



## LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF MARYLAND, INC.

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### STATE BOARD LETTER

Mid-April 2016

#### Calendar

##### April

- 11 – Monday, *Sine Die* - General Assembly adjourns
- 14 – Thursday, Early Voting begins, 10 a.m. – 8 p.m. daily
- 18 – Monday, *LWVMD Voter* deadline
- 21 – Thursday, Early Voting Ends
- 26 – Tuesday, Primary Election Day
- 30 – Saturday, Spring Event at the Cosmos Club – see flyer, page 7

##### May

- 2 – Monday, LWVMD Board meeting 10 a.m. Wilde Lake
- 5 – Thursday, *State Board Letter* deadline
- 7 – Saturday, LWVNCA Convention 9:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m., see two-page flyer pages 8 - 9
- 11 – Wednesday, LWVMD Lobby Day on Capitol Hill – see flyer, page 10
- 21 – Saturday, LWVMD Council, Hood College, Frederick
- 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.

### **SIGN UP FOR OUR SPRING FUNDRAISER, APRIL 30!**

*Lunch at D.C.'s famous Cosmos Club with Washington Post political correspondent Karen Tumulty, who will speak about the 2016 election campaign. Enjoy an optional tour of the Cosmos Club premises after lunch!*

**Here's the link:**

**[Lunch at the Cosmos Club - LWVMD](#)**

## PRESIDENTS' MESSAGE



With April and its showers comes the opportunity to throw off the winter gloom and look forward to a unique opportunity to hear a truly rare speaker present an articulate, reasoned view of the election season from someone who has a front seat for the spectacle. On April 30<sup>th</sup>, we will hear from Karen Tumulty, national political reporter for *The Washington Post*, whose career has made her a long-time observer of our collective politics. Prior to her current assignment, she was a national political reporter for *Time* magazine. This is our opportunity to get above the rancor and name-calling of this election season to hear astute observations from someone who knows all the ins and outs of our national pastime – and we do not mean baseball. After all, baseball is seasonal but our politics has evolved into a year-round blood sport without a time out or any referee to call errors, balks or fouls of any kind.

Hearing Ms. Tumulty is icing on the cake, as we are able to hold this event at the Cosmos Club through the courtesy of our members, **Klaus Zwilsky** and **Roberta**

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

## MEMBERSHIP ROSTER MANAGERS

**REMINDERS:** Please keep your LWVUS database up to date, including member expiration dates, between now and the end of July. LWVMD is tracking changes in membership numbers during that period. We appreciate your cooperation. In Maryland, anyone wanting to join the LWV must join an existing local Maryland League or become a Member At Large with the Maryland LWV. Questions? Call the state League office 410-269-0232, email [lwvmd@verizon.net](mailto:lwvmd@verizon.net) or visit our website at [www.lwvmd.org](http://www.lwvmd.org). LWVUS no longer offers memberships, but they do accept donations.

*Betty Harries, LWVMD Director of Membership*

**Safer.** They have graciously agreed that after lunch, they will conduct an optional tour of the Townsend House, the home of the Cosmos Club. You will hear all about the house which is on the National Register of Historic Places. To save your place at this event, buy your ticket(s) and get more information at [Lunch at the Cosmos Club - LWVMD](#). Family and friends are welcome. Do not forget to either reserve parking at the Embassy Row Hotel or plan to arrive at DuPont Circle on the Red Line and walk a few blocks to the Cosmos Club.

April is also primary month in Maryland, as everyone who works on voter service has on the top of their minds. All of the voter information for all races in Maryland on which so many people have worked so hard is up on [www.Vote411.org](http://www.Vote411.org). And many of you have also diligently prepared for forums. You can find a list of these at [www.lwvmd.org/links to forums](http://www.lwvmd.org/links%20to%20forums).

Finally April signals the end of the regular session of the legislature. We have had some remarkable achievements with environmental and voting rights issues. Our efforts at redistricting have not yet borne fruit. Keep an eye out for upcoming issues of *Report from State Circle* and *The Voter* to get the total picture of our efforts. April is an exciting month. We look forward to seeing you at the Cosmos Club.

## April Board Meeting Highlights, 4/4/16

### LWVMD

Registration deadline for our **Spring Event** at the Cosmos Club on April 30 was extended until April 23. An E-Blast will go out with a link to the sign-up page. There is also a link on the LWVMD website.

**State Council** will be in Frederick County at Hood college on May 21 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. There will be two workshops, **Local League Success Stories** and **Making the LWVMD Website Work for You**. One will follow the other, so everyone will be able to attend both workshops. The cost will be \$35.00.

**National Convention:** State has a wares table. Melanie Cox is coordinating this project. Please let her know if you want to sell anything at the National Convention. We also need volunteers to staff the table.

Our publication ***Study and Action*** is being updated.

### LWVMD-EF

**LWVMD-EF Board voted not to change the debate policy** re criteria for candidate participation in forums.

**Grants:** There are grants available from LWVUS for Voter Service projects that LWVMD is already doing. Soreng and Watkins will work on writing up our activities to use to apply for the grants.

*Elaine Apter, LWVMD Secretary*

## Busy Days for Voter Service!

**Voters' Guides and VOTE411** – The *Voters' Guide* and its online version, VOTE411, are the most public face of the League and are greatly valued by voters - over 70,000 Marylanders visited VOTE411 in the 2014 election (only Texas had a higher usage that year and they are a bit bigger than Maryland, though they lack blue crabs). Many more are using the *Voters' Guides* that have been printed by many local Leagues. Thanks to the efforts of League volunteers across the state, VOTE411 went live on March 10 this year, providing information on candidates for every office in every county in Maryland.

We will keep an eye on Montgomery County, where two special efforts are underway. The Montgomery County Council, concerned about declining voter participation, **awarded a grant to the Montgomery County LWV to send its *Voters' Guide* to the home of every newly registered voter**. A second project is to deliver the *Voters' Guide* to the home of every voter in precincts with a history of low turnout. Many of those copies are being mailed, but League volunteers are wearing out their shoe leather delivering many door-to-door. Montgomery LWV will review the data from the Board of Elections to determine whether delivering the *Voters' Guide* increased turnout.

**Candidate Forums** – In addition to producing *Voters' Guides*, the League is serving the public through sponsorship of many candidate forums. To date, these have included candidates for the U.S. Senate, congressional districts 1, 2, 3, 7 and 8, and boards of education in several counties. Hundreds of voters are participating in these events and LWVMD has received compliments from other organizations on the quality of the formats organized by local Leagues. All forums are publicized on the LWVMD website as well as through VOTE411. Where video recordings are available online, we are providing links to those recordings from both VOTE411 and the LWVMD website.

**Same Day Registration** – Although voter registration closed on April 5, Maryland will be conducting same-day registration at early voting centers (only during early voting from April 14 through April 21, not on election day on April 26). Same-day registration allows those who have missed the registration deadline to participate in the primary, but those already registered will not be permitted to change party affiliation. To register during early voting, it will be necessary to provide proof of residency – preferably with a driver's license or other official identification, but a utility bill or similar proof of residency may be used.

**Rumor Control** – During every election cycle misleading information about the election process starts to circulate. Nancy Soreng attended a meeting where someone claimed that those who register during early voting will be required to vote by provisional ballot and that those provisional ballots are not counted! That is inaccurate, as those who register during early voting will vote an ordinary ballot unless there is a truly unusual issue. As League members know, Maryland counts nearly all provisional ballots, disallowing only those where the person is not qualified. League members can help to squash these rumors by checking "Rumor Control" on the State Board of Elections website:

[http://www.elections.state.md.us/voting/election\\_day\\_questions.html](http://www.elections.state.md.us/voting/election_day_questions.html) or  
[www.elections.state.md.us](http://www.elections.state.md.us).

*Ralph Watkins LWVMD Voter Service Chair*

Here's LWV Kent County's VOTE billboard, 5' x 8', newly updated and ready to be mounted at a key intersection in Chestertown. Thank you, Betty Kerr, Francie Miller and Nancy Smith!



## News From LWV Baltimore County's Education Committee

The Education Committee is possibly the longest continuously active program committee of the Baltimore County LWV. This committee has led LWVBC to positions on "Quality of Education," "Early Childhood Education," "Role of the Principal," "Safe Schools, Safe Communities," "Selection of Board of Education Members" and a neutral position that outlines the criteria that charter school legislation should adhere to.



Cathy Burgess, left, Ex. Dir. of the Assistance Center of Towson Churches, and LWV Balt. Co. Ed. Committee member Laurie Mitchell shopping for the Food for Thought Program.

This year, due to the concern and diligence of a new member, the committee became aware of the severity of poverty and food insecurity in Baltimore County Public Schools. With a school enrollment of over 111,000 students, over 52,000 receive Free and Reduced Meals (FARM), which indicates that they live in families who have an income below 185% of the Federal Poverty Level.<sup>1</sup> While these children receive breakfast and lunch in school, how do they receive food in the summer and on

<sup>1</sup> Taylor-Mitchell, "Poverty and Food Insecurity In Baltimore County Public Schools", March, 2016

weekends and school vacations? While these children are not "starving," they are definitely food insecure. This means that they often are not certain if they will have food or adequate food. Given this information and the fact that research indicates that hunger impacts learning and educational performance, the Education Committee decided to do whatever it can to get this information out to the public and to encourage organizations and faith-based groups to "step up" and commit to helping to alleviate hunger among the children attending Baltimore County Public Schools. As a start the Education Committee especially hopes to encourage the formation of "Backpack" programs. An organization or coalition of organizations "adopt" a school or schools and provide weekend food for those students who are homeless. The food is delivered each Friday in a bag or backpack to the school and the student picks it up. All is handled confidentially and the providers of the food do not know who the students are. Our goal



Laurie Mitchell makes the case for the Backpack Program.

as a committee is to seek out organizations and groups who are willing to commit on a long-term basis to becoming providers. The committee will also encourage government officials and BCPS administrators to use all available State and Federal provisions that provide meals and food assistance.

Recently two LWV members spoke before the Baltimore County Council regarding this issue. The Council responded by establishing a task force to study the issue. The Council then actually established a pilot program in four schools which will be implemented in the 2016-17 school year. LWVBC members were also encouraged to contact their state legislators as individuals to support SB756/HB1360, the "Breakfast After the Bill Act" and a second bill, SB755/HB1325, that would provide free meals to all students in qualifying schools.

Additionally, the Education Committee has been reviewing Maryland Charter School law in relation to our local Charter School Criteria neutral position. The Committee is

concerned that charter schools not impact negatively on regular public schools.

In 2014 the Education Committee, working in coalition with NAACP, PTA Council, ABCSchools and individual citizens, testified in Annapolis, wrote letters to appropriate committees and spoke with our local delegation to gain support for changing from an all appointed board of education to a hybrid board with seven elected members and four appointed members. This year our committee testified in Annapolis and before our local delegation in opposition to an amendment to the Board of Education Bill that would have added an unnecessary step regarding the four appointed members. This bill was defeated within the delegation.

*Judy Miller, Chair LWV Baltimore County Education Committee*



## It's Annual Meeting Time!

# 2016 ANNUAL MEETING

Local Leagues are busy winding up their program years, electing new slates of offices, approving budgets, adopting programs. Here's a list of dates for LWV Annual Meetings across the state; perhaps you might drop in to another League's meeting and learn about their approach to League business! In case you want to learn more about times and locations, here are the presidents' names; you may reach each one at [Pres@localLeague.lwvmd.org](mailto:Pres@localLeague.lwvmd.org), e.g.,

[Pres@AnneArundel.lwvmd.org](mailto:Pres@AnneArundel.lwvmd.org)

Anne Arundel	April 30	Niecy Chambers and Susan Elson (Co-Presidents)
Baltimore City	June 7	Diedre Badejo or Linda Rittelmann (Co-Presidents)
Baltimore County	Jun 11	Camille Marx or Caroline Seamon (Co-Presidents)
Calvert	May 17	Annette Funn or John Perryman (Co-Presidents)
Frederick	April 30	Melanie Cox
Harford	May 16	Stephanie Hallock
Howard	April 21	Lillie Gallant
Kent	April 20	Sandra Bjork
Mid-Shore	TBA	Janice Bain-Kerr (Convener)
Montgomery	May 23	Linna Barnes
Prince George's	June 25	Atari Muhammad or Joyce Starks (Co-Presidents)
Queen Anne's	May 3	Barbara Sharkey
St. Mary's	TBA	Kathleen Werner (Vice President)
Washington	May 31	Richard Willson



Join the League of Women Voters of Maryland

Saturday, April 30, 2016

at Noon

for

Lunch at the Cosmos Club



Followed by a tour of The Townsend House

2121 Massachusetts Avenue NW, Washington DC 20008

The Cosmos Club, one of the goals of which is the "advancement of its members in science, literature and art," has a long list of past and present distinguished members.

The Townsend House where the club is located is itself on the National Register of Historic Places.



Featured Speaker  
**Karen Tumulty**

National Political Correspondent  
for the *Washington Post*

***Insights into the 2016 Election***

Reserve parking at the Embassy Row Hotel, 2015 Massachusetts Avenue through Parking Panda [www.parkingpanda.com](http://www.parkingpanda.com). By telephone: 1-800-232-6415.

**RESERVE YOUR PARKING EARLY!**

OR

Travel on the Metro Red Line to DuPont Circle. The Cosmos Club is a 2 minute walk.

**April 30, 2016 Spring Event**

Name(s) \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ League \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ \$75 per person for The Cosmos Club luncheon and optional tour

\_\_\_\_\_ Optional donation to LWVMD

**RESERVATIONS MUST BE MADE BY APRIL 23, 2016**

Mail your check made out to LWVMD to:

LWVMD, 111 Cathedral St., Ste. 201, Annapolis, MD 21401

or make your reservation online at

**[http://www.lwvmd.org/lunch\\_at\\_the\\_cosmos\\_club](http://www.lwvmd.org/lunch_at_the_cosmos_club)**



**LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS  
OF THE NATIONAL CAPITAL AREA**



*Invites you to*

**Our 2016 Annual Convention**

Saturday, May 7th ~ 9:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.  
Clyde's of Gallery Place Restaurant, Piedmont Room  
707 7<sup>th</sup> Street, NW, Washington, DC 20001

**The Future of Metro**

**Dan Reed**  
**Consultant with Nelson Nygaard**

**Agenda**

Registration at 9:30 will be followed by a buffet breakfast and the keynote presentation. Our business meeting will include election of officers, approval of our 2016-17 budget, and amend our bylaws.

**Menu**

Breakfast buffet with fruit, eggs, quiche, French toast bacon and sausage and assorted pastries.

**Transportation**

Clyde's is half a block from the Gallery Place Metro station. Garage and metered street parking is available. More information on transportation is on the registration form.

**Public Transportation**

The Gallery Place Metro Station serves the Red, Green, and Yellow Lines. Take the 7<sup>th</sup> Street exit from Metro Station to either the "Arena" exit and walk right on 7<sup>th</sup> Street one-half block to Clyde's, or take the "Chinatown" exit and walk left on 7<sup>th</sup> Street one-half block to Clyde's AT 707.

# REGISTRATION 2016 LWNCA ANNUAL CONVENTION

## Parking

Parking in the Gallery Place Garage with Clyde's validation will cost approximately \$25. See the rates below. The Gallery Place Garage is on 6<sup>th</sup> Street between G and H Streets. From the garage, take the elevator to the second floor. The entrance to Clyde's is on the second floor just to the left of the elevator. Note: No turns can be made at the intersection of 7<sup>th</sup> and H Streets.

Discounted parking rates with validation:

- up to 1 hour: \$5.50 (with discount)
- up to 2 hours: \$11 (with discount)
- up to 3 hours: \$15 (with discount)
- up to 4 hours: \$18 (with discount)
- 4-24 hours \$25

Metered street parking near Clyde's is less expensive than the garage.

## Registration

Cost is \$40 per person. Provide a registration form for each person attending the convention. Make checks payable to:

**League of Women Voters of the National Capital Area, or to LWNCA.**

Mail the form below and a check to:

Barbara Ewalt, 11037 Saffold Way, Reston, VA 20190.

Deadline for receipt of forms and checks is **Friday, April 29, 2016.**

-----LWNCA Convention Registration Form----- (Please print) -----

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Street Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Local or State League: \_\_\_\_\_ Delegate: (Circle one) Yes No

Number of attendees: \_\_\_\_\_ Amount of Enclosed Check: \_\_\_\_\_



# Join Maryland Leaguers

for



## A DAY ON CAPITOL HILL

Wednesday, May 11, 2016, 10 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.

- ✓ Visit at US Senate and Representative offices
- ✓ Enjoy lunch together in staff dining facility
- ✓ Take part in advocating a LWVUS topic\* (voluntary)
- ✓ *Have fun!*

\*Participants will be briefed by email about the LWVUS topic for advocacy.



*No fee!*

Meet at Taxi/Massachusetts Avenue exit of Union Station, Washington, DC at 10 a.m.

Arrive at Union Station by Amtrak, Marc, Metro, bus or auto. If driving, one can park in Union Station's public parking.

For questions, contact Carole Conors, 410-750-3960 home, 443-794-4678 mobile or CaroleConors@verizon.net. To reserve, contact Carole by email or LWVMD office at LWVMD@verizon.net by Sunday, May 1, and include street address, email address and cell phone number.

Name(s) \_\_\_\_\_ Cell phone # \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_ Street address (not PO Box) \_\_\_\_\_