First, Congratulations to you! I know that you are engaged in the work of the League and that you care deeply about our Democracy. How do I know this, you may ask? The communications tools your State League employs tell us that the March issue of SBL was sent to 1,458 persons and was opened by 519 people. That 35% open rate is on par with averages reported by other nonprofit organizations. But as you know, to actually get to the content, you had to click and open this PDF document and 112 persons, or 7.68% of our members took this final step. So I thought this was pretty depressing really, until I learned that across the state...
various industries, a 7-8% engagement rate is rather impressive! Looking at the Click Rate in the right-hand column immediately reveals that our members are **twice** as engaged as those sampled in the sample data I found online - And THEN Some! Well, I’m impressed!

Now if you are finding what we are sharing in the State Board Letter helpful to you in your work, mention that in passing to your friends and acquaintances. We would appreciate the boost, and if there is something you think we might have missed, let us know that, too. You truly have an amazing State board.

Throughout the Maryland Legislative session your Report from State Circle reporters have covered all of the bills that touch on our positions from start to finish, remembering to be “reporters” only. Report from State Circle will never tell you what position the League is taking on any particular piece of legislation. That information you will glean through our emailed Action Alerts (11 of them issued so far in 2019, read them under Action on our website). Or, read the testimony we have submitted (so far this year) where you will find 86 examples. And here’s the thing - those same RFSC reporters switched hats and wrote the majority of those pieces of testimony (lest you give Elaine and me too much credit), and that does not include the recommendations to sign onto letters generated by coalition partners! (Next month Elaine will do a proper job of expressing our thanks by providing you their names so you can thank them in person at Convention). Hope to see you there!

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

**Notes from the Board**

Convention is fast approaching, and it is proving to be a great one! There will be 3 Workshops offered and a fantastic Guest Speaker at the dinner: Dr. Kirwin! Joyce has come up with a few great trips for the Fall and to celebrate our 100th Birthday in March. We are all looking forward to these events. Our finances are in good shape and Carolyn is working on a Budget for your approval at Convention. Melanie reported on LWVMD recent studies, the Death with Dignity Study and the Bail Study. We will be discussing these at the Convention as well as continuing the Civic Education Study. Lois did a fantastic job organizing Legislative Day and we hope all those participating had a great day. Don’t forget to get your reservations in for the Convention; it will be a happening event for sure!

**Theresa Frelich**
LWVMD Secretary
secretary@lwvmd.com

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**Reflections on the Rally to End Gerrymandering**

On March 26th, 2019 the League of Women Voters and Common Cause hosted a rally on the steps of the Supreme Court. All around you could see countless national and local League members, all proudly wielding #FAIRMAPS signs, and all eager to have their voices heard. The energy levels were high and our voices rang loud with one clear message: Let’s end gerrymandering.
Attending the rally was not just a duty as interns, but an opportunity to stand up for what is right. This issue should longer be shrugged off as politics as usual and outside of the purview of the Supreme Court. We MUST have a system that puts voters first, rather than one which rewards cunning politicians for becoming experts at political gamesmanship. We MUST not let another election go by in this nation under gerrymandered maps. The Supreme Court MUST make a sweeping declaration that gerrymandering is undemocratic and unconstitutional.

The part of the rally that drew the most attention was of course the two big-name speakers; former California Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger and Governor Larry Hogan. These two spoke about the need for redistricting reform now. Schwarzenegger, the action-star declared, “We must terminate gerrymandering,” and hold the politicians who play with our election lines accountable. Gov. Hogan strongly echoed this sentiment and stated, “Look this is not a fight between the right and the left. This is a fight between right and wrong.”

Every speaker at the rally was equally as passionate, knowledgeable, and dedicated to the cause. Especially impressive were the two high schoolers who powerfully claimed their space on the stage. Josh LaFair, the creator of the gerrymandering board game “Mapmaker”, and Sarah Fishkind, a student leader with the March for Our Lives movement in Howard County, demonstrated the guts it takes to stand in front of over a hundred people and dozens of news cameras and speak out against injustice. Josh decried the manipulation of district lines in his state of Texas and shared his hopes that the justices would tell politicians, “Gerrymandering is NOT a Game.” Sarah spoke about the repercussions of gerrymandered districts on gun policy. This connection isn’t usually what comes to mind when one thinks about gerrymandering, but it gets to the heart of the matter. Sarah pointed out just how high the stakes can be when gerrymandering produces highly partisan districts in which constituents cannot hold their representatives accountable.

The rally on the steps of the Supreme Court radiated a deep sense of unity. There were people from Leagues around the country who had all traveled to D.C. to speak out for an issue that has been detrimental our nation’s core democratic principles. Those who spoke ranged from high profile politicians (both Republican and Democrat) to high school activists and each was met with an equal amount of respect and enthusiasm - is it too much to ask for representation that does the same?

Colleen Herrmann, UMD-College Park ‘21 & Nadia Monnier, Hood College ‘20
League of Women Voters Maryland 2019 Legislative Interns
Program Update
The study on bail is nearly completion as the review committee submitted its report to the state board on Monday, April 1, recommending that LWVMD have a position on bail that addresses release of individuals pre-trial based on a validated, evidenced based, race neutral risk assessment tool; pre-trial services should be available in all jurisdictions; and that bail bond agents should be regulated, monitored and subjected to recourse for abuse.

There was no consensus in the issues of funding of pre-trial services, elimination of bail and the elimination of bond agents.

The formal position statements will be presented to the board at the May meeting and will be included in the Convention Workbook for final decision by membership at convention. The position statement for Death with Dignity will also be presented at convention. Work continues on the civic education study and will be recommended for continuation at convention.

Melanie Cox,
LWVMD Director, Program
mcox@lwvmd.org

LWVMD Membership
It’s that time of year again! Annual Meetings are a great opportunity to watch a League operate, have a nice meal and hear from a knowledgeable speaker. LWVMD Board members look forward to attending these events, and we hope to see you at one or more. See the local League’s website or Facebook page for more information.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>League</th>
<th>Annual meeting date</th>
<th>Speaker</th>
<th>Location</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Anne Arundel</td>
<td>5/11/19</td>
<td>Author Elaine Weiss</td>
<td>11 a.m. Cafe Mezzanotte, 760 Ritchie Hwy, Severna Park</td>
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<tr>
<td>Baltimore City</td>
<td>6/4/19</td>
<td>Journalist E.R. Shipp</td>
<td>5:30 pm Gertrude's at the BMA, 10 Art Museum Dr, Baltimore</td>
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<td>6/15</td>
<td>TBA</td>
<td>Country Club of Maryland (luncheon)</td>
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<td>5/8</td>
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<tr>
<td>Frederick</td>
<td>4/13</td>
<td>Dr. Barbara Brookmyer, County Health Officer</td>
<td>9 a.m. at Brewer’s Alley restaurant, 124 North Market Street, Frederick</td>
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<tr>
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Please reach out to me with any questions.

Niecy Chambers,  
LWVMD Vice President, Membership  
nchambers@lwvmd.org
Call to Convention

The League of Women Voters of Maryland State Convention will be held in Gaithersburg at the Courtyard Marriott from June 7-9. We encourage all Local Leagues to send their full allotment of delegates to this important meeting. Not only will we be choosing our program and electing our new State Board for the next two years, we will also be voting on whether to change our organization entirely over to a 501c3. The convention will also feature three workshops. Saturday's will feature Amy Hjerstedt from LWVUS on fundraising at the local level. There will be two concurrently run sessions on Sunday morning dealing with Forums and Debates by Nancy Smith of Kent County, and Free software for webinars and online meetings by Linda Rittelmann of Baltimore City. The Convention will be hosted by Montgomery County, who will hold a happy hour and dine-a-round on Friday night. We are pleased to announce that our dinner speaker will be Dr. William Kirwan, Chair of the Commission on Innovation and Excellence in Education, otherwise known as the Kirwan Commission. See page 11 for registration information or click here to register online.

In Recognition of Caryl Conry Beal

“When I joined the League, I found a home”

Carly Conry Beal’s life membership in the League of Women Voters demonstrates two things. Participation, advocacy and commitment are at the heart of the “ultimate Leaguer” and home is where the heart is. Over fifty plus years, Ms. Beal supported and advanced the League’s work in Ohio, Virginia, Washington D.C, Mt. Lebanon and the Greater Pittsburgh area, in addition to advocating in Congress with the LWVUS Lobby Corps. Wherever she moved, she found her new League home and left her mark, contributing her skills in numerous positions and at varying levels of leadership. She was often referred to as the “ultimate Leaguer”, whose strong opinions, efficacious arguments and unwavering commitment to League positions were admired by all.

Before her passing on April 7, 2018, Ms. Beal was active within the League of Women Voters of Greater Pittsburgh where her specialization in privatization greatly aided their recent study on...
the topic. Her recent contributions didn’t end there; she also chaired their Agricultural Consensus Committee and played an active role in their Education Advocacy Committee.

Caryl Beal was undoubtedly an “ultimate Leaguer.” Her activist efforts and devotion to creating a more perfect democracy through advocacy and outreach are all critical components of what it means to be an active League member.

Caryl’s legacy will live on in Maryland, thanks to a generous contribution from her family in honor of her extensive achievements. For this, we extend our sincerest gratitude to Caryl Beal and to her family. We hold her memory in our hearts, and pledge to keep the homefires burning for fellow Leaguers now and in the future.

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Did you notice our new logo? LWVUS adopted new brand standards last year and in conjunction, they’ve created custom logos for every League in the country. The national League is eager to see these new images on our websites, emails, publications and social media. Click here to access your League’s logos, and contact LWVMD Online Services Director Deborah Mitchell for help adding them to your website.

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**Internship Reflections**

I only made coffee once, and it was for myself. This was my first internship and I was fully prepared to be going on coffee runs, filing and copying papers, and all of the other monotonous tasks that you often hear interns complain about. I was definitely in for a surprise! I had been on the lookout for a hands-on internship that would expose me to advocacy work and that would also teach me more about the nonprofit sector, and that’s exactly what I got as an intern with the League.

I got to spend my first day connecting with other active and involved people from nonprofits all over the state at Maryland Nonprofit’s Legislative Preview event. From that point on, I was constantly being exposed to fresh experiences that “kept me on my toes” to say the least. One day I would be working on testimony updates, making sure that League members, and all Marylanders, were kept in the loop about the League’s advocacy work. The next day I would be helping to prepare materials for Legislative Day, spontaneously sitting in on a meeting with Costa Rican Congresswomen, or working on LWVMD’s 99th Birthday donation drive. No matter what task was assigned, they all felt meaningful.

Interning for the League has truly been an experience like no other because you’re able
to directly see, and feel the difference that your work makes. Just one example of this was when Ashley, Colleen, and myself were at the SCOTUS Rally to End Gerrymandering. A man attending the event came up to Colleen and I to thank us for LWVMD’s Voter Guides. He was so appreciative of the League for just one of the many publications it makes every year, and that appreciation was from just one of hundreds of people that the League engages with. This may sound cliché, but it warmed my heart to hear it, and that warmth was sorely needed as we had just spent a few hours rallying outside of the Supreme Court in 40 Degree weather (the fact that Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger was on the speaker list helped too).

I knew before starting this internship that LWVMD has spent decades bettering Maryland with its outreach and advocacy work, but being able to actually take part in that work has been an absolute privilege. There’s no doubt that the lessons I’ve learned during these past three months will be pivotal to my success after college and beyond. For that, I am so grateful to have been given this opportunity, thank you!

Nadia Monnier
2019 LWVMD Intern
Hood College ‘20

Interns Nadia Monnier (left) and Colleen Herrmann (right), with LWVMD Administrative Director Ashley Oleson (middle)
Honestly, I’m not sure what I was expecting from my internship with the League of Women Voters of Maryland. I do know, however, that I never expected it would lead to sitting in on committee meetings with members of the Maryland General Assembly (MDGA), meeting a delegation of Costa Rican Congresswomen, and coming within a few inches of Arnold Schwarzenegger. The LWVMD has given me the opportunity to do everything from using social media to educate citizens on MDGA happenings to rallying to end gerrymandering on the steps of the Supreme Court. Along the way, I’ve become familiar with the streets (and tunnels!) of Annapolis.

The League’s fight for voting rights has been one of my favorite parts of this internship. I sat in numerous committee hearings where Nancy Soreng spoke brilliantly in favor of reforms to our electoral system to make it more democratic and more accessible to all Marylanders. I’ve always been passionate about redistricting reform, but my time here has shown me just how important (and just how difficult to achieve!) redistricting reform actually is. Something that should be a no-brainer, such as making sure Maryland’s Congressional delegation actually represents the people of Maryland, is incredibly controversial. This session, every bill introduced to the General Assembly that would reform redistricting for the future received either an unfavorable report or died in committee. We only have one session left to put redistricting reform on the ballot before the 2020 Census triggers the next redistricting cycle, so it has been incredibly frustrating to watch this happen! It has been such a privilege to learn about redistricting from someone actually on the Emergency Commission on Sixth Congressional District Gerrymandering, and

I am inspired by Ashley Oleson’s work with the Commission and her optimistic outlook. Even if the Commission’s bill does not pass this session, their work has set a precedent and serves as an example for the next attempt at redrawing the districts.

Over the past 90 days, I have had the opportunity to meet some incredible people and to work for an incredible organization. I’m so grateful for the opportunities I have had through this internship and for the support and generosity that League members have shown me throughout my time here! Thank you to Ashley Oleson for showing me how to work hard and put in the extra mile for long-term results. Thank you to Nancy Soreng for being an example of true dedication and advocacy for what’s right. Finally, thank you to Nadia Monnier for being the best co-intern I could’ve hoped for! I have spent the past 90 days working with so many dedicated people who do their work out of the goodness of their hearts and their passion for the issues. It’s hard to truly describe how this internship has impacted me, but I know that the lessons the League has taught me are lessons I will carry with me through the rest of college and beyond.

Colleen Herrmann,
2019 LWVMD Intern
University of Maryland, College Park ‘21
**HOTEL RESERVATIONS**

Gaithersburg Marriott
Std King Room $104.00
Std Queen/Queen Room $119.00
Call 800 321 2211 or 301 527 9000 on or before May 17 and identify as member of LWV staying at Courtyard Gaithersburg.

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**FRIDAY, JUNE 7**
3:00 pm Registration
6:00 pm Happy Hour & Dine-Around with LWVMC - Info to follow

**SATURDAY, JUNE 8**
8:00 am - 10:00 am Registration
10:30 am - Noon Plenary Session I
Noon - 1:30 pm Lunch (on your own)
1:30 pm - 3:00 pm Workshop - Fundraising: Creating a Sustainable Future for the League
3:00 pm - 5:00 pm Plenary Session II
6:00 pm Happy Hour
6:30 pm Banquet

*Keynote Speaker* - Dr. Wiliam Kirwan, chair: The Kirwan Commission
Commission on Innovation and Excellence in Education

**SUNDAY, JUNE 9**
9:30 am - 11:00 am Concurrent Workshops - Forums/Webinars and Conference Calls
11:15 am - 11:45 am Plenary Session III
11:45 am - 1:15 pm Networking Lunch
1:15 pm - 2:30 pm Plenary IV
2:30 pm Convention Adjourns

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**LWVMD CONVENTION 2019 REGISTRATION**

*All Convention attendees must register. If you or someone you know would like assistance from the Lois Stoner Scholarship Fund for the registration fee, please contact the LWVMD office at stateoffice@lwvmd.org*

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<th>NAME ____________________________</th>
<th>Registration - $155.00 (After May 23 - $175)</th>
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<td>ADDRESS __________________________</td>
<td>Includes: Workbook, Materials, Sat. breakfast, Sat. banquet, Sun. lunch</td>
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<tr>
<td>LOCAL LEAGUE _____________________</td>
<td>Sat. Banquet ONLY - $99.00</td>
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Please check here if you are a voting DELEGATE________

Please send this completed registration form with your check payable to LWVMD to:
LWVMD, 111 Cathedral Street, Suite 201, Annapolis, MD 21401 or REGISTER ONLINE at:

*Your registration must be received by May 31. Each attendee should fill out a separate registration form.*
Join Maryland Leaguers for OUR DAY on CAPITOL HILL !!!

Tues., Apr. 30, 2019, 10 am to 3:30 pm

✓ Visit our US Senators’ and Representatives’ offices
✓ Enjoy lunch together in staff dining facility
✓ Take part in advocating a LWVUS topic* (voluntary)
✓ Have fun!

*Participants will be briefed by email about the LWVUS topic for advocacy, participating voluntarily.

No fee!!!
Meet at Taxi/Massachusetts Ave. exit inside Union Station, Washington DC, 10 am.
Arrive at Union Station by Amtrak, MARC, Metro, bus or auto. If driving one can park in Union Station’s public parking (assuming space is available.)

To reserve, email Carole or Ashley at CapitolHillTrip@LWVMD.org NO LATER THAN APRIL 23RD
For questions, contact Carole Conors, 410-750-3960 (home), 443-794-4678 (mobile) or CaroleConors@verizon.net.

Name(s)________________________________________________Cell phone # ______________
Email ___________________________ Street Address (not PO Box) _______________________
________________________________________________________________________________

Street address and cell phone required.
The Leagues of Women Voters of
Kent County, Queen Anne’s County, and Mid-Shore

Invite you to a presentation of

“How Maryland Secures Its Elections Systems”

by

Nikki Charlson
Deputy Administrator,
Maryland State Board of Elections

Thursday, April 25, 2019

Luncheon 11:30 a.m. Cost: $30
Presentation 12:30 p.m.

EMMANUEL EPISCOPAL CHURCH (Parish Hall)
101 N. Cross Street, Chestertown

RSVP before April 17 by mailing the tear-off below and your check for lunch at $30 per person payable to LWVKC, to LWVKC PO Box 374 Chestertown MD 21620. If you’d like to pay at the door, reserve your spot by leaving a message at LZelinsk@lwvmd.org or 703-966-7660

Yes, count me (us) in for the Presentation and Luncheon ($30/person) on April 25. There is no charge for attending the Presentation only, but please reserve your seats.

Enclosed is $__________ payable to the LWVKC for ______ (# of members + guests x $30)

Name: ________________________________
Telephone: ___________________________ E-mail: ___________________________
LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF THE NATIONAL CAPITAL AREA

Invites you to:

LWVNCA 2019 Annual Convention
Saturday, May 4th ~ 10:00 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.

Maggiano’s Little Italy
533 Wisconsin Ave. NW
Washington, DC 20015
(Parking lot next door to restaurant and closest Metro: Friendship Heights)

Page Harrington, Keynote
"Women's Suffrage and Race Relations: A Divided Legacy"

Registration at 9:30 will be followed by a buffet breakfast and the keynote presentation. The business meeting will include election of officers, approval of LWVNCA 2019-20 budget, and adoption of the Biennial Program

Cost is $40 per person

Register Online at https://lwvnca2019-annual-convention.eventbrite.com
OR Mail a check payable to: LWV of the National Capital Area, or LWVNCA

Provide a registration form for each person attending the convention. Mail form & check to: Bill Thomas, Treasurer, 19365 Cyprus Ridge Terrace #301, Leesburg VA 20176-8432
Deadline for receipt of forms and checks is April 22, 2019
Questions? Contact: treasurer@lwvnca.org or 703-606-2397

(Please print and include this portion with your check)

Name:______________________________________________________________

Street Address:______________________________________________________

Telephone:_____________Email:_______________________________________

Local or State League:____________________Delegate: (Circle one) Yes No

Number of attendees:_________Amount Enclosed________________________