



LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF MARYLAND, INC.

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STATE BOARD LETTER

Mid-April 2018

LWVMD Calendar

April

14 – Registration Deadline for True Grit Tour (see page 11)

26 – LWVMD Lobby Day – A Day on Capitol Hill, (see page 10)

May

5 – LWNCA Annual Convention

7 – Monday, LWVMD Board Meeting, FELC Ellicott City, 10am

12 – Saturday, VOTE411 Goes Live

15 – True Grit Tour – LWVMD Spring Fundraiser, (see page 11)

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

Presidents' Message



The League's Future

League members find ourselves in an interesting position. We are witnessing many of the social and environmental laws that LWV and other organizations fought so hard for being eroded. The League is experiencing some growth in membership from people who are interested in correcting

this trend, but in many cases, the "old League" is not meeting their needs. Instead we see numerous organizations popping up that seem to be usurping "our" agenda.

What is the answer? For over a year LWVUS has been holding stakeholder meetings and using outside consulting firms to guide us through the process. There has been input from local League leaders, LWVUS Council of 2017, and several focus groups as well as analysis of similar outside organizations. The results to date are summarized in a document called the "[LWV Transformation Roadmap](#)."

The five main conclusions include:

1. We are not clear about our strategic focus;

2. The local, State and national organizations sometimes go in different directions;
3. The way we are structured is an impediment to organizational effectiveness and efficiency;
4. We have a culture that has failed to adapt to current trends in volunteerism and embrace diverse populations; and
5. We have significant deficits in organizational capacity, specifically staffing, communications, technology and fundraising.

Each one of these is addressed in the "[Road Map](#)."

The LWVMD Board has decided to devote most of [State Council on June 9](#) to a discussion of the points raised in this publication. We encourage Local League Presidents to share and discuss it with your Board and membership. The "Roadmap" is a work in progress. Your feedback is welcome and necessary if we are going to strengthen the League. This is our future.

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



LWVMD 2018 Council

SAVE THE DATE

Saturday, June 9, 2018

9:30am - 2pm

Notes from the Board

The State Board voted this month to hold the 2019 State Convention at the Marriott Courtyard at Rio in beautiful Gaithersburg Maryland. We're looking forward to planning a great Convention for 2019.

We also got a report from the consensus committee regarding the Primary Study. The report was accepted, and new consensus wording is in the process of being drafted. The new consensus language will be presented at [State Council](#) in Harford County this June. We'd like to thank everyone who participated for their thoughtful contributions. This was a complicated topic but everyone tackled it with earnest diligence.

In preparation for the upcoming LWVUS convention in Chicago, the Board approved the purchase of LWV combination stylus-pens and canvas totes to sell. We're certain they will be popular items among convention goers and look forward to raising some funds for the LWVMD. Other wares approved by the Board this month include lapel pins with League logo and MD flag for Washington County to sell as their own fundraiser.

The State Board is proud to serve the Leaguers of Maryland and we're always looking for ways to support local Leagues. If you have any thoughts or concerns, be sure to contact us.

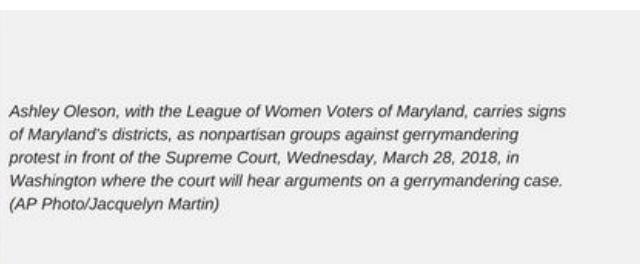
Elaine Apter
 LWVMD Co-President
pres@lwvmd.org

Highlights from the Tame the Gerrymander Rally at SCOTUS

By all accounts, the Tame the Gerrymander rally in support of [*Benisek v. Lamone*](#) on March 28th was a huge success for the coalition and the League. We even grabbed the attention of the Associated Press, which meant these pictures and [associated story](#) made it around the country, showing LWVMD's involvement at the forefront of the fight to end gerrymandering.



Helenmary Ball, left, of Calvert County, Md., as "Maryland District 5," points toward the separated area of Maryland District 3, being represented by Bobby Bartlett, right, as nonpartisan groups against gerrymandering protest in front of the Supreme Court, Wednesday, March 28, 2018, in Washington where the court will hear arguments on a gerrymandering case. The Supreme Court is taking up its second big partisan redistricting case of the term amid signs the justices could place limits on drawing maps for political gain. T(AP Photo/Jacquelyn Martin)

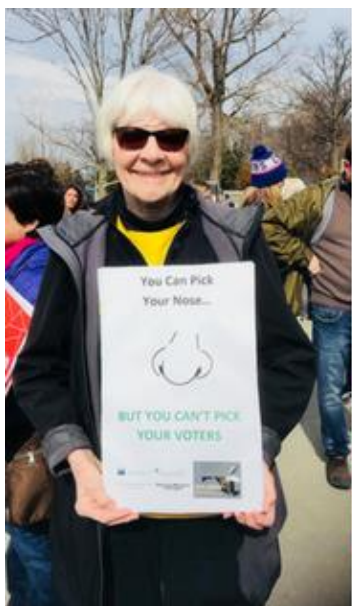


Ashley Oleson, with the League of Women Voters of Maryland, carries signs of Maryland's districts, as nonpartisan groups against gerrymandering protest in front of the Supreme Court, Wednesday, March 28, 2018, in Washington where the court will hear arguments on a gerrymandering case. (AP Photo/Jacquelyn Martin)



Click the district # to view the video stories of districts [3](#), [6](#) (the one in question), and [8](#).

Thanks to our partnership with Represent Maryland – who brought artistic design – and volunteers from LWVMD and Represent Maryland, we were able to bring the districts to life at the rally with creative narratives.



We were joined by many great speakers and organizations. LWV national joined LWVMD in rallying, and promotion. A special thanks goes out to Sarah Courtney, LWV Communications and Digital Strategy Director, who spoke on LWV's national movement for redistricting reform at the event, and Caitlin Rulien, LWV Communications Manager who coordinated with LWVMD, and helped to promote the event.

Additionally, we heard from Araliya Rubin (9-years old), co-author of [“The United Shapes of America” coloring book](#), who spoke about how gerrymandering affects kids. Brian Cannon, the Executive Director of OneVA2021 spoke to us about Virginia's fight for reform, and challenged Maryland to a “Potomac Race” to fix redistricting.

Common Cause US, and Maryland assisted with organization of the event. A special note of thanks goes out to Michael Goff, CCUS board member and Maryland Redistricting Reform Commission member who spoke to us all, and Joanne Antoine, who helped keep our online community connected on Facebook and Twitter throughout the event.

The Co-Chair of the Maryland Redistricting Reform Commission, Walter Olson, once again supported Tame the Gerrymander's movement for reform by speaking to our supporters on March 28th.

Additionally, we heard from expert on gerrymandering, Dave Daley, author of the book [Ratf**ked: The True Story Behind the Secret Plan to Steal America's Democracy](#), and long-time activist for reform, Howard Gorrell, who brought his own suit in the 6th district in 2011, and shared how he had to invent a word for “gerrymandering” in American sign-language.

Last, but certainly not least, we heard from the attorney for the petitioners, in *Benisek v. Lamone*, Michael Kimberly, who gave us an update on what happened in the Supreme Court hearing while we rallied in support.



Supporters were energized, and hopeful that the Court will step in and put an end to partisan gerrymandering via their ruling in *Benisek v. Lamone*, but only time will tell.

While Arnold Schwarzenegger was unable to join Tame the Gerrymander at the rally in person, he expressed confidence that the justices will do the right thing for the American people [in the video he sent to TTG supporters on the day](#).

We are so grateful to all of the supporters who were able to turn out to the hearing on March 28th to make the event such a success, and keep the pressure on Maryland legislators to end gerrymandering once and for all. The coalition is already at work planning next steps, so if you haven't already, [sign the petition to show your support](#), and stay in the loop about what we are doing via our email newsletter. Be a part of our movement for fair maps for all in Maryland.

Ashley Oleson

Legislative Reporter & Administrative Director

Focus on a Local League

St. Mary's County: Busy and Effective



The League of Women Voters of St. Mary's County, Maryland is a small group of dedicated individuals who are very active in our community. We

will be quite busy over the next couple of months, prior to taking a break for the summer.

On February 3rd we had a voter registration training with the local Board of Elections. From this event we gained 6 new members.

Upcoming events include:

April 12th – Voter registration at Leonardtown High School.

April 18th – Voter registration at College of Southern Maryland.

We are also planning on doing voter registration at Great Mills High School, Chopticon High School and King's Christian Academy; the dates just need to be finalized. This will cover all high schools in St. Mary's County with the exception of Ryken St. Mary's Academy, who does their own voter registration. We are hoping to see an increase in voter registration in the high schools as the students are becoming politically active regarding school safety; we also hope to gain student members.

On April 22nd we will be participating in Earth Day in Leonardtown in an effort to recruit new members and register voters.

We have our regular board meeting on May 7th and on May 12th we will have our annual membership meeting from 11:30 a.m. until 3:30 p.m. at the Pax River Ale House in Lexington Park. This would normally be our last meeting/event until September, but since this is an election year we are also planning candidate forums.

Our Primary Election Candidate Forum will be held on May 21st at the Lexington Park Library. We will partner with the local chapter of the NAACP as we have in previous years. A candidate meet and greet will start at 5:00 and the forum itself will begin at 5:30. Normally the forum would end at 8:00 when the library closes but after the tragic shooting at Great Mills High School on March 20th we felt that more time would be needed for candidates for Sheriff and County Commissioner. The library graciously agreed to stay open until 9.

Invitations for the contested primary races have been sent and the response has been very positive. The contested races are State Senator – Legislative District 29 (Republican race), County Commissioner District 1 (Republican race), County Commissioner District 2 (Democratic race), Clerk of the Circuit Court (Republican race) and Sheriff (Republican race). Invitations to attend and participate in the meet and greet have been sent to all candidates. We have been contacted by TheBayNet.com (a local



news website) and they will be live-streaming the forum on their website. We have also been contacted by the Public Information Officer for St. Mary's County about them recording the forum and running it on the government channel of our local cable outlet.

Once the primary is over we will start planning for the Candidate Forums (probably more than one date) for the general election.

We generally do not meet in June, July or August but as planning for the election moves forward we may need to meet for planning purposes.

Katie Werner,
LWV of St. Mary's County VP

An Almost End-Of-Session Legislative Report

As of April 5, we have had some wins or near wins and some losses in our legislative priorities.

Under **Making Democracy Work**, [HB 356](#) for a Redistricting Commission received an unfavorable report as did [HB 1022](#) which would have established standards for Congressional districts. However, [HB 532](#) the Constitutional Amendment to allow registration and voting on Election Day did pass both houses. It will be on the ballot on November 6. The Secure and Accessible Registration Act (SARA), [SB 1048](#), which provides for automatic voter registration or updating when people apply at certain state agencies, has passed both houses but has not been signed by the Governor.

One success under **Protecting the Environment** was the unfavorable report for [HB 1135](#) which would have required offshore wind turbines to be at least 24 miles from shore. But other



environmental bills we supported did not progress. [HB 1453](#), the Clean Energy Jobs Act, received an unfavorable report. The Forest Conservation act, [SB 610](#), passed the Senate but is in the Environment and Transportation Committee as of April 5. And the Polystyrene Prohibition bills HB 538/[SB 651](#) are stuck in committees.

The Metro Funding bill, [HB 372](#), has passed both Houses and is a major accomplishment under **Promoting Social and Economic Justice**. Getting commitment for adequate funding from Maryland, Virginia, and the District of Columbia gives hope for a well-maintained and successful transit system. [HB 1415](#), incorporating some interim recommendations of the Kirwan Commission, has passed second reading in the Senate. The budget conferees settled on \$7 million for [BOOST](#) scholarships for nonpublic school students, but it was less than the nearly \$9 million recommended by the Senate.

On other social justice issues, Death Penalty Reinstatement, [HB 1411](#), received an unfavorable report. Limits on solitary confinement, [HB 786](#), passed the House, but so far has not been acted on by the Judicial Proceedings Committee. And Ban the Box ([HB 541](#)) received an unfavorable report from Economic Matters. [HB 856](#), which would allow single individuals at least 21 years of age to benefit from the Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC), has passed both houses. Unfortunately, [HB 664](#)/[SB 543](#), which would raise the minimum wage to \$15 per hour by 2023, did not get out of committee.

These bills are a fraction of those being followed by our [Report from State Circle](#) (RSC) reporters. See RSC #6 in mid-April for final reports on many more.

Lois Hybl,
LWVMD 1st Vice President
lhybl@lwvmd.org

The Good News!

Environmental Legislation Overview

As of April 10, the day after sine die, the General Assembly has passed the following environmental/energy legislation of note.

HB 372/SB 277 Maryland Metro Funding Act. The metropolitan region achieved a long-term success with passage of Maryland's commitment to fund the D.C. Region Metro system. The respective bills passed the Senate 46-0 and passed the House 97-41. Maryland joined Virginia and Washington in committing to provide annual funding for Metro. The Governor has endorsed the funding the \$167 share of the

total \$500 million.

HB 1135/SB 1058 Renewable Energy – Offshore Wind Projects – Distance Requirements. LWVMD has supported Offshore Wind for Maryland since about 2013. Two projects, U.S. Wind and from Skipjack Offshore Energy, are currently approved by the State Public Service Commission and the federal government to build in the Atlantic Ocean about 17 miles off the shores of Ocean City. These companion bills would have required that the offshore wind projects be moved farther out than the originators say is technically feasible, effectively killing both projects. The bill received an unfavorable report in the House Economic Matters Committee on

March 12, 2018, and the projects survived.

HB 230/SB 290 Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative – Withdrawal – Legislative Approval Required (Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative Extension Act)

The bill provides additional protections for RGGI. The State is currently a full participant in RGGI among Mid-Atlantic and Northeast states but the Governor could withdraw the State at any time. This bill requires that if the Governor wants to withdraw, the General Assembly must pass a law to withdraw. The bill passed the House (87-48) and the Senate (41-5). The Governor signed it into law on April 2, 2018.

HB 03/SB 138 – Environment – U.S. Climate Alliance – Membership

This bill requires the Governor to enter Maryland as a member of the U.S. Alliance by July 1, 2018. The Governor cannot withdraw the State from the Alliance unless the General Assembly passes a law that approves the withdrawal. The House passed the bill (101-33) and the Senate passed it (36-10).

HB 993/SB 898 Maryland Pension Risk Mitigation Act was originally the Maryland Pension Climate Change Risk Act and it requires the State Retirement and Pension System Board of Trustees Investment Committee to conduct a risk assessment of pension system investment every four years to examine the potential long-term risks and opportunities for multiple

climate scenarios. The House passed the bill (92-44) and the Senate passed it (44-0)

HB 1350/SB 1006 Sea Level Rise Inundation and Coastal Flooding – Construction, Adaptation, and Mitigation

redefined “Coast Smart” construction to include highways in order to avoid future impact of coastal flooding and sea level rise inundation. The Coast Smart Council will establish siting and design criteria for State and local projects and require local jurisdictions that experience nuisance flooding to develop a plan to address the flood by July 1, 2019.

Note: The Governor can sign, not sign or veto bills that are sent to him.

From [the Maryland Manual Online](#):

All passed bills, except the budget bill and constitutional amendments, must be presented to the Governor within twenty days following adjournment of a session. The Governor may veto such bills within thirty days after presentation. If a passed bill is not vetoed, it becomes law.

The budget bill, however, becomes law upon its final passage and cannot be vetoed. Constitutional amendments also cannot be vetoed; they become law only upon their ratification by the voters at the next general election.

Betsy Singer,
LWVMD Environment
bsinger@lwvmd.org

2018 Local League Annual Meetings

Our local Leagues have arranged interesting speakers and attractive venues for their 2018 annual meetings, and the state Board encourages all members to attend. If you can't make it to your own

League's event, try another! It's a great way to make new acquaintances and bring fresh ideas back to your own League.

Niecy Chambers,
VP – Membership
vp2@lwvmd.org

League	Date	Day	Time	Location	Speaker
Anne Arundel	4/28/18	Saturday	11:00 a.m.	BayWoods of Annapolis, 7101 Bay Ridge Rd., Annapolis, MD 21403	Derek Matthews, "Anne Arundel United: Fighting Hatred, Building Community"
Baltimore City	6/5/18	Tuesday	5:30 p.m.	Gertrude's, 10 Art Museum Dr., Baltimore, MD 21218	Caryn York, "The Criminalization of Poverty"
Baltimore County	6/2/18	Saturday	12:00 p.m.	Country Club of Maryland, 1101 Stevenson Lane, Towson, MD	Will Englund, "March 1917: On the Brink of War and Revolution"
Calvert	5/16/18	Wednesday	5:30 p.m.	Brick Bistro, 60 Sherry Lane, Prince Frederick, MD	Gail Hatfield or Kristen Scott from County Bd of Elections, "How Does Our County Safeguard Against Voter Fraud"
Frederick	4/21/18	Saturday	9:00 a.m.	Gladchuk Bros. Restaurant, 489 W. Patrick St., Frederick, MD	Mayor Michael O'Connor
Harford	5/21/18	Monday	5:00 p.m.	Liberatories Restaurant, 562 Baltimore Pike, Bel Air, MD 21014	Speaker TBD
Howard	4/24/18	Tuesday	6:15 p.m.	Historic Oakland, 5430 Vantage Point Rd., Columbia, MD 21044	Dr. Kris Juffers, "News, Real or Fake"
Kent	4/25/18	Wednesday	12:00 p.m.	Emmanuel Episcopal Church Parish Hall, Chestertown, MD	David Shreve, Ph.D., "Insights on the New Tax Law: How Will It Work for Me?"
Mid-Shore	4/28/18	Saturday	12:00 p.m.	Third Haven Friends Meeting, 405 S. Washington St., Easton MD	Director of the Chesapeake Multicultural Resource Center, "Local Immigrant Populations: Journeys to Citizenship."
Montgomery	6/2/18	Saturday	9:30 a.m.	Leisure World	Speaker TBD
Prince George's	6/9/18	Saturday	10:00 a.m.	DoubleTree by Hilton, 9100 Basil Ct., Largo, MD 20774	Speaker TBD on "Medicare Coverage and Rising Cost of Prescriptions"
Queen Anne's	5/1/18	Tuesday	5:30 p.m.	Kennard HS Cultural Heritage Center, 410 Kidwell Ave., Centreville, MD 21617	Clayton Washington, "The Kennard High School Cultural Heritage Center"
St. Mary's	5/12/18	Saturday	11:30 a.m.	Admiral Room, Pax River Ale House, 46490 Corporate Dr., Lexington Park, MD 20653	No speaker
Washington	4/26/18	Thursday	6:00 p.m.	Fireside Restaurant, 1716 Underpass Way, Hagerstown, MD 21740	Discussion

JOIN US FOR OUR DAY ON CAPITOL HILL



THURSDAY, APRIL 26TH, 10am-3:30pm



- Visit both US Senate and Representative Offices
- Enjoy Lunch at the staff dining facility
- Take part in advocating an LWVUS topic*
- Have Fun!

* Participants will be briefed by email about the LWVUS topic for advocacy and participate voluntarily

THIS EVENT HAS NO FEE! BUT YOU MUST RSVP TO Carole & Ashley at
capitolhilltrip@lwwmd.org

LEGENDARY LADIES OF THE CHESAPEAKE

TRUE GRIT



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

Tuesday, May 15, 2018

Register by April 14th

Join us for a Tour of History, Fun & Adventure!

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).

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

Wye Mills – Chesapeake College exact time TBD

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 _____ Wye Mills _____

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