



League of Women Voters of Kent County

The Voter

The Price of Liberty Is Still Eternal Vigilance

League of Women Voters of Kent County, September 2008

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

Editor: Jean Bauer, 698-1601, jeanbauer@verizon.net

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

Annual Calendar

September

- 10 **Open Government Forum**
1 – 3 p.m., optional brown bag lunch at 12:30, new Epworth United Methodist Church, Holland Glade Road, Rehoboth Beach. Panelists include Senator Karen Peterson and lobbyist John Flaherty.
- 11 **Great Decisions: Russia and “Putinism”**
10 a.m., home of Jeanine Kleimo, 79 Vining Run, Camden
- 17 **Annual Potluck Dinner and Unit Meeting**
6 p.m., St. Paul’s Episcopal Church, North Road at West Street, Camden. Celebrate the 221st anniversary of the signing of the Constitution, discuss Observer Corps and other portfolios
- 19 **LWVKC Board Meeting**
11 a.m. – 1 p.m, Price Building, Room 111, DSU. Thanks to Carol Giesecke for the room!

October

- 9 **Great Decisions: U.S. Defense Policy**
10 a.m., The Heritage at Dover Assisted Living Community, The Bistro Room, 1203 Walker Road, Dover
- 15 **Candidates' Night**
7 – 9 p.m., Boscov’s, Dover Mall. Kent County row offices, Levy Court, and State Representatives
- 22 **Candidates' Night**
7 – 9 p.m., Boscov’s, Dover Mall. State Senate, State Executive offices, Federal offices
- 28 **LWVKC Board Meeting** (tentative), time and venue TBD

November

- 19 **LWVKC Unit Meeting: Kent County Government** (tentative), time and venue TBD

December

- 10 **State Budget and Impact on Delaware’s Two Lower Counties**
Joint unit meeting with LWVSC, time and venue TBD
- 13 **Celebration of Bill of Rights Day**
10 a.m. – 12 noon, State Archives, Dover

January

- 21 **LWVKC Unit Meeting: Policy and Program**
10 a.m. – 1 p.m., home of Jean Bauer, 75 Vining Run, Camden

February

- 18 **LWVKC Unit Meeting: Education, Part I - Issues in Higher Education**

March

- 18 **LWVKC Unit Meeting: Women’s Health Issues**
- 21 **Annual Members Tea**
Time TBD, home of Sue Schmittinger, 103 Dodge Drive, Smyrna

April

- 15 **Education: Part II**, time and venue TBD

May

- 20 (tentative) **LWVKC Annual Meeting**, time and venue TBD

Annual Potluck Dinner and Unit Meeting



St. Paul's Episcopal Church
North Road at West Street, Camden
September 17, 6 p.m.

Mickey McKay will explain the Observer Corps, and we will have an opportunity to consider this interesting project. In addition, portfolio holders should be available to discuss their portfolios with other members interested in working in their area. This is an ideal opportunity for committees to begin to form. Also, did you know the 221st anniversary of the signing of the U.S. Constitution is upon us?! It's something to celebrate!. Please bring a dish to share and a place setting!!

Open Government Forum: LWV Sussex County

New Epworth United Methodist Church
Holland Glade Road, Rehoboth Beach
1 – 3 p.m., September 10
(optional brown bag lunch, 12:30 p.m.)

This forum, sponsored by LWVSC, is a continuation of the series begun by Dr. Margaret McKay, LWVDE FOIA Chair, in Dover last year. The series itself is a continuation of League activities in support of openness in government since its inception, as the LWV has been an active champion of openness in government throughout its history. Our principles include the requisite that "government bodies protect the citizen's right to know by giving adequate notice of proposed action, holding open meetings and making public records accessible." Dr. McKay will be the presenter at this forum, and panelists are Senator Karen Peterson, Stanton; Michael Smith, Esq., Asst. Counsel, Sussex County; John Flaherty, Lobbyist, The Greenwatch Institute; and Erika Schrader, Esq., Specialist in Municipal Law.

Great Decisions – Russia and “Putinism”

10 a.m., September 11
Home of Jeanine Kleimo
79 Vining Run, Pharsalia, Camden

The Great Decisions topic for September 11 is "Russia and 'Putinism'." The discussion will be held at the home of Jeanine Kleimo, 79 Vining Run, Pharsalia, Camden.*

Our discussion will focus on how Russia changed under Putin and on the influence he is likely to continue to have under Medvedev, the new Russian President. Changes in Russia's economy, its internal political life, and its relations to the USA and to other nations will be addressed. The long-term impact of Putin's unique style--referred to as "unconsolidated autocracy" in the text--has implications for other countries in the region and beyond. We will address this approach to national politics and the relationship the US should have with Russia and countries in its sphere of influence.

*Pharsalia has a brick sign at the entrance, and Vining Run is the entrance street. Vining Run is the first street on the right after passing Caesar Rodney HS westbound on Old North Road.

with gratitude

A huge, heartfelt thank you to Carol and Ray Grandfield for hosting the June wine and cheese evening. It was grand to get together for a sociable evening in such a hospitable environment, discuss current events (gnash our teeth?), chat, and recount what we felt others among us meant to the League.



And yet another huge, heartfelt thank you to Ruth and Ralph Johnson for generously hosting our annual picnic at their welcoming home in its lovely lakeside setting. It was a fun evening – everything was just perfect, the ambience, the burgers, the weather. Together we celebrated the 88th anniversary of the 19th Amendment in welcoming surroundings!

The president's corner

Greetings League members !
We are about to kick off our new year with the Annual Potluck evening on Wednesday, September 17th with a chance to hear about activities in the year ahead. Portfolio holders will let you know how you can participate in your area of interest ! Since we are in an election year, one of our major missions, voter registration, is in need of your help ! Talk with Charlotte Hunt, who has been busy organizing voter registration opportunities, most recently at the Wyoming Peach Festival. Another election year activity is the debates that we hold in October covering Kent County Levy Court and row offices, state representatives and senators, state executive offices, and U.S. Senate and Representative representatives. Please consider helping out in the upcoming Candidates' Nights scheduled for October 15 and 22 . Contact Ellen Wasfi for more information, 734-1545 or ewasfi@aol.com.

And, although the elections hold our interests, there is much to do in our work on various issues of local and statewide concern. Think about what your passion is and

get on board ! At the Potluck there will be a list of the portfolios, a chance to add a portfolio of interest to you, and of course, you'll be picking up the freshly published, updated Membership Guide, including the changes resulting from the May annual meeting.

In light of the ambitious voter service activities and forums that are planned for the year ahead, we are in need of funding to carry them out. Please remember that your tax-deductible contribution to LWV (with LWVKC ED Fund on the memo line) will help so much in making it possible for the debates and forums to occur. Please send your check to Beverly Jackson as noted in this newsletter, or, better, hand it to her in person at the Potluck !!

A very special thank you to all who work to keep up the good work of the League, where concerned citizens like you are actively engaged in effecting change on the local, state, and national levels !

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

Save \$\$ Save \$\$ Save \$\$

As we all know, the cost of mailings has risen. To help contain expenses, if you are not receiving the *Kent County Voter* via e-mail and would be comfortable doing so, please contact Jean Bauer at jeanbauer@verizon.net or 698-1601 and ask to be placed on the LWVKC e-mail list.

Let your fingers do the walking to –

- the LWVDE website: lww.de.org, to remain current with and participate in events in LWVDE, LWNCC, and LWVSC

- the LWVKC website: lwwgd.org, to stay abreast of LWVKC events

- the LWVUS one-stop site for voter information: VOTE411.org.

VOTE411.org is the resource for any voter or prospective voter. It contains a wealth of information about all aspects of registration and voting, as well as detailed information about all states. You can reach the site directly or by clicking on the link at lww.de.org.

\$\$\$\$\$\$ HELP \$\$\$\$\$\$

This is all about how we will fund our ambitious to-do list this year. It is an election year, and funding to carry out voter service activities is needed desperately. Your donation is particularly important this year, as a local underwriter is unable to help with funding. The Candidates' Nights require sound systems and advertising, which are costly. Although other underwriters are being sought, your help is most important. Any donation will be very much appreciated. A donation to the League of Women Voter's Education Fund (earmarked in the memo line of your check for "LWVKC ED FUND") is **tax deductible to the fullest extent of the law**. For further information about this, please contact Beverly Jackson at 670-9548 or Beverly_Jackson@comcast.net. You may also send a non-tax deductible donation (with your dues or separately) directly to LWVKC. All contributions should be mailed to Beverly Jackson, Treasurer, LWVKC, 130 Hitching Post Drive, Dover, Delaware 19904.

More Events of Interest

Martinis and Manicures !

From 5:30 – 7:30 p.m. on Sep. 16, the Delaware Fund for Women is holding an informational session at the home of Letha Hammon, 4101 Kennett Pike, Wilmington, 302-777-5388. RSVP to Laura Day at 302-369-7351 or FundForWomen@yahoo.com. Manicures and hand massages, martinis and MarTEEni Mike T-Shirts.

Helena Cobban to Visit Dover Area !

Helena Cobban, a well known international affairs journalist, will visit the Dover area on September 23 and 24. Ms. Cobban is an internationally syndicated columnist, and she has written for the Christian Science Monitor, the Sunday Times of London, and the Boston Review. She now serves with the Friends committee on National Legislation. Ms. Cobban is also the author of several books. Her schedule follows:

Tuesday, Sep. 23, 12 noon, Christ Episcopal Church, State & Water Sts., Dover, for their brown bag series. Her address will focus on the Middle East.

Tuesday, Sep. 23, 6:30-8:30 p.m., St. Paul's Episcopal Church, Old North Rd. & West St., Camden (across from Caesar Rodney HS). She will discuss American engagement in global affairs.

Wednesday, Sep. 24, 1 p.m., the Cadbury Retirement Community, Gulf Neck Rd., Lewes (across from Henlopen HS).

Annual Delaware Book Festival !

The Delaware Book Festival will be held on November 1, State Heritage Park, Dover. The Festival features appearances by over 35 authors and illustrators, creative workshops and activities for children. A full day of activities is provided. Throughout the day, the nearby museums will be open free of charge. Log on and keep updated on the Annual Delaware Book Festival at

<http://www.debookfestival.lib.de.us/festival/index.html>.

In celebration of, in honor of, with respect for, Women's Equality Day, which was the 88th anniversary of the 19th Amendment to the U. S. Constitution, and the ladies who made it possible, the following article appeared in the *Dover Post* and *Delaware State News*.

88 Years of Stronger Democracy

League of Women Voters of Kent County Marks Anniversary of the 19th Amendment

This August 26 marks the 88th anniversary of the day that the U.S. Constitution was amended to grant women the right to vote. The nonpartisan League of Women Voters, formed when women were first granted the right to vote, will mark this occasion with reflections on how far we have come as well as optimism that this year will bring even more Americans into the democratic process.

"What better day than the anniversary of the 19th amendment, Women's Equality Day, to recognize the progress we have made on voting rights in the past 88 years," said Mary G. Wilson, national League president.

"This election year has seen an unprecedented rise in the number of new voters, especially women, young people and minorities, registering to vote," said League of Women Voters of Kent County president Christine L. Stillson. "There is a tremendous sense of excitement and energy driving this election."

"Right now the League is working with several organizations specifically dedicated to reaching out to these rising populations of new voters, making sure that everyone is prepared for November 4th." The Kent County League members have been registering voters at various locations throughout the county.

"More and more people are getting motivated and involved, something that League founders would be proud to see: an active, energized voting public fulfilling the destiny of the 19th amendment," Stillson said.

"However, these achievements do not mark the end of our journey. In communities across the country, citizens still lack real representation by their elected officials and the policies they pass. It is only with the continued work of citizens and leaders, of all backgrounds, that this can change."

"Today, and especially this election year, is a time to celebrate the progress achieved by active citizens over the past eight decades. But it is also a time to look at what still needs to be done to make democracy work for all Americans. The League of Women Voters of Kent County will continue to be the place where hands-on work leads to a better democracy for all."

THE LEAGUE: POLITICAL BUT NONPARTISAN

"As we move into the general election phase of this campaign, I wanted to take this opportunity to remind members...The League of Women Voters' most valuable asset, in addition to our volunteers, is its name and therefore, we must take great care in maintaining our reputation and strict nonpartisanship." Mary G. Wilson, President, LWVUS.

Soon after the League's founding, the decision was made to take positions on issues but to neither support nor oppose any political party or candidate (appointed or elected) for public office. Today, this policy continues to ensure that the League's voice is heard above the tumult of party politics.

Reports

Annual Dues Update

Dues for the current fiscal year---July 1, 2008 - June 30, 2009---were payable July 1 and are due by October 1.

If you joined, or rejoined, the League between April 1, 2008 and June 30, 2008, the dues you paid included the current fiscal year.

LWVUS increased dues at the national convention in June, and we regret that we must pass this increase on to our members. A small part of your dues goes to LWVDE, to support the work that's done at the state level, to pay for your *Delaware Voter* and to pay for our state office in Wilmington. A part goes to LWVUS, to help support the important work that's done by the League in Washington, D.C., and to pay for your *National Voter*.

The majority of the dues you pay supports league programs and activities right here in Kent County, Delaware. Your dues are used to help defray the cost of an occasional speaker, or the rental fee for the venue of one of our monthly meetings, or to help our officers and committee chairs meet some of their expenses.

We hope the dues increase will not be a hardship for you. **Please complete the renewal form at the end of this Voter and return it with your check by October 1, 2008.** We appreciate your prompt payment. Membership in the League of Women Voters is still one of the best bargains around.

Beverly Jackson, Treasurer

Voter Registration Report

We had a great time at our LWV table during the Wyoming Peach Festival on August 2. The Stillsons, Christine and Lester, allowed us to set up on the corner of their yard, right in the center of the action. Staff and helpers were Jean Bauer, Charlotte Hunt, Beverly Jackson, Sandra Winfrey, Phyllis Edamatsu, Carol Giesecke, and Julie Price. Lots of people asked questions and took literature, but only a few needed to get registered.

On Labor Day weekend we were invited to have a Voter Registration Table at Holy Cross Church from 4:30 to 8:30 p.m. on Saturday and 7:30 a.m. to 7:30 p.m. on Sunday. Sandra Winfrey was there for the total time, since that is her church. Others who staffed the table were Beverly Bresnahan, Charlotte Hunt, Betty Ipnar, and Christine Stillson. In addition to people who completed registration there, several took the mail-in packets home for other family members. So far this year we have completed 17 voter registrations, given out 5 mail-in packets, helped distribute useful literature, and answered dozens of questions. If you want to take part in this LWV activity, contact Charlotte Hunt at 734-3268 or e-mail cmhunt2004@aol.com.

*Charlotte Hunt
Voter Registration*

Membership Report, as of August 2008

Thanks to all our new members who joined us over the past year. There are ten of you who joined between our annual meeting May 23, 2007, and the recent annual meeting, May 21, 2008. You are Mary Snyder; Judy Rennick; Nick DiPasquale; Marilyn Bounds; Ray Grandfield; Irv Levitt; Betty Ipnar; Jenny and Floyd Harris; and Jill Ipnar, plus four former members who rejoined us: Nona McNatt, Prameela Kaza, Gwen Elliott and Kim Brockenbrough. Since May 21st, Phil Troxler has also joined us as a new member.

When it was time to renew membership, we lost only two members, despite an increase in dues. Thanks to each of you who renewed your membership. Many of you are the leaders who organize our activities and keep our League contributing to our community, our state and our nation. But even when you can not actively take part, your dues work to help our local League (LWVKC), as well as the Delaware League (LWVDE) and our national League (LWVUS), to meet their expenses and to be able to achieve our goals. Whenever membership declines, and costs increase, as somehow they continue to do, all three levels of the League get pinched. With national elections this year and so many important issues on the table, League members at our

national convention decided it was much better to raise dues than to cut costs and conceivably make the League less effective. We appreciate your understanding and cooperation.

Thanks to all of you, the LWVKC now numbers 59.

My special thanks to those on the Membership team (Ruth Johnson, Peggy Swygert and Mary Snyder) for attending meetings and assisting me with a variety of membership activities. My thanks also to Les Stillson for updating our Member Guide and Membership Directory; to Christine Stillson for mentoring me; to Sue Schmittinger for hosting the Membership Tea, to Dan Snyder for computer assistance, and to all our members who joined prior to this past year for renewing your memberships. You all are important to the League, and your interests and experiences enrich us. To all of you who have offered to help with Membership, deepest thanks! If you haven't already been contacted, you probably will be. If you feel you've been skipped, please call me (284-4565). We've been given some great ideas for building membership, and we'll be employing several of them this year.

To those who joined me in writing a Storybank story (Ruth Ann Purchase and Mickey McKay), thanks! Members' stories are delightful to read, and you inspire us. We know everyone has an interesting story to tell about her or his involve-

ment with the League. To those of you who have not yet put your story in writing, please help us to inspire more potential members by sharing your stories. They should be short, only 300 words or less, and they can be e-mailed directly to League Headquarters in Washington, D.C. at Storybank@lww.org, or send it to me (information below). In any event, please send me a copy.

If you aren't already active with the League and can spare some time to get involved, please contact me (information below) or Christine Stillson at 697-8600 (H) or 674-1963 (W) or at clstillson@verizon.net. Our country needs our involvement, and let us never forget that democracy is not a spectator sport.

Please remember that increasing our membership is everyone's responsibility. Invite a friend to join you at a League activity. Then ask them to join the League. If you don't get a positive response right away, keep trying. Sooner or later the time will probably be right for them. Membership forms are generally available at every League activity. Arrange to pick up your friend's completed form and dues check, and send them to me. If you have a question or need some help, I welcome your call.

*Carol Reid-Grandfield,
Membership Chair
302-284-4565, CHRG302@aol.com*

Spotlight on Members

New Members' Contact Information

Clare Brigidini

220 Delaware Ave.
Harrington, DE 19952
302-398-6169
brigidini@peoplepc.com

Philip Troxler

24 Gristmill Dr.
Dover, DE 19904
302-674-3261
philoparvin@msn.com

New Member's Biography

Clare Brigidini is LWVKC's newest member, joining us in August. She retired from "CRS," where she was a research information assistant. She has been involved with several organizations: member of Desk and Derrick Club (for women in the energy industry); member of Sexual Minority Youth Assistance League; a founder of a North Arlington lesbian social organization of approximately 150 women, and Chair of the Library of Congress Gay, Lesbian, or Bisexual Employees Group.

Since her retirement, her main interest/occupation has been the renovation of her home. She also enjoys reading (especially mysteries), gardening and landscaping, and keeps trying her hand at pottery throwing. She has canvases waiting and hopes sometime to get back to them.

Clare claims she has no expertise; she is “more of a generalist who, if required or desired, can acquire needed knowledge and/or information for carrying out the task at hand.” That, Clare, plus your willingness to get involved, is

what it takes to help us make the League a successful organization. Welcome!

Annual reports (continued from previous Voter)

Voter Registration

During the past year LWVGD has held seven Voter Registration Tables. One was held in Felton at the request of the Town Fair Committee, but we only had a few interested people. In August we had our famous Voter Registration Table at the Wyoming Peach Festival, video broadcast by WBOC, and visited by many peo

ple. In October we used the new display unit for a Voter Registration Table at the Governor’s Fall Festival and had a good response.

It is a state requirement that all Volunteer Registrars receive an annual official training session. On April 3, 2008, eight LWVGD members attended class at the Commissioner of Elections office, and four others are still awaiting class openings. Any LWVGD members interested in Voter Registration should get in touch with me,

Charlotte Hunt, 302-734-3268, 220 Fox Road, Dover 19904, CMHUNT2004@aol.com.

*Charlotte Hunt
Voter Registration*

Historian’s Report

July 1, 2007 – June 30, 2008

The 2007-2008 year began with Delaware being chosen by LWVUS as one of five states nationwide to participate in Year 2 of a pilot program, the Membership Recruitment Initiative, or MRI, designed to increase membership. In late summer and early fall, intensive training of State and Local membership chairs was followed by all state Boards. Throughout the year, personal stories of members were collected for the MRI and served as testimonials of the valuable relationships that have grown between members and the League. Primarily, the MRI enhanced our usual programs throughout the year. Our first year with the MRI is not yet over, and already we have seen some significant growth in membership and retention. Our goal of at least a five percent increase in membership has been achieved.

In August, Ruth and Ralph Johnson again hosted the League picnic at their home on Andrews Lake.

Summer and fall voter registration and membership recruitment occurred at the Wyoming Peach Festival and the Governor’s Fall Festival.

A Dover Mayoral Candidates Night was held in September.

A Potluck Supper in September started the year’s Unit meetings. “Focus on the Year Ahead: Issues and Challenges” described the program, presented primarily by Portfolio chairs.

Three Greater Dover League members attended the United Nations Department of Public Instruction/Non-Governmental Organizations (DPI/NGO) annual conference in NYC where the topic, “Climate Change: How It Impacts Us All,” was a timely one and the meetings extremely interesting and highly important.

At the October Unit meeting, our first on immigration, Ellen Wasfi introduced immigration and then we learned about the real life experiences of the Executive Director of La Esperanza in Georgetown, Jaida Guajardo. Fund raisers were held as usual, spring and fall, at Spences Bazaar, under the capable and experienced leadership of Ruth and Ralph Johnson. Thanks to League members for donations and help with the sale, especially to Ruth and John Bochnowski and Christine and Les Stillson. Many hours also went into preparing a new *Directory of Elected Officials*.

Marlene Naylor, our Publicity Chair, enthusiastically took on the challenge of setting up an Observer Corps, but her dream was shelved indefinitely upon her sudden death in November. Jean Bauer, our *Dover Voter* editor, graciously agreed to fill in temporarily with Publicity.

In mid-November we hosted a membership table at the Delaware Housing Conference in Dover, to attract potential members and to increase public awareness of the League and its concern about affordable housing. The November Unit meeting was Part II on immigration. Sincere thanks to Patricia Hatch of LWVUS and our other panelists. A Dover City Council Candidates Night was also held in November. No

ads were placed in the newspaper due to loss of funding from Boscov's, but publicity was provided by the newspapers.

The Greater Dover, New Castle and Sussex County Leagues joined forces to co-sponsor, with AAUW and ACLU, both of Delaware, a special Bill of Rights Day celebration at the Delaware Public Archives on December 15. Delaware's original Ratification Letter was on display, and speakers Drewry Fennell, Executive Director of the ACLU of Delaware, and Russ McCabe, State Archivist and Director of Delaware Public Archives, spoke to an appreciative crowd of over 60. This event drew such praise that we hope to make it an annual event.

January's Unit meeting was devoted to formulating an immigration consensus to submit to LWVUS. A second Unit meeting was held to review LWVGD policies and bylaws.

In February our League hosted another trip to the annual Committee to Teach about the U.N. (CTAUN) Conference---an interesting program designed especially for educators, at the United Nations. Thirty-three League members and public citizens were recruited through Ruth Johnson's hard work and perseverance. The February Unit meeting was entitled Health Care Issues for Seniors. We learned that the Delaware Office on Aging has done little to anticipate seniors' needs. Thanks to our panelists, who included Jo Ann Fields, M.D., and Hal Wallach.

Our annual Mid-Winter Membership Tea was again held in February at the beautiful lakeside home of Sue Schmittinger. All present and many prospective members were invited, to celebrate the LWVUS's 88th birthday. Portfolio chairs described their roles with the League and were able to enlist the help of both existing and new members.

In March a Forum on the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) was organized and presented by one of our members, Dr. Margaret McKay, in the City of Dover Council Chamber. The well attended event included a presentation on open government by Dr. McKay, followed by presentations by a panel of experts on open government, who included Senator Karen Peterson (D-Stanton), Nicholas DiPasquale, Judy Oken Hodas and Cecil Wilson.

League Day in Dover was held at Dover's beautiful Duncan Center in April and served as our April Unit meeting. The very interesting program on energy was organized by LWVNCC and was excellent, but the number of LWVGD members in attendance was quite small. A Fair Housing event was also held in April, as was voter registration training.

At our Annual Meeting in May, our program addressed another aspect of seniors' health care, "Confronting the Growing Crisis in Senior Health Care in Delaware, Part II: Forming a Coalition." Thanks to the following for their participation: Julia O'Hanlon, Siobhan Gannon, Susan R. Getman, Yrene Waldron and Harold Wallach. Betty Wagner was thanked for all her years of service to LWVGD as Treasurer. Thanks to Les Stillson for serving as Second V.P. New officers are Jean Bauer, Second V.P., and Beverly Jackson, Treasurer. Near the end of the fiscal year the Board again discussed the utility of changing our League's name to the League of Women Voters of Kent County (LWVVKC). This was finally accomplished by a majority vote of the membership at our 2008 Annual Meeting.

National Convention was held in Portland, Oregon, in June, but no Kent County League members attended. Our June Board meeting included Unit program and fund-raising planning for the 2008-2009 fiscal year and was very productive.

During the year there was again Board discussion of an award to be given in honor of one of our past presidents, Teresa Whitaker, and suggestions were made to name it the Teresa Whitaker Environmental Award, or possibly the Teresa Whitaker Memorial Award. As part of the MRI, LWVGD committed to presenting a Making Democracy Work Award this year. Those plans failed to materialize, but we are committed to bringing them to fruition in the new fiscal year.

The Great Decisions study group remains one of our League's most popular activities, due in large part to the impressive in-depth preparation and extensive background of our League's Past President and this group's Chair, Ellen Wasfi. Topics this year included the following: **South Africa: Facing New Challenges; War Crimes; Central Asia: Three Power Resource Rivalry; Helping the World's Endangered Children; Iraq: Strategies for Dealing with Uncertainty; and European Integration: Looking Ahead.** Try us out! You, too, just might find the time for a new, good habit!

*Carol Reid-Grandfield
Historian*

Historian's Report

July 1, 2006- June 30, 2007

At the National Convention in Minneapolis in June, dues had been raised, so at the LWVGD

Board meeting in July, individual dues were raised to \$40.00, and for a two-member household, to \$60.00. The Board also agreed to support the implementation of the Sierra Club's Cool Cities agreement for the City of Dover: the *U.S. Mayors Climate Protection Agreement*. Although the agreement wasn't actually executed till late spring of 2007, steps to make Dover a "green city" began about this time. The City of Dover, thanks largely to our combined efforts, is well on its way to becoming "a green city." At the July Board meeting, it was also decided that training was needed for Resident Advisory Council meetings. Also, there was fear of losing funding from Boscov's for Candidate Nights, and the City of Dover decided they would not provide the needed funding.

In August, voter registration was held during the Wyoming Peach Festival. In advance of September's Unit meeting on Global Warming, everyone was encouraged to see the Al Gore film, "An Inconvenient Truth." In preparation for the September 12 Primary, five voter registration tables were set up in August. Members were reminded that August 26 is the anniversary of the 19th Amendment, which entitled women to the right to vote; however, no special event was planned.

More voter registration was held in September, including one on September 30th at Boscov's. The September Potluck Dinner Unit meeting was held once again at the Friends Meeting House in Camden. Chad Tolman, of the Sierra Club and the LWVNCC, gave an excellent presentation on Global Warming. On September 5-8, Ruth and Ralph Johnson led a small contingent of LWVGD members to the United Nations annual Department of Public Information/Non-Governmental Organizations (DPI/NGO) conference in NYC. Meetings addressed progress on the U.N.'s Millennium Development Goals.

In October, voter registration was held at Delaware State University and at Dover Downs. The table at the Governor's Fall Festival on October 7 was cancelled due to the weather. Candidates Nights took the place of our Unit meeting in October. Two Candidates Nights were scheduled at Boscov's, but no major candidates committed to attending, and several who were expected didn't show up.

In November, our annual Wine and Cheese meeting was held at Sue Schmittinger's home in Smyrna. Gina Miserendino presented a program on affordable housing, including a program on "Moving to Work." We continued to monitor resident advisory council elections. At

the Board meeting, concern was expressed about our need to increase member turnout at our special events. We decided not to get involved in D.C. voting rights at this time.

There were no Board or Unit meetings in December.

On January 17th the Board held a By-laws/Policy Review. At the regular Board Meeting on January 23, we adopted the changes to the LWVUS Mission Statement, which now reads, "*The League of Women Voters, a nonpartisan political organization, encourages informed and active participation in government, works to increase understanding of major public policy issues, and influences public policy through education and advocacy.*" The Board also decided that we would pay the fee of \$35.00 for a Voter Registration table at the Bayhealth Baby Fair, although we had not had to pay previously. Resident Advisory Council Elections were satisfactorily completed at Silver Lake Estates in Milford. Voter registration training was also held in January.

In February, in lieu of a Unit meeting, our Mid-Winter Membership Tea was held at Sue Schmittinger's. The program included a brief history of the LWV, as well as reports by Portfolio chairs on some of our activities.

Our Unit meeting in March, entitled "Forum on Health Care Access in Delaware," was set up and moderated by our own JoAnn Fields, M.D. It was held at the Modern Maturity Center and was very well done. Speakers included Vicenta Marquez, M.D., and David Michalik. However, it was felt that more advance publicity would have brought in more of the public.

On April 19th, Ellen Wasfi was invited to address AAUW at their annual meeting. She spoke on five topics we are studying: Criminal Justice, Health Care, Affordable Housing, Race Relations, and Transparency in Government. On April 20-21, the LWVGD, in partnership with the Sierra Club and Delaware State University (DSU) Department of Agriculture and Natural Resources, and in conjunction with Earth Day, presented a free energy film festival at DSU. It featured Al Gore's *An Inconvenient Truth* and Sierra Club films on environmental issues. On April 25, our Unit meeting was a subs-and-pizza party and featured a PBS documentary: *Global Warming: The Signs and the Science*.

During Old Dover Days, in May, the Cools Cities Committee sponsored a children's art exhibit of ways children and their families can reduce their use of fossil fuels. Our May Annual Meeting and luncheon was held on the 23rd at Duncan Outlook. The program, presented by Nick DiPasquale, a very active environmentalist and a former Secretary of the Delaware Department of Natural Resources, spoke on "Energy Use and Environmental Impact." We were very pleased when he joined the League the same day. Plans of the Cool Cities Committee to have a booth at the Delaware State Fair, to educate Delawareans on ways to reduce their use of fossil fuels, were dashed when the Cool Cities Committee didn't get booth space. Booths, they found out, go first to

former vendors/exhibitors, with little to no provision for non-profit organizations.

In June the LWVGD held its traditional spring fundraiser at Spences Bazaar, under the experienced and successful management of Ruth and Ralph Johnson.

The Great Decisions study group continues to grow, thanks to the timely topics and exceptional leadership of its Chair and the LWVGD President, Ellen Wasfi. Topics studied this year included: Energy Policy, Brazil, Human Rights, China, India, Turkey, the Middle East, and Global Warming.

*Carol Reid-Grandfield
Historian*

- - - - - **Cut here** - - - - -

Membership Renewal Form, League of Women Voters of Kent County

Name(s) _____

Address _____

E-mail address _____

Phone number _____

Please check one line below:

\$45.00 for individual membership

\$67.50 for two-membership household

Please make your check payable to League of Women Voters of Kent County and send this form and your check to:

Beverly Jackson, Treasurer, LWVKC, 130 Hitching Post Drive, Dover, DE 19904



Come Hungry

Leave Happy!!

**Serving Dover's Best
Breakfast, Lunch,
or Dinner
Any Time of the Day!!**

(302) 678-3418

**Ruth Bochnowski
Tax and Accounting**

9 E. Lookerman Street
Treadway Towers, Suite 304
FILLAT & ASSOCIATES Dover, DE 19901

BENNETTI INSURANCE AGENCY
"for all your insurance and financial needs"



TWO LOCATIONS:

43 Voshell Mill Road
Dover, DE 19904
Phone: (302) 697-9559
Fax: (302) 697-1223

1252 Forrest Avenue
Dover, DE 19904
Phone: (302) 678-2223
Fax: (302) 678-2225

Welcome to

Open 7 Days a Week
7 AM - 9 PM
(302) 349-0121

*Peggy's Family
Restaurant*

Rt. 13 North, Greenwood