



*League of Women Voters of Kent County*

# The VOTER

The Price of Liberty Is Still Eternal Vigilance

League of Women Voters of Kent County, January 2010

President: Christine Stillson, 697-8600, [clstillson@verizon.net](mailto:clstillson@verizon.net)

Editor: Jean Bauer, 698-1601, [jeanbauer@verizon.net](mailto:jeanbauer@verizon.net)

Website: <http://www.lwvkc-de.org>

## Calendar

### January

**14 Thurs., Great Decisions, "Cuba on the Verge"**

10 a.m., The Heritage at Dover, 1203 Walker Road, Dover

**20 Wed., LWVKC Planning, Programming, & By Laws; 90th Anniversary & Calendar Planning**

6:30 p.m., St. Paul's Episcopal Church, Old North Road & West Street, Camden

**26 Tues., LWVKC board meeting**

12:15 - 2 p.m., St. Paul's Episcopal Church, Old North Road & West Street, Camden

**29 Fri., LWVDE Energy Study meeting,**

9:30 a.m., Dover-Smyrna area, if interested  
e-mail [lwvde@voicenet.com](mailto:lwvde@voicenet.com)

### February

**6 Sat., LWVKC Mid-Winter Membership Tea**

10 a.m. - 12 noon, home of Sue Schmittinger, 103 Dodge Drive, North Ridge, Smyrna

**11 Thurs., Great Decisions, "Human Rights"**

10 a.m., Private Dining Room, Westminster Village, 171 Westminster Drive

**23 Tues., LWVKC board meeting**

Time & place TBD

### March

**24 Mark Your Calendar**

**LWVDE LEAGUE DAY in DOVER,**

**Program: "Reapportionment"**

**Registration at 9 or 9:30 a.m.**

**The Overlook at the Duncan Center**

**500 West Lookerman St., Dover**

### Annual Review Of Program, Policy, & Bylaws, AND 90<sup>TH</sup> Anniversary & Calendar Planning

Time: Wednesday, January 20, 6:30 p.m.

Location: St. Paul's Episcopal Church, Camden  
(across from Caesar Rodney High School,  
for directions, call 697-8600 or 222-4084)

A light supper will be provided. This is our first meeting of the new year, a meeting you won't want to miss!

Please bring your ideas and enthusiasm to participate as we examine the coming year's program (see League definition in the next paragraph) AND begin planning for celebratory events for the League's 90<sup>th</sup> anniversary. Do you have a local issue you think we should be examining? Maybe you'd like to get more involved in a particular issue or area of interest. Maybe you'd like to work on a particular League portfolio or adopt a new portfolio. For example, Energy, Land Use and Transportation issues specific to Delaware are areas being addressed at the State level. These studies offer opportunities to League members throughout the state to work on the studies being undertaken. Please review your member guide for current program and study areas. Whatever your level of interest, please come and make your voice heard!

In League jargon, "program" means issues that have been or are being studied, which through consensus have provided positions on public policy. At the national level, the publication entitled "Impact on Issues" clearly states those positions. At the state level, members may choose to focus on a study or policy area within the national parameters, and at the annual meeting of the League of Women Voters of Delaware, delegates vote on any such new "program." A local League may, in turn, choose a focus that falls within either the national or state policy positions. At our January meeting, we decide which program(s) will be presented to the Kent County unit.

In an excerpt from LWVUS "President's Packet": "The League's program is varied and wide. It reflects the concerns of citizens—from local candidate forums to discussions about national health care initiatives. It involves members of the League as well as members of the community. Local Leagues work simultaneously on local, state, and national issues.

"To be most effective, local Leagues need to prioritize what issues they will work on in a given year. While it is important to include state and national priorities in the local League agenda, it is vital that local Leagues identify what issues are of concern locally."

## EVENT DETAILS

### **Great Decisions: "Cuba on the Verge"**

*Thursday, January 14, 2010, 10 a.m.*

*The meeting is to be held in The Bistro, The Heritage at Dover, 1203 Walker Road. The 2010 Great Decisions books have arrived and will be available at that time. We express our appreciation to Beth Jarrell of the Heritage for her continued hospitality in hosting the event.*

### **Mid-Winter Membership Tea**

**Saturday, February 6, 2010, 10 a.m. - 12 noon**

**Home of Sue Schmittinger, 103 Dodge Drive, North Ridge, Smyrna**

Come have a cuppa and hear what's happening with our local, state and national leagues—projects, study items, and more! Rekindle old league friendships and start some new ones! Bring your neighbor, bring your friend, bring your significant other! Let go of those mid-winter blues and develop Dover's 90th Anniversary celebration and chat about what's happening! Watch your mailbox for details!

DIRECTIONS: From the Dover Mall, travel 4 miles north on Rt. 13; turn left into North Ridge, then take an immediate left, followed by an immediate right turn onto Dodge Drive. No. 103 is on the right.

### **Great Decisions, "Human Rights"**

**Thursday, February 11, 2010, 10 a.m.**

*The meeting is to be held in the Private Dining Room at Westminster Village, 171 Westminster Drive, Dover. We express our appreciation to Mary Ann DeOliveira of Westminster Village for her hospitality in hosting our group.*

## TOPICS OF INTEREST

### **90<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the League of Women Voters**

#### **A Time to Celebrate in 2010**

From the LWVUS *Leaders' Update*, January 7, 2010

Happy New Year! This year offers many excellent opportunities for local Leagues to increase visibility and involve the community and the media while celebrating the 90th anniversary of the founding of the League of Women Voters and the passage of the 19th amendment. A 90th Anniversary webpage was created and includes a sample proclamation, guidelines for honoring community leaders with a Making Democracy Work award, and directions for collecting and utilizing stories. The LWVUS is planning celebrations and sessions at our national Convention, June 11-15, 2010, in Atlanta, GA. State and local League leaders are encouraged to take advantage of this important milestone to increase visibility and grow their Leagues. Remember to check the [90th Anniversary section](#) of the website for regular updates!

### **Call for Interested Participants on Topics of Transportation and Land Use**

Peggy Schultz of LWV NCC is heading a group of League members gathering information on the topics of transportation and land use in Delaware in conjunction with the Statewide study on Energy with the end point being providing informational presentations to each League in May. She encourages members of all Leagues who are interested to contact her so that she can organize working meetings in a convenient location for we who live downstate. Peggy can be reached at [peggy\\_Schultz@yahoo.com](mailto:peggy_Schultz@yahoo.com). She is very enthusiastic about this and will respond to you quickly.

*IN MEMORIAM*

*We extend our heartfelt condolences to Mickey McKay on the loss of her son. We offer our deepest sympathy to Judy Rennick on the passing of her mother.*

*FROM THE PRESIDENT*

*Dear Fellow Leaguers,*

*I hope you all enjoyed the recent holidays and are now ready to race into 2010 with all those good intentions !*

*2010 is a League banner year: League turns 90 years old this year in February. We will want to plan various activities with that celebrational motif as a focus. This is a chance for our Leagues to “strut our stuff” on all that we do—assuring that we each retain and exercise our rights to participate in government by voting, by educating ourselves and others on issues, and by taking action to support the various positions that we hold on issues.*

*Please take the opportunity this celebrational year to invigorate your League membership by making your voice heard on League issues, on planning educational forums, by becoming a part of the “Observer Corps,” by attending League activities, and by making sure YOUR favorite issue is on the agenda this year. Please plan to attend the meeting to be held on January 20, 2010. (See the details and calendar in this VOTER.)*

*Let's work together as we make this a year to celebrate the League !*

*Christine Stillson  
President*

**REPORTS**

**LWVDE Retreat: Oct 30-Nov 2, 2009: A weekend to remember !**

League members across the state converged on the Center for the Inland Bays along the Indian River for Halloween weekend. Their purpose was to spend a few days learning, talking and planning “all things League” and, no less important, getting to know one another face to face. The 28 attendees came from all three Leagues and spent the first evening getting settled into cabins located along the Indian River, sharing an informal

dinner prepared by New Castle County League members and preparing for the full day ahead. (Each League was responsible for a certain number of meals. The word is that no one went hungry, the meals were memorable, coffee was plentiful, and snacks and fruit were wonderful !)

Saturday's schedule included breakfast prepared by members from our Kent League.

This was followed by concurrent sessions: "League 101" (what we need to know about the League to be more effective, committed League members), and "Navigating the Legislature's Website" (how to track legislation on the Web). While these two sessions were active, others met on other issues that arose—Ed Fund issues and other potential study topics. Another morning session addressed the topic "A New Pattern of Governance" (a report from the governance committee which ended with a request for input to the committee). This committee is examining ways to eliminate duplication of some activities in all three Leagues. One suggestion has been to do a joint summer VOTER with each League having a set number of pages. This would be sent out both electronically and by mail where needed.

During the afternoon, the ACTION Committee made a presentation of current areas the ACTION committee is addressing, and a special report from Peggy Shultz (LWVNCC) (Workforce Housing), Janet Kramer (LWVNCC) (Justice), and Pat Todd (LWVNCC) (Natural Resources). Pat led the members through the history of passing the Bottle Bill and how a recent effort to undermine that legislation was overcome by hard work and passion. All three presenters exhibited great commitment and enthusiasm, and enlightened League members on how to get things done. The latter part of the afternoon was filled with presentations from each League highlighting some aspect of their League's accomplishments. Carol Reid-Grandfield of Kent County addressed Membership, Barbara Keate from Sussex spoke about the Observer Corps, and Letty Diswood of New Castle presented the LWVNCC's annual Carrie Chapman Catt Award as a fundraising event. After the evening meal, a lively brainstorming session took place on the issue of the League's 90<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Fundraiser. (All

## It Costs HOW Much? Making College Affordable

On November 18, 2009, LWVKC held a luncheon program addressing the financial aspects of attaining higher education in today's world. Today's higher cost of advanced education is causing a crisis of affordability. Ms. Maureen Laffey, Director of the Delaware

Leagues will participate in this event to be held in the Fall of 2010.)

On Sunday after another wonderful breakfast, we gathered for a presentation by Ed Lewandowski, Executive Director, Center for the Inland Bays, which was great. Ed was surprised to find the League so well informed and supportive. Following that session, there was another spirited discussion about the possibility of transferring the state and local LWV Ed Funds under the management of the LWVUS. Cheryl Graeve, from LWVUS, gave a presentation that addressed many questions and concerns of members. Her input was invaluable. This idea was a proposal only and no decision making took place. This is to be addressed at a later date by the LWVDE Ed Fund Subcommittee. After lunch, although exhausted but still running on adrenalin, other subcommittees met on various topics or had extended discussions on fundraising, planning for the 90<sup>th</sup>. The presidents from each county met to see how they could work together on some topics this year, tightening League's focus statewide on joint issues. One of these issues was Land Use, and another was Energy.

Members, exhausted but exhilarated, left this weekend-long retreat with renewed energy and ideas about collaboration and networking more effectively. Based on the feelings about the usefulness of this kind of event, there will be similar group gatherings in the future. The work of planning and executing this RETREAT was largely in the hands of Sandy Spence and her Sussex crew, as well as other members from the NCC and Kent Leagues. Kent LWV members who attended all or part of the RETREAT weekend included Ruth Johnson, Julie Price, Phyllis Edamatsu, Carol Reid-Grandfield, Lester Stillson, and Christine Stillson.

Higher Education Commission, provided a clear picture of the Commission and what it can do to meet some aspects of the problem faced by those who have difficulty affording advanced schooling. League member Dr. Phyllis Edamatsu, Director of Institutional

Research and Planning at Delaware State University, spoke to the group from the perspective of a small historically black university and discussed the financial struggles experienced by many students who also struggle academically. Panelist Dr. Cathy Le-

bo, from Johns Hopkins University was unable to attend the program. This program was the third in a series organized by Phyllis Edamatsu focused on addressing various issues in the field of education and educators.

## **December Kent & Sussex Leagues' Joint Program on the 2010 Census**

On December 15<sup>th</sup>, 2009, the Kent and Sussex Leagues of Women Voters held a joint program entitled: **The 2010 Census: The Importance of Counting Everyone**. The thirty members in attendance enjoyed the luncheon program held at the Georgia House in Milford.

Speakers from the US. Census Bureau's Philadelphia Region/Delaware included Jess Quintero, Partnership Specialist, and team member Sue Monaco. They made a Power-Point presentation, addressed the importance of and the roadblocks to counting all US residents, and discussed the various community entities who are presently partnering with the Census Bureau in an attempt to ensure that everyone is counted.

Those mentioned as often undercounted are the homeless, ethnic minorities, and under-informed citizens, among others. Distrust and misinformation on the use of the census material were noted as problematical in persuading citizens to complete their census forms. Many of the groups whose members are less likely to respond to the census may lose funding for programs from which they could benefit most.

Materials were available for Leagues to use in considering whether to become a partner in this truly important effort to count everyone in the 2010 census. If you are interested in our League becoming a partner in the Census, please call Christine Stillson at 697-8600 or email: [clstillson@verizon.net](mailto:clstillson@verizon.net).

## **United Nations - "Climate Change and Migration"**

From the *Geneva Reporter*, August-November 2009

"As early as 1990, the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) found that the greatest single impact of climate change could be on human migration. Estimates of the numbers of people who might have to leave their homes for climate related reasons such as coastal flooding, storms, encroaching deserts or agricultural disruption vary hugely – from 25 million by 2010 to up to a billion by 2050. In the weeks before this issue of the *Geneva Reporter* went to press, Quaker United Nation Office staff attended no less than four separate events on climate change related migration.

"Speakers at all these events highlighted the uncertainty about how the issue should be treated, and the inadequacy of current legal and operational frameworks for addressing the issue. This is most basically illustrated by the lack of agreement as to how one should refer to people who have to leave their homes because of climate change. Terms sometimes used are 'climate refugees,' 'climate displaced people,' 'climate

migrants,' or 'persons affected by climate change.' The difficulty of finding an acceptable term points to broader challenges and gaps hindering a clear or fair response to the flows of people displaced because of climate change. For instance, international law treats a person moving across a border very differently from someone who moves within his or her country.

"Whether the migration or displacement is 'voluntary' or not is another feature that distinguishes migrants, and that is key to determining how they should be treated. More fundamentally, the world is likely to have to deal with people from small island States that have disappeared as sea levels rise, i.e. whose State of nationality no longer has a territory. The text that will be on the negotiating table at Copenhagen does contain some references to people displaced by climate change but the international community will have to rise creatively to the challenges posed by this particular human consequence of climate change."

*Ruth Johnson  
UN Portfolio*

## *KUDOS to OUR MEMBERS & SUPPORTERS !!*



*Thank you to the following members, who have renewed their membership and/or contributed to our unit as of the publication of this VOTER !!*

### *Renewing Members*

---

|                   |                       |
|-------------------|-----------------------|
| Jean Bauer        | Mary Merritt          |
| Ruth Bochnowski   | Gina Miserendino      |
| Marion Boon       | Anne Norman           |
| Beverly Bresnahan | Dorene Petrosky       |
| Joan Breukelman   | Julie Price           |
| Gail Clemens      | Margaret Prouse       |
| William Clemens   | Ruth Ann Purchase     |
| Jan Crumpley      | Barbara Qaissaunee    |
| Shirley Daisey    | Carol Reid-Grandfield |
| William Daisey    | Judith Rennick        |
| Phyliss Edamatsu  | Leonard Rennick       |
| Gwen Elliott      | Rebecca Riddle        |
| Jo Ann Fields     | Frances Riddle        |
| Bob Frazier       | Sue Schmittinger      |
| Myna German       | Mary Snyder           |
| Carol Giesecke    | Lester Stillson       |
| Ray Grandfield    | Christine Stillson    |
| Chuck Hughes      | Peggy Swygert         |
| Charlotte Hunt    | Mary Torsch           |
| Betty Ipnar       | Ted Torsch            |
| Beverly Jackson   | Betty Wagner          |
| Cynthia Johnson   | Ellen Wasfi           |
| Holly Johnson     | Hilary Welliver       |
| Ruth Johnson      | Gail White            |
| Ralph Johnson     | Beverly Williams      |
| Jeanine Kleimo    | Sheryl Winsby         |
| Irving Levitt     | Ruth Laws             |
| Margaret McKay    | Phyllis Levitt        |
|                   | Nona Mcnatt           |

***Contributors.** Our member contributors to LWVKC and/or LWVKCEF are Jean Bauer, Marian Boon, Beverly Bresnahan, Shirley Daisey, William Daisey, Carol Giesecke, Charlotte Hunt, Beverly Jackson, Mary Merritt, Gina Miserendino, Carol Reid-Grandfield, Mary Snyder, Christine Stillson, Mary Torsch, and Ted Torsch.*

## MEMBERSHIP

by Carol Reid-Grandfield, Chair

We thank each of you for your membership in the League of Women Voters. When you are active in the League, you help to promote democracy, and when you are not able to be active, you still help to support the League, its offices in Wilmington and Washington, and its important work nationwide. Thank you for being an LWV member.

### Spotlight on New Members

Since I last reported to you, the League of Women Voters of Kent County has grown by nine new members: Beverly Knight, Fran Riddle and Bob Frazier, Jan Crumpley, Holly Johnson, Gail and Bill Clemens, Myna German and Leonard Rennick.

#### Beverly Knight

Last spring Beverly "Bev" Knight was chosen the winner of LWV of Kent County's "Making Democracy Work Award." She began our gift of a year's membership in the League in September. Bev is owner of Knight's Fine Jewelry in Camden and has lived in Delaware since 1983. In addition to her extensive knowledge and experience in diamonds, jewelry and jewelry repair, she belongs to a variety of local organizations including the Lions Club, the Central Delaware Chamber of Commerce, and the Friends of Historical Camden.

We invite Bev and all League members to get to know the League of Women Voters to learn how we arrive at positions on issues of importance, primarily at the National and State levels. We invite you to learn about the 90-year history of the League: six months before women won the hard-earned right to vote in 1920, suffragettes became the nucleus of the political, non-partisan organization known as the League of Women Voters. Welcome, Bev!

#### Fran Riddle and Bob Frazier

Fran Riddle and Bob Frazier joined the League in September. Fran is a teacher, and her mother, Becky Riddle, is also a League member. Fran is interested in a variety of areas---race relations, United Nations programs and foreign policy, as well as openness in government.

Fran writes that at the moment, she is "over committed" with work, family, and community involvements. Fran, we understand, and we appreciate your and Bob's support of the League. Please join our activities when you can, whether you come as a couple or independently. As some of our League buttons say, the League is "not for women only"!

#### Jan Crumpley

Jan joined our League in October. She is a graphic designer who recently opened Sunshine Graphics & Printing. She is also a member of Picnic for Peace. Jan is interested in lots of areas of League activity, as well as

national security and foreign policy. She would like to assist with our League's newsletter. Jan, welcome.

We encourage you and all members who would like to get more involved in the League to attend our board meetings, which are generally held the fourth Tuesday of the month. See the Membership Guide for more details, or call Christine Stillson, President, at 697-8600 (H), 674-1963 (W) or 222-4084 (cell).

#### Holly Johnson

A former member, Holly rejoined the League in October. She is a resident at Heritage of Dover (on Walker Road), which periodically is the venue for the League's popular monthly Great Decisions series, which studies international issues. In the past, Holly greatly appreciated participating in this discussion group, so she and other residents were delighted when Great Decisions chose the Heritage for some gatherings.

Holly, it's been terrific for us newer League members to get to know you and other former League members, and for our long-time members to be able to visit with you. Welcome back to the League!

#### Gail and Bill Clemens

Gail and Bill joined the League in October. They recently retired and moved here from Philadelphia. Gail worked in the field of mental health for approximately 30 years. She enjoys singing (mostly church music), making jewelry, cooking, and reading. Bill used his degrees from Northwestern and Temple as a Juvenile Probation Officer for 26 years. He also served in the U.S. Army Reserve for 21 years. Both Gail and Bill are interested in the environment, children's issues, health care reform, family court, and international relations. They already have joined Great Decisions. Welcome, Gail and Bill.

#### Myna German

That's German with a hard "G." Myna joined the League in October. She is a professor at Delaware State University, so she generally prefers our meetings to be in the evening. Her interests include the Delaware Legislature and Voter Registration, and she enjoys attending our monthly unit meetings.

Myna, we will do our best to meet your scheduling needs by having unit and board meetings in the evenings as possible.

We encourage you and all our members to get involved with the League, especially in your areas of interest. Attending board meetings is a good place to start, to learn about what's going on, and to volunteer in the activities that especially interest you. Attendance at board meetings also gives you instant access, of course. We encourage you and all our members to take advantage of this worthwhile opportunity. Welcome!

**Leonard “Len” Rennick**

Len is Judy Rennick’s husband. Len, it was a very pleasant surprise to learn that, when Judy paid her dues, she included your new membership as well. Thank you, Judy! We League members feel that is a great buy; the first member in a household pays only \$45.00, and the second member gets his/her annual membership for just \$22.50. We are delighted you have joined. We hope our evening meetings will suit your and Judy’s needs well. We look forward to getting to know you better, and please get to know us, too. Congratulations on your membership, and welcome!

**Additions**

**Bill & Gail Clemens**  
P. O.Box 212  
Wyoming 19934  
335-8439 (H)  
clemgem07@comcast.com

Beverly Knight  
1752 Morgan's Choice Road  
Wyoming 19934  
698-1011 (H)  
698-9222 (W)  
nightsfinejewelry@yahoo.com

**Directory Updates**

**Change**

**Holly Johnson**

Change telephone to: 744-2063 (H)

*Carol Reid-Grandfield  
Membership Chair*

Don't forget to turn in your name tags at the end of each meeting!

**MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL & GIFT FORM, LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF KENT COUNTY**

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E-mail address \_\_\_\_\_ Phone number \_\_\_\_\_

Please check one choice:      \_\_\_ \$45.00 for individual membership  
  \_\_\_ \$67.50 for two-membership household

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

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