STATE BOARD LETTER
Mid-November 2016

LWVMD Calendar

November
19 - Saturday, Forum on Police and Community Relations. See flyer, page 5.
24-25 - Thursday & Friday, LWVMD office closed for Thanksgiving
30 - Wednesday, LWVMD Voter deadline

December
5 - Monday, LWVMD Board Meeting, 10 a.m. Wilde Lake
9 - Friday, LWVNCA Board Meeting
12 - Monday, State Board Letter deadline
15 - Thursday, Bill of Rights Day
16 - Friday, Consensus Reports on LWVMD Primary Election Study Part I due
26-30 - Monday - Friday, LWVMD office closed for the Holidays

January, 2017
2 - Monday, New Year’s Day observed. LWVMD office closed
5 - Thursday, LWVMD Board Meeting, 10 a.m. Wilde Lake
6 - Friday, LWVNCA Board Meeting
9 - Monday, State Board Letter deadline
11 - Wednesday, General Assembly Convenes
16 - Monday, Martin Luther King, Jr. Day, LWVMD Office Closed
20 - Friday, Presidential Inauguration Day
21 - Saturday, Winter Workshop, 10 a.m. Wilde Lake
23 - Monday, LWVMD Voter Deadline
28 - Saturday, Snow Date for Winter Workshop

League Joins “Don’t Frack Maryland” Campaign

The LWVMD Board voted to join the “Don’t Frack Maryland” campaign during our last board meeting on Nov. 7, 2016. “Don’t Frack Maryland” brings together a diverse group of more than 100 public interest organizations, labor groups, businesses, and faith communities from across Maryland. The purpose is to pass a permanent, statewide ban on hydraulic fracturing in Maryland.

During the 2015 Maryland legislative session, the League worked with other organizations to support a moratorium on fracking, or hydraulic fracturing, since not enough is known about the health consequences of this unconventional method of extracting natural gas.

Look for a longer article about the campaign in the next LWVMD Voter.

Betsy Singer, LWVMD Advocacy Team, Environment
Our congratulations to all of you who worked diligently to provide nonpartisan election information to Maryland citizens both during the primary and general election seasons of 2016. You provided light on candidates and issues throughout the state, including candidates for President. You should know that we surpassed every previous election year for contacts on Vote411. Once again you all fulfilled the League’s mission!

No matter how you react to the outcome of this year’s general election, you will find a challenging message at https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yVJhXQB1TAK (or search on YouTube for Justice David Souter, Constitutionally Speaking, first in series) in a program titled “Constitutionally Speaking.” This program took place on September 17, 2015, in the form of a conversation between retired Associate Justice of the Supreme Court David Souter and Margaret Warner, senior correspondent for PBS. In the opening of the program, the host for program sponsors cites a quote from Thomas Jefferson. “If a nation expects to be both ignorant and free, it expects what never was and never will be.”

The focus of this program – the first in a series – is an effort to do a better job of providing civics education to the citizens of New Hampshire, Justice Souter’s home state, especially in their public schools. The New Hampshire Institute for Civic Education, the New Hampshire Supreme Court Society, and the University of New Hampshire School of Law are the sponsors of the series of which this specific program is the first presentation.

The heart of this program is Justice Souter’s statement of his fears for the future of our country. He says that he never worries about our country being conquered by an outside force. He never worries about some rampant disease wiping out our population. What he does worry about are problems that seem never to get addressed. He points to the Roman Empire as an example of what he worries about. Augustus Caesar did not arrest the Roman Senate and put them all in jail. He did not need to. He simply said that he would solve all of Rome’s problems if the Senate would give him the authority to do whatever he thought he needed to do. The Senate turned over all state authority to Augustus Caesar, who promptly declared himself sole ruler of Rome. Thus began the terrible years of the Roman Empire under dictator Augustus Caesar.

The League of Women Voters and our commitment to informed participation in democracy has never had a more vital role to play. Every time you hear someone complain about how so many voters have so little understanding about how government works, ask them to join the League of Women Voters as we seek to develop the combination of knowledge, skills and motivation to improve the quality of life in our communities and country.

In League,

Barbara Schnackenberg and Nancy Soreng, LWVMD Co-Presidents
LWVMD Board Meeting Highlights, November 7, 2016

LWVMD

- **Barbara Russell** has audited our books and has found them to be satisfactory.
- The Board is looking for ways to **help local Leagues solicit new members** and is seeking ideas from all.
- **Future Fundraisers:** The play “Thurgood” in July or August is a possibility. Also on tap is “Steel Magnolias” at a dinner theater in March or April.
- Plans for the November **Forum on Police-Community Relations** are going well.
- Board voted to join the “Don’t Frack Maryland” coalition.

LWVMD-Education Fund

- We have received an **anonymous donation of $1000**.
- Our **Voters’ Guides** and Vote411 efforts were a big success. Many thanks to Ralph Watkins, our Voter Service Chair, for heading up these projects.

  *Theresa Freligh, LWVMD Secretary*

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**Our Program Planning Process is About to Begin!**

Each local League will soon have the opportunity to weigh in on areas of Program Study it would like to see the State League focus on for the next biennium. Your local League recommendations are reviewed by the LWVMD Board and are used to craft program recommendations to be presented to the delegates at State Convention 2017, which will be held at **Washington College in Chestertown, June 9-11**.

Local Leagues will have an opportunity to review those board recommendations and submit suggestions for changes to the LWVMD Board prior to Convention. Local Leagues can also submit non-recommended program items to the Convention.

There are two parts to Program Planning for LWVMD. Part I is review of the current League positions(found in the 2016-2017 Study and Action Book) and Part 2 is proposals for new studies. **Local League Presidents will soon receive from LWVMD the 2017-2019 Program Planning materials** and timetable to assist you in conducting your State Program Planning meetings.

We look forward to hearing about your recommendations for updates of positions, ideas for a study, or informational forum.

*JoAnn Ross, LWVMD Program Director  
Jross.clemens@gmail.com*
Making Democracy Work in Maryland

LWV volunteers across Maryland performed outstanding service for the citizens of Maryland through publication of Voters’ Guides and conducting candidate forums for a wide range of offices as well as ballot questions. Many local Leagues were able to print and distribute copies of their Voters’ Guides and all local Guides were available in printable (pdf) files on the LWVMD website. The Voters’ Guide information was also available through our online service, VOTE411.org. (We hope to have data on the number of people who used that system by the end of November.) Through the efforts of several volunteers (especially Alice Giles, Barbara Crain, Elaine Apter, Nancy Soreng, and Mary Lanigan), pdf versions of Voters’ Guides for counties without a local League were posted on the website as well. The result: LWV covered every office and ballot question in every county in Maryland! We owe special thanks to Nancy Smith and Linda Rittelman for their work on our two Senate candidates forums.

PLEASE THANK YOUR VOTER SERVICE

LWVMD Legislative Priorities for the 2017 General Assembly

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<th>BASIC HUMAN NEEDS</th>
<th>Maintaining the safety net for vulnerable populations</th>
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<td>Corrections and sentencing reform</td>
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<td>Adequate public transportation-funding</td>
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<td>Increasing renewable energy</td>
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Exploring the Dynamics Between Police and Communities of Color: Where Do We Go from Here?

Saturday, November 19th – Registration 8:30 a.m.  
Program 9 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.  
University of Baltimore H. Mebane Turner Learning Commons  
1415 Maryland Ave, Baltimore, MD 21201

Featuring: University of Baltimore President Kurt Schmoke as Event Moderator

Lay of the Land: Dr. Benjamin Wright, School of Criminal Justice, UB

Police Perspective: Commissioner Kevin Davis, Baltimore City Police; Chief William Harden, Pokomoke Police – Dr. Benjamin Wright, panel moderator

Prosecutor Perspective: Inspector General Carlos Acosta-Prince George’s County Police Department; Elizabeth Embry, Chief of the Criminal Division in the Maryland Office of the Attorney General - Dr. Roger Hartley, panel moderator

Community Perspective: Rev. Todd Yeary, NAACP; Marion Gray-Hopkins, Victim Advocate; Andrea Harrison, MD New Directions; Lydia Walther Rodriguez, CASA de Maryland – A. Adar Ayira, panel moderator

Legislative Actions Current and Future: Lawrence Grandpre, Director of Research, Leaders of a Beautiful Struggle; Toni Holness, Public Policy Counsel, Maryland ACLU, the Honorable Delegate Alonzo Washington - Tony Holness, panel moderator

A Vision for Community Policing: Neill Franklin, Executive Director, Law Enforcement against Prohibition; Dayvon Love, Director of Public Policy, Leaders of a Beautiful Struggle

Attendance is FREE but registration is requested as there is LIMITED seating  
To register and get more information on the location and parking  
Go to http://www.lwvmd.org/polcomforum Or call the LWVMD office at 410-269-0232