



## The Voter

League of Women Voters of Washington County  
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Spring 2016

## League Officers

President	<a href="#">Richard Willson</a>	301-739-3232
Vice President	<a href="#">Fanny Crawford</a>	301-791-7422
Vice President	<a href="#">Evvie Willams</a>	301-790-3613
Secretary	<a href="#">Melanie Fouche</a>	301-714-0074
Treasurer	<a href="#">Richard Willson</a>	301-739-3232
Newsletter	<a href="#">Evvie Willams</a>	301-790-3613

## LWVWC Calendar 2016

*LWVWC board meetings are held the first Tuesday of every month at  
John Wesley United Methodist Church (JWUMC)  
129 N. Potomac Street  
Hagerstown MD*

### **June**

28 *Great Decisions JWUMC 7pm “International Migration”*

### **July**

*NO Board Meeting*

1 *DUES ARE DUE (\$55 single,*  
25 *Planning meeting Rooster Moon Coffee Shop 8:00 am*  
26 *Great decisions JWUMC 7 pm “Korean Choices”*

### **August**

*NO Board Meeting*

23 *Great Decisions JWUMC 7pm “The UN’s post -2015 development agenda..”*

## **SAVE THE DATE**

**BOARD OF EDUCATION CANDIDATE FORUM**

**October 19, 7 pm**

**Fletcher Branch Washington County Free Library**

## LWVWC Annual Meeting

The annual meeting was held on May 31, 2016, at the Fletcher Branch of the Washington County Free Library.

The Slate of Officers was unanimously approved and will remain the same for this year as last. (see above)

Following a delicious Pot Luck supper members watched the award winning film entitled “Who’s Counting” produced by Australian filmmaker and former legislator Marilyn Waring. Although the film was produced in 1995, members agreed it still had some very important themes and wished more people could see it. If you missed the meeting but are interested in seeing it give the office a call and we will figure a way to get it to you. Copyright laws have some restrictions on public viewing of the film.

Since we thought the film watching was a nice activity, quarterly we will be showing other films as they tie into LWV or Great Decision issues. The first opportunity will be Tuesday September 20, 7:00-9:00 , when we watch “Thirteen Days” about the Cuban Missile Crisis. (We hope it will provide useful feedback for our Great decisions meeting on Cuba in October.)

### Who Makes **Great Decisions**?      We the People

*“ ...if a nation expects to be ignorant and free, in a state of civilization, it expects what never was and never will be.”* Thomas Jefferson

You are cordially invited to join LWVWC members and friends for Great Decisions. Sponsored by the highly respected Foreign Association, participants investigate and discuss timely issues to become better informed on the intricacies of our country’s foreign policies.

If available we invite a local expert on the topic to give us additional insights. We are often finding there may be no easy answer to these concerns, but the deeper understanding of the topic clarifies our reading and viewing of discussions on the issues.

**We meet on the 4<sup>th</sup> Tuesday of the month at JWUMC at 7:00 pm.**

*LWVWC member Barbara Flath passed away on 6/22/16.*

*The following is her reflections on the League, as recorded by Fanny Crawford the end of May.*

Melanie Fouche and I have been visiting with Board member Barbara Flath, who is coping with a serious illness. She is living in a nursing facility, so really enjoys visitors these days. She reminded us that she has been a League member for nearly 20 years.

"We first moved to Hagerstown in 1978 from upstate NY, but then we moved to Rockville. We moved back here about 1996 so we've been here about 20 years this time. I joined the League because I thought it would be a good way to meet people and wanted to be involved in community activities, to contribute to the local community and work for a good cause.

I did not know much about the League before I joined here. I saw an advertisement asking for volunteers for voter registration, and then an article in the Morning Herald, as the newspaper was called then.

We had 50 or 60 members, back in the old days. I remember standing on the edge of the highway near Smithsburg, holding up a Voter Registration sign, to get people to register. Donna Smith was there and Emma Lou Comstock, maybe Cookie McDonald.

I am happy I was able to help on the Board in the past couple years, especially the special events - like the film that the League Board was going to show. (*Editor's note - "Who's Counting: Sex, Lies and Economics" with the former New Zealand MP Marilyn Waring, 1995 was screened at the Fletcher library on May 31st as part of the Annual Meeting.*) It was a good one - I saw bits of it a long time ago but not all the way through. I will be sorry to miss it this time.

Before I was on the LWV Board, I mostly helped with voter registration and voter services, or outreach to recruit new members, like staffing a table at a fair. We covered the Peach Festival in Leitersburg, Canal Days in Williamsport and the Steam Show in Smithsburg. I think once I went canvassing door to door with Monda Sagalkin when she was on the LWV Board.

At election campaign time, when everyone was following the election hoopla, I liked talking to League women. If you are interested in politics, it helps to have a sense of humor. I never wanted to spend a lot of time with people who don't know how to laugh. League members are generally good for laughter.

Obama's was the most memorable election campaign. After the last election, I told someone I voted for Obama twice and they looked at me funny. Ha! But I meant in 2 separate elections...I watched the inauguration on TV after every election. Obama's first inaugural in January 2009 was the best.

The local County Commissioner races were interesting, too. I won't be here to see the 2016 presidential election. But I do hope the rest of you survive the results!.

The best part of League activities is always the social connection, engaging with women and men who care about the community. It's a social relationship but in the service of a good cause."