



DELAWARE VOTER

The League of Women Voters of Delaware

Winter 2018

lwvde@comcast.net

www.lwvdelaware.org

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President: Joann Hasse

Editor: Letty Diswood

The League of Women Voters, a nonpartisan political organization, encourages informed and active participation in government, works to increase understanding of major public policy issues, and influences public policy through education and advocacy.

League Day IN Dover March 21, 2018

Financing State Government: Everybody's Business

Let's Stop Kicking the Can Down the Road!

Spend the day with us in Dover! We'll have morning speakers and luncheon at the Duncan Center, and an (optional) afternoon of meeting legislators and observing committee meetings at Legislative Hall.

Budget Director Mike Jackson, State Treasurer Ken Simpler and DEAC Chair Mike Houghton will address their roles and responsibilities in the creation of a state budget.

UD's Ed Ratledge will discuss future trends in Delaware.

Keynote Luncheon speaker, former state senator Karen Peterson will speak on the politics of the state budget process.

\$30 registration fee (includes lunch)

Call for more info, or email to RSVP at lwvde@comcast.net

The Outlook
at the Duncan Center
500 W. Loockerman Street
Dover, DE 19904

Wednesday, March 21
8:30 AM - 1 PM

LWVdelaware.org
Telephone: 302-571-8948

REGISTRATION and
COSPONSORS
Next page

 LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS®
OF DELAWARE



8:30-9:00 AM REGISTRATION AND REFRESHMENTS

9:00 AM PROGRAM

11:30 - 1 PM LUNCH WITH LEGISLATORS (BUFFET) AND KEY NOTE SPEAKER

1:00 PM HEAD OVER TO LEGISLATIVE HALL

SPONSORS: League of Women Voters of Delaware, and Delaware League of Women Voters Education Fund.

COSPONSORS: American Civil Liberties Foundation, Delaware Alliance for Nonprofit Advancement (DANA), Delaware Coalition Against Gun Violence Education Fund, Delaware Coalition for Open Government (DelCOG), Inland Bays Foundation, Southern Delaware Alliance for Racial Justice.

REGISTRATION DEADLINE THURSDAY, MARCH 19, 2018

NAME (S) _____ \$30.00 EACH _____

NAME(S) _____ \$30.00 EACH _____

TOTAL \$ _____

ADDRESS: _____

TELEPHONE _____ EMAIL _____

RECEIPT REQUESTED _____ LWVDE Fed tax ID 516021961 [501(c) 4] **CREDIT CARDS ARE ACCEPTED—YOU CAN GO TO LWVDELAWARE.ORG AND PAY THROUGH PAY PAL OR Please complete the following:**

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Contact 302-571-8948

Send this form and check (if using 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. www.lwvdelaware.org



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE - Joann Hasse

I've recently been updating the Lobby Handbook which has been a joint project of the League and the now dismantled Commission for Women since 1990. To quote from the Preface: "This book has been written to give you a short course on the legislative process in Delaware and to offer practical information about influencing it. We encourage you to take advantage of our state's "uniqueness" and to become knowledgeable about and involved in your government."

The intent in creating it was to enable citizens, ESPECIALLY WOMEN, to learn the basics of the legislative process so they would be more comfortable in advocating for their own interests. Originally only in print form, we intend to make it available on the League website.

As I read through our creation (most of the content was created by the League) I was impressed again with what a wonderful resource this is and how well it fulfills one of the goals of our founders, the suffragettes who started the League of Women Voters. These women were activists! They weren't fighting just for the right to vote but for women to become full participants in our democracy! They wanted, and fully intended, to influence legislation and public policy. They realized, however, that many women needed help both in registering to vote and learning about the issues. Thus was born the arm of the League which became Voters Service and Citizen Education. The Lobby Handbook is Citizen Education at its most basic.



People still ask us when we began advocating for or against legislation while claiming to be nonpartisan. The answer is we have **always** done so but our founders felt we could be more effective in achieving our aims if we remained a nonpartisan organization. Members, except those serving on League boards or as lobbyists, are encouraged to be active in partisan politics but the League as an organization never supports or opposes parties or candidates.

Leagues throughout the country are working on our national priorities: **Empowering Voters and Defending Democracy**. We in Delaware have not needed to engage in the gerrymandering battles which several state Leagues have started or joined. We are blessed with a quite efficient registration system so the need to emphasize registration is not as pressing here as in many places. Our emphasis, I believe, needs to be on stressing the importance of learning the issues and actually voting. We have committed to participate in the LWVUS's online Voter Guide, Vote 411, which gives all candidates a platform to answer in their own words questions we will pose so that their potential constituents can compare their views with their opponent's views. We need your help to publicize the availability of this resource, both to candidates and to your fellow citizens. Keep tuned for more information!

Support for one major election related item is crucial in this session of the General Assembly. Delaware's voting machines are rapidly nearing the end of their expected reliability. A new system is expensive. Action is needed in this year's budget cycle in order to have a new system in place for the 2020 election. We need a new modern system! Keep tuned for an opportunity to make your voice heard.

LWVDE Acting on Public Policy Issues



After testifying at several hearings of the Office of Management and Budget, Advocacy Corps members have been studying the Governor's budget that came out of those hearings. According to the press release issued by the Governor's office, " his [Fiscal Year 2019 Recommended Budget](#), [is] sending the General Assembly a balanced \$4.2 billion financial plan that will make important investments in Delaware's economy, workforce, and public schools – while ensuring budget sustainability."

Governor Carney's "[Responsible Investment](#)" proposal limits budget growth to 3.49 percent and allocates \$100 million of surplus, one-time revenue into one-time investments in the capital budget.

During late January and February, several Advocacy Corps members spoke at hearings of the Joint Finance Committee
(Continued on page 4 Advocacy)

(Continued from page 3 **Advocacy**)

to urge approval of some of the Governor's budget provisions and decry the absence of funding for some important programs. Their testimony and updated position papers will appear on the state website at http://lwvdelaware.org/about_action.html soon.

The major issue for the League is that the Governor's Budget fails to include funding for new voting machines, presumably because the task force assigned to review bids and make recommendations has not completed that process, so the cost is currently unknown but is expected to amount to as much as \$25 million.

Assuming that funding for voting machines will come from the Capital Improvement (Bond) Bill, LWVDE has contacted Committee Chairman Quinn Johnson about the **need for funding for this purpose to be included on the agenda for Bond Bill hearings that are scheduled for May 14-17**. He responded: "No request came from the Department of Elections for a hearing. It is our understanding that they will evaluate the responses of the RFP, formulate some decisions and then choose a path. If a hearing is needed, we will certainly entertain their request."

Our position on voting machines, based on LWVUS policy, can be found at http://lwvdelaware.org/about_action.html.

Although it is a rare bill that can be credited to the advocacy of one person, we must note that our own **lobbyist Peggy Schultz has advocated at every opportunity for several years for \$10 million each for the Open Space and Farmland Preservation programs**. For the first time in numerous years, that much is budgeted for each of these programs. Thanks for your dedication, Peggy!

By law, the legislature is required to complete the budget by June 30, although the difficulty of achieving sufficient support to enact the budget by that deadline this past June resulted in an extraordinary late ending of the Session on July 2, 2017. **This year, there appears to be sufficient funding available to achieve a balanced budget with less turmoil than was experienced then. Come to League Day in Dover to learn more about whether this is true and whether our current revenue and spending practices are sustainable.**

One of our top priorities this past year has **been reform of bail practices that contribute to excessive incarceration**, particularly affecting low income and minority persons. That bill (HB 204) was finally approved by the Senate on January 16 and signed by the Governor on January 24.



Advocacy Corps meeting

In other developments, LWVDE has testified at hearings, most of which address criminal justice reforms. They include testimony:

- **for House Resolution 21 that adds an Anti-(Sexual) Harassment policy and procedures to House Rules**, the first time there have been such rules applicable to members of the House. The resolution was adopted by the House. Senate leadership has said they will adopt an amendment to their rules.
- **against HB 125 that would reinstates the death penalty**. This bill passed the House in May but has not been heard in the Senate Committee to date.
- **for HB 300 that makes it a crime to sell, transfer, buy, receive or possess a trigger crank or bump-fire device designed to accelerate the rate of fire of a semiautomatic rifle**. That bill was reported out of Committee and is ready for consideration by the House;
- **for HB 302 that creates procedures in Delaware for making sure firearms are not in the hands of dangerous individuals while protecting due process** and not creating a barrier to care for those suffering from mental illness while not labeling all individuals with a mental health diagnosis as dangerous; (Continued on page 5 **Advocacy**)

(Continued from page 5 **Advocacy**)

- for HB 305 that eliminates a “look back” provision that allowed a juvenile adjudication to be used as a second prior conviction which mandates that adult sentences for certain drug offenses be enhanced because of past youthful indiscretions. Enhancements imposed by the current code are quite harsh.
- for HB 308 that removes the sunset provision in the state’s civil citation statute so that this program can continue;
- for Senate Substitute 2 of SB 27 that clarifies the recovery of capital improvement or rehabilitation work charges by manufactured home community owners to their home owners is a fee, a separate charge from a base rent increase.

Save the date: One week after League Day in Dover, come to a Rally at noon on the East Capitol steps to **support HB 299 that is the first step in amending Delaware’s Constitution to adopt a state Equal Rights Amendment.** Given the past failure to adopt an ERA at the national level, 23 state constitutions include ERAs. Delaware’s does not. That absence is noteworthy since women comprise 51 percent of Delaware’s population. House Bill 299, introduced in the Delaware House of Representatives on Jan. 15 by Majority Leader Valerie Longhurst, would remedy this injustice. The bill states: “Equality of Rights under the law shall not be denied or abridged on account of the sex of the individual.” Confirmed speakers, as of Feb. 26, are Rep. Longhurst, Sen. Hansen, Gov. Carney and Congresswoman Lisa Blunt Rochester.

Action Alert: Meanwhile, contact your legislators to support HB299. Please let them know you are a constituent and you are calling as a member of the League of Women Voters of Delaware. You can find talking points at <https://www.delawareeranow.org/what-can-you-do-to-promote-hb-299/>. Please contact Linda Barnett at luvchocdog@hotmail.com to let her know how your legislators responded.

Action Alert: Comment on Offshore Drilling. LWVUS has reminded us that the Trump Administration's plan to allow drilling along coasts of the United States (except Florida) will begin moving ahead this year, if not modified after the public comment period. This will take our country [and our state!] in the wrong direction in addressing climate change. There is still time, but not much, to submit comments opposing the proposed policy shift. All concerned members are urged to do so. Members should indicate that they are a member of the [local] League. The LWVUS Climate Change Task Force has developed background and message points to consider when commenting. They can be found at http://lwnet.org/lwv/de/delaware/files/offshore_drilling_comment_opportunity.pdf. Public comment is being received through the Department of the Interior's Bureau of Ocean Energy Management (BOEM) website until 11:59 Eastern on March 9th.

The League wins a battle; the war is yet to be won. January 25, 2018



The Audubon Society and the League of Women Voters won an important legal victory recently. On January 19th Superior Court Judge Diane Streett ruled that the issue of standing will go again before the Coastal Zone Industrial Control Board (CZICB), the CZICB having previously ruled erroneously that neither the League nor the Audubon Society had standing. The judge based her ruling on the fact that though the Board concluded that the complaints of the two civic groups were not connected to the activities authorized under the Permit, the transshipment of ethanol, it did not address the expansion or extension of non-conforming uses in relation to the 10,000 additional barrels of ethanol to be shipped daily, nor the risk or fear of an ethanol explosion. Without this crucial information it was not possible for the Board to reach

the conclusion which they reached.

(Continued on page 6 **League wins battle**)

(Continued from page 5 League wins battle)

Superior Court Judge Streett returned the discussion to the Board for further proceedings before the Board. "Further proceedings" might be any of a number of possibilities. We will inform the Board as the means of making this standing decision unfolds.

Because the judge's ruling was based on the lack of information provided by the Delaware City Refinery regarding the possible effects of ethanol shipments, a ruling by the CZICB on complaints about the ethanol or the shipments were therefore not based on fact. David Carter, the witness who testified on behalf of both the Audubon Society and the League, made a particular (and possibly crucial) point by referencing the potentially disastrous effects of an ethanol explosion.

The positive Superior Court ruling is a testament to the reasonableness of the arguments of Ken Kristl, the skilled pro bono lawyer and Professor of Law at Widener University Law School, representing the League and the Audubon Society.

Following what we hope and expect will be a positive outcome to the standing issue will be yet another hearing on the case itself: the correctness of DNREC's action in permitting the Delaware City Refinery to transship ethanol, an activity not in place at the time the Coastal Zone Act was voted into law in 1971, and therefore, we argue, not an allowable grandfathered extension.

Peggy Schultz, Portfolio Chair, LWVDE Land Use/Transportation

VOTE411.ORG UPDATE



After taking a few years off, the Delaware Leagues are participating in the VOTE411.org online voters' guide in 2018. A huge thank you to Sussex county for initiating and to the state League for funding our participation!

What is VOTE411? It is a "one stop shop" website for election information, including the ability to print a sample ballot showing all races for your home address. Candidates are invited to respond to a set of questions on the site, so you can compare their viewpoints side-by-side. Here is a brief rundown of our planned activities for the year...

- ✓ Feb/March – recruit volunteers. Update the Guide info from 2014. Solicit candidate questions from the advocacy and committee chairs.
- ✓ March/April – review and finalize question sets. Create marketing plans.
- ✓ May/June – get board approval for questions and candidate email content. Translate questions into Spanish. Create marketing materials per the plans.
- ✓ June/July – invite/remind candidates to participate. Filing deadline is 7/10.
- ✓ July/August – advertising/promotion campaign. Follow up with primary election candidates who haven't responded (phone calls).
- ✓ Sept – update the Guide after the 9/6 primary elections.
- ✓ Oct – continue advertising. Follow up with general election candidates who haven't responded (phone calls). Election date is 11/6.

There are lots of ways to get involved! If you would like to help with the VOTE411 project, contact Kim Wells in New Castle County, Amystique Church in Kent, or Pat Makos in Sussex.

Kim Wells, 2018 Delaware VOTE411 Coordinator

THANK YOU FOR CONTRIBUTING TO THE DELAWARE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS EDUCATION FUND.

Harriet Ainbinder, Connie & David Beattie, Sue Claire Harper, Network for Good, Letty & Larry Diswood, Lynda R. Dunham, Amystique Church, Barbara Crowell, Doris Crowley, Janet Denman, Jane Dilley, Elizabeth I. Doty, Mary Anne Edwards, Mary K. Eggers, Joy Jones, Joyce Johnson, Delia L. Kirwan, Vicky Kleinman, Virginia S. Mayforth, Gina M. Miserendino, Dorothy Munroe, Katharine, Olinchak, S. Peltz, Frances Riddle, Pat Todd, Carole Walsh.

Businesses/Organizations

All Saints' Parish Thrift Shop, American Civil Liberties Foundation (ACLU), Delaware Alliance for Nonprofit Advancement (DANA) Delaware Coalition Against Gun Violence Education Fund (DCAGV), Delaware Coalition for Open Government (DelCOG), Delaware Community Reinvestment Action Council, Inc. (DCRAC), Del. Humanities Forum (DHF), Delaware Inland Bays (DIB), Southern Delaware Alliance for Racial Justice.

THANK YOU FOR CONTRIBUTING TO THE LEAGE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF DELAWARE

Harriet Ainbinder, Linda Barnett, Connie & David Beattie, Judith Butler, John Devine, Letty & Larry Diswood, Martha D'Erasmus, Linda Chick, Barbara D. Crowell, Amystique Church, Janet Denman, Kathryn Gifford, Charles Garlow, Jackie Harris, Joann Hasse, Ruth Helm, Joyce Johnson, Marjorie Johnson, Carol Jones, Jennie Keith, Delia L. Kirwan, Jane Lord, Ronald Martin, Barbara Mullin, Lois Myoda, Frances Riddle, Sandy Spence, Pat Todd, Gina M. Miserendino, Bob Rosenberg, Mary Ann Scott, Polly Sierer, Kate J. Zak.

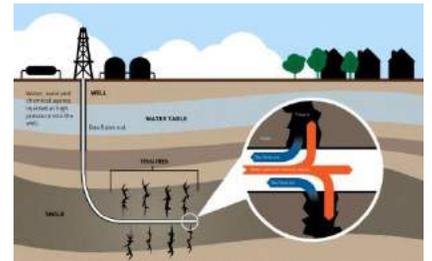
On Land and at Sea, Fracking Threatens Delaware's Environment

Two current proposals for extracting gas and oil by hydraulic fracturing (fracking) raise concerns about possible damage to the Delaware River and Bay system and our Atlantic Coastline.

Drilling the Outer Continental Shelf

The most far-reaching proposal is from the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management (BOEM). It opens the outer banks of the vast majority of the U.S. continental shelf to oil and gas exploration. This means that areas up and down the entire East Coast can be subjected to seismic testing and deep-water fracking, causing serious and lasting damage to the Atlantic Coast ecosystem:

- Fish and marine mammals such as right whales and dolphins near a seismic blast may be killed instantly. Even from many miles away, blasts can cause permanent deafness, leaving fish and mammals disoriented and unable to locate food.
- Accidents happen in offshore drilling, leading to oil-coated beaches and birds and poisoned sea life.
- Cement caps placed on abandoned wells can fail within a few decades, allowing leaking oil to pollute the water for centuries.



Preparing for drilling to begin a decade or more from now is contrary to the recommendations of climate scientists that we rapidly decrease our dependence on fossil fuels. In addition drilling off parts of the East Coast could prevent the areas being used for offshore wind turbines.

The planned testing and drilling would have a disastrous effect on the vital ecosystem off the Atlantic Coast, adversely affecting Delaware's fishing and tourist economies and our quality of life. The LWVDE will file a comment with BOEM opposing this plan. You are encouraged to express your opinions. Go to <http://www.regulations.gov>. On the main page search for BOEM-2017-0074. On the new page click on the "Comment Now" box next to the title of the proposed regulation. Personal reminiscences about family adventures with fishing, beach-going, sailing, etc. are appropriate in individual comments. Be sure to submit them by March 9.

(Continued on page 8 **Fracking**)

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Fracking Regulations for the Delaware Watershed



Since 2010 there has been a moratorium on fracking in the Delaware River Basin. The Delaware River Basin Commission (DRBC) has now issued draft regulations on fracking. Actual drilling for gas would be banned, but extraction of water for fracking and deposition of waste products from fracking in other areas would be allowed. Both of these latter two actions are of concern. With extensive lateral drilling being done frequently, fracking a single well once can require 20 million gallons of water. And each of the thousands of wells that will be drilled is likely to be fracked several times over while it is producing. The DRBC promises that water usage will be carefully monitored, but there will be great pressure for withdrawals even when the water flow is low enough to present problems in the Delaware

Estuary.

Each drilling will result in tons of drill core (rock and soil) being produced. Each fracking operation will produce 2-4 million gallons of contaminated water. Some of the water will be reused, resulting in higher concentrations of contaminants.

More than 1000 different chemicals are known to have been used in fracking. A significant number are highly toxic or carcinogenic, but the great majority has not even been tested for health effects. The water recovered from the fracking operation will contain:

- The several dozen chemicals used in a typical operation; some of their identities are not disclosed.
- Materials brought up from thousands of feet below the surface including toxic heavy metals and radioactive elements.

The DRBC regulations say that wastes must test as safe before they are released in our watershed. This statement does not seem to take into account the complexity of the issue:

- How can you test for chemicals that aren't identified and that will vary from batch-to-batch?
- How much will it cost to test every batch for many chemicals?
- Who will oversee the operation, making sure that test methods are legitimate and all rules are followed?
- What about radioactive materials? They are present in relatively high levels in Marcellus shale and there is no known way to economically remove them from large volumes of waste.

The regulations also allow disposal of water containing high levels of total dissolved solids (TDS) into the river. Increasingly higher levels are allowed as the Delaware Estuary is approached. Even when the dissolved solids sound innocuous (i.e. table salt), the high levels can be deadly to microorganisms and fish spawn. These rules almost seem to invite dumping of concentrated salt solutions in Delaware where they can kill off the endangered Delaware River Sturgeon, affect other important fish populations and interfere with oysters.

The LWVDE will send a formal response to the DRBC. However, we are concerned that Governor Carney has not clearly stated that he will oppose these fracking-related operations. We urge you to write or call both the Governor's office ((302) 744-4101; email form at <https://governor.delaware.gov/email-governor-carney/>) and DNREC Secretary Garvin's office (302-739-9000; Shawn.Garvin@state.de.us) to make it clear that the proposed regulations could be very detrimental to Delaware.

Coralie Pryde, Environmental Committee Co-chair

PRICE ON CARBON - by Chad Tolman, Climate Chair



You may know that the LWVDE played a major role at the national Convention 2014 in introducing the following resolution and helping to get it passed by a large majority of the delegates:

The LWVUS should support a price on carbon emissions that will increase in stages, as part of an overall program to improve energy efficiency and to replace fossil fuels with renewable energy, fast enough to avoid serious damage to the climate system.

Serious damage is usually taken to mean that the global average temperature has reached 2 °C (3.6 °F) above what it was in about 1750, at the beginning of the Industrial Revolution. The term “price on carbon (POC)” is shorthand for a price on CO₂ emissions in dollars per ton. If other greenhouse gasses – especially methane and nitrous oxide – are included, the POC can be expressed as dollars per ton of CO₂-equivalent.

Our state Convention in 2015 authorized a study of what Delaware could do to rapidly reduce its greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions - with an emphasis on pricing carbon emissions on a regional level. Diz Swift, a geologist from the LWVCA, a member of our study group called us together monthly using [GoToMeeting](#). She went on to produce a [Price on Carbon](#) website, which has been endorsed by the LWVUS.

The DEPOC study led to the following recommendations :

- Increase the rate at which the cap for the total carbon emissions from electricity generation in [RGGI](#) (Regional greenhouse Gas Initiative states, which include Delaware) decreases with time – from 2.5%/yr to 5%/yr.
- Strengthen Delaware’s Renewable Portfolio Standard, which requires that an increasing percentage (now 25% by 2025) of the electricity sold come from renewable sources, like solar and wind; set stretch goals for 2030 and 2050 that are above 25%;
- Put an increasing price on the carbon in transportation fuels through the regional [TCI](#) (Transportation and Climate Initiative); and
- Strengthen the state’s targets for reducing total GHG emissions from the current 30% by 2030 to 40% by 2030 and 80% by 2050 – both relative to emissions in 2008.

After the completion of our Delaware study, Diz Swift (CA), Launa Zimmaro (MA), Eleanor Revelle* (IL) and Chad Tolman (DE) formed what we call the LWVUS POC Steering Committee. So far we have held a series of three quarterly national webinars, and are planning to have a workshop and introduce a Carbon Pricing resolution at Convention 2018. Here are the three speakers we have had so far at our webinars in 2017:

Speaker	Topic	From
Dr. Naomi Oreskes	The Case for Pricing Carbon	Harvard University
Dr. Adele Morris	Revenue Use – Why It Counts	Brookings Institution
Dr. Bob Litterman	Managing Risk by Pricing Carbon	Kepos Capital

These webinars were recorded and can be found along with other videos related to pricing carbon at <https://priceoncarbon.org/business-society/webinars-carbon-pricing/>

If you are interested in learning more about, or registering for, future price on carbon webinars, or watching them after they have taken place, send an email to climatechange@lwvc.org with "LWV Price on Carbon" in the title line. Join us in learning more about climate change and how it can be mitigated by pricing carbon emissions. The future depends on our actions now.

LOCAL LEAGUES ACTIVITIES

The League of Women Voters of New Castle County cordially invites you to its Eleventh Biennial



Carrie Chapman Catt Awards Reception honoring

**Lt. Governor Bethany Hall-Long
and
Ms. Connie Georgov**

**Wednesday, April 11, 2018
5:45 – 8pm**

**At The Rail at White Clay Creek
777 Delaware Park Boulevard,
Wilmington, DE 19804**



This is our once-every-two-years chance to mingle with League friends and prominent Delawareans, while celebrating those who've made profound impacts on our community.



Special guest "Carrie Chapman Catt," portrayed by Pat Jordan of the **American Historical Theatre** of Philadelphia, will be on hand to greet and mingle with our guests.

Social hour, with full cash bar and both stationary and butlered hors d'oeuvres, starts at 5:45pm. We will have special guest greetings at 6pm, assorted mini-dessert offerings at 6:30, and guests will be seated at 7pm for the award presentations.

The public is cordially invited to attend. Tickets can be purchased online using our [CCCA 2018 reservation form](#) or call the League office 302-571-8948, lwncc@comcast.net. The planning committee urges you to book early if at all possible; we must have a final guest count to the venue by Wednesday March 28.

Single ticket price is \$75, with couple and group rates available. Financial scholarship may be available upon request.

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF SUSSEX COUNTY NEWS:

The Sussex County League of Women Voters (LWVSCDE) has had an active season! Energized by a host of new members with fresh ideas, we have capitalized on their energy to increase involvement and interest in our League.

On January 13, our members participated in the Dr. Martin Luther King weekend of celebration by marching in the MLK parade in Lewes. While it was a cold, blistery day, the event was inspirational and energizing to all who braved the weather to commemorate the legacy of Dr. King.

Observing Black History Month, the LWVSCDE partnered with the Southern Delaware Alliance for Racial Justice on February 9 to present



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(Continued from page 10 LWVSC News)

“A Feast of African-American Creativity”, celebrating the works of African-American poets and authors. In commemoration of the 100th year anniversary of the League of Women Voters, LWVSCDE organized a book discussion program for “Remember the Ladies: Celebrating those who fought for Freedom at the Ballot Box” by Angela Dodson. This March 20 event will be the inaugural activity of a book discussion group—which might morph into an on-going activity depending on the level of interest shown!

Our Land Use Committee continues its work with commitment and enthusiasm. An informative program will be presented on March 13, addressing the topic of Clean Water. Multiple speakers will present views on issues of relevance to Sussex County and to Delaware. The presentation will be moderated by the League, with questions posed by audience members. Additional Land Use Forums are under development by this very active League committee.

The Voter Services Committee is energized and gearing up for 2018 elections. Voter registration initiatives, VOTE 411 participation, and candidate forums are all on their radar!

The LWVSCDE is also conducting activities to promote the organization within the community. An informational table at the Lewes Library will be manned by our members. A display case for the library is also being prepared, showcasing historical memorabilia of the local League. Presentations explaining the work of the League have been made to local groups.

In addition to these activities, our Observer Corps is expanding its participation in monitoring meetings of County Government bodies, including County Council and the Planning and Zoning Commission. School Board meetings are also being observed by our members.

The MyLO website is up and running and is garnering increased interest among our followers. We are also actively posting on Facebook, with the goal of increasing our presence on social media.

LWVUS ADVOCACY UPDATES - details at lwv.org

League Sends Letter on Immigration to Congress

The League sent [a letter](#) outlining the necessary provisions that should be included in any immigration bill that moves forward. Members of the LWVUS Lobby Corps will be visiting offices on Capitol Hill on this issue in the coming weeks. [Tell Congress to pass the Dream Act Now!](#)

League Joins Letter Regarding Ozone Regulations

The League joined coalition partners in sending [a letter](#) to EPA Administrator Pruitt respectfully urging the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency to prioritize the protection of public health and finalize science-based “designations” for the 2015 ozone standard.

League Supports the Sentencing Reform and Corrections Act of 2017

The League joined [a letter](#) to the U.S. Senate Judiciary Committee that outlines support for the Sentencing Reform and Corrections Act of 2017. This legislation is scheduled for markup in the Judiciary Committee on February 15, 2018.

Opportunity to Comment on Proposal to Allow Offshore Drilling

The Trump Administration’s plan to allow drilling along coasts of the United States (except Florida) will begin moving ahead this year, if not modified after the public comment period. This will take our country in the wrong direction in addressing climate change. There is still time, but not much, to submit comments on behalf of your League opposing the proposed policy shift. All concerned Leagues and members are urged to do so. The [LWVUS Climate Change Task Force](#)

(Continued on page 12 LWVUS Advocacy)

(Continued from on page 11 LWVUS Advocacy)

has developed some [background and message points](#) to consider when commenting. Public comment is being received through the Department of the Interior's Bureau of Ocean Energy Management (BOEM) [website](#) until 11:59 Eastern on March 9th.

Deadline Extended for Comments on Clean Power Plan Rollback

The EPA has extended the deadline to comment on the planned rollback of the Clean Power Plan. Interested parties now have until April 26, 2018, to submit comments regarding this misguided action. The proposed rollback will greatly weaken the requirements to curb GHG emissions, taking our nation in the wrong direction on a critically important issue. All concerned Leagues and members are urged to submit comments opposing the weakening of this pivotal US climate policy. Please [review the talking points and background information](#) developed for this purpose. LWVUS [submitted comments](#) to the Environmental Protection Agency with regard to their plan to repeal the Clean Power Plan.

LWVUS Board Adopts 2018 Legislative Priorities

The LWVUS Board set the following as the legislative priorities for 2017:

1. Campaign for Making Democracy Work™ (MDW), with special emphasis on protecting voting rights.
2. Watchdog: Respond strategically on issues with LWV positions when needed, but focus on the Campaign for Making Democracy Work™.

The board recognizes that the coming year will be full of the unexpected. The main focus for LWVUS should continue to be our MDW Campaign, but other topics are expected to pop up that are important to the LWV—including the Dream Act and immigration reform, climate change and health care defense. There will doubtless be other, unpredictable legislative issues. Advocacy staff, working with the president and advocacy chair, will respond to watchdog issues as time allows. The board can re-examine or re-align legislative priorities as the situation may dictate throughout the coming year.

HEARING ON THE CLEAN POWER PLAN IN WILMINGTON, DE ON JANUARY 8, 2018

Re: Docket ID Number EPA–HQ–OAR–2017–0355

These comments are focused on the proposed repeal of the Clean Power Plan.

Good morning. My name is Chad Tolman, and I'm speaking on behalf of the League of Women Voters of Delaware.

The Delaware League strongly opposes the federal government's stated goal of repealing the Clean Power Plan (CPP), and recommends that Delaware continue to reduce carbon emissions from its power sector through the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative (RGGI), and from its transportation sector through the 8-state Transportation and Climate Initiative¹ (TCI). We also support strengthening state goals for reducing greenhouse gas emissions from all sources, and the goals for its Renewable Portfolio Standard.

The Clean Power Plan was the cornerstone of the previous administration's attempt to significantly reduce U.S. carbon dioxide emissions. Carbon dioxide (CO₂) is the most important of the greenhouse gases, and electricity generation is the sector of the U.S. economy that produces the largest share of CO₂ emissions. That is not true for all of the states; Delaware, along with eight other Northeast and Mid-Atlantic states have decreased their total power plant emissions under RGGI by nearly 50% since 2009.² Their emissions from transportation now exceed those from power generation. President Obama tried to reduce transportation emissions by requiring greater fuel efficiency from the vehicle fleet. However, along with pulling out of the Paris Climate Agreement and threatening the CPP, President Trump has promised to eliminate higher fuel efficiencies.

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The Paris Agreement was the first one in history where all of the world's nations – except for the U.S. – agreed to try to reduce their emissions enough that the global average temperature would not rise more than 2°C above what it was in 1750. The temperature has already risen by more than 1°C, and will continue to increase by an unknown amount, even if we were to stop all human caused emissions now. Rather than stopping, global emissions are rising every year. Two degrees is the internationally agreed limit, beyond which we should not go, if we are to avoid serious damage to the climate system. With just a little over 1°, we already have unprecedented droughts, wildfires, rainfall, flood and hurricane damage. Some estimates of the damage in 2017 caused by Hurricanes Harvey, Irma and Maria are as high as \$245 billion.³ That's over \$700 for every man, woman and child in the United States.

Revoking the CPP will be especially damaging for Delaware. We are the canary in the mine. We have a very long coastline relative to our area; the average elevation is the lowest of any state in the nation, and the coast is sinking even in the absence of global sea level rise, which has been projected to be as much as 6.6 feet by 2100.⁴ The amount will depend heavily on what happens to the Arctic and Antarctic ice sheets, which are losing ice at accelerating rates. More powerful storms resulting from warming seawater will add higher storm surges to rising seas, with potentially devastating effects on Delaware's coastal communities. Hurricane Sandy, which was expected to make landfall in Delaware, went farther north and did great damage to New Jersey and New York instead. The storm surge in New York raised the water level at the Battery tide gauge in Manhattan by nine feet above the normal high tide.⁵ But for the grace of God, we would have taken the brunt of the storm.

Delaware spends tens of millions of dollars every year to replenish beach sand in the absence of major storms. According to Senator Carper,⁶ our beaches attract tourists who add \$6.9 billion each year to the state's economy – more than the total state budget – and employ 10% of our workforce. The Delaware Sea Level Advisory Committee found that a 4.9 feet rise in sea level would inundate 11% of Delaware's land area, 99% of its coastal wetlands, 73% of the Port of Wilmington, 25% of heavy industrial land in the Coastal Zone, 6% of the state's railroad lines and 5% of its roads and bridges.⁷ And that's for a "bathtub model" that doesn't include the effects of large waves and storm surge.

Fortunately many nations, regions, states and cities are ignoring the federal administration's ill-advised rejection of the CPP, and are going ahead with what is best for the welfare of their citizens. Delaware, and the U.S. as a whole, should be among them.⁸

The League of Women Voters urges EPA to let the Clean Power Plan stand as written.

Joann Hasse, President, League of Women Voters of Delaware
Chad Tolman, Climate Change Chair

1 [*Transportation and Climate Initiative of the Northeast and Mid-Atlantic States*](#), Nov. 13, 2017

2 [*The Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative: Lessons Learned and Issues for Congress*](#), Congressional Research Service, May 2017

3 [*The Hidden Costs of Hurricanes*](#), *Fortune*, Sept. 27, 2017 and [*Hurricane Maria could cost Puerto Rico \\$45 billion to \\$95 billion in damage -- a devastating blow to the island's already ailing economy*](#), *CNN*, Sept. 28, 2017.

4 [*Understanding Sea Level Projections*](#), NASA.

5 [*Risk of Sandy-Level Flood in NYC Has Doubled Since 1950*](#), Climate Central, May 2013

6 [*Newsletter from Senator Carper*](#), Dec. 29, 2017

7 [*Preparing for Tomorrow's High Tide: Sea Level Rise Vulnerability Assessment for the State of Delaware*](#), DNREC Sea Level Rise Advisory Committee, May 2012.

8 Since the EPA previously found that carbon emissions are a danger to public health and welfare, the EPA is legally obligated to not only regulate them but to, as the Clean Air Act says, implement the "best system of emission reduction" [*42 U.S. Code § 7411 - Standards of performance for new stationary sources*](#).

CALENDAR

Wednesday, March 7, 2018 9:30 - noon	House Majority Caucus Room 411 Legislative Ave. Dover, DE 19901	LWVDE ADVOCACY CORPS. Contact Committee Chair Sandy Spence for details and if interested in attending (sandyspence325@gmail.com)
Wednesday, March 21, 2018 8:30 am - 1 pm	The Outlook at the Duncan Center 500 W. Loockerman Street, 5th Floor Dover, DE 19904	LEAGUE DAY IN DOVER 2018. Financing State Government: Everybody's Business (Let's Stop Kicking the Can Down the Road) 8:30 Registration , 9:00 Welcome and introductions, 9:15--9:45 Ed Ratledge, Director of UD's Center for Applied Demography and Survey: future trends for Delaware's population growth and changing demographics relevant to the state budget 9:45--10:00 Break 10:00--11:30 Budget Director Michael Jackson, State Treasurer Ken Simpler, DEFAC Chair Michael Houghton will each present his specific roles and thoughts on the process of budget "creation", followed by a roundtable discussion among the three and questions from the audience. 11:30--1:00 Buffet luncheon with Legislators. Former Senator Karen Peterson will speak about the politics of the budget process. See flyer here and registration form here .
Wednesday, March 21, 2018 1-4 pm	Legislative Hall 410 Legislative Avenue Dover, DE 19901	LEAGUE DAY IN DOVER - AFTERNOON AT LEGISLATIVE HALL. League Day attendees are urged to visit Legislative Hall to meet with their legislators and attend relevant committee hearings. A schedule of hearings will be included in the registration packet. In addition, the League will sponsor a table with LWV information, cookies and give-aways on the 2nd floor of Legislative Hall. Meet there to get a packet to give your legislator.
Monday, March 19, 2018 3:30-5pm	(Pike Creek Area)	LAND USE / TRANSPORTATION Committee Meeting. A meeting of the LWVNCC/LWVDE Land Use/Transportation Committee, at the home of Peggy Schultz. All are welcome.
Tuesday, March 20, 2018 7pm	Newark Senior Center 200 White Chapel Dr Newark, DE 19711	CANDIDATES FORUM for NEWARK CITY COUNCIL. All qualified candidates for Council Districts 3, 5 and 6 will be invited to participate in the Q & A event open to the public. In compliance with IRS rules for nonpartisan organizations, at least two candidates for the same office must be present for a debate involving that specific district to proceed.
Wednesday, March 28, Noon	Legislative Hall, 411 Legislative Ave Dover, DE 19901	RALLY FOR THE DELAWARE ERA HB 299 East Steps of Legislative Hall- 411 Legislative Ave, Dover, DE 19901 *Come wearing purple to show your support!
Wednesday, April 11, 2018 (evening)	The Rail at White Clay Creek - Christiana, DE	CARRIE CHAPMAN CATT AWARDS RECEPTION. Save the date! This is an evening you won't want to miss. Invitations will be sent at the end of February, or tickets can be purchased online using our CCCA 2018 reservation form . The public is cordially invited.

League of Women Voters of Delaware

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