

LWVSC President's Report: May 31, 2017

The LWVSC has taken a two-pronged approach to local program for the past couple of years, focusing on *voter issues* and on *sustainable communities*. Voter Service is the bedrock of the League, and “sustainability” includes all things necessary to maintaining healthy communities—social and fiscal policies as well as environmental policies.

During the past summer and fall, we concentrated most of our time and energy on a Get-out-the-vote campaign (GOTV), targeting minority communities. Connie Jones and Janet Orlando created and organized an unprecedented, *strategic* campaign, providing a model to be used well into the future. The campaign included 41 voter registration events, resulting in a total of 316 registrants and 235 pledge-to-vote commitments. Twenty volunteers made a total of 388 calls on election day to remind new registrants to vote.

Meanwhile, Martha Redmond coordinated three candidates' forums, including two state representative districts, one state senatorial district, and one county council district. We had standing-room only crowds and good coverage in the local press. Carol Jones, our chief moderator, brought in a crew of back-up moderators to share the load.

Zeroing in on the concept of sustainability, our Land Use Committee, headed by Sue Claire Harper, has continued to plan, organize, and stage public forums that deal with all the various aspects of the county's 2018 Comprehensive Plan. The five forums held in County Council Chambers this year have gotten great press coverage, which goes straight to the League's mission of encouraging informed and active participation in government.

At our January *Morning with the LWVSC Meeting*, we took up the question “Where do we go from here?”, and members generated an array of ideas. In February, we met for an *Orientation and Mobilization Lunch*, where we attempted to narrow down members' concerns. The local program adopted at our Annual Meeting in June boils down the concerns recorded at these meetings to establish direction for study and action for the coming year.

Rounding out our program in February, Janet Orlando and Charlotte King, representing both the League and the Southern Delaware Alliance for Racial Justice, organized a Black History Month forum featuring the film “Slavery by Another Name.” The packed room indicated that discrimination and injustice remain huge concerns in Sussex county.

Throughout the year, our Observer Corps, chaired by Janet Ambrose, has faithfully attended and reported on County Council and Planning and Zoning Commission meetings, keeping us abreast of local issues and action—or inaction. Suzanne Hain, has organized and fine-tuned our Communications Committee, keeping our members tuned in and turned on while also keeping the League in the news. Michele Salvaneschi has arranged unprogrammed fun lunches at various locations on the last Friday of each month. Janet Denman, Membership Chair, ended her term of office with 118 members on the rolls, 20 (17%) of whom joined in 2017.

Thank you to all for your dedication to good government and for your commitment to the League—

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Jane Lord, LWVSC President