

**League of
Women Voters**
OF KENT COUNTY

The Kent County Voter

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Winter 2020

Vol. 44, No. 2



Events Calendar

Wednesday, January 29, 6:00 PM, Litrenta Hall at Washington College, a showing of the film *Iron Jawed Angels*. (See below for more details.)

Regular Board Meetings: Tuesday, February 11 and Tuesday, March 10 at 9:30 AM at the Yellow Bldg, Kent County Public Library

Saturday, February 15, 11:00 AM, Party for the 100th Birthday of the League of Women Voters of the United States, Sumner Hall, Chestertown. Keynote speaker will be Mr. Sherwin Markman, whose topic will be “The U.S. Electoral College.” See below for more about this event.

Monday, February 17, 5:30 PM: Fair Maps Lobby Night. (See below.)

Thursday, April 16, 11:30 AM. LWVKC’s 44th Annual Meeting and Luncheon, at Emmanuel Episcopal Church’s parish hall. Keynote speaker will be Dr. Coleen Shogan, Deputy Director of the U.S. Library of Congress and National Women’s Centennial Committee designee.

Message from the President

Greetings to all LWVKC members. I hope you enjoyed your holidays and wish you a Happy 2020.

This month marks the first of our events to celebrate the League’s 100th Birthday and the 100th anniversary of the ratification of the 19th amendment. The movie *Iron-Jawed Angels* (R), which describes the endeavors of the suffragists to obtain voting rights, will be shown at Litrenta Hall (Toll Science Building) at Washington College on January 29 at 6:00 p.m. It will be followed by a panel discussion with representatives of the College and the League.

The second event is a lecture by Sherwin Markman on “The U. S. Electoral College” at Sumner Hall, 206 Queen St., Chestertown at 11:00 a.m. on February 15. This event will include a light lunch and birthday cake. Please RSVP through Eventbrite online. Both of these events are free and open to the public and we hope you will join us.

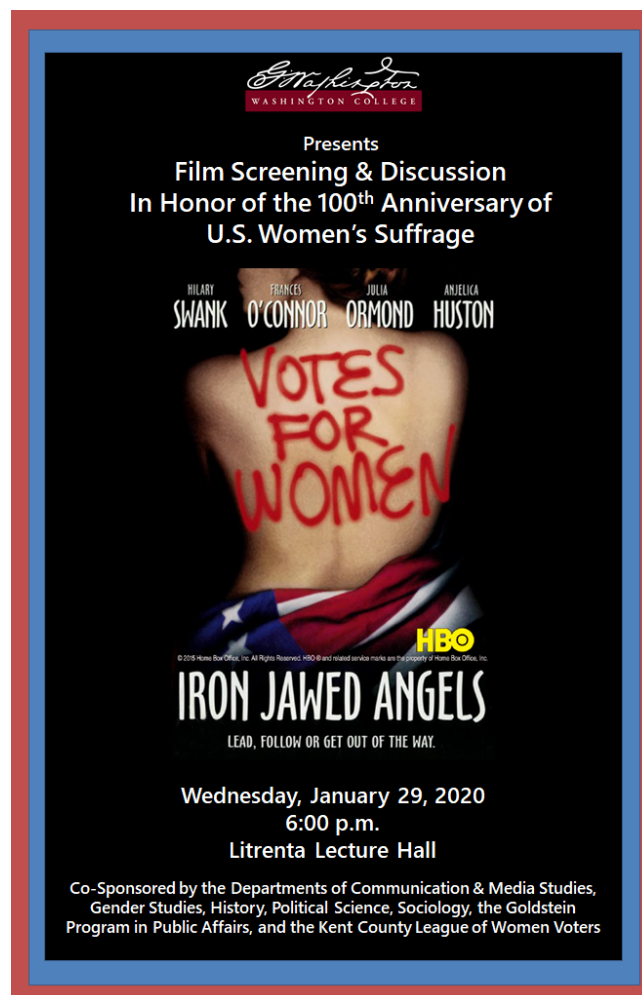
Our local League, LWVKC, has been honored by being named a recipient of the Washington College President’s Medal for 2020. We are very grateful and invite our members to attend the awards ceremony and reception at Decker Theater in the Gibson Center at the college at 3:30 on February 21.

Our Annual Meeting will be on April 16 at the Emanuel Episcopal Church and Dr. Colleen Shogan of the National Library of Congress will be our speaker.

More events are planned for spring and summer and we hope to see all of you joining in our 100 year celebrations. For more information check the E-Voter or join us for our monthly meeting on the second Tuesday at 9:30 a.m. in the Yellow House behind the Kent County Public Library in Chestertown.

Cece Trainor, President, League of Women Voters of Kent County
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Iron Jawed Angels



Released on February 15, 2004 and directed by Katja von Garnier, *Iron Jawed Angels* is an American historical drama starring Hillary Swank as suffragist leader Alice Paul, Frances O'Connor as activist Lucy Burns, Julia Ormond as Inez Milholland, and Anjelica Huston as Carrie

Chapman Catt. It focused on the American women's suffrage movement during the 1910s. The film received critical acclaim at the Sundance Film Festival in the year of its release.

In England, Alice Paul and Lucy Burns had participated in the Women's Social and Political Union, an organization started by radical suffragette leader Emmeline Parkhurst and led by her daughter Christabel Parkhurst. The "suffragettes" in England believed in direct action, including violence, if necessary, to achieve their goals. They were a smaller group in the United States than the suffragists. The suffragists were a national movement in the U.S. and believed in peaceful action to achieve their objective. They also accepted men into their organization, whereas the suffragettes did not. As might be expected, the suffragettes often received more attention from the press.



Alice Paul (heavy.com)



Lucy Burns (www.britannica.com)

When Paul and Burns returned from England they presented a plan to the National American Women's Suffrage Associations (NAWSA) to campaign directly in Washington, D.C. for national voting rights for women. Carrie Chapman Catt and other American suffragist leaders felt that their ideas were too forceful, but allowed them to lead the NAWSA Congressional Committee in D.C. anyway. They began by organizing the 1913 Woman Suffrage Procession on the eve of President Woodrow Wilson's inauguration. Later after disagreements over fundraising Paul and Burns were forced out of NAWSA, and founded the National Woman's Party (NWP) to support their approach. Conflicts between the two organizations continued, as NWP tactics included picketing outside the White House. Many women were arrested and charged with obstructing traffic. Those arrested were sent to the Occoquan Workhouse for 60-day terms and were subjected to abusive treatment. Alice Paul and other women undertook a hunger strike during which guards force-fed them milk and raw eggs. News of their treatment leaked to the media resulted in the release of the women. Pressure continued to be put on President Wilson, and the two organizations joined to call for passage of the 19th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution, which finally happened on June 4, 1919 by a vote in the Senate of 56 to 25. It was ratified by the required 36 states by August 18, 1920.



Carrie Chapman Catz (womenshistory.about.com)

The title of the film derives from a statement by Massachusetts Representative Joseph Walsh in 1917, opposing the creation of a committee to deal with women's suffrage. He stated that the committee would be yielding to "the nagging of iron-jawed angels" and referred to the women as "bewildered, deluded creatures with short skirts and short hair." Steel was also used to open the jaws of the women when they were being forced.

Source: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Iron_Jawed_Angels

League's Birthday Party on Feb 15 at Sumner Hall

Join us for a light lunch and birthday cake as we convene at Sumner Hall, our co-sponsors for this event, to celebrate the 100th Birthday of the League of Women Voters and the centennial of U.S. women's suffrage, 1920 – 2020. Keynote speaker will be Mr. Sherwin Markman, whose topic is "The U.S. Electoral College."

Saturday, February 15, 11 a.m., Sumner Hall, 206 S. Queen St., Chestertown

The party is free and open to the public, but seating is limited, so please register to attend at

: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/100th-birthday-of-the-league-of-women-voters-tickets-90786162857>

The Kent League has additional events planned in the months ahead, including: a field trip to exhibits in the Library of Congress and the National Archives; voter registration opportunities; lectures and displays cosponsored with the Historical Society of Kent County; and costumed participation in 4th of July and Legacy Day parades. Also, the keynote speaker for the League's Annual Meeting, on April 16, will be Dr. Colleen Shogan, Deputy Director (and National Women's Centennial Committee Designee) of the U.S. Library of Congress.

The League of Women Voters of Kent County to Receive President's Medal from Washington College.

The award will be granted at the College's annual George Washington's Birthday Convocation on Saturday, February 21 at 3:00 PM in the Decker Theater. The Award is described on the College's webpage as follows:

The recipient of the President's Medal will be an individual or organization with an exemplary record of sustained and acknowledged contribution to the quality of life in Chestertown, Kent

County, and/or at Washington College. The candidate's career or organization's work should be distinguished by a dedication to the fulfillment of the ideals represented in the Washington College Mission Statement and by service to their fellow human beings. Particular emphasis will be placed on contributions that have had a wide-ranging positive influence on Chestertown and the Washington College community.

The League of Women Voters of Kent County is grateful for this recognition of our long history of community service in encouraging voting and educating voters.

Fair Maps Lobby Night



2020 is the year for Fair Maps - but we need you to put the People Power in the movement to get it done!

Join the Tame the Gerrymander coalition in Annapolis to meet with legislators and tell them how important it is that they pass redistricting reform for fair election maps for the next decade! These maps will be drawn in 2021 - so there is no time to lose.

Go to www.lwvmd.org to sign up at Eventbrite if you plan to attend so we can coordinate appointments the appropriate legislators. Thank you!

Be sure to get to Annapolis early to find parking - this will be a busy night in Annapolis! [Click here to learn more about parking options.](#)

To Learn More about Redistricting Advocacy and ideas about what you can do NOW visit https://www.lwvmd.org/redistricting_action

Sign the Pledge to Say #Countmein

The 2020 Federal Census is on the Way

April 1, 2020, marks the kickoff of the 2020 Census. This process of counting will ensure that the political power, health, and safety of every community is maintained or enhanced in the upcoming decade.

But communities that don't get fully counted in 2020 will miss out for the next ten years. **NOW is the time to get involved.**

The Census counts. So do you. Pledge to be counted and to educate your community about the importance of the 2020 Census.

Go to: http://participate.lwv.org/c/10065/p/dia/action4/common/public/?action_KEY=13665 to sign the pledge.

The Equal Rights Amendment

In the fall edition of the Voter we presented an article on the history of the Equal Rights Amendment (ERA), sent by Congress to the states for ratification in 1972 with a 1979 deadline (later extended to 1982. Three fourths of the states (38) were needed for the amendment to be added to the Constitution. On January 15 of this year the Virginia legislature approved the ERA, becoming the 38th state to do so. Unfortunately, the Department of Justice in a memo by Assistant Attorney General Steven Engel, stated that it was too late for additional states to be added: "Because three-fourths of the state legislatures did not ratify before the deadline that Congress imposed, the Equal Rights Amendment has failed of adoption and is no longer pending before the States." The only hope, it seems, would be for Congress to vote to remove or extend the deadline.

Washington D.C. Museums with Special Exhibits re the 19th Amendment

(Reprinted from the Fall 2019 Voter)

Belmont-Paul Women's Equality National Monument

The National Park Service conducts tours of the Belmont-Paul Women's Equality National Monument, a 200-year-old historic house in Capitol Hill that has been at the center of the fight for women's rights since the National Woman's Party became

the owner in 1929. Hour-long tours of the museum are available at 9:30 and 11 a.m. and 2 and 3:30 p.m. The museum is closed on Mondays and Tuesdays. **9 a.m. – 5 p.m., Wednesday through Sunday | Free admission. 144 Constitution Ave NE 900 Ohio Drive SW Washington, DC 20002**



Belmont-Paul Women's Equality National Monument (fr.wikipedia.org)

'Votes for Women: A Portrait of Persistence' – Through Jan. 5, 2020

The **National Portrait Gallery** honors the suffrage centennial with this in-depth exhibit. You'll learn about the radical women that fought slavery, the women activists of the late 1800s, the "New Woman" of the 20th century and the relentless suffragists of the 1910s through a series of portraits, cultural artifacts and biographies. The exhibit also examines the struggles that minority women still face

today. 100 years after the 19th Amendment was ratified.

11:30 a.m. – 7 p.m. | Free admission. National Portrait Gallery, 8th and F Streets NW, Washington, DC 20001



The National Portrait Gallery (www.wikiwand.com)

'American Democracy: A Great Leap of Faith' – Ongoing
'All Work, No Pay: A History of Women's Invisible Labor' – Ongoing

These two exhibits at the National Museum of American History showcase women's experiences through powerful artifacts and storytelling. *American Democracy* features Susan B. Anthony's red shawl, suffrage buttons, the table on which Elizabeth Stanton drafted the Declaration of Sentiments for the famous Seneca Falls Convention and a women's suffrage wagon. *All Work, No Pay* highlights, through aprons and housedresses, how women continue to be unfairly responsible for the almost-timeless and endless unpaid work at home. **10 a.m. – 5:30 p.m. | Free admission. National Museum of American History, 1300 Constitution Avenue NW, Washington, DC 20560**



National Museum of American History (thinkwritepublish.org)

'Rightfully Hers: American Women and the Vote' – Jan. 3, 2021

This 3,000-square-foot exhibit in the Lawrence F. O'Brien Gallery at the **National Archives** uses more than 90 items, including records, artifacts and photographs, to tell the complex story of diverse suffragists in securing women's voting rights. The exhibit also goes well beyond 1920 to show the relentless struggle that occurred throughout U.S. history to win voting rights for all women. **10 a.m. – 5:30 p.m. | Free admission. National Archives, 701 Constitution Avenue NW, Washington, DC 20408**



National Archives (www.trapadvisor.com)

'Shall Not Be Denied: Women Fight for the Vote' – Sept. 2020

The seven-decade struggle for women's suffrage will be illuminated in striking detail in this new exhibit at the **Library of Congress**. Visitors can retrace stories of diverse women who changed America. The exhibition draws from the collections of Susan B. Anthony, Elizabeth Cady Stanton, Lucy Stone, Mary Church Terrell and other suffragists – in their own words. Photographs, film footage and rare manuscripts will transport visitors back in time as women took their place in the public square. Use #Shall Not Be Denied to share your experiences at the museum.

8:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m., Monday – Saturday | Free admission. *Library of Congress, 101 Independence Avenue SE, Washington, DC 20540*



Library of Congress (www.loc.gov)

Visit the Website of the League of Women Voters of the National Capital Area, www.lwvnca.org, to learn about more events and happenings.

2020 Legislative Priorities

Every year the League of Women Voters asks the members of the local Leagues to advise the LWVMD Board of Directors about the issues they want LWVMD to focus on in the upcoming General Assembly session.

Our legislative priorities for 2020 are on the chart on the next page.



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- ★ **Making Democracy Work**
 - Redistricting Reform
 - Improved Voter Access & Security of Election Processes
 - Campaign Finance Reform
- ★ **Protecting the Environment**
 - Mitigating Climate Change
 - Increasing Use of Clean Renewable Energy
 - Ensuring Safe Water & Clean Waterways for All
- ★ **Promoting Social & Economic Justice**
 - Providing Adequate & Equitable Pre-K - 12 Public Education by supporting full funding for the Kirwan Commission recommendations
 - Providing Adequate & Equitable Public Transportation
 - Maintaining the Safety Net for Vulnerable Populations

2020 Legislative Priorities

Click here to access the web page for the [Maryland General Assembly](#) - a great place to track bills of interest.