



# Dover Voter

The Price of Liberty Is Still Eternal Vigilance

## League of Women Voters of Greater Dover, March 2004

President: Ellen Wasfi, 734-1545, [ewasfi@aol.com](mailto:ewasfi@aol.com)

Newsletter: Jean Bauer, 698-1601, [bauerbj2@prodigy.net](mailto:bauerbj2@prodigy.net)

Website: <http://go.to/lwvgd> or [de.lwv.org](http://de.lwv.org)

### Calendar

<b>March 17</b>	<b>Unit Meeting</b> , The Delaware Health Security Act, Rep. Dennis P. Williams. 11 am, Atwood's, Dover
<b>March 23</b>	<b>Board Meeting</b> . 11 am, St. Paul's Episcopal Church, Camden
<b>March 24</b>	<b>League Day in Dover</b> . Accessing Health Services - The Good, The Bad, the Ugly Fiscal Reality!, Philip P. Soulé, Sr., Deputy Director, Division of Social Services; Anthony Brazen, DO, MBA, Medical Director, Medicaid; Lauren Delpino, Manager of Patient Access, St. Francis Hospital
<b>April 8</b>	<b>Great Decisions</b> . The Phillippines, 10:00 am
<b>April 13</b>	<b>State Board</b> . 6 pm, The Wayfarer, Smyrna
<b>April 14</b>	<b>Candidates' Night. Dover Mayoral Elections</b> , MMC, Dover
<b>April 20</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <b>Dover Mayoral Elections</b> . REMEMBER TO VOTE!
<b>April 25</b>	<b>March for Women's Lives</b> . Washington, DC
<b>April 27</b>	<b>Board Meeting</b> . 11 am, St. Paul's Episcopal Church, Camden
<b>April 30</b>	<b>4<sup>th</sup> Annual Living Well with HIV</b> , Voter Registration Table. 8:30 am-3 pm, Dover Downs Hotel and Conference Center, Dover
<b>May 4</b>	<b>State Board</b> . 6 pm, The Wayfarer, Smyrna
<b>May 7-8</b>	<b>State Council</b> . Sussex County will be our venue. Details to appear in the <i>State Voter</i> , or see the state website, <a href="http://www.de.lwv.org">www.de.lwv.org</a> .
<b>May 25</b>	<b>Board Meeting</b> . 11 am, St. Paul's Episcopal Church, Camden

current system of health care coverage for Delaware citizens. It notes that about 100,000 Delawareans have no health insurance and an equal number have inadequate health coverage. Its supporters point out that the number of working uninsured in the state is expected to increase significantly over the next decade. The cosponsors also express their concern that the present health care insurance system has taken medical decisions away from health care professionals and placed them into the hands of insurance company administrators.

HB 62 proposes a non-government-run program and cost-effective single-payer health care system to be administered by a 15-member Delaware Health Security Board comprised of representatives from the public sector and consumer organizations. It will include a County Advisory Council in all three counties.

In light of LWV support for a government-run single payer system, we are interested in learning more about this innovative approach to expanding access to health care coverage. The bill is currently in committee.

Examination of this proposal will not only broaden our perspective on single payer health care coverage alternatives, it will also provide pertinent background information for the League Day in Dover program, "Accessing Health Services - The Good, The Bad, the Ugly Fiscal Reality!" Details are listed below, beneath "State."

Lunch is on a pay-as you go basis.

\*Formerly the Blue Coat Inn

### March Unit Meeting

**THE DELAWARE HEALTH SECURITY ACT,**  
REP. DENNIS P. WILLIAMS (D-WILMINGTON)

*Luncheon at Atwood's,\* Dover*  
*Wednesday, March 17, 11:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.*

In March 2003, Rep. Dennis Williams, together with four other cosponsors, introduced HB 62, the Delaware Health Security Act, to the 142nd General Assembly. The bill is a response to the program and cost ineffectiveness of the

## LOCAL NEWS

### Linda Chick

We are very proud to congratulate League member Linda Chick, for being honored by two statewide women's groups for her extensive community service efforts to improve the quality of life for all Delaware citizens,

especially its children. The Delaware Commission for Women recognized Linda's achievements at a March 17 dinner at the Bay Center at Dewey Beach, and she will be recognized at the International Women's Day Dinner, May 3, at the Sheraton in Dover.

### LWVGD Annual Meeting

Note that the League of Women Voters of Greater Dover will be holding its annual meeting this year in May instead of March to conform with changes in the fiscal year which were approved at the annual meeting in March 2003.

The proposed budget for 2004-2005 will appear in the April *Voter*, and all annual reports will appear in the May *Voter*.

### A VOTER SERVICE OPPORTUNITY!!

#### *The 4<sup>th</sup> Living-Well-With-HIV Conference*

To volunteer to work at the Voter Registration Table, call Charlotte Hunt, 734-3268. The conference is 8:30 a.m. - 3 p.m., April 20, Dover Downs Hotel and Conference Center, Dover.

### 4<sup>th</sup> Annual Living Well with HIV Conference

The conference will be held on April 30. Registration and continental breakfast are scheduled between 8:30 and 9:30 a.m., with welcoming remarks by Dan DiGuglielmo, Executive Director, Wellness Foundation of Delaware, and Margaret Rose Henry, Delaware State Senator, following in Ballroom C between 9:30 and 10:00. Breakout sessions will discuss various aspects of coping with HIV, from the perspectives of infected persons, social contacts, and caregivers.

### March for Women's Lives

LWVUS is one of 700 organizations sponsoring this march, and LWVDE is a local cosponsor. LWV as well as Planned Parenthood are organizing buses for local participants, with pick up points at various locations in the state. The cost is \$50 per person for transportation and activist gear. Individuals wishing to sign up may do so on the Planned Parenthood website, PPDel.org or by calling Ellen Wasfi, 734-1545. Should you have questions about the March, please contact LWVUS Grassroots Lobbying Coordinator Diana Onken at donken@lwv.org or (202) 263-1328.

The March for Women's Lives staff has created an online form to register delegations. A delegation is defined as a group of 20 or more people marching together. Signing up your delegation is essential for planning, especially for the assembly of delegations on the mall. Instructions about how to march with the League,

whether you are organizing a delegation or not, follow.

Please help the League increase its visibility at the March. Bring your League banners and wear your League gear - t-shirts, buttons, hats - to the March. You may also consider bringing some pro-choice signs or banners with you. The LWVUS March for Women's Lives Toolkit is currently available in the members' only section of the League Web site. The Toolkit contains a sample flyer to hang in your community, a sample Voter article and other helpful materials to help you mobilize for the March. Click <<http://interactive.lwv.org/Resources/ResourcesList.cfm?c=94&num=1000>> to access the Toolkit online. Please note that you will be prompted for a user ID (lwv) and a password (carriecat) after clicking the above link.

## LOCAL REPORTS

### LWVG Primary Election Night Reporting

Several League members participated in primary election night reporting as a fundraiser for the League. The service was provided for Edison Media Research and Mitofsky International, a company commissioned by ABC News, CBS News, CNN, Fox News, NBC News, the Associated Press and other national and local media to provide election data and analysis for the presidential primary election. The State League receives reimbursement for each polling place covered, and a portion of those funds is remitted to local leagues.

### February Unit Meeting – Redistricting In Dover

Guest speakers Janice Green, City Clerk of the City of Dover and Thomas Leary, former Councilman and current Chair of the City of Dover Board of Elections provided a small group of League members and a guest with a wealth of information on the history of redistricting in Dover. They also discussed the current redistricting process.

Ms. Green pointed out that in 1985 the NAACP filed a law suit against the city claiming that minorities were not adequately represented on City Council under an electoral system whereby all voters in city elections voted for all council seats regardless of the district in which they lived. In 1986, Council realigned Council districts based on the U.S. Census figures for the purpose of equalizing population in each district in accordance with federal guidelines. These new districts were used for the 1987 and 1988 City Elections. It wasn't until 1988 that Council approved Charter amendments (in accordance with the NAACP Consent Decree) to realign the four (4) districts to assure one (1) district would contain at least 65% minority voters AND provide for district voting, with one (1) member being elected at-large. These changes became effective beginning with the 1989 City Election. Voters could now only vote for their own two district representatives. There would be one at-large council seat representing all the voters in the city.

A further adjustment to Dover's electoral process was instituted in 1989 when voters could register to vote in city elections at the same time as they registered to vote in general elections. Realignment of the districts was also made at that time to make the districts "nearly equal" in population. In 1992, following the 1990 census, the Dover Election Board undertook its first review, which established criteria, in addition to legal obligations such as equal population for all districts and 65% minority district, such as natural and man-made district boundaries and commonality of interest.

As has been the pattern in the past, response of local election officials was inconsistent, with some cooperating fully with data collection and others less cooperative. There also seemed to be some technical difficulties in transmitting the election results to the collection center.

Many thanks to all those who participated in this fundraiser: Jean Bauer, Beverly Bresnahan, Linda Chick, Phyllis Edamatsu, Margaret McKay, Flavia Williams - Rutkosky.

In 2000, the Board of Elections undertook its second redistricting review, but had to redraw the districts manually when it discovered an error in the federal census data and could no longer use the "maptitude" program provided by the State since realignment of State and County Districts were finalized and corrections to the data could not be accomplished. Issues relating to the current redistricting stem from the need to achieve population parity among the four legislative districts (approximately 8000 per district), while still maintaining the 65% minority requirement in the Fourth District. The NAACP was invited to participate in the redistricting discussions, although no other minority groups became involved. Changes made to the boundaries of the Third District were challenged by one of its representatives, Councilman Robert Ritter who felt that changes to the boundaries of the Edgehill neighborhood in his 3<sup>rd</sup> district were unjustified. [Councilman Ritter was invited to participate in this forum, but was unable to attend].

The population breakdown per district under the current plan to be approved on March 8, 2004, is: First District - 7929 (24.75%); Second District - 7721 (24.1%); Third District - 8486 (26.49%); and Fourth District - 7900 (24.66%).

Mr. Leary pointed out that the City Board of Election was established in 1988 with five members (one from each district and one at-large member) appointed by the Mayor and approved by the City Council. The members serve staggered three-year terms and serve as election judges who are charged with refereeing any electoral disputes. Their rulings must maintain faith with the City Charter, federal decennial census and keep "faith" with the consent decree (establishing the 65% minority district). They must also attempt to preserve the "commonality of interest," i.e., keeping neighborhoods together.

Questions were raised as to the viability of maintaining four council districts in the future. Any changes, however, would have to keep faith with the consent decree and would also require a change in the City Charter.

We thank those League members who provided the delicious food for the potluck lunch. *Ellen Wasfi*

## **Report on Resident Advisory Council Election**

Responding to a request from the Statewide Association of Tenants (SWAT) and Carol Preston, current President of the Peach Circle Resident Advisory Council, Christine Stillson and Ellen Wasfi of LWVGD observed the elections held at 1 p.m. on Saturday, February 21, in the Peach Circle Community Center, Smyrna, a Delaware Housing Authority site.

The nomination process began in November 2003 at a meeting to field candidates. Ellen Wasfi of LWVGD observed that meeting.

Absentee ballots were provided for those residents either out of town or too ill to walk to the community

center. These were submitted in sealed envelopes and tallied at the close of the election.

League observers suggested that in the future, the designated hours of the election should be posted in the notice instead of relying on word of mouth. Ms. Preston indicated she had gone from door to door to advise residents when the poll would be open. A sign-in sheet was provided for voters.

Ellen and Christine counted the ballots and submitted the results to those in attendance. LWVGD was given copies of all pertinent election documents. We retained possession of the ballots. *Ellen Wasfi*

## **STATE**

### **League Day In Dover**

Wednesday, March 24, will be League Day in Dover. The League will meet in the Sheraton Hotel and Conference Center, Dover. The topic, "Accessing Health Services: The Good, the Bad, the Ugly Fiscal Reality," will be addressed by a panel consisting of Philip P. Soule, Sr., Deputy Director, Division of Social Services; Anthony Brazen, DO, MBA, Medical Director, Medicaid; and an LWV member, Lauren Delpino, Manager of Patient Access, St. Francis Hospital.

Registration and reservation forms have been mailed to all League members. Additional forms can be obtained from the LWVDE office, 571-8948 or [lwvde@voicenet.com](mailto:lwvde@voicenet.com). Menu choices are Penne Portobello or Grilled Chicken Breast w/ Honey Pecan Sauce. Checks for \$20 per attendee, payable to LWVDE, should be sent to 2400 W 17th Street, Clash Wing, Room 1, Lower Level, Wilmington 19806-1311.

### **The First State Council**

We in the First State's League are planning our first state Council meeting this spring. Details are being worked out, but Co-President Sue Soltys has sent a summarization of what has been planned thus far.

Council will be held Friday-Saturday, May 7-8 in Sussex County. The main business will take place

Saturday, roughly 9 a.m. – 1 p.m., with a more informal get-together Friday evening. Participants are welcome to come Friday, but they will not miss anything crucial if they are only able to attend on Saturday.

Stay Tuned. Look for an article about Council in the next state *Voter*.

### **Legislative Priorities of the Delaware League**

For the second session of the 108<sup>th</sup> Congress, the Board reaffirmed its top two core issues and legislative priorities: election reform and campaign finance reform. The Board agreed to "respond with appropriate action" on the following crucial issues: civil liberties, clean air, and reproductive choice. As we anticipate threats to long-held LWV positions on these priorities, we must respond as needed. In its third category, the League will, when possible, take advantage of lobbying opportunities to achieve longer-term success on DC voting rights, gun control, health care, and tax/deficit policy. These issues represent particular legislative initiatives where political groundwork needs to be built for future successes.

### **School Libraries**

The Governor's Task Force is continuing to seek funding to support a study of Delaware school libraries. It is projected that a student-based survey

will be combined with student test results that reflect literacy skills mastery. A correlation will be drawn between the level of library resources, support, and accessibility and student achievement.

### **Chronic Violators Update**

On Monday, February 9th, Secretary Hughes signed the Order approving the Chronic Violator Regulation, which affects chronic polluters. The Hearing Officer recommended going forward with the

regulation as it was public noticed based on a Response to Public Comments and a review of the hearing record; therefore, no changes were made to the regulation.

The Secretary's Order and final regulation will be published in the March 1 Register of Regulations. The regulation will not be in effect until March 11th, as required by the Administrative Procedures Act.

If you would like further information, please contact Jenny Bothell, DNREC Enforcement Coordinator at (302) 739-4403.

## *NATIONAL*

The **LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS** turned **84** on **February 13**. Happy Birthday, LWV!!

For the latest news from the LWVUS, go to <http://interactive.lwv.org/News>

**E-lection 2004** The League of Women Voters new online election 2004 site can be found at [www.congress.org](http://www.congress.org), the DemocracyNet from former elections. The information about candidates is extensive. Just click on the candidate's picture, and take it from there.

### **Internet Plays A Key Role In Shaping Voters' Decisions**

With the 2004 election underway, the Internet is already playing a key role in shaping voters' decisions in national and state campaigns. A large part of the information voters are using is coming from one source – Capwiz™ Election – a tool created by Capitol Advantage with key content from the League of Women Voters and [Meetup.com](http://Meetup.com).

With this tool, voters have access to a one-stop shop on the Internet, a shop providing nonpartisan information, not only for national campaigns, but for state races and ballot initiatives as well. The tool educates voters and provides election information on some of the nation's largest media portals and corporate Web sites, including MSN, America Online, Yahoo!, *USA Today*, *The New York Times*, Fox News, C-SPAN and more than 1,000 other organizations.

"Through Capwiz™ Election, campaign information is easily available and user friendly and, therefore, has the potential to encourage more people to participate in the electoral process. The key to the success of this tool is our partners, who provide more content than ever before and unparalleled access to the voting public," said Bob Hansan, president and founder of Capitol Advantage.

DemocracyNet (DNet), a project of the League of Women Voters, is an integral part of the Capwiz™ Election tool. DNet has several distinctive features. First, it contains the policy positions of candidates running for federal and state offices, in their own words. Second, it displays that information in a grid format, which allows viewers easily to see and compare the positions of candidates for any given race. This feature is interactive, and allows candidates, from the presidential race to the state legislature, to respond to comments made by other candidates and to have a "virtual debate."

Through links to Meetup.com, voters will have access to the time, date and location of monthly "Meetups" scheduled in support of all senatorial, congressional, and gubernatorial candidates.

"Voters have more candidate information at their fingertips than in any election in the past," said Nancy Tate, executive director of the League of Women Voters. "The partnership with Capitol Advantage and Meetup.com helps to expand our mission and remove the barriers voters have historically faced when searching for nonpartisan, comparative election information. Through DNet, candidates are able to "speak" directly to voters and voters are able to get candidate positions straight from the candidates themselves."

**HAVA** The League of Women Voters strongly supports full and equal voting rights for all eligible Americans, including persons with disabilities. The League also supports voter verification of ballots, including the requirement in the Help America Vote Act (HAVA) whereby the voter verifies the ballot before it is cast and counted. However, the League does not support proposals for a new requirement for paper-based voter verification - the voter-verified paper trail (VVPT) system that would require Direct Recording Electronic (DRE) voting machines to provide an individual paper confirmation for each ballot for each voter to verify.

### **Check the Box!**

When preparing your federal tax forms, don't skip over the first question, the one that asks you want to check the box to designate three dollars for the Presidential Election Fund. This election year, 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.

Checking the box will not increase the taxes you're paying or reduce your refund. It simply takes \$3 of the tax you'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.

As the costs of campaigning have gone up, driven by the skyrocketing cost of buying television advertising, the system has eroded limits. Last year, Congress and the Supreme Court acted to close loopholes. 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. Please do your part -- check the box to protect democracy.

## **!! URGENT LOBBY REQUESTS !!**

### **! ENERGY BILL = DIRTY AIR !**

*LWVUS Urgent Lobby Request #108-15*

Soon, the Senate leadership is expected to again attempt to force a final vote on the energy bill. As written, the energy bill undermines existing environmental protections, makes global warming worse, and fails to provide for needed energy conservation measures. Please act today to oppose the energy bill.

In November, the House approved passage of the conference report on the Energy Policy Act of 2003 (H.R. 6). But after continued pressure from concerned citizens around the country, final passage of the bill was successfully blocked in the Senate. Now, proponents of this deeply flawed bill are working again to secure enough votes to win passage in the Senate. It is vitally important to act quickly if we are to help stop this ill-conceived measure!

**The energy bill that emerged last fall** after months of secret negotiations contains many provisions that are harmful to public health and the environment. Chief among these is a provision that **guts Clean Air Act protections**. According to a 2002 Environmental Protection Agency report, more than 130 million Americans live in areas that violate clean air safeguards. The energy bill will delay relief to those living with dirty air and will compromise the health of the elderly, people with lung disorders and children.

The bill fails to take affirmative steps to curb global warming and, in fact, will dramatically increase air pollution and global warming through huge new incentives for burning coal, oil and gas. In addition, the bill fails to provide for energy conservation – the key element for any good energy policy.

Please act today to oppose this dangerous energy legislation! Forward the information above, material for the basis of telephone calls to our senators and for letters to the editor, to other concerned individuals. Call Senators Biden (424-8090) and Carper (674-3308). Write them. Write letters to the editor.

### **! PROTECT REPRODUCTIVE CHOICE !**

*LWVUS Urgent Lobby Request #108-14*

As we celebrated the 31<sup>st</sup> anniversary of *Roe v. Wade* on January 22, it was more crucial than ever that we act to ensure this right is neither weakened nor taken away. Now is the time to demonstrate widespread support for the right to make reproductive choices! The League of Women Voters of the United States is proud to join with nearly 700 other organizations as a cosponsor of the March for Women's Lives to take place in Washington, DC on **Sunday, April 25, 2004. March with the League!**

Over three decades after *Roe v. Wade*, reproductive choice continues to be threatened at all levels of government. The Unborn Victims of Violence Act (UVVA) is a backdoor attempt to undermine *Roe* while doing nothing to address the problem of violence against pregnant women.

Again, please contact our senators and make your voice heard in letters to the editor, in communications with your friends and acquaintances.

**And participate in the March for Women's Lives!** For details about the March, go to: <http://www.capwiz.com/lwv/issues/alert> and see the *Voter* item above.

## ***ET CETERA***

A recommended method for fighting global warming is to cut down on junk mail. If you haven't signed up to get on one of the national lists that curbs the amount of paper junk mail you receive in your mail box, check this address out: <http://www.the-dma.org/cgi/offmailinglist>.

### **Dedication/Opening "Compost Park" at Trap Pond State Park**

The dedication will be held at the Bald Cypress Nature Center on Saturday, April 3, from 11 a.m. – 2:30 p.m., at Trap Pond State Park, which is off R 24, east of Laurel. For further information, call the park office at 875-5153.

**34 Million Friends of UNFPA**

The Friends is a grassroots effort to persuade 34 million Americans to send one dollar to the UNFPA to replace the money the current administration has refused to release, although Congress had approved this amount. Seventeen months after its inception, the program collected \$1.7 million, which has been donated to UNFPA to bring reproductive health care to the world's most vulnerable women. UNFPA works for safe motherhood, family planning, education for women and girls, and against the scourges of AIDS and obstetric fistula.

To help support UNFPA, send your tax-deductible contribution to: The US Committee for UNFPA, 3800 Arapahoe Avenue, Suite 210, Boulder, Colorado 80303.

**Pacem in Terris Memorial Procession.**

On Sunday, March 14, we will gather at the Camden Friends Meeting House, Camden, at 12:30 p.m. for a brief outdoor InterFaith Service, followed by a memorial processional walk (3.5 miles) to the gates of the Dover Air Force Base. Following a ceremony at the base at which members of Military Families Speak Out will offer their reflections, a caravan will proceed to Washington, DC.

Contacts

<b>President:</b>	Ellen Wasfi, 734-1545, ewasfi@aol.com
<b>1<sup>st</sup> VP:</b>	Phyllis Edamatsu, 678-0734, pedamatsu@earthlink.net
<b>Membership:</b>	Christine Stillson, 697-8600, cistillson@delaware.net
<b>Secretary:</b>	Charlotte Hunt, 734-3268
<b>Treasurer:</b>	Betty Wagner, 734-3837, be1wagner@aol.com
<b>Website:</b>	Joan Breukelman, 674-5589, muonjb@home.com
<b>Newsletter:</b>	Jean Bauer, 698-1601, bauerbj2@prodigy.net

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