

the **Howard County VOTER**

OCTOBER 2018

CO-PRESIDENT LETTER

by Betsy Grater and Beth Hufnagel, Co-Presidents

I am going to start off this month telling you about a book that I read and just today enjoyed hearing her speak at an event sponsored by the League of Women Voters of Baltimore City. I wish all of you could have been there to hear her. However, you can read her book, *The Women's Hour* by Elaine Weiss (available in the HC Library). Some authors that I have heard are not good speakers, but I thoroughly enjoyed Mrs. Weiss. You will relive all the history you know about the passing of the 19th Amendment in an interesting story and the relevance of the times today. She knew her audience and pointed out particular references to the LWV when it was "born".

Secondly, I would like to emphasize our new fundraiser: "A scrappy Quilt", which is being raffled off to benefit the League of course! All Board members have tickets, or you can call the office. See the flyer for more details but buy your tickets NOW!

Please check the remainder of the Voter for many of the important events to come in the remainder of September and then into October. Your participation is welcomed and urged. The candidates will be speaking giving you an opportunity to put a face, voice and positions to the names. You may also assist in helping in the orchestration of each forum.

We will also concentrate in Units on our priorities for the upcoming Legislative session. Your voice on what the League should concentrate our efforts is part of your duty as a member. Please attend one of the units.

Come to the Mall on Wednesday, September 25, near the Food Hall and stop by our booth. We are honored by the Mall to permit us to register voters on this National Voter Registration Day. It is a first. In addition, Voter Registrations will be taking place at the Howard County libraries. Please see the schedule in your handbook or in the body of the Voter.

As I write this, I know we are thinking about the many people affected by Hurricane Florence. The destruction and devastation are enormous and hopefully, those affected will be able to start over and continue their lives with minimal interruption.

Betsy and Beth

UPCOMING EVENTS

October 4

LWVHC Board Meeting, 7:00 pm at Oakland Manor

October 5

Happy Hour at Jailbreak Brewing
5:30 pm

October 17

Unit Meeting, 10:00 am at Vantage House

October 18

Unit Meeting, 7:00 pm at Oakland Manor

October 22

Tino's Fundraiser, 11:00 am – 10:00 pm, Tino's Italian Bistro, Columbia

The League of Women Voters is where hands-on work to safeguard democracy leads to civic improvement.

WHAT IS THE LWV OF THE NATIONAL CAPITAL AREA?

by Andrea Morris Gruhl, Liaison from LWVHC and LWVMD

The League of Women Voters of the National Capital Area (LWVNCA) is an Inter-League-Organization (ILO). It is one of around twenty ILO's in the League of Women Voters of the United States (LWVUS)--almost all surrounding a major city. LWVNCA is unique among them since we surround the nation's capital city and have member Leagues situated in nearby portions of two states, Virginia and Maryland. The LWVDC is obviously at the heart geographically of our ILO.

We have a Board that acts as a council. The LWVNCA Board has an Executive Committee, four Directors and board-ranked Liaisons from each of the local Leagues and the state level LWV of Maryland (LWVMD) and LWV of Virginia (LWV-VA). LWVNCA's participating local Leagues are those of Howard, Frederick, Montgomery, Prince George's, LWVDC, Arlington, Fairfax, and Loudoun counties and the city of Falls Church.

Issues of common interest, such as transportation and environment, propelled the LWVNCA into existence several decades ago and continue to promote, along with other mutually important issues, our healthy collaboration.

The LWVNCA Board convenes in the LWVUS Board Room in DC midday on the first Friday of each month, except August.

SAVE THE DATE! → **HAPPY HOUR**

Join us on **October 5, 2018** at **5:30** for the League of Women Voters of Howard County Fall Happy Hour!



We will be meeting at Jailbreak Brewing Company, 9445 Washington Boulevard North, Suite F, Laurel, MD 20723.

This event is open to anyone who wants to

SAVE THE DATE! → **LEGISLATIVE KICKOFF**

The LWVHC Legislative Kickoff will be held on **January 5, 2019**. Please note that, because of how large the event has become, it will be held at a new location: **St. John's Episcopal Church, 9120 Frederick Rd. Ellicott City**.

We hope to see you there.

ABOUT US

Officers

Co-President: Betsy Grater

Co-President: Beth Hufnagel

Vice President: Thea Jones

Secretary: Michele Rice Trotter

Treasurer: Barbara Russell

Directors

Action: Linda Wengel

Communications/Voter Editor:

Krista Threefoot

Education: Patricia Gordon

Environment: Betsy Singer

Membership: Roxanne Hughes-Wheatland & Cheryle Wharton

Roster Manager: Shari Glenn

Voter Services/Webmaster: Alice Giles

Off Board

Susan R. Buswell: Great Decisions/Gift Card Fundraiser

Janis Cripe: Great Decisions

Andrea Gruhl: LWVNCA Liaison

Nominating Committee

Nancy Berla

Sue Buswell

Joan Lancos

Contact Us

Howard County LWV
5430 Vantage Point Rd. Suite C,
Columbia, MD 21044
410-730-0142
info@howard.lwvmd.org



OCTOBER PROGRAMS REPORT

By Thea Jones, Vice-President

Thanks to all who attended the September Unit meetings where there were excellent discussions revolving around our priorities for the 2019 Maryland General Assembly. Our decisions were sent to the LWVMD where they will be prioritized along with information submitted by other Maryland leagues. These priorities will be publicized in November and used as the basis for discussion with members of the Maryland General Assembly. A follow-up Legislative Update will be held in Annapolis in early March during the General Assembly. More information on this event to follow.

October Unit Meetings

Wednesday, October 17, 2018 at 10:00 a.m. at Vantage House

Thursday, October 18, 2018 at 7:00 p.m. at Oakland Manor

Topics:

✓ **LWVUS Legislative Priorities**

Much of the work of the LWV at the local, state, and national levels is based upon positions which are made through study, discussion and consensus taken by local league members at Unit Meetings. At our October meeting, we have been asked to advise the League of Women Voters of the United States (LWVUS) of legislative priorities which are important to us. They will use our input as they prioritize, at the national level, those issues which we would like them to support when meeting with members of the United States Congress and influential decision makers at the national level. Issues may be categorized under the topics of:

- Voting Rights
- Elections
- The Environment
- Gun Laws
- Immigration
- Health Care Reform
- International Relations
- Public Education
- Military Defense Spending

If you would like to think about some of these issues from a national perspective prior to the unit meetings (definitely not mandatory) you can visit the LWVUS website at <https://www.lwv.org/> to find short descriptions or you can find a synopsis of the current LWVUS Public Policy Positions in our LWVHC 2018-2019 Handbook on pages 33 – 49.

✓ **2018 General Election Ballot Questions**

There are two ballot questions that will be put before the voters in November. Both will be discussed at our October meeting.

Question 1: Gambling and Education – Dedicating certain gambling revenue to education.

Question 2: Elections – Authorizes the legislature to enact laws allowing for same-day voter registration.

Article continues on the next page



OCTOBER PROGRAMS REPORT, continued

By Thea Jones, Vice President

To the Future:

There is not a unit meeting in November, however, please plan to attend one of the Gerrymandering 101 workshops to be presented by Beth Hufnagel, L WVHC co-president. Gerrymandering/Redistricting is the political practice of designing voting districts to favor politicians who are drawing the lines. Gerrymandering is a national and state issue of interest to all of us. Workshop dates, times, and places are listed below. There is no need to register and all workshops will have the same content.

Thursday, November 8, 2018, 7:00 – 8:30 p.m. at the East Columbia Branch of the HCLS in the Marvin Thomas Meeting Room

Saturday, November 10, 2018, 10:30 a.m. – noon at the Elkmere Branch of the HCLS in the Hockley Meeting Room

Wednesday, November 14, 2018, 7:00 – 8:30 p.m. at the Glenwood Branch of the HCLS in the Glenwood Pindell Meeting Room

UNITED NATIONS UPDATE

By Roxanne Wheatfield-Hughes, Co-director of Membership

UN Working Group on Discrimination Against Women in Law and in Practice

Rosalee Keech, the Chief Observer to the United Nations for the League of Women Voters of the United States (LWVUS), sent an email on August 17, 2018 with updates on activities and requests for information from the UN Working Group on Discrimination Against Women in Law and in Practice. The following information was included in her email, "The Working Group will present a thematic report on women deprived of liberty to the 41st session of the Human Rights Council in June 2019 and the experts are seeking inputs from States and other stakeholders before October 1, 2018 to inform the preparation of this report. The full call for submissions can be found at:

<https://www.ohchr.org/EN/Issues/Women/WGWomen/Pages/WomenDeprivedLiberty.aspx>."

67th United Nations DPI/NGO Conference

The 67th United Nations DPI/NGO Conference was held on August 22, 2018 – August 23, 2018 at the UN Headquarters. Many of the presentations at the conference addressed the concern about the declining support for multilateralism worldwide and the fact that the UN is best situated to solve world problems that no nation alone can solve. A copy of the outcome document and the youth declaration that were both developed over the course of the two-day conference can be found at the following website - <https://outreach.un.org/ngorelations/67th-dpingo-conference>.

United States Ending UN Aid Program for Palestinian Refugees

According to a recent article in the New York Times (DeYoung, K. & Egash, R. [2018, August 31] U.S. to end aid to U.N. agency), the Trump administration has decided to end all funding from the U.S. to the U.N. Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA), which pays for schools and essential services for Palestinians in the West Bank, Gaza, Jordan, Syria, and Lebanon. While European and Arab countries also contribute to the fund, the U.S. has been the largest contributor. Many foreign policy experts in the region are concerned that cutting the agency's budget could exacerbate an already terrible humanitarian situation.

Celebrating United Nations Day

The U.N. Charter was entered into force in 1945 which brought the United Nations into being. October 24 has been celebrated as United Nations Day since 1948. Celebrations typically focus on highlighting the achievements of the United Nations and in that vein here is a link to some short films that describe the work of the United Nations around the world - <https://www.unmultimedia.org/tv/unia/index.html>.

A SCRAPPY RAFFLE QUILT

Fundraiser to benefit

The League of Women Voters of Howard County

Tickets are on sale now!

Contact any LWWHC Board Member or visit www.lwvhHowardMD.org and use the “Donate” button. Tickets will be mailed to you.

OR

Send a check to
League of Women Voters Howard County
5430 Vantage Point Road -Suite C
Columbia, MD 21044

Tickets are:
1 for \$5.00, 3 for \$10.00, 6 for \$20.00

Drawing will be April 23, 2019

Every ticket is a winner by supporting the League!





Winter Fundraiser

Benefitting the

League of Women Voters of Howard County

Join us on

December 18, 2018

9:00 am - 9:00 pm

At the Barnes and Noble Bookstore, Long Gate Shopping Center for a gift-wrapping fundraiser.

League Volunteers will be wrapping your holiday gifts. All donations will support the LWV of Howard County.

We need volunteers! If you are interested in being a gift wrapper, contact Thea Jones at tjones89@comcast.net or 410-465-2314 or email Gina at the League office at info@lwvhHowardMD.org or call her at 410-730-0142.



October 22 Fundraiser at Tino's Italian Bistro in Columbia



LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS
OF HOWARD COUNTY

Support the League of Women Voters of Howard County
Education Fund, a 501(c)3 non-profit.

Monday, October 22, 2018
11:00 a.m.-10:00 p.m.

Tino's Italian Bistro ~ Wine Bar and Italian Food
8775 Centre Park Drive
Columbia, MD 21045
410-730-TINO (8466)
www.tinositalianbistro.com

HOW IT WORKS: For the full day of this event, 10% of the proceeds for the restaurant will be donated to the League of Women Voters of Howard County Education Fund. All proceeds include all carry-out, delivery, dine in, wine sales, etc..., for the full day. Reservations encouraged.

The League of Women Voters is where hands-on work to safeguard democracy leads to civic improvement.

League of Women Voters of Howard County
5430 Vantage Point Road, Suite C, Columbia, MD 21044
Phone/Fax: 410-730-0142
E-mail: info@howard.lwvmd.org
www.lwvhowardmd.org





MISSION STATEMENT

The League of Women Voters, a nonpartisan political organization, encourages informed and active participation in government, works to increase understanding of major public policy issues, and influences public policy through education and advocacy.

CONTACT US

Phone/Fax:
410-730-0142
info@howard.lwvmd.org
www.lvhHowardMD.org

GIANT FOOD STORE GIFT CARD ORDER FORM

Date: _____

Name: _____

Address: _____

Telephone: _____

Email: _____

I am ordering \$ _____ in Giant Gift/debit cards as follows:

Number of \$50 cards: _____

My check in the amount of \$ _____ is enclosed.

I will pick up at the League office.

Please mail my Gift Card(s) (Enclose a self-addressed stamped envelope)

Other arrangements (Please contact Sue Buswell)

Please make checks payable to LWVHC

League of Women Voters of
Howard County
5430 Vanagage Point Rd, Suite C
Columbia, MD 21044