

June/July 2017

News from LWV Howard County

Co-Presidents' Letter

League Members, before turning our attention to the new board we would like to take this opportunity to give another heart felt Thank You to Lillie Gallant for her leadership the past two years. The many accomplishments and activities are described in the Annual Meeting Workbook that I hope you have read. We are proud of our League and the activities in our community as well as the mired events during the past election year.

Barbara and I look forward to working with the new Board and with all of you to focus on how we keep Making Democracy Work. Because neither of us had any premonition of becoming your Co-Presidents, we each have travel plans that will take us out of the country, but after the Board Retreat on June 24th, we will have our League year laid out for 2017-18 and will be counting on everyone of you to pitch in and participate.

Co-Presidents:

Betsy Grater & Barbara Russell

Notes from the LWVHC Annual Meeting

From the LWVHC Annual Meeting held on April 25, 2017.

- Presentation by [Delegate Terri Hill](#), who is also a doctor. She spoke about a few of the issues in Annapolis this session.
- Election of Officers - We elected a slate of new officers for the LWVHC at the meeting. For more information, see listing on Page 2.
- Proposed Budget on page 9 in the Workbook was adopted
- A study of our position on Housing for the purpose of possible updates to the last study completed in 2005 was approved.

Calendar

June 1 @ 7:00 PM
LWVHC Board Meeting

June 10 - June 11
[LWVMD 2017](#)
[Convention](#)
Washington College,
Chestertown, MD

July 4 @ 9:30 AM
Annual Longfellow [4th of](#)
[July](#) Parade. Lineup [at](#)
[9:30](#) in Longfellow
Elementary School
parking lot.

July 23
[Thurgood](#) at the Olney
Theatre with LWVMD.

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



Great Decisions - June 2017

The June meeting of Great Decisions will be on Wednesday, June 14th at Janis and Jerry Cripe. It will start at 7:00 with the movie at 7:30. The topic this month will be [U.S. foreign policy and petroleum](#). RSVP to Janis at 410-730-8091 or at janiscripe@aol.com if you plan to attend. The group will then recess until September 2017.

[U.S. Foreign Policy and Petroleum](#), Jonathan Chanis

What is the effect of U.S. petroleum security on foreign policy? For 45 years, the country has alternated between periods of energy security and insecurity, sometimes able to wield petroleum as a useful instrument of foreign policy, sometimes not. Despite the so-called “energy revolution,” the U.S. today is by no means disentangled from foreign dependence and global trends. In order to be successful, policymakers must recognize both petroleum security circumstances and patterns in the relationship between petroleum and foreign policy.

LWVMD Convention Update - Will you be there?

LWV Howard County will be well represented by our 5 delegates to the LWVMD Convention, but it’s not too late for you to sign up. Registration is still open. The registration for the convention can be done online or by mail.

We are staying in the Sassafras dormitory which is an all-suite dorm; each suite contains one bathroom and either 2 or 3 bedrooms. We will assign one bedroom to each person who attends. If you would prefer to choose your suite-mate(s,) please provide the name(s) to **Jane Hardy**. Linens will be provided but you will have to make your own bed. A refrigerator is available on the first floor for medical needs and your own drinks. The dorm has 3 floors – an elevator is available.

You will have the option to be a day-visitor, or to register for two or three nights. in addition there are options to register for additional events on Friday afternoon and evening, June 9, 2017, before the Convention begins Saturday morning.

LWV Howard County Convention delegates are: Betsy Grater, Carole Conors, Betsy Singer, Alicia Jones McLeod and Shari Glenn. Grace Kubofcik will be an alternate.

You can click here for more information about the [LWVMD Convention](#) or to register online. You can also download the [2017 Convention Workbook](#).

2017-2018

Board of Directors

Officers

Co-Presidents

Betsy Grater & Barbara Russell

Vice Pres. - Carole Conors

Secty, Michelle Rice Trotter

Treasurer, Beth Hufnagel

Directors

Roxanne Hughes-Wheatland &

Jean Israel, *Membership*

Alicia Jones McLeod,

Communications

Patricia Gordon, *Education*

Carole Conors, *Program*

Betsy Singer, *Environment*

Vacant, *Voter Serv./Poll Eval.*

Kathy Rose, *Action*

Vacant Position, *Voter Serv./
Guides*

Off Board

Nancy Berla, Publications/
Scrip Sue Buswell, Great
Decisions Janis Cripe, Great
Decisions Andrea Gruhl,
LWVNCA Liaison Barbara
Johnson, Voter Serv./Guides
Andrea Wilmoth, Webmaster

Articles, news, reports, and photos should be submitted by the 15th of each month for inclusion in the VOTER newsletter. Please submit in Word format to: communications@lwvhoward.md.org. We look forward to hearing from you!

The Future of Forests

By Betsy Singer

LWVHC hosted *The Future of Forests, The Benefits of Urban Trees* on Thursday, April 13 at 7 pm at Historic Oakland Manor Main Ballroom.



Dr. Joseph Sullivan, Professor and Associate Dean, University of Maryland College of Agriculture & Natural Resources, shared his research in Prince William Forest Park and the importance of urban trees and forests in improving air and water quality and enhancing carbon storage and sequestration.

The program was co-sponsored with the Howard County Legacy Leadership Institute for the Environment (HoLLIE) and the Town Center Community Association. Thanks to Lillie Gallant and Michele Trotter for setting up the LWVHC membership display and sign up sheet in the foyer. Patti Laidig publicized the lecture through LWVHC and Columbia Association channels and HoLLIE invited its graduates as a continuing education opportunity.

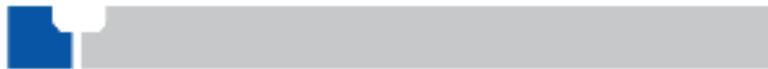
GREENFEST

LWVHC sponsored a display at the annual Howard County GreenFest, sponsored by the Department of



Recreation and Parks on Saturday, April 22 from 10 a.m. until 4 p.m. at the Howard Community College. Thanks to League members Carole Graves, Barbara Russell, Denise Kickham and Joy Calvert for staffing the exhibit. We were very busy with many of the 2,000 people who came to GreenFest stopping to ask questions and signing up for membership information.

The League exhibit featured environmental legislation that we worked hard to pass during the 2017 Maryland General Assembly session. We had a successful session!



No Fracking in Maryland - 2017 was the last chance to get a total ban on hydraulic fracturing in Maryland. We went into the General Assembly session with time running out on a 2.5 year moratorium on hydraulic fracturing or “fracking.” Fracking causes great harm to water supplies, air quality, and communities where it is used to extract natural gas from shale **deposits**. Leaking of gas and methane is a regular part of this deep vertical and horizontal drilling process. Toxic chemicals are used to alter the consistency of the millions of gallons of fresh water used in drilling and the water picks up radioactive material after being forced deep into the shale formation. The water can never be cleaned or reused.

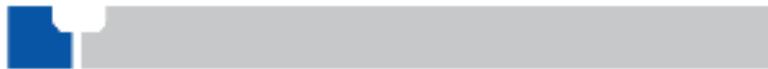
A bi-partisan group of delegates voted HB 1325 out of the Environment & Transportation Committee. (Thanks to Howard County’s Del. Bob Flanagan, D-9B) A week later, the bill went to the full House and passed with a veto-proof majority, 97 to 40 on March 10. SB 740, of the same name, went to the Senate Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs Committee and had a lengthy hearing on Feb. 28. In a surprise move, Gov. Hogan held a press conference on March 17 to announce that he would support legislation to ban fracking in Maryland. The bill to ban fracking then passed out of the Senate committee and went to the full Senate where it passed by a vote of 36-10. The Gov. signed the legislation on April 4 and Maryland is now the first state that actually has gas reserves that has banned fracking legislatively.

Renewable Energy Portfolio Standard Revisions raises Maryland’s Renewable Portfolio Standard requirement to 25 percent by 2020, up from the previous goal of 20 percent by 2022, including increasing the solar requirement to 2.5 percent by 2020. The Governor vetoed this legislation in 2016. On Jan. 31, 2017, the House of Delegates voted to override the Governor’s veto and the Maryland Senate followed on Feb. 2. LWVMD wrote testimony in support of the original legislation and advocated for the override.

Pollinator Friendly Solar - In an unusual coupling of energy production and cultivation of nature, the legislature passed **SB 1158** that establishes a process for Maryland to designate a utility-scale ground mounted solar facility as “pollinator friendly.” The designation includes solar facilities that use native vegetation and habitat management practices to maximize habitat creation for birds, pollinators and other small wildlife.

Clean Cars **SB 315/HB 406** altered the Electric Vehicle Recharging Equipment Rebate Program for electric plug-in vehicles. They also authorize motor vehicle excise tax credits for new plug-in electric drive vehicles and increase the amount of funding to be transferred from the Strategic Energy Investment Fund (SEIF) to the Transportation Trust Fund to offset the cost of the program.

Energy Efficiency Thinking ahead to possible challenges to the EmPOWER Maryland program, **SB 184/HB 514** now requires the Public Service Commission to designate each electric company in the state to provide energy efficiency and conservation to its customers beginning with the 2018-2020 program cycle. EmPOWER is extended until at least 2024. The program will create nearly \$12 billion in energy savings over the next ten years while reducing the carbon equivalent of taking nearly 200,000 cars off the road each year. The EmPOWER program is a major pillar needed to achieve the reductions of the Greenhouse Gas Reduction Act of 2016.



Vigorous 2017 LWNCA Convention Energizes Attendees

By Andrea Morris Gruhl, LWVHC Liaison to LWNCA

The annual LWNCA Convention was held Saturday morning, May 6 at Clyde’s at Gallery Place in Washington, DC. The fast paced, full agenda of the League of Women Voters of the National Capital Area Convention supported an enriching experience for the approximately 50 delegates and others who attended.

Guest Speaker Dr. Mark Graber, University System of Maryland Regents Professor and Professor of Law, University of Maryland Casey School of Law, spoke entertainingly and with overwhelming erudition on the topic, *“The Electoral College: From the Federalist Papers to Trump.”* Dr. Graber had a lively Q&A session.

The annual LWNCA Business Meeting was convened by President Kathy McGuire. The 2017 Convention Minutes Reading Committee was appointed. Treasurer Nancy Bliss reported LWNCA in League year 2016-2017 had balanced \$11,210 income and expenses. Budget Committee Chair Sherry Zachry led discussion and approval of the proposed FY 2017-2018 LWNCA Budget.

Director for Program Diane Hibino reported activities for 2015-2017 and gave the nine-person Program Committee’s report on the review of LWNCA Positions and the changes recommended. Positions on Airports, Controlled Substances, and Land Use/Housing were retained. Positions on Beltway Safety, Comprehensive Health Planning, Regional Governance, and Water Resources were retained but edited. The recommendation for the position on DC Financing was to postpone review. An update from the LWNCA Metro Finance Committee was given by Chair Nancy Soreng.

The Nominating Committee Report on officer and director candidates was given by Andrea Gruhl. There were no nominations from the floor, so the slate was elected as follows.

President, Kathy McGuire (Montgomery)	<i>Nominating Committee</i>
Secretary, Nancy Soreng (Montgomery)	Chair, Wendy Frieman (Falls Church)
Director, Joan Sawacki (Loudoun)	Members, Deborah Mitchell (Prince George’s)
Director, Sarah Matthews (Frederick)	and Geraldine Whitley (DC)

Director Barbara Ewalt, Chair of the Naumann Award Committee announced the winner of the biennial \$400 award was the LWV of the District of Columbia. They had created an excellent multimedia presentation on the issue of DC statehood. Click [here](#) to learn about the winning campaign.

A total of \$767 pure profit had been raised from the silent auction with half of the profit going to LWNCA for conducting the event and the other half is shared equally by participating Leagues.

For more information on [LWNCA Convention](#) or LWNCA programs please visit the [website](#).



Founding friends and close friends today!

By Carole Conors



It was 1945 and Harry Truman found himself the United States after the death of President Roosevelt. The charter of the United Nations, its founding document, was about to

President of Franklin

be written in San Francisco and Harry needed to appoint delegates to that charter-writing conference. He did, and additionally he appointed 42 non-governmental organizations to advise those delegates. Among those 42: the League of Women Voters! The League of Women Voters has remained with the United Nations, and today has five official Observers at the UN Secretariat in New York continuing to provide input into United Nations programs. United Nations programs? There are far more than the few generally realized. There are 33. By participating in these, countries pay a small amount compared to what they would cost to perform by themselves. Some may be a surprise:

- ✓ United Nations Development Program
- ✓ United Nations Children’s Fund
- ✓ United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees
- ✓ World Food Program
- ✓ United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime
- ✓ United Nations Population Fund
- ✓ United Nations Conference on Trade and Development
- ✓ United Nations Environment Programme
- ✓ United Nations Relief & Works Agency for Palestine Refugees
- ✓ United Nations Women
- ✓ United Nations Habitat
- ✓ World Bank-
 - World Bank Group
 - International Bank for Reconstruction and Development
 - International Centre for Settlement of Investment Disputes
 - International Development Association
 - International Finance Corporation
 - Multilateral Investment Guarantee Agency
- ✓ Preparatory Commission for the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty Organization
- ✓ Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons
- ✓ International Organization for Migration
- ✓ International Monetary Fund
- ✓ World Health Organization
- ✓ United Nations Educational Scientific & Cultural Organization
- ✓ International Labor Organization
- ✓ Food and Agriculture Organization
- ✓ International Fund for Agricultural Development
- ✓ International Maritime Organization
- ✓ World Meteorological Organization
- ✓ World Intellectual Property Organization
- ✓ International Civilian Aviation Organization
- ✓ International Telecommunication Union
- ✓ United Nations Industrial Development Organization
- ✓ Universal Postal Union
- ✓ World Tourism Organization
- ✓ Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS
- ✓ United Nations Office for Disaster Reduction
- ✓ United Nations Office for Project Services
- ✓ International Atomic Energy Agency
- ✓ World Trade Organization



From the LWVUS

In the U.S. Senate, a small group of Senators are secretly working to make decisions that will cut coverage, raise rates and give the richest Americans tax breaks at the expense of everyone else.

Senate leadership is ignoring the needs of the American people. [Now is the time to make your voice heard by calling or emailing your Senators today!](#)

Legislation passed by the U.S. House to repeal and replace the ACA fails to reflect the American values of fairness, community and concern for all. It will cut coverage for 14million Americans in the next year, raise premiums by 20% and give nearly \$700 billion to the wealthy and big corporations. The Senate is trying to force us down the same disastrous path, pushing to gut coverage for people with pre-existing conditions while doing long-term damage to Medicaid.

The Affordable Care Act is not perfect, but the path that congressional leadership has us on is bad for the well-being of millions of Americans. [Tell your Senators that Americans deserve better.](#)

Any bill that moves forward must do the following:

- Guarantee that pre-existing conditions can't be used to deny coverage or raise rates
- Ensure health insurance rates and access do not discriminate against women
- Provide coverage of preventive care, limit out of pocket costs and prohibit life-time insurance caps
- Ensure that Medicaid recipients can continue to receive full health care services
-

It's your turn to make your voice heard. [Call or email your Senators today and let them know where you stand.](#) We need a plan that reflects the American values of fairness, community, and concern for all.

Sincerely

Chris Carson
President, LWVUS

P.S. Want to call your Senators directly? [Call the Capitol switchboard at \(202\) 224-3121.](#) Need to know who represents you? [Look it up here!](#)

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.

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GIANT FOOD STORE GIFT CARD ORDER FORM

Date: _____

Name: _____

Address: _____

Telephone (Hm) _____ (Wk) _____

Email: _____

I am ordering \$_____ in Giant Gift/debit cards as follows:
_____ # \$50 cards

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

_____ I will pick up at the League office.

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

_____ Other arrangements (Please contact Nancy Berla)

Please make checks payable to LWVHC

League of Women Voters of
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