

State Board Letter

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LWVMD

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LWVMD Calendar

- | | | |
|-------------|------|--|
| Mar | 1-31 | Women's History Month |
| | 3 | DEI Committee Meeting
virtual, 5-6pm |
| | 6-10 | Civic Learning Week
virtual events |
| | 11 | LWVMD Maryland Youth Voter
Summit
virtual, 1-3pm |
| | 28 | DEI book club
virtual, 4-5pm |
| Apr | 1-30 | Arab American Heritage Month |
| | 10 | General Assembly Sine Die |
| May | 1-31 | Asian American Heritage Month |
| | 1-31 | Jewish American Heritage Month |
| | 6 | LWVNCA Convention |
| | 12 | LWVMD Day on Capitol Hill |
| June | 1-30 | LGBTQIA+ Pride Month |
| | 3-4 | LWVMD Convention |
| | 27 | Harvard Case Method Training |



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

President's Message

In this issue, you will find the report from the LWVMD nominating committee that lists the proposed slate of officers and directors for the 2023-25 LWVMD Board of Directors. I'm really enthusiastic about this group of nominees who have stepped up to lead the state League for the next two years. Kudos to the Nominating Committee and a big thank you to those who have agreed to serve!

I hope that many of you will come to the LWVMD Convention in Frederick, the first weekend of June, to meet the Board nominees and have an opportunity to, literally for the first time in years, meet and greet other Leaguers from around the state. If you have never been to a state convention it is always educational, interesting and FUN! Read more about this year's plans on page 4.

The Maryland General Assembly is in full swing and so are our volunteer advocates! In my nearly 20 years of engaging in advocacy on behalf of LWVMD, we have never testified on such a broad range of legislation nor had so many thoughtful, passionate and capable volunteers working to promote good public policy that aligns with League's principles and positions. It is exciting to see our impact grow and so many members so actively engaged.



Nancy Soreng, President

State Board Meeting Highlights

The LWVMD Board thanks all local Leagues for submitting their program planning proposals for the 2023-2025 League year. The Board is currently reviewing the input and developing a proposed program that will be presented at the June state convention.

The [2022 General Elections final report](#), issued by the State Board of Elections (SBE), is now available. The report includes very interesting information on voting trends, voter support, in-person voting statistics, and much more. Though the document is a bit long, it is very easy to read. The SBE also has voting data for each race in each county, broken down by types of votes and total votes cast. To view this information, click [here](#).

Stacey Morrison, SBL editor

Events

The LWVMD Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) committee is reconvening, and all prior participants or new League members who are interested in promoting DEI in accordance with the national goals are invited to attend:

**Friday, March 3
5:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m.**

Participants will discuss the future role of the DEI Committee, how to launch a Youth Panel Committee, and how to honor a former DEI Committee member. If you'd like to attend this meeting, please register [here](#).

Nikki Tyree, Executive Director

LWVMD DEI Committee Meeting



Maryland Youth Voter Summit



The LWVMD is hosting an online conversation on how high school students are the key to empowering voters and defending democracy:

**Saturday, March 11
1:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m.**

Participants at this free event will learn how relational organizing can ensure every eligible voter in Maryland has equal access to the ballot box ahead of the 2024 presidential election and beyond. Students who are sixteen years old (or older) in Maryland are able to register voters and work as election judges.

Help us give students the information and skills they need to power the youth vote by registering [here](#) for this event. The *Maryland Youth Voter Summit* is a nonpartisan gathering open to League members, students, teachers, and all community members who want to support voter registration and engagement across the state.

Genie Massey, Youth Engagement and Civic Education Chair

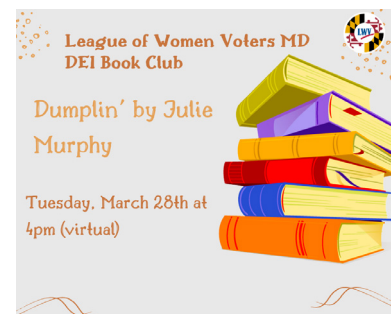
This March, the DEI Book Club will be reading New York Times best selling novel *Dumplin'* by author Julie Murphy. Throughout our conversation we will touch on topics of body image, how we view women in our society, and more. As always we hope to continue our understanding of diversity, equity, and inclusion.

We hope you will join us by registering [here](#). As always all are welcome!

**Tuesday, March 28, 4 - 5 p.m. (virtual)
Dumplin' by Julie Murphy**

Nikki Tyree, Executive Director

DEI Book Club



Committees

LWVMD Convention 2023



The LWVMD 2023 Convention is drawing nigh and will be a hybrid mix of in-person and virtual attendance:

LWVMD Convention Friday - Sunday, June 2 - 4, 2023

For those attendees coming in-person, the event will be held at the Hampton Hotel, 5311 Buckeystown Pike, Frederick, MD. The LWVMD has secured special rates for Convention attendees, so please use this [link](#) when making a room reservation. Rates are either \$159 or \$169 per night (plus tax) and include a breakfast and all hotel amenities.

The League's Convention planners have arranged a good mix of League business and social gatherings. In addition to planning the League's work for the next two years, electing new officers and directors, and adopting a budget, attendees will have the opportunity to gather and connect with League members across the state during the Friday night

outing to a downtown Frederick restaurant and at Saturday night's gala with food, drinks, and a silent auction.

Tickets are now available and can be purchased by clicking [here](#). Ticket prices do not include hotel rooms and vary depending on your level of participation:

\$200 - Attendance in-person Friday through Sunday

- cost includes printed materials, Saturday's lunch, and Saturday night's gala ticket of a meal and drinks

\$100 - Virtual Attendance

\$100 - Saturday night's gala ticket of a meal and drinks

All proceeds will go back to the League to continue our work. If you have questions, please contact LWVMD Executive Director Nikki Tyree at stateoffice@lwvmd.org. Each League can send three delegates; Leagues with 50 or more members as of January 31, 2023, can send an additional delegate for each additional 50 members or fraction thereof. We hope to see many of you there.

The LWMD Action Team volunteers have been hard at work again this legislative session, monitoring a total number of 292 bills dealing with issues of justice, police accountability, campaign finance reform, election/voting, ethics, firearms, cannabis, the environment, transportation, healthcare, housing, education, civics, and many more.

Additionally, Action Team volunteers have been composing issue papers and providing testimony on over 50 bills; issue papers are posted on the LWVMD's [action blog](#), while testimony is posted on the LWVMD [testimony webpage](#). The Action Committee wishes to thank LWVMD's Executive Director and staff for their invaluable help monitoring and responding to bills, without whom our dedicated yet small cadre of volunteers could not advocate on the range of issues important to League members.

LWVMD Action Team Advocacy 2023

TESTIMONY

READ THE TESTIMONY
WE'VE SUBMITTED ON
BILLS BEFORE THE
MARYLAND GENERAL
ASSEMBLY

Committees

Civic Learning Week

The National [Civic Learning Week](#) is almost here - March 6-10. Hosted by [iCivics](#), an organization dedicated to engaging students in meaningful civic learning, this week-long celebration of civics offers numerous events and discussions to highlight the importance of civic education and its role in sustaining and strengthening constitutional democracy in the U.S.

The week's Opening Forum takes place on Tuesday, March 7, from 9:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m. Other highlights of the week's events include:

A Conversation with American Diplomat and Author Richard Haass
Monday, March 7, 3:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.

Forgotten No More: Civic Seals and Re-affirming the Civic Mission of Schools
Tuesday, March 7, 2:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m.

Gaming for Democracy
Wednesday, March 8, 3:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.

Conversation with Sonia Sotomayor, Associate Justice, Supreme Court of the United States
Friday, March 10, 1:00 p.m. - 2:00 p.m.

To see a full list of events offered, click [here](#). Attendance is free but registration is required; a link for each event's registration is included on the event's information page.

The [Case Method Project](#) at Harvard Business school gives high school educators the opportunity to bring case method teaching to their students. This creative approach to civics education dives into topics in history and democracy through examinations of court cases which have been key to the nation's sociopolitical development. The Case Method helps students deepen their understanding of American democracy in a way that is both exciting and relevant for students and teachers alike.

Previous Case Method topics have covered the struggle for black voting rights, the fight over the ERA, and the making of the U.S. Constitution; a full list of the cases studied and links to videos on

case method instruction can be found on the Case Method Project website.

The topic for the 2023 Case Method training has not yet been released, but the training date has been set for **June 27**. If you are a teacher, or if you know a teacher who might be interested in learning more about Case Method instruction, please mark your calendar for this training. If you would like to be on the list to receive information about the training's details as they become available, click [here](#) to submit the professional development application form.

Civics Education and the Harvard Case Method



Committees

2023-2025 LWVMD Board Nominations Slate

At the February 16 LWVMD board meeting, the slate of officers willing to serve for the 2023-2025 term was presented. This slate, listed below, will become part of the LWVMD Convention workbook; nominations from the floor will also be accepted. The LWVMD Board can appoint up to 9 additional Directors

Current President Nancy Soreng complimented the Nominations Committee for its work in recruiting a diverse roster. Committee members Janet Bellizzi, Jane Hardy, Diane Hibino, Beth Hufnagel, and Richard Willson value the commitment to the League's mission of all the nominees and look forward to greeting the next League board.

Members of the LWVMD Nominating Committee

BOARD NOMINEES*

Role	Nominee	County
President	Linda Kohn	Montgomery
Vice President	Genie Massey	Washington
Secretary	Richard Willson	Washington
Treasurer	Janet Bellizzi	Calvert
Director	Roy Appletree	Howard
Director	Gail Clark Dickson	Prince Georges
Director	Nicole Drew	Montgomery
Director	J.C. Hooker	Calvert
Director	Cindy Powell	Frederick
Director	Nancy L. Smith	Kent
Director	Cheryl Steinbacher	Carroll
Director	Amanda Subba Rao	Anne Arundel
Director	Gail Sunderman	Baltimore City

* The LWVMD Board can appoint up to nine additional Directors.

NOMINATING COMMITTEE NOMINEES*

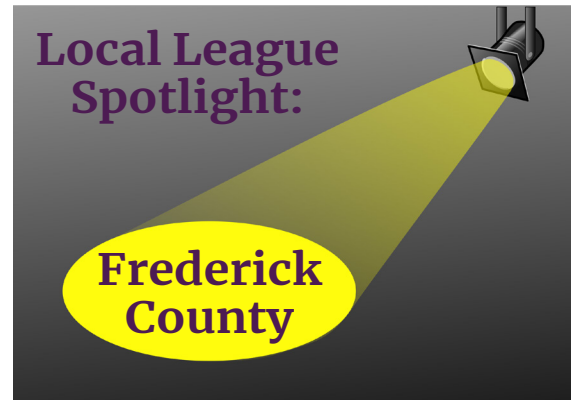
Role	Nominee	County
Chair	Nancy Soreng	Montgomery
Member	Beth Hufnagel	Howard
Member	TBD	

* The LWVMD Board appoints two additional members to the Nominating Committee.

Spotlight

Last year, the [League of Women Voters of Frederick County](#) (LWVFC) tried to find its way out of a world still living under Covid restrictions and into the unknown of what would come next. With the added excitement of a national election, the year held many surprises. But first, the group needed new leadership, as many of the former leaders were stepping down at the end of their term. After careful consideration (and realizing that no single member of LWVFC was keen on assuming the role of president) the group's nominating committee hatched a plan to form a leadership team consisting of four members, rather than naming a single president. With the blessing of the State League, the LWVFC Leadership Team was formed and Jan Goodman, Claire Kondig, Jim Filson, and Lauri Gross took the helm. The team represented a diverse group in terms of their longevity with the League (or lack thereof!) and their interests and skills, as well as the more traditional concepts of diversity. Together, Jan, Claire, Jim, and Lauri contributed their skills that,

together, enabled them to handle the challenges they faced.



*Jim Filson and Mary Beth Coker
in Staley Park, June 2022*

The League continued to hold board and other meetings virtually, and focused primarily on mission-critical functions related to the election, including holding virtual candidate forums and, of course, getting out the Voters' Guide. The League also helped create the Voters' Guide for Allegany and Garrett counties since those areas lack their own League. Along the way, the League provided info and voter registration services at community events including monthly events in downtown Frederick and events in other areas of the county.

On election day in November, eight LWVFC members served as polling-place evaluators at 24 polling places, and one member helped transfer ballots from drop boxes to the county Board of Elections. In addition, League members placed "Go Vote" yard signs around the county, including some in Spanish.

On January 7, the League held an in-person social event at the downtown branch of the Frederick library to kick-start in-person meetings again. About 35 current and prospective members attended, and many signed up to help with various committees and other League endeavors.

The League looks forward to a productive year with an active membership that includes new members as well as several with decades of League experience. LWVFC is thrilled that the state League invited Frederick to host the annual convention in June and they look forward to showcasing the county and the county League.



LWVFC current and prospective members at Frederick County library's downtown branch, January 2023

Lauri Gross, LWVFC Leadership Team Member