



VOTER

The League of Women Voters of New Castle County, Delaware

October, 2011

Vol. 18, No.2

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

Come to the League's October program:

ALL ARE WELCOME AND ENCOURAGED TO PARTICIPATE
PLEASE NOTE CHANGE OF LOCATION FOR THIS IMPORTANT CONSENSUS MEETING

LWVUS CONSENSUS: "The Role of the Federal Government in Public Education"

Saturday, October 22, 2011
Peggy Schultz's home
113 Cardiff Court, W. (Meadowdale)
Newark, DE 19711

Your RSVP is required to plan for food. Deadline Tuesday, October 18. Call the office at 302-571-8948 or send an email to lwvnc@voicenet.com Please provide your contact information and if you will participate in the morning and/or afternoon sessions. Please tell us in your RSVP if you need directions and directions will be sent to you by e-mail or post mail.

8:30 am **Welcome and Refreshments**

9:00 – 11:30 am **PART 1: THE ROLE OF THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT IN THE USE OF
COMMON CORE STANDARDS AND COMMON ASSESSMENTS**

Discussion Leaders: **Nancy Doorey and resource persons. There will be time for breaks in this session.**

11:30 am – 12:30 pm **Lunch will be provided**

12:30 – 3:00 pm **PART 2. THE ROLE OF THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT IN THE USE OF
COMMON CORE STANDARDS AND COMMON ASSESSMENTS**

Discussion Leaders: **Nancy Doorey and resource persons. There will be time for breaks in this session.**

This is an opportunity to participate in a national consensus study and become knowledgeable about an important issue. No experience required! All are welcome.

We will follow the consensus questions that are attached in a separate file. All resource material and background information can be found at <http://www.lwv.org> or click the link below by placing the cursor on it and hit "enter".

<http://www.lwv.org/AM/TemplateRedirect.cfm?template=/CM/ContentDisplay.cfm&ContentID=16957>



We're delighted to welcome Nancy Doorey as our discussion leader. Nancy is a former member of the State Board of Education (1993 – 1999) and the Brandywine Board of Education (1999 – 2007). She currently works for the Educational Testing Service in the Center for K-12 Assessment & Performance Management. See www.k12center.org

WHAT IS STUDY AND PROGRAM?

Studies are part of League Program and, in League parlance, League Program includes all of the positions the League uses to affect public policy as well as the procedure for adopting these programs. Program is such an integral part of the League that, according to *League Basics*, the League publication formerly titled *In League*, “Program is the League’s reason for being.”

Program has three parts: 1) selection of an issue, 2) study of that issue, consensus and formulating a position, and 3) use of that position to influence public policy. All LWVUS positions are included in the League publication, *Impact on Issues, 2010-2012: A Guide to Public Policy Positions*.

The purpose of a study, at any level, is to educate members so that they can be informed participants in consensus and provide the necessary data for formulating the ultimate position.

WHAT IS A CONSENSUS?

It is easier to say what consensus is not, than what it is. Consensus is not a vote; rather, consensus is mutual agreement of League members arrived at through discussion. During discussion, everyone has an opportunity to express their viewpoints, and the issue is examined from all sides. Consensus questions, created by the appropriate study committee and approved by the Board, provide structure for the meeting. Members discuss the pros and cons until it becomes apparent that consensus has/has not been reached on each question. The study committee analyzes the consensus responses and, using this information, creates a position statement.

The scope of the study “The Role of the Federal Government in Public Education” as adopted by the LWVUS Board, states:

The Education Study scope is broad and includes the following areas under the role of the federal government in public education (pre-K through grade 12): the history, funding and equity issues which are addressed under the Elementary and Secondary Education Act, and the common core standards/assessments which are required for many federal grant programs but are national, not federal. The culminating position will address only those issues delineated in the scope.

Although the study focuses on the federal government, the original intent of the study included the Common Core Standards. These were written and funded by the National Governors’ Association (NGA) and the Council of Chief State School Officers (CCSSO). Historically we have always had national standards written by the teaching organizations such as the National Council of Teachers of Math and the National Council of Teachers of English. However, the discussion here will focus upon how these new standards called Common Core State Standards will be used by the federal government.

Please call 571-8948 or email lvncc@voicenet.com for directions to Peggy Schultz’s home. The directions will be emailed or sent to you by post mail.

**LWV of New Castle County invites you to its
SIXTH FUN LUNCH**

Monday, October 17, from 12 - 1:30 pm

Place: International Grill & Buffet

Hibachi & Mongolian & Grill

(American, Chinese, Japanese & Italian Cuisine)

2021 Kirkwood Highway, Wilmington, DE 19805

Great prices and lots of food choices; only \$6.99... not including drinks.

The purpose of this FUN LUNCH is to find the time to make new friends, check in with current and longtime friends, invite potential new members to experience the League in an informal setting, and become informed about a wide variety of topics.

The HOT TOPIC for discussion this month will be an "Update about enhancements the Department of Elections of NCC and the state have implemented in the recent years." The presentation will answer your questions about voting machines, recent upgrades to make registering to vote more accessible, and more. Our speakers will be Anthony Albence, Director of NCC Dept. of Elections and Howard Sholl, Deputy Director. Become informed and be prepared for Elections 2012.

Invite a friend or neighbor for some time out, and enjoy.

We need an RSVP by Friday, OCTOBER 14, so we have an idea how many to expect

lwvde@voicenet.com or 302-571-8948, but if you can come at the last minute - then just come.

If you need a ride leave a message at 302-571-8948 or e-mail lwvde@voicenet.com.

DIRECTIONS: The International Buffet & Grill is located in the Franbert Shopping Center, Elsmere, and situated to right side of Happy Harry Pharmacy. The new BJ shopping center is to the left of Happy Harry. Prices Corner is west of the restaurant.

From Route 141 going south follow signs to E Kirkwood Highway and stay in the right hand lane and at 1st light go straight through. Then at next light make a left turn to Kirkwood Highway (Route 2). Then turn left at next light onto the Kirkwood Highway. Going towards Elsmere on Kirkwood Highway you will see BJ on your left. Turn left into the shopping center and the restaurant is on the immediate right in the corner of the building.

From Route 141 driving north keep to right lane and exit Route 141 on to E Kirkwood Highway and follow directions above to find BJ on your left.

LEADERSHIP TEAM CONVENER'S REPORT

Happy Fall from your Leadership Team!

We're looking forward to a calendar packed with a wide variety of events that will help to keep us informed about important current issues.

But first, a tip of the straw boater to all those who helped make our table at the Newark Community Day a huge success! Carole and Bill Walsh not only loaned us their stylish canopy, but put it up and took it down. Carole, Bill and Letty Diswood also unpacked and arranged all the brochures and papers which Letty had prepared ...and then took everything down at the end of the day. Thanks to Patti Christopher for organizing the volunteers who greeted folks and registered new voters. We registered 15 voters on Community Day! Thanks also to the folks who worked at the table: Letty, Sally Straughn, Marlene Lichtenstadter, Helen Hoffman, Nancy Breslin and Carole. Sally and Marlene are shown on the right, seated at the Community Day table.



Thanks to Judy Taggart for registering voters at the Dawn Institute on September 14. Helen and Letty also registered voters at the St. Paul UAME Church on September 24.

We're happy to announce that one of our amazing new Leadership Team members, Melba Lucas, has agreed to serve as Fund-Raising Committee Chair. She is brimming with ideas for fund raising. But now she's going to need a committee! Please phone or email me if this is something you would enjoy doing. You can reach me at 235-7182, or at schultz_peggy@yahoo.com.

Last month we told you of Land Use/Transportation Committee's request of County Council to display during Council and Planning Board meetings a map showing locations of proposed developments on the State's growth zone map. The County Land Use Department has already implemented this request, so now everyone who attends an official county meeting dealing with land use issues will see the map and the proposed developments prominently displayed. The Committee hopes that this practice will help to emphasize that there are special areas set aside for various levels of growth and that for the greater good we all want to encourage people to settle first in Level 1 and 2 areas, and never in Level 4. "Greater good" includes saving money on infrastructure and costly State services, as well as cutting a huge chunk out of our carbon dioxide emissions by providing a situation where far less car travel is required.

We'll look for you at our exciting programs in the coming months!

Peggy Schultz, Convener, NCC Leadership Team

Great Decisions Discussion Group, Newark Area

Our meeting schedule for the Monday Great Decisions Group through 2011: *The Caucasus* - October 17th - this is 3rd Monday, the 2nd Monday is Columbus Day; *Multilateralism* - November 14th. This will finish out the 2011 schedule. We'll start again on February 13th. Books for 2012 arrive in January. All meetings at 1:30 pm at the Newark Free Library; for those who wish to join us, we have lunch at noon at Bamboo House in the College Square Shopping Center across the street. Vicky Kleinman, 731-4950

VOTER OUTREACH

Help needed to provide Voter registration at Delaware College of Art and Design on Market Street in Wilmington, 12:45-1:45 pm, October 18, 2011. For more details e-mail wjcr4@verizon.net. One more registrar needed to help out.

Did you miss the League's September program?



Thank you to the Urban Health/Social Justice Committee organizers (Sue Radecki, Roberta Ray, Janet Kramer and Letty Diswood) of the Wilmington Needle Exchange program on September 26. Our speakers gave an excellent presentation emphasizing the national context, local history, implementation and evaluation of the Needle Exchange program. Attendees participated actively and left with a better understanding of the health and social welfare implications of this effort and the challenges still ahead. Highlights of the program and recent legislation will be featured in the next newsletter.



Our presenters: Basha Silverman, Director of Prevention and Advocacy Services, Brandywine Counseling and Community Services, on the right. On the left is her colleague, Sara Grainger, Program Manager, HIV Prevention Services and Outreach.

Thanks also for delicious refreshments donated by members of the Urban Health/Social Justice Committee.

Thank you to all our members and friends who have made a contribution above their membership fee during this membership renewal drive for the new fiscal year July, 2011-June, 2012. Listed below are individuals who have contributed since the September newsletter was published.

Patricia J. Brill
Susan Brynteson
Barbara D. Crowell
Katherine Flaherty
Vicky Kleinman
Fiona P. Murray
Florence Waibel
Miriam S. Willis

Thank you to all members who renewed their membership to the League. A first class letter was mailed mid-September to those who have not responded to our first dues statement. Our Leadership Team is in the process of planning our programs for this year and working to increase our membership. We need to know what our membership funding will be so we can proceed with planning the year's activities. Please let us hear from you soon.

NEW CITIZENS CEREMONIES Would you like to observe or help out?

The LWV distributes welcome folders to all new citizens at naturalization ceremonies throughout the year. Connie Georgov would like one person to help her each month that a ceremony is scheduled. The ceremonies are very interesting and you will be participating in a wonderful volunteer service project. Call Connie at 302-834-3026 or the office at 302-571-8948 and leave your name and contact information.

Time commitment: 10:45 – 11:45 am, Federal Court House, 844 N King St, Wilmington, 19801

- Thursday, October 6, 2011
- Thursday, November 3, 2011
- Thursday, December 1, 2011 (large group)
- Thursday, January 5, 2012

Be part of this new study DELAWARE STATE REVENUE STUDY

The "Delaware State Revenue Study" that was adopted at the recent LWV-DE Convention is being formed. We need a few good men and women to join Mickey McKay, Will Garfinkel and Crystal Hamilton (all Kent County).

We need members from New Castle and Sussex counties to join us in an upcoming planning meeting that has yet to be scheduled. It would be great if there are any members who have experience or interest in public or private finance or are familiar with the Delaware legislative process who would like to join us.

We have several studies from other state Leagues who have completed similar studies that we can use as models for our own state study.

Mickey McKay, Committee Chair
margmcka@comcast.net, 302-734-8355

October 2011

- **October 6:** LWVNCC Leadership Team, LWVDE Office, 7-9 pm, 571-8948
- **October 6:** Great Decisions Discussion Group, Wilmington, 10 am-noon, Connie Beattie's home, 654-5416
- **October 7:** Energy Committee, Pat Todd's home, 1:30 pm, ptoddwilm@aol.com or 762-5995
- **October 11:** Land Use/Transportation Committee, Margo Perkin's home, 3 pm, Peggy Schultz, 235-7182
- **October 17:** Great Decisions Discussion Group, Newark, 1:30 pm, Vicky Kleinman, 731-4950
- **October 17:** Fun Lunch, Discussion topic: Department of Elections – recent enhancements...International Grill and Buffet, 2021 Kirkwood Hwy, Wilmington, 12-1:30 pm. RSVP 571-8948
- **October 20:** LWVDE Board, Roma Restaurant, Dover, 6-8:30 pm. RSVP Letty Diswood if attending and for information and directions, 571-8948
- **October 22:** “The Role of the Federal Government in Public Education” LWVUS Study Consensus Meetings. Nancy Doorey, Chair. *Change of location: Peggy Schultz's home – see details in this newsletter. Morning and afternoon sessions, lunch provided. RSVP 571-8948 or lwvncc@voicenet.com*

November 2011

- **November 3:** LWVNCC Leadership Team, LWVDE Office, 7-9 pm, 571-8948
- **November 3:** Great Decisions Discussion Group, Wilmington, 10 am-noon, location TBD, 571-8948
- **November 8:** Land Use/Transportation Committee, Margo Perkin's home, 3 pm, Peggy Schultz, 235-7182
- **November 14:** Great Decisions Discussion Group, Newark, 1:30 pm, Vicky Kleinman, 731-4950
- **November 16:** Land Use/Transportation program about Whitehall, a smart growth development project. Location TBD in Middletown area. “Meet and greet” 6:30 pm, program 7 pm. See details below under “Save the dates!!”
- **November 17:** LWVDE Board, Roma Restaurant, Dover, 6-8:30 pm. RSVP Letty Diswood if attending and for information and directions, 571-8948
- **November 21:** Fun Lunch, International Grill and Buffet, 2021 Kirkwood Hwy, Wilmington, 12-1:30 pm.
- **November 30:** Results of Education Study Consensus due to LWVUS.

December 2011:

- **December 1:** LWVNCC Leadership Team, LWVDE Office, 7-9 pm, 571-8948
- **December 19:** Fun Lunch, Social only—celebrate the season. International Grill and Buffet, 2021 Kirkwood Hwy, Wilmington, 12-1:30 pm.

Save the dates!!

Wednesday, November 16th: Land Use/Transportation program on **Whitehall**, a smart growth development project planned for NCC, south of the canal. Whitehall is the first application of the hamlets and villages ordinance, which the League supported. Presenter: **Larry Tarabicos**, land use attorney for the developer. Location: Middletown area. “Meet and greet”, 6:30 pm, and program, 7 pm.

Monday, November 14th: You are invited to a newsworthy public event: “**Freedom of Information in a Digital Age: The Current FOI Landscape.**” A free public event hosted by the Delaware Coalition for Open Government (DELCOG) in partnership with Delaware Press Association and the Delaware League of Women Voters. This “We the People” event will be held at the historic **Goodstay Center on the Wilmington Campus of the University of Delaware**, 2600 Pennsylvania Avenue, Wilmington. Doors will open at 6:30 pm for light refreshments; the meeting will run from 7- 9 p.m. There is ample free parking on-site.

Speaker: Kenneth Bunting, the executive director of the National Freedom of Information Coalition (NFOIC), will talk about the unrestricted free flow of information as a cornerstone of democracy and how we're doing regarding freedom of information and open government at the national level. He then will zero in on open government issues here in Delaware such as the increasing cost of access to information which the public should have: access to records, access to courts, and access to data.

League of Women Voters of New Castle County
2400 W. 17th Street, Clash Wing
Room 1, Lower Level
Wilmington, DE 19806-1311
302-571-8948
www.de.lwv.org