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Co-Presidents: Lois Hybl & Richard Willson

STATE BOARD LETTER

December 2019

LWVMD Calendar

January

- 8 – First day of the Maryland General Assembly Legislative Session
- 14 – Telephone Townhall on the 2020 Census & Fair Maps Act, [see pg. 7](#)
- 20 – Martin Luther King, Jr. Day – LWVMD Office Closed
- 21 - State Board Meeting – 7:00 - 9:00PM (online)
- 25 – Winter Workshop, [see pg. 8](#)

February

- 1 – Winter Workshop Snow Date
- 4 – Congressional District 7 Special Primary Election, [see pg. 3](#)
- 14 – [LWV “Women Power the Vote” Day of Action](#) & LWVMD’s 100th Birthday!
- 17 – Fair Maps Lobby Night – [see pg. 9](#)

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

Presidents’ Message

With the beginning of a new year and another **General Assembly session opening on January 8**, we have the challenge of working BOTH on our external legislative goals as well as working on our internal organizational goals.

For example, two of our major priorities are redistricting reform and passing legislation to implement and fund the Kirwan Commission education recommendations. Our redistricting activists have led forums and are working hard to identify legislators to sponsor bills that would provide standards, an independent redistricting commission and transparency. Our environmental committee members have been active between sessions. Through the Coalition for the Blueprint for Maryland’s Future, we have been involved in forums to provide education

and motivation for citizens to support the Kirwan legislation. Those of us representing our organizations have been meeting with key legislators and making phone calls.

We want to believe that the new leadership in the General Assembly will make it easier to pass our priorities. However, we can't overemphasize the importance of phone calls and other communications from constituents. From being active in education circles, it seems like everyone is talking about Kirwan. Yet I met many people who have no idea about who Dr. Kirwan is or what the commission has recommended. And some legislators will say they have not heard much from their constituents. This scenario may be true about our other priorities.

So, when you get those notices about the need to attend lobby days and nights and demonstrations or the action alerts, please remember how much we need your presence and/or phone calls and emails. If legislators are to take the heat for supporting our priorities, we must make them do it.

At the same time, we can't forget our internal organizational goals.

Planning takes time and effort, so thanks to the members of your State Board who met gave up the morning of Saturday, November 23rd, to begin our planning conversation. Here are some tips that may help local leagues in their planning efforts:

Goals should be **SMART** and of course that is an acronym:

S is for Specific (the goal spells out what will be achieved)

M is for Measurable (how will it be measured)

A is for Achievable

R is for Realistic; and

T is for Time bound (Smart goals use phrases like "by September of 2020...)

The State Board found that a good way to approach planning was to first review the League's mission and then to build a picture of the current situation by naming the Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities and Threats of the organization. The so-called SWOT analysis leads naturally into the identification of the things your organization needs to work on and helps make the goals you set **SMART**.

Lois Hybl and Richard Willson
pres@lwvmd.org

Be a Part of History – Volunteer at the LWVUS Convention and 100th Anniversary Celebration

This year, the LWVUS Convention will be at the Capitol Hill Hyatt Regency Hotel. This historic convention, which marks the 100th Anniversary of the League of Women Voters, will take place June 25th to June 28th.

Whenever the LWVUS Convention is held in Washington DC, League members from

Maryland, Virginia and the District of Columbia are called on to volunteer to help with many roles including: Registration and Check-in, Hospitality, and various duties related to the Plenary Sessions including: microphone monitors, vote tellers, assistants to the parliamentarian and more.

Volunteering is a way to participate in convention without being a delegate and paying for registration. It is a great way to meet League members from around the country (and U.S. territories.) Volunteers will also receive one free ticket to the Capitol Steps which will be performing at the Convention venue. Information about how to volunteer will be on-line in February. Mark your calendars and plan to be part of this exciting event!

Nancy Soreng
nsoreng@lwvmd.org



There will be a special primary election (on Tuesday, February 4, 2020) and a special general election (on Tuesday, April 28, 2020) to fill the remaining months of Congressman Elijah Cummings' term of office as U.S. Representative to Congress from Maryland's 7th Congressional District. Approximately half the voters in this district live in Baltimore City, with the rest divided between Baltimore and Howard Counties.

This is a very high-profile election with a very large slate of candidates that includes 8 Republicans and 24 Democrats. With so many individuals to choose from, it has been particularly important to get information about the candidates to the voters as quickly as possible. The League of Women Voters of Maryland has been taking several approaches to this:

1. First, the LWV of Maryland (including Ralph Watkins and Barbara Crain) have been organizing VOTE411 and Voters' Guides. All 32 candidates have been invited to respond to the League's questions on current topics of interest to voters. Twenty-one of them replied, and their answers are now posted and available to voters at VOTE411.org. The site also includes links to the websites and social media contact information for all candidates. Printed Voters' Guides will be distributed by the three local leagues in mid-January.

2. Second, Alice Giles from the Howard County league has taken a very creative and proactive approach to getting this large number of candidates to speak to the voters. All candidates have been invited to participate in one-on-one interviews that will be videotaped and posted on League websites and on YouTube. Of note, her interviews will be accompanied by a detailed key to the questions so that voters can easily compare the candidates' answers to specific questions.
3. Finally, a committee from the Baltimore City and County leagues is working on a social media campaign to publicize both the election itself and LWV's information about the candidates to voters in the 7th District.

Thanks to all these members for their hard work. These were big tasks in December, particularly as they spanned the various holidays.

Barbara Crain
bcrain@lwvmd.org

LWVMD Internship Reflection



I had only known about the League for a few months before I started this internship, but I am so lucky I found out about it when I did because these past few months have taught me more than I could ever have imagined. Going into LWVMD on my first day, I had a few skills that would help me, but leaving on my last day, I have so many more. I have learned everything from how to approach a legislator to the details of planning a nonprofit event to navigating website content and database information.

During the time of my internship, one of the biggest projects of focus in the office was gerrymandering. With the launch of the national People Powered Fair Maps Campaign and little time until the 2020 Census and 2020 redistricting process, it was crucial that we work towards passing redistricting reform in the upcoming session. Because of this, I had the ability to be a part of meetings regarding introducing redistricting bills and create content to help the campaign. Along the way I learned so much about the issue from Ashley, having an in-office redistricting expert was an awesome resource.

One of the coolest parts about was that it was not just desk me to so many events where I things happening in action. few weeks, I had met with a Pakistani Congresswomen and Maryland General Assembly Adrienne Jones at the LWVMD was exposed to people I would encounter in my daily life and



this experience work. Ashley took got to see more Within my first delegation of heard from Speaker Fall Workshop. I not normally hearing from

them was an honor. Later on, I had the opportunity to meet with my own state legislators and attend redistricting and Census 2020 events, where, again, I could see where the nonprofit work met the public eye.

What I have learned over the past three months is invaluable and will help me for many years to come, and for that I am very grateful for the opportunity and for the support I have been given from Ashley and from everyone else at the League!

Julia Barrow

Attention: Membership Chairs, Roster Managers & Treasurers

Your League's 2020 invoice for Per Member Payments will be based on your roster of active members as of January 31, 2020. LWVMD relies on the information our local Leagues enter in NationBuilder (NB) to provide this tally to LWVUS. To be able to complete this process prior to the January 31 deadline, **we ask that you finalize your roster in NB by January 29**. Please remember to update the custom fields and tags for all members (new, renewing and non-renewing), and contact me if you have questions or need any help.

I'd appreciate your letting me know as soon as your League's roster is good to go. Thank you!

Niecy Chambers, LWVMD VP-Membership
nchambers@lwwmd.org - (973) 975-6041

LWVMD Board Highlights from December

- Barbara Crain is busy working on VOTE411.org and has set up training dates in January.
- The Board is working on updating their web knowledge which will hopefully make communications with the Local Leagues smoother.
- Legislative Day will be in early March as well as the Winter Workshop on January 25th. Plans are moving along. Be sure to sign up for both as they look to be outstanding this year.
- Financially your State Board is in good shape. We are working hard to make your money work for you.
- Elaine Apter is still concerned about the Concurrence report that she reviewed at the Fall Workshop. The details will be taken up at the National Convention in June.
- The Board hopes that Local Leagues are planning activities to celebrate the 100th Anniversary of the League. If your League is planning something special, please let your Presidents, Richard Willson and Lois Hybl, know.

Report from State Circle Subscriptions Available

Be Sure You Are Subscribed to [Report from State Circle](#).

The *Report from State Circle* is produced by League volunteers who monitor legislation in Annapolis. There are 6 issues between the end of January the end of April, while the MD General Assembly is in session. Everyone is invited to subscribe and email subscriptions are free! Snail mail subscriptions are \$15. [Sign up here](#).

For the 2020 General Assembly session we have 24 League volunteers prepared to cover a broad spectrum of social, economic, environmental and governmental proposed legislation before the Maryland General Assembly.

This publication is meant to be nonpartisan and educational. To see if and how the League testified on legislation, check the [Testimony](#) page at lwvmd.org. We will also be emailing regular updates on when LWVMD testifies throughout session to everyone who is signed up for [Action Alerts](#) – so [sign up](#) today to stay informed!

Calendar Coordination

The state League needs our local Leagues' input to help us avoid scheduling overlapping or conflicting activities. Is your Annual Meeting on the calendar? Have you planned a celebration of the League's 100th Anniversary? When will you conduct your annual fundraising drive?

We're developing a Google form to collect this information and hope to share it with local League presidents in January. In the meantime, local Leagues are encouraged to send their 2020 calendar of events to nchambers@lwvmd.org or the LWVMD office.

HOW TO CONTACT YOUR REPRESENTATIVE



Not sure what to do when you receive an **Action Alert**? Here's a helpful guide!

READ YOUR ALERT!



LWVMD works with legislators on behalf of its members to advance and protect the causes they care about most - read the Action Alert and decide how you want to help LWVMD advocate for your cause!

MAKE A PHONE CALL

It might seem like your busy representative's office won't have time to take a call from you - but that's what they are there for! And a call counts! Legislative Aides have running tally lists for every call they receive for an against legislation.



MAIL A LETTER

Yes! In the Post!



Sometimes it's easy to disregard an email - especially when many constituents are reaching out to their representative on lots of issues - taking the time to write a letter can really attract your rep's attention!

SEND AN EMAIL

Sometimes it *CAN* be as easy as sending your representative a quick email. Legislators may receive hundreds of emails from their constituents, but they know their duty to the people, so their offices devote serious man power to ensure each email is read and your voice is heard.



QUESTIONS?

Still have some questions? Contact your LWVMD Action Chair at action@lwvmd.org

FOR MORE INFORMATION VISIT US AT WWW.LWVMD.ORG



[facebook.com/LWVMD](https://www.facebook.com/LWVMD)



[@LWVMD](https://twitter.com/LWVMD)

Want to be sure you're ready to ACT this legislative session? Make sure you're signed up to get [LWVMD's Action Alerts](#) - [Click here now!](#)

JANUARY 14, 2020 7:00PM EST

FEATURING

JOIN MARYLAND'S TELEPHONE-TOWN HALL ON

2020 CENSUS & THE FAIR MAPS ACT



Senator
Mary Washington



Delegate
Jheanelle Wilkins



STATE INNOVATION EXCHANGE
stateinnovation.org



In Maryland we are working to ensure an accurate 2020 Census Count to understand our communities' needs and secure the essential resources for our everyday lives e.g. transportation needs, education, healthcare. This data will be also critical the process of redrawing our election maps in 2021, and ensuring our state is able to harness the full political power of every person. In order for the redistricting process to be successful, we must repair our redistricting process so that it produces Fair Maps.

Join us for a 2020 Census and Redistricting telephone-town hall sponsored by the State Innovation Exchange in partnership with Common Cause Maryland, and the League of Women Voters of Maryland.

We'll be discussing statewide efforts to get out the count and the Fair Maps Act, establishing Standards for Congressional election districts that will help Maryland relinquish it's status as owner of the worst gerrymander in the nation and raise up all of the diverse voices of the state.

Guest Speakers

Senator Mary Washington (D-43, Baltimore City)
Delegate Jheanelle Wilkins (D-20, Montgomery County)

RSVP: <https://tthm.wufoo.com/forms/youre-invited-to-a-md-teletownhall-on-january-14/>

Let's make sure the Maryland 2020 Census count is accurate and urge the General Assembly to put the Fair Maps Act on the ballot in 2020, before the next redistricting process starts in 2021. Join us!

LWV LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS®
OF MARYLAND
WINTER WORKSHOP

Saturday, January 25, 2020

Wilde Lake Interfaith Center

10431 Twin Rivers Road

Columbia, MD 21044

9:30 am - 2:00 pm



Workshop fee - \$25 / Non-LWV member - \$30 (Early Bird Pricing through 1/17)

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

10:00 am - 11:00 am "Dangers of a Constitutional Convention"

Jessica Jones Capparell - LWVUS

11:15 am - 12:15 pm Potential Partnerships for Celebrating our 100th Year

12:30 pm- 1:45 pm Lunch and Speaker:

Robert S. McCord, Maryland Secretary of Planning
The 2020 Census

1:45 pm - 2:00 pm Announcements

*Snow Date: Feb. 1, 2020.
Check **LWVMD.org**
if weather is inclement.

REGISTER ON LINE AT www.lwvmd.org/winter_workshop_2020

OR BELOW

WINTER WORKSHOP 2020 REGISTRATION FORM

NAME _____

LEAGUE _____

Phone _____ Email _____

Before 1/17 Members \$25/Non LWV Member \$30

After 1/17 Members \$30/Non LWV Member \$35 \$ _____

Donation to the LWVMD \$ _____

Or donate online at www.lwvmd.org/make_donation

Mail to: LWVMD, 121 Cathedral Street, Suite 2B, 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: stateoffice@lwvmd.org



2020 is the year for Fair Maps...

but we need you to put the **People Power** in the movement to get it done!

Join the Tame the Gerrymander coalition in Annapolis to meet with legislators and tell them how important it is that they pass redistricting reform for fair election maps for the next decade! These maps will be drawn in 2021 - so there is no time to lose.

[Please Click Here to Sign Up at Eventbrite if you plan to attend so we can coordinate appointments the appropriate legislators.](#) Thank you!

Be sure to get to Annapolis early to find parking - this will be a busy night in Annapolis! [Click here to learn more about parking options.](#)

To Learn More about Redistricting Advocacy and ideas about what you can do NOW visit https://www.lwvmd.org/redistricting_action



LEGISLATIVE DAY

Wednesday, March 4, 2020

House Office Building
6 Bladen Street, Room 150
Annapolis, MD 21401



Registration fee: \$35 Members/\$40 - Guests

Includes buffet lunch Parking not included

Photo ID required for admission to all Maryland government buildings.

8:30am Registration and Coffee

8:30 -10:00 am Visits to Legislators arranged by Local Leagues
Local Leagues are responsible for making those appointments in advance.

10:00 am Report on legislative visits

11:00 am State budget presentation by Victoria Gruber,
Executive Director, Department of Legislative Services

Noon Lunch - Panel Discussion featuring our coalition partners

1:00 pm Optional visits to committee hearings

LEGISLATIVE DAY 2020 REGISTRATION FORM

If you or someone you know would like assistance from the Lois Stoner Scholarship Fund for the workshop fee, please contact the LWVMD office. stateoffice@lwvmd.org
REGISTER EARLY - PRICES INCREASE BY \$5 ON FEBRUARY 19, 2020

NAME _____

LEAGUE _____

Phone _____ Email _____

Registration fee - \$35/\$40 _____ Donation to the LWVMD Education Fund _____

Or donate online: Go to https://www.lwvmd.org/make_donation

Mail to: LWVMD, 121 Cathedral St, Suite 2B, Annapolis, MD 21401

Or register online: http://www.lwvmd.org/leg_day_2020