October
14 – Legislative Priorities Due – p.2
19 – Lucy Burns Museum Tour – p. 10

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

Presidents’ Message

Is she me? How well do you know what our mothers went through in the early part of the 20th century? As we approach our celebration of 100 years of the hard-won right to vote (for some women) we are remembering a particular group of women who in 1917 took their fight for the right to vote to the president. These women stood their ground on the steps of the White House, holding signs imploring the president to give women the right to vote. In response to their peaceful protests, they were sentenced to fines or imprisonment. They chose imprisonment. Some of those arrested were sentenced to the Women’s Workhouse, a D.C. Correctional Facility in Lorton, Virginia. The protesters were held under deplorable conditions. As news of the sentences spread, sympathy for the suffragists was aroused. Even the most hardhearted did not believe that pickets deserved such drastic sentences. After the pickets were released a number of women who had been arrested and served sentences toured the country on the “Prison Special” railroad car to keep public attention focused on the suffrage issue in the Senate.

From July until November of 1917, seventy-two members of the National Women’s Party and “The Silent Sentinels” were incarcerated at the Workhouse for protests advocating for women’s right to vote, including one of the movement’s founders, Lucy Burns.

President Woodrow Wilson reacted to the growing public outrage and finally advised Congress to pass the Susan B. Anthony Amendment. In June 1919 the Congress
submit the 19th Amendment to the states for ratification. By August 1920, 35 states had ratified the amendment. Tennessee became the 36th state to ratify on August 26, 1920. For the first time in November 1920 women were allowed to vote in the national election.

Women marching in Washington for justice doesn’t sound so remote in time when you think about it, does it! Won’t you join us for our tour of the Lucy Burns Museum in Lorton on Saturday, October 19th? Click here for more details.

Richard Willson, Co-President

Seeking Legislative Priorities for 2020

The General Assembly convenes again on January 8, 2020 – click here for the 2020 Dates of Interest Calendar.

We want and need all local League voices to be heard in this process. We have made the call to your Local League presidents. You can reach out to Local League in the days ahead so they can submit suggestions to us at action@lwvmd.org by their October 14, 2019 deadline.

What Topics Should Local Leagues Consider?

Your suggestions may be on any topic for which we have a national or state position. Click here to review our national LWVUS Positions and here to review the state LWVMD Positions.

The LWVMD major legislative priorities fall in the areas of: 1) Making Democracy Work, 2) Protecting the Environment, and 3) Promoting Social & Economic Justice. This year there will be targeted focus on both Redistricting and Increasing Revenue to Support Implementation of the Kirwan Commission Recommendations.

You may consider suggesting that we readopt our major priorities from last year:

Making Democracy Work: Redistricting Reform, Improved Voter Access and Security of Election Processes;

Protecting the Environment: Mitigating Climate Change, Increasing the Use of Clean Renewable Energy, Ensuring Safe water and Clean Waterways for All;

New Board Member, Roy Appletree, Honored

The Holland Awards Dinner, a project of the Community Action Council of Howard County, annually recognizes an individual or organization that demonstrates extraordinary commitment and dedication to serving the most vulnerable in Howard County. This year, Roy & Sue Appletree will receive the Humanitarian Award for their work with Prepare for Success. Prepare for Success, is an organization dedicated to providing backpacks and other tools needed for learning.

Because of their efforts, hundreds of students in the Howard County Public School System enter their classrooms at the start of every academic year with the equipment they need to succeed without their parents straining to purchase it.

Roy, along with Kimberly Scott, were elected at the 2019 LWVMD Convention to serve as LWVMD Action Chairs. We are lucky to have them working for us.

If you know of other recognitions received by members of the LWVMD Board, please let me know so they can be acknowledged as well.

Nancy Soreng
nsoreng@lwvmd.org

You may also want to consult “The 90 Day Report” and “Issue Papers” found on the Maryland General Assembly website. They provide a summary of legislation that passed and failed in the 2019 session. You may particularly want to examine ideas that failed but we may want to raise again.

You may also look to the news and our coalition partners such as the Maryland Education Coalition, Tame the Gerrymander, Maryland Alliance for the Poor and the Maryland Climate Coalition.

League members who have questions about our consensus positions may contact either your local officers or us directly at rappletree@lwvmd.org or kscott@lwvmd.org.

We are honored to be serving as the new co-chairs of the Action Committee.

Kimberly Scott & Roy Appletree, Action Co-Chairs

Questions Needed for VOTE411.org and Voter’s Guides

Every election season, the League of Women Voters asks candidates to answer questions on topics of importance to our voters. The candidates’ responses are posted on www.VOTE411.org and included in printed copies of the Voter’s Guide.

As always, each local league will be responsible for writing and posting its own questions for local offices. The State Board will be responsible for questions for candidates for state offices. In 2020, these will be Representatives in Congress and Judges of the Circuit Court. As the same questions will be used across Maryland, we ask that each local league provide 6-8 questions, in order of priority, for the above offices. Questions are due to Barbara Crain (bcrain@lwvmd.org) by December 9, 2019 so that State Board members can review all the submissions prior to the State Board meeting on December 16. The final questions will be posted on VOTE411.org in January and sent to candidates at the end of that month.

Hints:
- Ask open-ended questions that invite views on a range of specific policies related to the topic.
- Use terms that voters can understand (i.e., avoid jargon).
- Avoid phrasing that suggests the answer we would like to hear.
- Cover a range of issues that the person in that office will need to decide.
• Cover issues of interest to the public ("hot topics").

Recommendations from LWVUS:

• Focus on questions that are core to what voters in your area are immediately concerned about in the upcoming election, which may or may not align with League priorities. Providing voters with the information they are looking for to make an informed decision is our #1 priority.
• Don’t provide background information or opinions. Ask the question you want to ask without adding any additional information. Let the candidates answer the question as best they can. The shorter the question the better.
• Be very careful with word choice. Changing one word in a question can make the question drastically different.
• Only ask one question at time. If necessary, ask a follow-up or second question.
• Even if the League has a position on a specific issue, do not include any of that information in the question to the candidates.

Barbara Crain, Voter Service Director
bcrain@lwvmd.org

People Powered Fair Maps Campaign

In case you missed it, LWV has launched a nationwide campaign to fight for Fair Maps! The People Powered Fair Maps Campaign, is a powerful collaboration between national, state, and local Leagues with the aim of positioning LWV as the premiere on-the-ground leading organization fighting for fair redistricting. This campaign will launch in the fall of 2019 and is expected to be a signature national campaign for the League through 2022.

The work will look different in each state, but the campaign is comprised of five major focus areas:
1. Ballot Initiatives or Referendums
2. State Constitutional Options
3. State Legislative Fixes
4. Federal Legislative Fixes
5. Civic Engagement & Education
As you can see on this color-coded campaign map, Maryland will be engaging in the fight on multiple levels. We look forward to sharing the next steps with you in the near future as plans unfold. In the meantime, our grassroots efforts continue. If you are looking for ways to push for Fair Maps in Maryland learn how you can take action by clicking here now - you can act in as little as 5 minutes!

Join the National “She is Me” Campaign Celebrating 100 years of LWV!

What is She Is Me?
- She Is Me is an online campaign to celebrate 100 years of League work through the inter-generational stories of our real League of Women Voters members.
- The goal of She Is Me is to generate awareness of the League of Women Voters among new audiences, focusing on cultivating the next generation of LWV supporters.

When will She Is Me happen?
- She Is Me officially launched on August 15, 2019, near the 99th anniversary of the ratification of the 19th Amendment.
- The campaign is ongoing, starting in 2019 and running through the 2020 election.

Who will be featured in She Is Me?
- The national She Is Me campaign will feature stories of real League members of different backgrounds, generations, and locations—even genders! The campaign will launch with six powerful, inspirational women members - our very own state
director, Ashley Oleson is included for her work on redistricting reform - read her story and others here: https://www.lwv.org/sheisme

- Your League can participate by highlighting stories of your amazing local and state League members! The national campaign will grow to feature more members of other genders throughout the campaign. Share
- the stories your League’s amazing members with the She is Me Toolkit and help to celebrate the past and future of LWV!

Click to read more about how your League can launch its own campaign and to access graphics, overlays, and pre-made posts to help your League be a part of She is Me!

Please Attend and Promote “Kirwan” Education Forms

For public elementary and secondary public education, the League of Women Voters of Maryland has supported “A foundation program based on a weighted per pupil formula supported from general state revenues at a level high enough to eliminate inequities” since the early 1970s. We are once again at a crossroads where programs preparing to recommend changes in formulas to implement the Kirwan recommendations over the next ten years. It will take robust public knowledge and support for the programmatic recommendations and additional revenue to get legislation passed in the 2020 session of the General Assembly.

Therefore, LWVMD has joined the Coalition for the Blueprint for Maryland’s Future to garner support for the legislation. A first priority has been to organize a series of forums to educate the public on the Kirwan Commission recommendations and motivate people to contact legislators in support of the recommendations and the funding necessary. According to a recent Goucher poll (Baltimore Sun, Sept. 23), “74% of Marylanders said they support personally paying more in taxes to improve public education, while only 26% were opposed.” However, “…the poll also showed a majority of Marylanders — 77% — know nothing about the work of the Kirwan commission….” I have heard that
Legislators are not hearing from constituents asking for their support for the Kirwan recommendations.

So it is really important that we attend these forums and help publicize them widely to get the public more educated and motivated to act. People need to go to https://www.marylandblueprint.org/rsvp/ to find out about forums in their county and to RSVP.

Following are the forums which have been scheduled. More are planned, but details may not have been finalized.

- **Allegany County Forum on October 3**
  6:30pm - Christ Lutheran Church @ 1222 Vocke Rd, Cumberland

- **Anne Arundel County Forum on October 22**
  6:00pm - IBEW Local 1805 @ 898 Airport Park Rd, #207, Glen Burnie

- **Baltimore City Forum on October 24**
  6:00pm - Dorothy I Height Elementary @ 2011 Linden Ave, Baltimore

- **Calvert County Forum on November 13**
  6:30pm - Full Gospel Assembly of God @ 890 Solomons Island Rd S, Prince Frederick

- **Cecil County Forum on November 12**
  6:00pm - Elk Room at the Cecil County Administration Building @ 200 Chesapeake Blvd, Elkton

- **Charles County Forum on October 7**
  6:30pm - Stoddert Middle School Cafeteria @ 2040 St Thomas Dr, Waldorf

- **Dorchester County Forum on November 7**
  6:00pm - Dorchester Career and Tech Center @ 2465 MD-16, Cambridge

- **Frederick County Forum on October 29**
  7:00pm - Delaplane Arts Center @ 40 S Carroll St, Frederick

- **Frederick County Forum on November 14**
  7:00pm - Urbana Fire Hall @ 3602 Urbana Pike, Frederick

- **Garrett County Forum on October 15**
  6:00pm - Garrett College - Room 111 @ 687 Mosser Rd, McHenry

- **Harford County Forum on October 29**
  6:00pm - Aberdeen High School @ 251 Paradise Rd, Aberdeen

- **Howard County Forum on October 2**
  5:30pm - Patapsco Middle School @ 8885 Old Frederick Road, Ellicott City

- **Howard County Forum on October 16**
  5:30pm - Harper's Choice Middle School @ 5450 Beaverkill Rd, Columbia

- **Howard County Forum on November 6**
  6:00pm - Lake Elkhorn Middle School @ 6680 Cradlerock Way, Columbia

- **Montgomery County Forum on October 5**
  10:00am - Gaithersburg Holiday Inn @ 2 Montgomery Village Ave, Gaithersburg

- **Montgomery County Forum on November 6th**
  6:00pm - Blair High School @ 51 University Blvd E, Silver Spring

- **Prince George’s County Forum on October 10**
  7:00pm - Laurel High School Media Center @ 8000 Cherry Ln, Laurel

- **Prince George’s County Forum on October 23**
  7:00pm - Bowie Center for the Performing Arts @ 15200 Annapolis Rd, Bowie

- **Prince George’s County Forum on November 12**
  7:00pm - Prince George's Community College - Rennie Forum @ 301 Largo Rd, Largo

- **Prince George’s County Forum on November 18**
  7:00pm - Oxon Hill High School Media Center - 6701 Leyte Dr, Oxon Hill

- **Queen Anne’s County Forum on November 14**
  6:00pm - Centreville Middle School @ 231 Ruthsburg Road, Centreville

- **Wicomico County Forum on November 14**
  6:00pm - Wicomico Public Library @ 122 S. Division St, Salisbury
Contact Sean Johnson, sejohnson@mseanea.org if you want to help with any forums or have suggestions for panelists,

Contact me at lhyl@lwvmd.org if you would like copies of flyers or media posts that you could adapt to your county event. Thanks for anything you can do to promote these forums.

As of the deadline for this State Board Letter, I don’t have the file for the specific slides that Christopher Meyer and Kali Schumitz used in their discussion of “Revenue Sources for Kirwan Funding.” However, here is a link to their organization’s webpage which provides much of the information: http://www.mdeconomy.org/building-our-future/

And my thanks to LWVMD board members and Theresa Lawler of Baltimore County for the delicious contribution of breakfast items.

Lois Hybl, Co-President

LWVUS Census Webinar Recording and Materials Available

In July, LWVUS recorded a webinar on Census 2020 to get us ready for the important work to come. Here is a link to the recording (starts at about 9 minutes in) for those unable to attend or those who would like to revisit the materials or view them for the first time is now available.

In addition to the recording, please be sure to check out the census topic page on LWV.org and the census action kit on the League Management Site. For questions about census related activities please email advocacy@lwv.org.

Census.gov Social Media Resources & More

The LWVUS toolkit includes some links that you will be able to use on social media, but if you are looking for some pre-made posts and easily downloadable social media images, the U.S. Census Bureau has you covered.
The Census Bureau has a wealth of information and tools beyond these social media kits, so please explore their site for your online content and any printable materials that you may want to bring to other events you host or participate in.

The LWVMD Annapolis Office Has Moved!

On September 1st, we moved from our former location at 111 Cathedral Suite to our new digs at 121 Cathedral. This move puts us a tiny bit closer to the government building, but it also comes with other great perks:

- Two free parking spaces – a real gift in Annapolis
- Free Wi-fi
- Thanks to Ashley’s tech skills, we will no longer have a phone bill as we are making use of Google phone
- Two bigger rooms,
- A shared kitchen-space
- A shared conference-room

We are located on the 2nd floor of the building right at the top of the stairs. There’s still a bit of unpacking and organizing to do, but once everything is squared away, we will share pictures.

Nancy Soreng
Saturday, October 19, 2019
7:00 am - Board bus at Wilde Lake Interfaith Center
10431 Twin Rivers Road, Columbia
7:45 am - Board bus at Giant Grocery Store
15520 Annapolis Road, Bowie
Lunch on your own
Return by 5:00 pm

Lucy Burns Museum Tour, Lorton, VA - October 19, 2019
Name(s) ________________________________________________________
Phone __________________________ League _________________________
Email _____________________________ Please check which city you'll be picked up in:
Columbia_______ Bowie__________

Mail your check for $65 per LWV member/$75 guest made out to LWVMD to:
LWVMD, 121 Cathedral St., Ste. 2B, Annapolis, MD 21401
or
Register online at: https://www.lwvmd.org/lucy_burns_museum_tour
I cannot attend but enclose a donation $______________

Final date for received reservations is October 17