAY - Director

League membership and activities:

Roberta joined the League following retirement in 2007. League membership was a retirement gift from an active League member—a wonderful membership recruitment idea.

- Board of Directors, LWVDE, 2008 to date
Chair, Communications Committee, (a sub-committee of Governance); member, Action Committee
- Planned and implemented the 2009 League Day in Dover on Access to Mental Health Services in Delaware (with Joann Hasse, Janet Kramer, Letty Diswood and community partners)
- Board of Directors, LWVNCC, 2008 to date
Secretary, LWVNCC Board,
Active in study group on Urban Health and Social Justice, Active in voter registration

Some background:

- Native of Pacific Northwest (Seattle, Washington), grew up gazing out the living room windows to check on status of Mount Rainier each morning before going off to school.
- Prior to moving to Delaware, also lived in Oregon, Wisconsin and Colorado while pursuing education, and doing research and teaching at Oregon Research Institute, University of Wisconsin-Madison and University of Denver. Active in professional organizations and local advocacy groups.
- Ph.D. in Clinical Psychology with specialization in Child Clinical; teaching, research and publication primarily in areas of child/family therapy, assessment methods, child psychopathology attention deficit disorder, aggression).

(Continued to page 5 **BIOGRAPHIES**)

(Continued from page 4 **BIOGRAPHIES**)

- Interest in development and evaluation of public sector mental health services led to move to Delaware in 1988 to assume position as Deputy Director, Division of Child Mental Health Services, Delaware Department of Services for Children, Youth and Their Families. After 18+ years, retired from the Department as Director of Clinical Accountability Services.
- Two of most interesting and involving activities during the last years in this position were providing training in child mental health issues for foster parents and working with the Delaware Emergency Management Agency to develop emergency shelters for children separated from family members during disasters.

PEGGY SCHULTZ - Director

Peggy was born in the Territory of Alaska where her dad was a section foreman on the Alaska Railroad. She moved down to Washington at six, when her dad became a commercial fisherman. She has a B.A. in English from the University of California, Berkeley, and has an M.Ed. from the University of Pittsburgh. She is married to Jerry. They have four adorable adult kids and three adorable grandkids. While her kids were little she was active in the State PTA and in the old Newark League of Women Voters. In the Newark League she was the first Land Use Committee chairman...when land use was first established as a committee by the LWVUS.

Since retirement from working as a reading specialist she became active in photography, first with her own darkroom and now with a new digital camera and a very cool printer. Her most recent gig was as the volunteer photographer for Wilmington Wintergrass, an indoor bluegrass festival in February. She recently exhibited a photograph of a Beijing skiff in a juried show at the Newark Arts Alliance.

She is glad to be back again in Land Use, which has now logically joined forces with the Transportation Committee. She recently participated in presenting a greenhouse gas consensus, as well as a consensus on the limitation of transportation-generated CO₂. And

when she's not doing Land Use or Energy or church or photography, you'll probably find her weeding her flower beds.

ESTHER SHELTON – Director

Esther grew up in Coral Gables, Florida and after graduation from the University of Florida, with a degree in English, she went to work for the CIA in Washington, DC. There she met her husband and two years later when he left the agency to return to the army, Esther went with him. Three children and twenty years of moving around every three years or so later her husband retired, and they settled in North Carolina. In the meantime, Esther had gone back to school to get the education credits she needed for a teaching career, and also a master's degree in English literature, and for the next fifteen years she taught high school English and served as department chair for twelve of them. Esther was also on the Board of the Wilson County SPCA for five years and served as President for two. She also served on the Board of the Wilson County Historical Preservation Society for three years and as Secretary for two until she moved to Raleigh. There Esther did some volunteer work for the Democratic Party and the Red Cross, but mainly took care of her mother who had Alzheimers. After her death, she moved to Lewes, DE to be close to her daughter and son.

In Delaware Esther was elected to the board of The Plantations HOA and served as Secretary for two of them. Four years ago, she joined the LWVSC League and was elected President. She is at the end of her second term now. Esther also served on the LWVDE as a director for four years and has been Vice-President of the Education Fund Board for two.

KIMBERLEY JOHNSON-WALKER – Director

Kim has called Delaware home since 2000. Kim, originally from Pittsburgh, began her professional career at Indiana University of Pennsylvania where she was the head women's volleyball coach. After her stint at IUP, she and her family moved to North Carolina. There she headed the women's volleyball program at East Carolina University. Upon her arrival to Delaware, Kim transitioned into athletic administration at Delaware State University holding the posts of Associate Director of Athletics for Marketing and Promotion and later Associate Director

(Continued on page 6 **BIOGRAPHIES**)

(Continued from page 5 **BIOGRAPHIES**)

of Athletics for Compliance. She also served as a visiting instructor at DSU in the Department of Sport Management.

Kim's educational background includes a B.S. in Administrative Management from Clemson University where she was also a student-athlete on the volleyball team. She earned her M.S. from Indiana University of Pennsylvania in Sport Science. Kim is a new member of LWVNC. Her major interests lie in the areas of education, alternative energy sources and health care.

She resides in Magnolia with her husband Keith, son Zachary, and daughter, Sawyer. Her oldest son is a freshman at Brown University.

JEAN BAUER – Nominating Committee

Jean is a native of Sussex County, Delaware, and a graduate of the University of Delaware. Jean is retired from her position as a technical writer-editor with the U.S. Army, where she worked with test analysts and officers on finalizing test plans and writing test reports on which military materiel acquisition decisions were based. (No jokes about \$1 million hammers, please.) She and her husband, Bob, reside in Camden.

Jean joined the LWV in 1975, shortly after moving to Kentucky, as she became affiliated with like-minded women in supporting the Equal Rights Amendment. She has held any number of positions over the years at both state and local levels: program chair, newsletter editor, nominating committee chair, and so on. Jean has seldom been just a rank and file member of the League; she has looked for ways to be active, to contribute to our voter services mission as well as to support the organization.

JO KLINGE – Nominating Committee

Jo has been a member of the League of Women Voters Sussex County since 2008, when she made the permanent move from Wilmington to Rehoboth Beach.

As a LWVSC member she edits the Sussex Voter and serves on the Observer Corps and the LWVSC Board. As a founding member of Women in Process, she designed and led professional and personal development workshops for women (and, eventually, for men) in businesses and non-profits in the US and Canada. Jo is an active member of the Interfaith Coalition Building Blocks for Wilmington, a non-profit which works with faith leaders and residents of West Center City Wilmington; the journey from Rehoboth to Wilmington is a familiar one.

Other interests include reading (primarily fiction), governing processes (observing county government is an eye-opener), cooking (when several friends and/or family are involved) and staying connected with said friends and family.

Jo is a graduate of Butler University in Indianapolis.

PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO THE BYLAWS

An amendment to the Bylaws by Convention 2009 changed the fiscal year of the LWVDE from May 1–April 30 to July 1-June 30. This was done so that our fiscal year would match that of the LWVUS and the 3 local Leagues.

Changes to several deadlines pertaining to the business of Conventions are now proposed, as well as one which will allow the Board to meet electronically. They will be listed in the Convention Book.

RECOMMENDED PROGRAM FOR ADOPTION AT CONVENTION 2011

The state board recommends the re-adoption of the current program listed in the Convention book with the following changes:

- **two new positions**, “Energy” and “Energy Use and Climate Change” have resulted from the Energy study adopted at Convention May 2009 and now basis for action.
- **a study of the reorganization of state government** by creating the Office of General Counsel does not seem feasible at this time and the study is **recommended to be dropped from Program**.
- **two RECOMMENDED NEW**
- **STUDIES **Under SOCIAL POLICY**

The Legalization of Marijuana for Medical Use

(Proposed by the state Action Committee); to be dropped if the legislature has already enacted a bill on this topic)

****Under STATE GOVERNMENT**

A Study of State Government Revenue Sources

This study will focus on:

- **understanding Delaware’s current funding sources (some of which rely on out of state businesses and individuals) and their relative importance to the state budget;**
- **examining the criteria used by several other state Leagues in doing revenue studies (adequate yield, equity/fairness, compatibility with state social and environmental policy, cost effective administration, elasticity/natural growth, benefit/fairness, simplicity, public acceptance, compatibility and links with federal policy, competitive business climate);**
- **the process used by Delaware to estimate future revenues for budgeting purposes (Delaware Economic and Financial Advisory Council—usually known as DEFAC)**
- **evaluating possibilities for enhancing Delaware’s revenue profile.**

If the study is adopted at Convention, Mickey McKay and Will Garfinkle, LWVKC, will co-chair the study.

SINCE THE LAST BIENIEL CONVENTION IN 2009, SEVERAL STUDIES HAVE BEEN COMPLETED RESULTING IN NEWLY ADOPTED POSITIONS ON ENERGY USE, ENERGY /CLIMATE CHANGE AND ENERGY/LAND USE/TRANSPORTATION.

THE NEW POSTIONS ARE LISTE ON PAGES 11, 12 AND 13

Dear League members,

As my term comes to an end, I've been reflecting on what we've accomplished in the last couple years, thanks to a devoted board, numerous committees, individual members, and our indefatigable Letty Diswood without whom all of this would not have been possible.



- Our Governance Task Force has met over 8 times, once via Skype to address a proposal to merge the state and local Leagues into a single statewide League, as some had advocated. Outcomes include a recommendation accepted by the board to work toward streamlining the state and local League functions rather than unifying the structure. Numerous recommendations toward streamlining and expanding state support for locals have been developed and several have already been achieved.
- Perhaps the most significant way we could streamline operations and reduce duplication of effort might be accomplished through a final recommendation that is left to the new Board. That is to explore how we could merge the 501 (c)(4) League structure with the 501(c)(3) charitable and educational activities of the state and local Education Funds. This has been accomplished by at least one local League in California and a statewide effort to do this is underway in Wisconsin. This would eliminate the need for separate officers and significantly simplify all of the budgeting and other financial functions of the state and local Leagues and would not interfere with the outstanding and extensive work of our eight volunteer registered lobbyists.
- As part of our Governance efforts, Roberta Ray (New Castle) has ably led a new Communications Committee that put together a single statewide Voter last summer as a test of how we could incorporate news from the state and locals in a single Voter, *periodically*, to help reduce the work of producing four separate Voters.
- In addition, Roberta has thoroughly explored a means to establish a state website that will enhance the familiar LWV "brand," vastly simplify updating without the need for a programmer, and that can include pages from the locals or be linked to their own sites, as is now the case. This will also facilitate the improved use of a statewide calendar and sharing of program and other information.
- Valerie Driscoll (Sussex) has taken on the job of Treasurer of the LWVDE, as well as the Sussex and New Castle Leagues, reducing the number of treasurers we need to recruit in the separate Leagues. And Becky Panichelli (New Castle) is now using QuickBooks to document all the Ed Fund financial records and provide more regular and meaningful statements to all involved.
- A small but dedicated committee chaired and inspired by Rashmi Rangan (New Castle) with the mighty support of Letty Diswood produced a highly successful statewide 90th Anniversary Gala event that provided unexpected, but appreciated, revenue for the locals (although it prevented the LWVDE from undertaking its annual fundraising campaign to meet its own budget).
- With support from Shayna Howell, a liaison from LWVUS, we initiated monthly communications of membership leaders from all three locals to share ideas and experience and inspire new focus on this critical work and follow up on earlier Membership Recruitment Initiatives initiated by LWVUS.
- Our Action Committee has been expanded and its operations improved under the very able leadership of John Sykes (Sussex). Our new portfolio chair for social issues not covered by others and registered lobbyist .

(Continued on page 9 **PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE**)

(Continued from page 8 **PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE**)

- Charlotte King (Sussex) made a powerful statement on our behalf in the House in favor of the recently enacted civil unions' bill and our eight additional volunteer lobbyists have done a terrific job representing us regularly at Legislative Hall: Pat Todd, Joann Hasse, Lisa Pertzoff, and Letty Diswood (New Castle), Mickey McKay and Christine Stillson (Kent) and John Sykes and Sandy Spence (Sussex). Lisa Pertzoff developed a more systematic way of keeping track of the many bills we are monitoring, supporting or opposing. John has shared his techie expertise in enabling us to make better use of shared documents on the Internet, the use of Skype, when appropriate, by the Committee and others in the League, and Julie Price (Kent) has helped us keep track of our actions.
- We've experimented with new technologies, such as using Skype, a very inexpensive (usually free) Internet-based alternative to conference calls that facilitates involvement of members from all three locals in statewide committees and other activities. The Governance, Action, and Land Use and Transportation Committees as well as a local committee in Sussex all held successful meetings using Skype to communicate with folks spread out geographically. [Those without the free Skype download can participate by phone.]
- Carole Reid-Grandfield (Kent) and her Nominating Committee met frequently for over a year to develop forms and procedures and, finally, to identify candidates for board and officer candidates. Their excellent work, based on a resource from LWVUS, will serve as a template for future nominating committees.
- Melinda Huff (Sussex) set up our VOTE 411 system, an on-line Voters Guide where voters could build their own ballots for the 2010 elections. Almost half of the approximately 150 state and local general election candidates that were listed submitted bios and answers to League questions.
- Carole Walsh (New Castle) and moderator Ellen Wasfi (Kent), with the help of several others, produced an interesting state candidates' forum in 2010. And Carole, with her committee's help, has undertaken a significant effort to develop recommendations for future improvements.
- We held an inspiring and productive weekend long Leadership Retreat at the Center for the Inland Bays in 2009 that afforded the opportunity for more interaction among members from all three locals. Thanks to Jo Klinge (Sussex) for her assistance in planning and facilitating arrangements, Carole Walsh and Joann Hasse (New Castle) for developing an informative "League 101" session that can be used as a model for local orientations, Pat Todd (New Castle) for an inspiring story of her 30-year efforts to promote recycling, Cheryl Graeve from LWVUS who educated us on the potential for having the LWVUS manage our Ed Fund monies to reduce bookkeeping and insure IRS procedures are followed, and others who made presentations, helped with logistics and brought food.
- Mickey McKay (Kent) took on the challenging but rewarding effort of supervising and reporting on an audit of local governments and school districts in all three counties on their open government practices under a small grant from LWVUS and advised us frequently on questions about compliance with sunshine laws.
- Chad Tolman, Mary Anne Edwards, Pat Todd and others (New Castle) completed a two year Energy study and consensus meetings in each of the three local Leagues, leading to new positions that allow us to advocate on more specific issues relating to green house gases, climate change, and sea level rise. And Peggy Schultz (New Castle) organized an eye-opening field trip to Prime Hook National Wildlife Refuge to view an actual example of this threat.
- That work led up to our highly successful and very educational League Day in Dover in March, with a record 104 attendees organized by Chad Tolman and John Sykes on sea level rise. In 2009, we had another

(Continued on page 10 **PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE**)

successful League Day event focused on redistricting that preceded our work supporting the 2010 Census and advocacy for transparent processes and public participation in this year's state redistricting process as well as the Sussex League's work relating to their County Council.

- Peggy Schultz and Jane Dilley (New Castle) and their very active Land Use and Transportation Committee, also working over the past two years as a subgroup of the Energy study, presented informative consensus meetings leading to expanded positions in these areas that will all depend on significant improvements in land use practices that are critical in all three counties.
- We established an Endowment Fund at the Delaware Community Foundation and raised \$4,100 in the first two years to insure the long-term financial viability and educational activities of the LWVDE. The fund will achieve a much better return on investment than other methods, Among other things, it allows members to transfer stock gifts directly to achieve tax advantages. Thanks to early donors: (Joyce Johnson, Roberta Ray, and Becky Panichelli) from New Castle; (Carole Reid Grandfield) and Christine and Les Stillson from Kent; and (John Sykes and Sandy Spence) from Sussex. Call me at 645-9559 if you'd like more information. This is especially relevant to those who have an IRA and have reached the year in which they turn(ed) 70-1/2.

Sandy Spence

ACTION ROUNDUP - John Sykes

During this past month, the Action Committee coordinated our annual League Day in Dover. With the theme of Sea Level Rise in Delaware, it was a record setting event, we had 104 attending the morning presentation and 95 or 96 for the lunch and speaker. Elected Officials who attended: From the Delaware Legislature, Senator Sorenson attended the whole session and Representative Kowalko joined us for a short time and gave brief remarks, for lunch Rep. Rebecca Walker and the Auditor, Thomas Wagner also attended. Several city mayors attended, including one of our speakers, Jim Ford of Lewes. DNREC Secretary Collin O'Mara also joined us, making a brief statement about the importance of the topic. The ticket sales and sponsor contributions covered all expenses with very little in excess. With many favorable comments as people turned in name tags at the registration table, the event apparently spawned a number of additional seminars this spring on sea level rise.

So far this legislative session, several major bills have passed and will become law with the governor's signature; Senate Bill 30, the Civil Unions legislation; and, House Bill 19, the drug omnibus bill. Other bill of note have been introduced, such as; House Bill 79, which calls for opting out of national health reform; Senate Bill 61: which would set 12 year term limits on legislators; Senate Bill 60, which would begin the process for a constitutional amendment providing that constitutional amendments be ratified at the polls; Senate Joint Resolution 4, which would commission a task force to consider reducing the number of public school districts to five; and Senate Bill 19, which would prohibit lobbyists from serving on state advisory committees and, if passed as it, would have a large negative impact on many of our Action Committee members who serve on various state boards and committees.



(Pictured L-R) League Day in Dover - Panel Dr. Wendy Carey of the University of Delaware Sea Grant; James Ford, Mayor of Lewes, DE; Dave Carter, DNREC's Coastal Programs Ken Kristl, Esq., Director, Env. Law and Natural Resources Law Center, Widener Univ. School of Law; Dr. Nancy Targett, Dean of UD College of Earth, Ocean and Environment; Dr. Chad Tolman, Retired Scientist, Chair, Energy Committee of the DE Chapter of the Sierra Club and Energy/GHG Subcommittee.

ENERGY

The League of Women Voters of Delaware adopted an energy study at its convention on 5/2/2007. It chose to study an energy plan for Delaware minimizing global warming and climate change. The study revealed that the LWVD positions on energy were generally covered by LWVUS energy positions and only two new areas were not covered. Those two areas were Renewable Energy Portfolio and Transmission and Distribution. Positions for these two new areas were reached by consensus and adopted at the LWVD Board meeting on July 22, 2010.

Background Material on Renewable Energy Portfolio:

Renewable energy portfolio standard (RPS) policies are legal mandates that require utilities to own or acquire renewable energy or renewable energy certificates to account for a certain percentage of their retail electricity sales, or a certain amount of generating capacity, within a specified timeframe. RPS policies are widely considered to be among the most important of those which lead to increased renewable energy capacity. Thus RPS policies fall within the League of Women Voters of U.S.'s position on Energy: The League supports reduction of energy growth rates through conservation and energy efficient technologies, predominant reliance on renewable resources, and energy goals and policies acknowledging the U.S. as a responsible member of the world community. RPS policies are determined by individual states. There is no Federal policy. Delaware has an RPS policy which is modified from time to time with respect to its specific requirements, but which does not cover all electricity sales in the state. Thus LWV of Delaware has developed the following positions with respect to the RPS policy of Delaware

Position on Renewable Energy Portfolio

The League of Women Voters of Delaware:

1. Supports an increase in the percentage of renewable energy sources in Delaware's Renewable Energy Portfolio Standard (RPS) provided that they:

- have minimum environmental impact;
- use the best current technology as measured by reliability, proven effectiveness, and being state-of-the-art;
- have long range cost effectiveness including all net costs such as health and environmental costs, state and federal subsidies, and price stability.

2. Supports measures ensuring that total electricity sales in Delaware be required to meet the RPS.

Background Material on Transmission and Distribution:

The transmission system (the grid) that supplies wholesale electricity to Delaware's three distribution facilities: Delmarva Power, Delaware Municipal Electric Corp. (DEMEC), and Delaware Electric Cooperative (DEC) is old and inadequate and was designed to bring electricity from Midwest fossil-fuel-fired power plants to Delaware, a net importer of electricity. In recent years, transmission enhancement planning--the Mid-Atlantic Power Pathway (MAPP)--was without innovation; and the approved plans were put on hold.

A study released in 2010 by the National Renewable Energy Lab shows that connected East Coast off-shore wind generation can provide 20% - 30% of the U.S. energy needs if appropriate system modifications and structural changes are made to the grid. If Delaware is to fully develop its renewable resources, primarily offshore wind and solar/p hotovoltaics, a new approach to transmission planning and grid enhancement will be necessary.

Position on Transmission and Distribution

The League of Women Voters of Delaware supports:

1. Maximizing the development and delivery of renewable energy to Delaware when designing and developing new transmission plans for the region.
2. In addition to delivering reliable, adequate electric service to Delaware, the key factors to be considered in making a decision on any transmission plan/transmission enhancements are:

(Continued on page 12 ENERGY)

Continued from page 11 ENERGY)

- Degree of environmental impact;
- Degree of utilization of the transmission for renewable resource power vs. fossil-fuel generated power;
- True cost, including all cost-externalities;
- Safety and security of the grid.

ENERGY/CLIMATE CHANGE

The League of Women Voters of Delaware is aligned with its national organization in its belief that climate change represents a serious threat to the environment, the economies and security of all nations, and the health and welfare of people around the world. The correlation between global temperature increases and rising concentrations of carbon dioxide indicates the need to sharply reduce emissions of all greenhouse gases including carbon dioxide, methane and nitrous oxide.

The Energy/Climate Change Position resulted from a continuation of the Energy Study; i.e., to study an energy plan for Delaware minimizing climate change. A position was arrived at by consensus of members and approved by the Board in March 2011.

The League of Women Voters of Delaware supports an aggressive and comprehensive energy use/climate change plan for Delaware. Some key points that should be included:

- Accelerate bringing new green businesses, jobs and industries to Delaware, and investigate emerging energy technologies.
- Set targets and a timetable for reducing Delaware's total greenhouse gas emissions.
- Plan for extensive adaptation measures at all levels of government for climate change impacts that cannot be avoided---especially sea level rise.
- Support public education and outreach; expand renewable energy and climate change in Delaware curriculum standards.
- As Delaware calculates energy costs, full life cycle analyses* with all externalities** must be included.
- Social and economic justice must be considered in implementing energy and climate change policy.

*Life cycle analysis is a technique to assess environmental impacts associated with all the stages of a product's life from cradle-to-grave (i.e., from raw material extraction through materials processing, manufacture, distribution, use repair and maintenance, and disposal or recycling).

Energy externalities are external costs and benefits--health, environmental, security, and infrastructure--associated with the production, distribution, and consumption of energy that are not, or may not be fully incorporated into the market price. Continued on page 13 **ENERGY/LANDUSE/TRANSPORTATION)



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LAND USE/TRANSPORTATION

The study upon which this consensus is based grew out of the 2010 recommendations of the Governor's Energy Advisory Council. Each of the five elements of this position is geared toward reducing Delaware's carbon imprint, and represents some aspect of the recommendations of the Council's workgroup on Transportation. Although a great deal of attention is paid to energy-efficient technological advances in transportation, such as more efficient vehicles and lower carbon dioxide levels in fuels, without keen attention to land use planning the technology will not sufficiently reduce transportation-generated greenhouse gases to get Delaware on track to participate in global efforts to affect climate change. Land use planning that considers distances which citizens must travel will go far toward reducing the number of vehicle miles traveled (VMT). Furthermore, the need for attention to a state public transit system that has historically been funded at about half the national average since its inception, is crucial if we are to take our place among states leading in the reduction of carbon dioxide. The following position was arrived at by consensus of the members and approved by the Board of Directors of the League of Women Voters of Delaware in April, 2011.

Position on Land Use and Transportation

The League of Women Voters of Delaware supports reducing transportation-generated greenhouse gas emissions by wiser land use planning and by enhancing public transit options. Some key points that should be included:

- 1. Direct development towards growth zones, except for environmentally sensitive areas within those growth zones; assure availability of infrastructure, services and walkability before developing.**
- 2. Build compact, or dense, development within established development areas in which pedestrians can safely and conveniently access services.**
- 3. Reduce vehicle miles traveled (VMT).**
- 4. Modify Delaware's paratransit fee schedule to establish separate classifications for ADA* and non-ADA** service. Reform the system to establish fairer pricing for non-ADA paratransit use. Tighten eligibility requirements for all paratransit use in situations where the state has discretion.**
- 5. Establish a dedicated funding stream for public transit; explore a variety of funding sources.**

*ADA refers to the Americans for Disabilities Act requirement that paratransit service be provided within a 3/4 mile radius of all fixed-route bus service routes. Both origins and destinations must be within the required radius.

**Non-ADA refers to paratransit trips which either originate or end outside the 3/4 mile radius.

Thank you to the following League members and friends and businesses for their generous financial contributions to the LWV of Delaware. Listed are contributors since the publishing the fall newsletter THE VOTER October, 2010.

League Day -Sea Level Rise Forum

Coalition for Climate Change Study and Action, Center for Inland Bays, Delaware Audubon Society, Delaware Nature Society, Delaware Sea Grant, The Nature Conservancy, Partnership for the Delaware Estuary Sierra Club, Delaware Chapter. (Continued on page 14 **CONTRIBUTIONS**)

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Kudos to all our volunteers who have done the work of the League, using their talents and time, presenting programs, registering voters, working on the online Voters Guide LWV411 .ORG, planning candidate forums, organizing events and lobbying on the issues we all care about. The League would not exist without your enthusiastic support and consistent help.

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