



Dover Voter

The Price of Liberty Is Still Eternal Vigilance

League of Women Voters of Greater Dover, April 2004

President: Ellen Wasfi, 734-1545, ewasfi@aol.com

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Calendar of Events

April 8	Great Decisions: The Media and Foreign Policy , 10 a.m.–12 noon at the Camden Friends Meeting House
April 13	LWVDE State Board Meeting , 6 p.m. at Wayside Inn, Smyrna
April 14	Candidates Night: Debate for Dover Mayoral and City Council Elections, 7-9 p.m. at Modern Maturity Center, Dover
April 20	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Dover City Elections : Polls Open 7 a.m.–8 p.m.
April 25	Save Women's Lives : March for Freedom of Choice to Washington, DC
April 27	LWVGD Board Meeting , 11 a.m.–1 p.m. at St. Paul's Episcopal Church, Camden
April 30	4 th Annual Living Well With HIV Conference (LWVGD Voter Registration), 8:30 a.m.–3 p.m., Dover Downs Hotel Conference Center
May 4	LWVDE State Board Meeting , 6 p.m. Wayside Inn, Smyrna
May 7-8	LWVDE State Council Meeting , Sussex County
May 13	Great Decisions: The Philippines, 10 a.m.–12 noon, location to be announced.
May 19	May Luncheon and Annual Meeting , 11 a.m.-1:30 p.m. at Atwood's (formerly the Blue Coat Inn). Topic: "Privacy and the Internet In an Age of Global Terrorism," with Dr. Andrew Zimmerman, Delaware Technical and Community College. Cosponsored by Delaware Humanities Forum.
May 25	LWVGD Board Meeting, 11 a.m.-1 p.m., St. Paul's Episcopal Church in Camden

<http://go.to/lwvgd/>

City Council Election Information On LWV-GD Website

Information from candidates for mayor of the City of Dover, and for several of the City Council candidates is now available on our website.

Just go to: go.to/lwvgd/ and click on the links to "Mayoral Candidates" or "Council Candidates." And, if you live in Dover, don't forget to **vote on April 20th**.

Thanks to League member Julie Price for gathering the information for the website.



REPORT ON MARCH UNIT MEETING

HB 62: The Delaware Health Security Act

On March 17, seventeen League members and guests met with Rep. Dennis Williams (D-Wilmington) and Dr. Floyd McDowell, a former candidate for governor who has served as civic and political chair of both the Independent Party and the Reform Parties of Delaware. Other guests included Lloyd Mills, chair of the Small Business Health Care Coalition of Sussex County and Amos McCluney, chair of UAW Local 1183 Retirees.

The discussion focused on the increasing numbers of uninsured and underinsured seeking health care in Delaware. The speakers pointed out that the United States is the only developed nation without universal health care. As the cost of health care rises at a rate of 15-20% annually, growing numbers of employers are dropping health care

coverage resulting in cost shifting to individuals and emergency rooms. The solution offered was that of a state-funded single-payer system which would operate similar to Medicare and Medicaid and would lower the administrative costs of health care insurance.

HB 62 creates a health care funding authority from taxes on individuals, small business and corporations. The authority would be managed by a 15-member board and divided into four departments: administration, planning, quality assurance and benefits. The funding authority would receive policy input from each community through county boards. In setting up this system, Delaware would be following the example of Maine, the first state to adopt universal health care coverage.

Disagreements were voiced regarding the credentials of the consumer advocates on the governing boards. Mr. Mills said, however, that as the affordability of health care increasingly becomes a middle class issue, there is more interest than ever before in reform of the current financing system, especially from the small business community. HB 62 is currently in the Health and Human Services Committee chaired by Rep. Donna Stone who has shown little inclination to bring it to the floor of the House.

The League of Women Voters does not currently support the state-funded single payer approach of HB 62. The League has long supported federal legislation to fund a universal single-payer system. Those who support HB 62, however, indicated that the incremental approach has not solved the problem of access and if federal legislation is not forthcoming, the states must take the initiative.



Candidates Night

DOVER MAYORAL AND CITY COUNCIL ELECTIONS

Wednesday, April 14, 2004
7 – 9 p.m.
Palmer Room
Modern Maturity Center
Forrest Ave, Dover

Co-sponsored by LWV of Greater Dover,
the Greater Dover Committee
and the Kiwanis Club of Dover

Open to the Public

We are requesting League of Women Voters members to volunteer on the evening of the debate. The audience will pose questions to the candidates on index cards, which will be read by the moderator. We need League members to disseminate and collect the index cards. If you would like to be a part of this public service, please contact Ellen Wasfi at 734-1545.

Proposed LWVGD Bylaws Change

At the last LWVGD Annual Meeting in 2003, we agreed to change our fiscal year to match the national League's, which is July 1 to June 30. To facilitate handling the budget process, the LWVGD Board recommends moving the Annual Meeting to May. Therefore, the following proposed changes to the bylaws are presented for your information; and they will be voted on at the May 19 meeting (see article on the right). Words to be deleted are show with ~~strike-through~~, and added words are in **bold**.

Article VI: Financial Administration
Section 1, Fiscal Year – The fiscal year of the League of Women Voters of Greater Dover shall commence on the first day of ~~April~~**July** each year.

Article VII: Meeting
Section 2, Annual Meeting – An Annual Meeting shall be held between ~~March 1 and April 1~~**April 15 and June 1**, the exact date to be determined by the Board of Directors.

May Luncheon & Annual Meeting

Wednesday, May 19, 2004,
11 a.m. - 1:30 p.m.
Atwood's (formerly Blue Coat Inn), Dover

Annual Meeting Agenda

Vote on Nominating Committee Slate for LWVGD Officers 2004-2006;
Vote on 2004-2005 Proposed Budget;
Discussion and Vote on Bylaws Change;
Annual Reports;
Presentation: “**Privacy & the Internet in an Age of Global Terrorism**”
Speaker: Dr. Andrew D. Zimmerman

The meteoric rise of the Internet has made it a fixture in more than half of all US households. Is this a benign presence, empowering people by giving them a cornucopia of information about their world? Or is it a potentially hostile intruder, dominating people by taking information they may unwillingly furnish and using it to monitor their every move? Between these two possibilities lie enormous implications for people's privacy and civil liberties – so essential to a democratic society.

This program is designed to heighten awareness of the far-reaching power that the Internet and information technologies have in our lives as well as the impact of the Patriot Act on privacy and First Amendment rights.

Andrew D. Zimmerman, Ph.D., is a professor at Delaware Technical and Community College, Stanton Campus. He is an educator in Human Services Technology and coordinator of the Teaching Resource Center in Wilmington.

Please Note: A meeting announcement with a luncheon reservation form, including menu selection, will be mailed to members under separate cover.

SURJ Update: Special Commission Bill HB 358 - In House

On March 25, Delaware Speaker of the House Terry Spence introduced House Bill 358 on behalf of Stand Up for What's Right and Just (SURJ).

The bill, with 43 sponsors, would create a special commission to review Delaware's criminal justice system and make recommendations to the governor and General Assembly on reforms that can provide public safety without building more expensive prison capacity. This bill is included as one of SURJ's top priorities in its 2004-2006 Agenda (originally, it was to have been introduced as HB 304, last June).

During the week of March 29, HB 358 was released from the House Judiciary Committee and is now on the House "ready list." It was on the agenda for debate on Tuesday, April 6. Tom Eichler, SURJ executive director, is following legislative activity on the bill.

You may obtain a copy of HB 358, which includes a synopsis, by contacting Legislative Council at 744-4114. You can also read the bill and track its progress on the General Assembly's website and click on "Bill Tracking."

<http://www.legis.state.de.us/Legislature.nsf>



United Nations

UN Wrap-Up 2003

By Doris Schapira, LWVUS UN Observer

US-UN Relations and Funding

The United States' share of the UN dues (which were due in January 2003) were just approved and signed by President Bush on January 23, 2004, one day after the appropriations bill was passed by the Senate. It contains full assessments for the UN regular budget of \$322 million, and for 11 Specialized Agencies of approximately \$373 million.

It also contains \$550.2 million for anticipated assessments for United Nations peacekeeping operations. The US will also contribute \$245 million for the new UN peacekeeping mission in Liberia.

UNESCO

The US rejoined UNESCO after a 19-year absence. Earlier in the year the Director-General of UNESCO appointed Laura Bush UNESCO Honorary Ambassador for the UN Literacy Decade (2003-2012). She addressed the General Conference of UNESCO in Paris to mark the US return.

Iraq

UN inspectors were looking for weapons of mass destruction in Iraq as the year began. Hans Blix lead the search for biological and chemical weapons and Mohammed El Baradei for nuclear weapons. Before they finished the search, the US asked for a vote in the Security Council to authorize an invasion of Iraq. In March 2003, the US invaded Iraq without the approval that it was seeking from the Security Council. Some US citizens were distressed by the fact that the US was not supported at the UN on the vote about Iraq. Although some political maneuvering is always present, it is important to understand the context of the vote. The Security Council's main responsibility according to the UN Charter is the *maintenance of international peace and security*. The Preamble of the Charter starts with these words: "We the people of the United Nations determined to save succeeding generations from the scourge of war..." Countries that felt UN inspectors had not finished the job of locating "weapons of mass destruction" were therefore reluctant to vote with the United States for an invasion at that time.

In many parts of the world, UN humanitarian workers, peacekeepers, and other personnel have increasingly become targets of terrorists or targets in other people's war. The UN always has a list at headquarters of their workers who have been killed. A particularly devastating attack on UN headquarters in Iraq took place in August leaving more than 200 injured, many seriously, and 23 UN personnel killed. The dead included Sergio Vieira de Mello, a man who had contributed much to humanity. After the death of de Mello, Ramiro Lopes da Silva, United Nations Humanitarian Coordinator in Iraq was named acting Special Representative.

In September, a second bombing hit UN headquarters in Iraq killing an Iraqi policeman and wounding 19 others. A few days later the Secretary general ordered a "temporary redeployment" of staff out of Iraq.

As I write this, the UN is reconsidering its return to Iraq, a step now desired by the US.

Terrorism

Security Council Resolution 1373 established the Counter-Terrorism Committee (CTC), made up of all 15 members of the Security Council. The CTC monitors the implementation of resolution 1373 by all States and tries to increase the capability of States to fight terrorism. The UN

has many treaties on terrorism and is pushing countries to ratify them. For more information, please see the following website:

<http://www.un.org/terrorism/news/index.html>

HIV/AIDS

In 2003, five million people became infected with HIV and three million people died. In Sub-Saharan Africa, it is estimated that 26.6 million people are infected. The infection rate is also greatly increasing in China, India, Indonesia, and Russia. The total of those infected is believed to be forty-two million people.

The cost of anti-retroviral drugs has begun to come down and UN agencies have started a program to train community workers to dispense treatment. Prevention programs must also be increased now that more governments are admitting that there is a problem. It is estimated that 90% of the people living with this disease do not know that they are infected and are likely to infect others. A great number of people do not understand how HIV/AIDS is transmitted and the stigma of having the disease prevents many people from seeking help when infected.

The UN is doing a great deal, but the money raised is just a drop in the bucket compared to what is needed. Many countries that have pledged money to fight HIV/AIDS have not paid what they promised and the promised amount is far short of the Secretary General's goal. The appropriations bill mentioned in the first paragraph includes a total of \$550 million for a U.S. contribution to the "Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis, and Malaria," far less than the \$1 billion authorized last summer.

Other Health Issues

When SARS struck, the work by the World Health Organization to contain its spread, reminded us all of the quiet work it continuously performs to keep the world safe from disease.

UNIFEM Funding

The Netherlands announced that it would withdraw all funding from UNIFEM (The UN Fund for Women.). There is a budget deficit in Holland and the woman who is the new minister of development is unfamiliar with UNIFEM. She feels that the UN proper, rather than a special agency should undertake "gender mainstreaming." The amount of money is only \$4 million but it is 20% of UNIFEM's budget. The Dutch have historically been big supporters of UNIFEM. NGOs protested the cuts and now await the results of their protest.

International Criminal Court (ICC)

The US is still opposing the ICC. On June 12, 2003, the Security Council, at the behest of the US, adopted resolution 1487, which requests that the ICC not take cases for the next 12 months involving peacekeepers from countries that have not joined the court.

Peace Missions

The UN currently has 13 ongoing peace missions.

UN Conferences and Commissions

The first part of the World Summit on Information Societies (WSIS) was held in Geneva December on 10-12, 2003. The second part of the conference will take place in Tunis in 2005.

The UN Commission on the Status of Women holds its meeting every March. In 2003 the issues they addressed were: "Participation and access of women to the media and information and communication technologies and their impact on and use as an instrument for the advancement and empowerment of women" and "Women's human rights and elimination of all forms of violence against women and girls."

In 2004, they will address "The role of men and boys in achieving gender equality" and "Women's equal participation in conflict prevention, management and conflict resolution and in post-conflict peace-building." The League is well represented at these meetings.

Security Council

The new non-permanent members for 2003 were Angola, Chile, Germany, Pakistan, and Spain serving until December of 2004. In 2004, the new members of the Security Council will be Algeria, Benin, Brazil, Philippines and Romania serving until December 2005.

UN Reform

For years there has been talk about reforming the structure of the UN, which has grown tremendously since the charter was written and signed by 51 countries (it now has 191 members). This year the Secretary General has said it is time to do something because too many countries are excluded from decision making. He has established a high-level panel of "eminent personalities" to study the way the UN functions and how to restructure it to be more effective. See <http://www.un.org/apps/sg/sgstats.asp?nid=517> for his speech to the General Assembly on this matter on September 23, 2003.

Trafficking

The Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children, which is a supplement to the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime entered into force on December 25, 2003. The United States signed but has not ratified this protocol, although trafficking is a priority issue for the US government.

Fresh Water

Due to UN efforts, 1.3 billion more people now have safe water, but almost that many still have unsafe water and six thousand children die every day, from water borne diseases.

Millennium Development Goals

The UN continued with its strong push for meeting these goals. For information on these goals and the progress made see this website. <http://www.un.org/millenniumgoals/>

League UN Observers

Doris Schapira, Patty Day and Margery Cohen continue to represent the League at the UN and within the NGO UN Community. Doris serves on the UNA-USA Council of Organizations New York Board. Patty serves on the Department of Public Information Non Governmental Organization (NGO) Executive Committee and on the committees working on the issues of older persons. She is on the Board of the NGO Committee on Aging. Doris and Margery serve on the Steering Committee of the NGO Committee on UNICEF's Working Group on Girls. The observers are also members of other NGO Committees.

What Can League Members Do

League members should continue to follow these rapidly developing issues and help to inform the public about the UN and its achievements.

Environmental Update

Facts on the World's Water

§ The Earth has 1,386,000,000 km³ of water total but only 2.5% of that is fresh water (9,254,661,800 billion gallons of fresh water).

§ Less than 1% of the world's fresh water (or 0.01% of all water) is usable in a renewable fashion.

§ The average person needs to drink a minimum of 1.3 gallons of water per day to survive in a moderate climate at an average activity level. The minimum amount of water needed for drinking, cooking, bathing and sanitation is 13 gallons.

§ The average person in the United States uses between 65 to 78 gallons of water per day for drinking, cooking bathing, and watering their yard. The average person in The Netherlands uses only 27 gallons per day for the same tasks.

§ Many people in the poorest nations survive on far less than the recommended amount. The average person in Somalia uses only 2.3 gallons of water per person per day.

[*Population Press*, Vol. 9, No. 4, Fall 2003]

Do your part:



Check Box For Democracy

**Statement by Kay J. Maxwell
President, League of Women Voters of the US**

It's tax season again and Americans are agonizing over pages and pages of complicated federal tax forms. Anxious to get to the bottom line, millions of taxpayers skip over the first question, the one that asks whether you want to check the box to designate three dollars to the Presidential Election Fund.

This election year, we ask you to take that question seriously. Checking the box is important for our democracy. It funds the public financing system that allows Americans to own the presidency, rather than special interests.

It is important that taxpayers know upfront just how the Fund works. Checking the box will not increase the taxes they're paying or reduce their refund. It simply takes three dollars of the tax they've already paid and places it into the Presidential Election Fund. The size of the Fund depends entirely on the number of people who choose to check the box.

The Fund was started in 1976 as a response to the special interest funding of presidential campaigns that brought the Watergate scandal. It sought to create a political system that was open and responsive to all citizens – equally.

As the costs of campaigning have gone up, driven by the skyrocketing cost of buying television advertising, the system has eroded. In 2000, candidates from both major political parties raised enormous amounts of money outside the system and sought other ways to circumvent the limits. Last year, Congress and the Supreme Court acted to close these loopholes.

Both the candidates and voters benefit from the public financing system. Candidates receive money to help cover their campaign costs and voters are assured that fundraising rules and spending limits are followed. Last fall, the League of Women Voters joined with other national reform organizations in the Presidential Public Financing Reform Project (PPFRP) to promote improvements to the system. Some fine tuning is needed to improve the presidential election system, but the check off remains the single best way to preserve the public interest. Our political system belongs in the hands of its rightful owners – the American voters. Please do your part, check the box to protect democracy.

LWVGD Proposed Budget for 2004-2005

INCOME		2003-2004	2004-2005
Dues		\$1,360	\$1,275
Advertisements		310	450
Contributions		90	90
Fund Raisers		350	250
Education Fund		11	11
From Reserves		985	1,097
Total Income		\$3,106	\$3,173
EXPENDITURES			
Operating	Rent	100	100
	Supplies	10	10
	Hospitality	100	100
	Sunshine	30	100
Administration	President	25	25
	Secretary	10	10
	Treasurer	10	10
Board	Membership	50	100
	International Relations	10	10
Delegates	DE Convention	126	126
	US Convention	700	700
LWV PMP	State	360	337.5
	US	943	862.5
Bulletin	Postage/Printing	200	200
Education	Publications	100	100
	Programs	200	200
	Voter Services	10	10
	Scholarship*	112	112
	Committees	10	10
	Other	0	50
TOTAL		\$3,106	\$3,173
* Subject to the development of guidelines.			

Beverly Jackson, finance chair
 Ellen Wasfi, president, *ex-officio*
 Betty Wagner, treasurer, *ex-officio*

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**American Association
of University Women (AAUW)
April Meeting Announcement**

Speaker: Sr. Madeline Wright
**"Immigration Issues As They Relate
To Women & Children"**

Location: Franco's Restaurant, Lebanon Rd. Dover
 6 p.m.
Monday, April 19, 2004



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Dinner Choice: Chicken Parmesan
 Lasagna

Each meal served with bread, salad, and dessert
 (cheesecake)
 \$18.00

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Dorene Petrosky
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