

**League of
Women Voters**
OF KENT COUNTY

The Kent County Voter

P.O. Box 374
Chestertown, MD 21620
410-810-1883

www.kent.lwvmd.org Fall 2017 Vol. 42, No. 1



Officers

Co-Presidents

Dolinger, Lynn
21096 Tolchester Beach Rd.
Chestertown, MD 21620
410-778-0295
lynn.thirdwish@gmail.com

Hardy, Jane
6023 Lawton Avenue
Rock Hall, MD 21661
410-639-7811
janewhardy@gmail.com

1st Vice-President

Markman, Peggy
20639 Andrew Road
Rock Hall, MD 21661
410-639-2149
pegmarkman@gmail.com

2nd Vice-President

Flook, Barbara
23746 Lovely Lane
Chestertown, MD 21620
410-703-9682
bsflook@gmail.com

Secretary

Shivers, George
116 School Road
Chestertown, MD 21620
410-778-3696
gshivers2@washcoll.edu

Treasurer

Zelinski, Lillian
5960 Lawton Ave
Rock Hall, MD 21661
703-966-7660
lkzelinski@gmail.com

Directors

Baker, Margie
220 Calvert Street
Chestertown, MD 21620
410-778-2110 (no email)

Barbe, Elizabeth
P.O. Box 83
Massey, MD 21650
410-928-3737
elizabear3@aol.com

Bjork, Sandra
110 Birch Run Road
Chestertown, MD 21620
410-778-3678
sbjork@atlanticbb.net

Dulmage, Julianna
East Campus Ave., Apt. 203
Chestertown, MD 21620
410-778-5166
jdulmage@nmhschool.org

Miller, Frances
221 Birch Run Rd.
Chestertown, MD 21620
410-810-1518
familler@atlanticbb.net

Reed, Linda
204 Radcliffe Drive
Chestertown, MD 21620
410-708-8279
linda_r44@hotmail.com

Smith, Nancy
P.O. Box 715
Rock Hall, MD 21661
410-639-2739
nismith@verizon.net

Sutton, Bobby
P.O. Box 475
Chestertown, MD 21620
410-778-3154
bobbysutton475@gmail.com

Events Calendar

Monday, September 18, 12 PM, 11 Annual LWVMD Constitution Day (See flyer inside.)

Saturday, September 23, LWVMD Fall Workshop (See flyer inside.).

Monday, September 25, Maryland's Redistricting Reform Commission, public meeting, University of Baltimore School of Law, 1 to 3 PM.

Tuesday, September 26, 7 PM, LWVKC Social Hour and Reception, home of Sandra Bjork. (See Presidents' letter below.)

Tuesday, October 10, 9:30 AM, LWVKC Board Meeting, Location TBA.

Tuesday, October 24, 7:00 PM (Dinner optional at 5 PM), "Trending Topics: An Evening with Wayne Gilchrest," The Kitchen at the Imperial. Reservations requested, but not required.

Late October, if necessary, forum for candidates for Chestertown Mayor and Council. time and location TBA

Tuesday, November 7, 7:00 AM – 8:00 PM, Chestertown Mayor & Council Election, Chestertown Volunteer Fire Department.

Tuesday, November 14, 9:30 AM, LWVKC Board Meeting, Yellow Bldg., Kent County Public Library

Tuesday, December 12, 9:30 AM, LWVKC Board Meeting, Yellow Bldg., Kent County Public Library

Message from the Co-Presidents

Dear LWVKC Members,

You Are Cordially Invited! Please join your co-presidents and board of directors as we welcome new members to our local League. Here's your chance to get acquainted with members "old" and new, while learning a little bit more about the League and enjoying a glass of wine and some tasty hors d'oeuvres! Here are the details:

New (and Current) Member Reception
Tuesday, September 26, 5:30 – 7 p.m.
Home of Sandra Bjork, 110 Birch Run Road, Chestertown

We hope you can be a part of the evening. Please RSVP to Lynn Dolinger by calling 410-778-0295, or emailing lynn.thirdwish@gmail.com.

The state League of Women Voters is hosting **special workshops on Saturday, September 23**. These two workshops, which will run concurrently, are:

- 1) A Briefing on the LWVMD Open Primary Election Study. (Ever wondered about the state of Maryland's rationale for not allowing "independent" voters to vote in party primaries?) Find out all about it, and much more, at this presentation. OR
- 2) Effective Social Media Strategies, Tools, and Techniques

Lunch is included in the workshop cost. The luncheon speaker is Dr. Marcie Taylor-Thoma, whose topic is "The Status of Civic Education in Schools and Community."

Check out the flyer on page 10 of this newsletter to find out more about signing up for the workshops. **Please note that the location is not at the usual venue** for LWVMD workshops, because of renovations taking place at the Interfaith Center in Columbia.

We're introducing a new educational and social opportunity this year, entitled "Trending Topics," featuring current and compelling topics presented by community leaders. All members are welcomed and encouraged to invite new-comers. We are fortunate to have former Congressman, Wayne Gilchrest as our first presenter. The topic of the discussion is "Agriculture and the Environment: Our Legacy." The Kitchen at the Imperial is opening its doors especially for us on Tuesday, October 24 for discussion at 7 p.m. with dinner available at 5:30 p.m. Reservations are requested, but not required. There is no charge for the discussion, but beverages and meals are offered at cost. Please RSVP to lynn.thirdwish@gmail.com

We're looking for new activities to engage our members and the community in our work. We welcome your suggestions and participation based on your interests.

Respectively Submitted

Jane Hardy

Lynn Dolinger

Co-Presidents

What is DACA?

DACA is the acronym for Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals, a program that was created in 2012 by executive action of the Obama Administration that allowed children brought to the United States illegally by their parents to temporarily avoid deportation and to receive permission to work, study and obtain driver's licenses. There are about 800,000 DACA recipients. Most came from Mexico, El Salvador, Guatemala and Honduras, however, a significant number are also from South Korea and the Philippines. The states with the largest concentrations are California, Texas, New York, Illinois and Florida. The program had strong public support.

On June 10 of this year ten attorneys general wrote a letter to Attorney General Jeff Sessions, threatening to begin a legal challenge against DACA by seeking to amend a legal challenge already stalled in federal court. That lawsuit opposed DAPA (Deferred Action for Parents of Americas, another Obama administration executive action. The Republican attorneys general gave Trump until September 5 to decide the fate of the DACA program. As a result, the Trump administration announced on that date that it would end DACA in six months unless Congress found a more permanent solution.

According to the Department of Homeland Security, DACA will be phased out and will officially end in six months. In the meantime, U.S. Citizen and Immigration Services report that they will continue to process new applications received as of September 5. Those persons whose work permits expire before March 5, 2018 can apply for a two-year renewal by meeting an October 5 deadline. The statement from the Department of Homeland Security ends on a troubling note, however, declaring that the Department will “continue to exercise its discretionary authority to terminate or deny deferred action for any reason, at any time, with or without notice.”

Chris Carson, the president of the LWVUS, responded to the Trump administrations action on DACA with a statement issued on September 5:

"This administration's decision to rescind the 'Dreamers' program is shameful and does not serve national interest.

"As a country of immigrants, we are made stronger by our diversity. Yet time and time again, this administration has discriminated against immigrants and communities of color.

"Reversing the DACA policy will have a devastating impact on our economy. Ending this program will increase unemployment.

"Thousands of the Dreamers protected by DACA were brought to this country as babies and have no memories of their birth country. These individuals are paying taxes, contributing to Social Security and are Americans in everything but the name.

"The League of Women Voters is opposed to deportation of non-criminal undocumented immigrants and we urge congress to pass a clean Dreamers Act to protect, not turn away, the 800,000 young people who were brought to the United States as children."

Sources: <http://www.npr.org/2017/09/05/548754723/5-things-you-should-know-about-daca>

<http://lwv.org/press-releases/league-statement-daca-reversal>

What Is the Dream Act?

The Development, Relief and Education for Alien Minors Act (DREAM ACT) was a congressional bill that would have granted legal status to certain undocumented immigrants who were brought to the United States as children and attended school here. It was introduced on August 1, 2001 by U.S. Senators Dick Durbin (D – Illinois) and Orrin Hatch (R – Utah). It has been re-introduced several times since then, but failed to pass.

The bill required that its beneficiaries:

- Not have entered the U.S. on a non-immigrant visa.
- Have proof of having arrived here before age 16.
- Have proof of residence in the United States for at least 5 consecutive years since their arrival.
- If male, have registered for the U.S. Selective Service.
- Be between the ages of 12 and 35 at the time of the bill's enactment.
- Have graduated from an American high school, obtained a GED, or been admitted to an institution of higher education.
- Be of high moral character.

They would be granted "conditional" status during the first 6 years and required to

graduate from a two-year community college or complete at least two years toward a four-year degree, or serve two years in the U.S. military. After 6 years and having met all those requirements, they would be eligible to apply for permanent resident status and eventually become citizens

The following statement expresses the position taken by the LWVUS in supporting the DREAM Act:

“We have lobbied both the House and Senate for a path to citizenship, and we have lobbied in support of the DREAM Act, critical legislation that would enable immigrant youth to become fully productive members of American society.”

Sources: <http://lww.org/issues/reforming-immigration>
<http://lww.org/content/league-sends-letter-us-senate-immigration-reform>

Editor’s note: I suggest that our members to take action on these immigration issues. Phone Congressman Andy Harris’s office and urge him to support Rep. Gutierrez’s American Hope Act (H. R. 3591) to create a legislative fix to the plight of the “dreamers.” Phone No. 202-225-5311

You should also phone our Senators’ offices and ask them to support the bipartisan Durbin-Graham DREAM Act (S. 1615).

Senator Cardin: 202-224-4524

Senator Van Hollen: 202-224-4654

George Shivers

The LWVUS Calls for President Trump to Protect Civil Rights

The LWVUS joined the Leadership Conference on Civil and Human Rights in a letter to President Trump in which the signatories expressed concern that the civil and human rights of Americans are being undermined by his administration’s proposal for deep cuts to key civil rights office budgets, as well as the withdrawal of important civil and human rights policies. The letter also criticizes the administration for the appointment of officials who appear to be intent on retreating from statutory civil and human rights agency priorities.

The letter makes the following recommendations to the Trump administration:

- Enforce the law by responding vigorously to complaints of civil and human rights violations.
- Preserve existing policies.
- Nominate and appoint qualified individuals.
- Prioritize data collection.
- Condemn bigotry and violence.

Source:

[http://lwv.org/files/cr.Letter to Trump re CR enforcement 6-5-17 final.pdf](http://lwv.org/files/cr.Letter%20to%20Trump%20re%20CR%20enforcement%206-5-17%20final.pdf)

Leagues Support Effort to Rescind the Call for Article V Convention in Maryland

Both the LWVMD and the LWVUS have joined 40 other national and local organizations calling for a rescission of a resolution that calls for an Article V Constitutional Convention. Under Article V of the Constitution, a convention can be called when two-thirds of the states (34) petition for a convention to enact amendments to the constitution. Article V provides no guidelines or safeguards that limit the convention to one issue or that govern its rules.

The alleged purpose of the proposed convention is to add a Balanced Budget Amendment. Although initially 32 states had passed resolutions calling for a convention, three states - Florida Alabama and Louisiana - rescinded their calls. Currently 29 states, including Maryland, have a standing call.

The letter to Michael Busch, Speaker of the Maryland House of Delegates, and Thomas Miller, President of the Maryland Senate, calling for the rescission of the resolution explains the position of the signatories as follows:

“Due to the lack of provisions in the constitution and lack of historical precedent, it is unknown how delegates to a convention would be picked, what rules would be in place, what would happen in the case of legal disputes, what issues would be raised, how the American people would be represented, and how to limit the influence of special interests in a convention. Because there is no way to limit a convention’s focus, any constitutional issue could be brought up, including marriage equality, civil rights and civil liberties, voting rights, privacy rights, among others.”

Source: <http://lwv.org/files/con%20con.%20MD%20rescission%20ltr.pdf>

Monday, September 18, 2017 at 12:00 PM

[University of Maryland Carey School of Law](#) in Baltimore, MD

[11th Annual LWVMD Constitution Day](#)



"The Fourth Amendment and Electronic Surveillance"

Panel of experts:

David C. Gray, Professor of Law, UMD Carey School of Law

Rachel Levinson-Waldbaum, Senior Counsel, Brennan Center, NYU



LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF MARYLAND

FALL WORKSHOP

Saturday, September 23, 2017



First Evangelical Lutheran Church - 3604 Chatham Road, Ellicott City, MD 21042

Registration fee: \$25

(Includes morning coffee/light breakfast, lunch, materials)

9:30 am Registration and light breakfast

10:00 am Morning Workshop Sessions

Briefing on LWVMD Open Primary Election Study

Presenters: Barbara Sanders and Lu Pierson, Study Co-chairs

or

An Interactive Overview of Effective Social Media Strategies, Tools and Techniques

Presenter: Karen Naumann, Communication Professional

(It is suggested that participants bring tablets or laptops)

12:00 pm Lunch

12:30 pm Speaker - Dr. Marcie Taylor-Thoma, Past President,

Middle States Council for the Social Studies

The Status of Civic Education in Schools and Community

FALL WORKSHOP 2017 REGISTRATION FORM

(Deadline for Registration - September 18, 2017)

NAME _____

LEAGUE _____

Phone _____ Email _____

Amount enclosed _____

Mail to: LWVMD, 111 Cathedral Street, Suite 201, Annapolis, MD 21401

or call: 410 269 0232 or email: lwvmd@verizon.net

Or REGISTER ONLINE
Go to lwvmd.org/current_events

If you or someone you know would like assistance from the Lois Stoner Scholarship Fund for the workshop fee, please contact the LWVMD office at 410 269 0232 or by email: lwvmd@verizon.net