

# LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS of Baltimore County



# The Voter

## Newsletter

Volume 2018-2019 Issue 10  
May-June 2019



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### CALENDAR

#### May

- 2 – 10:30 Board meeting
- 6– Member survey deadline (mail or complete online)
- 27 – Memorial Day observed

#### June

- 1 – 11 a.m. - 2 p.m. – Boscov's Summer Celebration Information and voter registration
- 6 –10 a.m. Board Meeting
- 7 – 9 LWVMD Convention Gaithersburg (p. 6)
- 15 – noon Annual Meeting – Country Club of Maryland p. 7
- 22 – 10 a.m.-3 p.m. – Perry Hall Town Fair and Voter registration

#### July

- TBA - Board Summer Retreat

Support your League!



League of Women Voters of Baltimore County  
 6600 York Road, Suite 211, Baltimore, MD 21212  
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## FROM OUR CO-PRESIDENTS

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Dear League Members,

*Socialism!* In our current political environment this is a word that is thrown about with abandon as one way to discredit policy proposals and reforms. Thus, it is important to understand exactly what is meant by the word rather than by the specters of failed government its use conjures up. Simply put socialism is “any of various economic and political theories advocating collective or governmental ownership and administration of the means of production and distribution of goods”.<sup>1</sup> In the 1830’s, Robert Owens, a Scotsman and successful industrialist, believed that human nature was formed by the conditions in which people lived and grew up. Whether someone was vicious or humane was a result of social conditions. Change those conditions and people can learn to live in peace and harmony.<sup>2</sup> His thinking was illustrative of much thought that was sweeping Europe post French Revolution and as industrialization was taking hold. In cities and towns for many, living conditions were abominable, workers exploited and government indifferent. Out of these conditions rose the argument that persisted throughout the nineteenth century and into the twentieth, regarding the ownership of the means of production and the role of government. Capitalism versus Marxism is illustrative of this debate.



After World War II systems of *social democracy* or *democratic socialism* became more common especially in Western Europe. In countries (such as Sweden and Denmark) the goal of a fair distribution of income without impairment of economic growth, is attempted to be achieved by extensive state regulation, limited state ownership and democratically elected governments.<sup>3</sup> Various forms of the “welfare state” exist particularly in developed countries, but vary with regard to the role of government, the extent of government ownership of the means of production and underlying cultural values. The United States is a country illustrative of a more minimal market-oriented version of expansive, egalitarian welfare states such as those in Scandinavia.<sup>4</sup> We lack universal health care, and family allowances. We spend little on public housing, public provision of family services, public assistance and public transportation.

A major mission of the League is education. At one time there were many sources of well researched and impartial information. With the advent of the internet and unedited electronic communications, much precision with language has been lost and misinformation is more accessible. The above summary does not pretend to begin to fully address the complex topic of the history and meaning of socialism but rather attempts to point out that labels can be misleading when taken out of context and used to confuse. In these modern circumstances, our role as a source of reliable, impartial and informed discussion gains in importance. Organizations are now important sources of information and work assiduously to define the terms of the political debate. Frequently they represent a single point of view and make no effort to acknowledge their bias and that other facts and conclusion exist. We on the other hand strive to present all points and facts on a given topic. As we prepare for our next year’s and the upcoming elections, we shall continue to

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<sup>1</sup> <https://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/socialism#h1>

<sup>2</sup> <https://www.britannica.com/topic/socialism>

<sup>3</sup> <https://www.britannica.com/topic/socialism>

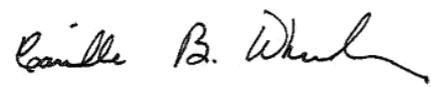
<sup>4</sup> David Garland, *The Welfare State, A Very Short Introduction*, Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2016), p.5.

strive to be a trusted source of information that represents all sides on an issue, has depth and is based on the best facts available.

Your Co-Presidents,

*Camille Marx*

*Camille Wheeler*



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## LWVMD

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### **The 2019 LWVMaryland Convention is here!**

The [LWV of Montgomery County](#) will be hosting the 2019 LWVMD Convention on **June 7-9, 2019** at **The Courtyard Gaithersburg Washingtonian Center**



#### **Featured Banquet Speaker: Dr. William Kirwan**

Dr. William "Brit" Kirwan has spent a lifetime working on the betterment of the educational system of the state of Maryland. He is the Chancellor Emeritus of the University System of Maryland, the chair of the Kirwan Commission on Innovation and Excellence in Education, and the former president of both Ohio State University and the University of Maryland, College Park.

The Commission on Innovation and Excellence in Education (the Kirwan Commission) was established in 2016 to look at the state of public education in Maryland and to provide a recommendation report at the end of 2017. It examined the state's education funding and the college readiness of Maryland students and compared those results to the top states and countries. At the end of 2017, the Kirwan Commission submitted five recommendations to the Governor. The Commission, under the leadership of Dr. Kirwan, found that Maryland students consistently under-perform; in fact, only about 40% of high school graduates are "college and career ready" upon receiving their diploma. Maryland ranks in the middle (at the 25th percentile) of NAEP scores and is 19th in education spending in the country. The League of Women Voters of Maryland supports the betterment of public education and has in-depth positions on education which you can find [here](#).

The LWVMD is honored to have Dr. Kirwan speaking to the Convention about the work of the Kirwan Commission and education issues across the state. He will be speaking about the Commission's recommendations to the governor and the programmatic details of those plans, including fully funding pre-K, raising teacher salaries, and creating consequences for schools that consistently under-perform.

Convention specifics are available online at [https://www.lwvmd.org/2019\\_lwvmd\\_convention](https://www.lwvmd.org/2019_lwvmd_convention) as well as conference registration and hotel details. A registration form is also included at the end of **The Voter** on page 6. It is a wonderful opportunity to see members at work. Register early for reduced cost!

## LWV BALTIMORE COUNTY COMMITTEES AND REPORTS

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### EDUCATION

#### **Student Support Network**

*Submitted by Laurie Taylor Mitchell*



#### **Student Support Network Receives Grant from the Hackerman Foundation**

The Student Support Network has been awarded a grant of \$35,000 from the Hackerman Foundation, which represents initial funding in the hiring of an Executive Director this year. We are extremely grateful to the Hackerman Foundation for providing this opportunity to help us grow. This funding comes at a time when our organization is growing rapidly and the work involved has begun to outpace the volunteer efforts that began the Network in 2015.

The Network assists students living in poverty in Baltimore County schools through providing food, other basic necessities, and advocacy support. Currently the Network currently has programs in four schools and runs two annual drives to assist students in twenty-two schools with food, school supplies, and personal care items. Over 10,000 visits and requests for food and other assistance were met last year through Network programs in schools.

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### PROGRAMMING AND EVENTS

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#### **BOOK CLUB READS**

Our book club is open to everyone. Feel free to bring a friend as we talk about the book. All discussions begin at 7:30 p.m. at Betsy Sexton's home. Contact [esexton2009@gmail.com](mailto:esexton2009@gmail.com) for directions.

**Tuesday, May 28** *Educated: A Memoir* by Tara Westover

**Wednesday, June 26** *Code Girls: The Untold Story of the American Women Code Breakers of World War II* by Liza Mundy

#### **VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!**

Volunteers are needed for these summer events—



- Sat. **June 1, 2019**, from 10:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. OR 12:30 p.m. to 2:30 p.m. at **Boscov's White Marsh Summer Family Celebration** – Event Chair: Camille Marx at [marx7633@comcast.net](mailto:marx7633@comcast.net)
- Sat. **June 22, 2019**, from 9:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. OR 12:30 p.m. to 3:30 p.m. at **Perry Hall Town Fair** – Event Chair: Eileen Robier at [myladyefaire@aol.com](mailto:myladyefaire@aol.com).

## ANNUAL MEETING COMING SOON!

JUNE 15, 2019



**Have you registered yet?** This year's LWV Baltimore County Annual Meeting at the Country Club of Maryland will be better than ever! Our first ever **Member Appreciation Award** will be announced, new strategies shared, informative speaker engaged, and members will have time to interact. Flyer on page 7. Register online at [LWVBaltimoreCounty.org](http://LWVBaltimoreCounty.org) with credit, debit or PayPal, or mail your check and form to the office!

We hope to see you there!

## OF FURTHER INTEREST

### Congratulations Dr. Leslie Grant!

Leslie Grant, DDS, an active Board member of the League of Women Voters of Baltimore County, recently was selected by the University of Maryland School of Dentistry Alumni Association Board of Directors to receive the **2019 Alumnus of the Year Distinguished Public Service Award!** This award is given to honor leadership and service.

**2019  
Alumnus of the Year  
Distinguished Public  
Service Award**

Several LWV members attended the ceremony. Pictured here are Neilson Andrews, Leslie Grant, Barbara Crain and Terri Lawler .





# CONVENTION

## June 7 - 9, 2019

### Preserving Our Democracy

Courtyard Gaithersburg Washingtonian Center  
204 Boardwalk Place, Gaithersburg, MD 20878



#### 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. William 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

#### 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.

Or go to <https://bit.ly/2CZkTFM>

#### 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@lwwmd.org](mailto:stateoffice@lwwmd.org)*

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

LOCAL LEAGUE \_\_\_\_\_

EMAIL \_\_\_\_\_

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:

[https://www.lwwmd.org/2019\\_lwwmd\\_convention](https://www.lwwmd.org/2019_lwwmd_convention)

Your registration must be received by May 31. Each attendee should fill out a separate registration form.

**Registration - \$155.00  
(After May 23 - \$175)**

Includes: Workbook, Materials, Sat.  
breakfast, Sat. banquet, Sun. lunch

**Sat. Banquet ONLY - \$99.00**



# Annual Meeting & Celebration

*Once every year we dine together, celebrate our accomplishments, elect our new leaders, hear an informative speaker, and plan for our future.*

**Come for lunch and learn more about your league.**

**Speaker: Elisabeth Sachs**

Elisabeth Sachs was named Director of Government Reform and Strategic Initiatives by County Executive John Olszewski. Her role in the County Executive’s administration is to drive efforts to modernize government operations in the county. She holds a B.A. in English from Haverford College and Juris Doctor from Yale Law School.



**Saturday,  
June 15, 2019  
Noon - 3 p.m.**

**Cost \$40**

The Country Club of Maryland  
1101 Stevenson Lane, Towson

12 noon: Welcome & Buffet  
Time to talk with friends old and new.

1:30 p.m.: Guest Speaker

2 – 3 p.m.: Business Meeting

Committee reports, Board nominees and more are in the Annual Meeting Workbook or may be accessed on our website:  
[LWVBaltimoreCounty.org](http://LWVBaltimoreCounty.org)

### Luncheon Registration for June 15, 2019

Luncheon registration must be received by June 8, 2019.

**Use this form and make your check for \$40 per person payable to LWV Baltimore County. Please put *Annual Meeting* on the memo line. If you prefer, visit [LWVBaltimoreCounty.org](http://LWVBaltimoreCounty.org) to pay by charge card, debit card or PayPal.**

Name(s): \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

Number of reservations \_\_\_\_\_ X (\$40 per person) Amount enclosed \_\_\_\_\_

Mail to: LWV Baltimore County, 6600 York Road, Suite 211, Baltimore, MD 21212

email: [lwvbaltimore@comcast.net](mailto:lwvbaltimore@comcast.net)

*Come join us!*



**LWV BALTIMORE COUNTY  
BOARD OF DIRECTORS 2018-2019**

Co-Presidents: Camille Marx, Camille Wheeler

1<sup>st</sup> Vice President: Neilson Andrews

2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President: Jennifer Haire

Secretary & Website: Sheila Maleson

Treasurer: Neilson Andrews

Elected Directors:

Barbara Crain, Leslie Grant, Barbara Hopkins,

Theresa Lawler, Jane McCarthy,

Ralph Rigger, Caroline Seamon, Elizabeth Sexton,

Newsletter: Sharalyn Luciani

Office Manager: Wilma Rosenberger

**Not a member yet? Join today!**

- Call the office: 410.377.8046
- Visit: [www.BaltimoreCounty.org](http://www.BaltimoreCounty.org)

League of Women Voters of Baltimore County  
6600 York Road, Suite 211  
Baltimore, MD 21212  
Return service requested.



**LEAGUE OFFICE HOURS**

Monday through Friday 10a.m.-1p.m.

Office Manager, Wilma Rosenberger

410.377.8046

[lwbaltimore@comcast.net](mailto:lwbaltimore@comcast.net)

[www.LWVBaltimoreCounty.org](http://www.LWVBaltimoreCounty.org)