



The Voter

League of Women Voters of Washington County
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League Officers

Spring 2017

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Secretary	Melanie Fouche	301-714-0074
Treasurer	Richard Willson	301-739-3232
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LWVWC Calendar 2016-17

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

Calendar

April

- 13 Board meeting JWUMC 7:00 p.m.
- 10 Deadline to register for LWVMD Day on Capitol Hill www.lwvmd.org
- 25 Great Decision Washington County Free Library Hagerstown branch
- 26 LWVMD Day on Capitol Hill

May

- 11 Board Meeting JWUMC 7:00 pm
- 23 Great Decisions Washington County Free Library Hagerstown branch
- 30 [ANNUAL MEETING](#) Fireside Restaurant in Ramada Inn
1716 Underpass Way Hagerstown MD

June

- 11 Board meeting JWUMC
- 23 Great Decisions Washington County Free Library Hagerstown Branch

Check out lwvwashco.org for most current information and updates
about the Washington County LWV

Thanks to Bonnie

Frederick County League member Bonnie Baker- Bailey treated LWVWC members to a special presentation on Tuesday March 3/21. She clearly explained for us the complicated issues involved in the Development Rights and Responsibilities State Consensus questions. If you missed the opportunity but are interested in understanding the matter, the background information is still available on the website. Go to the calendar and there is a link on the March 21 date of the meeting. Once all the local leagues have submitted the answers the consensus questions, the LWVMD position will be announced.

Stepping Out

Annual Meeting

May 30, 2017 6 p.m.

This year's Annual Meeting will be held at the **Fireside Restaurant** in the Ramada Inn off Wesel Blvd. Instead of a formal program, we wanted to use the time to discuss the path of the League as we move forward. We have some very exciting plans to continue to foster the education of the voters in Washington County. The only way it will be successful is with your involvement. At the Annual Meeting you will be able to order off the regular menu and receive a separate check for your portion of the meal. The Fireside offers a variety of tasty choices from soup and salad bar, to sandwiches to full entrees.

Please bring your Annual Meeting booklet with you!

(available on our website: www.lwvwashco.org)

Join the LWVMD on Capitol Hill

The LWVMD is sponsoring a chance to chat with US Senators and Representative about priority issues for the League. The date and time is **April 26**, 10:00am to 3:00 pm. Participants will be visiting US Senate and Representative Offices, enjoying lunch together in staff dining facility and, if desired, taking part in advocating a LWWUS topic.

This is a members only opportunity and it is FREE

They need to know if you are coming by **APRIL 10, 2017**.

Details and registration forms can be found at www.lwvmd.org

Report for the State Circle

Don't forget that if you are interested in following the progress of bills of interest to the LWVMD in the MD General Assembly all you need to do is subscribe to **Report from the State Circle**, available on the LWVMD web-site. The online version contains direct links to issues you care most about. The bill number, highlighted in blue, allows you to read the full information on the General Assembly's page.

Coming Attractions

September Constitutional Day competition (with HCC) how much do you know?

October How to Run for Office? (with Chamber of Commerce)

Curious? Details to follow, see you at the Annual Meeting!

Prison from the Inside

The LWVWC Annual Story Telling Event drew an interested group on March 12. Panelists included a former Warden, and a former inmate along with two volunteers who lead Alternatives to Violence Programs in two different local prisons. The conversation largely centered on the challenges and help needed for inmates as they transition back to life outside of prison. Thanks to all who participated, panelists and audience!

Great Decisions 2017 Season continues

The LWVWC has joined in a partnership with the Fletcher Brach of the Washington County Free Library to present the Great Decisions program. **We meet on the 4th Tuesday of the month, 7pm.**

This season's topics include:

- Saudi Arabia in Transition
- US Foreign Policy and Petroleum
- Latin America's Political Pendulum
- Prospects for Afghanistan and Pakistan
- Nuclear Security

In support of this program LWVWC has discounted the purchase of materials to \$20. For more details or to purchase a workbook visit <http://lwvwashco.org/>

Message from our President

Dear Members:

In years past your board offered programs at the annual meeting to perhaps attract new members, but this year as you may have noticed, we will gather at Fireside Restaurant and Lounge using their patio seating area so we can have a great meal AND time for conversation. If you are a league member or have been thinking about joining, we need you. We know that democracy relies on informed and engaged citizens and this certainly applies to the league's work as well. Whether you have time to be more engaged this year or not, we need your input and guidance.

We are in the beginning planning stages for a Constitution Day program in mid-September as our first stab at civics education and engagement. Come and hear what's afoot. And the Chamber has asked us to provide leadership for a program in October on how to run for office. The opportunities are there! Who will we be moving forward? (And if you cannot come on May 30th, don't let that stop you from jotting me a note with your ideas and challenges for the Washington County League of Women Voters!)

Richard Willson

Democracy is NOT a Spectator Sport

LWV Making Democracy Work!