STATE BOARD LETTER
Mid-September 2017

LWVMD Calendar

September
18 – Monday, Constitution Day program/reception, UMD Carey School of Law, 12-2pm Topic: "The 4th Amendment and Electronic Surveillance."
23 – Saturday, Fall Workshop, FELC, 10 am “Briefing on LWVMD Open Primary Election Study” OR “An Interactive Overview of Effective Social Media Strategies, Tools and Techniques,” AND “The Status of Civic Education in Schools and Community.”
25 – Monday, Public Meeting: Maryland's Redistricting Reform Commission, University of Baltimore School of Law, 1-3pm.
26 – Tuesday, Local League Legislative priority recommendations due
26 – Tuesday, National Voter Registration Day

October
02 – Monday, LWVMD Board Meeting, FELC, 10 am
07 – Saturday, Metro "Fund It + Fix It" Call to Action forum, National Rural Electric Cooperative Association, 9:30am-2:30pm
09 – Monday, Columbus Day, LWVMD Office Closed

Planning your local league calendar? Click here to see the whole 2017-2018 calendar.

Presidents’ Report

Our league work together, in musical terms, is harmony. Our decision making process, designed to remind us to listen to each other, is harmony. We don't vote ourselves into new positions, but instead we focus on our areas of agreement - we seek harmony. When you think about it, this is a total gift! The idea that a diverse group of people can respect one another in this way is amazing. So we have harmony.

And we have a fantastic massed choir. At any given moment we have workers promoting league values as we register voters, study issues, talk and discuss, learn and grow, update our records, compose communication and all of the
other many things that go together to make our advocacy work. As league members we have almost 100 years of citizen work behind and around us. We may not feel that our present contribution is that strong, but it really is. What you are doing now is a vital part of being league. Why? Because you are engaging right now. If you can do more you will. The opportunities are all over this newsletter. If you cannot, thank you for what you have and will be doing. You make the league what it is today. That is our harmony!

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

LWVMD Board Meeting Highlights: September 11th 2017

Your State Board is off to a good start. Finances are good and we have filled all the Board Portfolio vacancies. Members are working hard to present a fantastic Fall Workshop on Sept. 23.

We are working to improve communication with Local Leagues through liaisons and webinars. Remember to get your Legislative Priorities into the State by the 26th of September. Ralph Watkins is gearing up for a great Primary Season in the Spring. Remember, we are here to help you.

Theresa Freligh, Secretary

Come Speak Out on Redistricting Reform!

In 2015, shortly after the Governor appointed an eleven-member Commission to study redistricting and make recommendations for improving the way it’s done in Maryland, the Commissioners travelled around the state to hear from stakeholders. Listening sessions took place in Towson, Hagerstown, Waldorf, Easton and Laurel. During legislative hearings, the Commission was criticized for not seeking input from more politically and ethnically diverse population centers. Therefore, the Commission has scheduled two more hearings for the fall.

The first will in Baltimore City on Monday, September 25th at 1 pm at the University of Baltimore School of Law. The second will be in the evening in Montgomery County on October 10, the location TBD.

Please mark your calendars so you can come and share your views on the need for redistricting reform. Or, if you don’t feel like speaking, just show up and wear your Tame the Gerrymander t-shirt, or sport a button/sticker that we will have available at the event.

As more details about times and location become available, they will be posted on the calendar on the LWVMD website.

Nancy Soreng
Keep Up with Your Board of Elections

As the 2018 elections approach, each local Board of Elections will be making critical decisions including locations of Early Voting sites and changes to precinct locations. Each local board will also receive reports on voter registration, recruitment and training of election judges, and other procedures for administering the election. Some local Leagues monitor this process with observers. They send an observer to each meeting of the Board of Elections to obtain early notice of important election developments. Beyond promoting transparency in the process, this will also provide an opportunity to build cooperative relationships with the Board and staff so that the League can be more effective in encouraging voter participation. We recommend that you consider such an observer role and contact the Director of your Board of Elections to learn the times of meetings. For further information, contact Ralph Watkins at vp3@lwvmd.org.

Ralph Watkins, Vice President-Voter Services

LWVNCA and Coalition for Smarter Growth Host Forum on Metro Funding

Metro – Fund It/Fix It – A Call to Action will take place Saturday, October 7, 9:30am – 2:00pm at the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association, 4301 Wilson Blvd, Arlington, VA 22203.

The morning session will provide background on the Metro system, the economic, environmental and quality of life benefits it provides and the difficulties it faces. The various funding proposals and political challenges associated with them will also be discussed. Our morning panel will include Moderator: Martin De Caro, Transportation Reporter WAMU; a representative from the Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments; Allison Davis, Director of Strategic Planning, Washington Metropolitan Transit Authority; and Kate Mattice, Executive Director, Northern Virginia Transportation Commission.

During the afternoon, we will break into DC, VA and MD groups – for a facilitated discussion about the campaign strategy for each jurisdiction and how to get engaged.

Lunch will be available but you must request a lunch ticket when you register and pay $10 by cash or check at the event. To register click here.

Nancy Soreng
Call for Reporters for

REPORT FROM STATE CIRCLE

Would you like a job that you can do mostly from home that involves a legislative subject of particular interest to you? Consider being a reporter for Report from State Circle (RSC), our publication that reports on legislation approximately every two weeks during the General Assembly session.

The job requires scanning the list of bills introduced on the General Assembly website every three or four days and summarizing those in your subject area. Your write-ups need to be emailed to our intrepid editor, Judith Heimann, by the deadlines (Jan. 22, Feb 5, Feb 19, Mar 5, Mar 26 and about 10 days after the session ends in April). You would write a description the first time a bill is introduced and then note any action in later issues. Also, if LWVMD should submit testimony or issue an action alert on important bills, you would help with those. A look at the 2017 issues of the RSC on the lwvmd.org website will give you an idea about what is expected. We are tentatively planning our annual training meeting and luncheon for reporters on November 9 or 10, at Nancy Soreng’s home in Bethesda. So you would have some support and guidance.

We particularly need people to report on Transparency in Government, Firearms Control and Domestic Violence. Please contact Lois Hybl at lhybl@lwvmd.org if you are interested.

Lois Hybl, Vice President-Action

Membership News

Fall can be a busy time for local League membership chairs, who have the enjoyable responsibility of welcoming new members while also tackling the not-so-fun task of database management. Thanks to efforts by our state League Co-President Richard Willson, the computer part of the membership chair’s job has now been streamlined. Local Leagues enter all member information in the same NationBuilder database that they use for their communications and, in many cases, their websites. This eliminates the need for duplicate recordkeeping and entries in the LWVUS database.

Niecy Chambers, the new LWVMD VP-Membership, will be reaching out this fall to local League membership chairs and roster managers to answer questions, provide training, exchange ideas and hear concerns. Please contact her directly at vp2@lwvmd.org.

If you have recently joined the League of Women Voters and haven’t yet been contacted, please let me know. Hard as we try, with 14 local Leagues across the state, things sometimes fall through the cracks. We’re delighted that you’ve chosen to become part of the League of Women Voters of Maryland and we look forward to welcoming you personally.

Niecy Chambers, Vice President-Membership
Kirwan Commission Hearings and Maryland Education Coalition (MEC) briefing

The Maryland’s KIRWAN COMMISSION (the Commission on Innovation and Excellence in Education) is currently studying the recommendations of consultants for revising the current education funding formula and also studying other ideas for improving the quality of PreK to 12 public education. The commission has heard from experts in career education, how teachers are deployed in other countries, how to deal with schools with concentrated poverty, and other areas. The commission is due to finalize recommendations in December. Then the state legislature will decide whether or not they want to pass a new law.

This opportunity only happens once every 15 to 20 years. Advocates such as the Maryland Education Coalition, of which LWVMD is a member, urge students, parents, teachers, and community members to attend the commission’s hearings to show support for increased funding and effective practices. For example, many have testified at regular commission meetings to support “community schools” as a way to address concentrated poverty. A coordinator brings together opportunities for out-of-school-time activities and other resources that students and families need so children can succeed in school. So we encourage as many as possible to attend one of the three remaining Kirwan Commission hearings:

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<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Time</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>September 28, 17</td>
<td>LYNX at Frederick High School</td>
<td>6:30-8:30 pm</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>650 Carroll Parkway, Frederick, MD 21701</td>
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<tr>
<td>October 12, 17</td>
<td>Baltimore Polytechnic Institute</td>
<td>6:30-8:30 pm</td>
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<td></td>
<td>1400 W. Cold Spring Lane, Baltimore, MD 21209</td>
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<tr>
<td>October 25, 17</td>
<td>Largo High School</td>
<td>6:30-8:30 pm</td>
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<td>505 Largo Road, Upper Marlboro, MD 20774</td>
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Individuals who wish to testify are asked to sign up by either emailing PreK 12InnovationandExcellenceCommission@mlis.state.md.us or calling Mindy McConville or Kim Landry at (410) 946-5510 or (301) 970-5510 by NOON on the day of the hearing.

To prepare for the last two regional hearings, MEC has scheduled a briefing meeting on October 5 in Prince George’s County:

Maryland Education Coalition & Maryland PTA Present
Maryland Public Education State Funding Policy Review:
(Kirwan) Commission on Innovation and Excellence in Education and
What’s at Stake?
PRINCE GEORGE’S COUNTY EDUCATORS ASSOCIATION (PGCEA)
8008 Marlboro Pike, Forestville, MD 20747 (301) 736-2700
October 5, 2017, 6:30 to 8:30 pm

For questions and more information, contact Lois Hybl at lhybl@lwvmd.org.
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. Carpoools 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
LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF MARYLAND

FALL WORKSHOP

Saturday, September 23, 2017

First Evangelical Lutheran Church - 3604 Chatham Road, Ellicott City, MD 21042

Registration fee: $25
(Includes morning coffee/light breakfast, lunch, materials)

9:30 am  Registration and light breakfast
10:00 am  Morning Workshop Sessions

Briefing on LWVMD Open Primary Election Study
Presenters: Barbara Sanders and Lu Pierson, Study Co-chairs

or

An Interactive Overview of Effective Social Media Strategies, Tools and Techniques
Presenter: Karen Naumann, Communication Professional
(It is suggested that participants bring tablets or laptops)

12:00 pm  Lunch
12:30 pm  Speaker - Dr. Marcie Taylor-Thoma, Past President,
          Middle States Council for the Social Studies

          The Status of Civic Education in Schools and Community

FALL WORKSHOP 2017 REGISTRATION FORM

(Deadline for Registration - September 18, 2017)

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 workshop fee, please contact the LWVMD office at 410 269 0232 or by email: lwvmd@verizon.net
Present:

A METRO FORUM

Fund It - Fix It!

CALL TO ACTION

Learn more about Metro
Join with others!
Be part of the solution!

Moderator: Martin Di Caro, WAMU

Saturday, October 7, 2017 - 9:30 am to 2:30 pm

NRECA – National Rural Electric Cooperative Association
4301 Wilson Blvd, Arlington, Virginia 22203
Free garage parking – enter N Taylor Street
Ballston/MU Metro station – 3 blocks away

Register at https://www.eventbrite.com/e/metro-fund-it-fix-it-a-call-to-action-tickets-36901682927