



League of Women Voters of Prince George's County Newsletter | Spring 2017

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

by **Joyce Starks**

In honor of Memorial Day let's take a moment to not only remember the great sacrifices that the men and women of the Armed Services make to defend our way of life, but also to remember the folks who came out of the trenches to preach about peace. The men and women who have and continue to make this world a kinder place to live.

Our fallen military heroes represent the character of a nation who has a long history of patriotism and honor.

I salute League of Women Voters fallen heroes all across the nation that have move on to a different resting place for their hard work, dedication and labor to make a difference in the world.

Upcoming Events

June 9-11, 2017: LWVMD Annual Convention, Washington College, Chestertown, MD

June 24, 2017: LWV of PG County Annual Meeting, Location TBA

July 15, 2017: LWVPGC Meeting, Collington Life Center

Women's History Month Presentation

On March 4th, 2017, the LWV of PG County held a Women's History Month presentation before the Board Meeting. Thelma Boyd-Nash discussed the history of the League in Prince George's County. Barbara Taha shared the involvement of the League in trying to pass the Equal Rights Amendment. Joyce Starks then shared studies and political issues being explored by the League.

Finally, Edith Perry introduced the guest speaker, Joseline Peña-Melnyk, who spoke to the group about women in Maryland politics and other topics. Following her discussion, Joyce Starks and Joyce Duckett presented Joseline Peña-Melnyk, Thelma Boyd-Nash, and Ellen Laponsky certificates of recognition.



Joyce Duckett & Joyce Starks presenting awards to Thelma Boyd-Nash, Joseline Peña-Melnyk, and Ellen Laponsky



L-R, Thelma Boyd-Nash, (IDK), and Atari Muhammed at the March 4th meeting

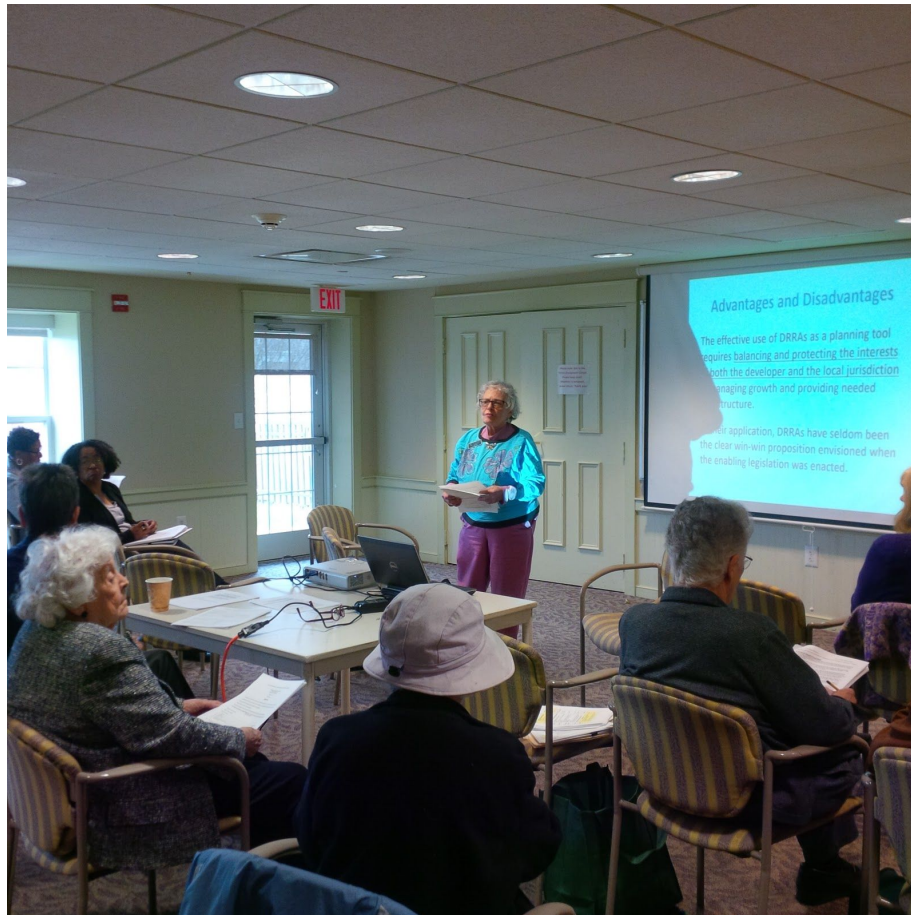


Members at the March 4th Meeting at Collington Life Center

LWVPGC Development Rights & Responsibilities Act Consensus Discussion

The LWV of PG County's April meeting was held on April 1, 2017. Special guests from the Montgomery County and Frederick County League of Women Voters, Linda Silversmith and Margaret Hindman, explained DRRAs, Development Rights and Responsibilities Agreements, and how they have been used in Maryland since they were first approved in 1995.

This led the League to a consensus discussion about taking a position on DRRAs and if their use should be reviewed in the Maryland Legislature.



Learning about DRRAs at the Consensus Meeting on April 1, 2017

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Member and Chapter News

- **Candidate Forums:** On April 20th, the League of Women Voters of PG County hosted a Candidates' Forum at the New Carrollton Municipal Center for the New Carrollton city council elections held on May 1st. The League also facilitated a Candidates' Forum for the City of Mt. Rainier on April 22nd for the mayoral and city council elections being held on May 1st.
- **Naturalization Ceremonies:** Barbara Taha represented the LWVPGC at a naturalization ceremony for new citizens on March 6th, 2017, at the US District Court in Greenbelt, MD. For April, Jeryl Tally Hall represented the League at the naturalization ceremony held at USCIS in Baltimore, Maryland, on April 26th. Fifty year member Pat Behenna volunteered on behalf of LWVPGC at the May 15 Naturalization Ceremony Voter Registration event.



Deborah Mitchell (left) and Pat Behenna (third from left) at May's Naturalization Ceremony

- **Women's History Month Luncheon:** League members also attended the 32nd Annual Prince George's County Women's History Month luncheon on March 16, 2017. Pictures from the event are below.



Members of LWVPGC at the Women's History Month Luncheon

Smart Voter Bulletin: Do You Have a Local Election Coming Up?

2017 may be a "non-election" year, but keeping up-to-date on local elections, special elections, and ongoing legislation is important.

15 towns and cities within Prince George's County have or had a local election in May, including Mount Rainier, Riverdale Park, and New Carrollton. Most of these elections will select new town and city councillors and some mayors. In addition, your town may have different voting rules than national elections - be sure to check them out!

To see if your town is one of the many with municipal elections happening in May, go to <http://www.princegeorgescountymd.gov/1683/Municipal-Elections> and check the town and date.

Join the League Online!

LWVPGC is growing! We have several new members, and more interest from members of the public in joining the League. Thanks to Deborah Mitchell's hard work, we have a website where potential members can download the membership form, read current or past newsletters, and find upcoming events.

If you have friends, family, coworkers, or other people interested in learning more or joining, send them to this web address: http://www.lwvmd.org/lwvpgc_membership. Additionally, they can email us at LWVPGC@gmail.com to learn more.

League of Women Voters of Prince George's County 2016-2017 Board List

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