

Empowering Voters. Defending Democracy.
We envision a democracy where every person has the desire, the right, the knowledge, and the confidence to participate.

PRESIDENTS' MESSAGE - Sandy Spence



It's the beginning of the League's second century! Think of it! Our values and principles have evolved over 100 years and we're already busy educating and advocating for the next 100 years.

FOR THE PEOPLE ACT Here's what you can do to help make a BIG impact right away. LWVUS is urging all of us to "Take Action: Tell the Senate to Support S1!" Now I know that our Senators will vote YES for this major bill, but all of us can urge our family and friends in other states to Take Action, too.

This is a democracy reform bill that will put power back into the hands of American voters by making voting easier and more accessible and by modernizing future elections. Over the last two years, we saw the bill pass the House of Representatives, but get stalled at the Senate. **But we cannot let this happen again.** The House has just passed the *For the People Act* again - it is now time for the Senate to fulfill their duty for our democracy. The *For the People Act* addresses some of the most pressing issues facing our democracy by:

- Restoring the Voting Rights Act;
- Modernizing our voter registration system;
- Restoring voting rights to formerly-incarcerated individuals;
- Curbing partisan gerrymandering; and
- Making campaign contributions more transparent

Go to www.lww.org, click on **Take Action** and then **For the People Act (S1)**. You can edit the form letter and thank them for supporting the For the People Act. Then, ask your family and friends in other states to Take Action, too!

LEAGUE DAYS This issue highlights some of the major issues LWVDE is addressing this first year of our second decade. While planning for League Day in Dover 2021, we realized the Pandemic would probably not yet allow us to hold an in-person event in March, as usual. But to disprove those who think the League sometimes appears to be "set in our ways," the Advocacy Corps showed our ability to think "outside the box." And thus was born **Zoomed League Days in Dover**. The flexibility of online meetings offers the opportunity for us to address multiple hot issues rather than limiting our program. Besides the excellent "Days" highlighted in the following pages, watch your in-box for news of another that will be coming in April featuring an engaging half hour movie followed by discussion in breakout rooms on Redistricting.



Municipal Elections. A rumor was reported at the last Elections Committee meeting. Rep. Bryan Shupe was planning to introduce a bill to require all municipalities to use the state registration system for their local elections. We still haven't seen the bill, but the expected introduction has been reported in the media.

In case you don't live in one of the affected towns, you will be appalled to learn that most municipalities in the state outside Wilmington, Newark and Dover require their citizens to register twice, with the state for federal and state elections and at town hall in order to vote in municipal elections. As a former Mayor, Rep. Shupe was unhappy that many of his constituents didn't know about this requirement until they showed up at the polls on town election days in Milford only to learn they couldn't vote.



Meanwhile, HR 34 has already been released from Committee in the House and is scheduled for a vote on March 11. Sponsored by another former Mayor and current House Minority Leader, Dan Short from Seaford, it would amend that city's charter to eliminate the need for his constituents to register twice. It also does allow otherwise qualified non-resident property owners to register at town hall so they can vote in municipal elections, a practice common in many localities. And it also uses the term "natural person" so that

voting by LLD's will not be allowed. The League has been concerned about this practice in multiple Delaware towns. We think LLD's are not natural persons and allowing them to vote violates the principle of one person, one vote.

We're congratulating these two Republican Representatives for ensuring more citizens have the right to vote!

Finally, I can't close before commenting on the terrible loss of our former President Carol Jones. Who would have known that she was in her 87th year, with adult great grandchildren? And few knew of her incredible accomplishments and years of dedicated service in a variety of fields in the arts, humanities, and public service. I cherished her as a friend and grieve her loss. Please read her entire obituary in this issue and say a word of thanks for her service.

ADVOCACY CORPS UPDATE – FEBRUARY 2021

by Linda Barnett, Chairperson, Advocacy Corps



The 151st General Assembly began its work in January – and it was a hectic month. A large number of bills were introduced that we have on our radar, and League Lobbyists are busy preparing and presenting testimony.

All legislative events are held online now, and the process to sign up to view a hearing or the Legislature in full session is quite user-friendly. Testifying is also well structured, the first step being to register in advance. Hearings on any given bill begins with a presentation by the bill's sponsor, followed by questions and discussion among committee members. Public comment is then allowed. Members of the committee are shown on the screen, but public comments are presented orally only – no video. We can also submit a written copy of our testimony. In fact, the written testimony submitted in January and February can be found on the State League Website.

One exciting victory in January was passage of a **bill related to climate change/energy**. It passed both houses, not without rather heated discussion from both sides. The bill (HB 33) requires that 40% of our energy be produced by renewable sources by 2035. The importance of this relates to the existential threat of climate change. Delaware has the lowest average elevation of any state, and because of its proximity to the ocean, we are subject to one of the most pressing effects of climate change - namely, sea level rise. We had hoped that the percentage would be set at 50%, but in spite of heavy advocacy, this level was not approved. Nonetheless, to get a substantial bill of this nature to pass both Houses within one month highlights its significance, and we are thankful that our General Assembly recognized that.

Another important achievement was passage of HB 31 - a **Constitutional amendment** which adds the underlined words to the Constitution:

“Equality of rights under the law shall not be denied or abridged on account of race, color, national origin, or sex.”

Being a proposed constitutional amendment, it had to be considered and passed in two General Assemblies. It had passed in the 150th, and now – with its passage this year – it becomes part of the Delaware Constitution.

Another measure along a similar line for which we devoted advocacy was SB 32, which aligns with a key guiding principle of the League – namely, that no person or group should suffer legal, economic or administration discrimination.

The bill provides **protection against discrimination for traits historically associated with race**, such as hair styles. The Delaware Code contains many protections against discrimination - both in school and in the workplace, but it does not specifically outlaw discrimination against such traits. And there have been instances where students have been forced to leave school for having hair styles consistent with racial traditions. In addition, some people, wholly qualified for a position, have had great difficulty in being hired or, if working, have been forced to leave their offices until they conform to what we can only call the “white” version of proper styles.

In our advocacy, we made the point that such racist actions have no place in our state. No one should force his/her own concept of what is “proper appearance” on others, to cause them to feel inferior or to lose time in school or on the job or even be unable to find a job.

In the words of Amanda Gorman, Inaugural Poet for President Biden,
“to put our future first, we must first put our differences aside.”

This measure has passed the Senate but will need to be considered in the House when they reconvene. (The General Assembly is on break now to allow for hearings on the FY 2022 Governor’s Recommended Budget.)

Testimony on a host of other issues was also presented this month, including topics such as removing language from the Constitution that inhibits the use of absentee ballots; making the **Earned Income Tax Credit refundable**, to boost the economic status of those at the lower end of the income scale; improving **access to recharging stations** for electric vehicle; providing **relief for prisoners in this time of a pandemic**; and **funding measures to clean the state’s water supply**. As noted above, the full text of our testimony is available on the State League’s website:

<https://my.lwv.org/delaware/advocacy-work/testimonies>.



**Education Perspectives and Intersections –
Policy Reforms, the Education Equity Lawsuit
Settlement, and Boots on the Ground
March 10th @ 1:30 pm**



Dan Rich
University Professor
of Public Policy



Dr. Sandi Hagans-Morris
Education Director,
First State Community
Action Agency



Ed Ratledge
Center Director,
CADSR Associate
Professor



Bill Collick
Legendary Coach and
School Board Member

This discussion among leaders in Delaware education will be moderated by League Member Kathleen Baker. We invite your comments and questions at registration and during the 1:30-3:00 p.m. session on March 10.

Click here to register for this session:

When: Mar 10, 2021 01:30 PM Eastern Time (US and Canada) - Education

<https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZ0kd-qgqTlpGtHzmjCxDje0ToICE80yJ-w>



League Days 2021

Voting and Elections Webinar

March 17th @ 10am



Anthony Albence,
Election Commissioner



Dwayne Bensing,
ACLU



Jill Itzkowitz, LWVDE
Elections Committee Chair

Hear Delaware’s election experts discuss the 2020 elections, providing insight into some of the challenges and successes. Also we will review upcoming voting bills and how you can help.

Please Update your zoom to the most current verision to be able to use all features.

Register Here:

When: Mar 17, 2021 10:00 AM Eastern Time (US and Canada) – Elections / Voting

https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZEuf-utpjMvG9brLgClgJKZgjcrRCwW_Hdl

REMAINING NONPARTISAN IN HYPER-PARTISAN TIMES

The League of Women Voters has evolved from a mighty political experiment designed to help 20 million newly enfranchised women vote in 1920, to what it is today: a unique, nonpartisan organization that is a recognized force in molding political leaders, shaping public policy, and promoting informed citizen participation at all levels of government.

“HOW DO WE CONTINUE TO CLAIM/EXPLAIN OUR NONPARTISAN STATUS?” Click on or open the link below’

[BLOG: Remaining Nonpartisan in Hyper-partisan Times](#)

League Days 2021

Offshore Wind Power

Hear from experts on various aspects of an offshore wind project for Delaware.

March 24th @ 10 am



Willett Kempton,
Professor in the College
of Earth, Ocean, and
Environment



Kris Ohleth,
Executive Director
Special Initiative
Offshore Wind



Dr. David Bidwell
Associate Professor of
Marine Affairs University
of Rhode Island

Please Update your zoom to the most current version to be able to use all features.

Click here to register for this session:

When: Mar 24, 2021 10:00 AM Eastern Time (US and Canada) - OffShore Wind

<https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZ0kdeiqqj0iGtVKEAIVVEaG6kvCkDqrFsfp>

Other Recordings of recent LWWNCC Sponsored Events

- The Jan 23, 2021 Hot Topic - "Redistricting 101" (People Powered Fair Maps Project) video is available at <https://www.facebook.com/310708316378535/videos/195632308957813>
- The Feb 9, 2021 SDARJ Town Hall Meeting: "Housing and Racism (Part II)" video is available at <https://youtu.be/Nk4UczFKMgc>

League Days 2021

Criminal Justice: Fines and Fees

March 31st @ 10am



Lynne Kielhorn,
Co-Coordinator, Campaign to
End Debtors' Prison



Meryem Dede, Esq.,
Co-Coordinator, Campaign to
End Debtors' Prison



Tanya N. Whittle, Ph.D.
Assistant Prof. of Sociology &
Criminal Justice, Delaware State
University

Debtors' prison in Delaware? Understanding our current system of court fines and fees will explain that the answer is "yes". The need for equity and an efficient economy are in sharp focus. Learn more about what new legislative efforts can do for Delaware and about the Campaign to End Debtors' Prison.

Please Update your zoom to the most current version to be able to use all features.

Register here:

When: Mar 31, 2021 10:00 AM Eastern Time (US and Canada) - Fines & Fees

<https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZMsc-2urjsiHNY2LjF7NIUsujSKLgg0yS2A>

SAVE THE DATE:

LEAGUE DAYS CONTINUED WITH FORUM ON FAIR MAPS/REDISTRICTING: Hear about redistricting in Delaware, including upcoming bills and the Fair Maps software. Thursday, April 29, 2021

Carol D. Jones, leader in the community

December 21, 2020



Photo Ross Kruglak

Carol D. Jones, 87, passed away peacefully in her sleep following a short illness, at her home in Rehoboth Beach Wednesday, Dec. 16, 2020. Born Carol Doreen Weiss in Stanley, N.D., in her grandmother's farmhouse Aug. 28, 1933, to the late Arthur and Thelma G. Weiss, the family moved to Minot, N.D., in the mid-30s, where her early years were spent as a talented dancer, entertaining audiences with song and dance routines. She officially welcomed the Duke and Duchess of Windsor for the city when the royal couple traveled across North Dakota on their way to Calgary, Alberta, Canada in 1941.

The family moved to Oregon in 1945 where Carol met her future husband, Leland S. Jones. They were married in 1952 in Los Angeles, Calif., where each had attended the University of Southern California. They raised their family in New York City and New Jersey, pursued careers, traveled extensively, and moved to Rehoboth Beach at retirement in the 1990s, where they enjoyed beach walking, and entertaining family

and friends. The couple was married for 58 years until Lee's death in 2010.

Carol and Lee became involved in community activities soon after moving to Sussex County. They were among the founders of the Rehoboth Beach Film Society, and were active in the Rehoboth Art League. Carol felt deeply about the arts and humanities, and was a member of the Council of the Delaware Humanities, completing two terms this year.

Carol had a lifelong interest in politics (although not as a candidate for office) and joined the League of Women Voters in both Sussex County and the State of Delaware. She was a dedicated public servant as the Sussex County League president from 2001-03 and continued as a board member through mid-2008. She assumed the state presidency of the League of Women Voters Delaware (LWVDE) 2011-13, and again in 2019 until her death. Carol also had served as chair of the Finance Committee and was an effective fundraiser for the organization. She moderated numerous local candidate forums and educational forums under the auspices of the league, and single-handedly put together a civics program on the subject of the Delaware and U.S. Constitutions, recorded and on YouTube. She had a passion for educating the public and getting out the vote, and frequently cited Lotte Scharfman (LWVMass) that "Democracy is Not a Spectator Sport."

Carol is survived by her three children: Kevin C. Jones (Karina) of Maryland, Gary S. Jones of Pennsylvania and Christina J. Ingram (Chuck) of Virginia; five grandchildren: Corey Gilbreath, Kiley R. McGahan, Darryl S. Jones, Hannah C. Jones and Christopher E. Jones; two great-grandchildren: Levi and Sadie Gilbreath; her brother Gary D. Weiss (Mary) of South Carolina; and sister Beckie Healey of Lewes.

Carol was beloved by family and friends, and the holidays will be difficult this year without her. She was a wise mentor and a loving matriarch to her family. She guided the children on paths of equality, tolerance, kindness, generosity and compromise.

The family requests that memorial contributions in her name be made to the League of Women Voters DE, 2400 W. 17th St., Wilmington, DE 19806, or to Delaware Hospice, 100 Patriots Way, Milford, DE 19963. Services will be private. A memorial service will be held next year, when gathering is safe. The day and the month? "Well, it all depends . . ." (Carol Jones, 2020)

CALENDAR

Monday, March 8, 2021 10:00 a.m. - 12 noon	ZOOM meeting	LAND USE/TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE. Regular committee meeting. Contact Peggy Schultz, Co-chair at schultz_peggy@yahoo.com to attend.. We'll discuss the Transportation and Climate Initiative and Non-Exclusionary zoning Location: https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82739885298?pwd=R3ZtcFpmc3FJRllrWmhOOHloeTUIQT09
Wed. March 10, 2021 10:00 a.m. – 12:00 noon	ZOOM meeting	LWVDE ADVOCACY CORPS Meeting. Regular 2nd Wednesday meeting of the LWVDE Advocacy Corps (legislative lobby group). For details or to attend, contact Advocacy Chair Linda Barnett luvchocdog@hotmail.com .
Wednesday, March 10 1:30pm – 3 p.m.	ZOOM forum	LWVDE LEAGUE DAYS - FUNDING OF PUBLIC-SCHOOL EDUCATION: Perspectives on the education equity lawsuit settlement and local impacts. Details and registration will be sent via Delaware Action Network/emails.
Wednesday, March 17, 2021 10:00 . – 11:00 a.m.	ZOOM forum	LWVDE LEAGUE DAYS - ELECTIONS/VOTING: Hear about the 2020 election and upcoming voting bills. Details and registration will be sent via Delaware Action Network.
Saturday, March 20, 2021 10:00 am – 11:30 a.m.	Zoom meeting	TED X TALK DISCUSSION “The Radical Act of Choosing Common Ground by Nisha Anand” advocating for Social Justice Note change in time Pre-register at: https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZUtceyppzouHdcQ8k6fapzy4w-Oq3RLlter
Wednesday, March 24 10a.m. – 11:30 a.m.	ZOOM forum	LWVDE LEAGUE DAYS - OFFSHORE WIND POWER. Hear from experts on various aspects of an offshore wind project for Delaware. Details and registration will be sent via Delaware Action Network/emails.
Wed., March 24, 2021 5:00 – 7:00 p.m.	ZOOM meeting	LWVDE BOARD MEETING. Regularly scheduled the third Wednesday, will now be the fourth Wednesday.
Wed. March 24, 2021 10:30 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.	ZOOM meeting	CRIMINAL JUSTICE COMMITTEE. Regular committee meeting. Contact Jill Itzkowitz jillitzkowitz@gmail.com if you would like to participate.
Wed. March 31, 2021 10 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.	ZOOM forum	LWVDE LEAGUE DAYS CRIMINAL JUSTICE: FINES AND FEES. Hear about the campaign to end Debtors’ Prisons in Delaware by eliminating poverty as an element of criminal punishment. Details and registration will be sent via Delaware Action Network.
Tuesday, April 6, 2021 11:00 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.	ZOOM meeting	LWVDE ELECTION COMMITTEE MEETING. Regular committee meeting. Contact Jill Itzkowitz jillitzkowitz@gmail.com if you would like to attend.
Thursday, April 29, 2021 2:00 p.m.	ZOOM forum	FAIR MAPS/REDISTRICTING. HEAR ABOUT REDISTRICTING IN DELAWARE, including upcoming bills and the Fair Maps software. Details and registration will be sent via Delaware Action Network/emails.

League of Women Voters of Delaware, Inc

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