



DELAWARE VOTER

The League of Women Voters of Delaware

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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.

LWVDE Acting on Public Policy Issues



Advocacy Report from late in the 148th Session

Of the 662 bills and almost 100 joint or concurrent resolutions introduced during the current two-year session, the Advocacy Corps has reviewed and decided to support, oppose or monitor 186 of them -- we've been busy! Meanwhile, legislators have continued to introduce new bills with only 12 legislative days left. Often, these late bills are introduced simply to "float" an idea for consideration in a future year. We will provide a more comprehensive report on the 148th Session in the Summer *Voter*, but here is a summary of some of the most recent actions.

- Both Houses have voted for **House Substitute 1 for HB1** that would require colleges and universities to offer to victims to report incidents of sexual assault by or against a student to law enforcement, **to inform victims of their rights under the state's Victims' Bill of Rights**, as well as available confidential medical, counseling, and advocacy services. It also requires training of students and staff, and reporting these incidents to the Dept. of Education. The League supported this bill in Committee.
- **HB 117** would create a **funding source for low income students** in addition to normal enrollment-based funding. Although recommended by the Wilmington Education Advisory Committee to address issues relating to the proposed redistricting of school districts serving the city's youth, the bill was written to apply statewide in order to secure sufficient votes. Although it was released from the House Education Committee, it was sidetracked to the House Appropriations Committee due to an estimated cost exceeding \$12 million. The League supported this bill in Committee, but given the reduced revenue estimate, it is very questionable whether it will be enacted.
- We strongly supported **HB 124**, the first leg of a constitutional amendment that would have made the \$10 m **farmland preservation allocation** binding on all future administrations and General Assemblies, but it was defeated on a House vote.
- **HB 202** would require large retailers **to charge 5 cents for each plastic bag**. It would have the store keep the funds



to use in promoting alternatives, etc. After the bill was released from Committee, an amendment was placed with it (to be considered when the bill goes to the House for a vote). The amendment would have the charges split between the Delaware Recycling Fund and the Hazardous Substance Cleanup Fund; exempt persons using WIC or SNAP benefits from the charge; and sunset the 5 cent charge after 5 years to be replaced by a ban on single-use bags for large stores. The League has been active in supporting this bill.

Above: Pat Todd testifying at a hearing in the Senate Natural Resources and Environmental Control Committee.

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- **HB 269** would **remove exemptions from FOIA for-emails** received or sent by members of the General Assembly or their staff and communications between members, between members and their constituents, or by members on behalf of their constituents. We support this bill.
- **HB 314** makes it unlawful for an employer to prohibit an employee from **disclosing his or her wages**. It aims to improve pay equity. The League supported this bill in Committee and it was released on May 4.
- **HB 316 prohibits discrimination** in employment based upon an **individual's reproductive health decisions**. The League supported this bill in Committee and it was released on May 4.
- **HB 325 closes a loophole in gun background checks** by requiring a waiting period in Delaware of up to 30 days for



the background check to be completed prior to the sale or transfer of guns. This bill passed the House in April and was released from the Senate Committee on May 18. It is expected to come up for a vote in the Senate when the legislature returns from recess the week of June 6. The League has been active in supporting this bill.

Pictured at Left: Rep. J. J. Johnson answers questions about the juvenile shackling bill before it is released unanimously from the House Judiciary Committee. LWVDE testified in support of the bill.

- The League is supporting **HB 365** that would eliminate prohibitions against providing Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (also referred to as Aid for Families with Dependent Children or "AFDC") funds by persons convicted of a drug felony. This bill, introduced on May 5, has not yet been released from the House Committee.
- **HB 375** would **move the primary election** for statewide, county and municipal offices to the **fourth Tuesday in April**, the date of the presidential primary, effective in 2020. The League has not taken a position on this bill and would be **interested in hearing from members** about their views on this proposal.
- **HB 382** guarantees that all **children facing criminal charges** and allegations of delinquency **have the right to an attorney**, codifying what is current practice in the Office of Defense Services (Public Defender). It was reported out of the House Committee on May 18. The League supported this bill in Committee.
- **HB 400**, just introduced in late May, **extends conditions allowing use of medical marijuana** to people suffering pain, anxiety or depression related to a terminal illness. Patients under 18 are restricted to using CBD and oil products.
- In early May, the House and Senate passed **House Concurrent Resolution 60 rescinding** all previous requests to Congress for a Constitutional Convention. Since 1907, Delaware's legislature had adopted seven separate requests for a Constitutional Convention to address various subjects including a balanced budget amendment that was getting close to the number of state requests to require Congress to call a Convention for that purpose. The League testified in favor, based on the position coming out of the recent LWVUS study.
- **Senate Substitute 1 for SB 123** establishes a **formula for rent increases in manufactured home communities** based on capital improvements and clarifies that community owners may recoup certain capital costs as increased rent without increasing base rent in perpetuity. The League has supported legislation protecting the rights of manufactured homeowners since 2008 and is actively involved in trying to resolve issues raised by land owners.
- We were involved in the development and support of **SB 130 the Healthy and Transit-Friendly Communities** that promotes a mix of land uses, efficient use of public infrastructure, public services and multiple modes of public transportation combined with environmentally friendly private transportation. It passed on May 3 and was signed by the Governor on May 5.
- **SB 134 establishes a "Homeless Individual's Bill of Rights"** that provides protection for the homeless against discrimination while in public and while seeking access to housing, employment, and temporary shelter. The will was released from Committee in late May with an agreement to address numerous technical issues raised in the hearing. The League supported this bill in Committee.

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- **SB 163** was intended to **reduce the effect of the “three strikes” law** that automatically applies harsh minimum mandatory sentences on certain felons. The Attorney General’s Office proposed Senate Substitute 1 for this bill that significantly weakened the bill. Originally, the League opposed the Substitute bill but after observing the contentious debate on the Senate floor before passage there, we took a more pragmatic approach in the House Committee and supported it with reservations that it did not go nearly as far as we would have liked. It’s now ready for final action.
- **SB 242 restores voting rights to ex-felons** who have not yet paid all their fines and fees. The League has been very active in supporting this provision in a Same Day Registration bill that failed to make it to the Senate floor when it became clear there were not sufficient votes to pass it. We are strongly supporting this stand-alone bill that has passed the Senate and is awaiting action in the House Administration Committee.
- The League signed on to a press release issued by ACLU that supported **SB 222**. It would **eliminate civil forfeitures and create criminal forfeitures** with procedures to **ensure transparency and accountability** in the use of the cash and other items seized by law enforcement. This bill is in the Senate Public Safety Committee.
- **SB 250** was heard but not released by the Senate Executive Committee on May 4. It is the first leg of a constitutional amendment to provide for a **special election when there is a vacancy in the office of Lieutenant Governor** (as is the case now). Should the offices of both the Governor and Lt. Governor become vacant, the Secretary of State, a non-elected official would become Governor. The League supported this bill in Committee.
- On May 4, the Senate Executive Committee also heard testimony on **SB 256**, the first leg of a constitutional amendment that **would establish a statewide Register of Wills office under the jurisdiction of the Court of Chancery**. County officials expressed concern about the possible loss of revenue from fees collected from the administration of estates. The Chancellor of the Chancery Court assured them that fees would be returned to the counties, net of costs. The committee did not release the bill, so it is not likely to pass this year. The League supported this bill in Committee based on a position LWVDE adopted in 1971 and has retained ever since.
- **SB 259 expands the Wilmington Needle Exchange program** to a statewide program as a public health measure to prevent the spread of HIV. The League strongly supported the program ten years ago and testified in support in the Senate Committee that released the bill for floor action.

Sandy Spence, Advocacy Corp Chair

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



Dear Members and Friends,

For those Members who have generously opted for a non-dinner donation to our Education Fund. I sincerely thank you. Your Finance Committee is hard at work taking on our immediate needs as well as looking at long range solutions to keep our Ed Fund solvent as we continue to do the day to day work of League business. A special shout out to Carol Jones for taking on the task as Chair of the existing

Finance Committee and thanks to all the members of this Committee who are assisting with this most important endeavor.

Your Advocacy Corps has been hard at work throughout this Legislative Session. Over 186 House and Senate Bills have been scrutinized by AC members to determine if each bill has a corresponding League position that allows us to support or monitor as it goes through the Committee process, and then heads to the Senate and the House. Although there are expert members monitoring these various bills, few are able to attend the many Committee Meetings, House as well as Senate sessions to testify for or against any particular bill. Please read the **Advocacy Report** and give us a hand in reaching as many legislators as possible to see these bills passed in this legislative session. If action has not taken place by June 30th, there is no recourse. The bill dies and must be introduced as a new bill in the next legislative session.

I need to express my sincere apology about Council 2016. Many factors were at play starting with the dates we had available to us at the Center as well as all the other activities that were going on all over Delaware that same weekend. I thank the committee members who assisted in putting together a wonderful program. It would have allowed us the opportunity to obtain information, but also a chance to get to know members from different counties. All three of our Leagues are focused on various issues that we may not know about. I hope we can have such a Council in the future.

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Since this is a Presidential election year, I urge each and every member to focus on voter registration and getting voters to the polls. Sussex County has conducted a wonderful project focused on areas and populations that need assistance in registration and voting. I was so impressed with the dedication and hard work that went into this project. Go for it Sussex! I am also happy to announce that Kent County has taken the model and has committed to run with it.

I appreciate each and every member of League, but this year it is imperative that each member take an active role in their respective counties. Each one of you has a special interest that drew you to the League in the first place. Please look back on the moment you decided to join League and what was on your mind at that time. Attend the activities that your League has planned and become active participants and bring along a friend. Motivation to get involved is high because of the upcoming election and nothing beats frustration better than taking an action. Get your neighbors, friends and family involved. We need new young blood to carry on our tradition and to keep League alive and relevant.

Yours in service,
Jill A Fuchs

HEALTH CARE UPDATE

Most of the activity in health care these days is in implementation rather than in the legislative arena. (That said, please read my separate article on a budget issue).

- “Delaware is in the midst of significant change with regard to healthcare and is seeking to transform the State’s system of care so that it may better address patient needs and improve population health while achieving greater value by reducing per capita costs of healthcare. A key facet of this transformational work is an increasing emphasis on person-centered care, which involves engaging consumers in defining goals for their health and healthcare so that they may access care accordingly.” I’ve borrowed this wording from the introduction to the final report of the End of Life Working Group because it gives a brief explanation of the major effort underway in Delaware to make major changes to the way care is delivered and, especially, paid for in Delaware

The newly formed Delaware Center for Health Innovation, a public private partnership (providers, insurers, hospitals, consumers, government, and payers), is leading this effort in Delaware. I serve on its Patient and Consumer Advisory Committee, representing the League. The DCHI is conducting a series of community forums (six are planned throughout the state over the next few months) to explain this effort and get consumer input. The forums will have presentations by DCHI board members to explain the process. These will last about an hour and will be followed by a Q&A.

The first forum will be held June 7 at the CHEER Community Center, 20520 Sand Hill Rd., Georgetown at 7:00 pm. The next will be held in early July in Dover--date and place to be determined. Others are planned for western Sussex and three in New Castle County. I will let local League presidents know as soon as I hear the details so they can alert their members. **I hope some League members will attend, ask questions make comments and voice concerns.**

For those interested: The End of Life report is available on the Health Care Commission’s website or email me and I can send it to you as an attachment

State Budget: At a recent monthly Health Care Commission meeting I learned about a budget decision which will have an effect on health care access and delivery in Delaware. The Joint Finance Committee cut off funding for the DIMER (Delaware Institute for Medical Education and Research) and DIDER (Delaware institute for Dental Education and Research) programs.

To quote from the DIMER website: “Created in 1969 as an alternative to a state-supported medical school, DIMER provides an opportunity for Delaware residents to obtain a high-quality medical education.

Through DIMER, Delaware has a relationship with Sidney Kimmel Medical College of Thomas Jefferson University in Philadelphia, and Philadelphia College of Osteopathic Medicine (PCOM) resulting in Sidney Kimmel Medical College and PCOM functioning as Delaware's medical schools. Each year twenty (20) admission slots at Sidney Kimmel Medical College and five (5) admission slots at PCOM are reserved for applicants from Delaware, which has increased the odds of acceptance for students from the First State.

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Eligible applicants must be legal residents of the State of Delaware and meet the premedical academic requirements of the preferred medical college; Sidney Kimmel Medical College or PCOM. Bachelor's degrees from any accredited college or university in the United States are accepted."

I believe we are the only state without a medical school. The slots allocated to Delaware residents are the state's solution to assuring access to medical school to Delaware residents. (One still has to pay tuition and meet academic requirements.) These Philadelphia medical connections are also vital to the robust residency programs at several of the state's hospitals. Doctors tend to stay near where they are trained so the ability to have robust residency programs is crucial to having an adequate supply for the future.

The state's loan repayment program is also part of the DIMER/DIDER boards' responsibilities with the final decision on loan recipients made by the Health Care Commission. This program was developed to encourage health care providers to come/stay in Delaware by repaying part of their student loans in return for their commitment to work in underserved areas. It has proved **very useful** in increasing our supply of mental health practitioners, dentists and doctors in these areas. Many of them work at the federally qualified health centers (La Red, Westside and Henrietta Johnson). State funds are matched with federal funds for many of the loans so we will lose the federal dollars as well if we lose this state funding.

Cutting this funding undermines years of progress by the Health Care Commission and undercuts the efforts being made through the year-old Delaware Center for Health Innovation to improve care, control costs and improve outcomes. One of the DCHI's major committees is the Workforce Committee whose charge is to plan for educating the workforce we will need for the future. This future includes an aging population and an aging health care work force. Keeping DIMER and DIDER funded is an investment in providing for that future.

Joann Hasse, Health Care Chair

LAND USE/TRANSPORTATION UPDATE

The Land Use/Transportation Committee has had a huge victory with the **passage of SB 130, the Healthy and Transit-Friendly bill**. Bike Delaware was the initiator of this bill, sponsored by Sen. Harris McDowell, which neatly lined up with several of our chief positions: directing growth into growth zones, reduction of vehicle miles traveled, support for dense development in which pedestrians can safely access services, etc. The bill was signed by the Governor in May, 2016.

In the fall of 2015 the committee provided an informative and well-attended panel on the **Port of Wilmington Expansion project**. Since then the Committee has monitored activities of the project's Task Force. Throughout the process the public has been kept well-informed, and has been allowed to speak at each meeting. At the final meeting of the Task Force the consultants' reports were shared. Although an economist on the fall panel had warned members of the audience to carefully compare costs with benefits, the benefits side of the equation was not quantitatively addressed by the consultants. Seven of the nineteen Task Force members were on hand for the final vote, to give priority to the RiverEdge site. The League supports both equal employment opportunity and the Coastal Zone Act, and will continue to inform members of Port activity which might impact either or both of these positions.

Our lobbyist, Peggy Schultz, has provided testimony at six hearings since the fall of 2015 in support of **full funding for Agricultural Lands Preservation (\$10 million), and for Open Space Preservation (\$9 million)**.

You are probably aware that agriculture is the state's main industry, and tourism ranks in about third place, so support for these programs can easily be considered investments. But because of a serious state budget shortfall these programs are both in jeopardy. Last year only \$3 million went to Agland Preservation and nothing went to Open Space. LWVDE has signed on with the 10/9 Coalition to support full funding for both programs. We can lose \$5 million in federal open space matching funds if we again come up with zero funding for Open Space. We strongly encourage League members to call their state legislators to urge full support for both programs.

Another area of concern for Land Use/Transportation has been the passage of an **updated Land Protection Act, HB 262**. There has been considerable pushback from landowners regarding the need for the inclusion of State Resource Area maps in the activity of the Open Space Council. The feeling among this group is that the maps unfairly point out lands which are proposed for purchase, and which may cause a considerable erosion of the value of those lands. The League has argued that the maps are crucial for planning

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and that knowledge that a particular site is included on the maps should enhance the value of at least the nearby lands and would not detract from the value. At a recent Joint Sunset Committee meeting, committee members voted to exclude these maps from the business of the Open Space Council. A substitute bill will soon emerge, and the League will reluctantly support the newer non-Resource Area Map version of the bill.

Coming into focus is a bill introduced on June 2nd, **HB 396, to “expedite. the review process for projects likely to have significant economic impact.”** The review process referred to is ordinarily largely handled by local government and not only often relates to environmental concerns, but is of course related to an overall plan which could be seriously thrown into disarray by an expedited process. The Committee tentatively plans to meet on June 13th, 1:30 to 3:30 pm to discuss this and several other compelling issues. Let us know if you would like to join us! Email Jane Dilley at dillejia@udel.edu, or Peggy Schultz at schultz_peggy@yahoo.com

Peggy Schultz, Land Use/Transportation Chair

Our non-dinner fundraiser was a Success!! Thank YOU to all who made a financial contribution to the Delaware League of Women Voters Education Fund. Listed below are contributors since the Winter VOTER:

*All Saints' Parish Thrift Shop
Thomas W. Adams
Jaqueline Andrews
Linda Barnett
Jean Bauer
Susan Brynteson
Judith Butler
Sheila Cassels
Yetta Chaiken
Patricia Christopher
Dr. Amystique Church
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Judith Taggart
Patricia Todd
Linda & Joe Wald
Carole Walsh
John G. Walsh
Paul & Emily White
Fay G. Whittle
Lynwood E. Zimmerman*

Thank YOU to all our VOLUNTEERS who spend their time and money advocating and educating for the issues we all care about. There are no reimbursements for mileage, gas or food.

A HUGE THANK YOU.

UNIVERSITY OF DELAWARE TO HOST WOMEN'S LEADERSHIP PROGRAM

LWV of Delaware will once again participate in UD's Institute for Global Studies. This leadership program will bring 20 impressive young female leaders from Côte d'Ivoire, Liberia, Sierra Leone, and South Sudan to UD for 5-week program on leadership, civic engagement, and the history and participation of women in American public life. The League of Women Voters will meet with the young leaders in Dover on July 14th for an afternoon.

LEAGUE DAY IN DOVER HIGHLIGHTS



LEAGUE DAY IN DOVER held Wednesday, March 23, 2016, at the Outlook at the Duncan Center, Dover, and focused on Access to Justice: Current Issues in Delaware's General Assembly: Bail Reform, Pre-trial Detention, Minimum Mandatory Sentencing, and Solitary Confinement. Rep. J. J. Johnson, Chair, (pictured at left) and Brian Bartley, Office of the



Public Defender House Corrections Committee (pictured at right) were among the speakers.

The forum was well attended and informative. After lunch many attendees headed to Legislative Hall to distribute folders to all legislators. The folders contained fact sheets about issues and legislation high on the agendas of the League's and its cosponsors. Sponsored by the League of Women Voters of Delaware. Cosponsors: American Association of University Women (AAUW); American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU); Coalition to Dismantle the New Jim Crow; Delaware Center for Justice (DCJ); Delaware Coalition Against Gun Violence (DCAGV); Delaware Coalition for Open Government (DeICOG); Delaware Commission for Women; Southern Delaware Alliance for Racial Justice; Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Newark.

VOTER OUTREACH ACTIVITIES ROUNDUP

League of Women Voters of Kent County/Delaware State University Symposium - Election 2016: How will It Impact You? Held on April 29, 2016 – Martin Luther King Center, Delaware State University

New League member, Dr. Amystique Y. H. Church, Associate Director of Testing Services and Programs at Delaware State University, and Dr. Sharon T. Smith, Director of the Quantitative Reasoning Center and Integrated Academic Support Services at DSU, invited LWVKC to cosponsor a day-long symposium dedicated to raising community and student consciousness about the importance of participating in the electoral process and creating an awareness of the issues being debated during the current election campaign. The program was underwritten by a grant from The Delmarva Testing Association. Breakfast and lunch buffets were provided.



The morning panel, which was moderated by Ellen O. Wasfi, LWVKC, featured presentations by Dr. Baruti Kopano, Associate Professor and Chair of the Department of Multiplatform Production in the School of Global Journalism and Communication at Morgan State University, Baltimore, MD; and Dr. Yohuru Williams, Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences and Professor of History at Fairfield University, Fairfield, CT. They discussed the nexus between education and civil rights – key issues in this year's election campaign. Audience questions to the panelists covered such issues as the impact of school vouchers on equal educational opportunity; whether one should bother to vote if his or her preferred candidate is not nominated; whether a candidate who accepts backing from a hate group deserves support from voters; equal opportunity in employment; whether there should be reparations to compensate for past discrimination in hiring for blue collar union jobs; and the rhetoric of violence evident during the primary campaigns.

During the afternoon panel, Dr. Kopano and Dr. Yohuru were joined by Dr. Samuel Hoff, Graduate Director for the College of Humanities and Social Sciences, Delaware State University, Dr. Akwasi Osei, Chair of the Department of History, Political Science and Philosophy and Director of the Global Societies Program at Delaware State University, and Ellen O. Wasfi, International Relations Chair, League of Women Voters of Kent County. Mrs. Wasfi began the discussion with a summary of U.S. policy towards Mexico and Central America and its impact on immigration to this country. The panel then responded to questions prepared by the symposium organizers which dealt with the role of delegates to the nominating conventions, candidate views on U.S.-Russia relations, terrorism, and the potential impact of third-party candidates on the electoral process. Throughout the symposium, attendees were provided the opportunity to complete voter registration applications. League volunteers included Bill and Gail Clemens, Dr. Phyllis Edamatsu, Crystal Hamilton, and Peggy Swygert.

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“Meet the Candidates” Night – Capital School Board Election held Wednesday, May 4, 2016 – Central Middle School Auditorium

On May 4, 2016, the League of Women Voters of Kent County and the Central Middle School Parent Group cosponsored a “Meet the Candidates Night” for Capital School District School Board election. The three candidates were Dr. Chanda Jackson, Kevin Ohlandt and Andres R. Ortiz. The candidates fielded a wide range of questions from the audience, which were submitted via index cards available throughout the debate. Among the topics addressed were: the achievement gap in the district, postsecondary readiness, the election referendum process, changes in the district grading policy; the state school funding system; parental and community involvement in children’s education; class size; the impact of common core standards and standardized testing; school vouchers; race as a factor in education, specifically, the need for more teachers of color and more black history in the regular curriculum; school prayer; violence and bullying in the schools; and financial transparency in the Capital School District.



Dennis S. Hallock, Sr., President of the Central Middle School Parent Group, was instrumental in organizing the event. Dr. Dan Shelton, Superintendent of Schools and Shan Green, Principal of Central Middle School were in attendance. Ellen Wasfi moderated the debate for LWVKC assisted by Jean Bauer and Beverly Jackson. League President Dr. Phyllis Edamatsu and Carylin Brinkley acted as timekeepers. Fred Breukelman produced the attractive printed programs and name tents for the evening.

LWV MEMBERS IN THE NEWS

State Librarian Annie Norman, PHD, pictured above in a "Delaware State News" article. Now in its 35th year, the Hall of Fame is the oldest recognition and celebration of the remarkable achievements of Delaware women. Dr. Norman is a member of the LWVKC. Congratulations, Dr. Norman, on this prestigious and well-deserved award!



SUSSEX COUNTY LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS held 5 District Land Use Forums regarding the 2018 Comprehensive Plan



Summary of reoccurring concerns in all 5 Sussex County Councilmanic Districts: • Increase focus on economic development that promotes well-paying jobs (i.e., technical, industrial, manufacturing) • Include environmental impact/natural resource protection ordinances in the 2018 Comprehensive Plan • Better inter-governmental agency collaboration for land use planning. You can find a summary report at their website <http://www.sussexlww.org/>.

Sue Claire Harper, chair, of the Sussex County League of Women Voters Land Use Committee, and Leslie Ledogar, member, land use committee spoke at the March 16 luncheon meeting of the Shore Democrats held at North East Seafood Restaurant in Ocean View.

They presented the findings of the public land use forums that were held throughout Sussex County in 2015 to elicit public input in anticipation of the drafting of the 2018 Comprehensive Plan. The discussion focused upon what is needed to create healthy, friendly and efficient living environments in Sussex County, while attending to natural resource protection, environmental pollution and the potential impact of sea level rise.

Join the Conversation!

Since our last report, our Facebook community has grown by 29 members, for a total of 225 friends! Twitter has also grown to 145 followers, representing the diversity we value in our League - from politicians, to educators, to community partners and citizens - our online conversations are robust and relevant.

find us on 

follow us 

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

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



CARRIE CHAPMAN CATT AWARDS HIGHLIGHT

LWV of New Castle County celebrated its Carrie Chapman Catt Awards Banquet on April 12, 2016 at Arsht Hall, UD, Wilmington. Below Patti Christopher, Voter Registration Coordinator, presenting the Awards to L-R:

La Vaida Owens-White is a Faith Community Nurse serving the congregation of Christ Our King RC Church in Wilmington, the Interdenominational Ministers Action Council of Delaware, the Delaware Ecumenical Council on Children and Families, the Delaware Region Health Ministries Network, the Interfaith Clergy Group of the Ninth Ward, and the State Chapter of the NAACP as well as the Wilmington Branch of the NAACP.

Moonyeen Klopfenstein, MS, RN, usually known as "Kloppy", has been a registered nurse for 50 years and is still working at Christiana Hospital.

Priscilla B. Rakestraw Among Priscilla's extensive community, organizational, and fundraising activities, she has been Development Director for the Ministry of Caring since November, 2012. In recognition of her prior volunteer efforts, Brother Ronald presented her with the Caring Bowl, the symbol of caring for the homeless and hungry.



LWV OF THE UNITED STATES - ADVOCACY Check details at www.lwv.org

League Opposes the FY2017 Energy and Water Development and Related Agencies Appropriations Bill

The League joined [a letter](#) opposing FY2017 for the Energy and Water Development and Related Agencies Appropriations bill, H.R. 5055, because of bad environmental riders. This legislation would cut funding for energy innovation, promote irresponsible use of water and ocean resources and undermine safe nuclear waste storage.

League Opposes Riders to 2017 Financial Services and General Government Appropriations

The League joined [a letter](#) with coalition partners calling for members of the House and Senate to oppose riders, especially campaign finance riders, to the 2017 Financial Services and General Government (FSGG) Appropriations bill.

Take Action: Fix the Federal Election Commission

Based on our [new position on Money in Politics](#), the League has endorsed legislation by Senator Tom Udall (D- NM) that would create a new independent agency to replace the Federal Election Commission. The Federal Election Administration Act of 2016, would restructure the Federal Election Commission (FEC) as a five-member commission. The League sent [a letter](#) to the U.S. Senate in support of this bill and members of the Lobby Corps will be visiting Senate offices throughout May. League members can also [contact their members of Congress](#) to address this issue. Action alert at lwv.org.

How to Make a Gift to the League Grow

By donating to the LWVDE Endowment Fund at the Delaware Community Foundation (DCF) you can make a gift that continues to give and grow. Our Endowment Fund, with a current balance of \$12,435, has achieved full status as a permanent fund by reaching DCF's \$10,000 minimum. This means that we can receive income each year to support our educational activities. Currently, DCF funds pay out 5% of the average fund balance over the previous twelve quarters. Endowment funds at DCF are professionally managed to ensure the funds remain strong over time.

The Board established our fund to ensure long-term financial stability and a permanent source of funding. It also enables members to donate not only cash, but non-cash assets such as stock and real estate, insurance benefits, gifts through your will or trust, gifts that pay you income for life, or gifts of retirement plan assets.

Because our Fund is part of our 501(c)(3) Education Fund, all donations are tax deductible. One League member donates stock that she inherited years ago. As a result, the current value is so much higher than the original value that most proceeds would be taxed, were she to sell the stock. Instead, she can take a charitable deduction for the current market value.

If you'd like to write a check, just make it out to the Delaware Community Foundation and write League of Women Voters Endowment Fund in the memo field. You could mail it directly to the League office where it will be recorded and forwarded to the DCF. For information on how to contribute stock or other kinds of assets, add the Fund to your will or trust, or donate other forms of gifts, contact David Fleming, Senior VP for Development, at 302.504.5224 or dfleming@delcf.org.

Give a gift that keeps on giving! Donate to the League's Endowment Fund.

NOTE: The naturalization ceremonies are held on the first Thursday of the month where the LWV hands out welcome folders to all new citizens. Call Connie Georgov for times and place 302-275-6785. This month a ceremony was held for up to 200 new citizens at Clayton Hall, UD. Thank you Connie.

CALENDAR

Wednesday, June 15, 2016	CenDel Building, 101 W. Loockerman Street, and Bradford Streets -- parking lot at end of the block of Bradford.	LWVDE Council and LWVDE board meeting combined. All welcome, but need to call 302-571-8948.
Monday, June 27, 2016 6 pm	First Presbyterian Church <u>292 W. Main St. Newark, DE 19711</u>	LWVNCC HOT TOPICS EVENT. This meeting is a continuation of the April Hot Topics presentation. Commissioner Mary McDonough will discuss the role of the Human Trafficking Court in our community
Wednesday, July 6, 2016, 9:30 am-12:00 pm	Legislative Hall <u>411 Legislative Avenue Dover, DE 19901</u>	LWVDE Advocacy Corps meeting. LWVDE Advocacy Corps meeting. Contact Committee Chair for details or call 302-841-2882.

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