

# State Board Letter

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## LWVMD Calendar

- |            |      |  |
|------------|------|--|
| <b>Jan</b> | 6    | LWVMD Advocate Training<br>virtual, 3-4:30pm   |
|            | 9    | MANO Legislative Preview<br>virtual, 9am-1pm   |
|            | 11   | MD General Assembly begins   |
|            | 14   | Local League Presidents' Meeting<br>virtual, 10am  |
|            | 16   | Martin Luther King, Jr., Day   |
|            | 21   | LWVMD Winter Workshop<br>virtual, 9:30am-12:30pm   |
|            | 21   | deadline for local Leagues to<br>submit NationBuilder Membership<br>Roster information to LWVMD's<br>Online Services Committee |
|            | 31   | DEI Book Club<br>virtual, 4-5pm  |
| <b>Feb</b> | 1-28 | African American History Month   |
|            | 6    | Legislative Day<br>location TBD, 10am-12:30pm  |
|            | 8    | Deadline for local Leagues<br>to submit Program ideas and<br>proposed Position changes to<br>LWVMD                             |
|            | 20   | Presidents' Day  |

Happy  
New Year

The SBL is a monthly LWVMD publication that seeks to strengthen understanding and collaboration between the Board and local Leagues statewide

## President's Message

We probably agree that 2022 was a year of many challenges. As we enter this new year of 2023, I'm hopeful that we will see progress in many of the public policy issues that LWVMD and LWVUS support. We have assembled an amazing cadre of volunteer advocates who will be working through the upcoming session of the Maryland General Assembly to support bills that promote LWVMD positions and principles and oppose those that inhibit our goals of Making Democracy Work, Promoting Social and Economic Justice, and Protecting the Environment.

On page 4 of this issue you can learn more about our upcoming Winter Workshop on January 21 at which we have a thought-provoking key note speaker and three great workshops planned. We hope many of you will be able to join us.

Everyone at LWVMD really wanted to offer an in-person option for the Winter Workshop as the opportunity to interact one-on-one with fellow League members is something that many members sorely miss. Getting to know our amazing members and their wide range

of skills, experiences, and personal stories is one of the great benefits of being part of this organization, but is one that has not been fully possible as we interact on a small screen with tight agendas. However, the limitations of the workshop's venue; the fact that Covid and other viruses are still with us and may even get worse; the unpredictability of late January weather; and, finally, the convenience and environmental benefits of virtual meetings led to the Board's decision to hold the event via Zoom.

Please do mark your calendars for the upcoming LWVMD Convention, which will be an in-person event with a virtual option. For those members who have never been to an in-person state-wide convention, you are in for a great experience marked with learning, decision making, relationship building, and, of course, FUN! Some basic details are in this issue's Board Highlights below with more information to follow in the upcoming months.



*Nancy Soreng, President*

### State Board Meeting Highlights

The next local League Presidents' Meeting will be **Saturday, January 14 at 10 a.m.**

**February 8** is the deadline for local Leagues to send their program input to the LWVMD. Please email your recommendations to Program Chair Linda Kohn at [lkohn@lwvmd.org](mailto:lkohn@lwvmd.org).

The LWVMD has joined two new coalitions: 1. the [Coalition to Reform School Discipline](#) (CRSD), which is committed to making school discipline practices in Maryland public schools fair, appropriate, equitable, and designed to keep youth in school and on track to graduate; and, 2. the [Transform Maryland Transportation Coalition](#) whose mission is to create a robust, transformational, equitable and sustainable transportation system that helps meet our climate targets and serves all Marylanders.

The LWVMD Convention will be held in Frederick, MD, the weekend of **June 3-4**. Planning for this event is currently underway. If you'd like to help in the planning process, please contact Nikki Tyree at [stateoffice@lwvmd.org](mailto:stateoffice@lwvmd.org).

*Stacey Morrison, SBL editor*

## Events

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On Friday, January 6, at 3 p.m., There is still time to join the LWVMD's final advocate training before the 2023 Legislative Session on:

**Friday, January 6  
3 - 4:30 p.m.**

This virtual event is a great opportunity to learn how to be an effective advocate, learn about the League's legislative priorities, review the guidelines for how the Legislative session will operate in 2023, and meet other advocates and team leaders. To join this training, click [here](#) to register.

### LWVMD Advocate Training



If you missed the LWVMD's previous advocate trainings and would like to review the content before attending this session, click [here](#) to watch the October 13 recording and click [here](#) to watch the November 4 recording.

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### Maryland Nonprofits Legislative Preview

The League of Women Voters Maryland is looking forward to participating in the [Maryland Nonprofits' Legislative Preview](#) on:

**Monday, January 9  
9 a.m. - 1 p.m.  
virtual**

Attendees at this virtual event will hear from public officials, the incoming administration, and leading nonprofit advocates. This is a great opportunity to learn what other nonprofits will be working on, how the legislature will function, how to be an effective advocate in the coming year, and how to access opportunities for your organization while also connecting with other organizations across the state.

This preview is only open to LWVMD members. The LWVMD has purchased a group ticket, so attendance for League members is free. We encourage all League advocates to attend by signing up [here](#) to register with the LWVMD. For more information, visit the [LWVMD website](#).

### Maryland Nonprofits' Legislative Preview

**9  
JANUARY  
2023**

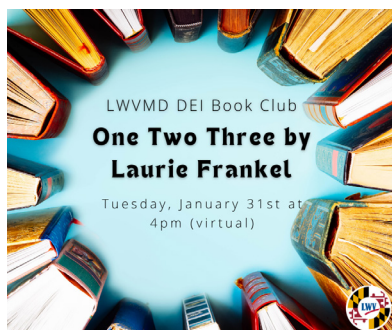
**VIRTUAL EVENT  
9:00AM - 1:00PM**



## Events

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### DEI Book Club



The LWVMD Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) book club is back in 2023! This January we are reading *One Two Three* by Laurie Frankel. In this novel we will learn about the story of three triplets and how they challenge the status quo.

Please join us to continue our knowledge and understanding of DEI issues by registering [here](#). As always all are welcome!

**Tuesday, January 31, 4-5 p.m. (virtual)**  
***One Two Three* by Laurie Frankel**

*Nikki Tyree, Executive Director*

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The LWVMD's virtual Winter Workshop is only three weeks away:

**Saturday, January 21**  
**9:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.**

This year's keynote speaker is Kalman Hettleman, former member of the Maryland Commission on Innovation and Excellence in Education (aka Kirwan Commission), and the three breakout sessions are:

#### **Engaging Young People in Civic Education**

Learn from League members across the state and Civic Director Genie Massey about working with your colleges and community colleges. Come with your own stories!

#### **Legislative Priorities**

Learn about LWVMD's 2023 Legislative Priorities and learn how you can get involved and become an advocate.

#### **Program Planning**

Join LWVMD Vice-President Linda Kohn to learn about the progression of State program. What the committee is learning and what you can expect in the coming year.

Tickets to attend the workshop are \$25 for members and \$35 for non-members; click [here](#) to register. For more information, contact LWVMD Executive Director [Nikki Tyree](#). We hope to see you soon.

*Nikki Tyree, Executive Director*

### LWVMD Winter Workshop 2023



## Committees

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State and national per member payments (PMP), as well as a League's voting power at convention, are based on the number of active members reported to LWVUS as of January 31.

Each Maryland local League is responsible for maintaining active member information either in LWVMD's NationBuilder platform or directly in the LWVUS portal; contact [nchambers@lwvmd.org](mailto:nchambers@lwvmd.org) if you are unsure which database your League maintains.

Now is the time to verify your League's roster, including member types and expiration dates. LWVMD's Online Services updates the LWVUS database for local Leagues that maintain their membership records in LWVMD's NationBuilder.

**To allow time for corrections and review, we ask that you confirm your updated information by January 21, 2023.** Please visit the LWVMD [Online Services support site](#) or send an email to [online@lwvmd.org](mailto:online@lwvmd.org) if you have any questions. Thank you!

## Important Reminder to Verify Membership Rosters

*Niecy Chambers, Online Services Chair*

## Moore v Harper Supreme Court Rally Follow-Up

LWVMD was a supporter of the Moore v Harper rally that took place when the Supreme Court heard the case on December 7. Thanks to LWVMD Executive Director and all Maryland League members who were in attendance to let the justices know about the dangers of the [Independent State Legislature Theory](#). The Court is not expected to issue a decision until spring at the earliest, but LWVUS is hopeful that it will be in line with League values.

To learn more about the Amicus Brief filed by LWVUS and signed by LWVMD and all 50 state Leagues, click [here](#). To read a transcript of the oral arguments, click [here](#). For a good recap of the argument, read this [SCOTUS blog](#).

*Nancy Soreng, President*



League members at the  
December 7, 2022,  
Supreme Court Rally:

Left - Eleanor Hart

Right - Jackie Coolidge (in  
the middle of the 2nd row  
from bottom)





## Committees

Civics includes classes that focus on the rights and obligations of people in our democratic republic, and the practical experiences that prepare a person to participate effectively in local, state, and national government. High-quality civic education programs help people become active, responsible, and knowledgeable members of their communities. A healthy democracy requires an informed and engaged electorate, and research tells us that it is critical that students participate in learning that includes collaboration, cooperation, and consensus-building, an appreciation for a diversity of viewpoints, an understanding of the rights and responsibilities of citizenship, and knowledge on the roots of our democracy.

### MD Civic Education Coalition State Advocacy Proposal

The [Maryland Civic Education Coalition](#) represents civic educators committed to ensuring that all Maryland students have access to meaningful, hands-on, comprehensive civic education and service-learning opportunities that can build expertise and enthusiasm for volunteerism, service-learning, and civic education in pursuit of lifelong community engagement.

Over the last two years the coalition has had hundreds of conversations with educators, students, and community members around the state and we hosted two leadership summits to understand the state of civic education in Maryland. Based on what they heard in the community, they have identified six areas of opportunities to support civic education and engagement in Maryland:

- Honor student excellence in civic knowledge and participation by providing civic seals upon graduation from Maryland schools.
- Expand civic education in the elementary years by supporting teachers with professional development and by developing age-appropriate resources aligned with Maryland's social studies curriculum.
- Expand the Teaching Fellows for Maryland scholarships and other programs that improve teacher quality and diversity to strengthen social studies education.
- Explore ways to strengthen service learning opportunities for students across the state and promote pathways to overcome barriers and inequities that exist in different communities.
- Ensure that the social studies curriculum frameworks continue to uphold best practices to ensure high quality civic education at all grade levels, aligned with the C3 framework.
- Establish a Maryland Task Force on Civic Education with diverse stakeholders from the public & private sectors to propose and implement improvements to civics education and engagement programs in Maryland.

Self-government requires an educated citizenry that has the skills to engage in the practices of democracy and the wisdom to guard the ideals of constitutional government. While Maryland already has a reputation for high-quality education policy and student success, students across the state have divergent social studies experiences based on their location, their individual backgrounds, and the resources and training their county is able to provide to teachers. As our country grapples with an erosion of the habits, values, and commitments necessary to sustain a democratic society,

effective civics education is a crucial tool to heal divisions, and rebuild trust in order that "government of the people, by the people, for the people, shall not perish from the earth."



*from the [MDCEC State Advocacy Positions Proposal](#)*