

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS of Baltimore County



The Voter

Volume 2018-2019 Issue 9
April-May 2019

Newsletter



CALENDAR

April



- 8 – Monday, Sine Die - General Assembly adjourns
- 11–20 LWV Baltimore County Member survey distributed
- 14 – Deadline for Annual Meeting Workbook, Neilson or Sharalyn
- 17 – Wednesday, 5:30-7:30 p.m., Wine Tasting “Beautiful Blends: The Most Carefully Crafted Wines”, Total Wine 8727 Loch Raven Blvd, Towson, MD 21286 (flyer)
- 19 – 27 Passover
- 21 – Sunday, Easter
- 22 – 10 a.m. – 1 p.m., Membership Meeting Membership Committee meeting, Terri Lawler's house, 17 Gray Squirrel Court, Timonium 21093, bring brown bag lunch
- 30 – A Day on Capitol Hill, LWVMD event (flyer p. 7)
- 30 – 7:30 p.m. Book Club Betsy’s home, *Wolves at the Door*

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May

- 2 – 10:30 Board meeting
- 6– Member survey deadline (mail or complete online)

June

- 1 – Boscov’s celebration
- 6 – Board meeting
- 7 – 9 LWVMD Convention Gaithersburg
- 15 – Annual Meeting Luncheon



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FROM OUR CO-PRESIDENTS

Dear League Members,



When researching poverty in Baltimore County, a Goggle search turned up a paper entitled “Poverty and Food Insecurity Affect Thousands of School Children in Baltimore County,” by our League member Dr. Laurie Taylor-Mitchell, published in the April/May 2015 *Voter*. The article makes the point that poverty in the county is increasing. Most schools within Councilmanic Districts one, four, six, and seven have over 50 percent of the students in poverty.¹ According to The Annie E. Casey Foundation *Kids Count Report*, in 2013, 22,685 or 12.9% of the County’s children lived in poverty compared with 18,533 or 10.4% in 2017. Compared with Baltimore City in 2013, 41,957 or 32.6% of children in the City were poor; in 2017, 39,518 or 31.8% were poor, a modest decrease. Whereas Baltimore County’s percentage of children in poverty fell by 2.5%, the City’s rate fell only by .8%.² Much of this decline can be attributed to the current stronger economy and low unemployment rate. So, the premise of the article is not born out, but nevertheless the future of the County is inevitably tied to the future of Baltimore City.

The City, of late, has been the subject of much national negative press. Witness the *New York Times Magazine* article, “The Tragedy of Baltimore”,³ the Mayor Pugh book scandals, and the trouble regarding the UMMS board’s absence of ethics disclosures and lucrative contracts. (Much of this is reminiscent of the Dale Anderson and Spiro Agnew days as County Executives in Baltimore County.) Will the reputation of the City and the changes underway in the City affect Baltimore County? It is inevitable unless the County avoids the political pitfalls that are the underlying causes of the City’s problems. That is where the League comes into this story.

This year, the Board has undertaken, with the able leadership of member Barbara Hopkins, the development of a strategic plan. One important component of the plan is to redevelop and reenergize our scrutiny of the activities of our local government. To this end, we need volunteers who will keep up with the deliberations of the County Council and the initiatives of the County Executive and the County Departments.⁴ The goal is to become an influential source of information that is well researched, educational, and non-partisan. The article in *The Voter* authored by Taylor-Mitchell survives today as an example of what we can do. Some of the troubles in the City have occurred because of the absence of citizen oversight and participation. Let not that be part of the landscape in the County!

Your Co-Presidents,

Camille Marx

Camille Wheeler

¹ http://www.actconline.info/uploads/Hunger_Among_Baltimore_County_Children_by_Laurie_Taylor-Mitchell.pdf

² <https://datacenter.kidscount.org/data/tables/4460-children-in-poverty?loc=22&loct=5#detailed/5/3300-3323/false/871,870,573,869,36,868,867,133,38,35/any/10017,10018>

³ Alex MacGillis, “The Tragedy of Baltimore,” *New York Times Magazine*, 12 March 2019, p. 32.

⁴ Please let Camille Wheeler or Camille Marx know of your interest.

LWVUS

Green New Deal

Jennifer Haire

The LWVUS, weighing in nationally on the recently released Green New Deal, published nine talking points entitled *Engagement with the Green New Deal Letter to Congress* to help us understand our League's position.

"LWVUS provides these talking points to Leagues about our engagement with a possible Green New Deal and climate change policy more generally. These points are meant to inform Leagues of the activities of LWVUS and can be used by individual Leagues in their messaging on this subject.⁵

- *LWVUS joined a January 10th letter with more than 600 organizations urging Congress to hold hearings and openly debate legislation about climate change in response to the momentum across the country to address this important issue.*
- *This letter is a request to hold hearings that will help educate the public on the subject, a process that is critical to democracy and aligns with the League's longstanding support for a transparent process.*
- *As with any omnibus legislation, we will work to elevate and protect the components that align with our positions. On the parts that do not align, we will work to negotiate separately and in a way that supports the League's work.*
- *It is important for LWVUS to be at the table as this process begins to make sure the important work we have done for many decades is included in any comprehensive climate change package that is developed.*
- *Being part of this initial conversation around the subject positions us to influence the outcome of the potential legislation on this issue.*
- *Being at the table is the only way we can advance the work our organization has done on climate change. We can't stand by silently and wait for the legislation to be crafted.*
- *Currently there is no bill, but LWVUS stands ready to negotiate when the time comes.*
- *As with all legislation, we will examine final language before supporting or opposing a bill publicly.*
- *LWVUS staff continues to consult the LWVUS Climate Change Taskforce, a group of dedicated and trusted League leaders, regarding legislation around climate change issues. We will continue to look to our long-standing positions to guide our engagement on this topic."*

Bottom line: LWVUS supports discussion and debate in Congress to educate the public on issues of concern to so many, and to make progress on a host of fronts related to threats to the environment and to vulnerable people overhauling the economy in the process.

For an overview of this nonbinding resolution called the Green New Deal, see

<https://www.npr.org/2019/02/07/691997301/rep-alexandria-ocasio-cortez-releases-green-new-deal-outline>

⁵ https://www.lwv.org/league-management/talking-points-lwvus-engagement-green-new-deal-letter-congress?utm_source=LeagueUpdate&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=031419

WELCOME TO OUR NEWEST MEMBERS

Anna Ciarrocchi
 Gilbert Fisher
 Carly Specht



LWV BALTIMORE COUNTY COMMITTEES AND REPORTS

EDUCATION

Student Support Network

Laurie Taylor Mitchell

The *Student Support Network's* Second Annual Spring Drive was a huge success! Over \$14,600 of in-kind donations were distributed to 22 schools and \$2,300 in monetary donations were used to shop for items over the two days of the drive. The items in greatest demand by schools for students in need were food, underwear, and socks, followed by school supplies. Many thanks to the League members who helped publicize and supported this event; over 50,000 students in Baltimore County Schools now live in severe poverty.



The Annual Fall Drive, to be held again at the Fellowship Hall of St. Thomas' Episcopal Church on Providence Road, will be on Nov. 8-9.

From Tam Lynne Kelley, Senior Manager *No Kid Hungry*

The Summer SNAP for Children Act, HB 338 and SB 218, has passed both the House (118-21) and Senate (47-0)! This bill will ensure that thousands of Maryland children have access to the nutrition they need when school is out of session during the summer and winter months. Counties can apply for the Summer SNAP for Children state funding this fall and the program will begin in July 2020.



Thank you to the LWV and individual members for your advocacy on behalf of Maryland children and families.

“Volunteering is the ultimate exercise in democracy. You vote in elections once a year, but when you volunteer, you vote every day about the kind of community you want to live in.”
 — Dr Syed Muhammad Zeeshan Hussain Almashhadi

MEMBERSHIP



Recipient of Member Appreciation Award Announced at Annual Meeting!

Terri Lawler, Membership Chair

The Membership Committee is happy to announce that the first recipient of the League of Women Voters of Baltimore County Member Appreciation Award will be announced at our Annual Meeting luncheon on June 15, 2019! This award is in recognition of a member's extraordinary contribution of time, talent, and/or treasure toward achieving our goals of promoting voter participation and civic involvement. The recipient, selected by the Board of Directors at the April 4, 2019 meeting, will receive a certificate of appreciation and a white vest embroidered with our LWV of Baltimore County logo. Come to the Annual Meeting luncheon to find out who the first recipient ever of this award will be!

Volunteers Needed!

Terri Lawler, Membership Chair

LWV Baltimore County will have an information table at two upcoming events: Boscov's Summer Family Celebration on June 1 and Perry Hall Town Fair on June 22, 2019. We need volunteers to hand out promotional materials and information about our League. If you can spare a few hours on either date, please contact Event Chair below! No experience needed! It's a fun way to promote our organization while getting to know fellow League members.

Volunteers are needed for these summer events—



- Sat. **June 1, 2019**, from 10:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. OR 12:30 p.m. to 2:30 p.m. at **Boscov's White Marsh Summer Family Celebration** – Event Chair: Camille Marx at marx7633@comcast.net
- Sat. **June 22, 2019**, from 9:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. OR 12:30 p.m. to 3:30 p.m. at **Perry Hall Town Fair** – Event Chair: Eileen Robier at myladyefaire@aol.com.

PROGRAMMING AND EVENTS

BOOK CLUB READS

Our book club is open to everyone. Feel free to bring a friend as we talk about the book. All discussions begin at 7:30 p.m. at Betsy Sexton's home. Contact esexton2009@gmail.com for directions.

We have three spring selections!

Tuesday, April 30 *Wolves at the Door: The True Story of America's Greatest Female Spy* by Judith Pearson

Tuesday, May 28 *Educated: A Memoir* by Tara Westover

Wednesday, June 26 *Code Girls: The Untold Story of the American Women Code Breakers of World War II* by Liza Mundy

Happy reading, everyone; happy spring!

LET'S DRINK A TOAST!



LAST CALL! Join us on April 17, 5:30 to 7:30 at Total Wine and More in Towson for a fun wine tasting **class**— *Beautiful Blend: The Most Carefully Crafted Wines*—and drink a toast to our good fortune, get to know each other better, and blend our interests. Use [online](#) registration or call the office.

5:30-7:30

Total Wine & More

8727 Loch Raven Blvd, Towson, MD 21286

Donation: \$20

Happy hour food and wines provided

Note: Parking and accessible access: Enter Total Wine lot and immediately turn left around Ethan Allen. Park by the hedge, not against the wall.

JUNE 15, 2019

Save the Date! This year's LWV Baltimore County Annual Meeting will be better than ever! Our first ever **Member Appreciation Award** will be announced, new strategies shared, informative speaker engaged, and members will have time to interact. Stay tuned for details.

OF FURTHER INTEREST

Congratulations Dr. Leslie Grant!

Terri Lawler, Membership Chair

Dr. Leslie Grant, DDS, is an active member of the League of Women Voters of Baltimore County. She chaired our very successful Legislative Luncheon held January 5, 2019; served as moderator of several of our 2018 Candidate Forums; and serves on the LWV of Baltimore County Board of Directors and Membership Committee.



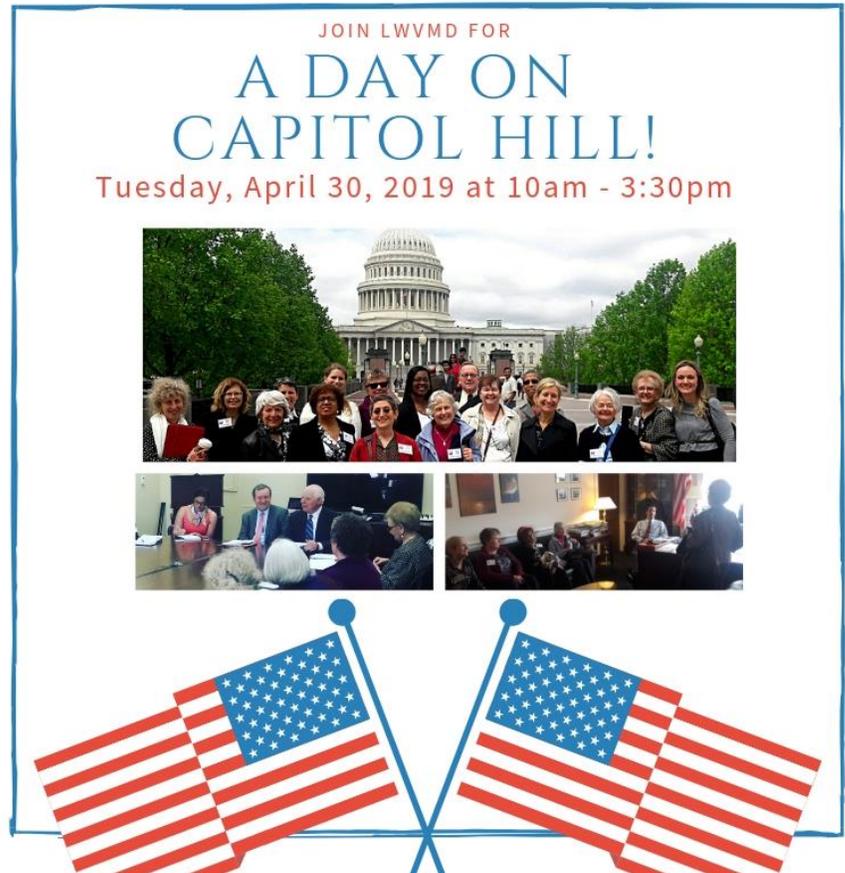
Recently, Dr. Grant was selected by the University of Maryland School of Dentistry Alumni Association Board of Directors to receive the 2019 Alumnus of the Year Distinguished Public Service Award! According to the Board's President, Dr. Mary M. Ziomek, this award is given annually to honor leadership and service. In a letter to Dr. Grant she stated, "Your volunteerism and your work on the Maryland State Dental Board as well as your contributions to the public and to the dental profession are admirable and appreciated. Because of your efforts within local and national dental organizations our profession has been greatly enriched. It is an honor and a privilege to recognize your tireless dedication to the community and to the profession of dentistry with this award". The award will be presented to Dr. Grant at the Opening Reception and Distinguished Alumni Awards Presentation on Friday, April 12, 2019. Congratulations, Leslie! What an honor!!

JOIN LWVMD FOR A DAY ON CAPITOL HILL

April 30, 2019
10am - 3:30pm

U.S. Capitol Building
First Street
Washington, DC 20004
United States

- Visit both US Senate and Representative Offices
- Enjoy Lunch at the staff dining facility
- Take part in advocating an LWVUS topic*
- Have Fun!



* Participants will be briefed by email about the LWVUS topic for advocacy and participate voluntarily.

Meet at Taxi/ Massachusetts Ave exit of Union Station, Washington DC at 10 am.

Arrive at Union Station by Amtrak, MARC, Metro, Bus, or Auto (Public transportation is recommended due to limited parking).

THIS EVENT HAS NO FEE! Attendees **MUST RSVP** to **Carole & Ashley** at capitolhilltrip@lwvmd.org **NO LATER THAN Tuesday, April 23rd** to facilitate scheduling appointments with Congressmembers.

Please include your name, cell phone number, & physical address (no P.O. boxes).

Questions? Contact Carole Conors, 410-750-3960 (home), 443-794-4678 (mobile) or CaroleConors@verizon.net.



MEMBERSHIP SURVEY

Help improve and strengthen the LWV of Baltimore County!

Terri Lawler, Membership Chair

What follows is a short but important survey developed by the Membership Committee. We hope this survey accomplishes a number of goals; to allow the Membership Committee to match member interests and experience with League activities and committees so we are able to get members more quickly involved with our organization, to measure whether we are achieving our goals of increasing membership diversity with respect to age and minority participation, and to assist our Programming Committee in identifying topics of member interest and the preferred mode of delivery. We are hoping for 100% member participation by **May 6, 2019!**

There are several ways for members to access the questionnaire. The easiest is to click on this link and complete the survey on line. If you prefer, you may complete the survey below in the *April Voter* and mail it in to the League office so it is received by May 6, 2019. In addition, members may go onto our website. Whichever way you prefer, please participate!

Information gathered will only be used within the LWV of Baltimore County and will not be shared with other organizations. It will only take four minutes of your time, and it will help us to improve and strengthen our League!





LWV Baltimore County Member Survey

The League of Women Voters of Baltimore County offers a variety of activities and active committees for member involvement. Please help us by answering and submitting the following brief survey. It is intended to help us match member interests and experience with League activities and committees and to build more responsive, dynamic, and successful programming.

Information will only be used within LWV Baltimore County and will not be shared elsewhere.

1. Please indicate your interests in League activities.

- | | |
|---|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Advocacy and Civic Engagement: promote League positions <input type="checkbox"/> County Council Observation: observe County Council (online or in person) and report back <input type="checkbox"/> Education Initiatives and Practices: promote educational excellence in Baltimore County <input type="checkbox"/> Event Planning: Annual Meeting, Membership Appreciation, Holiday Gathering <input type="checkbox"/> Fund Raising: boost and encourage donations and charitable giving <input type="checkbox"/> Marketing: social media, advertising, producing newsletters and other printed and online materials | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Membership: recruit and welcome new members <input type="checkbox"/> Programs for the Public: develop and host forums, etc. on topics of LWV interest <input type="checkbox"/> Voter Services: voter registration, <i>Voters' Guide</i>, polling place evaluation <input type="checkbox"/> World Agricultural Study Group: study agricultural practices <input type="checkbox"/> Other:

_____ |
|---|--|

2. Do you have any background or expertise in any of the following issues?

- | | |
|---|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Advocacy <input type="checkbox"/> Editing and Proofreading <input type="checkbox"/> Environment/Land Use <input type="checkbox"/> Finance/Accounting <input type="checkbox"/> Government | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> IT/Social Media/Websites/Desktop Publishing <input type="checkbox"/> Legal <input type="checkbox"/> Non-profit Experience <input type="checkbox"/> Public Engagement |
|---|--|

6. Demographics

Your responses to these questions will help us know whether we are achieving our goal of increasing membership diversity. Information will only be used by the LWV of Baltimore County.

Age

- 16-20
- 21-35
- 36-50
- 51-65
- 66-80
- 81 +

Ethnic background:

- African American
- Alaska Native
- American Indian
- Asian
- Hispanic and Latino
- Native Hawaiian or other Pacific Islander
- White/Caucasian
- Mixed race

Name:

Email Address:

Phone:

Thank you for participating in this survey which will aid, improve, and strengthen our League.

Thank you for participating. Please mail completed survey to:

League of Women Voters of Baltimore County
6600 York Road, Suite 211
Baltimore, MD 21212



**LWV BALTIMORE COUNTY
BOARD OF DIRECTORS 2018-2019**

Co-Presidents: Camille Marx, Camille Wheeler

1st Vice President: Neilson Andrews

2nd Vice President: Jennifer Haire

Secretary & Website: Sheila Maleson

Treasurer: Barbara Dezmon

Elected Directors:

Barbara Crain, Leslie Grant, Barbara Hopkins,

Theresa Lawler, Jane McCarthy,

Ralph Rigger, Caroline Seamon, Elizabeth Sexton,

Barbara Ensor, Barbara Simmons

Newsletter: Sharalyn Luciani

Office Manager: Wilma Rosenberger

Not a member yet? Join today!

- Call the office: 410.377.8046
- Visit: www.BaltimoreCounty.org

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Return service requested.



LEAGUE OFFICE HOURS

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