



## LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF MARYLAND, INC.

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### STATE BOARD LETTER

Mid-May 2018

#### LWVMD Calendar

##### May

21 - Democratic Gubernatorial Forum - May 21, 2018 - 7:00-8:00pm

Television: <http://www.wbal.com/local-news> & Radio: <http://www.wbal.com/>

\*See our "[Candidate Forum](#)" Page for Up-to-Date list of Forums with Local Leagues across the state

31 – Final Day to Request a Mailed Copy of the print Voter’s Guide – [Click here to sign up!](#)

##### June

5 – Close of [Voter Registration](#) before Primary

9 – [LWVMD Council](#) (see page 8)

14 – [Early Voting Begins](#)

19 – [Absentee Ballot Request Deadline](#)

21 – Early Voting Ends

26 – Primary Election Day

28 – [LWVUS Convention Begins](#)

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

### Presidents’ Message



[Elsewhere in this State Board Letter](#) you will see references to work being done at the national level to chart a powerful, forward-looking direction for League. As a LWV

member, you should familiarize yourself with at least the Transformation Roadmap [Executive Summary](#) because these plans aren’t just for leadership. One of the strengths of League has always been our sense of ownership at all levels. When you work for an organization, when you invest yourself, you take on ownership.

That said, our sense of ownership and our appreciation of the power of consensus don’t always work smoothly. Let me explain. In its broadest sense we are about consensus, at least at the national level if not beyond. Really, this value is what makes our focus on “Making Democracy Work” such a ‘natural’ for League. So our discussion of

changing the way we do things (that is what the Transformation Roadmap is all about) is going to truly put us to the test! Consensus denotes a degree of trust in the judgment and actions of our League partners (national staff, other states, etc.).

Do you believe that the League has significant work to do that can make Democracy Work? If so, can you come to [LWVMD's Council](#) this year? A significant part of our time together will be spent with the Transformation Roadmap. Delegates going to the LWVUS Convention at the end of June need your input. Yes, League is a representative democracy. And if you cannot attend, will you share your thoughts with members of your league who are coming? Will you communicate directly with your State [presidents](#)? We cannot make democracy work in these United States if we cannot make it work in our own organization! Go team League!

*Richard Willson,*  
LWVMD Co-President  
[pres@lwvmd.org](mailto:pres@lwvmd.org)

## Notes from the Board

Your LWV State Board is busy making plans for the [State Council Meeting](#) June 9<sup>th</sup> and the [National Convention](#) at the end of June! We are focusing on developing a League Road Map for the future of LWVMD. We want your input so please sign up for the State Council Meeting which will be held in Harford County. Meg Heubeck, from the University of Virginia, will be delivering the keynote address on Civic Education.

Carolyn, our treasurer, is working on finding more profitable ways to make your State investments grow. Ruth Crystal presented a detailed 2018-2019 Budget which will be voted on at the State Council. Ashley, our efficient Administrative Director, explained the Young Profession Program and the Internships at the League office in Annapolis. She also reviewed the success of [Tame the Gerrymander](#). Ralph Watkins has spearheaded the [VOTE411.org](#) project which is online now. [Check it out!](#) Thanks to you, our members, all these programs are working.

*Theresa Freligh*  
LWVMD Secretary  
[secretary@lwvmd.com](mailto:secretary@lwvmd.com)

**Be Sure to Support [www.VOTE411.org](http://www.VOTE411.org)**



Get your VOTE411.org bumper stickers at [www.LWVMD.org/lwvmd\\_ware](http://www.LWVMD.org/lwvmd_ware).  
They are \$1 each, or 25 for \$20!

## Transformation Journey

Recognizing the changing external environment -both in the nature of volunteerism and the growing number of competing organizations in the democracy space- the League of Women Voters of the United States, with input from state and local Leagues around the country, has been working over the past several years to ensure that the League enters its second century strong, visible, and relevant. We've been referring to this as our "transformation journey."

As the next step in that journey, LWVUS has published a "Transformation Roadmap" that includes specific action steps to be implemented. It is a synthesis of many threads of work, including input from Leagues across the country, interviews with internal and external stakeholders, review of the larger non-profit environment and the professional expertise of consulting firms. The action steps will help us achieve the vision of a network of vibrant Leagues that are powerfully communicating our story consistently at all levels; engaging and

welcoming new members, supporters, and volunteers; embracing diversity, equity, and inclusion; and has the resources necessary to support our core work and have a meaningful impact for the next century and beyond. In short, it is a way forward to ensure the successful future of the League.

The Roadmap, which is some 41 pages long, is an important analysis and resource for the entire organization. With that said, it presents some hard truths and does require all of us to embrace some amount of change. At times, change might feel uncomfortable, but it is important to remember that all levels of the organization are partners with the same goal. We all have a deep love of and loyalty to the League and wish to see it succeed for another 100 years.

[Click to read an executive summary](#) of the Roadmap – how it evolved, analysis of the work done, and next steps. We hope that the summary will give you a flavor of the exciting opportunities that lie ahead and how we will take advantage of them together. The full document is available by emailing [membership@lww.org](mailto:membership@lww.org).

## Young Professional Program

A Note on LWVMD's First Ever Young Professional Policy Program:

*I found the LWVMD Young Professionals Program extremely valuable. In addition to learning more about my issue area and working with other women who were passionate about the same subject, I was able to learn more about the legislative process, which encouraged me to learn more about my state representatives and reach out to them on important issues. I think the most valuable part of the program for me was LWVMD day in Annapolis, during which we were able to visit our representatives and talk to them about the issues. I had never known that constituents could walk in and speak to their representatives! Understanding and participating in the local governmental process is very empowering! I am planning to continue working with LWVMD on the issue of juvenile justice, and even help with planning the Young Professionals Program next year! I can't express enough the value of this program!*

Jill Muth, YPV 2018 Session

## LWVMD at Head Start

The Maryland Head Start Association (MHSA) was planning their 2018 statewide Spring Conference in Garrett County and knew they wanted to have Voter registration and Information available for their clients.

Garrett County doesn't have an active LWV chapter, but there are many community-minded, engaged individuals and organizations that work to meet needs, including voter registration, in the western Maryland area. With support from the LWV of Baltimore County and LWVMD, volunteer voter registrars in Garrett County set up a locally staffed LWV Voter registration table at the Head Start Conference at WISP Resort in McHenry, Maryland on May 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup>.



Conferences like this provide voter education and outreach opportunities and a chance to connect and work collaboratively with other nonpartisan organizations and individuals beyond the event.

Under the [National Voter Registration Act](#) (NVRA), an important law designed to increase access to Voter Registration, agencies that primarily provide state funded social services are required to offer Voter Registration to applicants. People applying for food stamps, Medicaid, WIC, services for the aging and students with disabilities must be given the opportunity to register or decline. This Act also applies to public and private institutions of higher learning.

That explained why most of the 100 Head Start conference attendees said they were already registered to vote when asked. A number said they had voted in the last election. Many would have to check and update their voter status. The need most expressed was for basic voter information that could be easily accessed: what/ when/ how/why? Informational handouts were provided by volunteers to answer those questions and direct them to additional information sources at their Board of Elections, LWVMD, and Vote411.

Thanks to Niecy Chambers, LWVMD vice President, Ralph Watkins and Barbara Crain, LWV Voter Services, for their assistance in making this possible.



*Maxine Shindel,*  
LWVBC, Garrett County resident



## Membership News

### Welcome, Young Leaguers! LWVUS and LWVMD Waive Student PMP

This April, LWVUS announced an exciting new initiative to engage the next generation in active participation in the League. As a key first step, the national board voted to waive Student Per Member Payments (PMP) at the national level through January 2021. The LWVMD board followed suit in May, voting not to charge PMP for any local League's student members as long as the LWVUS program is in effect.

#### LWVUS vision for this program:

1. **Recruit the next generation of League leaders.** The future of our organization depends on the successful cultivation of young members.
2. **Engage with young members.** Listen and be flexible. Involve students and new members in ways they want to contribute. Plan ahead to insure your League has opportunities for active engagement in place before you recruit.
3. **Demonstrate success with collected data.** Maintain accurate and current records on new student membership and engagement.

#### Data collection and reporting procedures:

1. **Regularly update the Member Database (CRM).** Participating Leagues will be expected to update ALL membership information in Salesforce on a quarterly basis.
2. **Provide the [new student member survey](#).** We want to understand why

student members are interested in the League and what issues appeal to them. Having new student members fill out this survey will help us identify which tactics are working, which are not, and how national can better support state and local Leagues.

National will compile the data and make quarterly reports available to all participating Leagues. The national office will also be available to help Leagues with any questions related to reporting their data. LWVUS will evaluate the program's success at Convention 2020. The collected data will demonstrate quantitative success or not.

#### What's next?

In the coming weeks and months, national will continue to encourage state and local Leagues to participate in this program and to engage more students in our mission work. The national office will provide participating Leagues with tools to recruit and engage more students. Participating Leagues will be contacted about future surveys and data reports.

If your League is interested joining this initiative to recruit and engage new student members, please complete the [Participating Survey](#) (<https://www.surveymoz.com/s3/4278982/Student-PMP-Waiver-Program-Participation-Survey-Agreement>).

For any questions about this program, please contact LWVUS Staff at [membership@lww.org](mailto:membership@lww.org).

## 240 Hours Later

What can you do in 240 hours? You can drive from Annapolis to San Francisco three times (roundtrip), you can watch all the *Star Wars* films 11 times, or you could earn 6 college credits. I don't think I could drive to San Francisco and back without stopping, I love *Star Wars* but watching 11 times straight would be taxing. But earning credits towards graduation seems to be the perfect way to spend 240 hours, and that's what I did this past spring as an intern for the League of Women Voters Maryland state office.

I have interned before. I got coffee, organized file cabinets, shredded old documents, and created new ones. But this internship was unlike anything I have ever participated in. I will be honest, when I walked into the state office two days before the start of session in January, I fully expected to get coffee orders again. What I didn't expect was to be working one on one with Ashley. From managing social media accounts to planning donation drives, I pretty much did it all.



*Ashley & Brielle at a NationBuilder Event in DC*

What can you learn in 240 hours? Enough to fill a few books! Managing a statewide organization is quite a task. The saying “Many hands make light work” applies perfectly to this conversation. Working with Common Cause Maryland, the ACLU of Maryland, to many other organizations on multiple bills, but especially [Election Day Registration HB 532](#) (a bill number I will never forget) taught me it takes a lot of work to make a bill become a law. Meetings about [pterodactyl costumes and googly eyed cut out districts on the steps of Supreme Court](#) are something that will always make me smile.

But by far my favorite day and the day I sweated about for weeks was March 6<sup>th</sup>. Legislative Day. I got to meet so many Leaguers and help you enjoy a day in Annapolis. Seeing everyone talk to their representatives and then talk about it at lunch gave me the best feeling in the world. Putting on an event, which takes a lot of planning, printing and assembling and seeing people enjoy it makes all the hours of preparation worth it.



*Brielle at LWVMD's Legislative Day*

Surprisingly 240 hours can fly by. I enjoyed every fleeting second of interning for LWVMD. I have met so many amazing people who make this organization great, and who work so hard to make Maryland better than it already is. It was an honor and privilege to work with everyone. Thank you for giving me this opportunity.

*Brielle Rozmus,  
2018 Spring Intern*

## LWVMD Lapel Pins

Show your support for all the great efforts being made to Make Democracy Work in Maryland.

Get your stylish League of Women Voters of Maryland Lapel Pin at [www.LWVMD.org/lwvmd\\_wares](http://www.LWVMD.org/lwvmd_wares).

Just \$5 each!





# LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF MARYLAND BIENNIAL COUNCIL

SATURDAY, JUNE 9, 2018  
Harford Community College  
401 Thomas Run Road  
Bel Air, MD 21015



## LWVMD COUNCIL 2018 AGENDA

REGISTRATION	9:30 AM
WELCOME TO HARFORD COUNTY: BARRY GLASSMAN, COUNTY EXECUTIVE	10:00 AM
CREDENTIALS REPORT	
MORNING PLENARY SESSION:	10:15 AM
WORKSHOP ON ASSESSMENT AND TRANSFORMATIONAL ROAD MAP	
BUDGET PRESENTATION	
LUNCH - CHESAPEAKE DINING HALL	11:30 AM
SPEAKER: MEG HEUBECK, UNIVERSITY OF VIRGINIA	
<b>CIVIC EDUCATION</b>	
AFTERNOON PLENARY SESSION:	1:15 PM
ELECTION STUDY CONSENSUS AND REVISED GUIDELINES FOR PROGRAM	
DIRECTIONS TO THE BOARD AND QUESTIONS	2:15 PM
ANNOUNCEMENTS	
ADJOURN	2:30 PM

Join us at LWVMD Council, the biennial meeting held in years when we do not have a state League Convention. The purpose of Council is to adopt the annual budget for LWVMD and to provide a yearly update to League members about LWVMD activities. Two delegates from each local League may vote, and all League members are invited and encouraged to attend.



### LWVMD COUNCIL 2018 RESERVATION FORM

*Deadline May 26th, 2018*

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Local League \_\_\_\_\_  
Address \_\_\_\_\_  
Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_  
Delegate \_\_\_\_\_ Visitor/Guest \_\_\_\_\_ Please state any dietary restrictions \_\_\_\_\_

\$40.00 Registration Fee

Includes Continental breakfast, lunch and Council Workbook

***Make your reservation online at: <https://www.lwvmd.org/2018council>***

**Or mail check made out to LWVMD with this registration form to:**

**LWVMD, 111 Cathedral Street, Ste. 201, Annapolis, MD 21401**

Questions? - Call **410-269-0232** or email - **[stateoffice@lwvmd.org](mailto:stateoffice@lwvmd.org)**

**If you or someone you know would like assistance from the Lois Stoner Scholarship Fund for the Council registration fee, please contact the LWVMD office.**