



## LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF MARYLAND, INC.

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### STATE BOARD LETTER

Mid-January 2017

#### LWVMD Calendar

##### January

- 11 - Wednesday, General Assembly convenes
- 16 - Monday, Martin Luther King, Jr. Day, LWVMD office closed
- 20 - Friday, Presidential Inauguration Day
- 21 - Women's March on Washington, see update on page 3
- 23 - Monday, Paid Sick Leave Rally, 7 p.m., see page 8
- 26 - Thursday, Environmental Summit, 4 - 6 p.m., Miller Senate Office Bldg, see page 4
- 28 - **Saturday, Winter Workshop, 10 a.m., Wilde Lake** (note date change) -- see flyer, page 9
- 29 - Sunday, Women's Legislative Briefing, 12:30 - 6 p.m., see page 7
- 31 - Tuesday, LWVUS roster updating deadline, see below

##### February

- 3 - Friday, LWNCA Board meeting
- 4 - Saturday, snow date for Winter Workshop (note date change)
- 6 - Monday, LWVMD Board meeting, 10 a.m. Wilde Lake
- 9 - Thursday, *State Board Letter* deadline
- 10 - Friday, LWNCA Reception for LWVUS Board, see flyer, page 10
- 14 - Tuesday, League of Women Voters' 97th Birthday
- 20 - Monday, Presidents Day, LWVMD office closed

##### March

- 1 - Wednesday, LWVMD Legislative Day, see pages 6 & 11
- 3 - Friday, LWNCA Board meeting
- 6 - Monday, LWVMD Board meeting, 10 a.m. Wilde Lake

Mark your calendars for LWVMD's next biennial convention, which will be held **June 9 - 11, 2017 at Washington College in Chestertown, on beautiful Maryland's Eastern Shore**. We will "own" an entire dorm for the weekend, and will be able to take advantage of the excellent food service at the college, as well as nifty meeting spaces - all at an affordable price for attendees. The Kent County League will host this event. Ideas? Questions? Please contact Jane Hardy, [janewhardy@gmail.com](mailto:janewhardy@gmail.com).

**A reminder to all local League presidents, membership chairs, and roster managers:** Your PMP will be based on your membership numbers as of January 31. Please be sure to check your LWVUS membership list to confirm that it is up to date and you will not be charged for expired members. I have been in contact with roster managers and want to compliment most of you, who are up to date and doing a great job with your membership lists. If anyone needs any help don't hesitate to contact me, [aptere@verizon.net](mailto:aptere@verizon.net).

*Elaine Apter, LWVMD Director/LWVUS Database Liaison*

## PRESIDENTS' MESSAGE



The name of the first month of the year was traditionally thought to be taken from the Roman myth concerning the god of time and transitions, Janus, who faced both forward and backward. That is, he was looking at both the past year and the coming year. In that spirit, we can take pride in what we accomplished last year, especially in our election activities, which our members accomplished with excellence. Of course, we are never finished but really only reach plateaus from which we leap forward again whenever new elections are upon us. As we have always done, we will print *Voters' Guides* using statements directly from candidates as they present themselves and answer questions we pose. We have never judged the content of these statements and will certainly not start now. But will we be conflicted when a candidate makes claims that have been proven by conventional standards to be untrue? Actually January was named for Juno. See how easy it is to create a believable story! See Wikipedia.

We can look forward this month to several events that are upon us. There is the Women's March on Washington. (Please see an update on the LWVUS stance on this march just below, [page 3](#).) We have moved our Winter Workshop to January 28<sup>th</sup> ([see attached flyer](#)) so that our members may attend the march if they wish. **Please [register](#) as soon as possible for our workshop** so that we are best able to plan for materials and refreshments. Also, note

from the flyer that we have an inclement weather date of February 4, 2017. The workshop is extremely important, as we will hear from our **luncheon speaker, Maryland Secretary of Aging Rona Kramer**. **Margaret Hindman**, our study chair, will lead a discussion on the materials for our study on **Development Rights and Responsibilities Agreements (DRRAs)** and what this concept has meant and could mean in the future for our land use planning. In a simultaneous workshop, our Webmaster **Richard Willson** will lead us in becoming more efficient at using our Website.

The Maryland General Assembly convenes on Wednesday, January 11, when your legislators start working on a variety of issues that we are supporting. We really have our work cut out for us to: urge the legislature to override the Governor's surprise veto of last year's Clean Energy Jobs Act; get the legislature to pass a redistricting bill that reflects the recommendations of the Redistricting Commission; urge passage of legislation for paid sick leave and for an increase in the earned income tax credit; and promote our other priorities adopted for the session. For a complete list, see [http://www.lwvmd.org/legislative\\_priorities](http://www.lwvmd.org/legislative_priorities) and watch for your issues of *Report from State Circle*, which will keep you up to date on this year's legislative activities. **The first issue will be emailed to you shortly after January 23, 2017.** Keeping up with the legislature will make more meaningful our Legislative Day on March 1, 2017.

In League,  
Barbara Schnackenberg and Nancy Soreng  
LWVMD Co-Presidents

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## Attention Local League Webmasters!

**Web Hint:** If you get stuck, try going to [www.nationbuilder.com/support](http://www.nationbuilder.com/support) and clicking on the tab marked "Documentation." You can enter most anything in the search box and find very helpful answers to most of your questions!

## About the Women's March on Washington . . .

## A New Decision from LWVUS

The LWVUS Board of Directors met Tuesday afternoon [Jan 10] to reconsider whether the League should officially participate in the planned **Women's March on Washington, January 21, 2017**. Since the last discussion more than a month ago, many of our initial concerns about the march have been addressed. Event organizers have obtained the official permits for an event of this size and have shaped the march as an inclusive and diverse event. For these reasons, the board voted unanimously for the League to participate officially in the DC March.

For League members who were planning to travel to Washington for the event, this means we will coordinate a meeting location in DC and **look to march as one unit with signs and buttons.**



More information will be forthcoming for those interested in marching with the League in Washington.

The board decision also pertains to state and local Leagues interested in participating in sister marches. The board strongly recommends that any state or local League check their liability with the organizers of the local marches to make sure your League is covered.

We are excited to participate in this historic day, which will bring Americans together in the spirit of democracy.

Chris Carson, President/Chair  
League of Women Voters of the United States  
League of Women Voters Education Fund  
1730 M Street, NW, Suite 1000, Washington, DC 20036  
Facebook: @leagueofwomenvoters Twitter: @LWV  
[www.lwv.org](http://www.lwv.org) | Making Democracy Work™ | [www.VOTE411.org](http://www.VOTE411.org)

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As mentioned in the last SBL, Ashley Oleson is back with us as our Administrator. Her office hours vary. If you want to know when she will be in the office, please check the [calendar](#) on the LWVMD Website.

## LWVMD Board Meeting Highlights, January 5, 2017

### LWVMD

- The Winter Workshop, January 28th, is up and running and should be a very informative session.
- Developmental Rights and Responsibilities Consensus Reports are due April 21<sup>st</sup>, so local Leagues should be planning for consensus meetings to take place before that date.
- Action team members have been working hard in their areas. There is an Environmental Summit on January 26, from 4-6 p.m. in Annapolis.
- In preparation for the LWVMD Convention in June, a Budget Committee was appointed to formulate a budget for the coming year; the Nominating Committee is also commencing its work.
- The state board appreciates all the efforts of the local Leagues that help make LWVMD great.

### LWVMD-Education Fund

- The Ed Fund received a private donation of \$1000.
- Voter Service Chair Ralph Watkins is preparing a letter to LWVUS re planning for the 2020 presidential election.

*Theresa Freligh, LWVMD Secretary*

## Environmental Summit

**Thursday, January 26, 2017, 4 – 6 p.m.  
Miller Senate Building  
11 Bladen Street, Annapolis, MD 21014**



The League of Women Voter of Maryland joins with other regional and national organizations in **The Annual Environmental Summit in Annapolis!** It's is a great way to kick off the year of environmental advocacy. Meet the leading Senators and Delegates working on renewable energy, storm water management, protecting the environment from pesticides, and the overuse of antibiotics. Meet the leaders and the worker bees in statewide and national environmental organizations who are protecting our water, land, and air in Maryland.

Join our keynote speaker, **Dr. Leana Wen**, the Baltimore City Commissioner of Health, along with advocates, elected officials, and conservation-minded voters in a discussion of some of the most important environmental issues of the 2017 Maryland General Assembly Legislative Session.

The anticipated discussion will include:

- Fracking Ban
- Clean Energy Jobs Act
- Antibiotics
- Septics

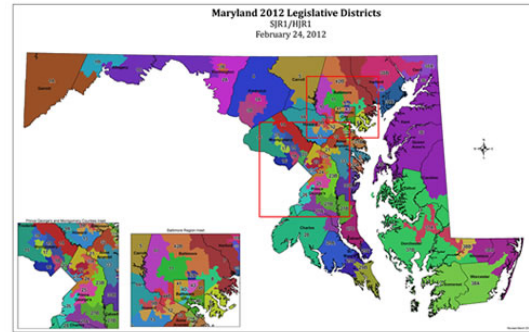
We look forward to seeing you there! For more information, contact me at [betsysing@gmail.com](mailto:betsysing@gmail.com)

*Betsy Singer, LWVMD Advocacy Team, Environment*

## Report of Consensus Committee on Part 1 of the LWVMD Study of the Primary System in Maryland (Single-member versus Multi-member districts) 2016

At its State Convention in 2015, delegates to the LWVMD convention adopted a study of the primary system in Maryland. Subsequent to the adoption of the study, in November 2015, the Maryland Redistricting Reform Commission issued its report, which contained a statement that during the Commission's hearings around the state, a number of elected officials and members of the public expressed a preference for single-member delegate districts. The Commission report contained a recommendation that "The Governor and the legislature should examine the benefits of establishing a uniform standard of using three single-member delegate districts in every legislative district." As a result of the issuance of this report and this particular recommendation, the LWVMD Board reviewed the League's current position on single-member versus multi-member districts, which supports a combination of the two types of districts, and asked the study committee to add a new component to the Primary Study to include a study of single-member versus multi-member districts in the Maryland legislature. The Study Committee performed this additional segment of the study, prepared study materials, including a fact sheet, a discussion guide, and a revised study guide. A dry-run workshop on this topic was held in September 2016, and consensus meetings were held by local Leagues in the fall of 2016.

Throwing a wrench into the work of the study committee, the Maryland Redistricting Reform Commission met in early November and re-visited their initial recommendation about single-member versus multi-member districts. At this meeting, they changed their recommendation to suggest mandating single-member districts OR three-member districts in each legislative district, except in those jurisdictions where the voting rights act prohibits three member districts. The Commission was reluctant to ask heavily populated areas to draw a bunch of lines to accommodate single-member districts.



[Thanks to Nancy Soreng for attending this meeting of the Redistricting Reform Commission and reporting this change in recommendation to us, and to Study Committee co-chair Barbara Sanders for preparing an updated Discussion Guide that included this late information.]

At the outset of the study process of single-member versus multi-member districts, the study committee received an inquiry from a local League, asking whether whatever position we reached with respect to single-member versus multi-member districts, would the position apply to local governments or just the state government. The Committee reviewed the current position and determined that it was intended to apply only to Maryland legislative districts. The Study Committee made a suggestion on the consensus sheet that the phrase [for the Maryland House of Delegates] be added to the League's position, should it be re-adopted. Although not all local Leagues specifically commented on this in their consensus reports, the Consensus Committee agreed that this was the intention of all responding Leagues, because that phrase was included in the current position *as stated on the consensus form*.

Ten local Leagues submitted consensus reports regarding this portion of the Study. The Leagues that submitted reports are: Howard County, Kent County, Washington County, Prince Georges County, St. Mary's County, Montgomery County, Baltimore



County, Baltimore City, Anne Arundel County and Frederick County.

**ALL TEN LOCAL LEAGUES REACHED CONSENSUS TO RETAIN THE CURRENT LWVMD POSITION.**

A common comment on the consensus sheets and in discussions with participating League members is that redistricting is a more important issue than the composition of the districts, and the Maryland League already has a strong redistricting position.

A total of 186 local League members participated in consensus meetings on this topic. The Consensus Committee recognizes that this is a relatively small group of League members from which to draw a statewide consensus, but the Consensus Committee members feel that since these 186 League members represent 10 out of the 14 local Leagues in the state, it is a valid consensus.

A spreadsheet detailing the Leagues participating, number of participants and comments can be seen by clicking [here](#).

The current LWVMD position, which local Leagues reached consensus to retain, is as follows:

**The Maryland League of Women Voters supports: A mix of single and multi-member districts for the Maryland House of Delegates. The following criteria should be used to determine which districts should be single and which should be multi-member:**

- a. full minority representation;**
- b. geographic integrity;**
- c. preservation of political and community boundaries;**
- d. compactness**

Consensus Committee members: Lu Pierson (study co-chair), Joann Ross (Program Chair), Betty Mayfield (Frederick County LWV), Barbara Flook (Kent County LWV), Stacie Johnson (Prince George's County LWV), Betsy Singer (LWVMD Board)

Study Committee members: Barbara Sanders and Lu Pierson, co-chairs, Elaine Apter, Carol Blackburn, Jordan Cooper, Jane Hardy, Barbara Fetterhoff, Grace Kubofchik, Mary Lanigan, Judy Morenoff, Susan Rovin, Dona Sauergurger, Ralph Watkins

## **Time to Start Preparing for LWVMD's Annual Legislative Day, Wednesday, March 1**

This will be an exciting year in Annapolis and there will be a lot to learn during Legislative Day on March 1. Visiting legislators can begin as early as 8:30 a.m.; our program will begin at 10 a.m. and end after lunch at 1 p.m. **Toni Holiness**, the public policy director of the ACLU of Maryland, will be our luncheon speaker. She will discuss corrections and sentencing reform, one of our legislative priorities this year.

This year LWVMD has set the following priorities for lobbying the General Assembly:

- Redistricting reform
- Improved voter access
- Mitigating climate change
- Reliance on clean renewable energy
- Safe water for all
- Maintaining the safety net for vulnerable populations
- Corrections and sentencing reform
- Adequate public transportation funding

(continued next page)

Registration form and background material will be sent to local leagues shortly. The registration fee is \$35 and includes morning coffee and breakfast foods and lunch. If you have any questions, contact me at [ruth@cramercrystal.com](mailto:ruth@cramercrystal.com).

*Ruth Crystal, Action Chair, LWVMD Board*

## LWVMD Sponsors Women Legislative Briefing

Once again the League of Women Voters of Maryland will be a co-sponsor of The Women's Legislative Briefing (WLB). It is the longest-standing women's legislative event in the state of Maryland. It is coordinated by the Montgomery County Commission for Women and brings together advocates, policy makers, and emerging leaders to empower, engage, and mobilize Marylanders around issues affecting women and girls throughout the state.

### History and Purpose:

The Montgomery County Commission for Women

organized the first Women's Legislative Briefing in January 1980, co-sponsored by 12 community and women's organizations. With the exception of 1982, the briefing has been presented annually, making last year the 36th anniversary of this event.

The purpose of the briefing is to provide information on legislative issues of concern to women and families, including bills that will be introduced in the upcoming sessions of the Maryland General Assembly and U.S. Congress. Local and state officials are invited to attend the briefing and many of them do so. The ending reception allows participants the opportunity to meet with their legislators and discuss issues of concern.

Tickets can be purchased by clicking [here](#).

# Rally for Healthy Families!

*Raise your voice for Earned Sick Days*



**Monday, January 23 at 7pm**

*Maryland State House Lawyers Mall*  
*100 State Circle, Annapolis, MD 21401*

Let's make 2017 our year for the Healthy Working Families Act to ensure more Maryland workers can earn sick days.

Join labor, faith, small business and community leaders, plus bill sponsors Senator Thomas "Mac" Middleton and Delegate Luke Clippinger.

For more information and to RSVP contact [workingmatters@jotf.org](mailto:workingmatters@jotf.org).







## LWVMD WINTER WORKSHOP



\* Saturday, January 28, 2017 \*

Wilde Lake Interfaith Center, Columbia, MD  
10431 Twin Rivers Road, Columbia, MD 21044 -2331

9:30 am - 1:30 pm

Workshop fee of \$25 includes morning coffee/breakfast breads, lunch, materials

- 9:30 Registration  
10:00 Welcome and Announcements  
10:15 Workshops:  
Briefing on Development Rights and Responsibilities Study  
Margaret Hindman and study team (Consensus due April 21, 2017)  
**or**  
Ask the Webmaster: How do I .....? (Bring your computer.)  
Richard Willson, LWVMD Webmaster  
***These workshops will take place concurrently.***  
11:30 Lunch and Discussion of the issues facing an aging Maryland population  
Speaker: Rona E. Kramer, Maryland Secretary of Aging  
1:30 Adjournment

\*Snow Date: February 4, 2017. Check **LWVMD.org** if weather is inclement.

### WINTER WORKSHOP 2017 REGISTRATION FORM

(Deadline for Registration - January 25, 2017)

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

LEAGUE \_\_\_\_\_

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

Amount enclosed: Workshop fee (\$25 per person) \_\_\_\_\_

Donation to the LWVMD Education Fund \_\_\_\_\_

**(Or donate on line: Go to [http://www.lwvmd.org/join\\_donate](http://www.lwvmd.org/join_donate)**

Mail to: LWVMD, 111 Cathedral Street, Suite 201, Annapolis, MD 21401

Or register on line - Go to **[http://www.lwvmd.org/winter\\_workshop\\_2017](http://www.lwvmd.org/winter_workshop_2017)**

If you or someone you know would like assistance from the Lois Stoner Scholarship Fund for the workshop fee, please contact the LWVMD office at 410 269 0232 or by email: [lwvmd@verizon.net](mailto:lwvmd@verizon.net)



*LWVUS Board Reception*  
*Hosted by*  
*League of Women Voters of the National*  
*Capital Area*

*Friday, February 10, 2017 from 6:00 - 8:00 p.m.*

*The Beacon Bar and Grill, Washington DC*

With all the changes going on in government and within the League this reception is a wonderful opportunity to meet and chat with LWV President Chris Carson, the LWV Board of Directors and Trustees and Dr. Wylecia Wiggs Harris, Chief Executive Officer and LWV staff.

The Beacon Bar and Grill located at 1615 Rhode Island Avenue NW, Washington, DC 20036 (2 blocks North of LWVUS Offices). It is within walking distance from the Metro at DuPont Circle. Parking lots are available at Colonial Parking on Rhode Island at 17<sup>th</sup> and Connecticut Ave. or PMI at 1730 M Street Northwest, Carpooling is encouraged.

RSVP: Deadline: February 3, 2017, Reception Cost: \$40.

Make checks payable to: League of Women Voters of the National Capital Area, or

-----Cut Here-----

RSVP Information for LWVUS Board Reception. Complete form and mail with check to: Nancy Bliss 6732 Newbold Drive, Bethesda, MD 20817-2223 (nabliss@aol.com)

NAME(S): \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE: \_\_\_\_\_ LEAGUE \_\_\_\_\_

EMAIL: \_\_\_\_\_

CHECK AMOUNT: \_\_\_\_\_ DATE \_\_\_\_\_



LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF MARYLAND

## LEGISLATIVE DAY

Wednesday, March 1, 2017

Miller Senate Office Building, President's Conference  
Room, West Wing  
11 Bladen Street, Annapolis, MD



Registration fee: \$35 - GUESTS ARE WELCOME

Includes buffet lunch    Parking not included

Photo ID required for admission to all Maryland government buildings.

- 8:30am            Registration and Coffee
- 8:30 -10am       Visits to Legislators arranged by Local Leagues  
**Local Leagues are responsible for making those appointments in advance.**
- 8:40 -10am       Optional tour of Legislative complex
- 10:00am           Report on legislative visits
- 10:15              Discussion of proposed legislation impacting the  
League's legislative priorities
- 11 am              State budget presentation by Warren Deschenaux, Executive Director  
Department of Legislative Services
- 11:45am           Discussion of impact of budget on our legislative priorities
- Noon               Lunch - Speaker: Toni Holiness, public policy director,  
ACLU will speak on corrections and sentencing reforms
- 1pm                Optional visits to committee hearings

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### LEGISLATIVE DAY 2017 REGISTRATION FORM

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

(Deadline for Registration - Tuesday, February 21, 2017)

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

LEAGUE \_\_\_\_\_

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

Registration fee - \$35 \_\_\_\_\_ Donation to the LWVMD Education Fund \_\_\_\_\_

Or donate online: Go to [http://www.lwvmd.org/join\\_donate](http://www.lwvmd.org/join_donate)

Mail to: LWVMD, 111 Cathedral Street, Suite 201, Annapolis, MD 21401

Or register online: [http://www.lwvmd.org/legislative\\_day\\_2017](http://www.lwvmd.org/legislative_day_2017)