



## 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](mailto:info@lwvmd.org)

Co-Presidents: Barbara Schnackenberg and Nancy Soreng

Online: [lwvmd.org](http://lwvmd.org)

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

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

SBL Editor: Jane Hardy

[janewhardy@gmail.com](mailto:janewhardy@gmail.com)

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### STATE BOARD LETTER

Mid-December 2016

#### LWVMD Calendar

##### December

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 (note day of week change)

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

28 - **Saturday, Winter Workshop, 10 a.m., Wilde Lake** (note date change). See flyer, page 7

##### February

3 - Friday, LWVNCA Board meeting

4 - Saturday, snow date for Winter Workshop (note date change)

6 - Monday, LWVMD Board meeting, 10 a.m. Wilde Lake

9 - Thursday, *State Board Letter* deadline

10 - Friday, LWVNCA Reception for LWVUS Board

14 - Tuesday, League of Women Voters 97th Birthday

20 - Monday, Presidents Day, LWVMD office closed

### Good News for Many Local Leagues!

For those local Leagues that are covered under the State League's liability insurance, **payment has been waived** for this fiscal year. The League of Women Voters of Maryland will cover the cost of the liability insurance for the local Leagues that are normally billed. Local Leagues, please continue to budget the liability insurance expense for future years. Contributions to help cover this additional cost by the State League would be appreciated.

Carolyn Hetterick, LWVMD Treasurer

## PRESIDENTS' MESSAGE



We are about to wrap up 2016 and what a year of ups and downs it has been. But through it all, the League has been a voice of reason, education, and advocacy on the issues we have agreed on by study and consensus. We're pretty sure this is why this organization has been so important to our members and our communities, and why you give so generously of your time, talents, and coin. Without our members we would be nothing.

We also depend on our office staff to be the hub of all of our activities and to keep our communications going both internally and externally. For the past year we have been very fortunate to have **Linda Hamm** and her warm demeanor and can-do attitude filling this role. Due to a change in her personal life, she had to resign, effective December 1. Your co-presidents were in a bit of a panic about how to get someone hired and trained before session began. However, we are pleased to announce that **Ashley Olson**, who was our Administrator in 2015, a *Report from State Circle* reporter on

redistricting reform, and the League's representative to the Governor's Commission on Redistricting Reform, has agreed to come back and work for us, and she has hit the ground running. Welcome back, Ashley.

During the upcoming legislative session we will be working to meet the goals of our legislative priorities that were developed based on the input of our local Leagues. We have a wonderful cadre of reporters for *Report from State Circle* who will keep us all up to date on issues of importance to the League.

We hope to see many of you at the Winter Workshop. **Please note that the date has been changed because we have heard from many members that they have a conflict on January 21<sup>st</sup>.** A flyer about the workshop appears in this *State Board Letter*, page 7.

Please check it out and PLEASE DON'T WAIT UNTIL THE LAST MINUTE TO REGISTER. It is much easier for us to plan the room arrangement, materials, and food if we know who is coming. That said, we want as many of you to attend as can make it, meaning we won't turn you away.

We wish you a warm and peaceful holiday season and look forward to seeing you all in the New Year.

In League,

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



## Check It Out!

Want to make your League more visible? On its website LWVUS has links to materials and PowerPoint presentations that can help you create a Facebook page for your League, draft social media content, and get your name out into your community. Go to [LWVUS.org](http://LWVUS.org), and click on the "League Management" block in the lower left-hand corner of the home page. From there click on "Manage Your League," and you will find resources aplenty.

## LWVMD Board Meeting Highlights, December 5, 2016

### LWVMD

- Treasurer's report showed a healthy bottom line, so, for this one time, LWVMD will pay liability insurance for the local Leagues.
- LWNCA will host their annual event, a reception for the LWVUS Board, on Friday, February 10, 2017.
- Program Chair JoAnn Ross will be contacting local League presidents regarding the process and materials for local Leagues to participate in Program Planning. (See below for a link to Program Planning Materials).
- Membership Chair Betsy Grater is working hard to help local Leagues increase their membership rolls.
- We are considering two fundraisers for the spring and summer months, both plays: "Steel Magnolias" in the late March or early April, and "Thurgood" in the summer.
- The Winter Workshop is re-scheduled for January 28, with a snow date of February 4.

### LWVMD-Education Fund

- Voter Service Chair Ralph Watkins has been working hard on registering newly-minted U.S. citizens at Naturalization Ceremonies. Bravo to Ralph for this successful program. If anyone would like to help with this worthy project, please contact Ralph by email, [ralph.watkins1@verizon.net](mailto:ralph.watkins1@verizon.net)

*Theresa Freligh, LWVMD Secretary*

## First Call to Convention!

Mark your calendars for LWVMD's next biennial convention, which will be held **June 9 – 11, 2017 at Washington College in Chestertown, on beautiful Maryland's Eastern Shore**. We will "own" an entire dorm for the weekend, and will be able to take advantage of the excellent food service at the college, as well as nifty meeting spaces – all at an affordable price for attendees. The Kent County League will host this event. Ideas? Questions? Please contact Jane Hardy, [janehardy@gmail.com](mailto:janehardy@gmail.com).

Our tasks at convention will be to: elect officers, directors, and members of the nominating committee for the coming year; adopt a budget; and adopt a "program," i.e., an agenda of policy issues upon which to focus our efforts for the coming two years.

### LWVMD Program Planning Process

Before we convene, we must do the work of planning this program, a process in two parts: Part I is a review of current League positions (found in the 2016-2017 *Study and Action* book) and Part 2 is proposals for new studies. You can get to these materials by clicking [here](#).

We look forward to hearing about your recommendations for updates of positions and ideas for a study or informational forum. Please contact JoAnn Ross, LWVMD Program Director, [Jross.clemens@gmail.com](mailto:Jross.clemens@gmail.com), if you have any questions about this process.

## Women's March on Washington

In response to questions and concerns about the upcoming Women's March on Washington, slated for Saturday, January 21, 2017 (the day after the Presidential Inauguration), LWVUS has released the following statement:



The LWVUS Board of Directors met this past weekend and discussed whether the League should participate officially in the planned Women's March on Washington, January 21, 2017. The board considered feedback from the State Presidents call, the State Presidents/ED listserv, and the State Executive Director calls to inform its decision; as well (as) information available online. After a thoughtful discussion weighing the pros and cons, the board decided that LWVUS is not planning to officially participate in the Women's March. We believe in the freedom of assembly as a cornerstone of our open democracy. We support political activism and encourage people across the United States to let their voices be heard. If League members wish to attend this event, we do not discourage it. **We kindly request that League members do not wear League buttons or carry League signs in this march.** We will monitor the organization of this event and if additional information emerges before January 21 that indicates it will be a nonpartisan, diverse, and inclusive event, the LWVUS may reconsider its decision.

**LWVMD has moved its Winter Workshop back one week** to accommodate those members who would like to participate in the march.



### More from LWVUS: Here's How You Can Get Involved:

Click on this [link](#) to learn about things we all can do to protect our beloved U.S. democracy. You will find ten separate links nested within to help you support and get engaged in making democracy work.

## LL Leaders: Your Phones Will Be Ringing in January

Listen early in the New Year for a call from membership. A statewide survey is in the planning stage to learn from YOU: What has worked for your League this year and how might that information be best shared with the other Leagues in Maryland?

Phone calls to each League President will begin the first week of January 2017!

So, while you are wrapping presents, making cookies, and preparing for the Holiday Season, think about what worked, what didn't (and why), and be prepared when your League is called.

*Betsy Grater, LWVMD Membership Chair*



## March 1<sup>ST</sup> Is LWVMD Legislative Day

Time to start thinking about Annapolis and how the League can influence the process on those issues that are important to us. The legislative session begins January 11<sup>th</sup> and you will receive your first issue of *Report from State Circle* by January 30<sup>th</sup>. Participation in Legislative Day on March 1<sup>st</sup> is a stellar opportunity to accomplish two League goals, i.e., to:

- Provide education to our members on how to be effective lobbyists
- Shape policy that is in line with League positions

We make our presence felt in Annapolis when we use Legislative Day to visit Delegates and Senators from our individual districts. **It is time to start recruiting your members to participate in this important League activity.** Details on the agenda and registration forms will be in the January SBL, and local League Presidents will receive information on setting up appointments for their members to meet with their legislators. Before Legislative Day, you will receive detailed information on those issues the League considers most important, the committees hearing those bills, and the members of those committees.

Our *Legislative Priorities* brochure is now ready for distribution. Click [here](#) to see a copy, or find it on the LWVMD webpage, [LWVMD.org](http://LWVMD.org), under "Advocacy."

*Ruth Crystal, LWVMD Action Chair*

## Celebrating Voter Equity in Dorchester County



On Nov 1 two LWVMD board members, accompanied by several members of the Mid-Shore League, traveled to Hurlock, MD, in Dorchester County, to help commemorate the passing of legislation in 1986 that called for single member districts to ensure minority representation in local governments. Just after the legislation was enacted a large monument was erected, anonymously, noting the legislation and the ten local men who worked to make it happen. Dr. Carl Barham, pictured above, center, was the driving force behind recent efforts to celebrate this milestone legislation and its importance to Dorchester County and the state of Maryland. Photo by Nancy Sorensen.

## ***Report from State Circle Reporters Luncheon***

November 11, 2016, at the home of Nancy Soreng

Photos by Nancy Soreng



Thanks to all our RSC reporters; your time and energy are much appreciated.





## LWVMD WINTER WORKSHOP



\* Saturday, January 28, 2017 \*

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

9:30 am - 1:30 pm

Workshop fee of \$25 includes morning coffee/breakfast breads, lunch, materials

- 9:30 Registration  
10:00 Welcome and Announcements  
10:15 Workshops:  
Briefing on Development Rights and Responsibilities Study  
Margaret Hindman and study team (Consensus due April 21, 2017)  
*or*  
Ask the Webmaster: How do I .....? (Bring your computer.)  
Richard Willson, LWVMD Webmaster  
***These workshops will take place concurrently.***  
11:30 Lunch and Discussion of the issues facing an aging Maryland population  
Speaker: Rona E. Kramer, Maryland Secretary of Aging  
1:30 Adjournment

\*Snow Date: February 4, 2017. Check **LWVMD.org** if weather is inclement.

### WINTER WORKSHOP 2017 REGISTRATION FORM

(Deadline for Registration - January 25, 2017)

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

LEAGUE \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

Amount enclosed: Workshop fee (\$25 per person) \_\_\_\_\_

Donation to the LWVMD Education Fund \_\_\_\_\_

**(Or donate on line: Go to [http://www.lwvmd.org/join\\_donate](http://www.lwvmd.org/join_donate)**

Mail to: LWVMD, 111 Cathedral Street, Suite 201, Annapolis, MD 21401

Or register on line - Go to **[http://www.lwvmd.org/winter\\_workshop\\_2017](http://www.lwvmd.org/winter_workshop_2017)**

If you or someone you know would like assistance from the Lois Stoner Scholarship Fund for the workshop fee, please contact the LWVMD office at 410 269 0232 or by email: [lwvmd@verizon.net](mailto:lwvmd@verizon.net)