



## LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF MARYLAND, INC.

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### STATE BOARD LETTER

Mid-October 2015

#### Calendar

##### October

- 9 – Friday, LWFNCA Board meeting & Presidents Lunch, 10 a.m.- 2 p.m., LWFVUS Board Room
- 11 – Sunday, Fall Fundraiser, Arena Stage, **Erma Bombeck: At Wit's End** (flyer attached)
- 12 – Monday, Columbus Day – LWFMD office closed
- 17 – Saturday, LWFMD MLD Workshop, Wilde Lake Interfaith Center (see page 6)
- 24 – Saturday, United Nations Day. Web training at LWFMD office, 9 a.m.
- 31 – Saturday, Final local League legislative priority recommendations due

##### November

- 9 – Monday, LWFMD Board meeting, 10 a.m. Wilde Lake (note: 2<sup>nd</sup> Monday)
- 6 – Friday, LWFNCA Board meeting, 10:30 a.m.
- 11 – Wednesday, Veterans Day – LWFMD Office closed
- 12 – Thursday, **State Board Letter** Deadline
- 13 – Friday, **LWFMD Voter** Deadline
- 26-27 - Thursday-Friday, Thanksgiving – LWFMD office closed

#### LWFMD BOARD HIGHLIGHTS, October 5, 2015

During its most recent meeting the LWFMD board:

**Approved a motion** to allow the Primary System Study Committee to expand the study to include single-member vs. multi-member districts and discrepancies in access to the primary ballot by third party and unaffiliated voters, as long as the committee's main focus remains the primary system.

**Approved a motion** to move the NationBuilder website to lwvmd.org immediately and rename the old site to LWFMD.com to preserve the data.

Elaine Apter, Secretary, LWFMD Board

# PRESIDENTS' MESSAGE

Dear Leaguers,

In the words of beloved humorist Erma Bombeck:

*NEVER HAVE MORE CHILDREN THAN YOU  
HAVE CAR WINDOWS.*

*SOMETIMES I CANNOT FIGURE DESIGNERS  
OUT. IT'S AS IF THEY MUST HAVE FLUNKED HUMAN ANATOMY.*

*ON VACATIONS, WE HIT THE SUNNY BEACH WHERE WE OCCUPY  
OURSELVES KEEPING THE SUN OFF OUR SKIN, THE SALTWATER OFF  
OUR BODIES, AND THE SAND OUT OF OUR BELONGINGS.*



These just give you a flavor of the humor you are going to hear when you see **At Wit's End** this coming Sunday, October 11, at Arena Stage. Mrs. Bombeck's art truthfully expressed some of the most complex features of everyday family life, with good sense and an ear for laughter. Join the Maryland League for a delightful afternoon of Erma's observations for \$90 per person (\$99 if you order direct from Arena Stage). The **proceeds will go toward funding Vote 411** and other costs of providing election information during 2016. **Time's a-wasting, so order your tickets right away on LWVMD.org or call 410-269-0232.** Only a few days left!

A way to be involved in the League is to join a state study committee. We have a study going on about almost anything of interest to anyone these days, and you can do this from your own home through conference calls with committee chairs and other committee members. This year we are studying the following subjects:

**Police-Community Relations** - contact: Lois Hybl,  
[lhyl@verizon.net](mailto:lhyl@verizon.net) or 410-243-1710

**Land Use Planning** – contact: Margaret Hindman,  
[Mhindman@jhu.edu](mailto:Mhindman@jhu.edu) or 301-698-0793

**Primary Elections** - contact: Barbara Sanders,  
[bsanders@TerpAlum.umd.edu](mailto:bsanders@TerpAlum.umd.edu) or 301-587-1323

You can help grow the League through **Membership and Leadership Development**. We are expecting trainers from LWVUS to help us learn the best practices for growing our local leagues and developing the leadership they will need. **Join us on next Saturday, October 17, for a workshop at the Wilde Lake Interfaith Center in Columbia, MD. See page six for more information about the workshop.**

**The 2016 General Assembly session starts January 13, 2016**, which is just around the corner. One very interesting piece of legislation will be the governor's bill on redistricting. We hope League members have taken advantage of the opportunities to testify before the **Governor's Redistricting Commission** and to submit written

comments directly to the governor through our website. If you have, you know that a League member is on the commission. Our reporters for **Report from State Circle** will be gathering soon to prepare for informing us all about the new session and the local leagues are developing their 2016 legislative priorities for review by the state Board. If someone were really interested in redistricting, he or she could report on the governor's redistricting legislation for **Report from State Circle**.

There are so many ways to participate in the League's work. Take advantage of the opportunities to learn, grow and do.

Barbara Schnackenberg and Nancy Soreng

## WEB NEWS!

On Wednesday, 10/6/2015, we went live with our NationBuilder website at [LWVMD.org](http://LWVMD.org)! The old site was limping along spending more time in a "crashed" condition than not, and the Board decided to go "live" with .org as soon as possible. We are working to forward the former .net URL to the .org site.

On 10/3/2015 seven local League website managers gathered at the Glenwood Branch of the Howard County Library to learn how to manage their local NationBuilder pages. It is hoped that local Leagues will be able to manage their own content, even if they only want a simple one-page web presence.

The next training will be 9:00 a.m. on Saturday, 10/24/2015, at the League office, 111 Cathedral St., Annapolis, MD. Signup on the web at [www.lwvmd.org/nation\\_builder\\_training\\_2](http://www.lwvmd.org/nation_builder_training_2). We'll have some homework to do at our second training: we aim to create pages for our local Leagues who currently use a single-page web approach.

We are pleased with the way members will be able to use credit cards to register for events, make donations or renew memberships with this new web platform. Another strength we are exploring is the ability to target communications to subgroups of our members. Keeping all of our member data in one secure place allows the website to do the task of keeping up with accurate email lists. [LWVMD.org](http://LWVMD.org) now sports a search tool to help you find content. In October we will move more content from the old site and begin focusing on optimizing the site for external search engines.

Richard Willson, Webmaster

## WELCOME, LINDA HAMM!

LWVMD has a new office administrator, **Ms. Linda Hamm**, who is probably the best person to introduce herself to us. Here she is, in her own words:

*Linda Wilkins Hamm's creativity and positive energy have been the driving force behind what she considers a successful and self-fulfilling life.*

*As a graduate from George Washington University at Mount Vernon College, Linda, a native Washingtonian, received her Bachelor of Arts degree in Communications. Her professional background as a marketing coordinator and print buyer launched her experience in writing, research and marketing. Linda was the key facilitator for several time sensitive projects. Juggling multiple assignments for fast paced organizations, such as CD Publications and Thompson Publishing Group, sharpened her management skills.*



*As an active member of the local dance community, Linda is a dedicated champion of the arts. Linda's passion for dance encouraged her to become a Dance Educator. Using her gift, she encouraged her students in the Prince George's County Public School System and Community Centers to be proactive learners and taskmasters.*

*Linda's life as wife and mother is the most engaging and rewarding of all. She has been married for twelve years to Captain Spencer Hamm, DC Fire/EMS. They have two amazing and hilarious daughters, Sydney and Karrington. There is never a dull moment in the Hamm household.*

*It is a great honor for Linda to be the Office Administrator for the League of Women Voters. Her commitment, experience and energy will motivate her contributions as a proactive part of the team.*

We are mighty glad to have you with us, Linda. Welcome aboard.

## VOTER SERVICE UPDATE

### Start Preparing Now for the 2016 Election!

1. All local Boards of Elections now have the **new voting machines** and will be looking for opportunities to demonstrate them in the community. Local Leagues should consider arranging public events for such demonstrations.
2. Proposed questions for candidates for U.S. Senate, U.S. House of Representatives and state court judges are being circulated to local League Presidents and Voters Service Chairs. Suggestions for local offices will also be included. Please contact your Voters Service Chair or President to offer your suggestions.
3. VOTE411 training events are set for **January 9 in Columbia**, and for **January 16 on the Eastern Shore**. Please mark your calendars for these events - it would be good to have at least two people from each League to ensure that we have a primary contact and a backup. A webinar on the basics of VOTE411 (a good intro for new users and a useful refresher for us "old hands") is available at the LWVUS website – just type “VOTE411 webinar” into the Search Box.

Ralph Watkins, LWVMD Voter Service Chair

### LWVMD LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES FOR 2016

Deciding what the League's legislative priorities are is a two-step process. Local Leagues submitted their priorities in September. These were compiled and sent back out to the local Leagues in early October, so they could review what other Leagues had suggested and have an opportunity to add to or modify their recommendations. Changes and additions are due to me by October 31. Priorities must be based on LWVMD or national positions in support or opposition of the suggested priority. The state board will review the suggestions and finalize our priorities at our November board meeting. We will produce a flier stating League priorities for 2016 that can be used when talking to legislators both at their local offices and in Annapolis.

Ruth Crystal, 410-323-7164  
[ruth@cramercrystal.com](mailto:ruth@cramercrystal.com)  
[ruthcrystal.blogspot.com](http://ruthcrystal.blogspot.com)

## YOUR LEAGUE IN *ACTION*!

LWV Baltimore City member **Lu Pierson** testified at the September 15 public hearing for the **Governor's Redistricting Reform Commission** in Towson, MD – see her in action, right here.

For a copy of Lu's testimony, go to:

[https://d3n8a8pro7vhmx.cloudfront.net/lwvmaryland/pages/256/attachments/original/1442418544/Public Hearing 1 - 9-15-15 Towson-Lu Pierson.pdf?1442418544 -](https://d3n8a8pro7vhmx.cloudfront.net/lwvmaryland/pages/256/attachments/original/1442418544/Public%20Hearing%201%20-%209-15-15%20Towson-Lu%20Pierson.pdf?1442418544)  
<https://d3n8a8pro7vhmx.cloudfront.net/lwvmaryland/pages/256/attachments/original/1442418544/Pu>

You can also find it on our website, [lwvmd.org](http://lwvmd.org).



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## **A Statewide Opportunity:** **Strong Leagues for Strong Impact**

Register today for an interactive and informative training day

**Saturday, October 17, 2015**

**Remember what it was like to fall in love with League?** Come share that love while learning how to recruit new members, empower leaders and navigate the new environment.

All League members are urged to attend!

**REGISTER NOW!**

(there's still time)

Email: [Info@lwvmd.org](mailto:Info@lwvmd.org) or click [here](#).

10:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.

Bring a bag lunch -- Beverages and dessert will be provided.

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



# READY SET GO

Here it comes . . .

## Good news on LWVUS Roster/Database!

Barbara Zia, LWVUS Liaison to Maryland, reported the following:

The new database is planned to roll out this month, starting with state Leagues. Maryland local Leagues will be included in the first local League roll out in **late Oct.** At least, those are the tentative plans. Staff has Beta tested the system and training procedure, which are still being fine-tuned. So, very soon our MD Leagues should be able to update their rosters. It's been a long time but the new system looks like it will be worth the wait.

Allyson Legnini, LWVUS Membership Constituent Relationship Services Coordinator, outlined the following process for us:

### **ATTENTION LOCAL LEAGUES – IMPORTANT !**

When it's your League's turn to get access to the system, your Roster Managers will receive an email from Allyson about one week before it is your turn to access the system.

The following week Roster Managers will receive an email with a demo video that provides a walk-through of the new database, as well as written step-by-step instructions. After the Roster Managers have reviewed the video, they will fill out a survey to let the team know the video session was completed and then they will be sent a link to set up a password. The username will be the Roster Manager's name and email address.

If you want to look at the training video sooner, this is the link:

<https://youtu.be/cXUa7Vc2sS4>

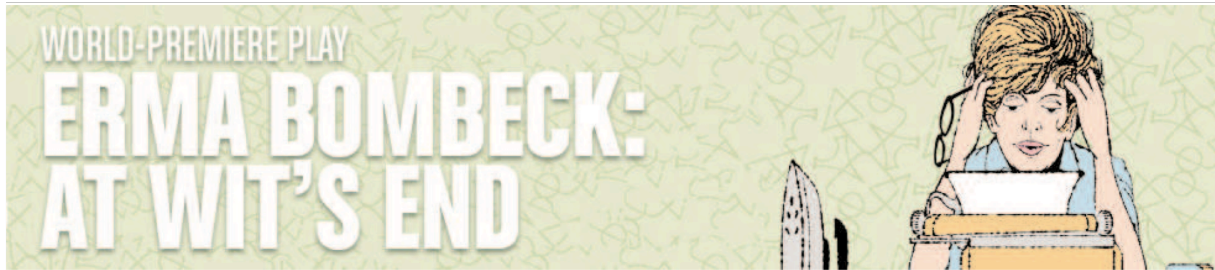
However, you might find it to be smoother to wait until your League is notified and sent instructions from Allyson. There is a manual and attachments that complete the package.

As LWVMD Membership Director, I'm here to discuss any of your membership/roster issues with you. I'll do my best to assist you or at least send you on to someone more knowledgeable. I'm learning the new database system too, so we're all in it together.

Betty J. Harries  
[bjharries@hotmail.com](mailto:bjharries@hotmail.com)  
410-531-6402



## Join the League of Women Voters of Maryland At the Arena Stage Theater



By Alison Engel and Margaret Engel - Authors of *Don't Mess With Texas*

**Sunday, October 11, 2015**

**2:00 p.m.**

**Arena Stage at the Mead Center for American Theater  
1101 Sixth Street, SW, Washington, D. C.**

**Tickets \$90.00**

(Box office price - \$99.00)

**Limited number of available tickets!**

**Contact LWVMD office by phone - 410.269.0232**

**or email - [lwvmd@verizon.net](mailto:lwvmd@verizon.net)**

**to confirm availability before sending your check to:**

**LWVMD - 111 Cathedral Street, Annapolis, MD 21401**

**For directions to Arena Stage go to:**

**<http://www.arenastage.org/plan-your-visit/transportation-parking/>**

**Arena Stage is only one block from the Waterfront (SEU) Green Line Metro stop.**