



# VOTER

The League of Women Voters of New Castle County, Delaware

June 2017

[www.lwvdelaware-newcastlecounty.org](http://www.lwvdelaware-newcastlecounty.org)

Vol. 21, No.10

The Mission of the League of Women Voters is to empower citizens to shape better communities.

**HOT TOPIC LUNCH MONDAY, JUNE 26, 2017**

**11:30 a.m.—1:00 p.m.**

## **UPDATE OF LEGISLATION IN DELAWARE'S 149<sup>th</sup>. GENERAL ASSEMBLY**

LWV volunteer lobbyists and committee chairs will discuss a wide range of bills covering government, the coastal zone, health, elections, the environment, justice, etc.

**Our lunch falls in the last week of the current legislative session and much depends on a the shortfall of \$\$\$\$.**

Michael's Restaurant, 1000 Churchman's Rd, Newark, DE 19713

Buffet lunch is \$15.00 paid at time of the luncheon. Please pay in cash if at all possible

Join us at Michael's for a buffet luncheon and discussion. Great food choices and the price of \$15.00 per person covers lunch, beverages and gratuity.

The public is invited to all Hot Topic meetings to become informed on a wide variety of topics. It is also a time to check in with members of LWV, make new friends, invite your neighbors, and colleagues to experience the League in an informal setting.

Please RSVP at [lwvde@comcast.net](mailto:lwvde@comcast.net) or 302-571-8948 by Saturday, June 25, so we can let the restaurant know how many to expect. If you need a ride, leave a message on the League Office phone or e-mail when you RSVP. There will be carpooling from Wilmington area. Call 302-571-8948 and leave a message. If you have not made a reservation please come anyway; meal is buffet style.

**Directions:** Michael's is located at 1000 Churchman's Road, Newark.

See <http://michaelsde.com/directions/>

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



Hello! I am Marj Johnson, your new president of the New Castle County League of Women Voters. While I have a lot to learn, it is a privilege to serve you. Thank you to all of you who volunteered to be on our Board: Patti Christopher, Carmela Longobardi, Katharine Olinchak, Sarah Bucic, Joann Hasse, Lorraine S. Botticelli, Moonyeen (Kloppy) Klopfenstein, Barbara Mobarak, Bea Webb, Fay Whittle.

It is an extraordinary board with new and “seasoned” talent, new perspectives and new energy, and I look forward to working with them. I also look forward to getting to know many more of our membership and I am hoping you will find new ways of becoming involved in whatever area speaks to your passions.

At our annual meeting, the membership in attendance developed several areas they would like to see addressed in the coming year. Perhaps some of them will speak to you.

1. Letty reminded us we need someone to learn how to use our video camera so that we can film events and candidate forums for posting on our website.
2. Joyce Johnson requested that we reevaluate our biennial Carrie Chapman Catt event. While it is a pleasant event, it is a lot of work and doesn't raise much money. Other ideas for fundraising are needed.
3. Peggy Schultz suggested we develop a program to encourage voting, perhaps including rides to the polls, which we just started this past election.
4. Emily White suggested that more voter forums should be held to increase the awareness of the importance of voting, particularly as we approach the 2018 election.
5. We discussed voter registration at New Citizen ceremonies which is currently a role assumed by the Department of Elections. We need new information, along with the universal registration forms in the packets we hand out to new citizens.
6. We discussed the need to have more information and publicity around school board elections.
7. Patti Christopher would like us to make more of an effort to encourage young people to get involved and to enlist their help in getting others of their age group engaged; one suggestion was to work with Wilmington University students or UD students to get the message out.

As you can see, we have a lot facing us in the coming year. We can use all the help we can get to address the above issues, in addition to the ongoing areas that the League is invested in. So, please volunteer, share your thoughts, create ideas, and broadcast all that the League does to your friends and those you meet wherever you are.

## ANNUAL MEETING SUMMARY

**The annual meeting of the LWV of New Castle County was held May 22 at the Kirkwood Library Community room.** Everyone enjoyed a delicious pot luck and good company.

The business included the adoption of bylaws changes to allow voting membership at age 16 and dropped being a citizen of the US to be a voting member. A two year budget was adopted and new officers and directors were voted in with Marj Johnson as new president. And a program for 2017-2019 was approved.

Voter service volunteers were thanked for their service during the last election cycle. Emily White, pictured at right, was thanked for her service for three years as president.



### **Biographies that missed the annual meeting May Voter 2017'**

**SARAH BUCIC (DIRECTOR)** has been a Registered Nurse for over 16 years with a Bachelor's Degree in Nursing from the University of Delaware and a Master's Degree in Nursing from the University of Pennsylvania in the specialty of Adult Psychiatric Mental Health. Sarah holds Board Certification in Adult Psychiatric-Mental Health as a Clinical Nurse Specialist through the American Nurses Credentialing Center and has a Post-Master's in Community and Environmental Health Nursing from University of Maryland.

Sarah has taught clinical community nursing to undergraduates at University of Maryland and taught undergraduates in pathophysiology at Delaware State University. She is currently a recipient of a National Nurses United Scholarship in the Women's Global Health Leadership Program at Rutgers University. Along with Delaware Nurses Association Nurses Healing Our Planet (NHOP), Sarah advocated to pass SB 70 in 2011. SB 70 bans Bisphenol A (BPA, an endocrine disruptor) in specific children's products in Delaware. This made Delaware the 10th State to pass this important piece of environmental health legislation. Sarah testified for protection of the Clean Air Act for the American Nurses Association in March 2011 in front of the U.S. Senate, Committee on Environmental and Public Works and served as Delaware's Clean Air Ambassador for Earthjustice in 2011. Sarah continues to be active in social and environmental initiatives in her community and brings her experience with local government and its critical intersection with public health in working towards a just and equitable healthcare environment for every patient and their family.

**CAMI SEWARD (NOMINATING COMMITTEE CHAIR)** moved to Delaware relocating to be near her parents and the parents of her husband Rob Seward. Having lived in multiple states, the Washington, DC area was her home base despite living 23 years in Juneau, AK. With a degree in social work Cami's work other than raising her two sons has been a few years in real estate but primarily in the field of juvenile justice.

Cami is recently retired from serving as the Parish Administrator at St. Thomas's Episcopal Church in Newark which has allowed time to attend to the needs of parents, and for getting to know Delaware both its great attributes and challenges.

## WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

Sallie Reissman, 302-530-9949 cell [sallie.a.reissman@gmail.com](mailto:sallie.a.reissman@gmail.com)

Rose Passarella, 302-513-1709 cell [rosepass@comcast.net](mailto:rosepass@comcast.net)

Courtney Mills, 302-477-2634 work 443-847-3397 cell, [courtneymills@gmail.com](mailto:courtneymills@gmail.com)

## VOTER SERVICE UPDATE

We are in the process of collecting contacts for various schools to do voter registration drives in the Fall. We are looking into various organizations to "get the word out to register and vote". Always looking for volunteers to help with registrations. Please send me your name and contact info if you are available.

Patti Christopher, Voter Registration Chair  
lwv.patti@gmail.com

## NEW CITIZEN CEREMONY



The LWV welcomes new citizens at naturalization ceremonies with a folder consisting of civic information. Marjj Johnson, Carole Walsh and Lorraine Bottichelli attended last week's new citizen swearing in ceremony.

Lorraine reported, " it was a wonderful experience to see so many proud new citizens and their families. ...presided over by US Magistrate Judge US District Court – Honorable Christopher J Burke. There were 141 new citizens from 38 countries – couldn't capture all - here are examples of where these new citizens originated:

Bangladesh, Canada, China, Columbia, Cuba, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, Ethiopia, Gambia, Greece, Haiti, India, Iran, Kenya, Latvia, Liberia, Mexico, Morocco, Nigeria, Pakistan, Phillipine, Poland, Russia, South Korea, Sudan, Thailand, Turkey, Ukraine, UK, Venezuela, Viet Nam."

## GREAT DECISIONS DISCUSSION GROUP

What: Great Decisions: **Geopolitics of Energy**

When: Monday, June 19th, 1:30 - 3:30 pm

Where: Newark Free Library

Who: Doris Crowley will lead the discussion

What else: Lunch, for those who wish it

When: 11:45 am, before the discussion

Where: Skipjack, The Shoppes at Louviers, 401 Louviers Dr, off Paper Mill Road

**Note the change in restaurant**

## **HOT TOPIC: Human Trafficking (Exploitation) held in May**

About 83 people attended the Human Trafficking (Exploitation) forum at Masci Hall, 210 Bellefonte Avenue, Wilmington. The audience had many questions and comments. We could have continued the program well into the night but had to end by 9 pm. Many thanks to Fay Whittle, Justice Committee Chair for putting this forum together. The purpose of forum was to educate the public about human trafficking in Delaware and how to recognize when human trafficking occurs, and how the courts, police and the public can help its victims.

**FEATURING:** A/V presentation by **Yolanda Schlabach**, founder and Executive Director of Zoë Ministries

**PANEL:**

- Commissioner **Mary McDonough**, Delaware Court of Common Pleas, Human Trafficking Court
- Commissioner **Loretta Young**, Delaware Family Court
- **Nancy McGee**, Coordinator, Sexual Assault Network of **Delaware, ContactLifeline, Inc.**
- **Johanna Bishop**, Director, Behavioral Sciences Program, Wilmington University

**Partners/Sponsors supporting this event:**

**AAUW, Zoë Ministries, Prison Ministries of Delaware, Inc., St. Mark's Lutheran Church, St. Mary Magdalene RC Church, Newark Friends Meeting, Pacem in Terris, St. Helena Parish Social Ministries**

## **A HUGE THANK YOU TO OUR VOLUNTEERS**

Thank you to our volunteers: Fay Whittle, Justice Chair for organizing the Human Trafficking forum, Lorraine Bottichelli, Carole Walsh and Marj Johnson for distributing the new citizen welcome packets to over 150 new citizens at Clayton Hall in June. Thanks to Bob Hasse for collating all the welcome packets. And Bea Webb for helping with the newly updated membership booklet.

### **ACTION ALERT!**

**Please call your Delaware Representative and Senator and ask them to oppose HB 190 which changes the Coastal Zone Act.**

- HB 190 should be withdrawn.
- House Bill 190 fundamentally changes the Coastal Zone Act and is contrary to the original legislative intent of the Act, as exemplified in the letter written the June Peterson, the widow of Governor Russell Peterson.
- The argument that the 14 sites of nonconforming use are in need of remediation and the only avenue for cleaning these sites up is through redevelopment is a false premise. All of the 14 sites are either in existing environmental remediation programs or currently operating.
- The pitting of jobs and economic interests against protecting public health and the environment is a false and dangerous narrative. The Coastal Zone Act prohibits ONLY the most polluting land uses of all. Manufacturing, commercial development and many other uses are already allowed anywhere in the Coastal Zone.
- We are opposed to any new bulk product transfer facilities in Delaware's Coastal Zone.
- We are opposed to multiple heavy industrial and/or BPT facilities being simultaneously permitted on the footprint of one site.
- Before any changes to the Coastal Zone Act are proposed, there should be a thorough study and robust public engagement process.

## DELAWAREONLINE: 3 MYTHS ABOUT COASTAL ZONE ACT PROPOSAL

[House Bill 190](#) proposes to change and “modernize” the Coastal Zone Act, Delaware’s unique environmental protection statute.

In a nutshell, HB 190 alters two CZA absolute prohibitions to allow “conversion permits” for new heavy industry uses or bulk product transfer facilities (BPTFs) at 14 sites in the Coastal Zone. Supporters claim this will lead to development and cleanup of these sites, producing jobs and environmental improvements.

The 14 sites are “nonconforming uses” under the act (because their heavy industry or BPTFs were in operation the day the CZA was passed) and were thereby “grandfathered” in so the act’s prohibitions would not apply.

Twelve were heavy industry uses, two BPTFs. Five of the 14 are still operating. Of the 9 non-operating sites, one—Chemours’ Edgemoor plant—was sold to the Port of Wilmington for expanding Port operations, while another is the Standard Chlorine/Metachem federal Superfund site. For BPTF opportunities, only 10 are actually on the water (essential to being a BPTF). Thus, only a subset of the 14 sites is actually available for development.

HB 190 is touted as “win-win” because only after its changes will the 14 sites be developed and cleaned up. This claim rests on three assumptions: (1) The current CZA prevents development of these sites; (2) Changing the CZA is necessary for environmental contamination cleanup at these sites because only new developers will clean them up; and (3) The proposed changes will in fact lead to new development. Unfortunately, these assumptions are false.

### **Fallacy No. 1: The current CZA prevents development at these sites**

The CZA does not prohibit all development—only new heavy industry uses and new BPTFs. Manufacturing uses are expressly allowed (with a permit), and uses not falling within CZA definitions are not regulated at all. Under the current CZA, things like auto assembly plants, Amazon-like warehousing operations, and other manufacturing plants could be built on properly-zoned sites anywhere in the Coastal Zone (not just the 14 sites), bringing thousands of good-paying jobs.

That these 14 sites have not been developed in this way is not the fault of the CZA. All HB 190 does is allow two additional development options (heavy industry and BPTFs). Environmentalists have requested (but never received) examples of interested companies dissuaded solely because of the CZA prohibitions.

### **Fallacy No. 2: Changing the CZA is necessary to clean up these sites**

The notion that cleanups cannot occur without developers is not true. Under Delaware’s Hazardous Substance Control Act (HSCA), owners and operators of sites are liable for cleanup. According to DNREC, 11 of the 14 sites are in HSCA and/or federal cleanup programs currently (the other 3 are operating)—without any changes to the CZA.

### **Fallacy No. 3: The proposed CZA changes will lead to new development at these sites**

As grandfathered “nonconforming uses,” the 14 sites had favored status under the CZA because they could continue their heavy industry uses or BPTFs. Yet nine of those operations went out of business. The CZA didn’t cause Chemours to shutter Edgemoor; market conditions did. HB 190 cannot rewrite the laws of economics. The business community’s recommendations on DEDO suggest heavy industry should not be focus of future economic development in Delaware. Allowing BPTFs at up to 10 sites on the River creates competition for the state-supported Port of Wilmington. Are HB 190’s “solutions” really good ideas?

Since the CZA’s passage in 1971, persistent efforts have tried to weaken CZA protections to create business opportunities in Delaware. When HB 190 fails to produce much development, the clamor for broader changes—and ultimate dismantling of the CZA’s protections—will grow louder, and passage of HB 190 will make it easier. Environmentalists don’t oppose development like manufacturing and non-regulated facilities allowed under the Act. Rather, groups like Delaware Audubon, Delaware Nature Society, and others have called for a stakeholder process (done in 1998-99 with the CZA Regulations) to review the CZA in a way that respects all viewpoints and find solutions that really address all issues. The CZA legacy created by Russ Peterson deserves nothing less.

*Kenneth Kristl is associate professor and director of the Environmental & Natural Resources Law Clinic at Delaware Law School.*

## UPDATE ON LWVUS ACTION

This week the Supreme Court ruled that North Carolina lawmakers used racial considerations to draw congressional districts following the 2010 Census. This decision is a major win in the battle for fair districts and the League is proud to have filed an amicus brief with the Campaign Legal Center in this case. Illegal gerrymanders have now been stuck down in 5 states: Alabama, Florida, Texas, Virginia and now North Carolina.

Redistricting is a top priority for Leagues around the country, fighting for fairly drawn district lines and enforceable criteria to guard against political and racial gerrymandering. We will continue to demonstrate leadership on this key voting rights issue and hold our elected officials accountable when they attempt to influence the system for their own benefit.

Chris Carson, LWVUS President

### **League Sends Memo to U.S. Senate Regarding Healthcare ★**

The League sent a memo to members of the U.S. Senate regarding essential elements that need to be provided for any forthcoming legislation on healthcare. The League maintains that any legislation to replace the Affordable Care Act must include elements to cover preventive care, pre-existing conditions, support funding for Medicaid and must not discriminate against women.

### **League Joins Brennan Center on Public Records Requests ★**

The League of Women Voters in Kansas, Maine, New Hampshire, and Alabama joined with the Brennan Center to request all communications and documents related to the Secretary of States in these states that may have discussed the activities of the Presidential Advisory Commission on Election Integrity. The Secretaries of State have all been appointed to serve on the commission.

### **League Joins Letter to EPA Secretary Pruitt ★**

The League expressed deep concern over the EPA's recently noticed process for evaluating existing regulations that can be "repealed, replaced, or modified". The letter was joined by environmental, public health and public safety groups from around the country.

### **League Opposes H.R. 806 ★**

The League urged Senators and Representatives to oppose H.R. 806 the "Ozone Standards Implementation Act". Despite its name, the legislation would systematically weaken the Clean Air Act without a single improvement, undermine Americans' 46-year right to healthy air based on medical science, and delay life-saving health standards already years overdue.

### **League Opposes Expansion of Offshore Drilling ★**

The League has joined with 132 organizations to state our opposition to the Trump Administration's plan for expansion of offshore drilling—which brings unacceptable risks to our oceans, coastal residents, communities, existing economies, and our climate.

### **League Health Care Discussion List Open ★**

Challenges to the Affordable Care Act continue with an uncertain future and League efforts for health care reform are needed more than ever. What are the next steps for health care advocates? How can League members make an impact in their communities with education and action items? A Google Group for Health Care Reform is a national discussion and sharing group for League members on health care reform, including behavioral health. We welcome ideas, resources, successes and questions. To receive an invitation to join the group please contact Linda Hawkins or Linda Mahan

## CALENDAR

Monday, June 12, 1:30-3:30 pm	Pat Todd's 302-545-5196	<b>LAND USE/TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE.</b>
Monday, June 19, 6:30-8:30 pm	Panera Bread Restaurant, Kirkwood Highway, Wilmington	<b>LWV OF NEW CASTLE COUNTY BOARD MEETING.</b>
Monday, June 19th, 1:30 - 3:30 pm	Newark Free Library 750 Library Ave Newark, DE 19711	<b>GREAT DECISIONS GROUP</b> from 1:30 to 3:30. Topic: <b>Geopolitics of Energy</b> . As usual, many of the attendees will meet for lunch at noon Skipjack, The Shoppes at Louviers, 401 Louviers Dr, off Paper Mill Road beforehand.. Contact Vicky Kleinman 302-731-4950 for more details.
<b>Monday, June 26 2017 11:30 am- 1 pm</b>	Michael's Restaurant <u>1000 Churchman's Rd</u> <u>Newark, DE 19713</u>	<b>HOT TOPIC: UPDATE OF LEGISLATION IN DELAWARE'S 149<sup>th</sup> GENERAL ASSEMBLY.</b> LWV volunteer lobbyists and committee chairs will discuss a wide range of bills covering government, the coastal zone, health, elections, the environment, justice, etc. <b>Our lunch falls in the last week of the current legislative session and much depends on a the shortfall of \$\$\$\$.</b> <a href="http://michaelsde.com/directions/">http://michaelsde.com/directions/</a>
Wednesday, July 12, 2017 9:30 am - 12 pm	Legislative Hall, Dover After meeting social tea to celebrate and bemoan the successes and losses.	<b>LWVDE ADVOCACY CORPS MEETING.</b> Contact Committee Chair Sandy Spence for details (302-841-2882). Agenda items will be a review and assessment of activities of the Corps, its successes, failures and the issues that are left for the next legislative session. Interested, call Sandy to let her know you are attending.
To be determined August pm	Still to be confirmed: Kent County Public Library, 497 South Red Haven Lane, Dover, DE 19901 (302) 744-1919	<b>FIRST MEETINGS OF NEW BOARD LWVDE &amp; EDUCATION FUND BOARD.</b>

League of Women Voters of New Castle County  
2400 W 17th Street, Clash Wing, Room 1, Lower Level  
Wilmington, DE 19806

302-571-8948  
lwnvnc@comcast.net  
lwndelaware-newcastlecounty.org