

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS of Baltimore County



The Voter

Volume 2017-2018 Issue 9
April-May 2018

Newsletter

Spring

CALENDAR

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April

- 24- Tuesday, 7-8:30 p.m. **Republican County Executive Candidates' Forum**, Stemmers Run Middle School Auditorium
- 25- Land Use Planning: community meeting; Agriculture Center, (p.7)
- 26- LWVMD Lobby Day on Capitol Hill

May

- 2-Wednesday, 7:00-8:30 p.m. **Democratic County Executive Candidates' Forum**, Stemmers Run Middle School Auditorium, Essex
- 5- Thursday, 10 – LWVBCo Board Meeting
- 9- Wednesday, 7:30 p.m. Book Club Betsy Sexton's home (p. 9)
- 14- Monday District 4 **Board of Ed Election Forum*** at Randallstown Library at 7 p.m. 8604 Liberty Rd. Baltimore Md. 21133
- 15-Tuesday, LWVMD *True Grit Tour: Legendary Ladies of the Chesapeake*. Join us for a Tour of History, Fun & Adventure!
- 16- Wednesday, District 3 **Board of Ed Election Forum***, Cockeysville Library, 7 p.m., 9833 Greenside Dr. Cockeysville Md. 21030
- 17- Thursday; District 7 **Board of Ed Election Forum*** at Wise Avenue Volunteer Fire Company, Dundalk at 7 p.m. 214 Wise Ave. Dundalk 21222
- 23- Wednesday, 11-1 Membership Committee meeting
- 24- Thursday; District 1 **Board of Ed Election Forum*** at Catonsville Library at 7 p.m. 1100 Frederick Rd. Catonsville Md. 21228

*Forums are held in County Council districts where three or more candidates are running and will be on the Primary Election ballot.



League of Women Voters of Baltimore County
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FROM OUR CO-PRESIDENTS

Dear League Members,

Former Secretary of State Madeleine Albright, in an Op Ed in the April 8th New York Times, titled “Fascism on the March”, suggests that there are five actions we can take to defend our democracy. They include defending the truth by guaranteeing a free press; reinforcing the principle that no one is above the law; each of us doing our part to energize the democratic process by registering new voters; listening to those with whom we disagree; and ignoring the cynical counsel “There’s nothing to be done.” Secretary Albright’s prescription is entirely consistent with our mission, principles and activities.



Currently the work of the Board is focused on the local Primary that will take place on June 26 with early voting from June 14th to June 21st. The forums planned for May and June will offer a non-partisan opportunity for County residents to hear from and meet the candidates for County Executive and for the School Board. Those issues of concern can also be addressed with questions and answers during the Forums. Once the Primary is completed, we will then host forums featuring the candidates in the November General Election including those for the County Council.

In addition to the Forums, the Voter’s Guide is in publication and will be soon available as well as widely distributed. It is known by our members and others as a way to distinguish the positions of those running for office on issues and on important issues facing the County. Also important, we will again be actively evaluating polling places for compliance with the regulations that ensure an open, fair and accurate election.

The League of Women Voters was founded in 1920 by Carrie Chapman during the convention of the National American Suffrage Association, just six months before all women in the United States were given the right to vote with the 19th amendment to the Constitution, fifty three years after John Stuart Mills first proposed the right for women to vote in the British Parliament and 27 years after New Zealand became the first country to enfranchise women. Not only can women vote, we are now seeing more and more women running for office at every level. Our role is increasingly relevant as we carry out our mission of citizen education, citizen participation and fair and open elections. Your Board is “on it.” Thank you.

Your Co-Presidents,
Camille Wheeler and Camille Marx

LWV BALTIMORE COUNTY WELCOMES OUR NEWEST MEMBERS

In the last few months our membership has grown to 158 members!
We especially welcome our newest:

- Nancy Rini 2/15
- Danyell Smith 3/10
- Lois Simmons 3/18



LWVMD

STATE BOARD LETTER

This month's State Board Letter (SBL) contained too much information to accurately list here. If you missed it, the publication can be read at [April 2018 State Board Letter](#). Many changes occurred in the laws discussed and passed in the General Assembly, especially in the matter of our environment.

Additionally, the SBL explains the need to address our evolving League focus by creating a Transformational Roadmap. The letter below from the LWVMD co-presidents explains.

THE LEAGUE'S FUTURE

League members find ourselves in an interesting position. We are witnessing many of the social and environmental laws that LWV and other organizations fought so hard for being eroded. The League is experiencing some growth in membership from people who are interested in correcting this trend, but in many cases, the "old League" is not meeting their needs. Instead we see numerous organizations popping up that seem to be usurping "our" agenda.

What is the answer? For over a year LWVUS has been holding stakeholder meetings and using outside consulting firms to guide us through the process. There has been input from local League leaders, LWVUS Council of 2017, and several focus groups as well as analysis of similar outside organizations. The results to date are summarized in a document called the "[LWV Transformation Roadmap](#)."

The five main conclusions include:

1. We are not clear about our strategic focus;
2. The local, State and national organizations sometimes go in different directions;
3. The way we are structured is an impediment to organizational effectiveness and efficiency;
4. We have a culture that has failed to adapt to current trends in volunteerism and embrace diverse populations; and
5. We have significant deficits in organizational capacity, specifically staffing, communications, technology and fundraising.

Each one of these is addressed in the "[Road Map](#)."

The LWVMD Board has decided to devote most of [State Council on June 9](#) to a discussion of the points raised in this publication. We encourage Local League Presidents to share and discuss it with your Board and membership. The "Roadmap" is a work in progress. Your feedback is welcome and necessary if we are going to strengthen the League. This is our future.

Your Co-Presidents,
Elaine Apter & Richard Willson pres@lwvmd.org

JOIN US FOR A DAY ON CAPITOL HILL

- Visit both US Senate and Representative Offices
- Enjoy Lunch at the staff dining facility
- Take part in advocating an LWVUS topic*
- Have Fun!

* Participants will be briefed by email about the LWVUS topic for advocacy and participate voluntarily

THIS EVENT HAS NO FEE! BUT YOU MUST RSVP TO Carole & Ashley at capitolhilltrip@lwvmd.org.



Meet at Taxi/ Massachusetts Ave exit of Union Station, Washington DC at 10 am. Arrive at Union Station by Amtrak, MARC, Metro, Bus or Auto (Public transportation is recommended due to limited parking).

LWV BALTIMORE COUNTY COMMITTEES AND REPORTS

AGRICULTURE COMMITTEE

2018 U.N. Commission on the Status of Women Conference Focusing on Rural Women

Roberta Sharper (LWV Baltimore City, represented our joint committee)



On March 12, the United Nation opened its 62nd annual 12-day Commission on the Status of Women (CSW) Conference in New York City. As you may know, the LWVUS is represented by four official UN Observers who participate in UN affairs throughout the year. This year, our UN Observers, in addition to participating in the CSW conference, arranged a side event on opening day and invited a number of interested League members from across the nation to attend. The event was entitled "Women Political and Business Leaders Achieving Economic Solvency with Rural Women." Attendees heard from Chilean, Estonian, Canadian, and Fijian women who are working to improve the status of rural women.

I was invited to attend the League's side event because of my participation in the World Agricultural Learning Group of the Baltimore City and County LWV chapters. I arrived in New York several hours before the scheduled event and joined many attendees waiting on the UN grounds and engaged in conversations with many of them. Several were from countries I had previously visited as an observer for Lutheran World Relief, People to People Ambassadors and International Training and Communications. Some had attended meetings at the UN before and some like myself were experiencing this for the first time. There were a number of men present but it was evident that this was a women's event. Women with whom I had conversations said this event gave them an opportunity to bring their concerns about rural women before the world with the hope that others would gain a better understanding of the hurdles rural women face and how these problems can be addressed so as to improve the lives not only of rural women now but of those in future generations.

Our event took place in the General Assembly Building at the UN. With 200 people present, there was standing room only when the panel began. The speakers were Hon Mereseine Vunuonya of Fiji, representing the Ministry of Women, Children and Poverty Alleviation; Sen. Marilon McPhedran from the Canadian Parliament; Kristine Loht of Estonia where she serves as an Advisor for the Equity Policies Department, and Marie Soledad Bevoir of Chile from the Promotion and Development of Women (Program DEMI), Network Foundation of Director of Presidency of the Republic.

Rosalie Keech, the League's lead UN Observers, opened the panel and spoke specifically about the importance of having women serve in leadership roles so that they can not only advocate for improved wages for women but also to work to improve rural women's access to civil/gender rights lawyers who can help them take advantage of laws that do exist.

Ms. Bevoir from Chile related, through an interpreter, the plight of the rural women who suffer from extreme poverty and how the Barrio Foundation Development for Women is helping these women. She called for more inclusion of women's organizations in policymaking and noted that a major concern is the unfair interpretation of the law where rural women's rights are concerned.

Ms. Loht of Estonia painted a picture of a future of equal pay and called for a society which eliminates the need for women to remain in relationships for economic reasons only. She did note that corporations seem interested in improving women's working conditions and that parental leave has been increased from 10 days to 30 days.

The speaker from Fiji, Hon. Vunuonya emphasized that this is the time to repeal laws from the colonial days and restated that with economic solvency women would not have to remain in a bad marriage to survive.

Sen. McPhedran noted the need to encourage greater political leadership by rural women. She said more women need to receive training in how to lead and how to make effective use of social media. Above all, she said, women need to support each other.

In conclusion speakers restated that we must determine to work together, that money is needed to help indigenous people, and that both rural men and women need skills training, as well as access to both loans and markets to sell their products.

I want to thank the League of Women Voters for the opportunity to attend the session and look forward to reading the outcome document of the 62nd CSW conference on rural women.



Note from the World Agriculture Learning Group: if you would like to hear some of the proceedings of the conference, go to the website: webtv.un.org. And if you are interested in the activities of our UN observers all year long, please write Chris Sagona at chrissagona@gmail.com and ask to be included in the LWV's UN google group. Give her your name and email address. Tell her whether you are a member of the Baltimore County or the Baltimore City LWV.

EDUCATION

BOARD OF EDUCATION PRIMARY ELECTION PROCEDURE, CANDIDATES' FORUMS, ETC.

Judy Miller

First times are almost always confusing; Baltimore County's 1st time election for Board of Education members is no exception. In an effort to clarify how this election will take place and why LWVBC is holding Candidates' meetings in only four of the seven Councilman districts, this article is an attempt to explain the procedure.

All seven Councilman districts have candidates who have filed to run for the Board of Education. Candidates must live in the Districts in which they are running. Maryland State election procedure requires that, in districts where three or more candidates are running, all of the candidates' names will appear during the Primary Election on **BOTH** the Democrat and the Republican ballots. In these multi-candidate districts the two candidates receiving the most votes will appear on the ballot in the General Elections. Candidates in districts in which only two people are running do not have to run in the primary because both of their names will appear on the ballots in the General Election in November.

Board of Education candidates are running in a **non-partisan** race even though their names appear on both major party tickets. Voters who are registered as independents or in other parties **can vote** in the primary but only for Board of Education Candidates. They may go to their polling place and receive a separate ballot to vote for the Board of Education Candidate of their choice. All ballots for the Board of Education candidates will be compiled and the top two vote-getters will move on to the General Election in their District.

Prior to the Primary election LWVBC will hold forums for Board of Education candidates only in those districts in which more than three candidates are running. Before the General Election LWVBC plans to hold candidates' forums in all Councilman districts.

PLEASE KEEP IN MIND THAT, EVEN THOUGH CANDIDATES WILL BE LISTED ON BOTH MAJOR PARTY TICKETS, THE BOARD OF EDUCATION POSITION IS A NON-PARTISAN POSITION.

Board of Education Candidate Forums

District 1: **Thursday, May 24th, Catonsville Library** at 7 p.m.
1100 Frederick Rd. Catonsville Md. 21228

District 3: **Wednesday, May 16th, Cockeysville Library** at 7 p.m.
9833 Greenside Dr. Cockeysville Md. 21030

District 4: **Monday, May 14th, Randallstown Library** at 7 p.m.
8604 Liberty Rd. Baltimore Md. 21133

District 7: **Thursday, May 17th, Wise Avenue Volunteer Fire Company,**
Dundalk at 7 p.m. 214 Wise Ave. Dundalk 21222

*Forums are held in County Council districts where three or more candidates are running and will be on the Primary Election ballot.

LAND USE

Upcoming Meetings

The Baltimore County Public Works Department members will be meeting with residents to discuss plans and to reply to requests by residents for information about county roads and bridges in Baltimore County. The meeting will be at the Agricultural Center and Farm Park, 1114 Shawan Road corner with Cuba Road, Hunt Valley on April 25th, 2018 between 5:30 and 7:30 PM.

MEMBERSHIP

Why did you join the League of Women Voters of Baltimore County? What benefits or services does the League provide to you?

Theresa ("Terri") Lawler, Membership Chair

As reported in last month's *Voter*, as part of the Membership Committee's initiative to attract more members, we discovered Prof. Rodney Stump, Marketing Professor and Chair of the Accounting Department at Towson University. Dr. Stump invited the League of Women Voters of Baltimore County ("LWVBCo") and Volunteers of America Chesapeake, Inc. to be the subjects of his Spring, 2018 class "Marketing for Non-Profit Organizations". LWVBCo representatives met with his class in February and provided students with a brief overview of our organization and identified several goals: increasing membership with a focus on improving diversity and developing a plan for distributing *Voters' Guides* and implementing *Vote411*.

Prof. Stump explained that his class would be divided into several smaller groups comprised of 3-5 students each. Two groups of students were assigned to work on our goals while the other groups were assigned to work on the goals identified by Volunteers of America Chesapeake. Students will work on a series of interim assignments that will lead to a formal marketing campaign proposal. One of their assignments included developing a questionnaire which they submitted to us asking for input regarding our organization, strategies and marketing efforts. The questionnaire asked, among other things, what the main benefits are that our organization provides to current and prospective members and what services we provide. As their final exam, students will present their written campaign proposals detailing the elements of their proposed campaign, timetable for implementation and budget. They also are required to summarize their campaign proposal in a brief oral presentation to the class and LWVBCo representatives on May 16, 2018. We look forward to sharing highlights of their recommendations with you!

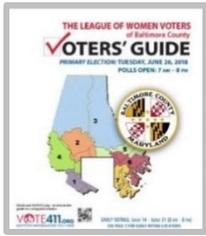
The questions posed by the Towson students were excellent. This information is not only helpful in developing a plan to increase membership, distribute *Voters' Guides* and implement *Vote 411*, but also will assist in developing an overall Marketing plan for our League. We'd also appreciate getting input from you! Please share your thoughts (via email: talawler@gmail.com or phone: 410.252-9222) and let us know why you joined the League and what benefits or services our organization provides you!

The next Membership Committee meeting is from 11:00 am to 1:00 pm (bring a brown bag lunch and drink) on Wednesday, May 23, 2018 at the LWVBCo office at 6600 York Road, Suite 211, Baltimore, MD 21212. The meeting is open to anyone who would like to attend.

VOTERS' SERVICE

Volunteers Needed to Help Deliver Voters' Guides

Barbara Crain

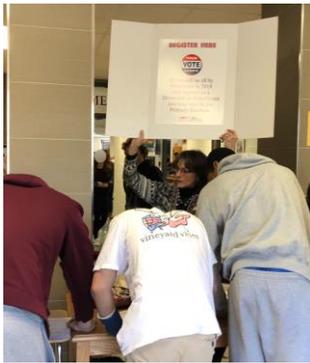


The League is hard at work on the *Voters' Guide* for the upcoming election. Our Board prepared lists of questions for the candidates, which were sent to them on March 7. The candidates have until April 13 to get their answers uploaded into VOTE411.org, the website used by Leagues throughout the country for election information. We will download the answers after the 13th and prepare the printed *Voters' Guides*.

Our printer, Frederick National Press, will take *Guides* to the post office for mailing and to the Baltimore County Public Library in Towson for subsequent distribution to libraries across the county. However, the League is responsible for distributing about 6,000 copies to senior centers, Head Start centers, retirement communities, and college campuses across the county. If you can help us with these deliveries in early to mid-May, please call Barbara Crain (410-785-0410) or email her (Barbara.crain.10@gmail.com).



Voter Registration Drive in Baltimore County Public Schools



Once again, Julie Sugar has spearheaded a very successful drive to register high school students in the Baltimore County public schools. Dozens of trained volunteers registered approximately 700 students over 16 years of age during February and March. Students who will be 18 by Election Day in November are eligible to vote in both the primary and general elections. The names of the younger students will be kept on a separate list at the Board of Elections and automatically moved up to the list of active voters when they are 18.

Obtaining permission for this project and coordinating the many volunteers were both huge projects, so kudos to Julie. Another job well done!

Poll Evaluations-Volunteers Needed

Barbara Ensor

Primary Elections are coming up soon - June 26, 2018 to be specific. We are again doing Poll Evaluations for the Board of Elections of Baltimore County and in the next few weeks, either Barbara Ensor or Theresa Lawler will be calling you asking for your help with this project. The League is counting on your generosity. As usual, the Evaluation takes about one hour at each polling place on June 26 plus a 2-hour training session for all volunteers. The training sessions will be held 3 times between May 21 and June 4. Please, offer to help us do the 60 plus sites that the Board has asked us to do. We have done it every other voting session, so we can do it again! This is one volunteer project that is basic to the League's focus on supporting the voting process so let's give it as much support as possible. Please contact the office if you are able to participate.

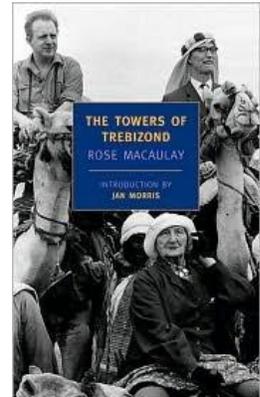
OF FURTHER INTEREST

BOOK CLUB

We will meet on May 9th at Betsy Sexton's house at 7:30 p.m.

We have chosen the book The Towers of Trebizond by Rose Macaulay. This is a McMillian Classic. Dame Rose Macaulay, one of the most popular writers and personalities in England from the 1920s until her death in 1958, was a friend to the likes of E. M. Forster and Virginia Woolf. She was the author of more than thirty-five books; *Towers of Trebizond* is her masterpiece. [Amazon resource](#)

Hailed as "an utter delight, the most brilliant witty and charming book I have read since I can't remember when" by The New York Times when it was originally published in 1956, Rose Macaulay's *The Towers of Trebizond* tells the gleefully absurd story of Aunt Dot, Father Chantry-Pigg, Aunt Dot's deranged camel, and our narrator, Laurie, who are traveling from Istanbul to legendary Trebizond on a convoluted mission. Along the way they will encounter spies, a Greek sorcerer, a precocious ape, and Billy Graham with a busload of evangelists. Part travelogue, part comedy, it is also a meditation on love, faith, doubt, and the difficulties, moral and intellectual, of being a Christian in the modern world.



COULDN'T DO IT WITHOUT YOU

People often ask if we "allow" men in our membership. Of course we do! We welcome and include men in every facet of our League.

PROGRAMMING AND EVENTS

FOCUS ON FORUMS

Between now and June LWV Baltimore County will hold a variety of candidate forums. (Flyers p 10-11.)

The **Board of Education candidate forums** are designed to introduce you to the field of candidates in your neighborhood. Each is held at the local library. More details are in Judy Miller's article on page 6.

The **County Executive forums** are divided into two dates, Republican and Democrat. These will be held at Stemmers Run Middle School Auditorium, 201 Stemmers Run Rd. Essex, MD 21221. More information is on the flyer on page 10.

It is important to remember that the League does not endorse candidates but seeks to promote educating and informing ourselves and the public.



ANNUAL MEETING

Save the Date for Annual Meeting, Saturday, **June 2 at noon**, with our speaker, Will Englund who wrote the book March 1917? More information in our next Voter but plan now to attend.

FORUM

Who will get your vote for the next Baltimore County Executive?



**The League of Women Voters
of Baltimore County**

presents two forums. All candidates for Baltimore County Executive who will be on the June Primary Ballot have been invited.

- Meet your candidates for local government offices. Hear their positions on topics affecting your day-to-day life.
- Participate in citizen democracy. Ask questions of the candidates for Baltimore County government.
- Increase your understanding of the role of local government and the candidates view of the issues that directly affect you.

**Republican
Candidates' Forum
Tuesday, April 24, 2018**

**Democratic
Candidates' Forum
Wednesday, May 2, 2018**

**7:00 PM – 8:30 PM
Stemmers Run Middle School Auditorium
201 Stemmers Run Rd. Essex, MD 21221
<https://stemmersrunms.bcps.org>**

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



Hear What The Candidates Say!

Be prepared!
Participate in this first time **Baltimore County Board of Education**
election.



**The League of Women Voters
of Baltimore County**

presents all candidates for the Baltimore County
Board of Education from Districts 1,3,4,7. *

FORUMS

District 4: **Monday, May 14th at Randallstown Library** at 7 p.m. 8604 Liberty Rd. Baltimore Md. 21133

District 3: **Wednesday, May 16th at Cockeysville Library** at 7 p.m. 9833 Greenside Dr. Cockeysville Md. 21030

District 7: **Thursday, May 17th at Wise Avenue Volunteer Fire Company**, Dundalk at 7 p.m. 214 Wise Ave. Dundalk 21222

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LWV BALTIMORE COUNTY

BOARD OF DIRECTORS: 2017-2018

Co-Presidents: Camille Marx, Camille Wheeler

1st Vice President: Neilson Andrews

2nd Vice President: Jennifer Haire

Secretary, Website: Sheila Maleson

Treasurer: Betsy Sexton

Elected Directors:

Barbara Crain, Barbara Ensor, Leslie Grant, Karin Kinzel,

Barbara Hopkins, Theresa Lawler, Caroline Seamon,

Ralph Rigger, Barbara Simmons

Newsletter/Communications: Sharalyn Luciani

Office Manager: Wilma Rosenberger



Not a member yet? Join today!

- Call the office:
410.377.8046

- Visit:
www.lwvbaltimore.org

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Baltimore, MD 21212

Return service requested.



LEAGUE OFFICE HOURS

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