Delaware Agriculture - Where Poultry Rules the Roost
Sponsored by the League of Women Voters of Delaware

Delaware Agriculture is an eight billion dollar industry helping to feed America and the world by producing and processing a wide array of fruits, vegetables, grains, meats and milk. Our Delaware farmers are among the most productive in the nation, using state of the art technologies, precision farming techniques, best management practices and lots of hard work to put food on our tables. The poultry industry is recognized as the mainstay of Delaware Agriculture. To help us better understand its impact, League Day 2014 has assembled distinguished representatives from farm families, agri-business, environmental regulators, academia and state and federal government who will collectively provide a balanced overview of the poultry industry.

8:30-9 AM  Registration and refreshments

PROGRAM

9:00 AM  Welcome:  Charlotte King, President, League of Women Voters of Delaware

9:05 AM  Moderator:  Les Stillson, Agriculture Study Chair will introduce and frame the issues.

9:15 AM  Mark Davis, Executive Assistant, Delaware Department of Agriculture will present a broad overview of Agriculture.

9:45 AM  EXPERT PANEL with Q & A including a 15 minute break

- Bill Satterfield, Executive Director of Delmarva Poultry Industry, Inc. (DPI) will provide an overview of the Chicken Industry focusing on its economic impact.
- John Schneider, Section Manager of DNREC’s Watershed Assessment and Management Section will discuss the potential water quality impacts of the poultry industry with an emphasis on TMDL’s
- Amy Shober, University of Delaware Nutrient Management Specialist, will address the origins, transport and fate of nutrients associated with Agriculture with an emphasis on poultry.
- Mike Twining, Kent Conservation District Supervisor and General Manager of Willard Agri-Serv will discuss the current agronomic and farm management practices used to optimize inputs of nutrients, herbicides and pesticides.
- Laura Hill, Sussex County poultry grower and Second Vice President of Delaware Farm Bureau, will cover the grower’s perspective including soil and water conservation and energy conservation practices used by poultry growers.

12:15 PM  BUFFET LUNCH with legislators

12:45 PM  Key note speaker Michael Scuse, USDA Under Secretary for Farm and Foreign Agricultural Services

(Continued on page 2; League Day Registration form on page 7)
VISIT WITH LEGISLATORS AFTER LUNCH: Sandy Spence, Coordinator. Attendees are encouraged to attend legislative committee hearings in Legislative Hall in the afternoon and to meet with their own legislators about high priority issues.

THANK YOU TO OUR COSPONSORS for League Day in Dover:

Willard Agri-Service Delaware Council on Gambling Problems, Inc.

REGISTRATION FORM ON page 7.

League of Women Voters of Delaware Invites you to a RETREAT and part of the weekend will also be its biennial COUNCIL 2014

All League members are invited to attend, especially local board members, committee members or anyone who has a passion for the League’s mission.

To be held Friday, May 2 - Sunday, May 4, 2014
The Virden Conference Center in Lewes, Delaware

Theme: WHAT IS YOUR PASSION?

Workshops: ♦ Advocating for Justice, Equality and Acceptance
♦ Contemporary Strategies for Fundraising
♦ Membership Development
♦ Aging as Part of the Human Condition
♦ League Legislative Priorities
♦ The Current Agenda of the Delaware General Assembly

There will be time for socializing, training, movies, learning and having fun.

REGISTER EARLY
(Friday night limited overnight rooms, Saturday more rooms available.)
Cost for two nights accommodations with two dinners and Saturday Lunch, and snacks all inclusive $179. Please call 302-571-8948 or email lwvde@comcast.net to reserve your room.

PRESIDENT’S MESSAGE

It is encouraging to hear about all the excellent activities that are occurring in our local and state Leagues. Through our Studies, Forums and Advocacy Work directly with our legislators or through our participation in coalitions we are certainly working to keep Democracy moving forward. Though the Advocacy Corps studies all legislation to see if the bills are consistent with League positions and policies, I would suggest that all of you review current legislative bills that impact on all of us as residents of Delaware. Some legislation can be followed in our state newspapers but it is easy to access the entire list of bills by going to legis.delaware.gov.

The date of our Annual Retreat/Council has changed from 5/16-5/18 to 5/2-5/4. It will be held at the Virden Center in Lewes. The registration fee of $179 will cover your room accommodations and all meals for the full weekend participation. Our tentative theme is “Our Passion: People and Public Policy”. I hope that many of you will be able to (Continued on page 3 President’s Message)
join us and enjoy this weekend of learning, introspection and fun.

The 51st National Convention of the League of Women Voters is scheduled for June 6-10, 2014 in Dallas, Texas. It is a great opportunity to learn about issues of importance to all Leagues and the nation. The theme is "Power; Our Voices, Our Votes. When I attended the last Convention, it was the most worthwhile learning opportunity that I have ever experienced. The passion of the members, the quality of the speakers, the opportunities to exchange ideas with other League members from every state in the nation added to its value. I hope that some of you will be able to attend. It is an expense worth incurring. Chad Tolman, a Delaware League member will be leading a caucus on Climate Change at the Convention. As fellow League members, we should all be proud of the work that Chad has done in preparation for this caucus and the work that he has done both at the state and national level on the issue of Climate Change.

Charlotte King, President, LWVDE

LWVDE Acting on Public Policy Issues

Through its Advocacy Corps (AC), LWVDE has been active in advocating for important League positions during the current session of the Delaware General Assembly that ends on June 30. See the Advocacy page at lwvdelaware.org for updates on recent League actions.

Above: Sandy Spence
Advocacy Corps Chair

After considering highlights of the AC activity to date, described below, please consider joining the AC to help support our work. No experience is necessary – only a commitment to League principles and the ability to attend our meetings on the first Wednesday of most months and to lend a hand in one of our issue areas. The benefits are great! You will engage with active, knowledgeable colleagues, learn a lot about the legislative process and issues, and contribute to making democracy work right here in Delaware. To explore whether you’d like to join us, please contact Sandy Spence, AC Chair, at 302-645-9559 or sandyspence325@gmail.com.

Although we will always deal with issues important to the League that may come up, at its February 25 meeting, the Advocacy Corps recommended the following priorities to focus on for this year:

- Voting and Elections
- Campaign Finance Reform
- Coastal Zone and Sea Level Rise
- Open Government
- Death penalty repeal

Other issues the Advocacy Corps is addressing include:

- Manufactured housing
- Education
- Any gun legislation that may come up
- Health care
- Justice

Some of the primary actions taken to date follow.

Minimum Wage

On a recommendation of the AC, approved by the Board, LWVDE signed on to a letter with several partner groups urging passage of SB 6, which raises the minimum wage from $7.25 to $8.25 over the next two years. President Charlotte King presented testimony in the House Committee on Economic Development on January 28. The bill passed both houses and was signed by the Governor on January 30.

Mental Health

An Action Alert was sent to all members urging calls to their Senators to appeal to those who voted no on HB 88 in 2013 to change their votes to yes. This Act was designed to “create procedures in Delaware for making sure firearms are not in the hands of dangerous people while protecting due process and not creating a barrier to care for those suffering from mental illness.” Although several League members reported conversations they had with relevant Senators, there were insufficient votes for passage, so the Senate did not take up this bill.

Gun Control

At its February 25 meeting, the AC agreed to support two gun bills, HB 58 and HB 67, if the latter is cleaned up. (Janet Kramer, Justice portfolio chair, reported that language in HB 67 needed to be clarified.) HB 58 would prohibit the manufacture, sale, purchase, transfer or delivery of ammunition feeding devices with the capacity to accept more than 10 rounds. HB 67 would create a new crime called “Possession of a Firearm or Destructive Weapon in a Safe School Zone.” Both have come out of the House Committee and could be taken up by the full House at any time.

Energy

The AC also voted to support HB 179. Among other things, this bipartisan bill would enable the achievement of energy efficiency targets through the identification of all cost-effective, reliable, and feasible energy efficiency and (Continued on page 4 Energy)
coincident peak demand reduction programs that reduce average customer energy bills. Jim Black has joined the AC and will work on this bill.

Peggy Schultz reported on work in the Land Use & Transportation Committee that is reviewing the Coastal Zone Act, in particular whether there is consistency in the application of the regulations. Concern has been raised about whether certain groups can have standing to challenge decisions made in the Act’s implementation and the fact that there are no environmental representatives on the Industrial Control Board or the Environmental Appeals Board that oversee implementation. The Committee’s review may result in recommended legislative or other policy recommendations.

Letty Diswood, who handles the Voting and Elections portfolio for LWVDE has been monitoring meetings of a special Task force set up by the legislature to review Title 15 of the Delaware Code relating to voting and elections. In addition, Sandy Spence, Janet Orlando and Sue Claire Harper have attended one or more meetings of the Task Force. See separate article on proceedings of the Task Force.

The General Assembly, in 2013, established a special task force charged with reviewing Title 15 of the Delaware Code that covers Voting and Elections. The Task Force has been meeting monthly since August 2013. Its report is due March 30. The members of the taskforce are:

- Sen. Margaret Rose Henry (D)
- Sen. Colin Bonini (R)
- Rep. Earl Jaques (D)
- Rep. Deborah Hudson (R)
- Andrew Lippstone from the Governor’s Office
- Ann Woolfolk, the Deputy Attorney General who represents the State Election Commissioner
- Elaine Manlove, State Election Commissioner, who chairs the Task Force.

At its February 19 meeting, the Task Force began voting on several proposals that had been suggested in earlier meetings. One proposal was to merge the State and County Election Commissions into one statewide Commission with representation from each county. Although members seemed to think some restructuring of the Commission is needed to ensure “one voice” on election policies and procedures, there was no agreement on merging into a single commission. Instead, the Task Force seemed inclined to consider a “common portal” – perhaps a web site that would achieve a more unified appearance and consistent information. Such an approach would not require legislation. Action was deferred to March.

On a vote of 3 yes, 1 no, and one not voting, the Task Force agreed to recommend removal of a requirement that absentee ballots be notarized.

"SDR is a time-tested, practical solution that can increase voter turnout and help fulfill the freedom to vote for all Americans. Delaware has the opportunity to increase voter participation and strengthen its democracy by adopting SDR."

The Task Force agreed not to recommend a proposal to require municipalities to use the statewide voter registration database. Instead, other than Wilmington and Dover, municipalities use their own systems, requiring voters to register with the town in order to vote in municipal elections. A proposal to allow registration of voters on Election Day was deferred to the legislature where a bill is pending.

Among other issues the Task Force is considering but has not yet agreed upon are: a disaster recovery plan for elections, no excuse absentee ballots, and moving the primary elections from early September to the second Tuesday in August. The latter would address safety concerns of school officials about having elections in school buildings and would also help ensure the ability to secure absentee ballots from overseas and military personnel.

At its January meeting, the Task Force met with former Chief Justice Norman Veasey, who discussed recommendations from his two-year investigation into campaign finance issues. At that meeting, Rep. Deborah Hudson proposed expanding the scope of the Task Force to include representation from public interest groups to address the Veasey recommendations. She indicated she would be introducing a bill to do that. AC Chair Sandy Spence expressed support for such a proposal but also urged speedy consideration of the Veasey recommendations, possibly by a separate task force. At the February meeting, action on how or when the Task Force will address the Veasey report recommendations was put on hold, pending consideration of Hudson’s bill that had not yet been introduced. See separate article below on the substance of the Veasey report.

LWV DE’s Advocacy Corps has reviewed and is supporting recommendations in a report on campaign finance issues. The report was the result of a two year investigation by former Chief Justice Norman Veasey, who had been appointed by Attorney General Beau Biden as an independent counsel to investigate alleged and actual campaign finance violations by Delaware office holders.

The report recommends several changes in Delaware law to improve transparency and accountability:

- Require political committees to report contributors’ occupation and employer.
- Ban contributions from business entities, such as limited liability companies.
- Require political committees to have all mandated information about a donor before a contribution is deposited.
- Provide different measures to allow campaigns to return illegal contributions.
- Create better ways and protections for whistle blowers to report campaign violations.
- Strengthen the Public Integrity Commission counsel, now “severely hamstrung by inadequate resources.”

At a meeting with a group of advocates following the Title 15 Task Force meeting in January, Justice Veasey listed some personal suggestions that didn’t make it into the report:

- Provide for civil penalties in addition to criminal penalties for violations of campaign finance laws (The lower burden of proof in civil cases than in criminal proceedings would make it easier to act on violations.)
- Increase the length of time in the statute of limitations.
- Consider a DC law that bans bundling of campaign donations by registered lobbyists.
- Ban (all) gifts.
- Consider public financing.

LWVDE is following up in meetings with other groups to support two initiatives expected to be addressed in bills that will be introduced when the General Assembly returns from its six-week break for hearings by the Joint Finance Committee on March 18. Bills on 1) implementation of the Veasey recommendations and 2) a public financing bill are being developed.

LWVDE Acts on Prison-Based Gerrymandering

In federal action approved by LWVUS after consideration by the AC, President Charlotte King and AC Chair Sandy Spence wrote to the U.S. Bureau of the Census urging the Bureau to eliminate prison-based gerrymandering in the 2020 Census. This could be done by the Bureau re-evaluating its current "residence rules" that require incarcerated people to be counted as residents of the prison location rather than residents of their home addresses. A response indicated that the Bureau would be considering this action in consultation with "many stakeholders."

Subsequently, we contacted Speaker of the House Pete Schwartzkopf and Senate Majority Whip Margaret Rose Henry, both of whom led the redistricting process in their respective bodies in 2011, urging them to submit a similar recommendation to the Census Bureau and to copy Delaware’s Congressional delegation. Senator Tom Carper chairs the Committee on Homeland Security and Government Affairs that has jurisdiction over the Census Bureau. Both legislators indicated they would do so.
Prison-Based Gerrymandering

The League has worked on this issue since the 2011 Redistricting and has received incredible support from the Prison Policy Initiative, a non-profit advocacy group in Massachusetts.

On a related note, Karen Kimball, a member of the LWV of Virginia is organizing a caucus on prison-based gerrymandering at the LWVUS Convention in Dallas in June. She has invited the Director of the Census Bureau and League members from states where the League has worked on this issue to speak.

SAVING EARTH’S CLIMATE SYSTEM

The UN Framework Convention on Climate Change, negotiated in 1992 and signed by the U.S. and 194 other countries, was the first international climate treaty, "to stabilize greenhouse gas concentrations in the atmosphere at a level that would prevent dangerous anthropogenic interference with the climate system."

At Convention 2006 the LWVDE held a caucus on climate change and led an effort to get a Resolution adopted making climate change a top priority for the League. There was a lot of enthusiasm on the part of many delegates from across the country, but the Resolution did not pass. We were, however, allowed to start the lwv-climatechange listserv (with two Delaware members as Moderators) to promote communication among interested Leagues. Later that year, the LWVUS Board decided to make climate change a high priority in spite of the Convention vote, and called for the formation of the Climate Change Task Force, on which I have since served. In addition to writing background papers and position statements for League lobbying, it posted and continues to improve the LWV Toolkit for Climate Action for state and local Leagues.

In 2010 international Cancún agreements stated that future global warming should be limited to 2.0 °C (3.6 °F) relative to the pre-industrial temperature, with consideration of a lower 1.5 °C (2.7 °F) limit.

Last fall, the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) released its Working Group 1 5th Assessment Report (AR5), making it clear that the only way to avoid serious and possibly irreversible damage to the climate system is to change course from the current yearly increases in carbon emissions to serious and sustained reductions to limit cumulative carbon emissions from all sources within decades.

On Feb. 18 and Feb. 20 the LWVNCC and LWVDE Boards approved submitting requests to the LWV Program Planning Committee recommending adding a subsection titled, “Climate Change” to the LWVUS Position on Natural Resources, with the following text:

The League strongly supports a global cumulative limit or cap on total greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions at a level that avoids serious and possibly irreversible damage to the climate system. Putting a growing price on carbon will play an important role. The United States, as the largest contributor to increased GHG concentrations since 1750, should take a leadership position in reducing further GHG emissions for which it is responsible, and in promoting international agreements with other nations that have large GHG emissions.

The Boards also approved holding a caucus Saturday evening (June 7) at Convention titled, Climate Change – A Growing Threat. What Must We Do About It?

A letter has been emailed to all 874 state and local Leagues telling them about our Program Planning item and Saturday caucus, and asked for their participation and support. We also told them about another caucus, on climate change adaptation, sponsored by the Climate Change Task Force, to be held on Sunday evening.

Chad Tolman, Member of LWVNCC, Chair of LWVDE Climate Change Committee, and Member LWVUS Climate Change Task Force
March 1, 2014

Thank you to our members and friends who have generously contributed to the LWV Education Fund, the LWV of Delaware and Delaware Community Foundation.
Contributors are listed since the last newsletter published in the middle of December 2014.


Delaware Community Foundation, LWV of Delaware Account: Sandy Spence

League of Women Voters Education Fund: Harriet Ainbinder, Alice G. Davis, Lorraine M. Fleming, Marjorie C. Johnson, Carol D. Jones, June Kleban, Karol Hitt Rowan, Peggy & Jerold Schultz
**2014 Delaware Environmental Summit Saturday, March 22.**

*Registering for the sixth annual gathering of Delaware’s environmentalists on March 22nd at Wesley College, Dover. Pre-registration by Tuesday, March 18th is required*

[https://delaware.sierraclub.org/content/2014-delaware-environmental-summit-registration](https://delaware.sierraclub.org/content/2014-delaware-environmental-summit-registration)

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**DOVER, Delaware — Two Delaware women have been honored by Delaware Secretary of Agriculture Ed Kee for lifetimes of service.**

Laura Hill of Lewes and Barbara Sapp of Milton were presented with the Secretary's Award for Distinguished Service to Agriculture during the Delaware Agricultural Industry Dinner, Thursday, Jan. 23.

“Thank you. What an honor to be presented with this award from my peers,” Hill said. “I have enjoyed every minute of it,” Sapp said.

They are the first women to receive the award.

Laura Hill will be one of our League Day speakers and is a League member.

L-R: Laura Hill, Ed Kee, Barbara Sapp

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**REGISTRATION FORM for League Day in Dover Wednesday, March 19, 2014**

**Delaware Agriculture - Where Poultry Rules the Roost**

Sponsored by the League of Women Voters of Delaware

**REGISTRATION DEADLINE FRIDAY, MARCH 15, 2014**

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<th>NAME (S)</th>
<th>$25.00 EACH</th>
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ADDRESS: ___________________________________________________________

TELEPHONE_________________________ EMAIL ___________________________

RECEIPT REQUESTED __________ LWVDE Fed tax ID 516021961 [501(c) 4]

*CREDIT CARDS ARE ACCEPTED—Please complete the following:*

CREDIT CARDS ACCEPTED: Discover Master Card Visa

CREDIT CARD NUMBER: __________________________________________

CREDIT CARD EXPIRATION DATE: __________________________

Send your check to LWVDE, 2400 W. 17TH Street, Clash Wing, Room 1, Lower Level, Wilmington, DE 19806-1311. Please call the League office at 302-571-8948 or e-mail lwvde@comcast.net if you have any questions. Directions at: [www.theduncancenter.com](http://www.theduncancenter.com)  [www.lwvdelaware.org](http://www.lwvdelaware.org)
The Advocacy Corps meets the 1st Wednesday of the month in Dover. Call 302-571-8948 or send an email lwvde@comcast.net for locations.

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<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Event Description</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Friday, March 14, 2014</td>
<td>1:30 - 3:30 pm</td>
<td>Home of Pat Todd Please phone 302-762-5995 for directions.</td>
<td>Energy/Climate/Natural Resources Committee Meeting. This committee is at the state level, and League members from throughout Delaware are invited to participate.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wednesday, March 19, 2014</td>
<td>8:30 am - 4 pm</td>
<td>The Outlook at the Duncan Center 500 West Loockerman Street Dover, DE 19904</td>
<td>LEAGUE DAY IN DOVER - 2014. &quot;Delaware Agriculture - Where Poultry Rules the Roost.&quot; Registration and refreshments will be from 8:30 to 9 am. The program will be from 12:15 pm to 2 pm, when lunch will be served. See details in this newsletter. A five-member panel will provide a balanced overview of the $8 billion poultry industry's impact on Delaware. This distinguished panel is to be comprised of Mark Davis, Exec. Asst., Delaware Department of Agriculture; Bill Satterfield, Exec. Dir., Delmarva Poultry Industry, Inc.; Amy Shober, UD Nutrient Mgmt. Spec.; John Schneider, Sect. Mgr., DNREC's Watershed Assessment and Management Sect.; Mike Twining, Gen. Mgr., Willard Agri-Services; and Laura Hill, Sussex County poultry grower and Second Vice-President of Delaware Farm Bureau. A registration form and a flyer with a more complete description of this engrossing topic, derived from our national consensus subject for this year, are at League Day in Dover.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Thursday, March 20, 2014</td>
<td>3-5 pm</td>
<td>Cendel Building 101 W. Loockerman St. Dover, DE 19904</td>
<td>L. WV of Delaware Education Study Committee. Please do not park in the lot that is directly behind the building. You will need to use the lot on Bradford Street identified as public parking or use the on street parking. Metered parking is 25 cents/hour. The on-street parking limit is 2 hours but after 5 pm you will not be ticketed. Maps of the downtown parking lots can be viewed at <a href="http://www.downtowndoverpartnership.com">www.downtowndoverpartnership.com</a>.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Thursday, March 20, 2014</td>
<td>6:30 pm</td>
<td>Roma Restaurant 3 President Drive Dover, DE 19901</td>
<td>State Board Meeting. Monthly meeting of the state board of directors.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Thursday, April 17, 2014</td>
<td>6:30 pm</td>
<td>Roma Restaurant 3 President Drive Dover, DE 19901</td>
<td>State Board Meeting. Monthly meeting of the state board of directors.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Thursday, May 1, 2014</td>
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<td>Law Day 2014. Law Day is a day of national dedication to the principles of government under law. Law Day programs are designed to help people understand how the law keeps us free and how our legal system strives to achieve justice and how it affects our daily lives. Each year a theme is chosen to spotlight a particular aspect of the rule of law or the legal process. For more information, please see the Law Day Planning Guide.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Friday, May 2, 2014</td>
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<td>Virden Center Lewes, DE</td>
<td>RETREAT/COUNCIL. The retreat/council will be held at Virden Center in Lewes. Details in this newsletter.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Thursday, May 15, 2014</td>
<td>6:30 pm</td>
<td>Roma Restaurant 3 President Drive Dover, DE 19901</td>
<td>State Board Meeting. Monthly meeting of the state board of directors.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tuesday, May 13</td>
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<td>School Board Elections. Don't forget to VOTE!</td>
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<td>Saturday, May 31, 2014</td>
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<td>Primary Registration Deadline. DEADLINE to change political party affiliation before the Primary Election.</td>
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<td>Friday, June 6, 2014</td>
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<td>Dallas, Texas</td>
<td>LWVUS Convention.</td>
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