



Dover Voter

The Price of Liberty Is Still Eternal Vigilance

League of Women Voters of Greater Dover, April 2008

President: Christine Stillson, 697-8600, clstillson@verizon.net

Website: <http://www.lwvgd.org>

Calendar of Events

April

- 22 LWVGD Board Meeting**
12:30 p.m., St. Paul's Episcopal Church, Old North Road at West Street, Camden
Please plan to attend!
- 23 League Day in Dover, An Energy Plan for Delaware – A Forum**
9:00 a.m.-1 p.m., the Overlook at the Duncan Center, 500 W. Loockerman Street, Dover (contact office, 571-8948)
Please plan to attend League Day in lieu of a unit meeting.
- 23 Fair Housing Event, DCRAC cosponsored by LWVGD**
6-8 p.m., NCALL Research, Inc., 363 Saulsbury Road, Dover (see Housing News, p. 7)
- 26 AAUW State Convention, Financially Fit for Life**
9 am-3 pm, The Terrace at Greenhill, 800 N. DuPont Rd., Wilmington (call 428-0939)

May

- 6 Gubernatorial Candidate Forum, DHC-sponsored, moderated by Christine Stillson**
9 a.m., Theater N, 11th & Tatnall Streets, Wilmington (see Housing News, p. 7)
- 21 LWVGD Annual Meeting, Topic: Senior Health Care Access Challenges in Delaware, Part II**
11 a.m.-2 p.m., the Overlook at the Duncan Center, 500 W. Loockerman Street, Dover
- 27 LWVGD Board Meeting**
12:30 p.m., St. Paul's Episcopal Church, Old North Road at West Street, Camden
Your participation is valued. Please attend.

The Annual Reports Section, which includes the Nominating Committee Report, Annual Budget, and changes to By Laws, Policies, and Study Items, begins on page 8. Please bring this section with you to the Annual Meeting, Wednesday, May 21.

League Day in Dover 2008 An Energy Plan for Delaware & Legislative Day

**The Overlook at the Duncan Center
500 W. Loockerman Street, Dover
April 23, 9 a.m. - 1 p.m.**

Speakers: Charlie Smisson – DE State Energy Coordinator, DE Energy Office; Phil Cherry – Director, Policy and Planning, DNREC; Mark Barteau – Chairman, University of Delaware Energy Institute; William E. Pelham, AIA, Architect, Chairman, Policy Advisory Committee for the Delaware Weatherization Program; and Tigist Zegeye, Executive Director, Wilmington Area Planning Council

Delaware's energy situation has changed so much since the Delaware Energy Task Force developed the state's short- and long-term energy plan in 2004 that it is time to update the report, and the Governor's Energy Advisory Council has already hired a consultant to help the Council in this endeavor. The League's Energy Forum and legislators day begins with registration at 9:00 a.m. followed by the program at 9:30. The program is comprised of three presentations, Energy Use and Sources in Delaware, Environmental Impact Update from Pollution Sources since 2003, What Programs Have Been Put in Place since 2003 to meet Delaware's Energy Goals? How effective have they been?, which will be followed by a panel discussion, "What Needs to be Done to Meet Delaware's Energy Goals?" Contact office: 571-8948 or lwvde@voicenet.com

League of Women Voters of Greater Dover Annual Meeting Senior Health Care Access Challenges in Delaware, Part II

**The Overlook at the Duncan Center
500 W. Loockerman Street, Dover
May 21, 11 a.m. – 2 p.m.**

This follow-up forum to our February panel on the widening gap in Delaware's senior health care services will propose remedial regulatory and legislative measures to deal with health care access deficiencies throughout the state. Panelists comprising leaders of statewide NGOs, including LWVDE, will provide seniors with a collective voice in advocating health care reform. Registration forms will be mailed at a later date.



Great Decisions – European Union at 50

The April Great Decisions meeting was postponed until May 8. Ellen Wasfi will send out information on venue later.

feted

The Delaware Multicultural and Civic Organization on April 4, 2008 presented Ellen Wasfi with the Shofar Civic Leader Award. Ellen was distinguished for her tireless and endless efforts in ensuring civil rights, justice, and public awareness for the citizens of our community.

The president's corner

As buds burst around us and leaves unfold, we are feeling rejuvenated and hopeful, and energized to take ACTION ! We are a multi-issue organization and our members are vibrant and caring about the world around us. Everyday we are presented with local, state, national and international issues that inevitably affect our daily lives. The League of Women Voters carries on a strong tradition of thoughtful study, discussion, and engagement on issues of concern to its members.

Looking back over this year's activities, we focused on several areas of both immediate and long-term concern : health care for seniors, immigration, freedom of information and civil liberties, and membership recruitment. A forum was held on the health care crisis facing an aging population, and the forum generated increased networking which may develop into a possible coalition of health care advocates on this topic. Another forum was held on the topic of the Freedom of Information Act and how that act plays out in Delaware. This forum was received so well that it will be repeated in the other two Leagues in Delaware. As part of an LWVUS project, our League participated in the Immigration Study and Consensus with a forum and two follow up meetings. These culminated in the

submission of our League's consensus on several of the LWVUS prepared questions, and adding our own comments on areas of disagreement. Please look for the new LWVUS position on Immigration in this newsletter. Thanks to all who participated !

Selected by LWVUS as one of eight states/leagues to participate in the national Membership Recruitment Initiative, the three Leagues in Delaware have been aggressively carrying out the recruitment model provided by Phase I of the LWVUS League's goal to help increase membership in Leagues across the country ! And LWVGD is doing its part in steadily increasing its membership.

In addition to these various forums and initiatives, we are also involved in collaborating with the LWV of Delaware, LWV of Sussex, and LWV of New Castle counties on the topics of Global Warming, Energy issues in Delaware, housing issues, prison reform, land use issues, and the broader environmental issues. Locally, our well attended Great Decisions group covered a variety of topics of international concern.

None of these activities take place without tremendous individual hard work and commitment

and teamwork. Your donations of time and labor, in addition to your financial contributions help keep this League strong and active. Thanks to all who work so very hard on League activities !

Please be sure to note the annual reports in this issue, along with the Proposed Budget and the

Nominating Committee's report. And please remember to put our League's Annual Meeting on your calendar: May 21, 2008. Details are included in this newsletter.

Yours in League,
Christine L. Stillson, President
697-8600 (H) 674-1963 (W)

Hope Clinic Monthly Voter Registration

The Hope Clinic at Dover's Modern Maturity Center has requested that LWV Greater Dover register voters at their facility each month on a regular basis, and Charlotte Hunt, Voter Registration, remains willing to do so on Thursdays. **Registrars are needed to assist** on a more-or-less regular schedule. Contact Charlotte at 734-3268 or e-mail cmhunt2004@aol.com.

Reports

Immigration Study Follow-up

The LWVUS Board of Directors unanimously adopted the League's position on immigration which calls for a path to citizenship for current unauthorized immigrants, provides for federal enforcement of immigration laws and full due process rights for immigrants. State and local Leagues may oppose efforts in their communities to deport, detain or harass unauthorized immigrants who have no history of serious criminal activity. The position follows in its entirety:

LWVUS IMMIGRATION POSITION

The League of Women Voters believes that immigration policies should promote reunification of immediate families; meet the economic, business and employment needs of the United States; and be responsive to those facing political persecution or humanitarian crises. Provision should also be made for qualified persons to enter the U.S. on student visas. All persons should receive fair treatment under the law.

The League supports federal immigration law that provides an efficient, expeditious system (with minimal or no backlogs) for legal entry of immigrants into the U.S.

To complement these goals the League supports federal policies to improve economies, education, job opportunities, and living conditions in nations with large emigrating populations.

In transition to a reformed system, the League supports provisions for unauthorized immigrants already in the country to earn legal status

The League supports federal payments to impacted communities to address the financial costs borne by states and local governments with large immigrant populations.

Criteria for Legal Admission to the U.S.

The League supports the following criteria for legal admission of persons into the United States:

- Family reunification of spouses or minor children with authorized immigrants or citizens;
- Flight from persecution or response to humanitarian crises in home countries;
- Economic, business and employment needs in the U.S.;
- Education and training needs of the U.S.;
- Educational program opportunities; and
- Lack of a history of serious criminal activity.

Administration and Enforcement

The League supports due process for all persons, including the right to a fair hearing, right to counsel, right of appeal and right to humane treatment.

The League supports:

- Improved technology to facilitate employer verification of employee status;
- Verification documents, such as status cards and work permits, with secure identifiers;
- Significant fines and penalties for employers who hire unauthorized workers;
- Improved technology for sharing information among federal agencies;
- More effective tracking of individuals who enter the United States; and
- Increased personnel at borders.

The League also supports programs allowing foreign workers to enter and leave the U.S. to meet seasonal or sporadic labor needs.

Unauthorized Immigrants Already in the U.S.

In achieving overall policy goals, the League supports a system for unauthorized immigrants already in the country to earn legal status, including citizenship, by paying taxes, learning English, studying civics and meeting other relevant criteria. While policy reforms, including a path to legal status, remain unachieved, the League does not support deporting unauthorized immigrants who have no history of criminal activity.

From LWVUS website

FOIA Update

The LWVGD held the first in a series of open-government events on March 27 at the Dover City Council chambers, a forum devoted to the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA). There were about sixty in attendance

The program was in two parts. Part One was a Power Point® presentation by Dr. Margaret McKay, Chair, LWVDE FOIA Project. Among the more important points Dr. McKay made were explaining how, in accordance with Delaware's open-records laws, to determine: what kinds of records are avail, who is eligible to request records, which ones are "public" and in what format, how to access them, what's the cost, how long a wait period, and what recourse is available when requests are rejected. Also discussed were Delaware's open-meetings laws: rules covering agenda announcements, agenda amendments, Executive Sessions, accessing meeting minutes and open-meeting violations, and the role of the Delaware Department of Justice in implementing these FOIA laws. Dr. McKay concluded by identifying the strengths and weaknesses in Delaware's FOIA laws and describing the FOIA bills that are currently being considered in the General Assembly.

Part Two consisted of a panel of open-government experts: Nicholas DiPasquale, Conservation Chair, Delaware Audubon; Judy Oken Hodas, Deputy Attorney General, Delaware Dept of Justice; Senator Karen Peterson, D-Stanton, and Cecil Wilson, Past President, National Association for the Advancement of Colored People.

Mr. DiPasquale address his experience with bringing more open government to the Delaware DNREC during his tenure as secretary, as well as the need for more openness throughout state government. Ms. Oken Hodas' remarks focused on the Attorney General office's responsibilities.

Senator Peterson discussed open-government legislation she has sponsored and her efforts to bring open-government legislation before the state Senate. Mr. Wilson explained the historic lawsuit filed by the NAACP against the Dover Public School District, which relied on researching records.

As part of the FOIA Project, the LWVDE endorsed seven of the current FOIA bills in the Delaware State legislature. An OP ED article by the LWVDE president, Rashmi Rangan, appeared in the March 22, 2008 issue of *The News Journal*.

*Mickey McKay
FOIA Program Chair*

UN CTUAN Conference

On February 1, 2008 a bus trip departed Dover for the 10th annual UN Committee on Teaching About the United Nations (CTUAN) Conference at the UN Headquarters in NYC, with 33 attendees onboard. This year's title was "Teaching and Learning in an Independent World," and topics covered were: (1) Climate Change: Rethinking the World We Share; (2) Moving Towards Intercultural Understanding; and (3) Implementation Strategies for the Classroom and Community. Ruth Johnson, UN Chair, LWVGD and LWVDE, arranged the trip.

The program was focused on teaching and learning in an interdependent world and what it means to live in a global society. The many excellent presenters discussed diverse topics, e.g. "Abraham's Vision," a conflict transformation organization that deals with Palestinian-Israeli issues; children's literacy; Concern Worldwide, which works with health and education in 28 countries; Cool Globes, which addresses global warming; problems in Darfur; and Rainforest Alliance, which is working to conserve biodiversity.

In this 10th annual conference CTAUN continued its search for practical solutions to these issues for use in classrooms around the globe. All are invited to join in the dialogue, and as Vice President Al Gore wrote in 2006, "Inconvenient truths do not go away because they are not seen. Indeed, when they are not responded to, their significance doesn't diminish; it grows."

*Ruth Johnson
UN Representative*

MEMBERSHIP

League's Legacy to Me – A Story Bank Contribution by Mickey McKay

A neighbor introduced me to the LWV in 1960 shortly after my fourth child was born. Twenty years later, years of League activity, a fifth child, 14 years of schooling, widowhood and single motherhood, I received my PhD in political science from the University of California. I've enjoyed 25 years of university teaching and research. I'm indebted largely to my League experiences and the women who encouraged and inspired me to pursue my ambitions. I was an unlikely candidate for such a future. I was a high school drop out, a young mother with three children, pregnant with the fourth and thoroughly engaged in motherhood. League members were extraordinarily helpful, often feeding my babies during the unit-meetings held at my house to accommodate my family responsibilities. Through the League's encouragement I performed in several roles: chairing two finance

drives, Publicity Chair, Voter Service Chair and Local School-Finance study group and City Council Observer. I wrote a series of newspaper articles describing League activities and services. California's penchant for ballot propositions gave me lots of opportunities to acquire speaking skills through the League's Speakers Bureau. League experiences inspired me to resume and pursue my education. Community college enabled me to arrange courses between parental responsibilities. Three years later I transferred to San Diego State University. After earning my BA in 1971, I moved on to university. A month later, my husband died of a heart attack. League members gave me the support and encouragement to continue my studies. I received my doctorate in 1979. Without the League and members' support I would not have had the vision, inspiration and drive to pursue my higher education goals. Without the enriching experiences and self confidence that League activities provided me, I would not have had the skills and drive to fulfill my dream.

Spotlight on Members

New Members' Contact Information

Jenny (Jenny) and Floyd Harris

410 Alder Road
Dover 19904
678-2381

fjharris@aol.com

Betty Ipnar

1327 Hickory Ridge Road
Smyrna 19977
659-5737

albe1327@juno.com

New Members' Biographies

The League of Women Voter welcomes four new members: Jennifer and Floyd Harris, Betty Ipnar and Jill Ipnar.

Jennifer Harris

Jenny Harris joined the League in February. Two years ago she and her husband, Floyd, retired from teaching in California and moved to the East coast to be near their children and grandchildren. Jenny had been a special educa-

Jill Ipnar

142 Lake Drive
Smyrna 19977
659-0811

jill.ipnar@verizon.net

Change in Contact Information

Nona McNatt. Change home address: 1940 Mitten Street, © 382-2003

tion teacher and, as such she had a "very hands on experience with no child left behind." She

was also chair for her department and an elected member of both the local and state teachers' unions. Her hobbies include genealogical research, quilting, reading, walking and spending time with her children and grandchildren.

Floyd Harris

Floyd Harris also joined the League in February. He has been a teacher of special needs

teens nearly all his career life. He worked with at-risk high schoolers in New York for 23 years, then moved to California, allegedly in retirement. After a year of trying other jobs, he went back to teaching, this time with gang kids in local schools. He did this for 10 years, then was offered a buyout he couldn't refuse. So to Delaware, again in reluctant retirement. He and Jenny have been here going on three years.

Personal interests include following politics, outdoor activities like fishing, especially with a grandchild in tow. He loves riding his motorcycle and playing golf. He enjoys meeting people of all ages. His greatest joy is time spent with one or more of his six kids and eleven grandkids.

Betty Ipnar

Betty Ipnar joined the League in February after attending the Membership Tea. She has lived in Delaware for eight years. With two years of training as a social worker, she has used her skills with Hospice, also as a volunteer with the visually impaired, with mentally challenged adults, and as a shopping aide. She enjoys reading, as well as history and politics, also "what makes people tick, their goals and motivations."

Jill Ipnar

Jill Ipnar also joined the League after attending the Membership Tea. A Pennsylvania native, she has lived in nine states since 1988 and has been employed with the State of Delaware for fifteen years, starting as a secretary doing payroll and benefits for the Smyrna School District.

Her current position is in the Office of Management and Budget as Benefits Manager of the State's HR/ Payroll System. She also has her own business as a Discovery Toys Consultant. She is very interested in education, especially public education, and enjoys seeing educational toys get into the hands of children. In 1988 she was elected to the Smyrna School Board and spent five rewarding years on the Board. Jill also works as a very active poll worker for Kent County and serves in all kinds of elections. As a member of the League, she is looking forward to educating people about the importance of voting and being involved in local, state and national politics.

Please welcome our new members and help them to get involved in our activities. The more we all get involved, the more interesting and effective our League can be. Our Board meetings are held the fourth Tuesday of each month at 12:30 p.m. in St. Paul's Episcopal Church, across the street from Caesar Rodney High School, in Camden. All members are invited to attend. Don't forget that all spouses/ partners are welcome to join the League also. New members: Please don't wait to be asked. I encourage you to offer your help and your skills in whichever activities you are interested. You will find the contact information on activities/ "portfolios " in the Membership Guide. If you haven't received one, please call me at 284-4565.

*Carol Reid-Grandfield
Membership Chair*

Environmental Update

Excerpts From "Thoughts Facing a New Year"

by Al Denio, Chair, Pollution Committee, Delaware Sierra Club

Global Warming – As a chemist I am convinced by the data, tons of it, that the problem is real and must be faced...We are trying to reduce our energy use at home and plan to purchase a new refrigerator and dishwasher. Our next car will be more efficient. We have already purchased...CFLs. The traditional incandescent bulb converts 95% of its energy input into heat.

We may even need to build new and safer nuclear plants to replace present...plants...I support the proposed ocean-based wind farm but doubt that it can adequately meet all our power needs. Before we go down the nuclear road we must solve the waste storage problems and replace the pro-industry NRC with a Nuclear

Safety Board that is fully funded and given the power to shut down plants deemed unsafe.

The Delaware River – Those...who want to dredge...want us to pay the bill to help them make more money. They care not about aquatic life when it comes to their bottom line.... The three nuclear plants near Salem, N.J., suck in huge volumes of water and, in the process, kill millions of fish and other life forms...the Valero Refinery in Delaware City also kills a lot of aquatic life, along with duPont's Edgemoor Pigments Plant and the Conectiv Power Plant. We need legislation passed to mandate cooling towers for those Delaware facilities.

Recycling – I hope you do it! Let me give you one reason why we recycle. When an aluminum can is recycled, it takes only 5% of the energy to melt and reuse it compared to the energy used to extract the

same weight of the material from bauxite, the ore that is used.

Other Problems in Delaware –

- The Indian River Power Plant of NRG is a leading health threat and needs to be replaced...in the short term, the best available control technology should be added to reduce mercury and sulfur dioxide emissions.
- The duPont dioxin waste pile near the Edgemoor Pigments Plant is still there. We must urge DNREC to order the waste sent to a licensed hazardous waste landfill.
- Wilmington must speed up the redesign/retrofit of its sewage system so waste is not sent to the Brandywine River during heavy rains.

I fear that my thoughts may have driven you to drink, for which I apologize. However, the bottom line is that we all need to reduce our energy consumption in the year ahead and urge our governmental representatives to do the same.

My motto for 2008: Energy is too good to waste!

*Carol Reid-Grandfield
Environment*

Housing News

On May 6th, the Delaware Housing Coalition is holding the first of two statewide forums for gubernatorial candidates. The forum will feature John Carney and Jack Markell, and will be moderated by Christine Stillson, Housing Programs Director for the First State Resource Conservation and Development Council. The forum will take place in Wilmington, at Theater N, 11th and Tatnall Streets in Wilmington. The Theatre is handicapped accessible. Registration and continental breakfast will begin at 9 a.m. and the forum will start shortly thereafter. Both candidates have received three questions to which they will be ready to respond. Members of the audience may write questions for the candidates which will be presented by the moderator. Plan to attend this opportunity to become more familiar with the candidates' and their positions of interest to the housing community.

With the great concern about mortgage foreclosures, economic issues and state budget cuts, funding for many housing related projects serving low income families may be reduced dramatically in the coming year. Housing advocates and the public may attend and testify at the upcoming Bond Bill Hearing on Delaware's Housing Development Fund which provides important financial support for many projects working with the housing needs of the at risk, homeless and low income populations. This important hearing will be held at 10 a.m., April 28 in the Joint Finance Committee Conference Room

Hearing Room, ground floor in Legislative Hall in Dover. Please plan to attend.

Several Fair Housing Forums on Mortgage Foreclosures are being scheduled in all three counties over the next few weeks. One will be held in Dover, sponsored by Delaware Community Reinvestment Action Council (DCRAC) and co-sponsored by LWVGD. It will take place at the NCALL building on Walker Road on April 23, 2008 from 6:00 to 8:00 p.m.. Please plan to attend in support of this important informational opportunity for citizens in jeopardy of losing their homes. Rashmi Rangan, Executive Director of DCRAC, said, "Our goal is to raise awareness of fair housing issues and bring focus to impediments of the Fair Housing Act. During our events last year, many cutting edge fair housing issues were brought to our attention. We have an obligation to respond. These forums are designed to continue that dialogue."

Christine Stillson

Tips

LEARN ABOUT YOUR LAWMAKERS ONLINE

It doesn't take a trip to Washington to get to know your lawmaker. Here are some things you can learn online.

1. Who is your representative?

Using your ZIP code, you can check Project Vote Smart (www.vote-smart.org) for the names of your current lawmakers.

2. What's your lawmaker's background?

Web sites for the U.S. Senate (www.senate.gov) and House of Representatives (www.house.gov) have links to lawmakers' official biographies, their committees, phone numbers and mailing addresses.

3. Where does your lawmaker get his/her campaign money?

The Center for Responsive Politics (www.opensecrets.org) analyzes how much of a candidate's campaign money came from political action committees versus individuals, as well as other information. Click on "Members of Congress" and follow the menu options.

4. How much is your lawmaker worth?

The information is available at the Center for Responsive Politics (www.opensecrets.org). Click on "Members of Congress," then search by name. When your lawmaker's page comes up, click on "Personal Finances" on left.

5. What's your lawmaker's voting record?

Project Vote Smart (www.vote-smart.org) compiles lawmakers' votes by year and issue. To see all votes, go to www.senate.gov and www.house.gov.

6. Who pays for your lawmaker's trips?

Go to the Center for Responsive Politics' travel database (www.opensecrets.org/travel) and click on "Search for People," then follow the menu options.

7. What bills has your lawmaker sponsored?

Check the Library of Congress (<http://thomas.loc.gov>).
Adapted from *The Wilmington News-Journal*, March

17, 2008.

Annual Reports

Nominating Committee Report, 2009-2011

Committee Members: Peggy Swygert, Chair;
Ruth Bochnowski, and Gina Miserendino

The following slate is presented:

Officers

2nd Vice-President – Jean Bauer
Treasurer – Beverly Jackson

Directors

Health Care (2009-2011) – Mary Torsch
Local Government/FOIA (2009-2011) – Margaret McKay
Publications (2009-2011) – Ruth Johnson

Portfolios

Public Relations – Jill Ipnar

Nominating Committee

Gina Miserendino, Chair; Ruth Bochnowski,
Peggy Swygert, Ted Torsch

*Respectfully submitted,
Peggy Swygert, Chair*

Proposed Changes to By Laws, Policy, & Study Items

By Laws

One change proposed: Change name to
“League of Women Voters of Kent County.”
Proposal to change the name of the organization
to show geographical area of Kent County,
rather than greater Dover.

Local Policy

Four changes proposed:

- Page 1, under Membership, add as the second item:
“Annual member dues are payable beginning July 1 each year.”
- To the next item add the phrase: “to maintain membership.”
- As a new fourth item, add the following:
“New Members joining between April 1 and June 30 will have dues applied for the following fiscal year.”

- Page 2, under Finance, add a new third item as follows:

“Letters may be sent to individuals and businesses in Kent County to encourage contributions, mention activities, explain difference between Education Fund and General Fund.”

Study Items

One addition proposed:

**“ALTERNATIVE ENERGY SOURCES
Examine and study ‘green solutions’ for energy and environmental issues, to include wind power, solar power, and recycling, among others.”**

Environment

The League of Women Voters of Greater Dover’s (LWVGD) study of the environment rests in the Cool Cities Committee, which was formed as a partnership between the LWVGD and the Delaware Sierra Club in Kent County. With interest in climate change and its affects on our environment growing dramatically, the members on this team now number 14, including a handful who help on an *ad hoc* basis.

We had worthwhile successes this past year.

- With the technical know-how, time and efforts of one of our members, Ted Torsch, we had a successful energy exhibit on March 2 at Picnic for Peace’s Energy Forum at Boscov’s.
- Presently members are working on preparing a dollhouse for a “green solutions” tabling exhibit.
- Members are also preparing for an even more successful Children’s Art Exhibit this year for Old Dover Days. Look for us near The Green on May 3!

Failing is part of learning, and we ourselves squelched some of our planned activities before they got off the ground.

- Producing and selling cloth shopping bags to help replace plastic bags. (Merchants have started doing it for us, and at a better price.)
- Hosting another film festival, or more of them on a smaller scale than last year’s. (We waited till the new list of Sierra Club films came out af-

ter January 1 and found it disappointingly short, with few new films.)

- Another attempt to have a “green solutions” energy booth at the State Fair. (Getting a booth would, once again, be a long shot, as no provisions are made for non-profit organizations, which are charged the same entry fee as for-profit organizations, and the Board of the Delaware Sierra Club was unresponsive.)

Thanks to all who joined us in our efforts !!

*Carol Reid-Grandfield
Environmental Portfolio*

Website

The LWVGD has a new web address: www.lwvgd.org. The calendar is up-to-date, and the website is the place to check for any changes or news items that occur between issues of *The Voter*. The site also contains an archive of issues of *The Voter* and information about League programs and policies. We always need articles and ideas; so if you have any items you'd like posted on the LWVGD website, please send them to Christine Stillson for approval, and she will forward them for posting.

*Joan and Fred Breukelman
Website Committee*

United Nations

Cost Effectiveness of Multilateral UN Peacekeeping vs. Unilateral U.S. Efforts

Studies by the U.S. Government Accountability Office (GAO) and the Rand Corporation demonstrate that UN peacekeeping is both cheaper and more effective at restoring peace in war-torn nations than missions conducted by the United States alone.

Increasing UN Expenditures Reflects Growing Need

The UN's administrative budget has more than doubled since 2000, and the peacekeeping budget has nearly tripled. Why? During the Clinton and Bush administrations, the UN Security Council has voted to authorize more and bigger peacekeeping missions to restore peace and stability in places like the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC), Sudan, Chad, Lebanon, Somalia, and Haiti. More than 110,000 peacekeepers are now serving in 20 missions addressing 17 conflicts around the world.

UN Secretary General Ban Ki Moon has stepped up the UN's political presence around the world in order to respond faster and more

effectively to crisis. For instance, last month, the Secretary General unveiled plans to increase the number of diplomats working in "global hot spots" to prevent and resolve crisis before they turn to deadly conflict.

In short, the UN is doing more to prevent conflicts and restore peace in war torn states at a comparatively modest price—\$12.2 billion for FY08 (includes UN administrative and peace-keeping budgets). That's less than the U.S. spends on the Iraq war in two months.

U.S. is Largest Debtor to the UN, Owing Nearly \$2.8 Billion

Despite voting to authorize UN peacekeeping missions around the world and rhetorical support for expanding the UN's diplomatic presence, the U.S. government continually underfunds the UN. By implementing President Bush's recent budget request for FY 2009, Congress would short fund the UN by \$600 million, putting total U.S. debt to the UN at nearly \$2.8 billion. Senators are putting together their funding requests for the upcoming fiscal year. Now is the time to contact your senators and let them know how you feel about the U.S.'s \$2.8 billion in arrears at the UN.

Adapted from *Friends Committee on National Legislation - A Quaker Lobby in the Public Interest*, March 28, 2008

*Ruth Johnson
UN Representative*

Membership

Membership has been chaired during this 2007 - 2008 year by Carol Reid-Grandfield, assisted by her team of Ruth Johnson, Peggy Swygert and Mary Snyder. They have stepped in to help with welcoming guests at meetings, providing refreshments, guiding sign-in of members and guests and brain-storming ideas for increasing membership. With their help, Prameela Kaza has rejoined LWVGD, and we have recruited 11 new members as of April 1, bringing our membership to 57. The new members are Mary Snyder, Judith Rennick, Nicholas DiPasquale, Marilyn Bounds, Raymond Grandfield, Irving Levitt, Betty Ipnar, Gwendolyn Elliott, Floyd Harris, Jennifer Harris, and Jill Ipnar. We also have two Members Emeritus, Mary Lou Beatman and Loraine Godshall.

Soon after Carol assumed her position as Membership Chair at the Annual Meeting last May, the State Board approved the LWVDE's applying to participate in Part II of a National pilot program, the Membership Recruitment Ini-

tiative (MRI), designed to help leagues increase their membership. Each state participating was required to have two State Membership Chairs, and Sandy Spence of LWVSC, and Carol Reid-Grandfield stepped forward. Of the 17 states that applied, five were chosen, including Delaware. Training was intensive—3 days in Lansdowne, VA, for the State Chairs and a full day of training in Dover for State and Local League officers and all those who would be involved in building membership. Each of us started our adventure with a handbook and a CD and lots of support from the National Office. Our commitments included lots of use of “messaging” (using statements like, “The League of Women Voters is where hands-on work to safeguard democracy leads to civic improvement. Join the League, where leaders are actively engaged in effecting change at the local, state and national levels,” “the ask,” which stresses the necessity of asking prospects to join the League, encouraging members to write down their personal stories for the Storybank, and devoting many hours to meetings and doing reports. Gradually we got the hang of it.

The three Local Leagues worked together on the Membership team’s first major activity, Bill of Rights Day, which was held at the Delaware Archives in Dover on Saturday, December 15. We asked the Delaware ACLU and AAUW to be co-sponsors, and we chose Drewry Fennell, Executive Director of ACLU Delaware, and Russ McCabe, State Archivist and Director of the Delaware Public Archives, to be our keynote speakers. The event was a big hit, well attended, and received good press coverage. Many attendees suggested that we do it again next year.

Another special event put on by Membership was the LWVGD’s annual Mid-Winter Membership Tea, held also to celebrate the League of

Women Voter’s 88th birthday (It’s actually February 14), held at the beautiful lakeside home of Sue Schmittinger, one of our members, on Saturday, February 9. It was well attended, beautiful, fun and resulted in two more new members.

During the year, to aid our existing members and to help recruit more, LWVGD got a new web site: lwvgd.org. We lost one of our team’s best planners and enthusiasts and an important element to the success of our MRI efforts, Marlene Naylor, the Publicity Chair, who suddenly passed away in November. Our Dover Voter editor, Jean Bauer, agreed to pinch hit in Marlene’s absence, until one of our newest recruits, Jill Ipnar stepped in to begin fulfilling the Publicity Chair’s activities in April. We are delighted she will continue as Publicity Chair during the upcoming year.

A big THANKS to our existing and our new members for your devotion to the League, for helping to grow the League membership, and for all your hands-on work to safeguard democracy.

*Carol Reid-Grandfield
Membership Chair*

“They Represent You,” A Directory of Elected Officials

Despite having it completed and proofed, we were unable to get our often-requested publication printed and distributed this year. Our former corporate sponsor, Boscov’s, has had a change of policy and is no longer supporting our efforts, so before we can again publish an edition, we shall need to find other sources of funding. Much gratitude to Charlotte Hunt, Ruth Johnson, Betty Wagner, and Ellen Wasfi for their assistance with this project.

*Jean Bauer
Editor*

Fiscal Reports

LWVGD ANNUAL REPORT

July 1, 2007 – April 11, 2008

Balance in Checking Account, July 1, 2007		\$3,266.77
INCOME		
Dues	\$2,060.00	
Advertising	40.00	
Contributions	752.00	
Fundraisers	192.00	
LWVGD Ed Fund	361.00	
Luncheons	<u>768.00</u>	
TOTAL INCOME	\$4,158.00	\$7,424.77
EXPENSES		
Treasurer	\$ 22.50	
Membership	149.82	
LWVUS-PMP	1,294.80	
Postage	9.84	
Publications	110.70	
Programs	89.86	
Debates	<u>1,781.60</u>	
TOTAL EXPENDITURES	\$3,459.12	
Balance in Checking Account, April 11, 2008		\$3,604.65
Balance in LWVGD Education Fund		361.00

LWVGD PROPOSED BUDGET 2008-2009

INCOME	
Dues	\$ 3,150 ¹
Advertisements	650 ²
Contributions	7,000 ³
Fund Raisers	600
Education Fund	500
TOTAL INCOME	\$11,900
EXPENSES	
Operating:	
Rent	\$ 135
Supplies	20
Hospitality	100
Sunshine/Remembrance	85
Administration:	
President	50
Secretary	50
Treasurer	50
Board:	
Membership	250
International Relations	15
Delegates:	
LWVDE Council/Convention	105
LWVUS Council/Convention	1,100
PMP:	
LWVDE	630
LWVUS	1,960 ⁴
Dover Voter/Flyers/Membership Guide:	
Postage	300
Printing	300
Education:	
Publications	150
Programs	300
Voter Service: ⁵	
Debates	3,500
Directory of Elected Officials	2,600
Voter Registration	200
Committees	50
Other	50
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$ 11,900

1 Dues increase to \$45

2 Ad prices raised to \$35 & \$50

3 Campaign to raise funds for underwriting Voter Service Debates & Directory

4 Anticipated increase by LWVUS

5 Debates (Advertising & Sound System) Directory (Printing of 1500 copies)

*Respectfully submitted,
Betty Wagner, Treasurer
Beverly Jackson, Finance Chair*

