



Dover Voter

The Price of Liberty Is Still Eternal Vigilance

League of Women Voters of Greater Dover, May-June 2005

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

Newsletter: Joan Breukelman, muonjb@comcast.net

Calendar of Events

May 12	Great Decisions: Russia--Putin's Second Term 10:00 a.m. at Camden Friends Meeting House
May 15	Rally at Baylor Women's Correctional Institution 2:00 p.m., Urge opening of women's Level IV facility
May 18	LWVGD Annual Meeting <i>Celebration of 85th Anniversary of League of Women Voters</i> 7:00 - 9:00 p.m., St. Paul's Episcopal Church, Camden
May 24	LWVGD Board Meeting 12:00 noon at St. Paul's Episcopal Church, Camden
June 9	Great Decisions: Outsourcing Jobs 10:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. at Home of Joan Breukelman
June 12	Race Unity Day 1:00 - 5:00 p.m. on Legislative Mall, Dover
June 28	LWVGD Board Meeting 12:00 - 2:00 p.m. at St. Paul's Episcopal Church, Camden

The League of Women Voters of Greater Dover
is on the Internet at:

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

Great Decisions

Outsourcing Jobs: U.S. Dilemma

Thursday, June 9, 2005; 10:00 a.m.

Home of Joan Breukelman
452 Blue Heron Drive, Dover

U.S. companies are sending escalating numbers of jobs offshore in an environment of increasing economic globalization and stiffening competition. Lower cost structures and wages have for years led to a loss in domestic manufacturing jobs as factories have been relocated to places such as China, Mexico, the Philippines and Indonesia. More recently, outsourcing has affected white-collar jobs requiring higher-level skills in the technology sector, and customer call centers have also migrated overseas, especially to India. One estimate has put the number of jobs moving abroad since 2000 at 400,000 with financial services and information technology in the forefront.

This trend has sparked a debate as to whether job outsourcing is simply a new way of engaging in international trade or whether its negative impact on U.S. jobs should be curbed through taxation or other legislative penalties and/or inducements. The essence of this debate is the topic of the June discussion.

Russia: Putin's Second Term

Our May "Great Decisions" was held on May 12 at the Camden Friends Meeting. The topic was how developments in Russia are affecting U.S.-Russian relations, as well as the structure of Russia's economic and political system.

Since the fall of the Soviet Union in 1989, successive Russian administrations have faced the challenge of redefining national goals in terms of relations with other nations—Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS), Europe and the U.S., China and Japan. Russia also has faced challenges related to its economic and political structure, and from resistance to heavy-handed Russian rule, both in its provinces and in the former Soviet republics. Opposition to Russian control, whether direct or through hand-me-down client regimes, has manifested itself in Chechnya, Ukraine, Georgia and Uzbekistan.

Under former President Yeltsin, economic and political power within the Russian state was decentralized. President Putin has demonstrated his intention to restore control to a centralized executive, while portraying the regime's struggles against ethnic (especially Muslim) opposition as part of the U.S.-led war on terrorism. Additional concerns are the security and monitoring systems for Russian nuclear material and the possibilities for weapons theft.



LWVGD ANNUAL MEETING:

A CELEBRATION OF 85 YEARS

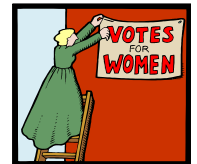
7 - 9 p.m. Wednesday, May 18, 2005
St. Paul's Episcopal Church,
Old North Road, Camden

Business Meeting Agenda:

- Approval of Minutes of 2004 Annual Meeting
- Presentation and Approval of 2005-2006 LWVGD Budget
- Presentation and Approval of 2005 Nominating Committee Report
- Discussion and Approval of Proposed Bylaws and Program Changes

Celebration of the 85th Anniversary of the League of Women Voters

- Milestones of the League
- Past Presidents' Recollections
- Current Mission



Informal Exchange Of Ideas Over Light Refreshments

We invite all League members, prospective members and guests to join us in this celebration of League's history and goals.

Please bring your favorite appetizer or dessert to share. League Hospitality Chair Gale White will contact you about refreshment details.

"Speaking As One Voice"

Issues Surrounding Delaware's Affordable Housing and Its Residents

On March 30, 2005, the League of Women Voters of Greater Dover and the Statewide Association of Tenants (SWAT) cosponsored a forum to examine the role of grassroots constituencies in obtaining safe, decent and affordable housing in Delaware, with specific emphasis on the role of Resident Advisor Councils in local governance.

The main speakers were Wendell Howell, former Director of the Wilmington Housing Authority and Lauren Sutton, Lead Training Director of SWAT. A video followed which presented the dilemmas and challenges faced by public housing residents throughout the state.

Mr. Howell focused on the importance of having tenants involved in the decision-making process in Section 8 (public) housing. He pointed to the fact that while funds are allocated by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) to repair housing, private landlords often cut back on services or provide poor quality work in order to make a profit. He cautioned that only through support of tenant organizing efforts will this pattern of corruption be addressed.

Ms Sutton added that tenants often do not understand why it is necessary to organize into councils. Furthermore, tenants frequently experience harassment for belonging to councils. Her video presentation highlighted SWAT's role since the late 1990s as an independent tenant-directed organization dedicated to giving tenants the ability to speak with one voice. Several speakers in the video explained why

residents must inform themselves about regulations and rights:

- 1) The need for tenant empowerment in low-income housing in order to confront policies which misappropriate and abuse tenants.
- 2) The need to create an infrastructure to enable residents to communicate tenant needs to the Housing Authority.
- 3) The critical role of tenant organizing in creating legislation that affects tenants, as well as in applying for grants.
- 4) The need to draw public attention to the problems faced by tenants in public housing.
- 5) The need to shift power from landlord to tenants through resident councils.

SWAT is currently in the process of training residents to organize for better living conditions at the ten sites currently under its jurisdiction. Common community concerns include: 1) traffic, 2) late trash pickup, 3) inadequate laundry facilities, 4) maintenance, 5) security, 6) drugs, 7) limited resident input, 8) inadequate activities for children, and 9) transportation. SWAT has received a commitment from the State to work with residents to improve transportation in support of the "Move to Work" initiatives.

The Bush Administration has cut HUD funding and moved many of its programs to the Department of Commerce where they must compete for scarce resources. This shift could precipitate a housing crisis affecting the wages required to live in public housing. In Delaware, one has to earn at least \$14/hour to live in public housing.

[According to Out of Reach, an annual publication of the National Low Income Housing Coalition, Delaware ranks 32nd in the nation in the housing wage required for a two-bedroom apartment at fair market rates (\$14.16).]

The forum provided a unique opportunity for low-income housing advocacy groups to network and reinforce their efforts on behalf of tenants. Other groups represented at the event included the Legal Aid Society, the Delaware Housing Coalition, Housing Opportunities of Northern Delaware, Inc., and the Catholic Campaign for Human Development.



LWVGD Resident Advisory Council Monitoring Activities

LWVGD continues to work with the Statewide Association of Tenants to monitor Resident Advisor Council Elections throughout Kent County. In April and May 2005, Christine Stillson, Julie Price and Ellen Wasfi observed the electoral process at Queen Manor in Dover, Mifflin Meadows in Camden, Clark's Corner in Harrington, and Peach Circle in Smyrna. Some elections had to be repeated because Housing Authority representatives were not available to certify previous elections.

***A Message from SURJ
(Stand Up for What's Right and Just)***

BWCI Women's Work Release Center

Gather with us to urge the opening of the women's Level IV facility at Baylor Women's Correctional Institution.

The Level IV facility at Baylor is built and ready for use, but has never been opened. Without it, there are no facilities for drug

treatment and work release specifically for incarcerated women in Delaware. Join us for a press conference to bring attention to the need for this facility to be opened.

**Sunday, May 15, 2005, 2:00 p.m.
Baylor Women's Correctional Institution*
660 Baylor Blvd.
New Castle, DE**

Sponsored by:

- ACLU of Delaware
- Delaware Center for Justice
- Delaware Coalition Against Domestic Violence
- Delaware League of Women Voters
- Women and the Law Section of the Delaware State Bar Association
- Prison Fellowship
- Prison Ministries of Delaware
- SURJ

*Please park along Baylor Blvd. We will gather at the parking lot by the entrance to BWCI.

Dana B. Sorenson
Office/Outreach Coordinator
(302) 426-9252
www.surj.org



League Day in Dover

The Woman in Prison: Transition Back to Society?

On March 26, 2005, Pat Ryan, Superintendent of the Delaware Women's Prison, and the Hon. Susan Del Pesco, Delaware Superior Court Judge, addressed the LWVDE's League Day in Dover on the status of incarcerated women in Delaware.

Mr. Ryan pointed out that Delaware opened its first women's prison in 1929 at Price's Corner with a capacity of 54. After decades

of overcrowded conditions, the state opened Baylor women's correctional institution in 1991 with a capacity of 200. The current prison population, however, is over 350, with no increase in the number of employees since the opening date. Since there are no county jails, prisoners from Kent and Sussex must be transported to the state run facility in New Castle County.

One-third of those incarcerated are in prison because of failure to make bail. Most range in age from 18-35 and are repeat offenders. The ethnic breakdown is 50-55% African American, 40% white and 5% Latina. Over 70% of the inmates are mothers with little or no provision made for their children. Most are victims of domestic violence and spousal abuse, and many suffer from mental illness. Although there are some state-funded and volunteer drug treatment and mental health services provided, there are only 3 staff counselors for all the prisoners, and they must also handle child custody issues.

The greatest needs of the women's prison system stem from overcrowding. There is also a need for a nursery and a multi-purpose building. A work release center was completed in July 2004 next to Baylor. It still cannot be opened, however, due to lack of staff, which perpetuates a situation of lack of vocational training for the majority of inmates with no marketable skills.

Finally, Mr. Ryan emphasized the need to keep people on probation instead of returning them to prison. Many women who could function in the community under parole supervision are not paroled.

Judge Del Pesco listed the major characteristics of women in custody in Delaware: Low income, women of color, under-educated, unskilled, sporadic employment

history, property and drug-related offenses, and victims of sexual abuse and assault.

Dramatic increase in the number of inmates can be traced to the passage of the minimum mandatory sentencing provisions of the 1990 Rockefeller laws.

Since approximately 75% of inmates are parents with an average of two children, a critical issue is childcare while the mothers are in custody. Most of these children are not in foster care and many of their lives are destroyed due to lack of a safety net. The type of facility most needed for these women is a Level IV facility, which provides drug treatment and work release programs. Many community-based programs do not accept convicted felons.

A second critical need is for a prison nursery to ensure that the inmate will resume care of her children after her release, and to "break the cycle of crime." New York and California have instituted such prison childcare facilities.

*League Of Women Voters
of Greater Dover*

**PRESIDENT'S ANNUAL REPORT
MAY 2005**

Voter service and community outreach were the major focus of the Dover League's activities during the past year. Candidate night debates, voter registration, publication of a new Directory of Elected Officials, monitoring Resident Advisory Council elections, examining criminal justice and electoral reform as well as fair housing and health care issues, and networking with a broad spectrum of community organizations were all part of the League's effort to make the local political process more inclusive as well as more responsive to citizen needs.

VOTER SERVICE

Candidates Nights

The Dover League held two candidates nights during the past year. In October 2004, fifteen candidates for county, state and federal offices participated in a well-attended debate cosponsored with Boscov's Department Store. In April 2005, the Dover League collaborated with the Greater Dover Committee, the Kiwanis Club of Dover and Delaware Technical and Community College, Terry Campus, to present a candidates night for the Dover City Council election. Eight candidates representing four districts debated a wide cross-section of issues raised by the audience.

Directory of Elected Officials

Months of research and editing on the part of Jean Bauer and her committee resulted in the publication of the updated and expanded 2004 edition of the Dover League's Directory of Elected Officials. Boscov's underwrote the printing of 2000 copies, which we have almost completely distributed.

Voter Registration

Charlotte Hunt continued to chair the Voter Registration Committee. She arranged for the training of 7 League registrars who have disseminated voter information at 5 venues throughout the city and registered 33 new voters during the past year.

Resident Advisory Council Monitoring

The Dover League continues to observe resident advisory council elections at several housing authority sites throughout Kent County. We have been working closely with the Statewide Association of Tenants under its new Lead Training Director, Lauren Sutton, to ensure the certification of the electoral process in public housing communities. The election of these councils fulfills a requirement of the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, enabling residents to apply for government

grants and represent their interests and concerns to the housing authority management.

LEAGUE-SPONSORED FORUMS

Networking with other community and statewide organizations has provided opportunities for the Dover League to present a series of forums dealing with a wide spectrum of reform issues.

Health Care Access

Hal Wallach from the Sussex Health Care Coalition and Catalina Figueroa from La Red Health Center in Sussex County focused attention on insufficient health care access for infants, children and seniors throughout Delaware. A comparison was made with practices utilized by other states, which have made substantial health care coverage gains for their citizens. La Red ("The Network," in Spanish) is one non-governmental organization which has attempted to fill the gap, especially in rural Delaware, by providing access to affordable and quality health care for those who are uninsured and under-insured. Insufficient funding, staffing and lack of available transportation continue to pose a challenge to all these efforts.

Electoral Reform

In November 2004, the League invited Rob Richie, Director of the Center for Voting and Democracy to explain the process of instant runoff voting in multiple candidate elections. LWVUS has been looking into this alternative balloting method for years as a way to ensure more equitable voter representation at the polls. This presentation held particular significance for the city of Dover, which had recently experienced a mayoral election in which the winner garnered a plurality of only 25% of the vote. Several city officials, including the mayor, attended the forum, which was held in the State Archives building.

In January 2005, we participated in the State League's consensus on redistricting and reapportionment. We are grateful to Ruth Helm, Consensus Co-Chair, for traveling to Dover on a particularly blustery and snowy winter day to explain the history and intricacies of redistricting in Delaware. Her effort allowed us to make informed decisions on a process which impacts the voice citizens of Delaware will have in representative government during the coming decade.

Criminal Justice Reform

In a unique networking project, the Dover League, the American Civil Liberties Union, Delaware Chapter, and Stand Up for What's Right and Just (SURJ) presented a forum in February 2005, to propose a collaborative effort to repeal minimum mandatory drug sentencing laws in the state, and implement effective alternatives to incarceration. Those in attendance represented a wide cross-section of community groups and individuals who were particularly responsive to proposals for increasing the availability of drug rehabilitation and employment training opportunities designed to reduce recidivism and provide hope for an improved quality of life for participants.

Fair Housing

As an outgrowth of the Dover League's cooperation with the Statewide Association of Tenants (SWAT), a joint League-SWAT program was organized to air fair housing issues in Delaware. The forum featured Lauren Sutton from SWAT, and Wendell Howell, former Director of the Wilmington Housing Authority. They and representatives of other advocacy groups raised concerns that Delaware has been unable to produce affordable housing at a sufficient rate to accommodate the growing needs of the state's working poor. The program provided the opportunity for those attending to pool their knowledge and

experience in order to enhance their advocacy potential.

INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

The Dover League continued its monthly discussions of international issues following the Foreign Policy Association's Great Decisions format. Topics covered during the past year included: Weapons of Mass Destruction, the U.S. and Europe, Diverse Islam, Latin America, Reform in the Middle East, Public Diplomacy and U.S. Intelligence Reform. Ruth Johnson represented the Dover League as a delegate to the fall 2004 United Nations Conference of Non-Governmental Organizations.

MEMBERSHIP

Membership Chair Christine Stillson reports that our membership has increased from 39 to 52 over the past year. At Christine's initiative, the Dover League held its first Membership Tea in February 2005 at the home of Sue Schmittinger. In a unique and warm social setting, League members, both old and new, learned about and were encouraged to become involved in the League's multifaceted activities designed to broaden grassroots participation in the political process.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

None of the activities just summarized could have taken place without the ongoing dedicated involvement of our League members. We wish to express our gratitude to First Vice-President Dr. Phyllis Edamatsu, Secretary and Parliamentarian Charlotte Hunt, Treasurer Betty Wagner, Membership Chair Christine Stillson and Publications Chair Ruth Johnson who, in addition to their official duties, monitored debates, observed resident advisory council elections and served in myriad other capacities. Joan and Fred Breukelman deserve our deep appreciation for the many computer tasks they perform for the League,

including keeping our website updated, handling correspondence and other duties for candidates nights, and especially, producing our *Voter* newsletter in such a reader-friendly format.

We also wish to thank all those who offered their homes to host various League functions, and especially to Ruth and Ralph Johnson who consistently opened the doors of the Camden Friends Meeting House to League members and guests. They and all those organizations and individuals with whom we networked enabled the League to focus public attention on critical issues requiring public scrutiny. We owe them a debt of gratitude and hope to continue to expand our outreach in order to make all our efforts more effective.

Thank you very much.

*Ellen O. Wasfi, President
League of Women Voters of Greater Dover
May 4, 2005*



Membership Report 2004-2005

As of May 1, 2005 the League of Women Voters of Greater Dover had a total membership of 52, with an additional 4 nationally recruited members.

New members this year: Lillian Chisholm, Jo Ann Fields, Mimi Klocko, Phyllis Levitt, Nona McNatt, Mary Merritt, Lydia Morrison, Sharon Painter, Carol Reid-Grandfield, Mary Torsch, Mary Welsh, Sandra Winfrey, Sheryl Winsby, and Debra Zistl.

In addition to these numbers, three members hold the status of Member Emeritus: Lorraine Godshall, Marg Records, and Martha Miller.

It is apparent that the 2004 Election year increased public awareness of the League and spurred some to become new members. Recruitment activities included placing brochures about League Membership at Voter Registration events, putting perspective members on the mailing list for several months, reaching out to targeted community members informing them of upcoming programs of interest, and informing resident advisory councils about League activities. All members are encouraged to recruit new members who have interests in the many topics under the local, state and national League umbrella.

*Respectfully submitted,
Christine L. Stillson, Membership Chair
May 1, 2005*



LWVDE Report On Health Care

Joann Hasse, LWVDE Health Care Chair
*[This is a summary of a report inadvertently omitted
from the LWVDE Spring Voter]*

The big triumph of the year was the passage in late June 2004 of HB 455 which set up a process for creating a nonprofit foundation devoted to health care, with the charitable assets (sale value) of nonprofit healthcare entities which convert to for profit status. Though the final bill was a many-compromises-later version of the original, it accomplished the major objective of the Consumer Health Care Coalition, the 26 member coalition organized by the LWVDE to work on this issue.

LWVDE is represented by Health Care Chair Joann Hasse at monthly meetings of the Delaware Health Care Commission (DHCC); the Health Fund Advisory

Committee (tobacco settlement monies); some meetings of the DHCC's single payer committee and the legislatively created Chronic Illness Task Force.

Joann has also served as a public member of the Delaware Health Information Network (DHIN) board which functions under the general direction of the DHCC. The DHIN was established by legislation in 1997 to advance the creation of a statewide health information and electronic exchange network for public and private use. It has representation from consumers, hospitals, doctors, insurers, business, the University of Delaware and the state. The current focus of the DHIN is the creation of an electronically based system in which patient clinical information can be accessed from various sources (doctors' offices, labs, hospitals) at the point of care—for instance, in the emergency room. It has enormous potential for improving care by enabling better decision making, preventing errors and curtailing the "hassle factor" involved in accessing care. It is envisioned as an "opt-in" system for both providers and consumers; in other words, patients and doctors would choose to participate.

Joann also represents consumers on the Management Team for the project which has representatives of the above mentioned groups as well as staff from the offices of Senator Carper and Representative Castle who are both very interested in this project. She has also served as chair of the recently created Consumer Advisory Committee which, among other things, will be looking at the privacy issues involved in sharing information.

LEAGUE SUPPORTS SAFE ACT OF 2005

Washington, D.C. – The League of Women Voters of the United States (LWVUS) is pleased to endorse the Security and Freedom Enhancement (SAFE) Act of 2005, and commends Senators Larry E. Craig and Richard J. Durbin for their leadership in introducing this important legislation.

The League believes that the SAFE Act will address the concerns of the American people about the excesses of the USA Patriot Act. By placing limits on "sneak and peek" searches and "John Doe" roving wiretaps and requiring increased public reporting on the use of the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act, the SAFE Act will protect innocent Americans from unrestricted government surveillance.

"These are challenging times for the United States," said LWVUS President Kay J. Maxwell. "We believe there must be balance between the need to protect against security threats and the need to preserve the very liberties that are the foundation of this country – from independent judicial review of law enforcement actions to prohibitions on indiscriminate searches. The SAFE Act provides that balance."

Since the League's inception 85 years ago, the protection of civil liberties as provided for by the Bill of Rights has been one of the organization's top priorities. During World War II, the League called on the government "to preserve the greatest degree of civil liberty consistent with national safety." During the "witch hunt" period of the early 1950s, the League conducted a community education program known as the Freedom Agenda, providing Americans with the opportunity to discuss and learn about their freedoms under the Bill of Rights. Today,

the League is working on “*Local Voices: Citizen Conversations on Civil Liberties and Secure Communities*,” an initiative to foster public dialogue about the balance between civil liberties and homeland security.

LWVGD Nominating Committee Report: May 2005

Officers:

President 2005-2007:

Ellen Wasfi

1st Vice-President 2005-2007:

Phyllis Edamatsu

2nd Vice-President 2004-2006:

Christine Stillson

Secretary 2005-2007:

Charlotte Hunt

Directors

Observer Corps 2005-2007:

Carol Reid-Grandfield

Education 2005-2007 co-chairs:

Mimi Klocko, Mary Merritt

Respectfully submitted,
Nominating Committee:
Jane Fox, Jean Bauer, Ruth Johnson,
Anne Norman, Christine Stillson
(Membership Chair)

Race Unity Day

**A Celebration of Racial and Cultural Diversity
Sunday, June 12, 2005, 1 – 5 p.m.
Legislative Mall, Dover**

Race Unity has been held in Dover for the past three years to focus attention on the need for racial harmony and understanding. It features displays highlighting the cultural diversity of Dover, along with musical performances, hands-on crafts displays for children and free food. Both the City of Dover and the State Legislature have issued proclamations recognizing the second Sunday in June as Race Unity Day.

Social Security Reform Proposals by Constance Haddad, LWV Orange County, CA

Years ago while attending an LWVUS Convention in Washington, D.C. I met Connie Haddad, President of the LWV of Orange County, CA. Over the years Connie and I have tried to stay in touch. For several years, Connie has been researching the U.S. Social Security system. Her findings have been published in the Los Angeles Times and the Fullerton Observer. Below are highlights from the observations and conclusions Connie has arrived at after extensive study. Should you wish to communicate your response to her directly, her e-mail address is:

constancehaddad@yahoo.com

✓ The Social Security Trust Fund is the surplus money collected in payroll taxes over the last twenty years. It is one of the few government programs that are pre-funded.

✓ Social Security surpluses must be invested in U.S. Treasury bonds, which earn billions of dollars in interest and are considered the safest investment in the world.

✓ Powerful economic interests stand to benefit enormously if Social Security is privatized.

✓ Only Social Security is broadly inclusive, fully portable, adjusted annually for inflation, and cannot be outlived.

✓ Board of Trustees projections of a Social Security shortfall have receded in the past ten years from 2029 to 2042 because the economy continues to outperform growth and productivity predictions.

✓ Current Administration reform proposals call for diverting approximately 1/3 of payroll tax into private accounts and reducing future benefits to make up for the

trillions of dollars that would have to be borrowed to cover the loss in these payroll taxes.

✓ The most effective way to address any future shortfall problem would be to raise or eliminate the "cap," i.e., the current limit on social security taxes to wages under \$87,900/ calendar year. The current payroll tax has a built-in exemption for the wealthy. Raising the cap on this tax could eliminate up to 90% of a projected shortfall.

✓ Another constructive move would be to immediately broaden the Social Security tax base by bringing all new public employees into the Social Security system.

✓ Long-term factors such as wages, productivity and employment rates can offset the drop in the number of workers paying into Social Security per retiree drawing funds from the system.

✓ Social Security is insurance against poverty and destitution, not an investment scheme or a pension plan.

✓ About one-third of Social Security beneficiaries are not retirees, but receive disability and survivors insurance; many are children. Little attention has been paid to the impact of privatization options on their benefits.

✓ Little attention has been paid to the question of who would handle the millions of small investments under Social Security privatization for part-time and low wage workers; or who would bear the risk for people who might face poverty as a result of bad investments.

[Condensed from publications and communications from Connie Haddad, February 2005]

Spotlight on New Members!

As membership chair, I'm pleased to introduce you to several new members! To help us get acquainted, we are highlighting nine new members. We extend our warmest welcome! We hope your association with the League proves educational, enjoyable and meaningful!



Mary Merritt

Mary joined the League in August 2004. She is the Director of Career Planning and Placement, and Coordinator of Cooperative Education at Delaware State University where she has been working since 1974. She has a PhD in Higher Education Administration from the University of Maryland. She is interested in various issues including Race Relations, DC Voting Rights, Candidate Debates and Student/Teacher Accountability. She is also interested in participating in Great Decisions and public relations activities with the League. Welcome, Mary !!

Debra Zistl

Debra joined the League in August 2004. She and husband, John, have a 10 year old son Zachary. They are native Delawareans, growing up in Newark. Debra and her husband moved to Dover in 1993 when her husband was transferred to DAFB where he works in Aircraft Maintenance. Debra received her BS in Social Work from Shippensburg University of Pennsylvania in 1991 and has worked or volunteered in social service agencies since that time. Debra enjoys volunteering at her son's school, cooking, singing and reading. She is interested in a variety of issues including spousal abuse, children at risk, race relations/study circles, civil rights/Patriot Act, educational accountability, the UN, and elderly issues/Medicare. She would like to participate in membership, hospitality and

voter registration activities within the League as well as the Observer Corps.

JoAnn Fields

JoAnn joined the League in September 2004. She is a Medical Doctor of Internal Medicine, a career change that she began at age 39. A native of Delaware, she returned to the state after living in Michigan, Washington, DC, North and South Carolina. She has been practicing medicine in Dover since 1996. Her interests are preventive medical care for the elderly, low income housing and drug abuse rehabilitation. She is particularly interested in the issue of universal health care, the high cost of prescription drugs, and the influence of the drug industry on government policy. She works at Queen Manor for low income seniors once a week, occasionally fills in at the Hope medical clinic at Modern Maturity, fundraises for the American Cancer Society, participates in an advisory council for Delaware Hospice and is active with church activities.

Sandra Winfrey

Sandra joined the League in November 2004. Sandra describes herself as a “single African American female.” A resident of Delaware for 29 years, she is now grandmother of two. She is a very active member of Holy Cross, participating in lecturing, eucharistic ministry, coordinator for the Gospel Choir, member of the Ministry for Black Catholics, Campus Ministry at Delaware State University, and a mentor at DSU. She is a past board member of Catholic Charities, Mom’s House and Shepherd Place. She is a member of the Chamber of Commerce. She owns and runs a business called Cajun Queen Cuisine Catering. She also works in the Accounting Department at DSU. She is interested in various issues including water quality, Septic Tank Regulations, children at

risk, Kent County Zoning, and elderly issues/Medicare. She is also interested in participating in the Observers Corps.

Mary Welsh

Mary joined the League in February 2005. Prior to arriving in Delaware in 1991, Mary lived in Maryland and Pennsylvania where she raised her two sons and was active in various organizations including Boy Scouts of America, Business and Professional Women’s Club, Lion’s Club and was involved with several political campaigns. She was also closely involved with the production, filming and editing of a documentary film.

Mary is interested in a variety of issues including spouse abuse, children at risk, campaign finance reform, national security and health insurance. She is also interested in participating in Candidates debates, Great Decisions, League public relations, fundraising and Observer Corps. Mary is actively involved with the State Wide Tenants Association. She is also very much looking forward to returning to the academic world to pursue advanced degrees in Criminal Justice with the goal to work with abused women and children.

Nona McNatt

Nona joined the League in June 2004 shortly after attending a League program featuring a speaker from the “Humanities Forum on Civil Liberties.” Nona is a Certified Nurse Midwife and works with The Birth Center: Holistic Women’s Health Care in Wilmington. She is interested in all aspects of women’s health care, and in assisting minority women and men to register to vote, AND to vote, as a means to obtain optimum health care choices. Her other interests include race relations, the UN, and would like to participate in League activities involving membership, public relations and voter registration.

Lillian Jones Chisholm

Lillian joined the League in April 2004. She has a BS in Behavior Science and an MS in Human Resource Management. She has been working for more than 25 years in the field of Human Service in various positions including counselor at a homeless shelter, college instructor. She currently leads "Healing Our Nation" workshops, holds family worker training programs and other "healing the hurts of racism" workshops. She serves on several state and local councils and community boards, and in 2002 received the Human and Civil Rights Award through the Delaware State Education Association. Her League interests are varied and include water quality, various issues associated with education, spouse abuse, children at risk, Study Circles on Racism, Sentencing reform, the UN, national security and health Insurance.

Mimi Klocko

Mimi joined the League in June 2004. She has a BA in Liberal Studies with a concentration in Psychology. She has worked as an editor and an administrative assistant. She is a mother of five and a grandmother of eleven! Family and children are important to her, and she is currently a mentor for a ten year old in a local school. She occasionally works as a substitute teacher in the Milford Schools. She is interested in various issues including children at risk, candidates debates, and health care issues including health insurance.

Lydia Morrison

Lydia joined the League in September 2004. In 2003 she remarried after a 30 year "hiatus," retired from her job of 37 years and relocated in Dover with her husband. They both enjoy traveling, gardening and are active in church activities. During what she calls her "mid life crisis" she went to

law school and hopes to open a small private practice in the future. She is interested in natural resource/environmental issues including toxic waste, water quality, air quality, recycling and Kent County Zoning. She is also interested in family planning, and elderly/health care issues.



Proposed Bylaws Changes

On March 17, 2005, the LWVGD conducted an annual review of the League's Bylaws, Policies and Program. Suggestions for revisions were made to be approved by the membership at the Annual Meeting. Below are the proposed changes for review.

Article VI, Section 2: July instead of October

Article X, Section 1: Convention/Council instead of Convention

Proposed Program Changes

Health Care in Delaware

Support universal access to affordable health care.

In the event of the conversion of non-profit health care institutions to for-profit status, we support the creation of an independent foundation to direct funds generated by the conversion to serve the health care needs of Delaware's uninsured and underinsured citizens.

Study Items

Delaware Criminal Justice System

Add: "....and women's incarceration issues."

Children at Risk

Add: "Examine the problems unique to the children of incarcerated women."

Local Government

Add: "Evaluate the extent to which county and local governments conduct business in a way that ensures maximum transparency to public scrutiny."

LWVGD Proposed Budget for 2005-2006

INCOME		Current Year	Proposed Budget
Dues		\$1,275	1,767.5
Advertisements		450	450
Contributions		90	100
Fund Raisers		250	350
Education Fund		11	11
From Reserves		1,097	1,652.9
Total Income		\$3,173	\$4,331.4
EXPENDITURES			
Operating	Rent	100	135
	Supplies	10	10
	Hospitality	100	100
	Sunshine/Remembrance	100	100
Administration	President	25	25
	Secretary	10	10
	Treasurer	10	25
Board	Membership	100	200
	International Relations	10	10
Delegates	DE Convention	126	200
	US Convention	700	1,100
LWV PMP	State	337.5	454.5
	US	862.5	1,801.9
Newsletter	Postage/Printing	200	200
Education	Publications	100	150
	Programs	200	200
	Voter Services	10	10
	Directory of Elected Officials		70
	Scholarship*	112	70
	Committees	10	10
	Other	50	50
TOTAL		\$3,173	\$4,331.4

* Subject to the development of guidelines.

Beverly Jackson, finance chair

Ellen Wasfi, president, *ex-officio*

Betty Wagner, treasurer, *ex-officio*

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