

the Howard County **VOTER**

SEPTEMBER, 2019

PRESIDENT'S LETTER

Beth Hufnagel, President

I hope you all had a busy and restful summer – or at least had a change of view!

Your League leadership has spent the summer planning ahead for an exciting election year. This kicks off with voter registration training and certification by the Board of Elections in December, continues with Candidate Forums in March, and wraps up with Poll Evaluations for the primary elections the last half of April.

We have the usual complement of Unit Meetings September 2019 through May 2020, with the exception of December. These are open to members only and are how you give us direction as to positions and activities, and how we let you know how studies like the Equity in Education are coming along.

The Maryland legislature of course meets in January through early April and we have our usual activities, starting with our Legislative Kick-off in mid-January and lobby days in Annapolis and Washington DC.

Don't be thinking there's no fun planned! Betsy Singer is hosting the Holiday Party in early December, we have a gift-wrapping event again at Barnes and Noble mid-December, our traditional Tino's fundraiser is in March, and our Annual Meeting in late April. Many more celebrations of the 100th anniversary of the 19th Amendment are in the planning stages, and also look for more fundraisers.

I will see you in mid-September for our first Unit Meeting!



UPCOMING EVENTS

SEPTEMBER 5

LVWHC Board Meeting,
Oakland Historic
7:00 – 8:30 PM
5430 Vantage Point Rd.
Columbia, MD

SEPTEMBER 16

LWVMD
Constitution Day Program
12:00 – 2:00 PM
UMD Carey School of Law
500 W. Baltimore Street,
Baltimore, MD

SEPTEMBER 19

Unit Meeting
Elections in Howard County
Vantage House, 7:00 PM

SEPTEMBER 24

National Voter Registration Day
Community Resource Festival
1:00 – 6:00 PM
TBD
Columbia, MD

SEPTEMBER 28

LWVMD Fall Workshop
10:00 AM – 2:00 PM
Wilde Lake Interfaith Center
10431 Twin Rivers Rd.
Columbia, MD

*The League of Women Voters
is where hands-on work to
safeguard democracy leads to
civic improvement.*



PROGRAM REPORT

Thea Jones, Vice-President and Program Director

Unit Meetings

As we look forward to the fall of 2019 and a return to LWVHC activities, I invite you to review the topics for Unit Meetings below and mark your calendars now so that you do not miss a Unit Meeting this year!

In September, there will only be one unit meeting to meet the schedule of our guest speaker and it will be held on Thursday, September 19, 2019 at Vantage House. (See details below) and in January we will be collaborating with the Howard County Library to present a very interesting program at the Savage Branch of the library. Details of all monthly meetings will be included in that month's Voter, so, please use your Voter as a guide to the details of the meetings and mark your calendars now so that you are ready to join us!

I also invite you to join the LWVHC Program Committee which will be meeting this fall to finalize Unit Meetings that begin in January of 2020. Your support of Unit Meetings is welcomed and important to the success of sharing information with all League members.

Unit Meetings for 2019–2020

September Unit Meeting: *Elections in Howard County*

Thursday, September 19, 2019, 7:00–8:45 PM at Vantage House.

Guest Speaker: Guy Mickley, Director of the Howard County Board of Elections

Topics: Election Security in Howard County and Registration and Voting Statistics by Precincts in Howard County. There will be a short Q&A.

There will also be an opportunity to share questions that will be addressed at our October and November Unit Meetings on the Electoral College and a Climate Update.

October Unit Meetings: *Climate Action*

Wednesday, November 20, 2019, 10:00 AM at Vantage House

Thursday, November 21, 2019, 7:00 PM at Historic Oakland Manor

November Unit Meetings: *Electoral College, Yes or No?*

Wednesday, October 16, 2019, 10:00 AM at Vantage House

Thursday, October 17, 2019, 7:00 PM at Historic Oakland Manor

(continued on page 3)

“Units historically are the “heart” of the League. The Units are small groups of local members who meet for discussion and study of various issues of interest in Howard County, Maryland, the region and the nation. The purpose of Units is to facilitate discussion and understanding and are held to best meet the League goal “to promote informed and active participation in government.”

League Structure, 2018–2019 LWVHC Handbook, p.11

ABOUT US

Officers

President: *Beth Hufnagel*

Vice President: *Thea Jones*

Secretary: *Virginia Kirk*

Treasurer: *Barbara Russell*

Directors

Action: *Linda Wengel*

External Communications:

Patricia Laidig

Education: *Krista Threefoot*

Environment: *Betsy Singer*

Fundraising: *Michelle Rice Trotter*

Environment: *Betsy Singer*

Internal Communications:

Nancy Carlsen

Membership: *Shari Glen*

Program: *Thea Jones*

Assistant Director of Program:

Lucie Geinzer

Publications: *Amber Treat*

Voter Services/Webmaster:

Cheryle Wharton

Women's Issues: *Cynthia Williams*

Off Board

Great Decisions/Gift Card

Fundraiser: *Sue Buswell*

Great Decisions: *Janis Cripe*

LWVNCA Liaison: *Andrea Gruhl*

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 *continued*)

January Unit Meetings: *Becoming Involved in the Political Process*

Wednesday, January 15, 2020, 7:00 PM at the Savage Branch, Howard County Library System

Saturday, January 18, 2020, 10:00 AM at the Savage Branch, Howard County Library System

February Unit Meetings: *LWCHC Program Planning (Studies for 2020-21) & Positions*

Wednesday, February 19, 2020, 10:00 AM at Vantage House

Thursday, February 20, 2020, 7:00 PM at Historic Oakland Manor

March Unit Meetings: *LWVHC Study: Equity in Education Report*

Wednesday, March 18, 2020, 10:00 AM at Vantage House

Thursday, March 19, 2020, 7:00 PM at Historic Oakland Manor

May Unit Meetings: *Planning 2020–2021 Unit Meetings and Civic Study Report from LWVMD*

Wednesday, May 20, 2020, 10:00 AM at Vantage House

Thursday, May 21, 2020, 7:00 PM at Historic Oakland Manor

Please check your monthly Voter and the LWVHC website for any changes to dates, times, and locations. In case of inclement weather, announcements will be on all LWVHC digital resources including our website and Facebook page.

If you have any questions or comments or if you would like to become a member of the Program Committee, please contact Thea Jones at tjones89@comcast.net

Report on The League of Women Voters of the National Capital Area (LWVNCA) Summer Workshop

Beth Hufnagel, President



The League of Women Voters of the National Capital Area (LWVNCA) Summer Workshop was held on Saturday, August 10, 2019 at the Cleveland Park Library.

The first topic was the US Census, which will be announced to almost everyone by a letter sent March 2020. You can respond online, by phone, by paper, or someone will come knock on your door in May (an ‘enumerator’). The short form asks for everyone in the house; name, sex, age and date of birth, Hispanic, Latino, or Spanish origin, race, whether a person lives or stays somewhere else, relationship, owner/renter, and one phone number. The US Census lists 48 ways that census data can be used.

The issue of confidentiality was raised. We were told that every census employee takes a confidentiality oath for life and may get jail time and a fine if it’s broken. The Census expects to have difficulty hiring enumerators, so since I think a complete count is important,

I’ve already applied for the paid job at <https://recruitment.2020census.gov>. Our own Barbara Russell has volunteered to assist the Complete Count efforts at the Howard County level.

If this article only raised more questions for you, go to <https://www.lwv.org/other-issues/census> and sign up for more information!

The second topic was **Grants: Why you Need, Where to Find, How to Write**, presented by Dr. Patricia Maloney, Montgomery Community College. She was kind enough to share her slides at http://lwvnca.org/files/2019_8_10_Patricia_Maloney_on_Grants_LWVNCA_Workshop_Powerpoint.pdf. This was a true introduction, with the basics stressed, and also including some URLs of umbrella grant organizations that attempt to match grantors and grantees and provide resources.



EDUCATION REPORT

Krista Threefoot, Director of Education

Our unit is undertaking an important **Equity in Education** study this year.

Because of the changing nature of education in the US, and recent socio-economic changes in Howard County, the LWVHC made a motion at our annual meeting to review our official education position, parts of which date to the 1980s. League members voted to move forward with the study, and we'd like to invite you to join us in completing it.

Specific scope of the study:

Given the critical status of the achievement gap based on socio-economic demographics, we will review our current education positions with an emphasis on equity, diversity, and inclusion.

The study will be based on the current LWVHC Education position:

1. In light of new research on early childhood education and early intervention, this study will review Position 5, "Early identification of and improved programs for all children with varied and/or special learning needs, with additional trained personnel as needed; such personnel not to be included in assigning district-wide pupil/teacher ratio."
2. In light of new data on mental health and societal changes affecting students' behavioral health, this study will review position 7: "Increased counseling service in schools, including elementary grades; training for mental health counselors."

**If you are interested in helping us with research or data analysis,
please contact Krista Threefoot at two3feet@yahoo.com or 301-351-8912.**

CONSTITUTION DAY PROGRAM

LWVMD invites you to this special member event:

The Constitution and a Changing Climate

Moderator: Michael Pappas, UMD Law Assoc. Dean for Research and Faculty Development UMD Law

Panelists: Prof. Robert Percival; Prof. Rena Steinzor; Prof. Seema Kakade; Prof. William Piermattei

Monday, September 16, 2019

Program 12:00 pm Reception 1:15 p.m.–2:00 p.m.

University of Maryland Carey School of Law Ceremonial Court Room 500 W. Baltimore Street Baltimore, MD 21201

Collaborating Sponsors:

- The League of Women Voters Maryland
- THE University of Maryland Francis King Carey School of Law
- The University of Maryland-Baltimore
- The University of Maryland-College Park MLAW Program

Attendance is Free

RSVP by noon, September 11 to reserve seating and parking and to volunteer or donate refreshments

Parking at Baltimore Grand Garage, 5 N. Paca St. opposite law school. Cost \$8 per 2 hours. Please carpool.

Email your name, email address, phone, local League and parking needs to agruhl@lwvmd.org

Questions? 301.328.1845





Is the ERA Necessary Today?

Cynthia Williams, Director, Women’s Issues

Women won the right to vote on August 18, 1920. However, the fight for equal rights began as early as 1848, at the first Women’s Rights Convention in Seneca Falls, NY. Elizabeth Cady Stanton (one of the meeting’s organizers), made this speech:

“We are assembled to protest against a form of government, existing without the consent of the governed—to declare our right to be free as man is free, to be represented in the government which we are taxed to support, to have such disgraceful laws as give man the power to chastise and imprison his wife, to take the wages which she earns, the property which she inherits, and, in case of separation, the children of her love.”



Alice Paul, www.womenshistory.org

Later, in 1923, Alice Paul (also at a convention in Seneca Falls), presented a draft equal rights amendment (ERA) for delegates approval, which read:

“Men and women shall have equal rights throughout the United States and every place subject to its jurisdiction.”

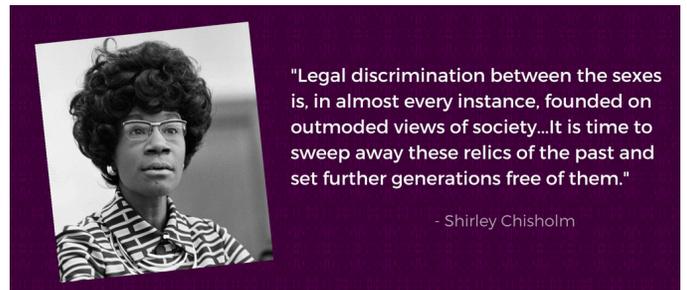
It took another forty-nine years to have the first state ratify the ERA. Twenty-two states (including Maryland) ratified in 1972, eight in 1973, three in 1974, one in 1975, and one in 1977. Thirty-five states have ratified the ERA so far, and fifteen states have not – Alabama, Arizona, Arkansas, Florida, Georgia, Illinois, Louisiana, Mississippi, Missouri, Nevada, North Carolina, Oklahoma, South Carolina, Utah, and Virginia. If three more states ratify, it will become an amendment (Virginia came close last year).



That’s the history of the ERA. What about the ERA today? Do we still need it? Obviously, we do. Women continue to earn less than men for the same jobs. Attacks on reproductive rights have been happening all along but in the last year, it’s gotten even worse, especially in some of the fifteen non-ratifying states listed above. Threats of sexual violence and victim blaming ideologies continue to plague us (Brett Kavanaugh comes to mind). Even in this time of #metoo, women still face threats of violence, discrimination, and sexual harassment. Women’s opinions are not taken seriously, not even in Congress or the Senate (“and still she persisted”). Congresswomen have been attacked by the President as recently as this month. Here in 2019, things are clearly getting worse, not better.

Part of the problem is that we have a tendency to take our rights for granted. We’re complacent. If we aren’t the ones being targeted, we live with the status quo. This is a mistake we cannot afford to continue to make. Even if the ERA is passed, it needs to be enforced. We must honor the women who fought so hard and long for the freedoms we DO currently enjoy. We need to look to the future and each do our part to get the ERA passed. Here are some organizations that are working to get it done:

- National Organization for Women (<https://now.org/> and <https://marylandnow.org/>)
- Alice Paul Institute’s (www.equalrightsamendment.org/)
- Feminist Majority Foundation (www.feminist.org/)
- United 4 Equality (www.united4equality.com)
- Florida’s Equal Rights Alliance (<http://2passera.org/>)



- Shirley Chisholm

<https://nmaahc.si.edu/>

Please get involved with one of the above organizations or any other that has the mission of getting the ERA passed.

But most of all, **VOTE**. Vote like your rights depend on it – because they do.

National Voter Registration Day

Howard County Board of Elections in cooperation with
Bridges to Housing Stability
Presents the 1st Annual

Community Resource Festival

Tuesday, September 24, 2019

1:00 PM – 6:00 PM

TBD

Columbia, MD 21046

Come visit your Howard County Resource Campus
and celebrate the end of summer!

- Register to vote!
- Update your voter registration!
- Voting Officials on hand to answer your questions!
 - Learn about working as an Election Judge!
 - Learn about supportive housing strategies!
 - Enjoy patriotic music!
 - Enjoy DJ entertainment! (TBD)
 - Enjoy food truck specialties!
 - Meet your elected officials!

Follow Our Social Media!



@lwhocomd



@lwhc



@lwhc

Get LWV updates between
editions of *The Voter*

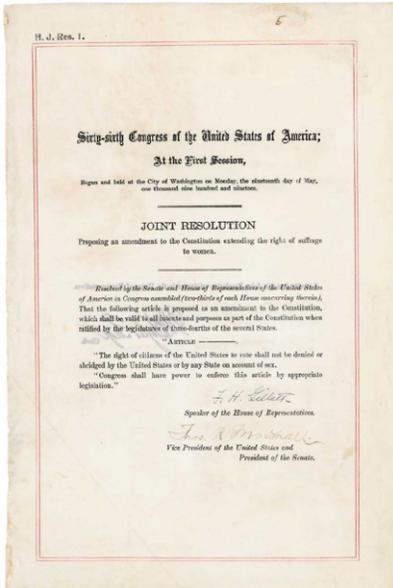
Off-Board Position – Webmaster

Reports to the Director of External Communication. The webmaster is responsible for the maintenance of the website. He or she has specialized knowledge and skills to maintain the integrity of the site's content and its embedded links, makes updates when required, and responds to questions and problems of the site's users. The webmaster maintains the website. Updates and changes to content of the website is through the Director of External Communication.

The public expects our website to have the current information it seeks. If you are interested, please contact Patricia Laidig, the LWVHC Director of External Communication, at communications@lwhowardmd.org.



2020 is the Time to Celebrate the Ratification of the 19th Amendment!



On June 4, 1919, the United States Congress passed the 19th amendment to the Constitution of United of America, however it was not until 1920 that the 19th amendment was finally ratified. On August 18, 1920, Tennessee was the last of the necessary 36 states to secure ratification and the 19th amendment was officially adopted on August 26, 1920. It was the culmination of a decades-long movement that required a difficult struggle filled with agitation and protest. The passage of the amendment led to women’s suffrage at both the state and national levels. The 19th amendment guarantees all American women the right to vote.

At Unit Meetings in May 2019, League members discussed celebrating the passage and ratification of the 19th amendment. There was interest in doing so and many good suggestions were made. Some will be easier to accomplish than others, but the Board has approved moving forward with plans to make 2020 a year of celebration!

Amber Treat and Thea Jones have agreed to “coordinate” activities for this year-long celebration and we are inviting all League members to consider joining us in this project.

We will have a first planning meeting to actually identify workable events in September and we invite all those who would like to participate in the planning and implementation to contact us by Friday, September 14, 2019.

Some of the events that were suggested include:

- Have a LWVHC Community Meeting in September 2021 as the culmination of the year’s events and have a major speaker such as Justice Sonia Sotomayor.
- Sponsor a program with the Capitol Steps.
- Ask for a proclamation from County Executive Calvin Ball.
- Hold a celebration on August 18th and suggest that it be held at 18th & 21st and perhaps ask that the restaurant be called 19th and 20th in honor of the day!
- Hold a community meeting celebrating women leaders in Howard County which could include police chief and fire chief, political leaders, leaders in health care, education, non-profits, ethnic organizations, the arts, entrepreneurs, etc.
- Sponsor essay contests for HCPSS students and also women in the community who could write essays on what having the vote has meant to them.
- Co-sponsor an event at the Chrysalis – perhaps with the Columbia Orchestra
- Ask the Howard Hughes Corporation to place signs on downtown Columbia streets such as those done for the Wine Festival and other community events.



If you would like to work on one of the events listed above or if you have additional ideas for 2019 - 2021 meetings, celebrations, etc. please contact Thea Jones at tjones89@comcast.net or Amber Treat at amber.treat@gmail.com

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 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