



LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF MARYLAND, INC.

111 Cathedral, Suite 201, Annapolis MD 21401

Tel. 410-269-0232 and fax (call first)

E-mail: lwvmd@verizon.net

Co-Presidents: Elaine Apter and Richard Willson

Online: lwvmd.org

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

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

SBL Editor: Liz Demulling

edemulling@lwvmd.org

STATE BOARD LETTER

Mid-October 2017

LWVMD Calendar

October

10 – Tuesday, Public Meeting: Maryland Redistricting Reform Commission, Montgomery College, Rockville Campus, 51 Mannakee St, 20850 - Room: Science West 301, 7:15pm

24 – Tuesday, United Nations Day

31 – Tuesday, Final local League legislative priority recommendations due

November

07 - Monday, LWVMD Board Meeting, FELC, 10am

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

Presidents' Message



On October 3, I had the privilege of standing in line for 3 1/2 hours trying to get into the Supreme Court to hear the Gill v. Whitford case on gerrymandering. I was disappointed but also encouraged that I did not make it in, because I realized that the word gerrymander, almost unknown in the public's vocabulary a few years ago, is now a rallying cry for voters' rights.

As I waited, I was proud to hear the League of Women Voters' Executive Director, Wylecia Wiggs Harris, speak to a crowd of concerned citizens calling for an end to gerrymandering. At the state level, a huge thanks to Nancy Soreng and Ashley Oleson for their leadership in LWVMD's fight for the establishment of an independent redistricting commission in Maryland. I would like to alert residents of Montgomery County that on **October 10 at 7:15pm** the Governor's Redistricting Commission will hold a [public hearing](#) at Montgomery College in Rockville.

In continuing with LWVUS's priority of Making Democracy Work, our State Election Study on Primary Elections is ready for Local League presentations. It was great to see so many members attend the briefing at the Fall Workshop. Any Local League that would like help with their presentations please contact

[Barbara Sanders](#), [Lu Pierson](#), [Elaine Apter](#) or the State League Office. An enormous thanks to our study committee and their chairs, Barbara and Lu, for the amazing job they did on this complicated issue.

Sharing the information gained in this important study provides us with a wonderful opportunity to educate our communities that there are alternatives to the way Maryland holds its election primaries. Write an article or let your community know that we can provide a speaker on the subject. We do all this work, now is the time to use it by informing others about what we have learned.

We have seen some horrendous occurrences in the past month, with much loss of life through natural and man-made disasters. Let us take a minute to remember those affected by them.

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

Notes from October Board Meeting

The Fall Workshop was a huge success, thanks to all who attended. We are in the planning stages for a Spring Event and the National Convention in Chicago on June 28 to July 2. Our Action Committees and Legislative Priorities are shaping up nicely. The Constitution Day program, organized by Andrea got rave reviews. This is the 11th year that LWV has participated in this worthwhile event. Our Board continues to work hard to assist the Local Leagues and to educate the public on our very important mission.

*Theresa Freligh,
LWVMD Secretary
secretary@lwvmd.org*

Choo Choo to Chicago Adventure

Board the Capitol Limited in Union Station, Washington, DC for a relaxing overnight train ride to Chicago's Union Station. Follow the historic B&O line as we journey through the Potomac Valley, past Harpers Ferry and the Allegheny Mountains into Pittsburgh. We cross into Ohio heading north to Cleveland, and then across Ohio and Indiana into the center of Chicago. Arrive in Chicago Friday morning prepared to attend the activities planned by LWVUS and a performance by Second City, sponsored by LWV of Chicago, on Friday evening. The next 40 hours are filled with convention, meetings, banquet, networking and interacting with a wonderful group of like-minded people. Off to the station on Sunday afternoon to board the train and unwind on the journey home.



The plan would be to leave DC at 4:05pm on Thursday, June 28, 2018, and arrive in Chicago the next morning, June 29 at 8:45. We would depart Chicago on Sunday, July 1 at 6:40 pm and arrive home on Monday, July 2, at 1:05 pm. The train also stops in Rockville and Harpers Ferry.

This trip is open to anyone. To qualify for a group rate, I would need a commitment by at least 14 people by November 26 and payment of \$570*. This payment would cover the round trip in a roomette and transportation from the train station to the hotel and return.

The roomette is ideal for one or two passengers, with two comfortable seats on either side of a big picture window. At night, the seats convert to a comfortable bed and an upper berth folds down from above. Meals include dinner and breakfast outbound and dinner, breakfast and possibly lunch inbound. Restrooms and showers are available in each train car.

There are also coach seats available for about \$200*, and would also cover transportation to and from hotel. You would have to purchase the meals, which are served at the seat.

If you purchase a ticket and find for some reason that you cannot make the trip but know someone who can, AMTRAK will allow that person to replace you up to seven days before the trip start. If plans change within 7 days of the trip there can be no replacement person and money cannot be refunded. I will check into purchasing trip insurance, which is not now included in the price.

This is not a fund raising activity.

Feel free to contact me with any questions either by e-mail or phone:

Carolyn Hetterick, Treasurer, LWVMD

treasurer@lwvmd.org or 410-935-5925

*This is not the final price, it is the maximum. The cost will decrease. I will have final numbers before the deadline. I can have 4 passengers board outbound within the first 2 stops. Harpers Ferry boarding would get first priority.

*Carolyn Hetterick,
LWVMD Treasurer
treasurer@lwvmd.org*

Highlights from the Fall Workshop



Thanks to all who attended our Fall Workshop. It opened with a discussion on Non-Partisan policies, emphasizing that the Presidents and Voter Service Chair should not be involved in any partisan or candidate activities. Other Board members should, at least, use their discretion.

The attendees then broke into two sessions. One was a workshop on the State Election Primary Study. Barbara Sanders and Lu Pierson led us through this thorough study and how best to present it. After attending their workshops here and at the State Convention, I urge Local Leagues to allow plenty of time for questions and discussions at your meeting. You can get the fact sheet, discussion guide, consensus report and background information from the State Website, LWVMD.org.



The other workshop was an interactive overview of effective social media strategies. Karen Neumann, a Communication Professional, led the group through tools and techniques for maximizing social media engagement and presence within your community. She reviewed the correct usage of hashtags, imagery, and mentions balanced in proportion with the aesthetics of the communication. Rounding out the workshop was an overview of management and analytical tools for easily monitoring the reach.

Our luncheon speaker was Dr. Marcie Taylor-Thoma who informed us about the sad state of civic education in the area and around the country. Dr. Taylor-Thoma was also concerned with the possibility of the watering down of the statewide civics test. There is the reality that if we don't test it, they won't teach it. Remember, LWVMD has started a study on the state of civic education in Maryland. If you are interested, please contact [Melanie Cox](#) or [Lois Hybl](#).



Thanks to all who had a part in helping make this event a success, especially Andrea Gruhl, for arranging for the facility and your LWVMD Board for providing the breakfast goodies. [Look for a recipe to one of the popular dishes at the end of this newsletter!](#)

*Elaine Apter,
LWVMD Co-President
pres@lwvmd.org*

Legislative Priorities

My heartfelt thanks to the 11 local Leagues who sent in their state legislative priorities. Below find a summary of the results from the first local League submissions to use in making final legislative priority recommendations by Tuesday, October 31. The LWVMD Board will

make priority decisions at its November 6 meeting.

Making Democracy Work: Redistricting reform won ten votes and improved voter access and cyber security came next. There were scattered votes for campaign finance, opposing a balanced budget constitutional amendment,

election-day registration and voting and automatic voter registration. LWVMD does not have a position to support making election day a holiday.

Protecting the Environment: There were six votes for mitigating climate change and five for reliance on clean, renewable energy with provisions for creating clean energy jobs. Safe water and preserving our waterways, especially the Chesapeake Bay, were rated important. There were also votes for opposing the Potomac pipeline and environmental justice.

Promoting Social and Economic Justice: The highest number of votes (seven) were for adequate revenue to maintain the safety net for vulnerable populations. Under this umbrella, local Leagues supported increasing the minimum wage, providing sick leave, adequate and equitable access to affordable healthcare, state funding for expanded Medicaid if federal funds were not available, dealing with the opioid crisis, human trafficking, domestic violence, immigration, and racial and social justice.

Adequate revenue for adequate and equitable public education received six votes with Montgomery County and Baltimore City emphasizing pre-K funding. Corrections and sentencing reform got four votes. Funding for adequate and accessible public transportation got three votes.

Other Issues: There were votes for issues we are still studying: civics education, corrections and bail, death with dignity and senior issues. We did not achieve consensus on charter schools, so we can only comment on some ways of regulating them. Also, we don't have a position on higher education funding to accommodate support of free community college tuition or funding of colleges in general. Funds from gambling do support education, but supplant funds from other sources.

*Lois Hybl,
LWVMD Vice President
VP1@lwvmd.org*

Focus on a Local League

Harford County League of Women Voters: Small yet Successful



The Harford County LWV has a mere 30 members but we accomplish a lot! Last year we registered over 130 high school seniors to vote. We go into all 9 high schools during lunch periods, around rehearsal for graduation, or during senior picture day to accomplish this task. It is great getting out to meet and talk to our future generation. They are a lot like us, believe it or not.

We also joined with Delta Sigma Theda on a Legislative Send Off in December and a Legislative Wrap Up in May. Both events were hugely successful and attended by many.

The League also co-sponsored a Fracking Forum and helped promote Forums on the ACA (Affordable Care Act), Fake News, and Hosting Bel Air's Sister City, Estonia. We worked with many different groups, and met the Mayor of Estonia who explained the concerns of living on the border with Russia.

At our Annual Dinner in May, we heard from Melynda Valez of LASOS, an organization that helps new immigrants adapt to American life. Later a group of us visited the building where education, arts, and socializing are done. LASOS works with children and adults helping them to learn English, American customs, pass GED tests, understand our banking and governmental systems. It was an eye-opener.

This year we started off on September 26th with a Voter Forum. Ralph Watkins and Barbara Sanders were the speakers. The information presented was excellent, and the presentation was followed by several insightful questions.

We are again partnering with the Deltas on the Legislative Send Off in early November, as well as the Legislative Wrap-Up in May.

We are continuing with our film series, this year focusing on Redistricting, Safe Water for All, Death with Dignity and The Bail System in America. We will also continue to visit all the high schools in Harford County and register as many young people as we can.

*Theresa Freligh,
LWV Harford County, President
secretary@lwvmd.org*

Progress to Curb Carbon Emissions in Maryland

Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative (RGGI)

Maryland made progress this summer through the program review of the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative ([RGGI](#)). RGGI is a cooperative effort by nine Northeast and Mid-Atlantic states to develop a regional power plant emissions cap-and-trade program. Revenues from the program help support the EmPOWER Maryland program for energy conservation and efficiency.

Over an 18-month period ending in August 2017, the nine states (Connecticut, Delaware, Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, New York, Rhode Island, Vermont and Maryland) conducted a major program review and met to discuss changes to the program. RGGI held public hearings and received public input to the process. LWVMD testified to the Maryland Public Service Commission in support of strengthening the program by lowering the cap on allowable emissions. LWVMD also sent out an Action Alert to members during the RGGI discussions.

The nine states in RGGI were able to [agree to reduce](#) the program's carbon pollution cap by 30 percent from 2020 to 2030. This represents a total reduction of 22.7 million tons of carbon emissions or 30 percent of the 2020 cap.

Raising the Renewable Portfolio Standard (RPS) to 50% by 2030

Maryland Climate Coalition Partners and key Maryland Faith Leaders launched the Clean Energy Jobs Initiative with a press conference on Wed., Sept. 13, 2017 at 10 a.m. in Baltimore at the Episcopal Diocese of Maryland. Nearly 400 organizations, businesses and faith communities have signed a resolution for the campaign.

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 that comes 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. 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 purpose of potential RPS legislation in the 2018 General Assembly is to:

- Increase the Renewable Portfolio Standard (RPS) from 25% by 2020 to 50% by 2030;
- Remove trash incineration from the clean energy portfolio;
- Invest in clean-energy workforce development;

- Make more funding available for investment capital and loans to help minority and woman-owned businesses.

For more information, see the [mid-August](#) State Board Letter.

Background

The Maryland RPS and RGGI are important components of Maryland's effort to meet the overall goal of reducing greenhouse gas emissions by 40 per cent by 2030. This ambitious goal was established through passage of an updated 2016 Greenhouse Gas Emissions Act ([GGRA](#)), which LWVMD supported, and establishing the Maryland Climate Commission (MCC) in law. Achieving this ambitious goal relies on the work of The Maryland Commission on Climate Change, whose membership is charged with developing and maintaining a comprehensive action plan to achieve science-based reductions in emissions.

Electricity is the largest single category of GHG emission in Maryland, and most of our electricity still comes from coal and nuclear. In 2015, the Maryland Department of the Environment released an Update report that analyzed 150 programs. The report found that ten programs were the most effective in producing the major reductions in GHG emissions and sequestration by 2020:

- Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative (RGGI)
- Maryland Renewable Energy Portfolio Standard Program (RPS)
- EmPOWER Maryland – energy efficiency and conservation
- Maryland Clean Cars Program
- Corporate Average Fuel Economy (CAFÉ) Standards
- Building and Trade Codes in Maryland
- Public Transportation Initiatives
- Managing Forests to Capture Carbon
- Planting Forests in Maryland
- Zero Waste

In an [open letter](#) to Governor Hogan and the Maryland General Assembly, the Maryland Climate Coalition pointed out the urgency of action now to curb global warming:

“Maryland is especially vulnerable to the increasingly violent storms, sea level rise, flooding, heat emergencies and other environmental effects of climate change. In this moment when our nation's partnership with the global community in addressing this threat has been called into question, Maryland urgently needs to re-affirm our commitment to doing our part. The Maryland Climate Coalition urges the executive and legislative branches of our state government to work together so that Maryland can serve as a national example....the most important reflections of Maryland's commitment will be the actions that you, our elected leaders, take in the coming months and years.”

Betsy Singer,
LWVMD – Environment
bsinger@lwvmd.org

Program Update

This year LWVMD program has four (4) different groups underway: Death with Dignity, Corrections and Bail, Civic Education, and Senior Services. All groups have several participants and have established communications. While all groups are underway if you are interested in any of these program areas please contact [Melanie Cox](#).

The State Board Letter will feature at least one program group monthly, identifying the focus of each topic and the projected direction. The initial focus will be on whether the outcome of the work will be a public forum, an educational format or a consensus study. All of these studies are complex topics. One challenge for each topic will be deciding on the specific area or areas to be addressed.

Currently, the Senior Services group is focusing on frail or at risk seniors and will probably narrow the detailed work to nutritional services and affordable housing.



Why these two areas? Review of literature reveals the 33% of older adults admitted to the hospital have signs of being malnourished and up to 50% of older adults living in the community may be malnourished. Malnutrition can increase healthcare costs by 300%. When individuals are isolated, frail or living in either poverty or below the level of sustainability the risk of malnutrition increases significantly.

Affordable housing availability varies by community, but there are similar needs for those



seniors who live alone, especially women, and are frail or have limited financial options. Even for those seniors who own their home, many times the homes are not safe due to both financial restrictions and the ability to obtain maintenance services. We often hear people reference the poverty level for financial needs, however, a more accurate metric would be ability to sustain living conditions rather than a set value or figure. For instance, the study group has found that in Frederick County the poverty level is approximately half of the true financial needs per month when taking sustainability into account.

This is just a glimpse into the progress of the study on senior services. More to come as each study groups develops.

*Melanie Cox,
LWVMD – Programs
mcox@lwvmd.org*

Two Meetings Left, Kirwin Commission

The KIRWAN COMMISSION (the Commission on Innovation and Excellence in Education) is 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



The Commission on Innovation and
Excellence in Education

ONLY TWO MEETINGS LEFT!

October 12, 2017 5 p.m. -7 p.m. *Time Change!*
Baltimore Polytechnic Institute
1400 W. Cold Spring Lane, Baltimore, MD 21209

October 25, 2017 6:30-8:30 p.m.
Largo High School
505 Largo Road, Upper Marlboro, MD 20774

schools with concentrated poverty, etc. The commission will finalize recommendations in December. Then the state legislature will decide whether or not they want to pass a new law. Tell them what you think at one of their last two hearings. This opportunity only happens once every 15 to 20 years.

Just showing up at one of the two remaining hearings will demonstrate your interest and support for high quality and adequately and equitably funded public education.

Lois Hybl
Education Advocate & Action Chair
hybl@lwvmd.org

Fall Workshop Recipe

There were so many requests for the recipe of the Carrot Loaf served at the breakfast bar during the Fall Workshop, we decided to include it here. It was a big hit, so try it for yourself.

Carrot Loaf Recipe

- 1 8-oz. package cream cheese, softened
- 1 ½ c. sugar
- 2 eggs, beaten
- 2 Tbsp. milk
- 1 tsp. vanilla
- 2 c. flour
- 1 Tbsp. baking powder
- ½ tsp. baking soda
- 1 tsp. cinnamon
- 1 ½ c. shredded carrots (2-3 large)
- 1 c. chopped pecans
- ¼ c. raisins

Heat oven to 350°. Combine dry ingredients. Mix cream cheese and sugar until well blended. Blend in eggs, milk and vanilla. Add dry ingredients, mixing just until moistened. Gently fold in remaining ingredients. Bake in greased and floured 9x5 inch loaf pan, 1 hour or until toothpick in center comes out clean.

Serve sliced, especially toasted with butter.

This bread is a great way to use leftover crudité carrots.

Niecy Chambers,
LWVMD – Vice President
VP2@lwvmd.org



**LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS®
OF MARYLAND, INC.**

LWVMD 2017-18 POLICY EDUCATION & ADVOCACY YOUNG PROFESSIONAL VOLUNTEER PROGRAM

Do you want to learn how to make your state government work for you? Do you want to educate others about important issues happening in the state that can impact us all? LWVMD volunteer policy experts have been perfecting this process for almost 100 years, and we want to share what we've learned with you.

Education

LWVMD puts out 6 issues of the non-partisan, unbiased, legislative analysis publication Report from State Circle (RSC) during the state legislative session to inform the public on what's happening in the MD General Assembly.

Advocacy

These reporters also monitor bills in their issue area for those that align with, or go against LWVMD positions. They are in charge of submitting testimony to support or oppose this legislation when it is heard and voted on by the MDGA. As you can imagine, this is a big responsibility for our volunteer experts.

Your Role

We are looking for young professionals (18-35)
who are interested in collaborating & learning more about:

How the MDGA Works

How to educate others on legislation via legislative reporting

How LWVMD supports positions via testimony, action alerts, & events

Types of Support You Can Provide

Spreading the word on both education and advocacy issues via social media

Attending coalition meetings and collaborating on advocacy efforts

Creative ideas raising interest and spreading information to the public



LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS®
OF MARYLAND, INC.

LWVMD 2017-18 POLICY EDUCATION & ADVOCACY YOUNG PROFESSIONAL VOLUNTEER PROGRAM

Program Details

This is the first program of its kind for LWVMD, so you have an opportunity to mold this role and make it your own, in coordination with the LWVMD resident expert. Hours dedicated will vary dependent upon issue activity and volunteer availability.

This Program Would Run from November to the beginning of May
(November is when RSC Reporters meet and plan for the Legislative Session that starts in January. Session ends in April.) There may be some travel to Annapolis required, but much of the coordination can be done remotely.

Program Layout

- You will begin your work with your LWVMD Expert by learning about LWVMD Positions in your Issue Area.
- You may attend coalition meetings (either in person, or by phone), and other events related to your issue in the state
- You will help track legislation and provide support drafting RSC articles & testimony
- You will help to push out Action Alerts on specific bills via Facebook, Twitter, and LWVMD.org web communications
- At the end of session, you will provide a closing report on the work done in your issue area, and provide recommendations based on your experience for the following year's legislative session

Issue Areas Available

Campaign Finance - Meeting Basic Human Needs - Transportation (Metro Funding) - Juvenile Corrections - Children Services - Redistricting Reform

To Apply: Please send Resume & Cover Letter to stateoffice@lwvmd.org with the subject line YPVP - "Your Selected Issue Area"