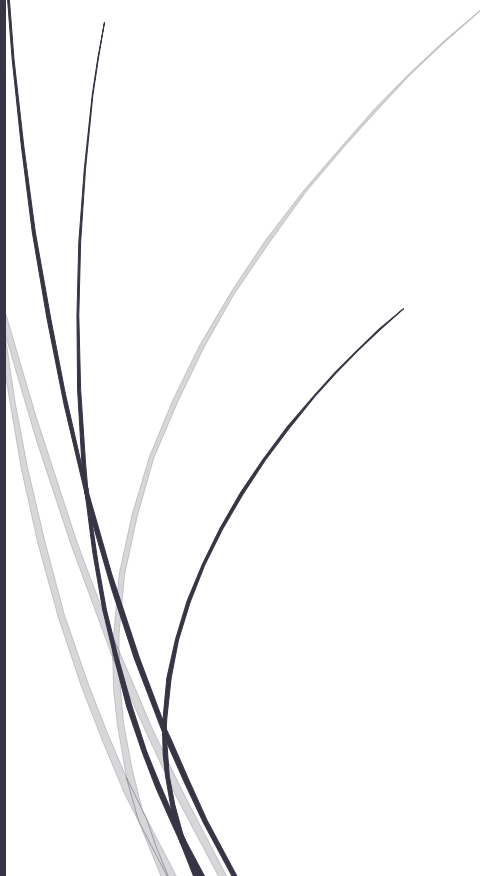


Annual Meeting
June 13, 2020
1 p.m. – 3 p.m.



League of Women Voters
of Baltimore County
Annual Meeting Workbook
2020-2021



Annual Meeting Workbook July 2020 – June 2021

From the Co-Presidents

Dear Fellow Members:

As we end the fiscal year 2019/2020, we look backwards as well as forwards. Never in recent history has the mission of the League of Women Voters been more resonant—we are “...a non-partisan, politically active organization that empowers voters and influences public policy by expanding voter access, providing voter education, and issue advocacy.” In many ways our democracy is under siege. Under the guise of rectifying voter fraud, witness the attempts at voter suppression in some states by enacting procedures that serve to disenfranchise their citizens. Laws have been passed requiring reregistration, purging voter rolls, and requiring witnessing when submitting votes by mail. Local newspapers are being downsized or disappearing entirely, contributing to a fraying of community cohesiveness and political polarization. Given the modern ability to manipulate large amounts of data, political districts are drawn to secure power for those in power. Unlimited contributions and expensive campaigns prevent some from running and others from succeeding, and perpetuate the status quo among elected officials.

As each of these issues is of concern to the League, we respond with positions which enable advocacy and education. A review of the past year reveals a variety of activities that serve to illustrate our work. We urge you to read the End of the Year Review and the committee reports for the details concerning the accomplishments of the Civic Engagement Committee led by Betsy Sexton, the Voter Services Committee led by Barbara Crain, the Programming Committee led by Jen Haire, and the Education Committee led by Camille Marx.

Because of the national emergency caused by the Covid-19, most of our 100th anniversary events are cancelled or postponed. Our major fundraiser, the Capitol Steps, is also cancelled. We are grateful to sponsors and those who had registered and did not seek a refund as the purpose of the fundraiser was to support the Voter Guides for the upcoming elections, one of our most visible and valued products.

Much attention and energy were devoted to the implementation of our strategic plan with the guidance of Barbara Hopkins. We focused on our public interface with improvements to our Facebook page, our marketing of events, and our communication to our membership and the public at large. As we look forward, we expect further refinements that will strengthen our presence in the community and our relevance. We plan upgrades to our office support and improved use of modern technology. Thanks to substantial bequests from the estates of Kay and Cliff Terry and our careful husbanding of our ongoing resources, we end the year in a strong financial position.

As we look to the coming year, and with the completion of the Census, we must focus on redistricting. Maryland is a state that illustrates gerrymandering, and we have an opportunity to advocate for a new and fairer process. The efficacy of voting by mail has been proven and should be encouraged, as in the three states where it is the only way to vote, turnout is improved. The funding of education reform as recommended by the Kirwan Report will remain a priority. This is the year for the League’s National Convention to be held in Washington D.C.[NW1]. It is planned as a virtual convention, an illustration of the national upheaval brought on by the coronavirus pandemic. Many challenges and uncertainties mark our future, but, regardless, our mission remains relevant and our work important. Our members are our inspiration and our strength. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Camille Wheeler and Terri Lawler, Co-Presidents



ANNUAL MEETING WORKBOOK 2020 - 2021

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League of Women Voters of Baltimore County

Annual Meeting Agenda

June 13, 2020, 1p.m.–3p.m.*



Tentative Luncheon Agenda

1 p.m. Welcome

Presentation of the LWV Baltimore County Distinguished Service Award

Business Meeting

Call to Order and Introductions

Adoption of Rules of Procedure

Approval of June 15, 2019 Annual Meeting Minutes

Volunteer Recognition Award Presentation

Message from LWVMD

Treasurer's Report

Presentation and Adoption of Operating and Management Fund Budgets

Jessa Goldberg Endowment Fund Report

Presentation and Adoption of Bylaw Changes

Presentation and Adoption of Local Program

- Presentation of recommended program items
- Discussion of program items
- Vote on adoption of program items

Nominating Committee Report

Election of Officers and Directors

Election of Trustees for Jessa Goldberg Endowment Fund

Unfinished Business

New Business—Looking Ahead

Directions to the Board (suggested goals for 2020-2021)

Recognition of League Members

Adjournment

**Please note. Our Annual Meeting will be held on Saturday, June 13th, 1-3, using live online conferencing. Up to date information and resources will be posted on our website under [Resources](#). Instructions will be emailed to all members several times before that time, and there will be a time scheduled to practice using the site.*

LWV Baltimore County Annual Meeting Minutes June 15, 2019

Introduction of Baltimore County Executive: 12:20 p.m.

After an introduction by Barbara Dezmon, Baltimore County Executive John A. Olszewski, Jr. made opening remarks. He thanked the League of Women Voters for their support and dedication to the improvement of democracy. His focus in the past six months since taking office has been investing in education, providing transparency in government, and establishing an office of Ethics and Accountability. In closing, he congratulated honoree Katharine "Kitty" Stierhoff for her dedication and service.

Lunch and Speaker: Buffet luncheon was served at 1:40 p.m. followed by a presentation by Elisabeth A. Sachs, Director of Government Reform and Strategic Initiatives for Baltimore County, MD. Ms. Sachs discussed the six core principals of good government and how the County Executive is using them in the new administration and as guiding principles for their strategic planning—good government should be transparent, accountable, sustainable, collaborative, data driven, and equitable.

Call to Order of the 2019 Annual Meeting: The meeting was called to order at 2:35 p.m.

Adoption of the Rules of Procedure: A motion was made and accepted to adopt the Rules of Procedure for the meeting.

Minutes 2018: The minutes of the June 2, 2018, annual meeting were accepted.

Member Appreciation Award: The first **Annual Member Appreciation Award** was presented by Co-President Camille Wheeler to Katharine "Kitty" Stierhoff. Kitty is a 50-year member of the league. She established the LWV office in Towson, the infrastructure of the organization, and was chair of the Housing Committee. Among the gifts presented to her was our new embroidered logo vest.

Treasurer's Report: (see page 11 of the Annual Meeting Workbook 2019-2020) Neilson Andrews reported that as of March 30, 2019, the PNC bank checking account (operating account) balance is \$4,182.45, the T. Rowe Price reserve fund balance is \$28,567.04, and the Jessa Goldberg Endowment Fund balance is \$106,648.86. A motion was made and accepted to approve the budget.

Management Fund: (see page 4 of the Annual Meeting Workbook 2019-2020) The Management Fund for 2019-2020 has already been approved by both the county and city Leagues.

Membership Survey:

Terri Lawler reported that 51 members have completed the survey. The next step will be to analyze the results and report back to the Board

Nominating Committee:

The members of the 2019 Nominating Committee will be Virginia "Ginny" Deardorff, Tracy Miller, and Sheila Maleson.

Presentation and Adoption of Local Programs:

A motion was made and accepted to approve the following action initiatives (see page 6 of the Annual Meeting Workbook 2019-2020): implement the Strategic Plan, continue County Council observations, continue monitoring of the HOME Act, continue monitoring of the Kirwan Commission

The recommendations derived from consensus meetings were that the LWV continue to work on fighting voter suppression, expanding voter access, urging government transparency, reforming gerrymandering, combating money in politics, protecting the environment, and supporting education.

Election of Officers, Directors, and Trustee:**Officers:**

Co-Presidents	Theresa Lawler and Camille Wheeler
1 st VP	Janey McCarthy
2 nd VP	Jennifer Haire
Secretary	Elizabeth Sexton
Treasurer	Neilson Andrews

Directors:

Barbara Crain, Leslie Grant, Barbara Hopkins, Ralph Rigger, Sue Garonzik, Camille Marx, Eileen Robier, Judith Schagrin

Jessa Goldberg Endowment Fund Directors:

Caroline Seamon, Carol Allen, Barbara Ensor

Unfinished Business:

Several items of unfinished business are still in progress. Those include the details of the fall meeting that starts the year, the Strategic Plan, and the Capital Steps fundraiser. Ideas for the celebration of the 100-year anniversary of the LWV were solicited. In addition, Barbara Hopkins suggested that health care be an issue to be discussed at the summer retreat on July 26, 2019, at the home of Betsy Sexton.

Directions to the Board:

Camille Wheeler asked for and received the follow suggestions:

- Organize our efforts to reach out to high school and college students
- Promote the Death with Dignity bill in hopes that it will pass next time around

Recognition:

Special recognition and thanks were given to those leaving the Board: Caroline Seamon, Sheila Maleson, and Judy Miller. Others recognized for outstanding contributions to the year's success included Camille Marx, co-president; Barbara Hopkins, strategic planning; and Sharalyn Luciani, publications editor.

Adjournment: There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 3:06 p.m.

Respectfully submitted , Sheila Maleson, Secretary



Proposed Budget 2020 - 2021

LWV City/County Management Fund 2020 - 2021



LWV City County Management Fund				
	FY 2018/19 budget	expenditure 7.1.19-3/31/20	Expenditure as % of budget	PROPOSED FY19/20 BUDGET
INCOME				
LWV City	\$15,800	\$11,850	75%	\$10,350
LWV County	\$15,800	\$11,850	75%	\$10,350
miscellaneous		\$142.22		
TOTAL	\$31,600	\$23,712	75%	\$20,700
EXPENSES				
payroll	\$11,241	\$8,647	77%	\$0
social security	\$700	\$523	75%	\$0
Medicare	\$174	\$122	70%	\$0
annual bonus	\$150	\$150	100%	\$0
unemployment insurance	\$30	\$18	60%	\$0
rent + CAM(cleaning)	\$14,670	\$10,790	74%	\$14,670
telephone & internet	\$1,840	\$1,433	78%	\$2,000
supplies	\$150	\$128	85%	\$150
insurance	\$875	\$1,104	126%	\$875
copier lease	\$1,170	\$2,604	223%	\$2,500
audit/review	\$150	\$0	0%	\$150
computer RESERVE	\$200	\$0	0%	\$150
Miscellaneous	\$300	\$0	0%	\$150
TOTAL	\$31,650	\$25,519	81%	\$20,645

Proposed Operating Budget 2020-2021

Accounts

T. Rowe Price Investment Account as of March 31: \$300,521.23

Jessa Goldberg Endowment Fund as of March 31: \$105,298.33

	2019-20 Budget	2019-20 Actual	2020-21 Budget
REVENUE			
Carry Over End Fiscal Year	0.00	0.00	72,000.00
Member Dues (156 dues paying members)	10,000.00	10,330.00	11,000.00
Contributions/Fundraising	9,000.00	11,560.00	12,000.00 ¹
Annual Meeting (40 attendees at \$40)	1,600.00	80.00	1,600.00
Holiday Gathering	0.00	1,040.00	150.00
Meetings/trips, etc.	0.00	420.00	0.00
Committees	0.00	80.00	0.00
Polling Place Evaluations	1,500.00	0.00	1,500.00
Capitol Steps Fundraiser	15,000.00	11,050.00	0.00
Miscellaneous Income	0.00	2,142.22	0.00
Bequest – Terry Estate	0.00	84,000.00 ²	0.00
Total Revenue	37,100.00	118,702.22	96,750.00
Transfer - Endowment	5,000.00	0.00	0.00
Transfer - Investment Account	6,450.00	3,000.00	0.00
TOTAL	48,550.00	121,702.22	96,750.00
EXPENSES			
PMP LWVUS	5,000.00	3,516.00	5,700.00 ³
PMP LWVMD	2,000.00	1,548.75	2,700.00 ⁴
Strategic Plan Implementation	5,000.00	0.00	1,000.00
Accounting Services	0.00	0.00	1,000.00
New Salary	0.00	0.00	6,240.00
FICA	0.00	0.00	475.00
New Laptop/Software	0.00	0.00	650.00
Management Fund	15,800.00	11,850.00	10,350.00
Capitol Steps Expenses	0.00	10,563.54	0.00
Voters' Guide (presidential)	4,000.00	1,664.06	4,000.00

¹ This includes the Year-end Solicitation and the Giving Tuesday Campaign plus additional fundraising.

² We expect the \$84,000 from the Cliff Terry estate to be deposited at the end of this month or the beginning of next month.

³ 169 member and 16 households. PMPUS = \$32 and \$16 and PMPMD = \$15 and \$7.50.

⁴ 169 member and 16 households. PMPUS = \$32 and \$16 and PMPMD = \$15 and \$7.50.

D&O Insurance	700.00	669.00	700.00
Speaker Series	750.00	0.00	200.00
General Printing	2,500.00	1,443.20	2,000.00
Postage	6,500.00		
Regular	0.00	1,140.12	1,800.00
Voters' Guides	0.00	0.00	4,000.00
Web Hosting	30.00	0.00	30.00
Annual Meeting	1,800.00	0.00	1,800.00
Holiday Gathering	300.00	1,020.00	100.00
Trips and Gatherings	0.00	280.00	200.00
Legislative Luncheon	345.00	240.00	300.00
Board Retreats	250.00	0.00	0.00
Membership	500.00	191.90	300.00
Coalition Dues	100.00	0.00	50.00
Bookkeeper Review of Finances/Taxes	325.00	0.00	325.00
Fundraising Expense	600.00	0.00	300.00
Convention Expenses	1,500.00	0.00	1,000.00
Presidents' Discretionary Fund	200.00	0.00	0.00
Supplies	0.00	115.23	0.00
Pay Pal Fees	150.00	173.30	150.00
Miscellaneous Expenses	200.00	3,427.40	0.00
Total Expenses	48,550.00	37,842.50	45,370.00

VOTE 411

Register to vote | Donate

ELECTION INFORMATION YOU NEED

Brought to you by The League of Women Voters Education Fund

- Register to Vote
- Check Your Voter Registration Status
- Find What's on Your Ballot

Proposed Bylaw Changes

The following bylaw changes have been suggested and approved by the Board of the League of Women Voters of Baltimore County. The highlighted changes are primarily corrections rather than changes. The original wording is in **[bold]** and the change is in *italics*. There is an underlined explanation of the changes following each change. The Board will ask for approval of these changes at the Annual Meeting.

ARTICLE II, Purpose and Policy

Section 1. Purposes. The purposes of the League of Women Voters are to promote political responsibility through informed and active participation in government and to act on selected governmental issues.

(a) The LWVBCo is organized and operated exclusively for charitable purposes under section 501(c)3 of the Internal Revenue Code, or the corresponding section of any future federal tax code. Notwithstanding any other provisions of these articles, the LWVBCo shall not carry on any other activities not permitted to be carried on by a corporation exempt from federal income tax under such provisions of the **[i]**Internal **[r]** Revenue **[c]**Code.

This is a housekeeping change.

ARTICLE III, Membership

Section 2. Types of Membership.

(a) Voting members. Individuals at least 16 years of age who join the LWVBCo and are members in good standing shall be voting members of the LWVUS, LWVMD, the LWVBCo and any regional League to which the LWVBCo belongs. A member in good standing is one who has paid dues in accordance with Article XI, Section 2.

- 1) Those who have been members of the LWVUS for 50 years or more shall be life members excused from the payment of dues.
- 2) Individuals 16 and over in the above categories, who are enrolled in an educational program leading to a degree or certification, may be designated as "Student Members" and pay **[half the annual membership]** *no* dues.

Currently Student Members pay no dues as suggested by the LWVUS.

Article VI, Conflict of Interest

Section 4. **Conflict**^(NW2) of Interest Form. All Board members shall sign a conflict of interest form at the first Board meeting of the year.

This is current practice for the Board members, and this will codify it in the Bylaws.

Section 3. Quorum

Ten percent of the **[members present at a meeting]** *membership* shall constitute a quorum at all meetings of the LWVBCo.

This statement was inaccurate as we use ten percent of membership as a quorum.

Support LWV Baltimore County.
Volunteer or donate and make a difference.

Proposed Local Programs, League Year 2020-2021

Recommended Items: These consist of new and continuing studies and action items suggested by members (including Board members) and which the Board recommends for adoption in 2020-2021.



1. **Form a work group to study the Baltimore County Enterprise Strategic Plan and to use its goals and strategies when reviewing our local positions as we ask: Are they still relevant? Should they reflect changing realities, including the urgent need to mitigate the effects of climate change?**

2. **Begin a review of our local Baltimore County League positions:**

Divide up our positions and do a solid review of one-third or so per year.

- Education was edited in 2019. Should our Education positions be reconsidered to bring them in line with the Kirwan legislation?
- Health Care (1976)
- Source Reduction and Recycling (1990)
- Firearms Legislation (1977) review/possibly update. (We have a new law requiring more security at gun shops and gun shows.) Obtain stats on gun violence.
- Land Use (1970-1991), Sludge Management (1988), Solid Waste Management 1971). Is there an overarching Sustainability position that could be developed here? Are other Leagues taking this approach?

3. **Programming recommendations:**

- Continue observing County Council Work Session and Planning Board meetings
- Hold quarterly brown bag lunches for members and their guests with discussion leaders on timely topics
- Invite Steve Lafferty, head of the Office of Sustainability, to be a speaker at a general meeting

4. **Action/Advocacy:**

- Implement our Strategic Plan
- Advocate for efficient County public transit. Baltimore City and Baltimore County need cooperation and attention to connectivity between forms of transit. Follow developments in the Blueprint for Maryland's Future (Kirwan Commission) legislation
- Advocate for increased support for Baltimore County support for food insecure school children and their families
- Transportation – support more public transit rather than roads. Professional planning and political will are needed for real progress. Baltimore City and Baltimore County need cooperation and attention to connectivity between forms of transit[NW3].



Creating
★ A MORE PERFECT ★
Democracy

Non-recommended items: These were member suggested items that the Board does not recommend for the 2020-2021 year.

Proposal for a new study:

Title: Climate Crisis and Implementation of Solutions

Purpose: To acknowledge the climate crisis that effects everyone on the planet and encourage individual, community, county, state, and national solutions to this crisis considering moral and ethical imperatives, political and corporate changes and innovations, and justice related issues that affect the poor and the privileged.

Outlook for Work:

Form a study committee to become educated about the climate crisis

And provide an outline for a comprehensive for study.

Issues: How can local, state, and national organizations and governmental entities oversee and implement solutions in a timely and effective manner?

Steps: Present study findings to League groups through online education, focus groups, and other means to inform and provide action strategies.

The Board considered this timely study proposal. In the place of this new study, we recommend keeping the climate crisis in the forefront of our review of the Sustainability Goal of the new Baltimore County Enterprise Strategic Plan and the review of our local positions.

Non-Recommended item:

- Update our Job Retraining position (1984, 1990)

Non-recommended item: Advocacy

- Immigration reform at all levels (federal, state, and local). We need more workers and more accepting attitudes. Low census participation may indicate fear of deportation. *Are there advocacy opportunities here?*

ANNUAL MEETING INVITATION

JOIN US ONLINE ON JUNE 13, 1-3 P.M. FOR OUR NEW ANNUAL MEETING
FORMAT. LOGIN AVAILABLE AT 12:30 P.M., MEETING WILL BEGIN PROMPTLY AT
1 P.M.

JOIN US AND SEE WHAT OUR FUTURE HOLDS.

2020 Nominating Committee Report

SLATE OF OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS

(Names in purple will be elected to new terms at Annual Meeting.)

Officers

Co-Presidents	Tana Stevenson (2020-2021) Camille Wheeler (2019-2021)
1st VP	Eileen Robier (2020-2021)
2nd VP	Barbara Crain (2020-2022)
Secretary	Judith Schagrin (2020-2021)
Treasurer:	Neilson Andrews (2020-2022)

Directors

Terms Ending in 2021

Sue Garonzik
Camille Marx
Sharon Walker (2020-2021)
Betsy Sexton (2020-2021)

Terms Ending in 2022

Carol Wynne (2020-2022)
Phyllis Panopoulos (2020-2022)
Jen Haire (2020-2022)
Ralph Rigger (2020-2022)

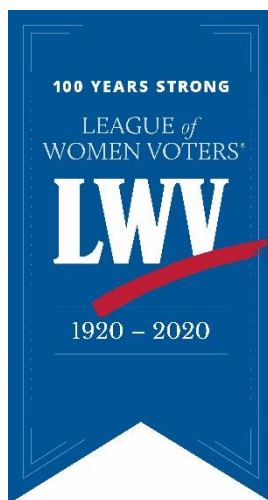
Jessa Goldberg Endowment Fund Directors

Theresa Lawler (2020-2023)
Carol Allen (2019 -2022)
Barbara Ensor (2018-2021)

2020 - 2021 Nominating Committee

Virginia Probasco
Marjorie Simon
Tracy Miller

Respectfully Submitted by 2020 Nominating Committee: Virginia "Ginny" Deardorff, Tracy Miller, Sheila Maleson





Meet the Candidates

Officers

Co-President—Tana R. H. Stevenson (2020-2021) Tana R.H. Stevenson teaches Public Affairs and Communication Strategy at the Defense Information School at Ft. Meade, MD. She is a retired Air Force veteran that served as a photojournalist, then as a public affairs officer. She earned a master's degree in public administration in 2010 and in political science in 2016. She is currently pursuing a doctorate degree through the University of New Orleans in political science. She has been a newspaper columnist, photojournalist, business owner, nonprofit administrator, college instructor, public relations specialist, and director of communications. She is an experienced communications leader in private, nonprofit, and government sectors.

She believes in being involved in her community. She is a speaker and volunteer with the DC Detention Visitation Network, a Board member for the Maryland Immigrant Rights Coalition, a member of the LWV of Baltimore County, and a member of the Rotary Club Washington Global, DC.

Before moving to Maryland in 2017, she spent five years as a Board member for The Rotary Club of Slidell and was on the Criminal Justice Reform Committee for the League of Women Voters of Louisiana.

1st Vice President – Eileen Robier (2020-2021) Eileen Robier joined the League of Women Voters two years ago. She has participated in voter registration at USCIS and attended the Legislative Luncheon. She also evaluated two polling sites during the general election. Eileen was the event chair for the League's booth at the Perry Hall Association Town Fair. Recently, she joined the LWV observer corps where she attends the Baltimore County Council work sessions. She currently serves on the LWV Board of directors.

Eileen volunteered for several years with the Greater Homewood Community Association teaching English Literacy to adults. While there, she received a certificate from Baltimore City for her "outstanding contribution to literacy". She was interviewed by *Baltimore Magazine* for their volunteer issue. Moving to Baltimore County, Eileen joined the Community College of Baltimore County. She had worked as adjunct faculty/site registrar with the English for Speakers of Other Languages Program for the preceding 14 years. She was employed by the Baltimore County Public Schools at the middle-school level where she worked with students who had learning, behavioral, or emotional issues.

Keeping memories alive, Eileen has been a part of her 30th, 50th, 55th, and upcoming 60th high school reunions. On a bi-monthly basis, she continues to meet with former classmates for informal luncheons. Eileen and her husband have adopted 6 Boxers during the last 15 years, providing a home for these rescued dogs. Each one has had a unique personality.

2nd Vice President—Barbara Crain (2020-2021) Barbara Crain moved to Baltimore County in 1993 and has been on the Board of Directors since 2015. Since 2016, she has chaired the Voters' Guide Committee for the primary and general elections, been responsible for coordinating volunteers for voter registration of new citizens at US Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) and assisted with polling place evaluations during the primary and general elections. Outside the area of voter services, she enjoys thinking about issues of importance to the League and has led discussions at consensus meetings on various topics. Barbara is a retired pathologist from Johns Hopkins and still teaches in the medical school. She enjoys reading and working in her garden.

Secretary–Judith Schagrin (2020-2021) Judith Schagrin became a member of the Baltimore County League of Women Voters this past year. She is a social worker who retired last year from the Baltimore County Department of Social Services after three decades working with children in foster care, for the last twenty years as the Assistant Director for Children’s Services. In 2001, with the capable assistance of colleagues, Judith founded Camp Connect, a weeklong overnight camp to reunify brothers and sisters separated in different foster care placements, a program with which she continues to be involved.

After earning a BA from the Univ. of Pennsylvania, Judith moved to Baltimore to attend the U. of Maryland School of Social Work. She now teaches a course at her alma mater, and works for Digital Management, Inc. as a subject matter expert. Judith is also a member of the Red Cross Disaster Mental Health team, who respond to local and national disasters. She has served as the legislative chairperson for Maryland’s Chapter of the National Association of Social Workers for the last two decades, and is a long-term member of the Children, Youth, and Families Committee.

Judith enjoys spending her spare time with family, including her husband, also retired (and NOT a social worker!), and their three dogs. Her 24-year-old daughter is graduating with her MSW in May, and her stepson and his wife, also social workers, live in Ithaca, NY with their two young daughters.

Treasurer–Neilson Andrews (2020-2021) Neilson Andrews has been a member of the Board of the Baltimore County League for several years. She has served as 1st Vice President for two terms and has been serving as interim Treasurer since last January. She serves on the Finance Committee and the Lecture Series Committee. Neilson and Betsy Sexton chaired the Capitol Steps fundraiser in 2020. Neilson is the health reporter for Report on State Circle and substituted in 2013 as the Action Chair for the Maryland League.

She is the former executive director of the Baltimore County Medical Association where she worked for more than 25 years. At the BCMA, she focused on issues pertaining to the physician community and patients including legislative efforts in Annapolis and Washington. Neilson is a graduate of the Bryn Mawr School and Mary Baldwin College where she received a BA in Psychology.

Directors

Betsy Sexton (2020-2021) Betsy Sexton joined our League when she and her husband, Carlton, moved to Baltimore in the 1980s. She has served as a Co-President, Treasurer, and as a member of the Candidate Forums Committee. This year she served as Board Secretary and co-chair of the Capitol Steps fundraiser. Betsy was the LWVMD Membership/Leadership Development Program Coordinator for Maryland from 2011-2013 and chair of the State League Nominating Committee in 2017

Betsy worked part-time from 2006-2013 as an ESOL instructor through the Community College of Baltimore County, teaching English to adult immigrants. She is president of the Green Burial Association of Maryland, and a member of the Baltimore Women’s Giving Circle and the Hamilton Street Club.

She enjoys traveling with Carlton (who is an active League member), visiting her sons and their families in California, knitting, swimming, and studying Italian.



Sharon Walker (2020-2021) Sharon Walker joined the League in 2016 after retiring from a 32-year career in health care. During her professional career, she served as a National Director of Contracting for several different national specialty pharmacies. Her work was interesting, challenging, and took her to almost every state in the country.

A native of Maryland, she settled in the Towson area in the late seventies. While raising her family she enjoyed volunteering and working with several community groups including Historic Towson, the Stoneleigh Community Association, and the Student Support Network. Her hobbies include gardening, reading, cooking, and playing pickle ball! History is a particular interest, especially American presidential history.

Travel is a great favorite, especially visiting and having adventures with her English pen pal of 62 years! Most dear to her is time spent with family and especially her three grandchildren.

Jennifer Haire (2020-2022) Jennifer Haire was thrilled by the invitation to join the Board of the League of Women Voters of Baltimore County (LWVBC) in 2013, after a 37-year career at nine locations with the Baltimore County Public Library (BCPL), where she first partnered with the LWVBC. She retired in 2012 as manager of the Towson Library. The LWVBC had been the most trusted, energetic, and effective partner she had encountered professionally. Originally a New York native, she lived in Panama as a child, attended high school in Mamaroneck, NY, graduated from the University of Connecticut, and received a Master's in Library Science from the University of Maryland. Jennifer maintains the online member database and helps plan member events.

Her most treasured time is spent with her three grandchildren. She loves yoga, walking, music, and manages the ever-hopeful Best Sellers Investment Club with longtime friends and former colleagues.

Phyllis Panopoulos (2020–2022) Phyllis H. Panopoulos was born and raised in Baltimore and has had a varied career since graduating from Notre Dame University of Maryland. She worked for Barbara Mikulski (way back when she was a Congresswoman), was Vice President of Administration and Marketing for a commercial interior design firm, Office Manager for an international law firm, and assistant to Baltimore County Executive Jim Smith from 2003-2010. She continued her career with Baltimore County government in the Economic and Workforce Development Department. Phyllis is an interpreter at the Historic Hampton Mansion, former Regent of her DAR chapter, a member of Woman's Club of Roland Park, and volunteer for Emerge Maryland.

She is an avid walker, enjoys knitting, cooking, and reading, and lives with her husband Michael in Timonium.

Ralph Rigger (2020-2022) Ralph Rigger was a potential engineer, educated at Baltimore Polytechnic Institute and attending the University of Maryland and working summers at Camp Greentop with The League for Handicapped Children and Adults, when he decided he would rather work with children than design things. That led him to the Industrial Education Department at the University of Maryland, with summers at the camp where he fell in love with Becky Rogers [Rigger]). They married and Becky eventually attracted him to the LWV. Soon after graduation and beginning to teach at Towson Junior High School he was commissioned a Navy officer and served two years on minesweepers during the Korean War. When he returned to the Baltimore County school system, he taught and opened a number of new Junior High School Industrial Arts Departments. In 1965, he was drafted to head the Department at Dulaney High School, where he taught until retiring in 1985. He added that Becky and he continued to work at Camp Greentop until 1970.

He has been a League member for 51 years and has been on the Board of Directors for several years, and still realizes how important the work of the League of Women Voters is to this county and Nation.

Carol Wynne (2020-2022) Carol Wynne joined the Baltimore County League of Women Voters in 2019. Carol is a retired Geriatric Nurse Practitioner who specialized in geri-psych and dementia. She worked for the Alzheimer's Association, and her appointment included being responsible for all state support groups and facilitator training. In retirement, Carol still facilitates a dementia support group and takes calls from care partners asking for advice on a weekly basis. Carol is an avid proponent for best practices in geriatric care. Carol graduated from Pikesville High School, Duke University School of Nursing with a BSN, Towson University with an MS in Health Care Administration and a major in Adult Education, and received her MSN/NP from University of Maryland.

Carol and her husband have 3 children and their spouses/partner and 6 grandchildren. Carol loves Pilates, travel, reading, and needlepoint.

Jessa Goldberg Endowment Fund (2020-2023)

Honorable Theresa A. Lawler

Theresa ("Terri") Lawler received her BA from Northwestern University (Evanston, Illinois) and JD (with Honors) from the University of Maryland School of Law. Admitted to the Maryland Bar, her legal career spans 36 years: ten years as an officer in the Probate Department of Mercantile-Safe Deposit & Trust Co. (now PNC Bank), ten years as an attorney in private practice with a focus on estates and trusts law, and sixteen years (eight as Chief Judge) serving Baltimore County residents as an Orphans' Court Judge handling cases involving inheritance disputes and Guardianships of Minors.

Terri Lawler has served on the Board of the Towson University Foundation since 2014. She served on the Board of the League of Women Voters of Baltimore County since 2015. Terri's League activities include assisting with Poll Evaluations, serving on the Program Committee, chairing of the Membership Committee, and for the past year serving as Co-President.

Terri has been married to George S. Lawler for 49 years. They have two children, Katherine Lawler and Michael Lawler, and two grandchildren, Liam (4 ½ years) and Charlotte (18 months). Terri enjoys spending time with her family and travel.

Nominating Committee

The 2021 Nominating Committee Members will be announced at the Annual Meeting.



Our 2019-2020 Year in Review

Although the Coronavirus brought challenges that no one could have anticipated, requiring us to cancel the Capitol Steps fundraiser and 100th Anniversary trip to Washington DC, through the efforts of our able Co-presidents, Camille Wheeler and Terri Lawler, and dedicated Board, the League of Women Voters of Baltimore County was still able to conduct local League studies, participate in State League workshops, advocate on behalf of key issues, expand voter registration, and make progress in implementing our Strategic Plan.

Just after the last Annual Meeting, Eileen Robier organized a group to represent our League at the Perry Hall Town Fair. Neilson Andrews, Mical and Larry Carton, and Betsy Sexton joined Eileen to discuss the League's activities and membership with members of the Perry Hall community.



Barbara Crain, Susan Hullinger, Phyllis Lansing, Terri Lawler, Eleanor Lewis, Camille Marx, Traci Miller, Phyllis Panopoulos, Ann Phillips, Ginny Pobasco, and Betsy Sexton attended the State League's Fall Workshop where they were briefed on Civics Education in Maryland and the State Study on the subject. In addition, there was a workshop on how to fund and implement the Kirwan Commission recommendations for improved education in Maryland and a presentation by the National League on the Concurrence on Voting Process.

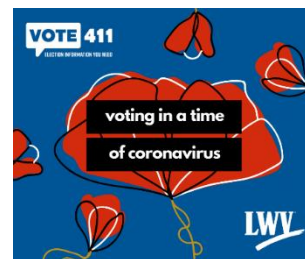
Three study groups of our League discussed ideas for improvement in the civics curriculum in Baltimore County public high schools and how we might implement these changes. These ideas were then passed along to the state League.

As a result of the hard work of Legislative Committee Chair, Dr. Leslie Grant, and Committee members Betsy Sexton, Neilson Andrews, and Jen Haire, on January 4, 2020, more than 65 members, guests, and legislators attended our annual Legislative Luncheon at the Woodbrook Baptist Church. Co-President Terri Lawler welcomed attendees and provided a brief history of our League, and Treasurer Neilson Andrews served as moderator of the program. The Legislators discussed many of the issues before the General Assembly and answered questions from the audience.

Betsy Sexton, Chair of the Advocacy Committee, organized a County Council Observer Committee to monitor County Council sessions. One of our most successful endeavors this year was the passage of the Home Act in Baltimore County. The effort, led by Betsy Sexton, supported the Home Act submitted by County Executive Johnny Olszewski on October 7. Betsy worked tirelessly over the years on this Bill, and she and Neilson Andrews attended the Work Session where it was discussed. Barbara Hopkins and Laurie Taylor Mitchell, both League members, testified for their organizations. After considerable debate and a critical vote of 4 out of 7 in favor of the Bill, where Councilwoman Cathy Bevins courageously voted in favor of the Bill in [NW4] spite of being faced with threats against her life, the Bill passed. Co-president, Terri Lawler, and member Chris Broughton were present to watch the County Executive sign the Bill into Law.

The Education Committee advocated for passage of the Blueprint for Maryland's Future Bill in the General Assembly, which would have implemented the Kirwan Commission's suggestions for improving Maryland's educational systems. Camille Marx, Chair of the Education Committee, organized a letter writing campaign by League members urging legislators to support the legislation. Camille also represented our League in a panel discussion on the Kirwan Funding held January 5, 2020, at Chizuk Amuno Synagogue. The program was sponsored by Chizuk Amuno Congregation and our League in an effort to educate the public about this important legislation. Betsy, along with other League members, went to Annapolis to lobby for this legislation. The Bill (with funding) passed the General Assembly just before the session ended. However, the Governor indicated that he would not sign any Bills that increased spending.

Voter Services, chaired by Barbara Crain, continues to register newly sworn-in citizens. Barbara Crain was also responsible for publishing the *Voters' Guides*, which was an arduous process this year because the death of Congressman Elijah Cummings necessitated an extra edition for the District 7 primary. The Coronavirus hit just as the primary edition would have come out, resulting in delay and the need for reformatting. Barbara also organized the many voter registration efforts throughout the Baltimore area.



Tana Stevenson increased our Face Book presence this year and the number of hits which our page receives. She added photos of Officers and Board members to our website, including stories of why members joined the League. Tana also found time to mentor Nabiya Imran, a Goucher exchange student from Pakistan. We are grateful to Tana for agreeing to run for Co-president this year to fill the vacancy resulting from Terri Lawler having to resign due to health constraints.

In addition to all the hard work, our members found time for fun activities: Betsy Sexton continues to host the League's Book Club where they discuss well received books and generate lively discussions. In light of the Coronavirus, they are exploring virtual meetings.

Although without a Membership Chair this year, we added thirty-four new members to our group. In December, 2019, more than 40 of us gathered for the Holiday Gathering at Fazzini's Taverna for a delicious lunch and interesting talk on "Politeracy: Understanding the Art and Science of Public Opinion Polls" by Dr. Mileah Kromer, Associate Professor of Political Science at Goucher and Director of the Sarah T. Hughes Fields Political Center, which conducts the Goucher College Polls.

2020 began with excitement as we planned activities to celebrate the 100th Anniversary of the League of Women Voters and 100th Anniversary of the Enactment of the 19th Amendment granting women the right to vote. On February 14, 2020, Co-Presidents Camille Wheeler and Terri Lawler and Vice President, Tana Stevenson, accepted a Proclamation from County Executive John Olszewski celebrating the League of Women Voters' 100th Anniversary.



Sponsored by long-time LWV Baltimore County member Senator Delores Kelley, on February 14, 2020, the Maryland Senate presented us with a Resolution in recognition of the League of Women Voters' mission to empower voters and promote democracy.

On February 14, 2020, Tana Stevenson launched a "Women Power the Vote" and "She is Me" Face Book campaign featuring Maryland legislators representing Baltimore County. We are hopeful that we may still celebrate this special year with a program in the fall.



We are pleased to announce that this year's recipient of the Member Appreciation Award is Betsy Sexton, currently serving as Secretary of the League and Chair of the Advocacy Committee. Betsy has served our League tirelessly for many years, holding every office, including that of President.

We end the year in a strong organizational and financial position. Barbara Hopkins, Tana Stevenson, and Sharalyn Luciani organized a Giving Tuesday campaign in November which garnered additional donations for the League. Funds for the operation of the League were augmented by generous bequests from the Kay and Cliff Terry estates and other contributions (see page 24 for a list of our contributors). We have hired a part-time bookkeeper, Katherine Maxwell, to assist with bookkeeping and reports. We are still seeking a part-time Office Administrator.

Kudos are due Sharalyn Luciani, who continues to do an outstanding job as Editor of *The Voter*, and Barbara Hopkins, who served as Chair of Marketing, Communications, and Fundraising and organized our Strategic Planning Project.

As we approach June 2020, we are grateful to the many dedicated members who continue to work hard during these unprecedented times. We recognize there are still significant challenges that our organization needs to address, including improving member diversity. We look forward to continuing vigorous programming, advocacy, educational activities, voter services, and becoming an organization that grows stronger every year while becoming more reflective of the community we serve. Stay safe.

Committee Reports May 2020

Advocacy: Betsy Sexton

In the fall, County Executive Olszewski introduced **The HOME Act** (Housing Opportunities Made Equal), which bans landlords from discriminating against renters based on their source of income, including Housing Choice Vouchers. Our League was part of a countywide coalition supporting it. We submitted written testimony, and our member Yara Cheikh testified in person. The bill passed into law in November. Thank you to all our members who emailed and called their council members urging passage of this important legislation.



On the state level, **The HOME Act** passed in both houses of the Maryland legislature. Laurie Taylor-Mitchell and Yara Cheikh met with Senator Chris West urging his support. Many members contacted their delegates and senators.

We joined League members around the state and the Strong Schools Maryland Coalition to mobilize county residents and lobby state legislators for full funding of the **Kirwan Commission** recommendations. Ann Phillips and Betsy Sexton met with delegates and senators and their aides in Annapolis. **HB1300, Blueprint for Maryland's Future**, passed both houses of the Maryland Legislature before adjournment in early April. It awaits the Governor's action, due by May 7th. Thank you to Camille Marx for her leadership in this effort.

The Capitol Steps: Neilson Andrews and Betsy Sexton

It was with trepidation that the Executive Committee decided to cancel the Capitol Steps. We deliberated over several days about canceling, but it became obvious that ticket sales were lagging due to the Coronavirus. Mark Eaton of The Capitol Steps generously agreed to let us out of the contract because we have been good customers. We checked the dates of their events in Baltimore to reschedule but were unable to do so. We would have been the third Capitol Steps program.

Baltimore Hebrew Congregation also agreed immediately to refund our deposit. Our Media partner, WYPR, also canceled their spots. InstantSeats immediately closed the web reservations and returned each person's total ticket purchase directly in their credit cards. They billed us \$587.59 for the service charges. Many thanks to Sheila Maleson for setting up the connection.

We returned all the money from ticket purchases by check. We also returned all the sponsor money. Two sponsors and more than 20 members requested that their money be used for future efforts. We would like to commend Terri Lawler and Camille Wheeler for their effort in obtaining sponsors.

Communications: Sharalyn Luciani and Tana Stevenson

Communications:

Communications involves our social media, website, emails, and newsletter.



Website- Sharalyn Luciani

LWVBaltimoreCounty.org continues to evolve with a contemporary look and updated information. Our objective is for it to be a repository of LWV Baltimore County studies, references, newsletters, and event communications. It must be current, accurate, and informative to be effective. If you have not seen it lately, we hope you will be pleasantly surprised. Be sure to check out our event calendar, also available on our website.

If you are unable to locate the information you need, please contact the office and let them know. We welcome feedback and ideas for keeping our website useful. We are actively looking for assistance in sending emails and maintaining the website and calendar as effective communication tools. If you would like to find out more, please let us know. Contact Sharalyn Luciani at sharalynlu@aol.com.

Emails- Sharalyn Luciani

By now, you may have heard of Nationbuilder, the web design system that LWV Maryland, Baltimore County and other county Leagues use for hosting websites and generating emails. Our communication goal was to maintain bimonthly member emails to keep members informed and up to date about League advocacy. One example was the April email to remind Congressional District 7 members to vote in the election. Recently, we also participated in the May Giving Campaign to support families in need of assistance during COVID 19 restrictions. You are encouraged to share our communications with neighbors, friends, and family.

If you are not receiving emails, please contact the office or email Sharalyn at sharalynlu@aol.com.

The Voter- Our newsletter- Sharalyn Luciani

From September through June, all members receive *The Voter* as our primary source of our communication. The content reinforces our mission as “**a non-partisan organization that empowers residents through voter registration, education, and advocacy**”. We are fortunate to have an active Board who submit monthly articles and offer new experiences for our members and the public. We include updates from National and LWVMD as well as our local issues and advocacy.

Volunteers coordinate the organizing and editing of *The Voter*, however, mailing the print version is one of our greatest expenses. Everyone gets the emailed version, usually a week after the Board meeting, and it is available immediately for download online. Email Betsy, esexton2009@gmail.com, to stop receiving the printed copy. Feel free to forward your copy to anyone interested in our work. (Because of closing due to COVID 19, our printer is closed, and we are unable to print and mail *The Voter* and this *Annual Meeting Workbook*. We are not clear when printing will be renewed, but we will continue to email the newsletter and post it on our website.)

Our Twitter account, @LWVBaltimoreCo, desperately needs volunteers and support to make it meaningful.

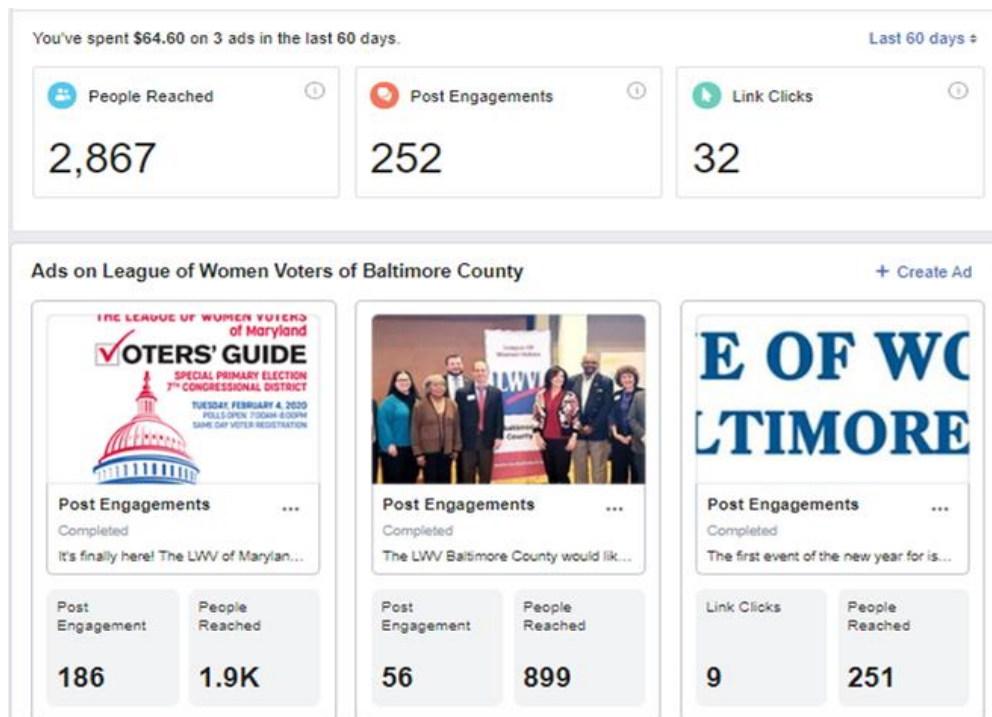
Social Media Report–Tana Stevenson

The [League of Women Voters of Baltimore County Facebook page](#) is used to keep our members informed of what is happening with the League and to gain exposure to new and diverse audiences for both awareness and membership growth. It is the primary social media outlet for the organization.

As of October 2019, the page had 261 followers. A new strategy was used with an increased number of posts and a broader topic list. The goal was to increase engagement, which leads to increased followers or a larger audience. As of January 1, 2020, this strategy only increased the page followers to 268, or by a net of 7 followers.

The only way to grow a page organically is by member engagement. Based on informal verbal polling and Board meetings, the likely stagnation is because most of our members are not regularly engaged in Facebook. The average post “like” is 2–5 people, organically. Therefore, a Facebook advertising proposal was presented and approved by the board.

With a budget of about \$65, we reached more than 2800 people. The first three advertisements were on the *Voters’ Guide* for the 7th Congressional Special Election, the 2020 Winter Workshop, and the League’s 100th anniversary. See graphic below.



There were two Facebook communication campaigns planned for 2020. Both are local extensions of national campaigns.

The first is “**She is Me**”, a campaign to celebrate 100 years of League work through the inter-generational stories of our real LWV members. The campaign goal is to generate awareness of LWV among new audiences, focusing on cultivating the next generation of LWV supporters. Several have been posted, but we need more local members to provide a photo and information on their contributions.

Below is one of the campaign posts about a Pakistani exchange student from Goucher College who has volunteered to assist our League with social media efforts.

The post said:

"Community service is very special to me, and I always try to find time to contribute something to a cause I passionately believe in, one of which is women's rights and their empowerment," said Nabiya, an exchange student from Islamabad, Pakistan, who is spending one semester at Goucher College, Baltimore, under the Global UGRAD Pakistan program. "As such, I volunteered with the League of Women Voters Baltimore County to learn more about women's role in a democracy, not just as voters, but also as leaders. I hope I can continue to work for our political empowerment in the years to come."



It had an organic reach of 275 people due to 35 post reactions, comments, and shares.

The second campaign is **“Women Power the Vote,”** which is the national League’s theme for the 100th birthday of the League. It focuses on elected women legislators serving in Baltimore County. The campaign kicked off February 14, with a proclamation from the County Executive’s office, a press release was sent out the week prior to the kick-off and the first Facebook post was advertised.

The first post featured Delegate Michele Guyton, the first respondent to provide her information for the campaign.

The post said: *“Today is the League of Women Voters 100th anniversary! As part of the League of Baltimore County’s celebration, we are recognizing women who serve as our elected officials through “Women Power the Vote,” a national effort with more than 750 communities across the country celebrating on one unified day of action with various activities.”*

It had a reach of 741 people, with 77 post reactions, comments, and shares. This includes organic reach and paid reach from advertising.

As of April 24, the LWV of Baltimore County Facebook page has 335 followers, a net gain of 74 followers. The page must continue to provide content relevant to new followers that spurs engagement, or the page will stagnate or decline.

If you are a member, please be sure to keep up with the page. Consider sharing it with your friends and “liking” or commenting on posts to help us increase our engagement.

Also, if you would like the work you have done with the LWV of Baltimore County to be highlighted in the **“She is Me”** campaign, please contact Tana Stevenson at tana.stevenson@lwvbaltimore.org.

County Council Observer Corps: Betsy Sexton

We reactivated this observer corps in June 2019, and published our summaries in *The Voter* newsletter. Our co-presidents wrote to the council members explaining that LWV observers are there to follow the progress of legislation and other matters that come before the Council and to keep our members informed. In fact, council members do acknowledge our presence at bi-monthly work sessions. **Note: County Council meetings are live-streamed and archived on the [Council website](#)** along with agendas and detailed notes on bills and fiscal matters.



Procedural changes adopted by the Council this League year include:

- Consideration of bills with significant amendments can now, with a majority vote, be held over for a second work session to allow for more public input.
- Beginning in June, Tuesday Work Sessions will begin at 4 p.m. or later to allow for more in-person public input.

Thank you to our observers Neilson Andrews, Jen Haire, Eileen Robier, Judith Schagrin, Betsy Sexton, and Carol Wynne.

We welcome new observers. Benefits of this work include:

- Engaging members
- Increasing our community ties
- Increasing League visibility and
- Building our membership

Please contact Carol Wynne if you are interested in joining our team, cfwynne@gmail.com, 410-252-1755.

Education Committee Report: Camille Marx and Judy Miller



At the LWVMD state convention in Gaithersburg in June 2019, the results of the Kirwan Report were shared. The Blueprint for Maryland's Future enacts a more equitable and modern funding formula for Maryland's public schools and expands the availability of and funding for early childhood education/pre-kindergarten programs, special education, and college and career readiness initiatives. In

January, the bill would be put forth for approval. Our task for the coming months was to educate the public about the need for and the benefits of passing a new funding bill for the next ten years.

The education committee set forth to educate members through recurring articles in *The Voter*. Members of the committee attended several public meetings. Through *STRONG SCHOOLS MARYLAND*, we participated in a letter writing campaign to help the legislators understand the need for the changes in the funding formula. Some of our members lobbied politicians in Annapolis. Emails were also sent. The bill was passed and is awaiting the signature of the Governor. Because of the Coronavirus, money may not be available.

The committee also looked at the problem of school bus transportation. The system was short many drivers at the beginning of the year. This affected on-time performance for many students as well as overcrowding. We will continue to monitor this.

International Relations Committee's World Agriculture Learning Group—Ruth Smith and Cindy Farquhar, Co-Chairs

This year we have concentrated on writing a summary of what we have learned over the last two years about world agricultural issues, with an emphasis on issues that are most relevant for women farmers. We expect this summary to be completed shortly and to have it available online and for distribution at the annual meeting.

Land Use, Zoning, Natural Resources—Ralph Rigger



The past year, 2019-20, has been interesting as this is the period when the zoning change requests wend their way through the zoning process in Baltimore County. The requested changes in each district are posted on the website for anyone to review and object. We noticed that several strip malls are asking for a change in zoning due to the relatively new idea of including housing on those sites. It does not necessarily mean housing will be added, but they are hedging their bets for the future.

The projects on York Road at the northwest corner of Towsontown Boulevard West and the one opposite Towson University at the Towson Bypass are under construction and will contain new dormitories for Towson University. The proposed planned commercial use of the property, formerly the Central Fire Department Station, was approved and is moving forward to be completed this summer.

Membership:

We are seeking a Membership Chair. Here is current information about members:

- 180 members as of April 10, 2020
- In April 2019, members were surveyed for interests, expertise, and recommendations for activities. We used this information to match members with League committees and projects.
- Our League is currently a beta test site for using an uncomplicated electronic Google form developed by LWVMD Membership Chair, Niecy Chambers. Use of the form may help Maryland county Leagues and improve the accuracy of information in the NationBuilder database.



Legislative Luncheon–Leslie Grant

The Annual LWV Baltimore County Legislative luncheon was held on January 4th at Woodbrook Baptist Church. Most of our delegation attended the event, along with a nearly full house of members and guests. Each legislator had an opportunity to speak to the audience and address their priorities for the 2020 session. It was obvious that **HB1300, Blueprint for Maryland's Future**, would be the foremost priority. Prominent discussion themes included redistricting, prescription drug pricing, clean energy, school funding, health care, and equitable voting access. Audience members posed interesting and probing questions that engaged the legislators in lively commentary. We are appreciative of the tremendous participation, the multiple food items brought by so many of our attendees, the loyal support of our members and legislators, and the wonderful venue so kindly offered by the Woodbrook Baptist Church. LWV, thanks for making this event a marvelous success!

Programming–Jen Haire

Early in the year, our County League initiated a partnership with the Baltimore City League to host a joint program on redistricting. We were later advised by LWVMD to wait until Maryland had a clearer path for initiating change. Subsequently, we partnered with the LWV of Maryland to promote their November 20 program, “How People-Powered Redistricting Got California Fair Maps.” This informative program was attended by several League members.

The LWV participated in the Perry Hall Town Fair. There were a wide variety of vendors from the library to booths with crafts. Our booth was well received; we passed out information on the League's activities with our jar openers. Our local political representatives visited our site. Joining me for the day at the booth were Neilson Andrews, Mical and Larry Carton, and Betsy Sexton.

Outreach was made in August 2019 to the Baltimore County Public schools to identify possible joint projects for our 100th Anniversary year, 2020. While the schools were independently registering students to vote, one suggestion was that we engage Student Government Association members in future Board of Education candidate forums.

The February 4th Special Primary Election for District 7 to fill Congressman Elijah Cummings' partial term seat presented a special challenge that precluded holding candidate forums for 32 competitors. Instead we stepped up promotion of the invaluable *Voters' Guide*, prepared by our Board member Barbara Crain.

League members made a trip to Washington, DC to scout out and plan for a May 6 100th Anniversary Trip to see suffrage-related museum exhibits. We chose the **Rightfully Hers** exhibit at the National Archives Museum, lunch at the Pavilion café, and the **Shall Not be Denied: Women Fight for the Vote** exhibit at the Library of Congress. Regrettably, on April 8 we announced the cancellation of this chartered bus trip because of the persistent Coronavirus threat.

Looking ahead, we have a tentative booking date in the last weekend of September for a dramatic living history performance, *“Alice Paul and the 20th Century fight for Women's Rights,”* presented by Liz Cannon and Joanna Guy.

Treasurer's Report–Neilson Andrews

Our League and its members continue to benefit from the conversion to a 501(c)3 corporation. Our operating budget reflects all our revenues and expenses for education and advocacy work, and our dues and contributions are tax-deductible. We are in full compliance because volunteers coordinate most of our contacts with legislators at little or no cost to our organization.



The Coronavirus quarantine of the state meant that we were not able to raise the funds projected for the next four years. We were unable to have the Capitol Steps fundraiser, and there will be no poll evaluations for the primary election. Therefore, in next year's budget, we will dip into our reserve funds to balance the budget.

Last summer, Darlynn Jones CPA reviewed the books and records, and we filed the shortest form of the 990tax return. She found that the statements prepared by the Treasurer reflected accurately the positions of our League on June 30, 2019, in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles. We are in the process of converting our books to Quickbooks.

This year we exceeded projected revenue from member and new member dues. We are grateful for all the contributions we received during this League year. For the first time, we initiated a Giving Tuesday campaign. We thank our donors, who are listed by name on page 24. We also received a very generous bequest for both the endowment and the reserve fund from the estate of Kay and Cliff Terry.

On March 31, 2020, the Operating (checking) account balance was \$1,305.79. On the same date our reserve and endowment accounts in T. Rowe Price were \$300,521.23 and \$105,298.33 respectfully.

Voter Service—Barbara Crain

Voter Registration



Our major effort continues to be registering new citizens after their naturalization ceremonies at US Citizenship and Immigration Services. In 2019, we registered 1,134 new voters out of approximately 2,634 new citizens at 47 naturalization ceremonies. We started off 2020 at a similar rate, but then the Covid-19 pandemic began, and USCIS discontinued all ceremonies. We will start again as things return to normal. We continue to have dozens of volunteers from our League, as well as numerous volunteers from the community and from nearby Leagues. Special thanks go to Phyllis Lansing and her large and dedicated team from Charlestown.

We did not do a large project with high schools this year, as Baltimore County Public Schools created its own voter registration programs in each school through their social studies departments. BCPS now has an organized program in civic education in various forms throughout elementary, middle, and high schools, including a year-long course during high school social studies.

Poll Evaluations

Barbara Ensor organizes our poll evaluation efforts for the Baltimore County Board of Elections. She had recruited her volunteers and set up training sessions for them at the Board of Elections in preparation for the June election. However, that election has now been changed to mainly vote-by-mail, with very limited voting on Election Day, so we will not be doing evaluations for either the special general election on April 28 or the presidential primary election on June 2.

VOTE411 and Voters' Guides

Caroline Seamon led our League's VOTE411 this year, and we worked together on the *Voters' Guide* for the primary election. The *Guide* has been a work in progress all season, as first the date of the election was changed and then the format of the election was changed from traditional in-person voting at the polls to a mostly mail-in election. Much of the *Guide* has been rewritten twice. For financial reasons, we will not be printing *Voters' Guides* for the primary election, but PDFs will be available electronically and will be sent to our members. We hope to be back with our signature printed *Guides* in the fall.

Thank You to Our Contributors

Contributions to the League of Women Voters Baltimore County are vitally important to our continued success. They help with our advocacy and educational work and play an important part in the publication of the *Voters' Guides*. We are particularly grateful to the estates of Kay and Cliff Terry for the generous bequest, which we received this year. Your Board is also extremely grateful to all the contributors listed below. Thank you.

Capitol Steps Corporate Sponsors

Greenberg and Gibbons
 Bodie, Delina, Hobbs, Friddel, and Grenzer, P.C.
 Katherine A. Lawler, Esq.
 Carol Velandia, Equal Access Language Services, LLC

Community Contributors

Angela Beltran
 Anita Langford
 Barbara Crain
 Barbara Hopkins
 Barry and Sharalyn Luciani
 Betsy and Carlton Sexton
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 Phyllis Lansing
 Ralph Rigger
 Richard and Ruth Smith
 Ruth McCullough
 Sue Hartshorn
 Tana Stevenson
 Traci Miller
 Venetia Holland
 Wendel Thompson

**League of Women Voters
of Baltimore County
invites all members to
attend.**

Annual Meeting

**Saturday,
June 13, 2020
1 p.m. – 3 p.m.**

**Join our first online membership meeting as we review
our accomplishments of 2019-2020
and set the pace for 2020-2021.**

**As details are decided, information will be distributed
to members through email, Facebook, and
www.LWVBaltimoreCounty.org.**