



## LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF MARYLAND, INC.

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### STATE BOARD LETTER

Mid-May 2016

#### LWVMD Calendar

##### May

21 – Saturday, LWVMD Council, Hood College, Frederick – see flyer, page 8

30 – Monday, Memorial Day – LWVMD office closed

##### June

3 – Friday, LWVNCA Board meeting, 10:30 a.m.

6 – Monday, LWVMD Board meeting – Retreat/Calendar planning, 10 a.m. Wilde Lake

16 -19 – Thursday - Sunday, LWVUS Convention, Washington, D.C. – see flyer, page 9

### **SIGN UP NOW FOR STATE COUNCIL!**

Be sure your League is represented at this biennial event, where we will adopt a new budget and get updates on LWVMD activities.

Two workshops will be offered sequentially, so that all attendees can take advantage of both:

**Membership Engagement Practices: A Panel Discussion**

**Making NationBuilder (Our New Web Platform) Work for Your League**

**Luncheon speaker is Barbara Brookmyer, M.D., M.P.H.**

**“The Status of Health Care Delivery in Maryland”**

Click here to register: [http://www.lwvmd.org/state\\_council\\_2016](http://www.lwvmd.org/state_council_2016)

For more details, check out the flyer in this SBL, page 8.

## PRESIDENTS' MESSAGE



As League members, you know the value of civic participation. Thomas Jefferson once said, "We in America do not have government by the majority. We have government by the majority who participate." That's why all of the work that you do to register, educate, and encourage citizens to vote is so important. We know that many of you spent countless hours doing just that leading up to last month's primary and we hope you take pride in what important work it is. The general election in the fall will yield a new President for our country, so your on-going efforts to educate and engage voters will be critical.

As you know, participation is more than just voting. That's why the work you do in your communities to influence good decisions by policy-making councils and boards is also vital to a well-functioning democracy.

As leaders of LWVMD, our goal is to provide support and assistance to our local Leagues as you carry on your work. If you need advice, training, information or just a sounding board, please call on your liaison to the state board or one of the co-

presidents. The state board will be setting our calendar for the upcoming year on Monday, June 6<sup>th</sup>. We will share that calendar with you following our meeting so that you can avoid scheduling events that conflict with LWVMD events. **If your League does calendar planning before June 6<sup>th</sup>, please share your calendar with us so that we can avoid scheduling events that conflict with yours.**

The League of Women Voters Education Fund has announced that LWVMD has been awarded a grant to continue our effort to register new voters at naturalization ceremonies. We will know the amount of the grant when details have been worked out. Nevertheless, this is a significant honor. Congratulations, **Ralph Watkins**, on your winning entry on behalf of all of us!

Our biennial council will take place soon. We hope that all local Leagues send at least one representative. Please click [here](#) to see the council workbook and agenda and to register. If you would rather pay by check, you can use the flyer in this *State Board Letter* to send in your registration.

It's hard to believe that it was almost a year ago that we were elected as your co-presidents. We have enjoyed learning from and collaborating with all of you. We look forward to another year of working along side you.

*Barbara Schnackenberg and Nancy Soreng, LWVMD Co-Presidents*

**VOTE FOR LWVMD AS A "HIGH IMPACT, HIGH VISIBILITY" WINNER!**

Click here to vote - <http://lww.org/blog/vote-league-had-most-visible-impact>

**VOTE FOR LWV MONTGOMERY COUNTY'S ROUNDTABLE ON CIVIC ENGAGEMENT**

Click here to vote -- <http://lww.org/blog/help-us-recognize-local-league-effectively-engaged-their-community>

## In Memoriam

It is with great sadness that we inform you of the passing of **Betty Harries**, Director of Membership for the LWVMD Board since 2013. Many of you worked with her as she assisted you with learning about the new LWVUS database. Betty loved the League and its members and enjoyed helping local Leagues keep track of their membership rolls.

Betty became a member of the League in 1970. Upon moving to Columbia, MD, in 1985, she immediately joined the League of Women Voters of Howard County. Betty was the Howard County League's office manager for several years prior to serving a three-year term as League President, from 1987-1990. She also served LWVHC in numerous other capacities, both on and off board.

Following her term as LWVHC President, she was appointed to the Howard County Commission for Women, where she served multiple terms. During that time she was involved in the creation and implementation of the Howard County

Women's Hall of Fame, which continues today. Betty was retired from the financial services industry and was a former teacher in California.

Betty was a birder, savored nature, worked on environmental issues, was an avid gardener and enjoyed the arts.

Betty and her husband traveled world-wide whenever possible. She is survived by her husband Keith and two children and two grandsons.

She will be missed.



## LWVMD Board Meeting Highlights, May 2, 2016

**Spring Event:** Kudos were given for all aspects of the luncheon at the Cosmos Club.

### **National Convention:**

**Volunteers** are still needed to work at National Convention. To find out more information, go to [lwnca.org](http://lwnca.org).

**Wares Market:** Check with Melanie Cox if your League wants to sell anything at the convention. Maryland has a wares table.

**Delegates:** There will be a meeting for LWVUS convention delegates following the State Council meeting on May 21.

**Video:** The Board was shown a video produced by Soreng and Watkins to be shown at the LWVUS convention. Videos will replace the roll call of states.

**Awards:** Cast your vote for **both the League of Women Voters of Montgomery County and LWVMD** for the Convention Awards at the links below:

- LWVMD's Roundtable on Civic Engagement - <http://lww.org/blog/help-us-recognize-local-league-effectively-engaged-their-community> .
- LWVMD's work on redistricting - <http://lww.org/blog/vote-league-had-most-visible-impact> .

**Action:** LWVMD will be working with coalition partners during the summer on redistricting. The Climate Coalition will be recognizing legislatures in various ways in the next few weeks.

**Website:** Willson will add Betty Harries' name to a tribute page on our website.

**LWVMD Board Retreat:** Monday, June 6.

## LWVMD-EF Board Meeting Highlights, May 2, 2016



**Voter Service:** A proposal was submitted to LWVUS for a grant for working on registering newly naturalized citizens.

*Elaine Apter, LWVMD Secretary*

**Voters' Guide Distribution and VOTE411 Visits by County:  
With Coverage of Registered Voters**

County	Registered Voters	Voters' Guides	VOTE411 Visits	Coverage
Anne Arundel	368,338	2,000	2,327	1.2%
Baltimore City	374,178	10,000	3,088	3.5%
Baltimore County	541,202	48,000	2,092	9.3%
Calvert	62,126	0	559	.9%
Caroline*	19,217		87	
Dorchester*	20,964		39	
Eastern Shore	113,505	57,000	426	50.6%
Frederick	160,389	46,800	2,116	30.5%
Harford	171,493	0	543	.3%
Howard	204,803	11,500	1,876	6.5%
Kent*	12,979		43	
Montgomery	641,983	80,000	5,228	13.3%
Prince George's	557,201	725	2,975	.7%
Queen Anne's*	33,884		176	
Saint Mary's	67,894	6	443	.7%
Talbot*	26,461		71	
Washington	92,962		636	.7%

\*Caroline, Dorchester, and Talbot counties are covered by the Mid-Shore LWV, which publishes its *Voters' Guide* in cooperation with the Leagues in Kent County and Queen Anne's County. This *Guide* was issued as a single publication by the *Easton Star Democrat*, which owns the main newspapers circulated in all of those counties.

**VOTE411 Visits in Counties Without a Local League**

Allegany - 228  
Carroll - 631  
Cecil - 425  
Charles - 402

Garrett - 44  
Somerset - 8  
Wicomico - 249  
Worcester - 41

It should be noted that we do not yet have figures for the number of people who visited League websites to view the PDF versions of *Voters' Guides*. Further, it is possible that the *Voters' Guide* directed readers to VOTE411 for responses to additional questions as well as responses from convention delegate candidates, so there may be overlap in those figures.

*Ralph Watkins LWVMD Voter Service Chair*



## Karen Tumulty Shares Her Observations on the 2016 Election Season



Ms. Karen Tumulty, our luncheon speaker at the Cosmos Club on April 30<sup>th</sup>, had some pungent observations on our political season.

We voters may have noticed that the usual pundits and talking heads in the press have been wrong about almost every prediction on who would finally emerge from the primary season as candidates for President. She suggested that one reason for this outcome is that members of the press do not spend enough time talking to voters. The anger in the electorate has been overlooked or discounted. This anger seems related to the expectations voters place with those for whom they have repeatedly voted, even though these

expectations are often thwarted.

In many cases, these officeholders even knew they could not deliver on their promises but voters continue to vote for people who do not deliver. Ms. Tumulty suggested that until voters punish officeholders for “failure to deliver” by not voting for them again, voters will continue to be angry. She cited a number of convincing examples for her thesis. We were indeed privileged to hear Ms. Tumulty’s articulate, insightful observations.

Our spring event could not have been more rewarding for those fortunate enough to attend. We are grateful to **Roberta Sharper** and **Klaus Zwilsky** for sponsoring our event.



Attendees settle in after an enjoyable lunch, awaiting Ms. Tumulty’s talk.

*Barbara Schnackenberg, LWVMD Co-President*

## Annual Meeting Round-Up!

Calling all LWVMD Liaisons and/or local League leaders! We'd like to find out how your annual meetings went: what speakers you invited; whether your meeting was mid-day or evening; what special events were featured. Please send a brief summary to me and I'll try to include as many as possible in an upcoming *State Board Letter*.

Here's an example from LWVMD Treasurer, Carolyn Hetterick, reporting on Kent County:

The League of Women Voters of Kent County held its 40th Annual Meeting and luncheon on Wednesday, April 20, 2016. Four past presidents of the Kent League were among the attendees. Carolyn Hetterick, LWVMD liaison, read a letter from the state board co-presidents commending the Kent County League for its work during the past year. The keynote speaker was Nancy Soreng, LWVMD Co-President. Nancy's topic was "Taming the Maryland Gerrymander."

Her presentation was informative, enlightened and well received by the meeting attendees. The business meeting followed the presentation.

Correction: Please note that the spokesperson/convener for the Mid-Shore League mentioned in the *April SBL* was incorrect. **Pat Comella** now holds that position. Sorry for the confusion.

Jane Hardy, [janewhardy@gmail.com](mailto:janewhardy@gmail.com)  
SBL Editor

## Vote for Our “Most Visible” League, LWVMD!



Participants in our “Gerrymander Meander”

Here's some good news about LWVMD — it was selected as one of four finalists in a nation-wide LWVUS contest to determine which Leagues have the “most visible impact.” Please click on the link below to learn more about LWVMD's Gerrymander Meander project and other redistricting reform work, and then cast your vote for LWVMD!

Click here to vote and learn more -

<http://lww.org/blog/vote-league-had-most-visible-impact>



# LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF MARYLAND BIENNIAL COUNCIL

SATURDAY, MAY 21, 2016  
Hood College, 401 Rosemont Avenue  
Frederick, MD 21701



## ANNOUNCING THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE MADELEINE ELICOTT FOUNDERS FUND PLANNING FOR THE FUTURE OF LWVMD

Join us at LWVMD Council, the biennial meeting held in years when we do not have a state League Convention. The purpose of Council is to adopt the annual budget for LWVMD and to provide a yearly update to League members about LWVMD activities. Two delegates from each local League may vote, and all League members are invited and encouraged to attend.

<b>LWVMD COUNCIL 2016 AGENDA</b>	REGISTRATION & CONTINENTAL BREAKFAST	9:30 AM
	REPORTS AND BUDGET PRESENTATION	10:00 AM
	WORKSHOPS	
	<b>MEMBERSHIP ENGAGEMENT PRIMER</b>	10:30 AM
	A PANEL OF REPRESENTATIVES FROM LOCAL LEAGUES MODERATED BY JOANN ROSS	
	<b>MAKING NATIONBUILDER WORK FOR YOUR LEAGUE</b>	11:00 AM
	RICHARD WILLSON & RALPH WATKINS	
	LUNCH AND SPEAKER: BARBARA A. BROOKMYER, MD, MPH	12:00 PM
	<b>STATUS OF HEALTH CARE DELIVERY IN MARYLAND</b>	
	DIRECTIONS TO THE BOARD AND QUESTIONS	1:15 PM
ANNOUNCEMENTS		
ADJOURN	1:30 PM	



### LWVMD COUNCIL 2016 RESERVATION FORM

Deadline May 16, 2016

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Local League \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

Delegate \_\_\_\_\_ Visitor/Guest \_\_\_\_\_ Please state any dietary restrictions \_\_\_\_\_

\$35.00 Registration Fee

Includes Continental breakfast, lunch and Council Workbook (emailed unless hard copy is requested)

**Make your reservation online at: [http://www.lwvmd.org/state\\_council\\_2016](http://www.lwvmd.org/state_council_2016)**

**Or mail check made out to LWVMD with this registration form to:  
LWVMD, 111 Cathedral Street, Ste. 201, Annapolis, MD 21401**

Or register by phone - **410-269-0232** - or by email - **lwvmd@verizon.net** and pay at the door

**If you or someone you know would like assistance from the Lois Stoner Scholarship Fund  
for the Council registration fee, please contact the LWVMD office.**



## COMING SOON: LWVUS CONVENTION!

Whether you are considering going as a delegate or as a volunteer to the national convention it is always a great opportunity to meet League members from around the nation and learn more about the League and how to make an impact in our communities, nation and world. Information on the Convention and how to register and book a hotel room is available by clicking [here](#).

Every local League is allowed to send one voting delegate. When local League membership reaches 50 voting members, the local League is entitled to one additional delegate. For each additional 50 voting members, another delegate is authorized. This is based on the numbers of active members your League showed on the LWVUS database on March 1. Here's the delegate allocation for the Maryland local Leagues:

Anne Arundel	2
Baltimore City	2
Baltimore County	3
Howard	3
Montgomery	8
Prince George's	2
Harford	1
Washington	1
Calvert	2
Mid-Shore	1
Kent	2
St. Mary's	1
Queen Anne's	1



If your local League isn't planning to send your full allotment of delegates, please let me know, as a member from a different Maryland League may be interested in representing your League.

Volunteering at convention is a great way to get a feel for the event without paying the registration fee. Opportunities to volunteer include greeting attendees and providing information about the area and venue, registering attendees, facilitating various activities on the convention floor, checking in other volunteers and helping at the wares market. All volunteers get **a free ticket to the Friday night performance of the Capitol Steps.**

All League members in the National Capitol Area (those counties surrounding Washington, D.C) should have received an invitation to volunteer from **Zaida Arguedas** that contained a link to SignUpGenius.com. If you didn't get the link, or can't find it in your in-box and you want to volunteer, please call the LWVMD office at 410-269-0232 and we will make sure you get it.

*Nancy Soreng, LWVMD Co-President*