



LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF MARYLAND, INC.

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STATE BOARD LETTER

Mid-August 2017

LWVMD Calendar

August

26 – Saturday, Women’s Equality Day

September

04 – Monday, Labor Day, LWVMD Office Closed

11 – Monday, State Board meeting at First Evangelical Lutheran Church, 10:00 a.m.

18 – Monday, Constitution Day program/reception, UMD Carey School of Law, 12-2 p.m. Topic: "The 4th Amendment and Electronic Surveillance." **Hold the date!**

23 – Saturday, Fall Workshop 10 a.m.

26 – Tuesday, Local League Legislative priority recommendations due

26 – Tuesday, National Voter Registration Day

October

02 – Monday, LWVMD Board Meeting, 10 a.m. FELC

09 – Monday, Columbus Day, LWVMD Office Closed

Planning your local league calendar? Click [here](#) to see the whole 2017-2018 calendar

PRESIDENTS’ REPORT



LWVMD Board had its retreat and first Board meeting on August 7 and like many of your local boards, we are in the transition phase. It was exciting to see the enthusiasm that your new Board has about ideas for the

upcoming year. We have filled most of our portfolios.

Here are a list of Board members and their responsibilities:

Elaine Apter and Richard Willson: Co-Presidents

Niecy Chambers – Membership

Melanie Cox – Program

Elizabeth Demulling – State Board Letter and Voter

Joyce Duckett and Joyce Woodford – Fund Raising

Andrea Gruhl – LWVNCA Rep/ Constitution

Day
Carolyn Hetterick – Treasurer
Lois Hybl – Action
Deborah Mitchell & Richard Willson –
Database and Website
Betsy Singer – Environment
Ralph Watkins and Barbara Crain – Voters
Service

You can contact them by using the email address of their first initial + last name @lwvmd.org: e.g. Melanie Cox would be: mcox@lwvmd.org. Feel free to contact us as one of the main goals the LWVMD Board reaffirmed at the retreat is our commitment to reaching out and supporting the local Leagues.

We are also working on setting up regular phone calls between local League Presidents and Richard and myself. We are considering this for treasurers, membership chairs, and other areas where we might want communications among local leaders and Board members. We are open to and welcome any suggestions you might have for us. If you have not sent the LWVMD office a list of your latest officers by filling in

the spreadsheets, our Administrative Director, Ashley Oleson sent you, please do so (or ask around and find out which past officer got your email!). Please email the office at stateoffice@lwvmd.org if you need to request access. We would like to get an updated directory out ASAP.

Hold the Date

We have two events coming up in September. The first one is our annual Constitution Day celebration on **Monday September 17**. A flyer has been prepared and circulated. It is also available on the LWVMD.org webpage. We encourage all of you to join us for our discussion of *The Fourth Amendment and Electronic Surveillance*.

The second event is our Fall workshop on September **Saturday, September 23**. We will be sending more specific information shortly.

Here's to a great 2017-18 year!

Elaine Apter and Richard Willson, Co-Presidents
pres@lwvmd.org

LWVMD Board Meeting Highlights, August 7, 2017

Our Retreat on August 7, was a huge success. We outlined many prospects for the League this year. Portfolio Chairs were assigned and work on our first Fall Workshop was discussed. Financially we are in good shape, and Committee Chairs are anxious to begin a new year. We will be using Google Docs and updating our websites to make contacts with the Local Leagues easier.

Theresa Frelich, LWVMD Secretary



Legislative Priorities Season Is Here Again

The General Assembly convenes again on January 10, 2018. This year some committees have already been meeting and others will begin again in September. For

example, two education commissions are meeting during the interim, and are scheduled to report back to the General Assembly in December. You can see links to their schedules and papers from previous meetings near the bottom of the [General Assembly homepage](#).

Whatever comes out of these intersession committee meetings, we need to be ready with our own legislative ideas and establish our priorities. In order to be sure that all local Leagues participate in the process of setting our priorities, we ask that the **first round of suggestions be submitted to me at lhybl@lwvmd.org by Tuesday, September 26, 2017.** Once we have this first round of suggestions, we will compile them and send them back to the local Leagues by October 1 so that everyone is able to see all suggestions and, if they choose, local Leagues may revise their final list of suggested legislative priorities. **Any changes to your priorities for the second round should be submitted to me by October 31.** Once the second round of suggestions is compiled, the State Board will adopt our statewide priorities at our November board meeting and publish a leaflet for use with our legislators in their home districts or in Annapolis.

What Topics Should Local Leagues Consider?

Your suggestions may be on any topic on which we have a national or state consensus. Our national [LWVUS Positions](#) are provided on the LWVUS website and state [LWVMD positions](#) may be found in *Study and Action* on the LWVMD website. Another factor we consider in adopting priorities is whether we have a reporter who can follow the issue and write for *Report from State Circle (RSC)*. Check past issues [here](#) to see if we have had a reporter on the issue. We are looking for new reporters for Firearms Control and Transparency in Government. Following the legislation and writing about bills for RSC is something members can do mostly from home.

For specific suggestions, please review our legislative priorities for 2017: **Making Democracy Work:** Redistricting Reform, Improved Voter Access; **Protecting the Environment:** Mitigating Climate Change, Reliance on Clean, Renewable Energy, Safe Water for All; **Promoting Social and Economic Justice:** Maintaining the Safety Net for Vulnerable Populations, Corrections and Sentencing Reform, Adequate Public

Transportation Funding). Also, consult the Maryland General Assembly's summary of legislation that passed or failed in 2017 by clicking here >>> ["The 90 Day Report."](#) The report may provide some suggestions for your consideration, especially among ideas that failed but we may want to raise again.

You may also look to the news and our coalition partners, like Tame the Gerrymander. Representatives on the recent call with Maryland Nonprofits discussed the need to mitigate the effect of decisions in Washington on health and social programs. They also discussed the Clean Energy Jobs Initiative to ensure that 50% of Maryland's Electricity comes from renewable sources by the year 2030; expand clean energy workforce development; fund clean energy businesses owned by women and people of color; and phase out incentives for trash incineration.

Public transportation advocates want additional revenue, while education advocates are also pushing for additional funds for more equitable education funding formulas to update the Thornton model. The upcoming state primary elections bring pressures to propose tax cuts, while human services providers worry about cuts to their programs and the structural deficit.

Another factor to consider is action motions passed at the LWVMD Convention in June:

Action Motion on Education Funding Proposed by Lois Hybl. Because the [Commission on Innovation and Excellence in Education](#) (Kirwan Commission) is scheduled to make recommendations in December to the General Assembly to replace the [Bridge to Excellence](#) (Thornton Formula), I move that we make a special effort to testify before the commission and General Assembly in support of raising the foundation formula to an adequate level with appropriate weights for compensatory education, special education, and English Language Learners, the adoption of a method of determining a county's wealth that reflects its ability to raise funds to support education, the inclusion of pre-

school in the formula, and support of programs to address concentrated poverty.

Action Motion on Racism Proposed by the League of Women Voters of Anne Arundel County. A principle of the League of Women Voters states that responsible government should share in the solution of social problems that affect the general welfare. Hate crimes and other demonstrations of racial bias terrorize and destabilize our communities, and contradict the fundamental premise of human equality in our Declaration of Independence. We request that LWVMD press our elected

officials and educators to publicly condemn racism and acts of hate, and actively support efforts to eliminate bias and improve understanding and tolerance, particularly among our youth.

If we do not have a national or state consensus on a topic of great interest to League members, they may suggest that the topic be studied when we consider program planning as we do each January. League members who have questions about our consensus positions may contact me at lhybl@lwvmd.org.

Lois Hybl, LWVMD Action Team



Campaign to Increase Clean, Renewable Energy in Maryland

For years, LWVMD has supported legislation to improve the use of clean, renewable energy in Maryland. The [Renewable Portfolio Standard](#) (RPS) law is a major tool designed to incentivize development of new and clean sources of renewable energy like wind and solar to reduce greenhouse gases and other hazardous air and water pollution from the use of fossil fuels.

In 2004, Maryland adopted the first RPS law with a goal of ten percent of the energy coming from clean, renewable sources by the year 2019. Fast forward from 2004 to 2017. After overcoming a veto of legislation to increase the RPS during the 2017 General Assembly session, the current law requires that Maryland utilities now get 25 percent of the energy portfolio from clean sources by 2020.

The 2018 General Assembly will see additional action on this front with the new [Maryland Clean Energy Jobs Initiative](#) (MCEJI). The plan builds on previous success by asking the legislature to increase Maryland's RPS to 50 percent renewable electricity by 2030. This increase would reduce 8.1 million metric tons of CO₂, the carbon equivalent of taking 1.7 million cars off the road each year. Significantly, MCEJI also calls for phasing out existing incentives for trash incineration that exist under Maryland's current RPS law since incineration is renewable, but not clean.

The MCEJI also features investing in clean-energy workforce development while targeting economically distressed parts of the state, and individuals who have historically experienced barriers to employment. MCEJI would also make more funding available for investment capital and loans to help minority and women-owned businesses enter and grow within the clean energy economy.

The League is a member of [The Maryland Climate Coalition](#) (MDCC), which is sponsoring the MCEJI. [A press conference about the Clean Energy Jobs Initiative is scheduled for Wednesday, Sept. 13, 2017 in Baltimore.](#) More information will be available from LWVMD in fall 2017.

Betsy Singer, LWVMD Environment Chair

11th Annual LWVMD Constitution Day Program



"The Fourth Amendment and Electronic Surveillance"

Panel of experts:

David C. Gray, Professor of Law, UMD Carey School of Law
Rachel Levinson-Waldbaum, Senior Counsel, Brennan Center, NYU Law School
Judge Andrea Leahy, Maryland Court of Special Appeals
Moderator, Danielle Citron, Professor of Law, UMD Carey School of Law

Reception follows Q&A of Program

Monday, September 18, 2017, 12:00 – 2:00 p.m.

Ceremonial Court Room

University of Maryland Carey School of Law

500 W. Baltimore St., Baltimore, MD 21201

Leaguer volunteers needed: Greeters, Ushers, Publication display, Sign-in table, Reception helpers, Donors of cookies, brownies, party sandwiches

RSVP for volunteering, seating, parking space **by Sept. 14** to Andrea Gruhl
(agruhl@lwvmd.org)

Program and reception are FREE, but parking space is about \$7 for 2 hours at Baltimore Grande Garage.

Directions: From Route I-95 (North or South) take Route 395 (Downtown Baltimore). Exit onto Martin Luther King, Jr. Blvd. At 4th traffic light turn right onto W. Baltimore St. Pass law school on left side of street. Turn left at 2nd traffic light onto N. Paca St. Turn right into Baltimore Grand Garage. Carpools encouraged

Co-Sponsors: League of Women Voters of Maryland, University of Maryland Carey School of Law, University of Maryland, Baltimore, and University of Maryland, College Park, University of Maryland College of Behavioral & Social Sciences, University of Maryland MLaw Programs



Join us for an

EqualiTEA on Women's Equality Day

Saturday, August 26, 2-4pm

Gunston Hall

10709 Gunston Road, Lorton, Virginia 20079

Tickets are Disappearing Quickly!



What is Women's Equality Day?

On August 26, 1920, the 19th Amendment was added to the U.S. Constitution, and women in America finally gained the legal right to vote.

At the behest of Rep. Bella Abzug (D-NY), the U.S. Congress designated August 26 as "Women's Equality Day" in 1971. The date was selected to commemorate the 1920 certification of the 19th Amendment to the Constitution.

Please join The Turning Point Suffragist Memorial Association on **Women's Equality Day**, August 26, 2017, for an EqualiTEA.

The event will include afternoon tea, a tour of the Mansion at Gunston Hall, a presentation about the Turning Point Suffragist Memorial, and a gift for each guest from the Preservation Society of Newport County.

Individual tickets \$60/person

****Sponsorships available****

Thank you to our sponsors!

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Date: Saturday, August 26, 2017

Tea Time: 2:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.

Mansion Tour Times: On the half hour beginning at 1 p.m. (suspended during the tea).

Dress: Hats and pearls, Suffragist attire welcome!

Would you prefer to register via a different method than Eventbrite?

Please contact Pat Wirth

pwirth@suffragistmemorial.org

[Register Now!](#)

The Turning Point Suffragist Memorial Association is a 501(c)3 non-profit raising funds to build a national suffragist memorial at NOVA Parks' Occoquan Regional Park, in Lorton, Va.

Mission: To educate, inspire, and empower present and future generations to remain vigilant in the quest for equal rights.

What Would Alice Paul Do? Podcast



What Would Alice Paul Do? Podcast

You're inspired to do greatness! And we're inspired by you! This podcast demystifies what it means today to be in the League of Women Voters.

We are volunteers with the League of Women Voters, and we're sharing stories, tips and how-tos to make sure you have the tools and confidence to actively engage your community.



What Would Alice Paul Do?

Podcast hosts:

Melissa—LWV National Coach

Amy—LWVUS Board Director

We're Social!

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