STATE BOARD LETTER
Mid-April 2017

LWVMD Calendar

April
10 - Monday, General Assembly adjourns sine die
21 - Friday, consensus reports on Development Rights and Responsibilities Agreements Study, AND LWVMD Program Planning responses due to LWVMD – see below
26 - Wednesday, LWVMD Lobby Day on Capitol Hill

May
1 - Monday, LWVMD Board meeting, 10 a.m., Wilde Lake
4 - Thursday, State Board Letter deadline
5 - LWVNCA Annual Meeting and Silent Auction, see flyer page 7
6 - Saturday, LWVNCA Convention
19 - Friday, last day to register for convention without paying $50 extra
29 - Monday, Memorial Day holiday, LWVMD office closed

June
2 - Friday, LWVNCA Board meeting
9 -11- LWVMD Convention, Washington College, Chestertown, see pages 3, 4, & 5
11- Sunday, calendar planning session with new board (at convention)

July
23 - Sunday, 1:45 p.m. LWVMD Fundraiser, “Thurgood,” a play about Supreme Court Justice Thurgood Marshall at the Olney Theatre.

Register For Our 2017 Convention!

LWVMD's biennial convention will be held in just a few weeks, June 9 – 11, at Washington College in Chestertown. To register for convention, go to LWVMD.org, click on “Calendar, then “Events,” and then on “2017 LWVMD Convention.” If you would like to share a suite with someone in particular, please contact Nancy Smith at nismith@verizon.net. Questions? Contact Jane Hardy at janewhardy@gmail.com or 410-639-7811.

Please keep these deadlines in mind:

• April 21 – Due date for local League recommendations for updates of positions and ideas for a study or informational forum. Please send completed reports to both LWVMD@verizon.net, and JoAnn Ross, LWVMD Program Director, jross.clemens@gmail.com, who will be happy to answer any questions you might have.

• May 5 – Last day to reserve a seat on the sunset Chester River cruise on Chestertown Packet, one of our Friday night options; see pages 3, 4, and 5 for more about the convention.

• May 19 – LAST DAY to sign up for convention without paying $50 extra. Please help us make timely arrangements by registering as soon as possible; thank you!
Though April showers may come your way
They bring the flowers that bloom in May.
So if it's raining, have no regrets,
Because it isn't raining rain you know,
(it's raining violets).
_Lyrics by B.G DeSylva, music by L. Silvers_

Yes, spring is here at long last and it’s time
once again to hold our annual meetings to plan for the future. Members of the state board extend our congratulations to all of the local Leagues for another successful year. Elsewhere in this publication, you will find the dates for the annual meetings of each of our local Leagues. You will be happy to know that all over the country and here in Maryland, we are finding that people are looking for an organization like the League of Women Voters that works for the benefit of people who want to vote and provides the information that voters need to vote intelligently. We have witnessed increased membership in local Leagues, which is being duplicated around the country.

While local Leagues are planning for the future, so too is the state board. This year is convention year! We are holding our convention at Washington College in Chestertown, June 9-11. We are thrilled to have President Sheila Bair of Washington College as our featured speaker at our banquet on Saturday evening of the convention. Previous to her present demanding role as college president, she was director of the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation during the 2008+ financial crisis and authored the book _The Bullies of Wall Street_ and other publications. We are especially pleased that she will answer questions while she is with us, so have your questions ready. Members of the Kent County League are planning an excellent convention that is more affordable than some in the past and full of activities. Plan to join us as early as Friday evening June 9th and stay until Sunday afternoon to participate in sessions that will bring you up to date on issues of importance to all of us, as well as provide the opportunity to attend the banquet to hear our speaker.

Each League may send a number of voting delegates to Convention based on its membership numbers: Anne Arundel, 3 delegates; Baltimore City, 4; Baltimore County, 5; Frederick, 2; Calvert, 4; Harford, 3; Howard, 5; Kent, 3; Mid-Shore, 3; Montgomery, 8; Prince George’s, 3; Queen Anne’s, 3; St. Mary’s, 3; Washington, 3. However, ALL members are encouraged to attend and participate in discussions, workshops, and events. Additional information, including how to register, is available elsewhere in this _State Board Letter_.

We will have much more to say about our legislative priorities in an upcoming issue of _The Voter_, but we are very pleased that the legislature passed legislation to ban fracking and are very disappointed to report that they failed once again to pass a reasonable measure to accomplish redistricting, despite all of our efforts coordinated with other organizations with views similar to ours. The General Assembly is scheduled to adjourn _sine die_ on April 10th. You can find our testimony on issues that have arisen in the General Assembly so far at _www.lwvmd.org/testimony_

See you at annual meetings and convention!

_In League,_

Barbara Schnackenberg and Nancy Soreng
LWVMD Co-Presidents
2017 League of Women Voters of Maryland State Convention

Experience Chestertown

A Gem in "The Land of Pleasant Living"

Hosted by the League of Women Voters of Kent County

Choose among these events to start your Convention.

Friday, June 9, 2017

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2 p.m. Guided walking tour of historic Chestertown. Optional tea and dessert at the White Swan Tavern following tour.

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7 p.m. Summer evening picnic on the grounds of a Kent member’s home (catered dinner, casual). Enjoy a meal with lovely water views.

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7 p.m. Sunset Cruise on the Chester River aboard the Chester River Packet, includes casual cuisine buffet dinner. Check in beginning at 6:30 p.m. at the foot of High Street. Boat leaves promptly at 7 p.m.

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See sign-up/reservations for events on page 4
Deadline for reservation submission is Friday, May 19. Due to requirements by the College, any reservations received after the deadline will cost Fifty Dollars ($50.00) more.

Please check below:
- 3 day/2 night package: Includes room and linens Fri and Sat nights, room key use, dining hall lanyard, breakfast Sat and Sun, lunch Sat and Sun, cocktail party and banquet ("Chesapeake Specialties" buffet) Sat night, early morning beverages in dorm, convention registration fee, and all meeting materials. $230.00
- 2 day/1 night package: Includes room and linens for Sat night, room key use, dining hall lanyard, breakfast Sun, lunch Sat and Sun, cocktail party and banquet ("Chesapeake Specialties" buffet) Sat night, early morning beverages in dorm Sun, convention registration fee, and all meeting materials. $180.00
- Day Trippers: (Sat and Sun sessions) Includes all meeting materials, convention registration fee, cocktail party and banquet ("Chesapeake Specialties" buffet) Sat night, dining hall lanyard, lunch Sat and Sun, refreshments during session breaks. $125.00
- Banquet Only: For Banquet ("Chesapeake Specialties" buffet) and Cocktail Party Sat night. $41.00
- Fri afternoon guided walking tour of historic Chestertown ending with optional afternoon tea at the White Swan Tavern. Tour starts at 2 p.m. $20.00
- Fri afternoon “Dessert Tea” at White Swan Tavern in Chestertown. $8.00
- Waterside Picnic on Fri. Summer evening picnic at the home of a Kent County member near the Chesapeake Bay. A casual, catered al fresco dinner at 7 p.m. $40

OR (sign up for either picnic or cruise, but not both!)
- Sunset cruise on the Chester River aboard the Chester River Packet. Casual cuisine buffet dinner included. Cash bar. Boarding at 6:45 p.m. (N.B.: Not available if you sign up after May 5.) $30.00

Another option on Friday night: National Music Festival presentation of Brahms Piano Concerto, No. 2 in C, Nikolai Lalav, Conductor, Michael Gurt, Pianist, at Decker Hall on the Washington College campus. Dinner on your own in College dining hall or at a restaurant in town. This concert is expected to sell out, so make a reservation early and pay at http://nationalmusic.us/events-and-tickets/

Total enclosed: $__________________ Will you be a voting delegate? (Y or N) ________________(see pg. 7)

Name: _____________________________ E-mail: __________________________

League: ___________________________ Phone: ___________________________

One dormitory has been set aside for our use. This is an all-suite dorm; each suite contains one bathroom and either 2 or 3 bedrooms. We will assign one bedroom to each person who attends. If you would prefer to choose your suitemate(s), please provide the name(s) in the space provided below. Linens will be provided, but you will have to make your own bed. A refrigerator on the first floor is available for medical needs and your own drinks. The dorm has 3 floors – an elevator is available.
Name of preferred suite mate(s): _____________________________ and _____________________________

Mail to: LWVMD, 111 Cathedral Street, Suite 201, Annapolis, MD 21401
OR register online – Go to http://lwvmd.org Click on Events and complete the form. Questions?? Contact Jane Hardy, janewhardy@gmail.com, 410/639-7811.

If you or someone you know would like assistance from the Lois Stoner Scholarship Fund for the convention fees, please contact the LWVMD office at 410-269-0232 or by email: lwvmd@verizon.net.
More About Convention (see pgs. 3 & 4 for more about Friday Options)

The Chester River Cruise: The River Packet is a 65-foot classic luxury yacht that offers public and private cruises on the Eastern Shore’s historic Chester River. Our cruise will be a “public” one, but will feature a hearty casual dinner with a cash bar. We will explore the Chester River and return in a sunset glow! Cost for the cruise and the buffet dinner is $30. However, we must wait no later than May 5 to guarantee seats, so please register as soon as possible if you’d like to reserve a seat.

Waterside Picnic: Our setting will be at the waterfront home of a Kent County LWV member and our menu will be pulled pork barbeque with rolls; baby red potato salad; cabbage and pepper slaw; asparagus salad; orzo salad; strawberry dessert; beverages. Cost is $40. (Select either the Cruise or the Picnic)

Convention Agenda: During our two plenary sessions on Saturday and two on Sunday, we will approve the minutes of our last convention; hear reports on our accomplishments since 2015; consider ideas for new studies and program updates, and adopt a new program of action and study for 2017 - 2019; discuss and approve a new budget; meet nominees to be officers and director and elect a slate for 2017 - 2019. Our Sunday lunch will be an opportunity for us to connect with those with similar leadership positions in other local Leagues.

Special Workshops: Saturday workshops – “How Can LWVMD and Local Leagues Best Support Each Other?” or “Briefing on Primary Election Study, Part II.” Sunday workshops: “Using the NationBuilder Website Platform” or “What You Need to Know to Be a Local League Treasurer.”

Saturday Night: We will commence with a cocktail party (cash bar), followed by a “Chesapeake Buffet,” including such delicacies as crab soup, fried oysters, crab cakes, fried chicken, a vegan dish, salads and dessert. Our banquet speaker will be Ms. Sheila Bair, President of Washington College. (Note: for those of us bringing spouses or partners who will not attend the convention but would like to come to the banquet, there is a “Banquet Only” option on both our online and mail-in [see page 4 of this State Board Letter] registration forms.)

Our other meals will be in the college cafeteria, which offers an array of choices for every meal. Your convention “package” fee includes the cost of all meals. Once you arrive you will receive a lanyard that will gain you “free” access to all-you-can-eat meals in the dining hall. If spouses or partners not attending the convention would like to eat at the college dining hall they may do so on their own. (For these folks breakfast costs $7.85, lunch $13.40, and dinner $13.40. For the rest of us, every meal’s cost is already covered.) We will have a whole room set aside for us to eat in, which will be helpful during our “networking” lunch on Sunday.

We will live in the Sassafras Dorm at Washington College; we will have the whole building to ourselves. The rooms are all suites, though the bedrooms are separate and no one will share a bedroom unless by design. If you would like to share a suite with someone in particular, please contact Nancy Smith at nismith@verizon.net. There is an elevator in the dorm. In fact, all buildings at the college are handicap accessible.

Other questions, concerns? Please contact Jane Hardy, janewhardy@gmail.com, 410-639-7811.

In Memoriam: The League Loses Another Dear Friend

Marcia Reinke, a former LWVMD Board member and member of the Baltimore County League, passed away at her home at the Broadmead retirement community in March. She was a journalist and attorney. She chaired the LWVMD Study on capital punishment that led to the 2005 consensus to support the abolition of the death penalty in Maryland. From 2007-2009 she served on the LWVMD Board as the editor of the LWVMD Voter and State Board Letter. After leaving the state board, she chaired the LWVMD study on policy relating to drug and controlled substance use and abuse from 2010-2012. She also represented the League on a court-appointed advisory committee dealing with electronic access to court records. Marcia wrote for Report from State Circle covering Administration of Justice and Juvenile Corrections. Her, intelligence, wit and can-do attitude will be missed.

Marcia Reinke, 1932 - 2017
LWVMD Board Meeting Highlights, April 3, 2017

• Convention plans are lining up nicely. Make sure you get your reservations in early, as this will be a fun time for all.
• We are excited that the fracking ban has passed. Kudos to all those who worked so hard on various bills this session. Although Redistricting Reform didn't pass it wasn't for lack of effort. Members should be proud of the impact LWVMD has made in the state.
• Webmaster Richard Willson has some intriguing ideas to help local Leagues with their membership and Website development. He will present a workshop on NationBuilder at convention.
• We still need Program Planning responses and DRRA study consensus reports by April 21. Local Leagues have put forth ideas for several new studies so far.

Theresa Freligh, LWVMD Secretary

Annual Meeting Time!

April, May, and June are the months when local Leagues hold their annual meetings. Here’s a list highlighting the plans of our fourteen local Leagues; why not visit another League’s annual meeting to see how its members deliberate about program, budget, and leadership? Contact local League presidents to follow up.

Anne Arundel, Sat, May 6, 9:30 a.m., business meeting followed by brunch, Bay Woods of Annapolis. Raymond Robinson, Director of Transit, AA Co. Office of Planning and Zoning, will speak on “Building a Comprehensive Network for AA County.”

Baltimore City, Tues, June 6, Dinner at Gertrude’s Restaurant at the Baltimore Museum of Art

Baltimore County, Sat, June 3, Luncheon at the Country Club of Maryland

Calvert, Tues, May 16, evening, Adam’s Rib Restaurant

Frederick, Sat, April 22, 9 a.m., Breakfast meeting at Gladchuk Bros. Restaurant, Frederick. Elizabeth Burmaster, President of Frederick Community College, will speak.

Harford, Mon, May 15, 5 p.m., dinner at Liberatore’s Restaurant, Bel Air

Howard, Tues, April 25, 5 p.m., dinner at The Turnhouse Restaurant

Kent, Thurs, April 27, 11 a.m., Emanuel Episcopal Church Parish Hall, Chestertown, luncheon with speaker, Pam Ortiz, Esq., whose topic is “Access to Justice in a Digital Democracy”

Mid-Shore, Sat, Apr 29, 11 a.m. to 1:30 p.m., Dorchester Public Library Meeting Room, Cambridge

Montgomery, Sat, May 20, 9:30 a.m., Leisure World

Prince George’s, Sat, May 20, 10 a.m., Colony South Hotel and Conference Center, Clinton

Queen Anne’s, Tues, May 16, 5:30 – 8:30 p.m., Prospect Bay County Club, Grasonville. Mr. Steve Wilson, President of the Queen Anne’s County Commissioners, will give a talk describing past accomplishments and future objectives of the county.

St. Mary’s, Sat, May 20, 12 noon luncheon meeting, Kevin’s Korner Café

Washington, Tues, May 30, 6 p.m., dinner meeting at the Fireside Restaurant
LWVNCA Silent Auction

Saturday, May 6, 2017, 9:30 a.m.--1:00 p.m.

~~ Coinciding with LWVNCA Annual Convention ~~

Speaker: Dr. Mark Graber, “The Electoral College: From the Federalist Papers to Donald Trump”

Piedmont Room (upstairs), Clyde’s at Gallery Place Restaurant

707 Seventh Street, NW, Washington, DC 20001

Join in the fun. Share the profits.

Each participating League in LWVNCA is eligible to make one official donated item to the auction. Creativity is encouraged for a League’s choice of donation. Our 2013 LWVNCA Convention Silent Auction had items ranging from a homemade gourmet apple pie to a week’s vacation in Florida. Items must be valued at $50 minimum but there is no maximum value. Items are to arrive at the LWVNCA Convention Auction tables at 9:15 a.m. on May 6th. Each League will have a designated location on the auction tables. Bidding starts at ½ the item’s value and increases by a minimum of $5 increments. Bidding is open during the Breakfast, stops during the Speech, and concludes after 10 minute Break before Business Meeting. Highest bidders are announced at end of Business Meeting. Before departing the convention, winners pay check or cash to LWVNCA Treasurer Nancy Bliss. Profits are split with 50% to LWVNCA and the other 50% shared equally by participating Leagues. Leagues will receive their payment checks in the mail a few days after the event.

Entry deadline: April 15. To enter, each League President needs to email a description of their League’s donated item and its dollar value to Auction Chair Andrea Gruhl at andreagruhl@aol.com using the message header, “LWVNCA Silent Auction donated item from [acronym for your League].” Questions? Andrea, cell phone, 301-328-1845.

Thank you for your cooperation.

Cheers,

Auction Committee: Andrea Gruhl (LWVHC), Gerry Whitley (LWVDC)