



LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF MARYLAND, INC.

111 Cathedral, Suite 201, Annapolis MD 21401

Tel. 410-269-0232 and fax (call first)

E-mail: info@lwvmd.org

Co-Presidents: Barbara Schnackenberg and Nancy Soreng

Online: lwvmd.org

Twitter: [@LWVMD](https://twitter.com/LWVMD)

Facebook: [lwvmd](https://www.facebook.com/lwvmd)

SBL Editor: Jane Hardy

janewhardy@gmail.com

STATE BOARD LETTER

Mid-September 2016

LWVMD Calendar

September

24 - Saturday, **VOTE 411** goes live

24 - Saturday, Fall Workshop, 10 a.m. Wilde Lake. See flyer page 8.

26 - Monday, Local League Legislative Priority recommendations due; see page 6.

27 - Tuesday, National Voter Registration Day

October

6 - Thursday, LWVMD Board meeting, 10 a.m., Wilde Lake (note day-of-week change)

9 - Sunday, *State Board Letter* deadline

10 - Monday, Columbus Day, LWVMD office closed

14 - Friday, LWNCA Board Meeting, Presidents' Lunch

23 - Sunday, Fall Fundraiser event; see flyer page 9.

24 - Monday, United Nations Day; *LWVMD VOTER* deadline

31 - Monday, final local League Legislative Priority recommendations due

November

4 - Friday, LWNCA Board Meeting

7 - Monday, LWVMD Board Meeting, 10 a.m. Wilde Lake

8 - Tuesday, Election Day

11 - Friday, Veterans Day -- LWVMD Office Closed

12 - Saturday, *State Board Letter* deadline

15 - Tuesday, LWVMD *Voter* deadline

19 - Saturday, Forum on Police and Community Relations

24-25 - Thursday & Friday, LWVMD Office Closed for Thanksgiving

State Workshops on Saturday! For those of you participating in the workshop/briefing for our fall Consensus Meetings on **Maryland's Primary System Study, Part 1: Single-member vs. Multiple-member Legislative Districts**, here is a link to the fact sheet:

[https://d3n8a8pro7vhmx.cloudfront.net/lwvmmaryland/pages/127/attachments/original/1473866026/2016_LWVMD_Study_Single_Member_Districts.p
df?1473866026](https://d3n8a8pro7vhmx.cloudfront.net/lwvmmaryland/pages/127/attachments/original/1473866026/2016_LWVMD_Study_Single_Member_Districts.pdf?1473866026)

PRESIDENTS' MESSAGE



We must thank all of our terrific members who responded so generously to our summer fundraising campaign. This response is allowing us to reach out to voters in this unprecedented campaign season while maintaining all of the services you have come to expect of us. Especially are we grateful to all of the members who have come forward to participate in our effort to register newly naturalized citizens. While we are working with the Immigration and Naturalization Services to improve coordination with us of naturalization events, these new citizens are deeply appreciative of your registration efforts. Those of you who are baseball fans may have noticed that Baltimore pitcher Ubaldo Jimenez received warm congratulations from both his teammates **and** the Boston Red Sox players and coaches upon the announcement at a game in Boston that he has recently become a U.S. citizen.

Once again we are in the middle of election activities without knowing exactly how all of the candidate and issue forums will finally work out. Presidential information may not be available when we go live on Vote 411 for Maryland. Unfortunately LWVUS did not request candidate responses for Vote 411 until too late to be included on our "go live" date.

We are impressed with all of the skill with which you are working with Maryland candidates and staying the course with League requirements for candidate participation for forums and debates. At our website (www.lwvmd.org) under the events tab are posted all of the events of which we are aware. If you have a scheduled election event and it is not posted, please send your information to Ralph Watkins, ralph.watkins1@verizon.net, our State Voter Service Chair.

Join us for our Fall Workshop on September 24, where you will have the opportunity to learn about our Primary Election Study, one of the issues we agreed to study at our 2015 convention, or information on how we might join with Leagues across the country to change our financial structure for our benefit. Our speaker for the workshop is Ben Ross, who will talk about his book *Dead End: Suburban Sprawl and the Rebirth of American Urbanism*.

Please take note of our event scheduled for October 23rd when we will visit the Prince Georges County African American Museum and the Riversdale House Museum where there is an outstanding art collection on display. You will find a flier for this program attached to this newsletter.

In League,

Barbara Schnackenberg and Nancy Soreng, LWVMD Co-Presidents

LWVMD Board Meeting Highlights, September 12, 2016

LWVMD

- Contributions are up. We are still looking into switching to a 501(c)(3). Local Leagues may now use the LWVMD copier for \$.05 for B&W copies and \$.20 for color copies.
- Fall Workshop is scheduled for September 24 at Wilde Lake Interfaith Center
- Plans are progressing for our Police and Community Relations forum: *"Exploring the Dynamics of Relations Between Police and Communities of Color: Where Do We Go From Here?"*
- The Nominating Committee is seeking names of individuals interested in serving on the State Board.

LWVMD-Education Fund

- Treasurer's Report: The summer fundraising drive went very well.
- GET THE VOTE OUT: Voter Service Chair Ralph Watkins reported that the NCA Election PR Committee is creating stock images to post on Facebook and/or websites to help Local Leagues get the VOTE out.

Theresa Freligh, Secretary, LWVMD

Notice to Roster Managers

It is important to keep your local membership information up to date on the LWVUS database. This is where the state League gets its membership information for communicating with League members. Periodically, I will send database managers a spreadsheet of the information for your LL that is in the LWVUS database. This will usually be before we send out the *LWVMD Voter* or a major mailing. Please make sure to check this list against your current membership list to make sure they are the same.

If you or your board members have any questions concerning the LWVUS database, don't hesitate to contact me. Also, as Nancy Soreng mentioned in the last *SBL*, be sure your LL contact information is updated on the LWVUS database.

Elaine Apter aptere@verizon.net or 301-438-8707

Getting Out the Vote 2016



The League of Women Voters of the National Capital area is preparing **social media resources** to encourage people to register and vote. The materials will include catchy images and text that can be modified by local Leagues for their own websites and Facebook. The messages will begin with reminders to register to vote, with links to the online registration sites for Maryland, DC, and Virginia. These will be followed by news that:

- VOTE411 has gone live;
- The deadline for registration is approaching;
- Voters may vote early at specified locations and times; and
- Election Day Is Coming!! (Maybe we'll use a Paul Revere image.)

These resources will be shared with local Leagues as soon as they are available. Please be prepared to post these on all forms of social media that you use. Also, be sure that your Voters Service Chair is on our communication list - if you have been receiving emails about VOTE411, you are on the list. If you have not received those emails, contact ralph.watkins1@verizon.net to be added.

VOTE411 Goes Live September 24

Voter Service volunteers across the state have been securing responses to the League's questions from candidates for every office that will be on the November ballot and we already have a high rate of response. Ballot question descriptions have also been entered, so voters will have advance notice of the choices they will face when they go to vote. Several local Leagues are in the process of preparing their *Voters' Guides* and some of those will be published October 1. Responses from candidates for President may not be available until September 19 as LWVUS gave those candidates a deadline of September 16 - Voters Service chairs were advised to save space for those responses, if possible. VOTE411 will go live on September 24. **Please prepare to publicize the availability of this information – make a list of emails of all your friends and neighbors in Maryland and be sure to include neighborhood associations, local newspapers and radio stations, and every form of media you can imagine.** Draft emails and press releases will be sent to Voters Service chairs as soon as VOTE411 goes live.

Ralph Watkins, LWVMD Voter Service Chair



Save November 19 for a Statewide Focus on Police- Community Relations



The League of Women Voter of Maryland, along with other partners, is planning an educational forum called ***Exploring the Dynamics between Police and Communities of Color: Where Do We Go from Here?*** on November 19, 2016, 9:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m., at the Schaefer Center for Public Policy Learning Commons at the University of Baltimore, 1415 N. Charles Street in Baltimore City.

Professor Benjamin Wright will provide a “Lay of the Land” to review the history of policing racial and ethnic minority neighborhoods, residential segregation that has created the conditions for over-policing poor minority neighborhoods, the social problems that make policing difficult, and a move toward a multicultural policing style at the neighborhood level. We hope to have: the Police Commissioner of Baltimore City, **Kevin Davis**; the Chief of Police from Pokomoke City – **William “Bill” Harden, Sr.**; and the President of Maryland Association of Chiefs of Police – **Michael Pristoop**, Chief of Police, Annapolis City, to discuss changes police departments have been implementing or are in the process of implementing.

To discuss the concerns of community groups and what changes they are advocating, we have invited **Marian Gray Hopkins**, mother of a victim in Prince George’s County, NAACP-MD President **Gerald Stansbury**, and a representative of CASA de Maryland.

The President of the Maryland State’s Attorneys’ Association, Inspector General **Carlos Acosta** of the Prince George’s County Police Department, and a representative of the Attorney General’s Office are being invited to discuss the role of the prosecutor and other models used to hold police accountable. Legislation that has passed or is still needed will be discussed by **Toni Holness** of the ACLU, **Lawrence Grandpre** from Leaders of a Beautiful Struggle (LBS), and **Delegate Alonzo Washington**. The forum will conclude with a PowerPoint Presentation by **Major Neill Franklin** and **Dayvon Love** of LBS on a vision for policing in the United States.

We are also currently working with: **Dr. Ann Cotten**, **Dr. Benjamin Wright**, and **Dr. Patrick Hughes** from the University of Baltimore; **Ms. Heather Iliff** and **Ms. Melissa Sines** of the Maryland Association of Nonprofit Organizations; **Major Neill Franklin**, Executive Director, Law Enforcement Against Prohibition (LEAP); **Ms. Adar Ayira**, Associated Black Charities; **Dayvon Love** of Leaders of a Beautiful Struggle; **Toni Holness** of the American Civil Liberties Union of Maryland; and **Gerald Stansbury** of the NAACP-MD, in addition to **Nancy Soreng**, **Barbara Schnackenberg**, and **JoAnn Ross** from LWVMD.

Final plans are still being put in place. The event with the complete schedule will be posted on our website in the next week or so.

*Lois Hybl, Chair, LWVMD Police and
Community Relations study*

Getting Ready for the 2017 Legislative Session



Hard to believe the summer is over. For the League, the approach of fall means preparing for the legislative session. Two important things to do in September:

- Local Leagues need to review last year's legislative priorities (listed in the advocacy section of LWVMD website) and decide if they suggest keeping them, or what new or additional priorities they want to recommend. These are due to Lois Hybl (lhybl@verizon.net) by September 30th. All local League responses will be compiled and sent to you in October; you will have another opportunity to suggest additions or changes and submit them to Lois by October 31.
- *Report from State Circle* is published during the legislative session to inform League members (and others) about bills being introduced and their status as they pass through committee and house votes. We currently have 15 dedicated reporters following issues on government, social policy, and the environment. **BUT WE ARE LACKING REPORTERS IN TWO KEY AREAS: LAND USE and DRUG ABUSE.** Please think about your members who might be interested in one of these areas and forward their names to me, Ruth@cramercrystal.com. They will receive any necessary training, an RSC reporter's manual, and membership in a group of Leaguers doing very critical work,

Ruth Crystal, LWVMD Action Chair

Special “Guerilla Girls” Exhibit in Baltimore!



The League of Women Voters of Baltimore City is co-sponsoring an election night party at the Baltimore Museum of Art (BMA) **Guerilla Girls exhibit, 7-10 p.m., November 8**. Tickets are \$10/\$5 for BMA members or students with a valid ID. **There will be TVs for watching election returns**, conversations on art and politics, art activities making political posters and masks and food. Tickets may be purchased at the East Lobby box office or at artbma.org.

The exhibit of 48 Guerrilla Girls protest posters opens Sunday, September 25 and runs through March 12.

Around the State

*What's
Going on in
Local
Leagues!*



Baltimore City

The Guerilla Girls are at the Baltimore Museum of Art and the City League will co-sponsor a party there on election night. You are invited to attend. To learn more about the Guerilla Girls, go to: www.guerillagirls.com and or Wikipedia – guerilla girls. For more information about the event, contact: baltcity.lwvmd.org. Also, see article in this *State Board Letter*, page 6.

Baltimore City will hold ten debates around the city covering many districts for the coming election.

Baltimore County

The League staffed an information table for the Baltimore County Public Schools on their Social Studies professional day. Four hundred teachers attended.

The Voices In Government series continued in partnership with the University of Maryland Public Policy Department and Friends of the Library a program on the Media in Politics.

Harford

President Stephanie Hallock and V.P. Theresa Freligh spoke at a Community Conversation program at McFaul Center on the importance of history and voting. The Community Conversation is sponsored by the Harford County Commission for Women.

Prince George's

It's a Secret! Prince George's is developing an original and exciting contest they hope will inspire members to reach out to others in their community and share information about Vote411. Stay tuned for the rules and directions for the 2018 Election Cycle. They promised to work out the kinks and share.

Kent

The Kent County League, the lead League on the Eastern Shore this election year, is heading up forums for candidates for U.S. Congress, District 1, and U.S. Senate, as well as one for their local board of education.

The Kent League will also decorate a window at the library to emphasize the importance of EVERY VOTE.

A showing of the film *Iron Jawed Angels* will highlight a "Celebrate The Vote" reception to raise awareness among voters of the sacrifices made to secure women the right to vote.



*Betsy Grater,
LWVMD Membership Chair*



**LEAGUE OF WOMEN
VOTERS OF MARYLAND**

FALL WORKSHOP

Saturday, September 24, 2016

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

Registration fee: \$25

(Includes morning coffee/breakfast breads, lunch, materials)

9:30 am Registration

10:00 am Welcome and Announcements

10:15 am **Briefing on LWVMD Primary Election Study Part 1:**
Single member vs multi-member election districts

or

Treasurer's Workshop: Filing 990 postcards, Converting to a
single 501(c)(3) entity and more

11:30 am Briefing on State-wide General Election Ballot Questions

12:00 pm Lunch

12:30 pm Speaker - TBA

FALL WORKSHOP 2016 REGISTRATION FORM

(Deadline for Registration September 17, 2016)

NAME _____

LEAGUE _____

Phone _____ **Email** _____

Amount enclosed _____

Mail to: LWVMD, 111 Cathedral Street, Suite 201, Annapolis, MD 21401
or call: 410 269 0232 or email: lwvmd@verizon.net

Or REGISTER ONLINE
Go to lwvmd.org/current_events

If you or someone you know would like assistance
from the Lois Stoner Scholarship Fund for the work-
shop fee, please contact the LWVMD office at
410 269 0232 or by email: lwvmd@verizon.net





LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF MARYLAND Invites You to Join Us to Visit



PRINCE GEORGE'S
**AFRICANAMERICAN
MUSEUM** & CULTURAL CENTER
AT NORTH BRENTWOOD, Inc.

4519 Rhode Island Avenue, North Brentwood, MD 20722

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 23

Meet at 2:00 pm to enjoy a tour and light refreshments

Leave at 3:15 pm for a tour of the

RIVERSDALE HOUSE MUSEUM



4811 Riverdale Road, Riverdale Park, MD 20137

LWVMD FALL FUNDRAISER 2016 - REGISTER BY OCTOBER 17

Name(s) _____

League _____

Phone _____ Email _____

Mail your check for **\$35 per person** made out to LWVMD to:
LWVMD, 111 Cathedral St., Ste. 201, Annapolis, MD 21401

Or **REGISTER ONLINE**

Go to lwvmd.org/current_events