



# LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS of PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY, MD

## Newsletter

November-December 2015

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

### Message from the Co-President



Greetings. This is a time to remember with fondness those who touch our lives in so many special ways. A time for telling the special people in our lives they are warmly thought about, cherished, and loved today and all year through.

I would like to thank all members for the work we have done in calendar year 2015. A special thank you to your family for supporting you in all the activities you have participated in this year.

Let's establish a goal of making League of Women Voters of Prince George's County a better league by working harder for our communities in our County. I look forward to another successful year. I wish all of you a happy and safe New Year!

Joyce Starks  
Co-President

**Calendar of upcoming events:** opportunities to educate and advocate,

**January 9, 2016:** Regular meeting at Collington, 10450 Lottsford Rd, Mitchellville.

From Jacqueline Norris-Baker, Program Chair:

Now it's that time to celebrate and spend time with our family and friends. When you have some down time, please review the attached documents. It is a great idea in 2016 to sign up to get information from [LWVMD](#) and to monthly review the [LWVNCA](#) websites. We are connected to both of these, and they have great opportunities for upcoming leadership training and development. I have appended information from LWVUS to help all of us understand how to adopt program (positions), which was last done in 2014.

Our LWVPGC adopted in September a mini-study program (aka positions), which needs to be updated to reflect 21st Century technology, social networking, and advancement in agencies; as information now on websites often explains agency roles/missions. If you have an interest in one of the program (positions), you might want to research and update with all the information now on websites to inform residents in Prince George's County of services. For example, Co-President Joyce and Treasurer Barbara did two wonderful community events with District Heights on housing. Thelma keeps us abreast of education.

A document for you to jot down some ideas for LWVPGC program (positions) to educate our various communities. Each of us lives in different locations throughout the County, so we might want to think about ways to partner with our community organizations, such as the various mayors and local elected leadership.

In addition, we can suggest items for consideration at the LWV Annual Convention in June; to see what we have now, see [Impact on Issues](#).

**January 9:** Vote 411 training at the Miller Library, 9421 Frederick Rd., Ellicott City, MD 21042 (driving directions will be sent before the event. Register [here](#)).

**January 16:** Repeat Vote 411 training at the Queen Anne's County Library in Centreville, MD 21617. Register [here](#).

**January 23:** 9:30am - 1pm. The Maryland League's Winter Workshop will feature two concurrent workshops: **Using the new web-site to communicate**; and **How to do a Presentation on Redistricting Reform in your Community**. For more information, [click here](#).

**February 6, 2016:** Regular meeting at Collington, 10450 Lottsford Rd., Mitchellville.

## Reports

**Naturalization:** Ellen Laponsky, Martha Laties, and Deborah Mitchell represented LWVPGC at the naturalization ceremony held at the U. S. District Courthouse on November 9; Bessie Carrington attended the ceremony on December 7, when 40 new citizens from 18 foreign countries were welcome; one resident of Prince George's County was registered.

**November Consensus meeting Money in Politics.** After a lively discussion, lead by Elaine Apter, the group came to consensus on the LWVUS study, Money in Politics. Some questions remaining were forwarded to the LWV. In case you missed the meeting and want to learn more, watch this presentation sponsored by LWV Greater Cleveland that featured Zephyr Teachout at Cleveland State. Here is the link to the taped event, which gives a good background of the issues: <http://mediasite.ulib.csuohio.edu/Mediasite/Play/44c4835f115d43b1b6afb0fb9ab8b5611d>

THE LEAGUE OF  
WOMEN VOTERS OF  
PRINCE GEORGE'S  
COUNTY

WELCOME YOU TO OUR HOLIDAY SOCIAL.

**December Holiday Party:** Leaguers combined their Holiday Celebration with music, good food, fellowship and a fun Silent Auction. Special thanks go to Barbara Taha for her organizational skills.



## Stay Informed

- League of Women Voters of Maryland has a new website: <http://www.lwvmd.org>. The new streamlined format is designed to make it easier for you to register for events and keep up to date about our current priority issues.
- A new website has been established to help us keep up with the ongoing proposals to rewrite the County zoning and development plans. Register to stay informed here: <http://zoningpgc.pgplanning.com/>
- Prince George's County Board of Education: <http://www1.pgcps.org/>. A well-organized wealth of information, including links to videos of past meetings, statistics, and district maps.
- Prince George's County: <http://www.princegeorgescountymd.gov>. A newly revised website with many links.

## Get Involved

### Volunteers needed for two voters' guides projects!

1. The LWVPGC has received a total of 5 submissions (by 7 students) for our Voters' Guides Questions Contest. Interestingly enough, they were all submitted by only one high school. We need to go over the questions submitted and see if there is a winner. Anyone who is interested in doing this project in the next two weeks, please call me at 301-776-5915 or email me at [mdginter@verizon.net](mailto:mdginter@verizon.net).
2. Everyone who wants to work on inputting our questions or the candidates' submissions into the Vote411 data base during the month of January, please call me or email me before the last week in December so I know who will be helping lighten the workload. People who want to help by phoning the candidates when they don't respond right away

should also call or email me. There is a workshop in Ellicott City on Saturday, January 9, 2016, for everyone who wants to work on inputting info into Vote411. If you have never done it before, it is important that you attend. To register, click [here](#). Any and all help will be appreciated.

Dorothy Ginter  
301-776-5915  
[mdginter@verizon.net](mailto:mdginter@verizon.net)

**Register new Voters:** President Starks has challenged each League member to register new voters. If anyone in your family or your friends have moved recently; make sure they are eligible to vote. April 5, 2016, is the deadline for the April primary election, which will be held on April 26.

## Member and Chapter News

I want to thank those of you who have made your \$20 payment recommended by the Fundraising Committee and let you know we are continuing with that project.

We are very appreciative to those of you who have supported our efforts.

***Barbara Taha***

***Chair, Fundraising Committee***

***Members: Yvonne Alston, Norma Merritt, Addie Martin, Doris Gibson, Cassandra Freeman***

- LWVPGC has a new address:  
League of Women Voters of Prince George's County  
P.O. Box 266  
Oxon Hill MD 20750
- Deborah Mitchell is the new Webmaster of our website, [www.lwvpgc.org](http://www.lwvpgc.org).



**LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY  
(MARYLAND)**

**MEMBERSHIP FORM (NEW/RENEWAL)**

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

**Dues Cover:** Membership in League of Women Voters of the United States, League of Women Voters of Maryland, League of Women Voters of the National Capital Area and League of Women Voters of Prince George's County through June 30, 2016 (2015-2016 fiscal year).\*

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

(If Renewing and all other information is the same, only fill in name and date)

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Cell: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_ New \_\_\_\_\_ Renewal \_\_\_\_\_ (Check one)

*Check off the committee(s) on which you would like to work: Bylaws\_\_\_, Candidate Forums\_\_\_, Election Services(Voter Registration, etc.)\_\_\_, Fundraising\_\_\_, Legislation\_\_\_, Membership\_\_\_, Newsletter\_\_\_, Program Studies\_\_\_, Position Programs\_\_\_, Programs\_\_\_, Voter's Guides\_\_\_.*

Dues for principal household member	\$50
Additional household member(s)(2 <sup>nd</sup> HH) and student(s) @ \$25.00 each	_____
Print version of VOTER newsletter and postage @ \$6.00 (No charge for email)	_____
Contribution to Education Fund (Tax deductible)	_____
Contribution to Operating Fund (Non-Tax deductible, Fundraising)	_____
<b>Total</b>	_____

If paying Dues or making a contribution to the operating fund (non-tax deductible), make check payable to **LWVPGC** and mark the memo line '**Dues**' or '**Operating Fund**'.

If making a contribution to the Education Fund (tax deductible) make check payable to **LWVMD-EF** and note the memo line '**LWVPGC Ed Fund**'.

If paying mixed tax deductible and non-tax deductible amounts with one check, make check payable to **LWVPGC** and note the breakdown on the memo line.

**MAIL TO:** League of Women Voters of Prince George's County (LWVPGC)  
P.O. Box 266  
Oxon Hill, Maryland 20750

\*Dues paid after January 31<sup>st</sup> will be for the current and the following fiscal year (new members only).

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## Contact Us

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Collington Coordinator	Ellen Laponsky	<u>301-925-7285</u>	

Directors: Samantha Lee, Yvonne Alston, Matthew Fogg, Bessie Carrington, and Norma Merritt

Website: [www.pg1.lwvmd.org](http://www.pg1.lwvmd.org)