STATE BOARD LETTER
Mid-January 2018

LWVMD Calendar

January
20 – Saturday, LWVMD Winter Workshop: Candidate Forum Training, Treasurer’s Seminar, Condominium Elections as a Fundraiser. First Evangelic Lutheran Church, Ellicott City, 10am
28 – Sunday, Women’s Legislative Briefing. The Universities at Shady Grove, Rockville, MD, 12:30 to 6pm – LWVMD is a longtime sponsor of this event

February
03 – Saturday, VOTE411 Workshop. Eastern Shore Convention Center, Easton, MD, 10am to 1pm
10 – Saturday, VOTE411 Workshop. Howard Co. Library Miller Branch, Ellicott City, MD, 10am to 1pm
14 – Wednesday, League of Women Voters 98th Birthday

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

Presidents’ Message

“Making Democracy Work” is all about process, not about “ends.” I came to this realization as I considered today’s topsy-turvy political climate. Those in power seem to believe that the ends justify the means. Else, why would anyone believe that limiting the number of people able to vote in our democracy would produce a better final result? Why would we deny majority scientific opinion? Why would we limit input on important legislation to members of only one political party? Why would we seek help from a foreign power to dig up dirt on an opponent? In the corporate world, why would an executive believe that increasing profits at the expense of employee welfare would be in the firm’s long term interest? In the political realm, why would we support a candidate who has abused women in order to retain an important seat for our party?

When the League backs redistricting reform in Maryland we are declaring that for us, the means are more important than the ends. If redistricting in our state might mean a shift in the balance of power in the US House of Representatives, we still persist. We hope other states would follow our example, but we believe in the process. (Is this a liberal position? Is it possible for a liberal position to have a conservative result? Ah the beauty of the non-partisan approach!)
At their January meeting your state board voted to have LWVMD register with the Maryland Ethics Commission as an organization which spends over $2,000 per year on urging our constituents to contact their elected officials. As one member observed, the Maryland law is much more stringent than the federal provisions that regulate nonprofits! We took this positive action because we want to operate transparently if we ask others to do so. We believe that the means are every bit, if not more, important than the ends. That’s part of what making democracy work is all about.

Richard Willson  
LWVMD Co-President  
pres@lwvmd.org

January Board Meeting

We finalized the questions for VOTE411. A great day is planned for the Winter Workshop on January 20, make sure you register now! Plans are in the works for Legislative Day in March and our Spring Fundraiser is coming up soon. Both financially and emotionally we are strong. This will be a busy year but we are ready to tackle everything that comes down the pike.

Theresa Freligh,  
LWVMD Secretary  
secretary@lwvmd.org

Program Report

Beware the Ides of March!

March 15th is rapidly approaching. All consensus study reports for our PRIMARY ELECTION study must be in by March 15th. At this point only one local League report has been received. Hopefully your League has scheduled a date for your consensus meeting. All material needed for the study are on the LWVMD website here.

If you have completed your study and your report, please submit your report. Completed reports may be sent to program@lwvmd.org.

Work on the four studies for this year continues with new members still coming forward, which is a good thing. Any member who has interest in any of these topics should contact Melanie Cox. All groups are communicating via conference call versus trying to meet in person which makes it easier to participate. There is much work to be done for all four studies and representation across the State will help to ensure the best studies possible.

Melanie Cox,  
LWVMD – Programs  
mcox@lwvmd.org
Focus on a Local League

Mid-Shore League: Streamlined and Moving Forward!

The Mid-Shore League has been incorporated since 1968, first as the League of Women Voters of Talbot County, and now as the League of Women Voters of the Mid-Shore. The name change came about after we expanded our membership to include two neighboring counties, Caroline and Dorchester. This expansion has increased our reach while at the same time presenting several challenges. While our League has many wonderful and inspired members, we have found ourselves facing the challenges of an aging membership in three rural counties more limited than ever in terms of stamina and availability. To reduce the workload and rejuvenate the League, we voted at our April annual meeting to revise our bylaws to support a streamlined league structure. Our new leadership team, composed of a convener, a treasurer, and two other members to share and provide oversight for our website, membership, and voters service management, meets monthly to plan and make management decisions. Two members of the Leadership Team are new to the League giving us the opportunity to incorporate new ideas while sharing the accumulated wisdom of our experienced leaders.

We spent the summer planning how to rejuvenate our league and rolled out a series of six meetings over September, October, November, and December seeking to involve our membership and educate the general public. We opened with a September membership meeting laying out our plans and starting work on putting together county-specific meetings to address local issues in Dorchester and Talbot Counties. Dorchester leaguers hosted a meeting on local elections and a candidate forum for town elections in a local municipality. Talbot leaguers hosted a panel discussion on running for local office and produced a booklet on local elective offices using as a base the Kent County League’s document; we love working with other Leagues!

November and December found us hosting public information sessions in both Dorchester and Talbot Counties on the Maryland Primary System and on Redistricting Reform in Maryland. We are mastering the art of publicizing our efforts and getting good press; and we hope to put together “road shows” to engage and educate local citizens about the 2018 elections. We will be working with Kent (LWVKC) and Queen Anne’s (LWVQAC) County Leagues to produce and make available the Voters Guide for the primaries and general elections on the Eastern Shore as well as helping prepare for and host candidate forums for state-wide and local congressional and county offices. This is a tremendous amount of work in any election cycle, but to also cover three counties for our local elections means we will have to be on our toes! We are excited about the upcoming election cycle and look forward to working with both LWVKC and LWVQAC to make sure the Eastern Shore of Maryland is well informed and ready to vote in both June and November.

Jeanne A. Halpin
Treasurer/Webmaster LWV Mid-Shore
Clean Energy Jobs Now: Rally for Climate Action

The League of Women Voters voices are heard for increasing Maryland renewable energy requirements to 50 percent through the Clean Energy Jobs Initiative. Hundreds of supporters demonstrated at Lawyers Mall in Annapolis on Wednesday, January 10th.
LWVMD Supports the U.S. Clean Power Plan

On August 3, 2015, EPA announced the Clean Power Plan (CPP) to strengthen the move toward cleaner and lower-polluting energy by establishing standards for power plants and customized goals for states to cut carbon pollution. A Fact Sheet, Clean Power Plan, is still available from the previous EPA website.

In October 2017, Scott Pruitt, Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency, announced repeal of the Clean Power Plan, a key program to reduce carbon emissions from coal fired power plants and to help meet the U.S. goals under the Paris Climate Agreement.

In response, The League of Women Voters US issued the following statement objecting to the repeal:

“By repealing the Clean Power Plan, the White House is putting the interests of corporate polluters ahead of the health and safety of the American public. This decision will have a devastating impact on the planet at a time when we are seeing the powerful climate change effects with rising temperatures, deadly hurricanes and destructive wildfires. The League is appalled at this irresponsible decision that will have a long-term devastating impact on our planet and health of the American people.”

LWVUS also filed comments with EPA in support of the CPP and urged state Leagues to do the same.

In Maryland, Attorney General Brian Frosh held a public hearing on the Clean Power Plan on Thursday, Jan. 11, 2018 at the DLA hearing room on Lawyers Mall. Several League members attended the hearing to show support. Comments from the hearing also will be forwarded to EPA.

Thanks to Linda Silversmith, LWVMD Co-Presidents earlier submitted comments to EPA, which strongly urged the agency to retain and enforce CPP. “Implementing the 2015 version of the Clean Power Plan would have avoided 3,600 premature deaths and 90,000 pediatric asthma attached each year…EPA has a responsibility under the law to regulate carbon, having determined that carbon endangers the health of the American public. This legal obligation has been affirmed by the Supreme Court…Failing to address climate change now sentences our grandchildren to suffer more violent storms, more wildfires, food shortages, water shortages, sea level rise, ecosystem destruction and disease.”

Gov. Hogan has also sent a letter to EPA formally lodging its opposition to the repeal of the CCP. EPA has indicated that it does not know whether and when it would issue a rule to replace the CPP.

Betsy Singer,
LWVMD Environmental Chair
bsinger@lwvmd.org
Don't forget to sign up for the Winter Workshop.

Saturday, January 20, 2018 at 09:30 AM · $30.00/Members, $40.00/Non-Members
First Evangelical Lutheran Church in Ellicott City, MD
Register on the LWVMD website.

We have three great workshops planned.

1a. FORUMS and DEBATES: Ralph Watkins, our Voter Service VP, will present guidelines and suggestions for successful forums and debates. Many Leagues have already begun to get requests. This is your chance to brush up on League procedures and address any questions or concerns you might have about participating in a candidate forum.

1b. TREASURER FOR NON-PROFITS: LWVMD State Treasurer is presenting a workshop for treasurers of non-profit organization. We encourage every local League to send at least one representative to this session, which will be presented twice. We would also like to suggest anyone who might be interested in becoming a treasurer in the future to attend this workshop or just is curious about the duties of this important position to take advantage of this informative session.

2a. ADMINISTERING CONDO ELECTIONS: Is your Local Leagues looking for ways to raise money? Most condominium or HOAs (home owner associations) run elections to choose their officers. Many are looking for an impartial group to handle the task. Nancy Soreng, past State President, will train League members on how conduct condo or local community elections.

ALICE: Luncheon speaker: Kenneth Oldham, President & CEO of United Way, Frederick County, speaking on the ALICE (Asset Limited, Income Constrained, Employed) report. The earnings of Maryland ALICE individuals and families are not enough to support a “survival budget” that is more than twice the Federal Poverty Level (FPL). The report provides a framework, language and tools to measure and address the struggles of the growing number of ALICE households in Maryland.

See you on the 20th (Snow Date, January 27)
LWVMD WINTER WORKSHOP

* Saturday, January 20, 2018 *
First Evangelical Lutheran Church
3604 Chatham Road, Ellicott City, MD
9:30 am - 2:30 pm

Workshop fee of $25/$35 for non-League members
Late registration (after Jan. 15) $30/$40 for non-League members

9:30 am  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 am  Morning workshop session 2:
          How to Run a Condo Election
          or
          Non-Profit Treasurer’s Seminar
12:30 pm  Lunch
12:50 pm  Speaker: Ken Oldham, President &
          CEO, United Way Frederick Co. on “Who is ALICE?”

REGISTER ON LINE AT  http://www.lwvmd.org/winter_workshop_2018
OR BELOW

WINTER WORKSHOP 2018 REGISTRATION FORM
( Through January 15, 2018/Late registration January 16 - 20)

NAME __________________________________________________________

LEAGUE __________________________________________________________________________

Phone __________________________ Email______________________________________________

Workshop fee - $25($30 after Jan 15)Non-League $35($40 after Jan. 15 ) ________________

Donation to the LWVMD Education Fund ________________
(Or donate on line: Go to http://www.lwvmd.org/join_donate)

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

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

* Snow Date: January 27, 2018.
Check LWVMD.org if weather is inclement.
LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF MARYLAND

LEGISLATIVE DAY
Tuesday, March 6, 2018

Miller Senate Office Building
Miller Conference Room, West Wing
11 Bladen Street, Annapolis, MD

Registration fee: $35 Members/$40 - Guests
Includes buffet lunch Parking not included
Photo ID required for admission to all Maryland government buildings.

8:30am Registration and Coffee
8:30 -10:00 am Visits to Legislators arranged by Local Leagues
Local Leagues are responsible for making those appointments in advance.

8:40 -10:00 am Optional tour of Legislative complex
10:00 am Report on legislative visits
10:15 am Discussion of proposed legislation impacting the League’s legislative priorities

11:00 am State budget presentation by Victoria Gruber,
Executive Director, Department of Legislative Services

11:45 am Discussion of impact of budget on our legislative priorities

Noon Lunch - Speaker: Nikki Charlison, Deputy Administrator,
State Board of Elections, will speak on Election Security

1:00 pm Optional visits to committee hearings

---------

LEGISLATIVE DAY 2018 REGISTRATION FORM

If you or someone you know would like assistance from the Lois Stoner Scholarship Fund for the workshop fee, please contact the LWVMD office.
(Deadline for Registration - Wednesday, February 28, 2018)

NAME

LEAGUE

Phone Email

Registration fee - $35/$40_______ Donation to the LWVMD Education Fund _______

Or donate online: Go to http://www.lwvmd.org/join_donate

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

Or register online: http://www.lwvmd.org/legislative_day_2018
Come to the shore and celebrate centuries of legendary local ladies. Discover Harriet 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).

See Next Page for Details
True Grit Tour Details

Bus Options:

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

* Annapolis - Meet at 7:45 am at Riva Road Park and Ride

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

You may choose to make a $40 deposit at this time, and **pay the full amount of $140 by April 14th** to finalize your ticket purchase and reserve your seat.

Questions? Contact Carolyn Hetterick (410-935-5925) & Joyce Duckett at truegrittour@lwvmd.org

---

Reservation Form for True Grit: Legendary Ladies of the Chesapeake
Tuesday, May 15, 2018

Name______________________________________________ ___________________________ League________________________

Email:_________________________________________ Cell Phone#________________________

Address:_____________________________________________________________________________________

City:_________________________________________ State:_____ Zip:______________

Board bus: Baltimore_______ Annapolis _______

Special needs or Dietary restrictions______________________________________________________________

ENTRÉE CHOICE: Grilled Chicken ______ Eastern Shore Crab Cake ______ Vegetarian_______

Amount enclosed: $__________

Mail checks to LWVMD, 111 Cathedral Street, Suite 201, Annapolis, MD 21401
OR pay online at [http://www.lwvmd.org/true_grit_tour](http://www.lwvmd.org/true_grit_tour)