



LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF MARYLAND, INC.

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STATE BOARD LETTER Mid-September 2015 Calendar

September

- 17 – Thursday, Constitution Day event, 12 p.m. Baltimore (flyer attached)
- 22 – Tuesday, National Voter Registration Day
- 24 – Thursday, Local League legislative priority recommendations due
- 26 – Saturday, Fall Workshop 10 a.m. Wilde Lake. Topics: LWVUS Campaign Finance Study, LWVUS Constitutional Amendment Study. Google Docs presentation at lunch (flyer attached)

October

- 5 – Monday, LWVMD Board meeting 10 a.m. Wilde Lake Interfaith Center
- 6 – Tuesday, State Board Letter deadline
- 9 – Friday, LWNCA Board meeting & Presidents Lunch, 10 a.m.-2 p.m., LWVUS Board Room
- 11 – Sunday, Fall Fundraiser, Arena Stage, *Irma Bombeck: At Wit's End* (flyer attached)
- 12 – Monday, Columbus Day – LWVMD office closed
- 17 – Saturday, LWVMD MLD Workshop, Wilde Lake Interfaith Center (flyer attached)
- 24 – Saturday, United Nations Day
- 29 – Thursday, Final local League legislative priority recommendations due

LWVMD BOARD HIGHLIGHTS, September 3

- Soreng announced that **Ashley Oleson, our office administrator**, has been offered a full time job that will start Sept 21. Soreng will lead the search for a replacement.
- **Program:** The board concentrated on solidifying logistics for our many upcoming events, i.e., Fall Workshop, MLD Workshop, Constitution Day Program, Fall Fundraiser and Website Workshops.
- **Website:** The board voted to spend \$100 a year to fund a Google custom search engine on our new website. They also decided that the website committee should remain active, i.e., able to address ongoing website issues.

Elaine Apter, Secretary, LWVMD Board

WEB NEWS!

New Website Training for local League presidents and web personnel has been set up as follows:

1. **Saturday, October 3rd**, at the Miller Library branch in Ellicott City, 9421 Frederick Road, from 10:00 to 1:00 (the original date we announced was the 2nd, which was not a Saturday!)
2. **Saturday, October 24** at the LWV Office, 111 Cathedral Street, in Annapolis, from 9:00 to 12:00
3. **Saturday, December 12**, at the Queen Anne's County Public Library – Kent Island Branch, 200 Library Circle, Stevensville, from 9:00 – 12:00 (note the change in location; the facility in Centerville was not available)

Registrations for these events are being handled on the new website. Click here to view the [MD Calendar of Events](#).

Logging in. If you go to the new site to register for an event, or to explore, you may be asked to log in. Those of you who remember the email address and password you use on the “old” website will be in good shape. However, if you need help solving the mystery, [email Richard](#) and he will provide you with a temporary password.

Since we started . . . We uploaded 1,235 members from the LWVUS database and we grew the number of people we are in contact with to 2,961 (largely by entering all 2,243 emails of persons receiving the *Maryland Voter*).

Local League Pages. At this writing [Washington County](#) has published its website on the new platform and [Baltimore County](#) has begun the building process. Check them out!

Richard Willson, Webmaster

Topics and Speakers Wanted for LWFNCA Website Resources List

Please recommend topics and speakers your League has used for inclusion on a Resources List at the LWFNCA website (www.lwfnca.org). At the homepage click on “**Resources**” then click on “**Educational Topics**.” Read the paragraph describing this project and click on the hotlink taking you to the developing list of topics and speakers. The League making the suggestion is indicated to facilitate inquiries by other Leagues interested in using a suggested speaker. You may send your League's topic and speaker recommendations to andreagruhl@aol.com and they will be prepared for inclusion on the website.

Andrea Morris Gruhl, LWFMD Board Liaison to LWFNCCA

PRESIDENTS' MESSAGE



I (Nancy) remember writing a September President's letter four or five years ago when I opened by saying the lazy days of summer were behind us and the League work-year was about to get underway. Well, things have changed a lot at LWVMD. Our action efforts are year-round, as we participate in coalitions that engage with the

public and legislators in order to build momentum for our causes long before the General Assembly convenes.

Over the summer, many of you attended hearings convened by the **Maryland Climate Commission** that focused on the renewal of the **Green House Gas Reduction Act**. Some of you attended the **3rd annual commemoration of the birthday of Elbridge Gerry**, for whom the term "Gerrymander" was coined. Barbara has continued working with the **Maryland Open Government Coalition (MDOG)**; I've been meeting with the **Tame the Gerrymander Coalition**; **Ruth Crystal** has been following the work of the **Maryland Alliance of the Poor**; and **Betsy Singer** has been meeting with the **Maryland Climate Coalition**. These efforts will, no doubt, ramp up as the Assembly session nears.

Ralph Watkins and our Voter Service volunteers are already gearing up for the upcoming election. They have been making plans for a January workshop that will: set up our election calendar; decide which Leagues will be "Lead Leagues" for candidate forums and guides when political districts fall within the jurisdiction of more than one local League; and update and improve the online **Voters' Guide** system.

Ralph has been attending the meetings of the **Maryland State Board of Elections** and will keep us informed about the implementation of a new voting system and how we, as League members, can prepare the public for this big change in Election Day practices.

And our website committee, led by LWVMD Board member **Richard Willson**, has been working diligently all summer to create a new website that is sleeker, faster and has more capabilities than our previous site. To learn more about the new system and how your League can best take advantage of it, please make sure that at least a couple of members of your League attend one of three training sessions Richard has set up. The dates are posted on our current website and elsewhere in this newsletter.

In addition to a busy summer, we have an action packed fall coming up. Please check out the flyers and articles about **Constitution Day**, an outing to **Arena Stage**, **Membership and Leadership Development Training**, the **Fall Workshop** and more!

Barbara Schnackenberg and Nancy Soreng

YOUR LEAGUE IN *ACTION!*

September is the month that local Leagues submit **their suggested priorities for the 2016 General Assembly session** to the LWVMD board. These must be state priorities (not priorities for local jurisdictions) and have a basis for our supporting them in state or national League positions.

The first round of suggestions is to be submitted to Ruth@cramercrystal.com by **Thursday, September 24, 2015**. Once the state board has this first round of suggestions, they are compiled, and a list of all suggested priorities will be sent back to the local Leagues so that they have the opportunity to see what everyone has suggested and, if they choose, revise their final list of suggested legislative priorities. Any changes to a local League's priorities should be submitted to **Ruth Crystal, Action Chair, by October 31**. The state board will then adopt our statewide

priorities at the November board meeting and publish a leaflet of LWVMD priorities for us to use with our legislators in their home districts and in Annapolis.

Report from State Circle, published every three weeks during the legislative session, keeps League members current on the state of legislation affecting our priorities and other important state issues. A cadre of League reporters – each covering a specific topic, does this reporting. To accomplish this in 2016 we are still recruiting reporters for three key areas: 1) Redistricting; 2) State Budget; and 3) State Revenue.

Please let Ruth Crystal know if you, or another member of your League, is interested in reporting on one of these topics. Training will be provided.

Ruth Crystal, LWVMD Action Chair

Funding Our *Voters' Guides*

Rising costs of publication have made it difficult, or impossible, to produce a printed version of the **Guide** in many counties. Although **VOTE411** has been very successful in reaching those with internet access, print versions are still needed for those with limited access to the internet, particularly low-income and older voters. To respond to this need, LWVMD is seeking grants from foundations and businesses to establish a fund to help local Leagues publish **Voters' Guides**. We anticipate that local Leagues will continue to seek donations from local businesses and foundations (including community foundations). It seems likely, however, that firms with a statewide presence may be receptive to an appeal to support the **Voters' Guides** throughout all of Maryland. We are planning to contact a number of businesses, but we believe these appeals may be more effective if a League member can recommend someone they know who would be an appropriate person to contact or a particular method of requesting support. If you can help with this effort, please contact me at ralph.watkins1@verizon.net.

Ralph Watkins, Voter Service Chair

Are you interested in making a valuable contribution to LWVMD?

The State Study Process Has Begun and You Are Invited To Join One Of The Committees Now!

1. **Study of the Primary System employed to select candidates for elected office in the state of Maryland.** This will be a two-year study that will incorporate the study carried out by the state of Washington. The study co-chairs are Barbara Sanders, LWV Montgomery County, and Lu Pierson, LWV Baltimore City.
2. **Study of Developmental Rights and Responsibilities Agreements (DRRAs) in the state of Maryland.** This will be a study leading to consensus with the aid of LWV Frederick County members who recently completed the study for their county. The study chair is **Margaret Hindman, LWV Frederick**, who has submitted the following description:

This study will focus on a little-known but important land-planning tool: the 1995 state law authorizing local governments and land developers to enter into DRRAs (Development Rights and Responsibilities Agreements). We will consider how this legislation has been applied and whether it should be revised, among other issues. DRRAs allow local government to “freeze” county land management laws for a length of time, in exchange for infrastructure contributions, agreed upon by the county and the developer. These agreements provide an alternative to Maryland's longstanding practice of vesting a developer's rights only when the project is underway (foundations visible above ground); prior to that point, the local government can change zoning as well as land-use regulations. In some jurisdictions, DRRAs have been used strategically to secure public infrastructure contributions for high-density developments that are significantly greater than would otherwise be required of a developer. In other jurisdictions (Frederick County, in particular), DRRAs: have been approved for low-density, greenfield development; guarantee that zoning and regulations will not change for up to 25 years; and require infrastructure contributions that are not significantly greater than would otherwise be required.

3. **Study of Police and Community Relations.** The study will include a review of current state laws that affect police-community relations and the ability to hold police accountable for their interactions with all members of the community. Specifically this could include the Law Enforcement Officers Bill of Rights (LEOBR). Maryland law and practices would be compared with those of other states. The study chair is **Lois Hybl, LWV Baltimore City.**

Study of the Primary System in Maryland – respond to **both** study co-chairs:

Barbara Sanders

Email bsanders@terpalum.umd.edu

Lu Pierson

Email lu.pierson@verizon.net

Study of Developmental Rights and Responsibilities – respond to study chair:

Margaret Hindman

Email margarethindman@comcast.net

Study of Police and Community Relations – respond to study chair:

Lois Hybl

Email lhyl@verizon.net

Please indicate your interest in joining one of the state study committees by emailing the appropriate study chair directly. (Not the state League office.) Be sure to include the name of your local League in your correspondence.

JoAnn Ross, Program Chair

* * * * LWWUS New Database ALERT * * * *

The development and testing of the new LWWUS database is currently in progress. The LWWUS database is where someone from your League logs in to lww.org and provides a record of your members so that LWWUS can keep track of all of the members nationwide. LWWMD also uses this information to keep track of all Maryland members, so you don't have to contact us every time you add or remove a member from your local League roster. So far I've not seen a release date for the new system, but we hope it will be this fall.

Every local League was required to select a member to serve as Roster Manager on the new database and notify LWWUS. If that was not done previously OR if there is a change as to the person serving in this capacity, it is important to do the following: Send an email with the name of your Roster Manager (if it's a change in name please indicate that fact) to **Allyson Legnini**, the LWWUS support team member dealing with the membership roster, as soon as possible. Her email is **alegnini@lww.org**

In the meantime, Leagues should keep their membership lists in an Excel sheet and make sure to download names and addresses from their prior system.

Training for Roster Managers is being organized. Plans include a video presentation on the new system; instructions and manuals will be online and accessible to others interested in learning the new process.

Betty J. Harries, LWWMD Membership Director
bjharries@hotmail.com

Good Luck Ashley!

Ashley Oleson, who came to work for LWVMD last winter and hit the ground running as the General Assembly Session was in full swing, has accepted a full time position with TechOp Solutions International, Inc. She will be a Media Monitoring Analyst, assessing items of interest in broadcast media and reporting them to senior Department of Homeland Security decision makers to enhance situational awareness. Her last day at the LWVMD office will be September 17th.

While at LWVMD she has helped us expand our presence on social media and has been encouraging modern efficiency by nudging us to collaborate through Google docs.

Ashley was appointed to the **Governor's Maryland Redistricting Reform Commission** after being nominated by LWVMD. She has already made arrangements with her new employer to fulfill her commitment as a Commissioner. She will remain a member of the Anne Arundel LWV and will still be presenting the workshop on using Google Docs on September 26th. We will miss her and wish her all the best in her new endeavors.



Photo by Joe Andrucyk

Nancy Soreng and Barbara Schnackenberg

Public Hearing Dates for the Governor's Redistricting Reform Commission

Regional Public Meeting 1

Tues, Sept 15, 6:30 pm
Towson University
Minnegan Room, Uinitas Stadium
Towson, MD 21204

Regional Public Meeting 2

Monday, Sept 21, 1 pm
Hagerstown Community College
Career Programs Building, Room 213
11400 Robinwood Dr.
Hagerstown, MD 21742

Regional Public Meeting 3

Tuesday, Sept 29, 6:30 pm
Charleston Senior Center
45 St. Patricks Dr.
Waldorf MD 20603

Regional Public Meeting 4

Tuesday, October 6, 1 pm
Talbot County Community Center
10028 Ocean Gateway
Easton, MD 21601

Regional Public Meeting 5

Tuesday, October 13, 6:30 pm
Laurel (Specific Location TBD)

NINTH ANNUAL CONSTITUTION DAY PROGRAM



Thursday, September 17, 2015

Program 12:00 p.m.

Reception 1:00 p.m.

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

Presented By

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF MARYLAND

UNIVERSITY OF MARYLAND FRANCIS KING CAREY SCHOOL OF LAW

UNIVERSITY OF MARYLAND, BALTIMORE

LOVE AND DEATH ON THE SUPREME COURT NEW RULINGS ON SAME SEX MARRIAGE AND DEATH PENALTY EXECUTIONS

**Moderator: Maxwell Stearns, J.D. - Professor of Law and Marbury Research Professor,
University of Maryland Carey School of Law**

Panelists: University of Maryland Carey School of Law Professors:

Richard Boldt, J.D.; Martha Ertman, J.D.; and Mark A. Graber, J.D.

**RSVP by September 15 to reserve seating and parking
and to volunteer or donate refreshments**

(Parking - \$7.00 for two hours. Carpooling encouraged)

Email your name, email address, phone and local League to
***andreagruhl@aol.com* or click [here](#)**

Questions? 301.596.5460

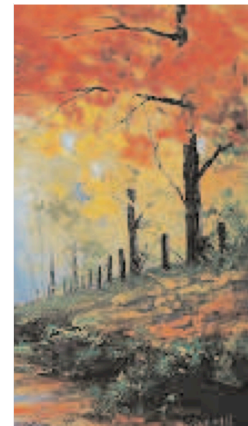
Directions and Parking:

From Route I-95 (North or South) take Route 395 (downtown Baltimore). Exit onto Martin Luther King, Jr. Blvd., staying in right lane. At fourth traffic light, turn right onto Baltimore St; pass law school on left side of street. Turn left at second traffic light onto N. Paca St.; turn right into entrance for Baltimore Grande Garage, which is across street from east side of law school. Parking building is for UMB Hospital patients/staff and law school faculty, but Constitution Day attendees who reserved a space will be accommodated.



**LEAGUE OF WOMEN
VOTERS OF MARYLAND**

FALL WORKSHOP



Saturday, September 26, 2015

Wilde Lake Interfaith Center, Columbia, MD
10431 Twin Rivers Road, Columbia, MD 21044 -2331

Registration fee: \$25

(Includes morning coffee/breakfast breads, lunch, materials)

- 9:30 am Registration
- 10:00 am Welcome and Announcements
- 10:15 am Briefing on LWVUS study: ***Constitutional Amendments***
- 11:30 am Briefing on LWVUS study: ***Money in Politics***
- 12:30 pm Lunch and workshop: ***Group Collaboration via Google Docs***
Chaired by Ashley Oleson, LWVMD Administrator

Directions:

From the North: Take Rt. 29 south to Columbia Town Center exit (Little Patuxent Pkwy). Bear right onto Gov. Warfield Pkwy. Take 2nd right onto Twin Rivers Rd. At first light turn left onto Trumpeter Rd. Interfaith Center will be on your right.

From the South: Take Rt. 29 north to Broken Land Pkwy. Follow it West through 3 traffic lights to Twin Rivers Rd and turn left onto it. Follow Twin Rivers Rd to 2nd light and turn left onto Trumpeter Rd. The Interfaith Center will be on your right.

FALL WORKSHOP 2015 REGISTRATION FORM

(Deadline for Registration September 23, 2015)

NAME _____

LEAGUE _____

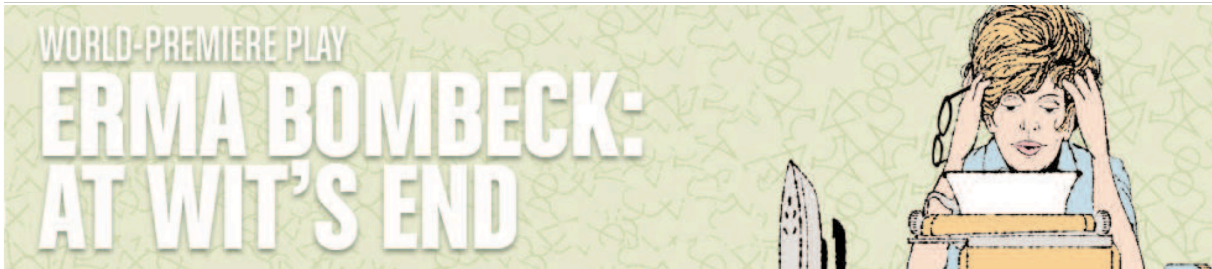
Phone _____ **Email** _____

Amount enclosed _____

Mail to: LWVMD, 111 Cathedral Street, Suite 201, Annapolis, MD 21401
or call: 410-269-0232 or email: lwvmd@verizon.net



Join the League of Women Voters of Maryland At the Arena Stage Theater



By Alison Engel and Margaret Engel - Authors of *Don't Mess With Texas*

Sunday, October 11, 2015

2:00 p.m.

**Arena Stage at the Mead Center for American Theater
1101 Sixth Street, SW, Washington, D. C.**

Tickets \$90.00

(Box office price - \$99.00)

Limited number of available tickets!

Contact LWVMD office by phone - 410.269.0232

or email - lwvmd@verizon.net

to confirm availability before sending your check to:
LWVMD - 111 Cathedral Street, Annapolis, MD 21401

For directions to Arena Stage go to:

<http://www.arenastage.org/plan-your-visit/transportation-parking/>

Arena Stage is only one block from the Waterfront (SEU) Green Line Metro stop.

Local Leagues Prepare For The Future

Leagues across the state are registering for a day of training in **Membership Leadership Development (MLD)**, on Saturday, October 17, at Wilde Lake Interfaith Center in Columbia, from 10 a.m. until 3 p.m. Please see a flyer describing this event on the following page.

MLD is a collaborative national, state and local League effort using “Best Practices” to grow membership and develop leaders.

Some of you may remember a program by LWVUS called Membership Recruitment Initiative (MRI), which began in 2005-2006. However, in hindsight, the program needed more support from national leadership to achieve its goals.

So, in 2010, the **Ruth S. Shur Leadership Institute** was established to further membership recruitment and leadership development, coordinated by Ruth S Shur Fellows, or National Coaches.

The LWVUS staff supports National Coaches, who mentor State Coaching Teams, who then work with the local League MLD teams.

Leagues participating in the MLD program have seen a net membership increase of between two and twenty percent.. Overall national membership numbers have stabilized, reversing the declining trend since 1970.

The League has a highly respected reputation and a strong and proud history. However, while there is name recognition, there is limited awareness about the value that the League offers potential members. We have a wealth of knowledge from our studies and advocacy that needs to be shared with the wider community, whom we hope will join to further promote our principles and practices.

The League’s 100th Anniversary in 2020 and perhaps your own League’s anniversary are not far away -- we need to ensure our work continues for the next 100 years.

Why am I alerting your League about this training? This session can help your League focus not on today, but on the future. LWVMD is offering each League the opportunity to develop an MLD team; by attending this training your members will learn more about best practices, new outreach and adding value to your League.

It would behoove every League to send three or four members to this event. They could be seasoned leaders or brand new members, as everyone completing the training will look at the League with new insights.

REGISTER NOW!

Betsy Grater. Director, LWVMD-MLD
betsygrater@aol.com



YOUR LEAGUE NEEDS YOU

**TO JOIN LWVMD
FOR THE THREE R'S to:**

**RE-TOOL RE-LEARN RE-VITALIZE
YOUR LEAGUE**

RE-TOOL - A new look at the Best Practices that have carried the League through the past 100 years

RE-LEARN - New outreach, visibility and leadership development skills

RE-VITALIZE - Emphasize marketing opportunities and add value to being a League member.

**ALL LEAGUE MEMBERS ARE ENCOURAGED TO PARTICIPATE IN
THIS MEMBERSHIP LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT TRAINING DAY**

Saturday, October 17, 2015 10:00 AM TO 3:30 PM
The Wilde Lake Interfaith Center 10431 Twin Rivers Road, Columbia, MD

Bring a "bag" lunch. Beverages and dessert will be provided.

Now you can register ONLINE! Go to ***lwvmd.net/mld_s_3_rs***

MEMBERSHIP LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT TRAINING DAY - OCTOBER 17, 2015

Name: _____

League: _____

Email: _____

Phone # _____

Please register by mail : LWVMD - 111 Cathedral Street Suite 201, Annapolis, MD 21401
or via email: Info@lwvmd.org **by Friday, October 9, 2015**