



LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF MARYLAND, INC.

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STATE BOARD LETTER

Mid-December 2017

LWVMD Calendar

December

15 – Friday, Bill of Rights Day

25 – Monday, Christmas: office closed until January 2nd

January

04 – Thursday, LWVMD Board Meeting, FELC, 10am

10 – Monday, Maryland General Assembly Convenes

20 – Saturday, LWVMD Winter Workshop: Candidate Forum Training, Treasurer's Seminar, Condominium Elections as a Fundraiser. First Evangelic Lutheran Church, Ellicott City, 10am

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

Presidents' Message



Think ahead.

This letter finds us in the midst of the holiday season and the last thing on many of our League leaders' minds is Program Planning. However, the League is a grass roots organization and your input is very

important in the selection of the upcoming program for LWVUS for the next two years. A **Program Planning Guide** is on the [LWVUS website here](#). I urge all leaders to consult this as you plan your meetings. The deadline for submitting your report is March 1, 2018. Hopefully, all our local Leagues have a Program Planning meeting scheduled on their calendar by February at the latest. This is also the meeting when your local League will review your current positions and submit ideas for new studies. The final decision on the LWVUS program for 2018-20 will be made by the delegates at the National Convention.

Speaking of the [National Convention, it will be held in Chicago from June 28 to July 1, 2018](#). I hope as many Maryland Leagues as

possible will be sending at least one representative. It is a wonderful experience for new, as well as veteran members. They will interact with Leaguers from across the country, caucus for their favorite issues, tackle the upcoming budget and attend workshops.

While we are discussing planning ahead, I would like remind you to [mark your calendars for our upcoming Winter Workshop on January 20](#). We will have sessions on presenting candidate forums, conducting condo elections and becoming a treasurer for a non-profit organization.

On behalf of Richard and myself, we want to thank you for all you do for the League of Women Voters and we wish you all Happy Holidays and a Healthy, Happy New Year.

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

December Board Meeting

Your LWVMD Board continues to work hard to bring you valuable information and assistance. Currently, we are planning our Winter Workshop for January 20, 2018! Don't miss it. Both Ralph Watkins (Voter Services) and Carolyn Hetterick (Treasurer) are working on important workshops and we are lining up informative speakers for the day. There is also a Spring Fundraiser in the works. It will be a bus tour of Harriet Tubman sites. Sign up early for this wonderful trip. LWVMD is becoming a member of ACTivate Maryland and Nancy Soreng will be the liaison! Lois Hybl is working on the agenda for [Legislative Day on March 6](#), another goodie. We are busy working on our [Legislative Priorities](#) and Ralph is gearing up for the elections and VOTE411.org & LWVMD's print [Voter's Guides](#). Remember; we are here to help you have a Great LWV.

Theresa Freligh,
LWVMD Secretary
secretary@lwvmd.org

Winter Workshop Sessions

The [Winter Workshop on January 20th](#) (snow date, January 27th) at the First Evangelical Lutheran Church in Ellicott City will feature two sessions this year. The first gives attendees a choice of "Preparing for Elections: Forums and Debates" or "Non-Profit Treasurer's Seminar." For the second session, attendees will choose between "How to Run a Condo Election" or the "Treasurer's Seminar." A light breakfast will be served, and a catered lunch will include a speaker. We're excited to discuss these important issues and hope to see you there.

Candidate Forum Training – People look to the League of Women Voters to conduct [candidate forums](#), trusting that we will ensure that the process is both fair and informative. Anyone who has organized a candidates' forum is aware of the missteps that can upset a good plan, potentially damaging your League's reputation. The Winter Workshop will include a session on candidate forums that will cover the ground rules for nonpartisanship, explain some optional formats, and provide examples of checklists for ensuring that you have a successful forum. This is a great opportunity to share your success stories and raise questions about

common problems, and generally ensure that you are ready to provide this important public service.

Treasurer Seminar – Non-profit accounting creates unique challenges which may seem daunting, especially for volunteers. While accuracy and timely paperwork are necessary, there are skills one can develop to ease the process and ensure precise records. Carolyn Hetterick, LWVMD Treasurer will be providing a workshop designed to instruct local League treasurers on the finer points of preparing records for audit, keeping a permanent record file, and reporting requirements for Federal and State.

Condominium Elections as a Fundraiser – Many Leaguers are experienced election judges, and the Montgomery County LWV (and possibly others) puts those skills to use by conducting elections for condominiums and other organizations that want a neutral, trusted group running the show. The organizations pay the League for the work of our volunteers and it has become a significant source of funds for League programs. At the Winter Workshop, Nancy Soreng will explain how this program works and provide examples of procedures you could follow and precautions you should take to run a successful election services program. Elections for associations can be quite different from elections held for public offices so it's important to understand the differences.

Priority Legislation Report

From General Priorities to Specific Legislation

Now that we have established our general legislative priorities, we are gearing up to support specific legislation. Here are just a few examples.

Election Day Registration (EDR) legislation is a Constitutional Amendment authorizing the General Assembly to put in place procedures that would allow voters to register to vote on Election Day in the same way they can during early voting. During the 2016 elections, nearly 20,000 Marylanders registered to vote or updated their registrations. Passing the legislation in this session would allow a vote on the amendment in the November 2018 General Election.

The Secure and Accessible Registration Act (SARA) would streamline the voting registration process, registering eligible

voters or updating their registration, when they interact with certain state agencies, such as the Motor Vehicle Administration (MVA).

Redistricting advocates have been hard at work garnering support for reform of the process.

Supporters of **Washington Metro funding** are [circulating cards and getting signatures on petitions](#) declaring: “We the undersigned urge our elected leaders to create a dedicated, sustainable funding source for Metro! We need a system that is reliable, safe and efficient. Any new funding source – whether a tax or a budget adjustment --must be collected equitably and aimed to improve the rider experience.” Find a print-out of those cards at the end of this newsletter. Print them out double-sided and cut into fourths to create your own small cards. You can distribute them or leave a stack in a convenient location.

Overriding the veto of HB1, the Maryland Healthy Working Families Act, is a priority for human needs advocates. This bill mandates 5 days of paid sick leave for employees of firms with 15 or more employees.

Pre-K to 12 education advocates are encouraged by discussion about a **"down payment" on the delayed Kirwan Commission Report** in 2018. Funds might come under the umbrellas of early childhood education and Career and Technology Education (CTE). Some Community School funding for schools with concentrated poverty has also been suggested.

Information on environmental legislation priorities can be found in the article by Betsy Singer.

Read [Report from State Circle](#) (RSC) beginning in late January to learn more about legislation on these and other issues.

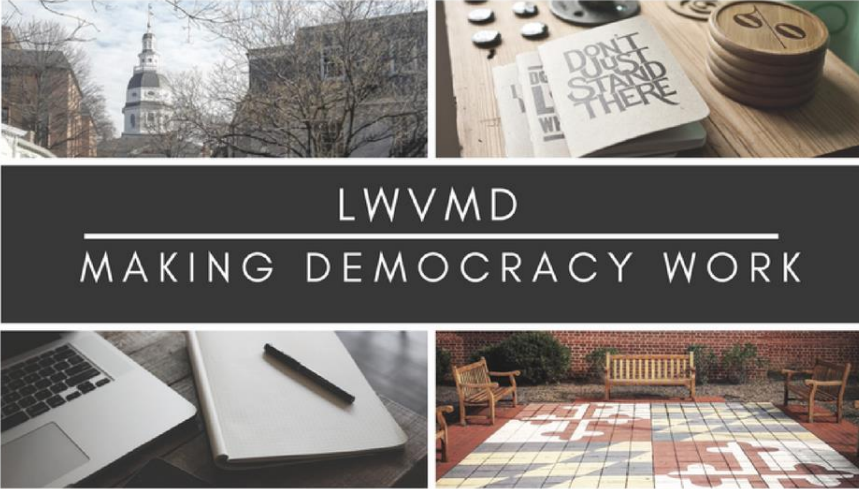
Lois Hybl,
LWVMD Vice President
VP1@lwvmd.org

Mark Your Calendars for Legislative Day!

Save the Date!

LWVMD'S LEGISLATIVE DAY
JOIN US IN ANNAPOLIS ON
MARCH 6TH, 2018

Starting at 8:30 a.m. join us for a morning of learning, socializing and visits with our legislators to share LWVMD's 2018 Priorities.



LWVMD
MAKING DEMOCRACY WORK

As usual, there will be a lot to learn during Legislative Day. Visiting legislators can begin as early as 8:30 a.m.; our program will begin at 10 a.m. and end after lunch at 1 p.m. You may wish to stay and observe committee hearings afterwards. We are planning to have a luncheon speaker(s) on Voting Security. We will miss the engaging humor of the budget presentation by retired Warren Deschenaux, but look forward to hearing from the new executive director of the Department of Legislative Services.

Environmental Coalition Identifies Priorities for 2018 General Assembly



Environmental organizations in The Citizens Campaign for the Environment (CCE) will support four topics for potential legislation in the 2018 Maryland General Assembly. LWVMD 2018 Priorities for “Protecting the Environment” are mitigating climate change, increasing the use of clean renewable energy, and ensuring safe water and clean waterways. We’ll be joining efforts to advance the CCE priority topics. Contact [Betsy Singer](#), LWVMD Environment Chair if you would like to participate.

Forest Conservation

According to the Chesapeake Bay Foundation (CBF), “The Forest Conservation Act is not currently living up to its primary objectives of minimizing forest loss and conserving the state’s best forests when it comes to intact, fully forested parcels proposed for development.” CBF finds that the Act should be updated by prioritizing protection of contiguous forests that provide intact forest ecosystems and are very limited in urban and suburban communities. Replanting formulas would be adjusted in order to lessen overall deforestation and existing mitigation systems, such as forest banking, will be improved.

Polystyrene Foam Food Packaging Ban

Trash Free Maryland, Blue Water Baltimore, and Maryland Sierra Club are supporting a policy that would prohibit a food service business or person from selling polystyrene (Styrofoam) products or selling food in these products in Maryland. They would also prohibit selling expanded polystyrene loose fill packaging. According to the groups, styrene is a probable carcinogen that is released more readily under heat and leaches into food through foam containers. The EPA estimates that 100% of Americans have styrene in their bodies. It never fully degrades and breaks up into tiny pieces that end up in our streets and waterways. Once in the water, polystyrene absorbs ten times more fertilizers, pesticides, and other petrochemicals than other plastics. When fish ingest the styrene and people eat the fish, they can be exposed to more toxic chemicals. Montgomery and Prince George’s Counties have enacted policies to ban polystyrene, and Baltimore City has introduced similar legislation.

Transparency at the Public Service Commission

The Maryland Environmental Health Network (MDEHN) is concerned that often community members do not get timely public notice from easily accessed sources when applications for projects in sensitive areas and neighborhoods come to the Maryland Public Service Commission. While the Public Service Commission has the authority to require additional protections such as a health impact assessment or environmental justice review, it often doesn’t. Examples are the Cove Point liquefaction and export facility, gas fired plants in Brandywine, the proposed compressor station in Charles County and along the Potomac Pipeline.



LWVUS has a strong position on public participation in the responsible management of natural resources to include the public's right to know about pollution levels and dangers to health and the environment.

MDEHN is proposing a policy that would address the impacts of environmental degradation on already overburdened communities; address the disproportionate impact to a specific region or demographic; and increase community participation in the environmental decision-making process.

2018 Clean Energy Jobs Initiative

Considering the seriousness of the need to transition away from fossil fuel-generated carbon emissions, the Maryland League of Conservation Voters and the Chesapeake Climate Action Network are supporting a policy that would increase the renewable electricity standard to 50 percent by 2030. In 2016, the General Assembly passed the Clean Energy Jobs Act that calls for a 25 percent renewable electricity standard by 2020.

The policy also includes a solar carve-out expansion to 14.5 percent; expanding the Tier 1 to 35.5 percent of the portfolio; phase out of incineration as a Tier 1 source; provisions to protect low-income ratepayers; provisions for investing in workforce development in the renewable energy industry and supporting "Made in America" products; providing funds for investment capital and loans for clean energy business owned by women and minorities; and a study to see how Maryland would reach a goal of 100 percent renewable energy.

The League of Women Voters is also a member of the Maryland Climate Coalition, which has endorsed this issue as a priority as well.

Betsy Singer,
LWVMD Environmental Chair
bsinger@lwvmd.org

Annual Maryland Environmental Legislative Summit

Thursday, January 18, 2018

Miller Senate Office Building
11 Bladen Street, Annapolis MD
Open to All – Free Admission
4 pm to 6pm

Keynote Speaker:

Bob Perciasepe, former Secretary, Maryland
Department of the Environment, and Deputy Administrator of EPA

NEW - Advocacy Workshops 12 pm to 3 pm

Topics such as Chesapeake Bay, Agriculture, Climate Change, Open Government, Renewable Energy,
Environmental Health

Focus on a Local League

Frederick League: Active and Growing



As with most local Leagues, the Frederick County League continues to have an increase in membership, with approximately 30 percent of the new members being men. The other exciting things in our League recently have been our first City election forum co-sponsored with The United Way, ethics reform, and our 287g (a partnership between Frederick's Sheriff's Office and ICE/Homeland Security) study group.

Frederick is now the second largest city in the State of Maryland and our recent city election had many key issues at stake despite the low voter turnout. However, there was a large audience for the joint Forum focused exclusively on the [ALICE Report](#) with all but one candidate for both the alderman and the mayoral forum participating. This report, which was also presented at a membership meeting, shows significant disparity between the federal poverty level determination and the sustainability level for affordable housing, transportation, and food within Frederick County. All questions addressed to the candidates dealt with these key issues for our citizens. The linkage with The United Way will be continued with our upcoming State and County elections.

Two projects have been our League's focus over the past year. Since the conversion to charter government, a goal has been to

improve the ethics laws and functioning within county government which has been supported by the County Executive and most of the County Council. Results that involved the League include, an independent nominating process for the County's Ethics Commission which is chaired by the League under the direction of Mary Ellen Rhoderick. This is the first such process in Maryland. Recently, League members worked with the County Executive and one of our state senators to develop a bill which will continue to improve our Ethics Laws, for presentation during the 2018 General Assembly. It turned out to be a perfect example of compromise on the part of all parties to obtain the desired outcome.

Immigration, specifically the 287g ordinance, is the second major project for Frederick this year as Frederick County is one of only three (3) counties in the state with this function which permits local law enforcement to check the immigration status of anyone arrested in the County. If the individual is found not to be here legally they are detained and turned over eventually to the Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE). The work group's goal is to determine the social and financial impact of 287g on citizens of the county. This project may initially result in an educational process leading to a consensus study.



Melanie Cox,
President, LWV Frederick County
mc Cox@lwvmd.org

Join a Study

The Civic Education study is in need of volunteers from Montgomery, Baltimore, Calvert, and Kent. The study group meets via phone conference so travel is not necessary. For one member's personal story of her experience as a study member, check out our [November State Board Letter](#). If you are interested in being part of this study, please contact Study Chair [Dorothy Ginter](#).

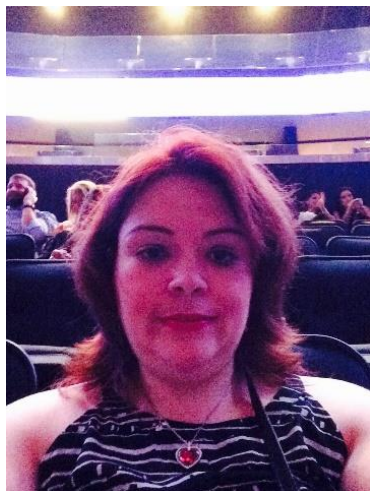
Our YPV's have been hard at work gearing up to help LWVMD on their issues during session, but you might be wondering, "Who are these 'Young Professionals' joining us?" Well wonder no more, here are our 2017-18 LWVMD Policy & Education Young Professional Volunteers:



Jill Muth - *I am currently working as the Special Assistant to the Civilian Review Board of Baltimore City. I joined the LWVMD Young Professionals Program to meet other young professionals who were passionate about politics, and to learn more about the legislative process on the state and federal level. I am currently working on Juvenile Justice, an issue that I am passionate about as a former teacher and current Baltimore City resident. I am hoping to learn how to advocate for legislation that disrupts the school to prison pipeline, and creates opportunities that permanently divert youth from the criminal justice system.*

Sakiera Malone - *I work as the Program Manager for Prince George's County Non-Custodial Parent Employment Program (NPEP) at America Works of Maryland, Inc. I was interested in joining the LWVMD Young Professionals Program because I found that I – along with many of my clients' – lack information when it comes to legislative changes being made that affect my clients. I believe working with LWVMD will allow me to get hands-on experience, and a greater understanding as to how the legislative process works when it concerns enacting key bills. In return, I want to pass on the information I learn to my clients, and help them be more involved in the process. I work with clients that are looking for stable and reasonable paying employment, so I am most interested in issues that concern employment opportunities, minimum wage/low wage and workforce development/education.*





Jennifer McGuire - *I've lived in Silver Spring, Maryland the majority of my life. In 2010, I graduated with my Masters of Science in Administration with a Concentration in Nonprofit Management, from Trinity Washington University. Currently, I work at Presidential Bank, as a teller. Additionally, I can be found volunteering throughout my community in my spare time. Currently, I am a member of the Montgomery County League of Women Voters. In the Montgomery County League, I'm a member of Lobby Corps and attend various events, and the Young Professionals Program is a perfect opportunity to get involved at the state level. The Young Professionals Program appeals to my desire to learn more about Maryland's political process, specifically relating to Campaign Finance. I am hoping to learn about how candidates receive funding from the state, and the laws that help to moderate funding.*



9:30 Registration and light breakfast
 10:10 am morning workshop session 1
 "Preparing for Elections: Forums and Debates"
 OR
 "Non-Profit Treasurer's Seminar"
 11:20 morning workshop session 2
 "How to Run a Condo Election"
 or
 "Non-Profit Treasurer's Seminar"

12:30 Lunch
 12:50 Luncheon Speaker: TBA

First Evangelical Lutheran Church
 3604 Chatham Road
 Ellicott City, MD

Registration fee:
\$25 League members
\$35 Non-members

http://www.lwvmd.org/lwvmd_2018_winter_workshop

League of Women Voters of Maryland, Inc., & League of Women Voters Prince George County

Spring Bus Tour

True Grit: Legendary Ladies of the Chesapeake

Tuesday, May 15, 2018

6:45 am – Meet at Greenspring Shopping Center Parking Lot, 2801 Smith Avenue, Baltimore, MD 21209

Return approximately 8:45 pm

7:45 am- Annapolis Area guests meet at Riva Road Park and Ride

Come to the shore and celebrate centuries of legendary local ladies. Discover Harriett Tubman who led scores of people to freedom on the Underground Railroad. Then mosey on down to the home of Phoebe Anne Mosey, who shot her way to stardom as sharpshooter Annie Oakley. Bea Arthur, a Cambridge native, served as an early United States Marine, later becoming a comedienne serving up laughter as our favorite Golden Girl.

Meet your local step-on guide at the Dorchester County/Sailwinds Visitor Center and then wind through the picturesque rural landscape on Maryland's Eastern Shore exploring the childhood, teen and young adult years of Harriet Tubman's life. Visit the 1800's general store which was the site of her first act of defiance. Hear stories about her life as a slave, her family and escapes along the Underground Railroad in this area. Visit the Harriett Tubman Underground Railroad Visitor Center. Tour downtown Cambridge including Pine Street, Freedom House/Black House, Annie Oakley, Bea Arthur, Courthouse, High Street and Long Wharf (slave trading sites).

Lunch will be included at the Portside Restaurant in Downtown Cambridge, MD with your pre choice of grilled chicken breast or traditional Eastern Shore crab cake. Vegetarian meal available.

Tour package includes local step-on guide for a full day of touring, basic guide gratuity, Harriett Tubman Underground Railroad sites, donation/admission to Bucktown Village Store, lunch, meal tax and gratuity, guide gratuity, round trip motor coach transportation via Superior Tours and driver gratuity.

Dinner will be on your own at Cracker Barrel in Stevensville, MD

Price per person: \$140 Make checks payable to LWVMD or pay by credit card on website

Deposit of \$40 per person due with registration

Final payment due April 14, 2018

For more information contact: Carolyn Hetterick, (410-935-5925) Treasurer@LWVMD.org or

Joyce Duckett, jduckett@lwvmd.org

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Reservation Form for True Grit: Legendary Ladies of the Chesapeake

Tuesday, May 15, 2018

Name _____ Cell Phone# _____

Address: _____ Email: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____ Board bus: Baltimore _____ Annapolis _____

Special needs or Dietary restrictions _____

ENTRÉE CHOICE: Grilled Chicken _____ Eastern Shore Crab Cake _____ Amount enclosed: \$ _____

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

How much money does Metro need?

As riders, we deserve a reliable, affordable, safe Metro system. But, Metro does not have enough money to make the improvements needed to create a world class system.

Over the next 10 yrs Metro needs an increase of:

- \$1.3 billion to for operating costs—paying bus drivers, safety personnel
- \$6.1 billion to bring the system back to a state of good repair

Sign the petition now for a frequent, reliable, affordable, safe system for decades to come.

smartergrowth.net/FundMetro

Fund Metro NOW for a reliable, affordable, safe system

Frustrated by Metro's worsening service and higher costs? So are we!

The **best way to fix the problem is getting Metro dedicated funding.** Without it, Metro could be forced to:

- Further reduce frequency of peak service
- Raise fares even more
- Eliminate bus routes

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smartergrowth.net/FundMetro



**Transportation
Alliance**



**SIERRA
CLUB**



Yes! Elected leaders, we need dedicated funding for Metro.

*We the undersigned urge our elected leaders to **create a dedicated, sustainable funding source for Metro!** We need a system that is reliable, safe and efficient. Any new funding source - whether a tax or a budget adjustment --must be collected equitably and aimed to improve the rider experience. **PLEASE ACT SOON.** A successful Metro system is better for riders, better for the environment, and crucial for the economy.*

Name (first + last): _____ Email: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip code: _____

Name (first + last): _____ Email: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip code: _____

Name (first + last): _____ Email: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip code: _____

Name (first + last): _____ Email: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip code: _____

Name (first + last): _____ Email: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip code: _____

Name (first + last): _____ Email: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip code: _____

TO BE COMPLETED BY CANVASSER Canvasser: _____ Organization: _____

Main location(s) canvassed: _____ Date: _____

Email scans or photos of completed petitions to pete@smartergrowth.net - Check status of your submission at bit.ly/petitiontracking (go to Canvassing/petition tab)