STATE BOARD LETTER
Mid-December 2018
LWVMD Calendar

December
24 – 1 Jan – LWVMD Office is Closed for the Holidays

January
7 – LWVMD Board Meeting, Wilde Lake Interfaith Center in Columbia, 10am
9 – Maryland General Assembly Convenes for 2019 Session
26 – Winter Workshop, Wilde Lake Interfaith Center in Columbia, 9:30am – 2pm (see page 4 & 7)

February
2 – Winter Workshop Snow Date
4 – LWVMD Board Meeting, Wilde Lake Interfaith Center in Columbia, 10am
14 – LWV’s 99th Birthday – Get ready to celebrate!

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

Presidents’ Message

Dear League Member,

‘Tis the season for gifts and perhaps for New Years’ resolutions!

Your Board is making redistricting our #1 legislative priority in the upcoming session that begins on January 9th. We have asked local LWV presidents to write letters to newspaper editors and to start asking their delegation to back a strong reform measure THIS session. As we noted before, if we are to have a chance at putting Mr. Gerrymander in his place, the 2019 session is it. Now is the time to use all of the newfound connections we made in our mid-term electoral work!

Good news for all (but two) of our local Leagues: you do not need to learn how to get around in Roster Manager², as LWVMD is continuing to manage that task for you (as you are now updating your memberships in NationBuilder). In the next few days Calvert and Montgomery (who do their own roster
entries) will get an update-email from LWVUS telling them that they can now update to the new platform. THIS MEANS THAT THE REST OF YOU DO NOT NEED TO UPGRADE!

Elaine and I learned earlier this week that LWVUS has not yet decided whether to participate in the 2019 Women’s March slated for Saturday, January 19th. It seems that organizers have not yet released enough of the details for the League to make a determination – stay tuned. If you are contacted, please let us know.

And a final thought: Are you more of an optimist or a cynic or the other way around? I had never thought about it this way but this morning I read a piece that observed, “Not only does it feel good to be cynical, it’s also really easy… when you are certain nothing will ever change, then you don’t even have to try.” And then, “When you are an optimist, you have a dream worth working toward, foolish as that dream might be. Some of the most foolish dreams have made our world a significantly better place.” Thoughts worth treasuring as we work together on Making Democracy Work in the New Year. I am dreaming… (Quotes from a book called “Together” by Copeland and Gilliland.)

All the best to you and yours in the upcoming holiday season,

Richard Willson,
LWVMD Co-President
pres@lwvmd.org

Notes from the Board

Your State Board continues to work hard as we close out 2018. We are now making plans for a fantastic Legislative Day in March. Be sure to look for the sign up flyer. It's always a great day visiting your Legislators and spending time with other LWV members. The plans for the Winter Workshop on January 26th have been finalized. We will be having 3 different Workshops on Bail Reform; Nation Builder and Membership; and Redistricting and Lobbying. The food and the comradeship is always good. While you are at it, add June 7-9 to your calendar for State Convention. We have lined up some interesting programs and hopefully, a Fantastic, Fun speaker! Is your membership about to expire? Well, Carolyn says renewing online is EASY and FAST! So why don't you try it? The Nominating Committee is seeking members for the State Board. Please consider who of your fellow League members would do good work for the State Board, or even consider taking a position yourself. We all need to chip in and do our part to make this the greatest LWV in the country. Please try to support us in any way you can. We hope you have a great and peaceful Holiday Season.

Theresa Freligh
LWVMD Secretary
secretary@lwvmd.com

Kirwan Commission: Preliminary Recommendations

While the Commission on Innovation and Excellence in Education (Kirwan Commission) still has meetings scheduled for December 18 and 19 to finalize recommendations, we have a general idea about their priorities from the four working groups discussed at the December 6 meeting:
Early Childhood Education Working Group 1 recommended to expand high-quality, full-day prekindergarten at no cost for four-year-olds and three-year-olds from families with incomes up to 300% of the federal poverty level (FPL) (approximately $75,000 for a family of four). For four-year-olds from families with incomes between 300-600% FPL (approximately $75,000 to $150,000 for a family of four), some public funding would be provided to families to assist with the cost of prekindergarten based on a sliding scale. Families with incomes above 600% FPL (approximately $150,000 for a family of four) will pay the full cost to attend a public prekindergarten program. Accommodating additional preschoolers will require increasing capacity and quality of prekindergarten programs, increasing the number of early childhood educators and staff and providing professional development incentives and tuition assistance for prospective teachers and staff.

High Quality and Diverse Teachers and Leaders Working Group 2 recommended making teacher preparation programs more rigorous, raising licensing standards for new teachers, and rebranding the teaching profession as a more attractive career. Teacher pay would be raised to make it equitable with other highly trained professions with comparable education requirements. Increases in teacher salaries will be tied to movement up a teacher career ladder. There will be a teacher leadership track and an administrative track. The school day must allow teachers to spend less of the working day teaching classes and more time to improve instruction and plan lessons, tutor students who are falling behind, and participate in collaborative professional learning. Expansion of teacher scholarships and loan forgiveness programs for students who teach, or agree to teach, in high-need schools are also recommended.

College and Career Readiness Pathways. Working Group 3 recommended that a tenth grade-level college and career readiness (CCR) standard be established that certifies that the student has the required literacy in English and mathematics needed to succeed in first-year credit courses in open enrollment postsecondary institutions in the State. Students who meet the CCR standard will be able to pursue advanced placement programs or redesigned Career and Technical Education programs that include workplace training and lead to industry-recognized credentials. Students who do not meet the CCR standard by the end of tenth grade, the State and local school districts will have eleventh and twelfth grade programs designed to meet the CCR standard by twelfth grade, including more project and program-based courses, summer instruction following tenth grade, assignment of a teacher as the student’s case manager, and priority access to an enhanced career counseling system.

More Resources for At-risk Students. To ensure that at-risk students have both the academic supports and wraparound services to address their social, physical health, mental health, and family needs, Working Group 4 recommended to revise the funding formula weights for special education students and English learner students and to add a concentrated poverty formula to support intensive, coordinated services for students in schools that have a high concentration of student poverty. Additional funding would be available to provide a community schools
coordinator and a health services practitioner at that school and services such as extended learning time, vision and dental services, behavioral health services, and family and community engagement. For English learner students funding should allow for the provision of a family liaison and support services such as translation services, cultural competency training, family support and engagement, and referrals to resources outside the school.

**Governance and Accountability.** The commission is considering establishing an independent body to oversee and coordinate implementation of the commission’s recommendations over the anticipated phase-in period of 10 years, with up to 25% of new funds subject to approval of initial plans and demonstrated progress during the implementation period. While implementation of new programs is desired for educational improvement, many feel that the State Board and Department of Education should be overseeing implementation rather than a separate body.

All these recommendations will be very costly with a phase-in from $806,594,082 in Fiscal Year 2020 to $4,432,365,165 in FY2030. For more details, see the working papers of the Kirwan Commission [here](#).

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*Lois Hybl,*
LWVMD 1st Vice President, Action
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**Register Today!**
We have an exciting and informative Winter Workshop planned. It will be held on Saturday, January 26 from 9:30am to 2pm at Wilde Lake Interfaith Center in Columbia, MD.

We have three great workshops planned: Bail Reform (State Study/Consensus); NationBuilder Update; Lobbying for Redistricting. As with our Fall Workshop, all three studies will be presented twice. Therefore, each attendee will have the option of attending two out of the three sessions.

These will be followed by lunch and guest speaker, Kim Humphrey, ACLU of Maryland Education/Legislation advocate. Ms. Humphrey will be speaking on the upcoming Kirwan Commission recommendations.

You can register here: [https://www.lwvmd.org/winter_workshop_2019](https://www.lwvmd.org/winter_workshop_2019) or print the flier on page 7.
January is Just Around the Corner...
Roster Update Reminder

This is a gentle reminder to all local League membership chairs and roster managers that your League’s 2019 state and national per member payments (PMP) will be based on the number of active members on your roster on January 31, 2019. Please allow time over the coming weeks to enter and verify all of your member information!

To honor your state board’s pledge that our local Leagues only maintain one set of membership records, the state League will update the LWVUS roster for local Leagues that use the LWVMD NationBuilder database. Please contact me as soon as your NB information is correct and complete, preferably by January 28. After we update your League’s membership data in the national website, I’ll send you a roster for your final approval.

Local Leagues who have chosen to maintain their membership information in the LWVUS database will enter their member updates directly through the Salesforce portal. LWVMD will download this information to update our NationBuilder records.

Please contact me if you need access to the NB training materials or if you’re new to the membership portfolio and unsure what any of this means. Although there will be a session on NationBuilder at the LWVMD Winter Workshop on January 26, I don’t recommend waiting until then to start updating your roster. I’m here to help – just ask!

State League Board Acts to Encourage New Affiliates

At our December meeting, the Board adopted new procedures to make it easier for members-at-large to meet and do the work of the LWV in communities where there is no local League. With the commitment of a 3-person leadership group, eight or more members-at-large in a jurisdiction that isn’t currently served by a local League may apply to form a state League affiliate. LWVMD takes on administrative functions for the affiliate, so its members can focus on League programs and activities in their community.

Carroll County has recently formed a state League affiliate, and we hope to help members-at-large in Cecil and Charles County take this important step. Please encourage anyone who might be interested to contact me for more information.

Niecy Chambers,
LWVMD 2nd Vice President, Membership
vp2@lwvmd.org

Start Planning for LWV’s 99th Birthday Today!

It’s never too early to start planning ways to celebrate all of the hard work dedicated LWV members, volunteers, and supporters have put into defending democracy and empowering voters for 99 years! LWV’s Valentine’s Day birthday, is a great time for local Leagues to encourage giving – whether it’s in the form of donations, time, or memberships. Encourage your local supporters to help support the League for the next 99 years!
A Plan for Action on Redistricting Reform

We owe a shout out to the Montgomery County League who is already hard at working meeting with legislators to share updates on how the redistricting landscape has changed in the nation this year, and push forward reform in 2019. Heading into the legislative session, we want to empower local League leaders to talk to their county’s legislators about reform. We want to educate legislators on the current lay of the land, and to learn where they stand, so we can work collaboratively toward a reform that serves all Maryland voters.

To help you do this, we have put together an Action Kit containing (click image above to view full folder contents):

The Legislative Process & Lobbying: How
Legislative Lingo
What You Need to Know to Lobby for Redistricting Reform
How to Schedule an Appointment with your Legislator
Act in 5, 10 or 30 Minutes...
Sample Letters to the Editor

Please reach out to our redistricting action team to help guide you in advance of any meetings you may schedule by emailing, redistricting_action@lwvmd.org. If you are experienced in successfully meeting with legislators to discuss priorities already, please feel empowered to take this information and start making appointments. PLEASE use this form to report feedback from every interaction with your legislators so we can track and coordinate.
LWVMD WINTER WORKSHOP

*Saturday, January 26, 2019*

Wilde Lake Interfaith Center
10431 Twin Rivers Road
Columbia, MD 21044

9:30 am - 2:00 pm

Workshop fee of $25 (Non-LWV member $30)

9:30 am - 10:00 am Registration and light breakfast

10:00 am - 11:00 am Concurrent Workshops:
Bail Reform (State Study/Consensus)
NationBuilder Update
Lobbying for Redistricting

11:15 am - 12:15 pm Concurrent Workshops:
Bail Reform (State Study/Consensus)
NationBuilder Update
Lobbying for Redistricting

12:30 pm - 1:45 pm Lunch and Speaker:
Kim Humphrey, Legislative Counsel for the ACLU of Maryland Education Program
*The Recommendations of the Kirwan Commission*

1:45 pm - 2:00 pm Announcements

REGISTER ON LINE AT http://www.lwvmd.org/winter_workshop_2019

OR BELOW

WINTER WORKSHOP 2019 REGISTRATION FORM

NAME ____________________________________________________________

LEAGUE ______________________________________________________________________________

Phone ___________________________ Email ____________________________________________________

Workshop fee - $25.00/Non LWV member $30 __________________________

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