



The Price of Liberty is Still Eternal Vigilance

THE VOTER

The League of Women Voters of Kent County Delaware

Volume 4/April 2021

UPCOMING CALENDAR OF EVENTS

2020-2021 EXECUTIVE OFFICERS

PRESIDENT
Mary K. Eggers

1ST VICE PRESIDENT
Christine Stillson

2ND VICE PRESIDENT
Chandra Owens

SECRETARY
Vacant

TREASURER
Beverly Jackson

PARLIAMENTARIAN
Sharon Morgan

DIRECTORS AT-LARGE
Mary Ann Coe
Crystal Hamilton
Lester Stillson
Peggy Swygert
Ellen Wasfi

April 27	2:30 PM Monthly LWVKC Board Meeting via Zoom
April 28	to 7 PM LWVDE Board Meeting via Zoom
May 4	PM LWV Kent County planning Meeting via Zoom
May 19	TBA "Let's Talk" conversation time and topic
May 22	Annual LWV Delaware State Convention via Zoom, Time TBA
May 25	2:30 PM Monthly LWV of Kent County Board Meeting via Zoom
June 5	PM LWV of Kent County Annual Membership Meeting via Zoom

Due to the restrictions of the COVID pandemic, all dates, times and locations are subject to change. If you are interested in attending our Zoom meetings and programs, please look for the registration tab or links to ensure you have access to the valuable information and sessions.



THE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE BY MARY K. EGGERS

Hello Members,

Spring is here and more and more of those with whom I speak are venturing out. Whether this is good or bad is yet to be seen. Most of us believe that the end of this pandemic is in sight, even though Delaware and many other states are reporting an increase in infections. Our League of Women Voters' wish list seems to reflect the pandemic ethos. Most of us remain hopeful that voter eligibility and access will continue to increase despite what happened in Georgia. I personally have some qualms and think that we, as a League, should be recognizing and addressing some of these issues.

I learned two methods for changing beliefs/behaviors in one of my graduate psychology classes. We affectionately called them "foot-in-the-door" and "door-in-the-face". The new voting laws in Georgia are clearly a case of "door-in-the-face". This is an act that is so egregious that anything that follows seems milder and, therefore, more acceptable. In addition to HB1, now SB1, there are over 400 bills before various state legislatures related to voting rights. Delaware is hoping to pass one automatically registering those who pass through motor vehicles. The bill allows those registered to declare a party or decline their registration by mail. A recent [Delaware State News](#) indicated that of the 77,000 eligible voters in Delaware 70,000 of them are registered. Hopefully, this bill will help close the gap. There is more to the voting process, though, than just registering the voters.

In addition to registering eligible voters, another League objective is to help assure that informed voters go to the polls. Delaware has a bill coming up that will allow us to continue to vote by mail. At least a couple legislators are insisting that this can only be done with a picture ID!

We need to be informed to help our community understand community issues. For example, how many of our neighbors are aware that Delaware is obligated to redistrict reflecting changes in population over the last ten years? If I understand it correctly, our elected legislators will make the redistricting decisions. The League of Women Voters is making efforts to involve many differing communities in the input. What are we/you doing to get this information out to our neighbors?

I am looking for a committee to prioritize issue that we need to promote in Kent County and to help strategize how to reach out. I would like to discuss this further at our annual meeting on June 5. We are scheduling our annual zoom meeting on a Saturday so those who work can squeeze in participation. Please join us. See you soon.

Sincerely,
Mary K Eggers, LWVKC President



LWVKC LET'S TALK DISCUSSIONS

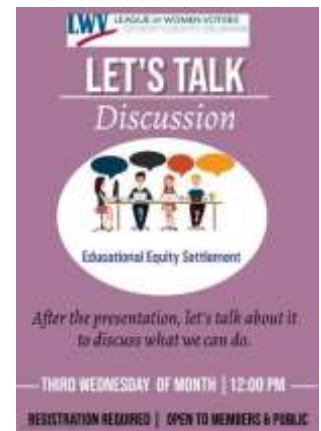
Education equity lawsuit settlement: what, why, who?

Presented by LWVDE Advocacy Corps Education Portfolio Chair Kathleen Baker and others.

In 2018 the Delaware ACLU, Delawareans for Educational Opportunity, and the NAACP of Delaware filed a lawsuit claiming that the State was not providing adequate resources to ensure the learning needs of students from low-income families, English language learners, and children with disabilities. A Settlement was reached in October 2020, to address the needs of these disadvantaged students. Governor Carney will seek support from the General Assembly to provide increased funding and other supports in the coming years to meet the needs of students from low-income families, English language learners, and children with disabilities more equitably.

Read more in this December 2020 background paper: [Education Equity Lawsuit Settlement: Why Now?](#)

The public is cordially invited! Please join us in May at 12:00 pm on a Zoom web conference to learn more about this important topic. Pre-registration will be requested. Once registered, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the meeting.



DIVERSITY, EQUITY & INCLUSION (DEI) – UNCONSCIOUS BIAS



How is this relevant for me and the LWVDE?

Register for the next session. [Here](#)

Join us for a one-hour interactive Zoom session with facilitator and diversity consultant Gwendolyn Miller to unwrap some of our unknown biases and identify steps to raise awareness and manage **Unconscious Bias** in our daily lives, and in the League, with the goal of promoting growth and understanding.

The last session will be held on [Tuesday, May 11, 2021, 4-5 PM](#)

Please register using the registration link above, then click on the orange button to select the date of your choice. An email with the zoom credentials will arrive a few days before the event.

KENT COUNTY'S PORTFOLIO COMMITTEES – NEEDS YOU!

Are you ready to use your talents and leadership skills for the League of Kent County? Volunteer and serve on one of the many and varied committees.



Mary Lou Beatman

The League of Women Voters of Kent County mourns the passing of longtime board member and former President, Mary Lou Beatman. Mary Lou's dynamic presence helped guide the League (then the LWV of Greater Dover) from the late 1970s through the millennium. Her gentle yet firm leadership approach was enhanced by the mediation

skills she gained from involvement with Alternatives to Violence – a personal empowerment program in Delaware prisons which changed the lives of Delaware's incarcerated men and women.

Under Mary Lou's initiative and that of League member Dr. Margaret McKay, the Dover League joined the NAACP in its Voting Rights lawsuit against the City of Dover, claiming that its districting policies violated the Federal Voting Rights Act. For many years, Mary Lou moderated the League's Candidates Night debates and hosted countless League meetings, as well as yoga classes, in her Frederica home. Although she left the area to be near her children and grandchildren, her advocacy of fairness and inclusion still guides us today.

DEFENDING VOTING RESTRICTIONS, POINT FINGER AT BLUE STATES WITH LAWS THEY SAY ARE WORSE

Some of the criticism is valid: Many Democratic states do have old laws that limit ballot access, but they have begun moving to liberalize them.

April 8, 2021, 4:30 AM EDT

By Jane C. Timm

Republicans, under fire from Democrats and major corporations [for their nationwide push for new limits](#) on voting, are defending their proposals as similar to or better for ballot access than the election laws some blue states already have on the books.

In statements and news conferences, Republican leaders have pointed to what they say is a double standard from Democrats and activists who say the bills — and Georgia's newly enacted restrictions, in particular — are attempts to suppress the votes of the multiracial coalition that powered President Joe Biden's victory last year.

In several cases, the Republicans are right. Some traditionally Democratic states, including big ones like New York, do have longstanding policies that advocates say are anti-voter. And some red states employ best practices to promote voter access. The difference is that many of the blue states have been moving to liberalize access to the ballot, while states like Georgia and Texas are actively moving in the other direction. **Read more here** <https://www.nbcnews.com/politics/elections/republicans-defending-voting-restrictions-point-finger-blue-states-laws-they-n1263205>

KENT COUNTY LWV 2021-2022 DUES UPDATE

Our annual league dues are **\$55.00 for individuals** and **\$82.50 for two-member households**. When you pay your individual dues, the league sends \$32 to LWVUS and \$11 to LWVDE. For a two-member household, we send an additional \$16 to LWVUS and \$5 to LWVDE.

If you joined (or renewed) the League after April 1, 2021 the dues you pay will include the 2021-2022 fiscal year.

Your help is needed to continue the League's educational and community programs. Please consider including a contribution with your 2021-2022 dues. Thank you for your support and your membership renewal for the new year that begins on July 1st. Membership in the League of Women Voters is still one of the best bargains around. If you no longer wish to be contacted by the LWVKC, please email pjswygert@aol.com or beverly_jackson@comcast.net to let them know.

We appreciate your prompt response and look forward to your active participation in our League activities.

Please mail your check to: Beverly Latimer Jackson, Treasurer LWVKC
130 Hitching Post Drive Dover,
DE 19904

----- (Clip and send to Beverly) -----

INDIVIDUAL MEMBERSHIP - \$55.00 \$ _____

TWO MEMBER HOUSEHOLD - \$82.50 \$ _____

CONTRIBUTION TO LWVKC (NOT TAX DEDUCTIBLE) \$ _____

DONATION TO LWVKC EDUCATION FUND
(TAX DEDUCTIBLE) \$ _____

TOTAL ENCLOSED \$ _____

NAME(S) _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY/STATE/ZIP _____

EMAIL _____

HOME PHONE _____ CELL PHONE _____

UPCOMING CALENDAR EVENTS IN 2021

May 22 the Annual LWV Delaware State Convention for all members in the three county leagues, to engage in the business concerning the whole state.

June 5 will be the Annual LWVKC Meeting for all members to participate in the business meeting and training topics.

Consider Volunteering to help support our upcoming programs and events. We need your help to make this work for all of us.



We have a new Facebook Page, like, share, inspire and it can be found at <https://www.facebook.com/LWVkentcountydelaware>

THE VOTER Of Kent County Editor – Chandra Owens, Chandra.owens6@yahoo.com

LWV -Kent County Delaware website: <https://my.lwv.org/delaware/kent-county-delaware>

State LWV website: <https://my.lwv.org/delaware>

National LWV website: <http://www.lwv.org>