



LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF MARYLAND, INC.

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STATE BOARD LETTER
May 2015

Calendar

May

- 25 Monday Memorial Day – LWVMD office closed
- 30-31 Sat.-Sun LWVMD Convention, O’Callaghan’s Hotel, Annapolis. See flyers pages 3-5

June

- 4 Thursday LWVMD Board meeting – Retreat/Calendar planning Wilde Lake
- 5 Friday LWVNCA Board meeting 10:30 a.m.
- 18-21 Thur-Sun LWVUS Council, Washington DC area

Plan to Attend State Convention

Hopefully, all convention attendees have turned in their registration forms. We encourage attendees to come on Friday and take advantage of the special tours and dine around arranged by Anne Arundel County members. It will also give you time to meet with your fellow Leaguers from other counties to discuss the upcoming program options.

Please review the **recommended and non-recommended program** items in the Convention Workbook available on line on the State League’s website. If there is an item you are particularly interested in, come prepared to lobby for your study choice. We also have two position changes proposed that you should also review. Delegates wishing to bring one of the study items to the convention should be prepared to introduce the topic at Saturday’s Plenary Session. This is when the delegates decide to consider the program item.

We have scheduled the four workshops so that registered Leaguers can attend them all. They are **Leadership Development, New Voting Machines, Instant Runoff Voting (IRV) and the new website.**

We are honored to have Congressman John Sarbanes as our banquet speaker. We look forward to a great turnout for convention. This is your chance to make decisions about and reconnect with program, budget and officers for LWVMD for 2015-17. It is also a wonderful opportunity to connect and reconnect with fellow Leaguers from across the State

President's Message

Dear Leaguers:

We have wrapped up a very active year with many accomplishments on the state and local level.

We continue to pursue our priorities on government and the environment as well as education and social services. You may have seen our most recent letter to the editor in the Baltimore Sun **urging the Governor to release 68 million dollars in education funds** to the 13 jurisdictions it is intended for. <http://www.baltimoresun.com/news/opinion/readersrespond/bs-ed-riots-schools-letter-20150508-story.html>

Our members have appeared at press conferences with organizations urging for the release, and an action alert has been sent to our members to contact the Governor.

On May 12 your president witnessed the **signing by the Governor of several bills the League supported**. The atmosphere was a happy one as hundreds lined up in the Statehouse to be pictured behind the Governor, the Speaker and Senate President. One disappointment--the fracking moratorium bill was not signed, so was effectively vetoed; the other passed bills we supported were all signed. For more details on passed bills, see the April Voter.

This last six weeks or so, Board members and I have been visiting the annual meetings of our local Leagues. It is very heartening to see how much our dedicated members have achieved and it is enjoyable to attend the meetings.

I look forward to seeing many of you at **Convention 2015 in Annapolis. We will be making important decisions on our League program for study for the next two years**, and the election of the new Board will be held. **We need you all there--delegates and other members to help us choose program. Additionally, valuable workshops will be held that will help us all.**

We will celebrate 95 years of the League at our Saturday evening banquet. The distinguished congressman, John Sarbanes, will be our speaker. It will be a beautiful occasion for us.

I have enjoyed being your president these past two years but leave knowing the League is going on in very capable hands.

In League,

Susan

New State Website to be Unveiled

Please send Elaine Apter (aptere@verizon.net) the contact for the person in charge of your local League's website. One of the workshops at State Convention will be a look at the new State website and a chance for convention attendees to evaluate it.



Celebrate 95 Years of LWV

LWVMD CONVENTION May 30 - 31, 2015

O'Callaghan Hotel, 174 West Street, Annapolis, MD 21401

FRIDAY, MAY 29

2:00 pm **FUN FRIDAY IN ANNAPOLIS** Pre-Convention Tours and Dine-Around (See separate flyer)

SATURDAY, MAY 30

9:30 am - 10:30 am Registration
 10:30 am - Noon Plenary
 Noon - 1:30 pm Lunch (on your own)
 1:30 pm - 3:00 pm Workshops
 3:00 pm - 5:00 pm Plenary
 6:30 pm - 7:30 pm Reception (Cash bar)
 7:30 pm **BANQUET**
Celebrating the 95th anniversary of LWV!

BANQUET ENTREE CHOICES - CHOOSE ONE

CASHEL BLUE CHEESE CHICKEN
 STUFFED WITH SPINACH AND BLUE CHEESE IN A LIGHT CREAM SAUCE

SALMON FILET WITH JAMESON WHISKEY SAUCE (GLUTEN FREE)

VEGAN PLATE (GLUTEN FREE)

SUNDAY LUNCH BUFFET
 Please check here if you would like a vegan alternative

SUNDAY, MAY 31

9:00 am - 11:45 am Workshops
 Noon - 1:00 pm Networking lunch buffet
 1:00 pm - 3:00 pm Plenary
 3:00 pm Adjournment

HOTEL RESERVATIONS

Call 410 263 7700 or 844 845 5917 or reserve online:
<https://bookings.ihotelier.com/The-O-Callaghan-Annapolis-Hotel/bookings.jsp?hotelID=77530&groupID=1240662>
 Reserve by April 29 for LWVMD room rate: \$149 per night + tax Parking: \$10 per day

REGISTRATION

All Convention attendees must register. If you or someone you know would like assistance from the Lois Stoner Scholarship Fund for the registration fee, please contact the LWVMD office.

NAME _____
 ADDRESS _____
 LOCAL LEAGUE _____
 EMAIL _____

Please check here if you are a voting DELEGATE

Please send this completed registration form with your check payable to LWVMD to:
 LWVMD, 111 Cathedral Street, Suite 201, Annapolis, MD 21401.

**YOUR CONVENTION REGISTRATION MUST BE RECEIVED BY MAY 11, 2015.
 SIGN UP BY MAY 1 TO ENTER LOTTERY FOR A SPECIAL PRIZE!**

Each attendee should fill out a separate registration form. Thank you!
 Questions? Call the LWVMD office at 410 269 0232.

*I WILL BE ATTENDING THE
LWVMD CONVENTION*
 I have enclosed a check for
\$110.00 _____
 (Includes materials, banquet and networking lunch buffet)

*I (WE) WILL BE ATTENDING THE
BANQUET ONLY*
 I have enclosed a check for
\$95.00 per person _____

I WOULD LIKE TO MAKE A DONATION
 I have enclosed a check
 for _____



LWVMD 2015 Convention - Fun Friday in Annapolis

Friday, May 29, 2015

Hosted by the League of Women Voters of Anne Arundel County

Tour #1: Historic Annapolis Trolley \$17/person

Enjoy an hour-long narrated tour of the city's historic sights and scenic bridges, in cushioned seats and air-conditioned comfort. Your "Little Trolley with Big Windows" will pass the city dock, colonial mansions, State House, Governor's residence, and the U.S. Naval Academy; visit the WWII Memorial and take in the view from across the Severn River...and more! **Minimal walking required.** Meet in the O'Callaghan Hotel lobby at 2:00 p.m. Payment will be collected that day (cash or check). **Registration deadline: May 15.**

Tour #2: "Behind the Scenes" Annapolis Limited to 20 people/no charge

This exclusive League-organized tour will provide an insider's look at our State House. Participants will be shown beautiful legislator lounges, offices and reception areas that aren't open to the public, and will be allowed to enter historic rooms and chambers, guided by knowledgeable staffers. **Tour will involve significant walking.** Meet in the State House Rotunda; tour will begin at 2:00 p.m. **Registration will be on a first come first served basis; maximum of one guest per member, please.**

Late afternoon Check-in, explore, shop, meet for Tea or Happy Hour, relax!
Early evening Dutch-treat Dine-around with LWVAAC hosts*

*LWVAAC will offer a choice of restaurants and your host will provide transportation, if needed.

Friday night accommodations are available at the LWVMD rate of \$149/night. Call 410-263-7700 or reserve online: <https://bookings.ihotelier.com/The-O-Callaghan-Annapolis-Hotel/bookings.jsp?hotelID=77530&groupID=1240662>

Pre-Convention Activities in Annapolis - Friday, May 29, 2015

Name: _____ League: _____

Email: _____ Phone: _____

Tour selection (please circle one) Historic Annapolis Trolley "Behind the Scenes" Annapolis

of participants _____ Guest name(s), if any: _____

___ I/we will participate in the Friday Night Dine-around. Guest name(s), if any: _____

Dietary restrictions/preference: _____

RSVP by May 15. LWVMD, 111 Cathedral Street, Suite 201, Annapolis, MD 21401; phone 410-269-0232 or email lwvmd@verizon.net. Questions? Contact Niecy Chambers (bayroot5@comcast.net or 410-295-5228).

Celebrate our Birthday and Support The League of Women Voters of Maryland!



Join us on May 30, 2015 at O'Callaghan's Annapolis Hotel.

If you can't make it, buy a greeting for our **Birthday Book!** Print copies will be distributed at our Convention and will be posted on-line with a link on our Facebook page.
(Please, no campaign ads.) Business size ad/greeting \$25. Half page ad \$50 (3 1/2" tall X 4 1/2" wide).
Full page ad \$100 (7 1/2" tall x 4 1/2" wide).

Banquet details: Cash Bar at 6:30 pm, Dinner at 7:30 pm, Tickets: \$95

KEYNOTE SPEAKER: CONGRESSMAN JOHN SARBANES

Register by sending in the tear-off at the bottom of the page with a check payable to LWVMD by May 19th or click here <http://goo.gl/DuCsY7>. Tickets are limited – Register Early!
If you choose to buy an ad in our Birthday Book, we will contact you with options or you may provide your personalized greeting by sending it to lwvmd@verizon.net

Greeting purchase and \$40 of the banquet price will go to the LWVMD Education Fund and is tax-deductible.

Name of Group, Individual or Business _____

Mailing Address _____

Contact person _____ Phone _____ E-mail address _____

_____ Banquet Tickets @\$95 each _____ Ad \$25 _____ \$50 _____ \$100 _____ Total Enclosed _____

Entrée Choice: Cashel Blue Cheese Chicken _____ Salmon Fillet w/Irish Whiskey Sauce _____ Vegan Plate _____

Mail check payable to LWVMD to: 111 Cathedral Street, Suite 201, Annapolis, MD by May 19. Questions? 410-269-0232

LWVMD Spring Fundraiser Tour, Lunch, Cruise at Chestertown

By Andrea Morris Gruhl



Historic Chestertown on Maryland's Eastern Shore had beautiful weather for our LWVMD Spring Fundraiser on Saturday, April 18. Gathering at the Kent County Visitors Center at 10 a.m. were around 43 Leaguers and guests. Kent County volunteer guides Virginia Croker, Joan Wise and Jane Ganz led three walking tour groups. Former LWVMD President and LWVKC and long-time Visitors Center volunteer Rebecca Goode gave a special tour to three mobility-impaired Leaguers as she drove them around Chestertown sites.

We lunched mid-day at historic Emmanuel Episcopal Church in the heart of the old town. A committee of the church's ladies served us a seated, gourmet lunch. After lunch Leaguers walked to the town's dock and boarded the yacht Packet to begin the cruise down the Chester River passing peaceful meadows, charming houses, assorted boats, and interesting fowl. About an hour later we cruised back to

Chestertown. It was then tea time for those inclined to stop by the White Swan Tavern across the main street from the church.



Financially we did well with this delightful fundraiser. Our only expenses were lunch, the cruise and a small gift to the Kent County League in appreciation for their cooperation with supplying advice, tour guides and event publicity. A \$1,310 profit went into our LWVMD Treasury.

LWVMD's financial needs and responsibilities are a reality. This event was such a pleasant way to gain dollars for our cause. But seeing old friends and meeting new friends from across Maryland and learning about the history and culture of Kent County and Chestertown was an equally valuable result of this event.



Photos from top:
The significance of some of the buildings in Chestertown is described.
Becky Goode, Kent County LWV, along with Spring Fundraiser co-organizer Andrea Gruhl, right, get ready for the boat ride on the Chester River.
Dawn O'Brien and Ruth Latimer of Anne Arundel County enjoy the boat ride.

Congressman Sarbanes Speaker at League Convention Banquet



Born and raised in Baltimore, Congressman John Sarbanes is the US Representative for Maryland's third district. One of his main issues is campaign finance reform. His "Government By The People Act" is aimed at correcting the campaign finance problem. Representative Sarbanes is a member of the Committee on Energy and Commerce where he serves on the Subcommittee on Health and the Subcommittee on Energy and Power.

Congressman Sarbanes graduated from the Woodrow Wilson School of Public and International Affairs at Princeton University and studied law and politics in Greece on a Fulbright Scholarship. After graduating from Harvard Law School, he returned to Baltimore, where he clerked for Judge J. Frederick Motz on the federal district

court and worked in a law firm where he led the firm's health care practice. From there Congressman Sarbanes worked for the Maryland State Superintendent as liaison to the Baltimore City Public Schools.

Congressman Sarbanes also is very active in environmental, education and health care issues.



May 2015 LWVMD Board Highlights

1. Action: Press conferences are being called to bring public attention to Governor Hogan's announced refusal to spend the Geographic Cost of Education Index (GCEI) funds allocated by the General Assembly.
2. Program Chair Elaine Apter reported that the Convention Workbook 2015 is online. Paper copies will be distributed at the Convention. Registration forms, Friday Tours, banquet reservations, and the workbook all have links on the LWVMD website.
3. The Spring fundraiser, organized by Andrea Gruhl and members of the Kent County League in historic Chestertown was attended by 41 people who benefited from a beautiful day. The April 18 event realized a profit of \$1310.
4. President Susan Cochran announced the following Convention personnel: Melpi Jeffries - Parliamentarian; Ralph Watkins - Convention Secretary; Betty Harries and Elaine Apter - Credentials Committee; Ruth Crystal and Betsy Singer - Actions Committee; Carol Blackburn, Niecy Chambers, Betsy Sexton - Minutes Readers.

Melpi Jeffries, Secretary

Annual Meetings Across the State

More than 20 members attended **St. Mary's** annual luncheon meeting May 2 at the Rex restaurant in Leonardtown. New officers were elected and a farewell gift was presented to Pat Dunlap, president for six years, who is moving with her husband to a retirement establishment in Virginia. The new Board will operate with a rotating chairman. One of their many accomplishments of the year was registering voters in all high schools of the county, under the chairmanship of Paula Pippin.



At left, retiring St. Mary's League President Pat Dunlap is with LWVMD President Susan Cochran.

County Executive Allan Kittleman addressed **Howard County's** annual dinner meeting, April 21, at the Sheraton Hotel. Kittleman said he prefers his present job to being a state senator. Lillie Gallant will continue as president. The League will register voters at all Howard County high schools. About fifty members and guests attended.



Anne Arundel County League met on April 25 for the annual meeting and lunch at Baywoods Community. Niecy Chambers and Susan Elson were elected co-presidents. Janice Hayes-Williams recounted stories of the early African American community in Annapolis.

At left, are AA President Niecy Chambers, LWVMD President Susan Cochran, Board Liaison Betsy Singer and Andrea Gruhl, NCA, at the Anne Arundel annual meeting.

Mid-Shore League held its annual dinner meeting April 24 at the Cambridge Yacht Club. They heard from G. Ray Thompson, co-founder and director of the Edward H. Nabb Research Center for Delmarva History and Culture at Salisbury University that has offered to keep the past records of the League in their collection. Glenn A. Carowan, Jr., Maryland Department of Natural Resources, and Dana Paterra, manager of the Harriet Tubman Underground Railroad State Park, spoke and showed slides about the park.

Queen Anne's County League held its annual dinner meeting April 29 at the Prospect Bay Country Club in Grasonville with a large group of members and guests in attendance. Retiring board members and officers were honored. After dinner entertainment was provided by member Carole Watters in a program titled "The Queen's Gene". Barbara Sharkey was elected president.



The **Frederick County LWV** celebrated its successes of the past year at the annual meeting on April 25 at Gladchuk Brothers Restaurant in Frederick. Jan Gardner, the newly elected County Executive, and a League member, was the speaker. Membership has increased and Frederick County's 10 new members were all in attendance.

Melanie Cox, left, is the president.

2015 LWVNCA Convention Is Sparkling Success

By Andrea Morris Gruhl, LWVMD Liaison, LWVNCA Vice President

The 2015 LWVNCA Annual Convention was Saturday, May 2 at Clyde's of Gallery Place Restaurant. It is a favorite venue for the LWVNCA Convention and we have held it at this site for the last several years.

Forty-three delegates were registered. They were apportioned per member count of each League participating in the LWV of the National Capital Area: the Leagues of the District of Columbia, Maryland, Virginia, Anne Arundel County, Frederick County, Howard County, Montgomery County, Prince Georges County, Arlington, Fairfax Area, Falls Church, and Loudoun County.

As soon as the registrants arrived, they received their LWVNCA Convention Workbook, crafted by Secretary Olga Hernandez (LWVFA), and greeted other delegates. The 2nd LWVNCA Silent Auction was open for browsing and attendees could bid until the Business Meeting started.

LWVNCA President Virginia Long (LWVFC) welcomed all. Vice President Andrea Gruhl (LWVHC) introduced guest speaker Chris Whatley, Executive Director, United Nations Association of the USA. He spoke on "The United Nations Today" giving an inside look at the history of the United Nations' formation and up-to-date descriptions of planetary efforts of the UN in its broad array of economic, health, science, security, military, and education initiatives.

The Business Meeting convened with the usual roll call, adoption of rules, and Reading Committee Appointment. Treasurer Nancy Bliss (LWVMC) reported a healthy treasury. Budget Chair Sherry Zachry (LWVFA) received approval for the Proposed 2015-2017 Budget. Program Co-Chair Diane Hibino (LWVMC) led discussion on the Proposed 2015-2017 Program, which included re-adoption of all LWVNCA positions and new program: (1) Initiate review of current LWVNCA positions beginning with Transportation, Beltway Safety and Airports positions. (2) Provide an educational forum on a Regional Transportation follow-up or Homelessness & Affordable Housing, (3) Continue to update website with Fact Sheets, speakers and studies to share among member Leagues. The Program Committee recommended a collaborative training with LWVUS and LWVNCA Leagues for current and new Membership Leadership Development (MLD) Teams and State Coaches with training completed in 2015 and follow-up in 2016.

Nominating Committee Chair Elinor Hart (LWVDC) presented the LWVNCA candidates: Kathy McGuire (LWVMC) for President, Olga Hernandez (LWVFA) for Secretary, Barbara Ewalt (LWVFA) and Geraldine Whitley (LWVDC) for Directors, and Nominating Committee Chair Linda Garvelink (VA), and Committee Members Carole Conors (MD), and Barbara Yeomans (DC).

The biennial Naumann Award winners were announced by Award Committee Chair Barbara Ewalt (LWVFA). Five Leagues applied for the award, which had been raised this year to \$400. The 2015 award was split between the Montgomery County and Howard County Leagues.

LWVMC applied citing its achievement, "Roundtables to Promote Civic Engagement". This was to be done as a series of three roundtables including community leaders and civic activists and had a goal of reversing low voter turnout and increasing civic engagement. LWVHC's award application cited its achievement of creating a 2014 General Election Voters Guide for Kids to be used within the Howard County School System. Judy Morenoff (LWVMC) and Alice Giles (LWVHC) accepted the awards.

The Silent Auction raised \$700. Winning bidders were: Rita McGovern, Nancy Bliss, Lois Page, Nancy Soreng, Barbara Ewalt, Wendy Frieman, Sherry Zachry, and Barbara Yeomans . The eight Leagues that donated items were: LWVDC, LWVMD, LWVHC, LWVMC, LWV-VA, LWVAR, LWVFA, and LWVLC. The profit distribution plan was 50 percent to LWNCA for coordinating the auction and 50 percent equally divided among Leagues that donated items for the auction.

The LWNCA Board gave departing President Long a gift in appreciation for her two terms as president of the Inter-League Organization (ILO).



The League of Women Voters of Montgomery County and of Howard County received the Madeline Naumann Award for their innovative community projects: civic engagement conversations to reverse low voter turnout and activating youth to interview political candidates. The League of Women Voters of the National Capital Area (LWVNCA) established the Madeline Naumann Achievement Award on December 4, 1998, in honor of LWVNCA's first president Madeline Dorothy Naumann who served from 1963-66 and who passed away in 1996. The award was bestowed at the Annual LWVNCA Convention on May 2, 2015. Accepting the awards were Judy Morenoff, left, of Montgomery County, and Alice Giles, Howard County.

Notes on Proposed Program

The first recommended study item is a study of the law allowing counties and cities to make **Development Rights and Responsibilities Agreements** with developers. Frederick County did such a study and Frederick's President Melanie Cox, has offered to lead a state-wide study. She offers the following explanation of the law and the need for a study.

A Development Rights and Responsibilities Agreement (DRRA) is a contract between a developer and a county or municipality that provides the developer with assurance that zoning and related rules will not change (rights) in exchange for promising the county that infrastructure to support the development will be in place when the development is built out (responsibilities).

This land-use planning tool is intended to be a "win-win" for both the developer and the local government, providing

1. the developer a vested right to proceed with an approved project (which is not otherwise available to developers through rezoning or even approval for a development) and
2. infrastructure improvements to the county that are greater than would otherwise be required.

The Maryland Legislature in 1995 enacted DRRA enabling legislation to provide developers with an alternative to Maryland's late vesting policy. The legislation is broad and leaves it up to public officials in each locality whether to apply restrictions or specify particular circumstances that apply to a DRRA in that locality. This vagueness has resulted in DRRAs being issued for 25 years and done without a study of the development's impact on adequate public facilities, which includes roads, schools, water etc.

The second recommended study is the **Primary System** that is employed to select candidates for elected office to the state of Maryland. The primary system study conducted by Washington State League in the 2010- 2012 period can be used to help us in our study, but we may not necessarily come to the same conclusions that Washington State did. They adopted the position that "in the event that the primary continues as a part of the Washington election system, [LWVWA] supports a primary that has the following elements: an "open" system not requiring advance party registration, keeps voters' party preference from becoming a matter of public record and that encourages minor party participation."

The recommended program items had a large number of Leagues recommending them. The non-recommended items could be worthy studies, but were recommended by only one or two Leagues, which was an important factor in not recommending them. If you want to campaign for these studies to be adopted, you can contact local Leagues to make your case any time. Another important factor in our making a choice is the availability of a chairman for the study.

RECOMMENDED AND NON-RECOMMENDED STATE PROGRAM 2015–17

PROPOSED UPDATE

REDISTRICTING: Action to assure a state redistricting process and standards that promote fair and effective representation in the state legislature and House of Representatives with maximum opportunity for public scrutiny. (2004)

Support for:

1. A state redistricting process and standards that promote fair and effective representation in the state legislature and House of Representatives with maximum opportunity for public scrutiny.
2. An independent commission as the preferred redistricting body. The membership of the redistricting commission should:
 - a. ~~be appointed by the Governor, the General Assembly and the Court of Appeals;~~
 - b. be ~~bipartisan~~ **multi-partisan**, geographically representative and not include any current state elected official.
3. Standards on which the redistricting plan is based should include:
 - a. substantially equal population;
 - b. geographic contiguity;
 - c. geographic compactness.
4. Final approval by the General Assembly for the legislative and Congressional redistricting plans.
5. An amendment to the Maryland Constitution affirming that the redistricting process for the House of Representatives should occur only once each ten years after the census.

PROPOSED UPDATE

- 14) Support the option to use Instant Runoff Voting (IRV): (2014)
 - a. for single seat or executive office elections, both at the county and local level. This would require the winner to receive a majority of the votes cast.
 - b. to fill vacancies in any county **and state** offices, when special elections are held, instead of conducting both special political party primaries and a special general election.
 - c. to be elected to a nonpartisan position. The election should be concurrent with the general election.
- 15) Support to require all voting equipment (hardware and software) 13, 14 and 15 are the new position adopted in 2014.

Title of Study: A Study of the Primary System employed to select candidates for elected office in the state of Maryland.

Outlook for Work: A two-year study that will incorporate the study carried out by the state of Washington.

Title of Study: A Study of Development Rights and Responsibilities Agreements (DRRAs) in the state of Maryland.

Outlook for Work: Study leading to consensus with aid of LWV of Frederick County members who recently completed the study for their county.

Non-Recommended Studies: Teacher Education, Patient rights and Police reactions.