

CO-PRESIDENT LETTER

By Beth Hufnagel and Betsy Grater, Co-presidents

Many years ago, our member Lee Winston-Wright gave us a wonderful Uncle Sam doll. Uncle Sam has travelled in the Longfellow 4th of July parades, at our annual meetings, and many other events and, when not working, sits proudly in his chair at the League office. Can you answer the question “Where did ‘Uncle Sam’ get his name?”

Here is the answer: The original Uncle Sam –the goatee, twinkling eye, and all - was Samuel Wilson. He formed a partnership in the meatpacking business with his brother Ebenezer in Troy, New York. The brothers contracted to supply the Army with beef and pork during the War of 1812 and marked their shipping barrels ‘U.S’. The soldiers jokingly called the meat ‘Uncle Sam’s’ beef or pork-after Sam Wilson. A soldier drew a caricature of Sam Wilson with his goatee and flowing hair and labeled the picture, ‘Uncle Sam of the USA’. This picture was the original of the ones used to depict Uncle Sam today. From “Why Do We Say It?” by Castle Books.

We hope everyone is looking forward just as much as we are to spring and the Annual Meeting of the League. Just as spring brings changes to our weather, trees, and flowers and outdoor activities, we are anticipating the changes which take place at the Annual Meeting. Following the decision in 2018 to merge the two parts of the League into one 501(c)(3) corporation, you will vote on a new budget and by-laws to reflect this merger.

The Nominating Committee has played an outstanding game of musical chairs with Board members changing positions and fitting portfolios to new members. There are still opportunities where you can volunteer your talents to share in the myriad of activities the League is engaged in. So VOLUNTEER by emailing the office or contacting the appropriate Director.

In April, the General Assembly will end their 2019 session, and I hope you have been participating in rallies, supporting bills, contacting your legislators, and feeling good about some of the outcomes.

Do take advantage of being close to Howard Community College where, on Saturday, April 13, Green Fest will take place. You will learn about organizations working to improve our environment and can purchase native plants. The League will have a booth.

If you have not yet purchased your Quilt Raffle Tickets – or feel the itch to buy a few more! - the April 23 Annual Meeting will be your last chance, as the winner will be drawn that night.

UPCOMING EVENTS

MARCH 27

LWVHC Happy Hour
6:30 pm, White Oak Tavern

APRIL 3

Great Decisions
7:00 - 9:00 pm

APRIL 4

LWVHC Board Meeting
7:00 pm, Historic Oakland Manor

APRIL 13

LWVHC Table at Greenfest
10:00 am - 4:00 pm, Howard
Community College

APRIL 23

LWVHC Annual Meeting
6:00 – 9:00 pm,
Historic Oakland Manor

APRIL 30

LWVMD Lobby Day
10:00 am - 3:00 pm, Capitol Hill



LWVHC 2019 ANNUAL MEETING

By Beth Hufnagel, Co-President

I very much hope to see you at **6 pm on April 23, 2019**, at our Annual Meeting. Last year at Oakland Manor went so well, we're doing the same thing again, with catering by Tino's. A bargain at \$35!

Why should you devote an otherwise lovely spring evening to the League? First, you'll be sharing the company of other civic-minded women over dinner. (Or just come for the meeting, only \$10 to pay for the room.) My career was spent mostly in spaces defined by men (accounting and physics), so I particularly cherish this opportunity.

Second, this is the meeting where you get to guide the direction your League will take for the next year, from the budget to the possible studies our VP/Program Director, Thea Jones, has gathered for your consideration. There is a slate of officers and Board members to contemplate and vote on – or maybe nominate yourself!

Maybe you think that nothing exciting will happen in a non-election year, but not so. We are already preparing for the 2020 election – that's next year, you know – and the Maryland Legislature will be in session well before that.

We will also have the opportunity to hear from State Delegate Jessica Feldmark (District 12), our keynote speaker.

Please read the Workbook and buy your tickets now by visiting https://hoco.lwvhowardmd.org/annual_meeting. You can also reserve tickets via phone. Just leave a message for Gina Smith at the League Office (410-730-0142) and send a check for \$35 to the League Office 5430 Vantage Point Road, Suite C, Columbia, MD 21044. If you are attending the meeting only, the cost is \$10, and you can pay by the same methods described above.

If you have questions about the annual meeting, please contact us at info@howard.lwvmd.org or by calling our office at 410-730-0142.

IMPORTANT LEGISLATIVE DATES

April is an important month for the MD Legislature. On **April 1**, both houses vote on the Budget Bill. Sine Die, the day the Legislature adjourns, is **April 8**. The final day for legislation to be presented to the governor is **April 28**. The governor must sign or veto legislation by **May 28**. Keep these dates in mind when advocating for legislation that matters to you!

ABOUT US

Officers

Co-President: Betsy Grater
Co-President: Beth Hufnagel
Vice President: Thea Jones
Secretary: Virginia Kirk
Treasurer: Barbara Russell

Directors

Action: Linda Wengel
External Communications: Patricia Laidig
Education: Open
Environment: Betsy Singer
Fundraising: Michelle Rice Trotter
Internal Communications: Krista Threefoot
Membership: Roxanne Hughes-Wheatland & Cheryle Wharton
Roster Manager: Shari Glenn
Voter Services/Webmaster: Alice Giles

Off Board

Susan R. Buswell: Great Decisions/Gift Card Fundraiser
Janis Cripe: Great Decisions
Andrea Gruhl: LWVNCA Liaison

Nominating Committee

Nancy Berla
Sue Buswell
Joan Lancos

Contact Us

Howard County LWV
5430 Vantage Point Rd. Suite C,
Columbia, MD 21044
410-730-0142
info@howard.lwvmd.org



PROGRAM REPORT

By Thea Jones, Vice-President/Program Director

APRIL UNIT MEETINGS

There will be NO April Unit Meetings

Because the LWVHC's Annual Meeting will be held on Tuesday, April 23, 2019 from 6:00 – 9:00 p.m. at the Historic Oakland Manor, there will be no Unit Meetings in April.

MAY UNIT MEETINGS

Mark Your Calendar Now for the May Unit Meetings

May 15, 2019 from 10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. at Vantage House, 5400 Vantage Point Rd., Columbia, MD 21044

May 16, 2019 from 7:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m. at Historic Oakland Manor, 5430 Vantage Point Rd., Columbia, MD 21044

Meeting details will be available on the League's website at <https://hoco.lwvhowardmd.org>. You will not want to miss the May Unit Meetings!

PAST UNIT MEETING UPDATES

February Unit Meeting: Only one Unit Meeting was scheduled for February and because of inclement weather, the meeting was rescheduled to Wednesday, March 6, 2019.

Betsy Singer, our LWVHC Environment Director, lead a very animated discussion on the important environmental issues which are before the Maryland General Assembly. She shared the League's positions on those issues which are Legislative priorities for the LWVMD.

Topics included the Clean Energy Jobs Act, the Ban on Expanded Polystyrene Foam Food Packaging, Forest Conservation, and the Pipeline Safety Act.

Thank you to Betsy for fitting this into her busy schedule during the General Assembly session.

March Unit Meetings: The March meetings were jam-packed with information and information-gathering as we worked on "Program Planning" and completed a required review of LWVHC positions. The current positions and suggested changes are available to members online in the *Annual Meeting Workbook* which is on our website. At the Annual Meeting, you will be asked to vote on any suggested position changes and also on suggested "studies" for the 2019 – 2020.

Also, at our March Unit Meeting, we worked on developing consensus for the LWVMD's Bail Reform Study. This study could just as easily been titled the "Pre-Trial Justice System" as our discussion included bail, bail bond agents, District Court commissioners, pretrial services and how they might be funded, and general questions such as "Should bail be abolished?"

An interesting piece of information that was new to many of us - the United States and the Philippines are the only countries in the world that impose bail.

At both meetings, consensus was reached and our final report was sent to the LWVMD. They will compile the information from all Maryland Leagues and determine what the League position should be regarding the pretrial justice system in Maryland. All Maryland Leagues will then be able to use this position statement when giving testimony either before the General Assembly or on legislative bodies in their own counties.



PROGRAM REPORT, *continued*

By Thea Jones, Vice-President/Program Director

LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

As of the writing of this report, the Maryland General Assembly was still in session and you can follow the action on bills of interest to you at the <http://mgaleg.maryland.gov>. Bills can be tracked by the number of the bill or by broad subjects or by selecting from the menu. You can track the bill from introduction to final status at this site.

Please join us at future Unit Meetings. Our meetings serve two purposes:

Education:

- To learn more about topics of interest to League members through presentations by League members and other members of the Howard County community.
- To share ideas and information of interest to all league members.

Consensus

- To determine consensus on program topics/studies which have been approved at the Annual Meeting or have been studied by the Maryland League of Women Voters.
- To determine consensus on legislative issues to be taken at local, state, and national levels.
- Once consensus is reached, a position on an issue is identified and the LWVHC uses these positions to advocate at all levels of government.

Also, please consider sharing your ideas and suggestions for interesting and educational unit meetings in the future!

EDUCATION LEGISLATION UPDATE

By Krista Threefoot, Director of Internal Com

ACTION ALERT!

The LWVMD recently sent an action alert asking members to contact their lawmakers asking them to support **full funding** for the **Blueprint for Maryland's Future** bill (Senate Bill 1030 and House Bill 1413), including the addition of \$325 million in FY 2020 and \$750 million in FY 2021 and **not to cut** \$100 million from the special education provisions. (Visit <http://mgaleg.maryland.gov> to find out more about this bill.)

The Blueprint for Maryland's Future bill provides for recommendations made by the Kirwan Commission on Innovation and Excellence. (Learn more about the Kirwan Commission here: <https://www.mabe.org/adequacy-funding/>)

The 2019 report identified policy recommendations in five major areas:

1. Expand free full-day preschool to all low-income three- and four-year olds.
2. Raise standards and status of the teaching profession, including a performance-based career ladder and raising salaries to match those of fields with comparable education requirements.
3. Create an internationally benchmarked curriculum that empowers students to be college- and career-ready, including early college, Advanced Placement courses, and technical/vocational education.
4. Create broad and sustained support for schools with high concentrations of students living in poverty, including before- and after-school and summer academic programs, access to health and social services, and increased support for English language learners and special education students.
5. Create an oversight board that ensures these recommendations are being successfully implemented.



EDUCATION LEGISLATION UPDATE, *continued*

By Krista Threefoot

Both the Senate and the House voted on March 14 in support of spending plans for FY 2020 and FY 2021 that provide funding for all of the Kirwan Commission's recommendations. These plans include \$200 million in funds from the Kirwan Commission on Innovation and Excellence in Education Fund and \$125 million in casino revenue allocated to the Education Trust Fund (ETF).

However, Governor Hogan's proposed state budget for 2020 does not include any of the \$200 million from the Kirwan Commission Fund and commits only \$24 million of the \$125 ETF fund to support the Commission's recommendations. An additional \$45 million of ETF funding is allocated to a new school construction program administered by the Maryland Stadium Authority.

In addition to support from LWVMD and LWVHC, the Commission and its recommendations have the support of the Maryland Association of Boards of Education, the Public School Superintendents Association of Maryland, the Maryland State Education Association, Strong Schools Maryland, Maryland PTA, Advocates for Children and Youth, ACLU Maryland, and the Maryland Association of Counties.

CORPORATE GIFT MATCHING

By Michelle Rice Trotter, Director of Fundraising

Members can double their donations to the League of Women Voters of Howard County (LWVHC) by participating in matching gift programs. Many companies and businesses offer these programs to employees who want to help their favorite nonprofit earn fundraising dollars. A large number of nonprofits miss out on needed donations because donors are unaware of their company's matching gift program. Through matching gift donations, members and supporters of the League can help to generate more resources.

Operating a nonprofit is financially challenging for many organizations. A matching gift donation is a great way for members and supporters to assist in significantly increasing fundraising revenue. Companies distribute money after employees make donations to an eligible non-profit organization. Consider applying for a corporate matching gift to support the League's important work.

Here are examples of matching gift programs and how they work:

- Coca-Cola will match eligible donations at a 2:1 ratio. The company will match \$25 to \$10,000 a year for full-time employees and retirees,. Employees can submit a matching request to <https://fed.ko.com/communitykonnnect/>.
- The T. Rowe Price Group will match donations by full-time, part-time and retired employees. The Group is willing to match a minimum of \$25 and as much as \$20,000 at a 1:1 ratio to most nonprofits. Matching gift requests should be registered electronically through the company's intranet. For additional information, send an email to trowepricefoundation@troweprice.com.
- Apple will match donations of \$1 to \$10,000 for full-time and part-time employees. Employees can view complete guidelines by clicking on this link: <https://apple.benevity.org/>. To determine a nonprofit's eligibility, click here: <https://doublethedonation.com/forms/apple-guide.pdf>. For additional information or assistance, email support@benevity.com.
- Nordstrom's donations are based on 1% of all gift card sales. From the first day of employment, Nordstrom's is willing to match up to \$5,000 annually to a nonprofit that is meaningful to an employee. If you are a Nordstrom employee, visit mynordstrom.com to apply for a matching gift.

A SCRAPPY RAFFLE QUILT

Fundraiser to benefit

The League of Women Voters of Howard County

Tickets are on sale now!

Contact any LWVHC Board Member or visit www.lwvhowardmd.org and use the “Donate” button. Tickets will be mailed to you.

OR

Send a check to
League of Women Voters Howard County
5430 Vantage Point Road -Suite C
Columbia, MD 21044

Tickets are:

1 for \$5.00, 3 for \$10.00, 6 for \$20.00

Drawing will be

April 23, 2019

at our Annual Meeting!

Every ticket is a winner by supporting the League!



**LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS
OF THE NATIONAL CAPITAL AREA**



Invites you to:

LWVNCA 2019 Annual Convention

Saturday, May 4th ~ 10:00 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.

Maggiano's Little Italy
533 Wisconsin Ave. NW
Washington, DC 20015

(Parking lot next door to restaurant and closest Metro: Friendship Heights)

Page Harrington, Keynote

"Women's Suffrage and Race Relations: A Divided Legacy"

Registration at 9:30 will be followed by a buffet breakfast and the keynote presentation. The business meeting will include election of officers, approval of LWVNCA 2019-20 budget, and adoption of the Biennial Program

Cost is \$40 per person


Register Online at <https://lwnca2019-annual-convention.eventbrite.com>
OR Mail a check payable to: **LWV of the National Capital Area, or LWVNCA**

Provide a registration form **for each person** attending the convention. Mail form & check to:
Bill Thomas, Treasurer, 19365 Cypress Ridge Terrace #301, Leesburg VA 20176-8432

Deadline for receipt of forms and checks is **April 22, 2019**

Questions? Contact: treasurer@lwnca.org or 703-606-2397

(Please print and include this portion with your check)

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Name: _____

Street Address: _____

Telephone: _____ Email: _____

Local or State League: _____ Delegate: (Circle one) Yes No

Number of attendees: _____ Amount Enclosed _____

MISSION STATEMENT

The League of Women Voters, a nonpartisan political organization, encourages informed and active participation in government, works to increase understanding of major public policy issues, and influences public policy through education and advocacy.

CONTACT US

Phone/Fax:
410-730-0142
info@howard.lwvmd.org
www.lwvhowardmd.org

GIANT FOOD STORE GIFT CARD ORDER FORM

Date: _____

Name: _____

Address: _____

Telephone: _____

Email: _____

I am ordering \$ _____ in Giant Gift/debit cards as follows:

Number of \$50 cards: _____

My check in the amount of \$ _____ is enclosed.

_____ I will pick up at the League office.

_____ Please mail my Gift Card(s) (Enclose a self-addressed stamped envelope)

_____ Other arrangements (Please contact Sue Buswell)

Please make checks payable to LWVHC

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