



Dover Voter

The Price of Liberty Is Still Eternal Vigilance

League of Women Voters of Greater Dover ■ October 2004

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

Newsletter: Joan Breukelman, 674-5589, muonjb@comcast.net

Calendar of Events

Sept. 16	Great Decisions: Weapons of Mass Destruction – 9:45 a.m. at home of Joan Breukelman.
Sept. 22	Pot Luck Supper: Major Issues Facing Health Care in Delaware – Speakers: Hal Wallach, director Sussex County Health Care Coalition; and Catalina Figueroa, outreach worker, La Red Health Center. 6:30 - 9 p.m. at Camden Friends Meeting House, Camden.
Sept. 28	LWVGD Board Meeting – 11 a.m. at St. Paul's Episcopal Church, Camden.
Oct. 1	Spence's Bazaar Rummage Sale Fundraiser – 7 a.m. – 1 p.m.
Oct. 12	Voter Registration Deadline to vote in the 2004 general election.
Oct. 13	LWVGD Candidates Night Debate for State Senate, Statewide Offices, and U.S. Representative – 6:45 p.m. - 8:45 p.m. at Boscov's Auditorium, Dover Mall, Dover
Oct. 21	Great Decisions: U.S. and Europe – 9:45 a.m., at the home of Jean Bauer, 75 Vining Run, Pharsalia, Camden.
Oct. 26	LWVGD Board Meeting – 11 a.m. at St. Paul's Episcopal Church, Camden
Nov. 2	General Election. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> VOTE! Polls open 7 a.m. - 8 p.m. 8 p.m. Election Night Reporting at selected precincts.
Nov. 11	Great Decisions: Diverse Islam – 9:45 a.m., location to be announced
Nov. 17	LWVGD Forum on Alternative Voting Systems – time and place to be announced.
Nov. 30	LWVGD Board Meeting – 11 a.m. at St. Paul's Episcopal Church, Camden

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

Delaware's Health Care Dilemma

Wednesday, September 22, 2004

6:30 - 9 p.m.

**Camden Friends Meeting House
Camden-Wyoming Ave, Camden**

Speakers:

Hal Wallach, director, Sussex Health Care Coalition;
Catalina Figueroa, outreach worker, La Red Health
Center

These presentations will focus on several areas of major concern in the Delaware health care system. Mr. Wallach will review troublesome indicators, with special emphasis on infants, children and seniors. He will also look at the impact of the new Medicare law on health care access and cost. He will discuss practices utilized by other states which have made substantial gains in health care coverage for their citizens.



Ms. Figueroa will provide information on how La Red ("The Network," in Spanish) Health Center in Sussex County has attempted to fill the gap in providing access to affordable and quality health care to all citizens, including those that are uninsured and under-insured.

We encourage all members to attend and bring guests. The meeting is open to the public.

We ask those who attend to bring their favorite covered dish for all to share. We welcome all categories - appetizers, salads, entrees, side dishes, breads, and desserts. We also encourage you to bring your own flatware. Beverages will be provided. For more information, please contact Ellen Wasfi at 734-1545.

SURJ Agenda

2004 -2006

The League of Women Voters has been a strong supporter of Stand Up for What's Right and Just (SURJ) since its inception in January 2001, under the leadership of former Delaware Governor Russell Peterson and Executive Director Tom Eichler.

With Tom's departure this summer, Josh Temple, who has served as assistant director for the past year will assume the post of interim director.

SURJ will continue as a statewide, grassroots, non-profit organization dedicated to reforming Delaware's criminal justice system and attacking the causes of crime. Its basic premises are that: Delaware prisons are overcrowded, court dockets are full, drug abuse is rampant, and the high cost of expanding the prison system (\$26,000/year per prison bed) diverts funds from improving schools, strengthening the delivery of social services, health care, and reducing recidivism through rehabilitation and training programs.



In 2003, SURJ supported two sentencing reforms which were passed by the General Assembly: Senate Bill 50 which modified probation laws and House Bill 210 which reduced several mandatory sentences for non-violent drug and motor vehicle offenders.

The 2004-2006 SURJ Agenda for Action includes the following strategies:

- 1) Repeal of minimum mandatory drug sentences, restoring judicial discretion.

- 2) Establishment of programs that will help former prisoners to re-enter society as productive, law-abiding citizens.
- 3) Development and funding of substance abuse treatment and training programs.

As a SURJ partner, the League of Women Voters has encouraged its members to join SURJ as individuals in order to strengthen grassroots support for criminal justice reform. There is no membership fee, and joining provides members with information and updates on reform efforts. For more information, please contact Ellen Wasfi at 734-1545 or by email at ewasfi@aol.com.

**LWVGD Fundraiser
at Spence's Bazaar**

**Friday, October 1, 2004
7 a.m. - 1 p.m.**

It's time to clean out your closets, attics and basements, and bring all those forgotten treasures to the annual League rummage sale at Spence's Bazaar.

We will be collecting any and all items (except clothing) from now **until October 1**. It would be very helpful if you could price the items before donating them.

Jean Bauer has graciously agreed to allow us to use her garage for storage. Please give her a call before dropping things off so she can arrange to be there for you. She can be reached at 698-1601.

We are also looking for volunteers to help us sell the items to eager buyers. If you can work (and have loads of fun) with us in any two-hour shifts between 7 a.m. and 1 p.m., we would greatly appreciate it. Just call Ruth Johnson at 335-4330.

Candidates Night 2004

**Wednesday, October 13
6:45 p.m. - 8:45 p.m.**

Boscov's Auditorium, Dover Mall

Candidates for State Senate, Insurance Commissioner, Lieutenant Governor, Governor, and U.S. Representative have been invited to participate in a debate co-sponsored by the League of Women Voters of Greater Dover and Boscov's Department Store.

The debate will be moderated by the League of Women Voters. American Association of University Women (AAUW) members will assist in monitoring the event.

The debate format allows members of the audience to pose questions to the candidates on index cards distributed prior to and throughout the program. The League moderator will pose the questions to the candidates.

Unfortunately, the debate scheduled for October 6 was cancelled due to the large number of candidates running unopposed or unable to attend. It would have featured candidates for Levy Court, Kent County row offices, and the House of Representatives.

For those who might be unfamiliar with the regulations governing the holding of debates, please note that the League of Women Voters is required to abide by regulations of the Federal Elections Commission [Sec. 110.13(G)], the Federal Communications Commission [Sec. 315(a)] and the Internal Revenue Service [Revenue Ruling 86-95] for groups sponsoring appearances of Candidates for elective office. Consequently, should only one candidate for a particular office appear, the organization

cannot provide the opportunity for him or her to address the audience during the formal program.

If you have not already indicated that you would like to help collect index cards or staff tables during the debate, please contact Ellen Wasfi at 734-1545.

We are truly grateful to Beverly Bresnahan and Mary Merritt of the LWVGD Voter Service Committee for their tireless efforts to contact all the candidates (multiple times) to ensure their presence at the debate.



Resident Advisory Council Elections at Liberty Court

In July 2004, LWVGD board members Christine Stillson and Betty Wagner observed resident advisory council elections at Liberty Court, a Delaware Housing Authority resident community on Walker Road in Dover. They oversaw the balloting and certified that the election was carried out in keeping with the regulations of the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development.

Resident Advisory Councils represent residents of housing authority communities in dealing with the housing authority and enable the residents to apply for government grants to improve the quality of life in their neighborhoods. HUD requires a non-partisan observer, such as the League, to validate the electoral process.



In Memory of a Dear Friend

Teresa Whitaker

President, League of Women Voters of Greater Dover, 2001-2003

Teresa Whitaker was an extraordinary individual. It soon became obvious to me when I first met her nine years ago that she had a mission to leave the world in better shape than the way she found it. She spent every minute of her life working towards that goal.

She gave all those who knew her the sense that each of us is, in a way, a custodian of the Earth and the people who inhabit it. She saw each day as an opportunity to live up to our responsibilities during our time here to care for each other and for the planet we inhabit. It didn't matter where she did that work - whether volunteering to make her neighbors' lives easier at a senior center or at an elementary school, or buttonholing legislators to convince them that the fragile environment around us needs to be preserved. A year after joining the Dover League of Women Voters, she headed the legislative Observer Corps; six years later she was elected League President and the impact of her leadership still guides us.

Teresa was all about commitment and action. If she identified a problem, she first learned all she could about how to deal with it, and then she jumped in without hesitation to rectify it. She rose to each challenge with an infectious enthusiasm that inspired all those around her to become involved. And this was equally true whether she led opposition to placing an asphalt plant adjacent to a nursing home, or fought to eliminate ground water pollution, or provided school children with art supplies, or joined in an effort to improve race relations in our community.

Her commitment to the welfare of those around her was an outgrowth of her devotion to her family and their devotion to her. That enduring bond, especially the love that she and Rock shared, was not only the source of her strength but also the source of the strength she imparted to others. Her positive attitude toward life and all those around her came from that family bond, and it uplifted us all. This was especially true during the last two years when she faced the most difficult challenge of her life.

Teresa not only left the world a better place, she made her corner of it blossom in an upbeat and joyful way. That was the legacy she left behind and the example she gave for us to follow. We will miss her deeply, but her gentle guidance will always be with us.

— Ellen Wasfi

Message from the President

Welcome back everybody!

I know this has been a busy summer, and it is only going to get busier this fall. We embrace the challenge and hope all League members will jump in with enthusiasm. We hope you become an integral part of our upcoming activities in the areas of education, advocacy and voter service. We look forward to working with all of you as well as networking with many other civic organizations.

We especially welcome our new members and encourage them to play an active role in realizing the League's goal to expand participation in the political process. And if you would like to see the League involved in events or projects which interest you, please let us know by coming to board meetings and presenting your ideas. That is how we strengthen the grassroots.

Although voting is critical to maintaining a democratic system, it is only the initial step. It is the ever vigilant monitoring of and involvement in the political process by the majority of citizens that allows democracy to thrive - and that is why the League of Women Voters is here. Join us!

- Ellen Wasfi

May 2004 Luncheon Summary of Speaker's Remarks

Topic: "Privacy and the Internet in an Age of Global Terrorism"

Speaker: Dr. Andrew Zimmerman, Delaware Technical and Community College

Dr. Zimmerman said that we are not only governed by government, but also by technology. Information technology, over which the individual has little control, is reshaping the way society works and

redefining the meaning of privacy. For example, the privacy of Internet users is vulnerable to commercial, criminal, employer and government intrusion with only the "unenumerated rights" of the Ninth Amendment to the Constitution as protection (there is no specific privacy clause in the Constitution).

Commercial intrusion involves the targeting of consumers who utilize the Internet through advertisers' access to personal information without consumer



consent. Criminal intrusion manifests itself through viruses and worms as well as identity theft resulting in large financial loss. Employer intrusion is evidenced in monitoring employees' e-mail, although some state laws (Delaware included) require employers to inform employees that monitoring is taking place.

The most outstanding example of government intrusion lies in the enforcement of the USA "Patriot Act," which empowers the federal government to obtain a search warrant to examine e-mail and other "stored communications" without "probable cause."

Dr. Zimmerman used the technique of role playing to involve the audience in an exercise designed to determine if and to what extent the potential exists for local and federal agencies to abuse these expanded investigative powers. Particular emphasis was placed on the role of libraries in reporting "suspicious" users of public Internet facilities. The question was posed, "Does fear promote injustice?"

The luncheon presentation was co-sponsored by the Delaware Humanities Forum.



From LWVUS:

Helping America Vote: Safeguarding the Vote

The League of Women Voters of the United States (LWVUS) has published an election reform guide which explores issues central to reforming our election system and the implementation of the Help America Vote Act of 2002 (HAVA).

The monograph outlines recommended operational and management practices for state and local election officials to enhance voting system security, protect eligible voters and ensure that valid votes are counted.

For this report, the LWVUS compiled a set of model practices and recommendations that can provide a more secure foundation for two key components of election administration: voting systems and voter registration systems. It also discusses such issues as the need for a voter-verifiable paper trail and the purging of voter lists, and provides a checklist for voting systems.

The report is available online at:

http://www.lwv.org/elibrary/pub/voting_safeguarding_bw.pdf

Great Decisions Report:

Weapons of Mass Destruction

September 16, 2004

In the 1960s as cold-war competition drove the build-up of nuclear weapons by the major powers. McGeorge Bundy, President Kennedy's security advisor, concluded that fear was the key factor that drove proliferation [Ronald J. Bee, "Weapons of mass destruction: what now after 9/11," *Great Decisions* 2004]. Forty years later, the same dynamic seems to motivate the desire to possess WMDs, only the actors have multiplied and diversified.

The aim of this discussion was to place the global arms race in the political contexts from which it draws its momentum, and to try to determine how to diminish the "fear factor" as a major component.

Great Decisions:

The U.S. and Europe

Thursday, October 21, 2004; 9:45 a.m.

Home of Jean Bauer

75 Vining Run, Pharsalia, Camden

Professor Immanuel Wallerstein, senior research scholar at Yale University, has traced the evolution of U.S.-European relations since 1945 ["The U.S. and Europe, 1945 to Today," *La Rivista del Manifesto*, No. 51, June 2004]. He noted that at that time the primary objective of U.S. foreign policy was to keep Western Europe as a subordinated, highly integrated, part of its geopolitical strategic resources.

The US program took the form of the Marshall Plan economic assistance for European recovery and the creation of NATO. By the 1960s, however, as European institutions strengthened, the U.S. began to view European growth with some skepticism as it began to emerge as a potential serious competitor in the world economy.

US enthusiasm about European unity began to cool as concerns grew about growing trends toward European political autonomy. The collapse of the U.S.S.R. at the close of the 1980s left the U.S. as the only major superpower, and Western European countries began to question U.S. geopolitical leadership around the world. This growing resentment reached a high point during the administration of George W. Bush and his unilateralist approach to international relations, especially his attack on Iraq.

Europe, however, is not a monolith, and European unity on any issue is far from certain. It is these vagaries of European politics and how they affect trends in U.S.-European relations that will form the basis of our discussion.

Contacts

President:
1st VP:
Membership:
Secretary:
Treasurer:
Website:

Ellen Wasfi, 734-1545, ewasfi@aol.com
Dr. Phyllis Edamatsu, 678-0734, pedamatsu@earthlink.net
Christine Stillson, 697-8600, clstillson@delaware.net
Charlotte Hunt, 734-3268
Betty Wagner, 734-3837, be1wagner@aol.com
Joan Breukelman, 674-5589, muonjb@comcast.net

**New Members
Added May - August 2004**

Sharon Painter
1131 Oak Drive
Dover, DE 19904 Tel: 678-1412 (H)
744-7248 (W)

Lillian Jones-Chisholm
8 Glenwood Drive
Dover, DE 19904 Tel: 697-1615
Email: Ljones1004@netzero.net

Mimi Klocko
905 West Lane
Milford, DE 19963 Tel: 430-0832
Email: gmklocko@aol.com

Debra J. Zistl
107 Downes Drive
Hartly, DE 19953 Tel: 492-1623
Email: HRVSTTME@aol.com

Mary Merritt
24 Tam O'Shanter Court
Dover, DE 19904 Tel: 734-8517
Email: mmerritt@desu.edu

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Membership Renewal

Annual dues of \$35.00 are payable to LWVGD any time after July 1, 2004,
but no later than October 1, 2004.

Please mail your check to:

**Betty Wagner
556 Buckson Drive
Dover, Delaware 19901**

Name: _____
[please print]

Address: _____

Occupation: _____

Telephone: Home: _____ Work: _____

Fax: _____ E-mail: _____

My areas of interest are:

- Voter Service
- International Relations
- Education
- Health Care
- Environment
- Study Circles on Racism
- Legislative Observer Corps
- Criminal Justice
- Other (Please elaborate.)

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**Best Wishes to the
League of
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