



# Dover Voter

The Price of Liberty Is Still Eternal Vigilance

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League of Women Voters of Greater Dover, May-June 2007

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

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

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## Calendar of Events

### May

- 22 LWVGD Board Meeting  
12:15 p.m. at St. Paul's Episcopal Church, Camden
- 23 **LWVGD Annual Meeting: Energy Use and Environmental Impact**  
Speaker: Nicholas DiPasquale, former DNREC Sec'y, Delaware Audubon  
Conservation Chair  
11:00 a.m. – 1:30 p.m.; The Outlook at Duncan Center, Loockerman St., Dover
- 29 Interfaith Service of Peace  
7:00 p.m. at Christ Episcopal Church, State and Water Sts., Dover

### June

- 1 **Spence's Flea Market Fund Raiser**  
7 a.m. – 2 p.m., Spence's Bazaar, Dover
- 14 Great Decisions: International Migration  
10:00 a.m.; Venue TBA
- 26 LWVGD Board Meeting  
12:15 P.M. at St. Paul's Episcopal Church

## GREAT DECISIONS: MEXICO

The Great Decisions discussion concerning Mexico was held Thursday, May 10, at the Camden Friends Meeting House. On December 1, 2006, Felipe Calderon, of the "center-right" National Action Party (PAN) was sworn in as President of Mexico after a closely contested election with the leader of the "leftist-nationalist" Democratic Revolutionary Party (PRD). He then faced a multiplicity of problems which his predecessor, Vicente Fox, had failed to solve. These included the mounting barbarity of the drug cartels, violence between police and protesters in the impoverished Oaxaca state, human rights violations in Guerrero state, the failure of NAFTA meet domestic job growth goals and alleviate emigration pressures, and increasing tensions with the U.S. over illegal immigration issues and the proposed construction of a 700-mile security barrier along the two countries' border. Mexico also finds itself in a changing Latin American political environment where newly-elected leaders are turning away from Washington toward emerging economic powers like China and ideological allies like Cuba. The United States, with its foreign policy attention focused on Iraq and Afghanistan, is at risk of losing its preponderant historic influence in the region and in Mexico, in particular. Join us for a discussion of the implications of these developments.

*League of Women Voters of Greater Dover*  
*Annual Meeting*



Wednesday, May 23, 11 a.m. - 1:30 p.m.  
The Outlook at Duncan Center  
500 West Lockerman Street, Dover

**AGENDA**

**President's Welcome and Annual Report**  
**Member Approval of Changes to Bylaws, Policy and Program**  
**Member Approval of 2007-2008 LWVGD Budget**  
**Report of Nominating Committee**  
**Member Approval of Slate of Officers for 2007-2009**  
**Introduction of New Officers**

**PROGRAM**

**Topic: Energy Use and Environmental Impact**

**Speaker: Nicholas DiPasquale, former DNREC Secretary, Senior Consultant for Duffield Associates, and Conservation Chair, Delaware Audubon Society**

Mr. DiPasquale will review the recent state RFP process for securing additional electrical power generation, the need for energy conservation and efficiency improvements, and options for distributed electrical generation systems. He will also examine options for developing liquid fuels for transportation and the ramifications of these options. Finally, he will discuss the societal implications of energy issues and how individuals and organizations can address the global energy dilemma.

*Reservation form is at the end of the Voter.*

**UPCOMING COMMUNITY  
EVENTS**

**Day for Housing**

Wednesday, May 9, 2007, 10:00 a.m.,  
Participants marched to Legislative Hall  
from Christ Episcopal Church at State and  
Water Streets, Dover.

This third annual Day for Housing in Dover  
included Legislative briefings, visits to  
representatives and senators and networking  
with housing advocates from around the  
State. For information call 678-2286, ext.  
101.

**Interfaith Service of Peace**

Tuesday, May 29, 7:00 p.m., Christ  
Episcopal Church, State and Water Streets,  
Dover

You are invited to join in an Interfaith  
Service with the theme "The Path to Peace."  
Share prayers of peace for our world and  
meet those from the diverse faith  
communities of Dover. This event is  
sponsored by the Interfaith Council of  
Central Delaware and the Interfaith Task  
Force of the Dover Human Relations  
Commission. The Chair of the Interfaith  
Task Force is League member Jeanine  
Kleimo who can be reached at 697-3363.

## **SPRING FLEA MARKET FUND RAISER**

**June 2, 2007, 7 a.m. – 2 p.m., Spence's Bazaar**

**It's Spring Fund Raiser at Spence's time again! Our coffers are *not* at an all-time high, so please search your attics and basements for treasures to share!!**

**To schedule a shift of an hour or two at the flea market, call Ruth Johnson, 335-4330. The hours of 7 – 9 a.m. are already covered, but the entire time of 9 a.m. – 2 p.m. is still unstaffed.**

**To have donated items picked up, called Christine Stillson, 697-8600, or Ruth Johnson. To drop off items in advance of the sale, call Jean Bauer, 698-1601, to schedule a time when she'll be home to unlock her garage.**

## **LWVGD FORUM ON HEALTH CARE ACCESS IN DELAWARE**

**March 28, 2007 at Modern Maturity Center**

Jo Ann Fields, M.D., LWVGD Health Care Chair, introduced the panel discussion by summarizing the major points of Delaware Senate Bill 6. The bill proposes a health insurance pool for small businesses, non-profit agencies and individuals. She predicted that enactment of the bill into law would lower insurance premiums for these groups by 30-35 percent by budgeting \$13 million to cover 300,000 people. Eligibility for individuals would be restricted to those earning less than \$30,000 per year. Governor Minner's proposed 2008 budget includes only \$5 million to fund a health insurance pool. Dr. Fields felt that the weak point of the bill was that participation in the pool is not mandatory. The bill has since been passed overwhelmingly by the State Senate but now has to go through the House, which rejected it last year.

A second topic of the forum was the Children's Health Insurance Plan (CHIP) a federal program enacted in 1997 to help states assist those with incomes too high to qualify for Medicaid. The federal CHIP statute comes up for renewal this year with funding criteria and levels that could result in more uninsured children.

Finally, Dr. Fields cited Governor Minner's proposal to increase Delaware's cigarette tax to \$.45/pack to cover increasing costs of health care programs. The increased price per pack would still be less than that charged in surrounding states.

Vicenta Marquez, M.D., Head of Hope Medical Clinic, described the primary care services provided by her all-volunteer staffed clinic which treats uninsured adults not covered by Medicare or Medicaid. Opened in collaboration with the Modern Maturity Center, Hope Clinic has seen 1054 patients and provided over 5000 consultations. 99% of medications are given without charge. Patients include uninsured full-time workers, temporary workers in training, seasonal workers, those unable to afford insurance, newly divorced individuals no longer covered by the spouse's insurance, those who lose jobs but still earn \$5.00 above the poverty line, new college graduates looking for jobs, and high school graduates not yet working. Unfortunately, the Hope Clinic can only provide medical bridge care. Funding is provided primarily by the local donations. Foundation and government grants are not usually awarded to such small-scale operations. Medications are donated by local physicians and pharmaceutical representatives, but these supply sources are inconsistent. Volunteer practitioners are not covered by malpractice insurance. Dr. Marquez stressed that there is a need for a change in culture about how we view medical care, with an increasing emphasis being placed on education in preventive health care.

David Michalik, Senior Administrator, State of Delaware Division of Medicaid and Medical Assistance, addressed reauthorization prospects of the federal CHIP legislation. Enacted in 1997, CHIP was supposed to cover children from low-income families whose incomes were higher than those qualifying for Medicaid. The legislation was

intended to cover 3 million children nationwide and today covers 4 million. However, 9 million children are currently in need of health insurance coverage. Delaware's SCHIP program covers 5200 children (ages 0– 18), but 2200 are not covered and that number is rising. Dental coverage has recently been added to Delaware's SCHIP program. Under the 2007 federal reauthorization proposed by the Bush Administration, CHIP funds will remain at their current level. Without any expansion, however, 14 states will lose CHIP coverage due to insufficient funds. Congressional proposals for funding increases will still not cover all the 9 million children in need of support. Some states have sought to expand the CHIP program to cover pregnant women, but these proposals have proven controversial because of adult coverage, and have not been supported by the Bush Administration. Delaware receives a fixed CHIP allotment of \$11 million from the federal government for use over three years.

Joann Hasse, LWVDE Health Care Chair, commented that SB6 does not cover enough people but might keep some from falling through the cracks in insurance coverage. The bill also mandates that companies with state insurance contracts submit bids to participate in the pool. She expressed the concern, however, that the \$13 million appropriated in the bill would not be enough funding two years hence and questioned whether Delaware would be able to afford the increasing cost of insurance pool coverage. Ms Hasse also referred to HB49, which would increase the cigarette tax to \$1.00/pack, making Delaware's tax equal to that of Maryland. She added that much of the funding provided by the tobacco settlement has gone to support the state's prescription drug program. Ms Hasse highlighted the Delaware Health Information Network, which allows for the exchange of information on lab results between hospitals, labs and physicians. Delaware is the first state to mandate standardized formats for reporting lab results, thereby facilitating the prompt exchange and transmitting of information.

Insurance Commissioner Matt Denn made an appearance at the close of the panel discussion to comment on Delaware's passage of legislation to extend children's coverage on their parent's health insurance from age 18 to 24 with only a minimal surcharge. He also addressed SB36, which would allow Delaware to regulate health insurance rates. Only 10 states currently allow insurance companies the discretion to charge any rates they wish, and Delaware is among them. SB36 passed the State Senate in 2006, but not the House. Commissioner Denn reiterated that SB6 (insurance pool legislation) will not provide affordable health insurance for everyone in the state, but can be expanded to include more people.

All the panelists, including the Commissioner, urged the public to express their concerns about health care coverage to their legislators in order to counter the clout of insurance company lobbyists at Legislative Hall. They specifically stressed the urgency of contacting House members to pass SB6. Dr. Fields encouraged people to contact her with any ideas on how to lower the cost of health care. She can be reached at [joannfields@verizon.net](mailto:joannfields@verizon.net)

**From  
LWVUS**

## **Immigration Study**

The League of Women Voters has recently launched a two-year Immigration Study aimed at helping communities understand the implications of immigration at the local, state, and federal level. As part of this project, League members and leaders will explore the underlying values and principles regarding immigration, reasons for immigration, current federal immigration policy, and the impact of immigration in American society. Other related topics covered will include:

- business and economic effects and impact
- diversity
- effects of global interdependence on migration
- motivation of refugees, asylees and other immigrants

Background papers deal with the following topics:

[Immigration Policy: Family Reunification](#)

[What Motivates Immigration to America?](#)

[Federal Immigration Policy: Enforcement Issues](#)

[Immigration: Diversity and Inclusion](#)

[Effects Of Global Interdependence On Migration](#)

[Economic Aspects of Authorized and Unauthorized Immigration](#)

[Immigration and the Economy](#)

## Overview: Federal Immigration Policy and Proposed Reforms

Members can access the background papers and other details about the LWVUS immigration study at: <http://www.lwv.org/AM/Template.cfm?Section=LWVUSImmigrationStudy&Template=/TaggedPage/TaggedPageDisplay.cfm&TPLID=113&ContentID=7405>

## **Advocacy**

### **League Urges Representatives to Support Effective Lobbying Reform**

The League of Women Voters joined other groups in strongly urging Members of Congress to support effective lobbying reform legislation that includes disclosure of the total amount of contributions a lobbyist has raised, or "bundled," for a member of Congress or other recipient. For details, go to:

<http://www.lwv.org/AM/Template.cfm?Template=/CM/ContentDisplay.cfm&ContentID=8470>

## **Transparency in Government**

### **Sunshine Week 2007 Webcast Available**

In March 2007, the LWVEF partnered with other organizations in a Sunshine Week kick-off event at the National Press Club in Washington D.C. The program, entitled "Closed Doors; Open Democracies?", included a panel discussion, audience questions, and ideas for action. The webcast of this event is now available free at:

<http://www.visualwebcaster.com/event.asp?id=38316> (just enter the password "Openness2007"). Although simple registration is required, access to this webcast is free of charge.

## **FROM THE SIERRA CLUB**

### **Army Secretly Shipping Toxic Waste**

An Army plan to ship toxic chemical waste from a stockpile in Indiana to Texas for incineration is coming under fire from the Sierra Club, the Chemical Weapon Working Group and other concerned citizens. Not only has the Army failed to notify affected communities of the plan, insiders have also disclosed that the waste being shipped is more hazardous than the Army is revealing, increasing the health risk to an unknowing public. (*Sierra Club Currents, May 2007*)

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### **Green Pepsi?**

In the largest ever corporate green power purchase, PepsiCo has committed to purchase 100 percent green power, more than 1.1 billion kWh. That's enough to power 90,000 average American homes each year. Though Crystal Clear Pepsi didn't quite catch on in the 1990's, Pepsi's new move to go green is a sure hit as people realize that greening our culture is good for our economy and our communities.

## **NEW CHILDREN'S HEALTH BILL INTRODUCED IN SENATE**

Recently, during "Cover the Uninsured Week", Senators John D. Rockefeller (D-WV), Olympia Snowe (R-ME) and Edward Kennedy (D-MA) introduced a bipartisan proposal to reauthorize the State Children's Health Insurance Program (SCHIP). S. 1224, the Children's Health Insurance Program Reauthorization Act of 2007, strengthens and expands the existing program by providing more tools and resources to states to cover and better serve millions more children.


At any point during Fiscal Year 2006, the SCHIP program covered 6 million children. According to the bill's sponsors, the new legislation provides additional resources to maintain coverage for these children and enroll 3 million more eligible but un-enrolled children over the next five years and 6 million over 10 years. There are 9 million uninsured children in the United States, many who are eligible for SCHIP and Medicaid but are not enrolled.

The bill would:

- Improve the SCHIP financing structure in various ways, such as adjusting states' allotments to reflect their current and future funding needs and taking into account health care inflation and population growth;
- Give states tools for signing up more eligible children, including the "Express Lane" eligibility option which allows states to use financial information collected from WIC, school lunch, and other means-tested programs to identify and enroll children eligible for SCHIP or Medicaid;
- Allow states to expand coverage of children up to 300% of the poverty line (this year, up to \$51,510 for a family of three);
- Include provisions to cover legally present immigrant children and pregnant women;
- Require dental and mental health services;
- Undo the cumbersome and restrictive Medicaid requirements imposed by the Bush Administration for documenting citizenship by restoring the state option to determine how to document citizenship for Medicaid eligibility;
- Establish a new child health quality and access initiative; and
- Strengthen premium assistance programs.


The Senate Finance Committee has indicated that it will take up SCHIP reauthorization in late May or early June. Advocates hope his bill incorporates many of the provisions of S.1224.

For a more detailed summary of the bill please visit the Georgetown University Health Policy Institute Center for Children and Families' website at: <http://ccf.georgetown.edu/>. [Article from the [May 4, 2007](#) edition of Coalition on Human Needs Report] <http://www.chn.org/humanneeds/070504c.html>

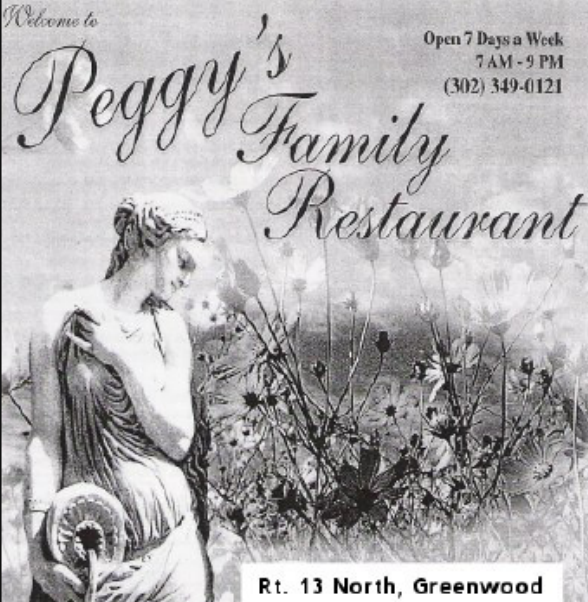
  
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*Best Wishes to the  
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Women Voters  
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## LWVGD PROPOSED BUDGET FOR 2007 - 2008

### INCOME

Dues	\$2,000.00
Advertisements	\$450.00
Contributions	\$300.00
Fund Raisers	\$225.00
In-Kind	\$200.00
Education Fund	\$11.00
Reimburse From LWVLS-NRM	\$10.00
From Reserves	\$1,264.00
<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>	<b>\$4,460.00</b>

### EXPENDITURES

Operating	Rent	\$135.00
	Supplies	\$20.00
	Hospitality	\$100.00
	Sunshine/Remembrance	\$50.00
Administration	President	\$30.00
	Secretary	\$75.00
	Treasurer	\$25.00
Board	Membership	\$100.00
	International Relations	\$10.00
Delegates	DE Convention	\$105.00
	US Convention	\$1,100.00 *800/300
LWV PMP	State	\$450.00
	US	\$1,340.00
Dover Voter/Flyers	Postage/Printing	\$200.00
Education	Publications	\$100.00
	Programs	\$250.00
	Voter Service	\$200.00
	Directory of Elected Officials	\$70.00
Committees		\$50.00
Other		\$50.00
<b>Total Expenditures</b>		<b>\$4,460.00</b>

\*Delegate-\$800.00

Day Attendance-\$300.00

Beverly Jackson, Finance Chair  
Ellen Wasfi, President, ex-officio  
Betty Wagner Treasurer, ex-officio

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**ANNUAL MEETING LUNCHEON RESERVATION FORM**



Please make your menu choice and send this form with a check for **\$17** made out to LWVGD, to Betty Wagner, Treasurer, League of Women Voters of Greater Dover, 556 Buckson Drive, Dover, DE 19901. Kindly return this reservation form by **Friday, May 18, 2007**, to assure seating.

**Name** \_\_\_\_\_

**Address** \_\_\_\_\_

**Telephone** \_\_\_\_\_ **E-Mail** \_\_\_\_\_

**Menu choice served with garden salad, rolls, and tea or coffee**

\_\_\_\_\_ Chicken Marsala

\_\_\_\_\_ Salmon in bourbon sauce

For further information, please contact Ellen Wasfi at 734-1545 or [ewasfi@aol.com](mailto:ewasfi@aol.com).

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LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF GREATER DOVER  
286 Pine Valley Road  
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