

State Board Letter

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LWVMD

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LWVMD Calendar

- | | | |
|-------------|-------|---|
| Apr | 1-30 | Arab American Heritage Month |
| | 8 | Local League Presidents' Meeting
virtual, 9:30-11:30am |
| | 10 | General Assembly Sine Die |
| | 15 | Deadline to submit nominations
for the Malcolm Funn Award |
| | 20 | Civic Education Summit
virtual, 3:30-7:30pm |
| May | 1-31 | Asian American Heritage Month |
| | 1-31 | Jewish American Heritage Month |
| | 3 | Forum on the Supreme Court's
Crisis of Legitimacy
UMD Westminster Hall, 1-3pm |
| | 6 | LWVNCA Convention |
| | 15 | LWVMD Day on Capitol Hill
virtual, 9:30am |
| June | 1-30 | LGBTQIA+ Pride Month |
| | 3-4 | LWVMD Convention |
| | 22-25 | LWVUS Council
Las Vegas |
| | 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

The seasons are transitioning from winter to spring, and LWVMD is transitioning from focusing on advocacy for laws and programs that align with League positions and principles to planning for how we will operate over the next two years. At our convention in June, delegates will be asked to vote on key elements of our operations: by-laws, budget, leaders, and program. These are all important decisions, and I hope that many of you come to Frederick to share your opinions and to meet other League members from around the state, to participate in workshops, and experience some of Frederick's charm.

We appreciate all of the thoughtful consideration and feedback that we received from local Leagues in regard to program planning. The state Board reviewed what was submitted and made some recommendations. However, the process doesn't end there. At the convention, delegates may accept or reject the recommended program. They may also vote to consider some of the program ideas that the Board did not recommend.

This is also the time of year that local Leagues are planning their annual meetings where they will make decisions about their own League's operations. During my first term as president, I made it my goal to attend every League's annual meeting. I traveled from the mid-shore to western Maryland, from Baltimore County to Calvert County. It took two springs to visit all of the Leagues, but I'm so glad I did it. I loved getting acquainted with the wonderful community leaders that make up our local Leagues. I also learned that every League is different and has their own traditions, priorities, accomplishments and challenges. Since then, I have been less ambitious, but I still enjoy attending various events sponsored by our local Leagues. Please consider inviting your liaisons or a Board member who is not a member of your League to your annual meeting.



Happy Spring!

Nancy Soreng, President

State Board Meeting Highlights

Deborah Mitchell of PG County has been added to the slate of proposed Directors for 2023-2025 while Cindy Powell has had to withdraw her candidacy as a Director. The Nominating Committee has a new member - Sandra Raviv from LWV Calvert County. Welcome aboard, Sandra.

The Convention Planning Committee continues to solicit items for the silent auction at Saturday evening's gala. Do you have a suggestion as to items we can include or know of a business from which we can items? Have you an item of value that others might place bids on? If so, please [email](#) that information to LWVMD Administrative Assistant Willow Goode.

On February 23, the Maryland State Board of Elections had completed their manual audit for the November 2022 gubernatorial election in 23 of Maryland's 24 counties. Statewide, there were only 3 voting discrepancies found out of 2,005,223 ballots cast. To read a summary of the meeting by LWVMD member Ralph Watkins, click [here](#).

Stacey Morrison, SBL editor

Events

LWVMD's annual Day on Capitol Hill is scheduled for:

Monday, May 15, 2023
start time: 9:30 a.m.

LWVMD Day on Capitol Hill

This members'-only event will continue to be virtual (on zoom) as most members seem to find it a more convenient way to participate. In past years, congressional legislation on climate and voting rights was discussed. Though the topic for this year has not yet been assigned, it will align with the LWVUS Lobby Corps' upcoming assignment.

LWVMD has asked the entire Maryland Congressional delegation to speak to League members on important issues and how they can help support important legislation. Half hour time blocks have been allotted for each representative who responds to our request - usually all or almost all; if the representative is unavailable that day, we will talk to their knowledgeable staffers assigned to the topic.



The day begins with a welcome and introduction, usually given by the LWVMD president, followed by our lobbying pitch for or sometimes against a current bill that aligns with LWV's Impact on Issues. The Congressperson or his/her staffer gives a response, and then there is time for Q&As. If you would like to join this event, please RSVP [here](#) by Wednesday, May 10.

Jackie Coolidge, LWVUS Lobby Corps Coordinator

LWVMD Convention 2023

The LWVMD 2023 Convention is just over two months away:

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



Attendees will have the option to attend in-person or virtually. The in-person venue is the Hampton Hotel at 5311 Buckeystown Pike, Frederick, MD. To book a room at the special rate of \$159 or \$169 per night (plus tax), use this [link](#) to make a reservation; rates include a breakfast and all hotel amenities.

Attendees have until April 15 to take advantage of early bird pricing:

\$200 - Attendance in-person Friday through Sunday

\$100 - Virtual Attendance

\$100 - Saturday night's gala ticket only

After April 15, the cost to attend will be \$250 for in-person attendees, \$150 for virtual attendees, and \$150 for people who would just like to attend Saturday night's gala; click [here](#) to purchase tickets. All proceeds go back to the League to continue our work.

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. If you have questions, please contact LWVMD Executive Director Nikki Tyree at stateoffice@lwvmd.org. We look forward to seeing you soon.

Events and Awards

Supreme Court Legitimacy Forum



The LWVMD, Common Cause Maryland, and For the People Maryland are collaborating with the University of Maryland Francis King Carey School of Law to present a forum entitled:

Supreme Court: Crisis of Legitimacy and the Path to Reform
May 3, 1:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m.
Westminster Hall in Baltimore

As currently envisioned, the forum will consist of three parts:

1. Past Supreme Court decisions undermining democracy
 - Voting rights
 - Redistricting
 - Citizens United
2. Impending threats:
 - Moore v. Harper
 - Milligan v Merill
3. Root causes and possible solutions

Once details on speakers and registration are finalized, we will send out notices via email. We hope to see you there.

Nancy Soreng, LWVMD President

The LWVMD has established an award in honor of Malcolm Funn, Esq., a long-time state League member in Calvert County who passed away on July 26, 2022, at the age of 77. Each local League Board is invited to nominate up to three of their members for this award, why they think their nominee(s) have been outstanding League members and some of what they have accomplished with the League.

The nominees should embody or mirror the community/activist work that of Malcolm Funn. Mr. Funn was a long-time advocate for education and justice and has a list of numerous civic engagements. He served on the [MD Board of Elections](#) and was appointed by former Governor Hogan to the [Maryland Commission of African American History and Culture](#). At the local level, Mr. Funn served on the Calvert County Planning Commission and Liquor Board as well as the county's Health System Board of Directors; represented Calvert County in [Strong Schools MD](#); and was a leader of the county's [Closing the Gap Coalition](#). Furthermore, Mr. Funn was the Vice President of [Calvert County NAACP](#) branch, a cabinet member of [The Gideons International](#), and a member of [Concerned Black Men of America](#).

Malcolm Funn Award



Malcolm Funn, Esq. (photo credit [Calvert County NAACP](#))

The deadline to nominate a member has been extended to April 15, 2023. LWVMD's State Board will review each of the nominees and make a final decision; the winner of the award will be announced at the June convention. Please contact your local League president if you have suggestions for a nomination.

Committees

Local League Annual Meetings

To further foster relationships between LWVMD and local Leagues, the Board is collecting logistical information for each local League's Annual Meeting. This will help the LWVMD avoid conflicts when scheduling state meetings and encourage each LWVMD liaison to attend local League Annual Meetings.

Once your League has finalized your annual meeting plans, we ask that you enter that information onto this [spreadsheet](#); if you are unable to enter this information through Google Sheets, please [email](#) LWVMD Secretary Richard Willson with the name of your League; the date and location of the Annual Meeting; and the intended program.

Richard Willson, LWVMD Secretary

On March 8, LWVMD learned that out of the FOUR THOUSAND TWO HUNDRED AND ELEVEN organizations who stepped up to help get America [#VoteReady](#) last year, the LWVMD was among the very best! We finished in the top 100 of participants.

LWVMD applied for a grant through [NationalVoterRegistrationDay.org](#) and was awarded \$1,000 to distribute to local Leagues who sent us information about their plans for Voter Registration Day during the month of September.

Thanks to all local Leagues who provided pictures of their events and statistics about how many people they registered and/or provided with voter information during those events. We hope to build on this success and apply for a bigger grant when the applications come out again. I hope that even more of you will participate!

Voter Registration Day 2022 Recognition

Nancy Soreng, LWVMD President



Civics

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.

Their 2023 Summit, titled Strengthening Civics for All, will be held virtually on:

**Thursday, April 20, 2023
3:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.**

This year's summit includes [Congressman Glenn Ivey](#), UMD [Director of Civic Education and Engagement](#) Lena Morreale Scott, [iCivics](#) Director of State Policy Lisa Boudreau, and [Moriah Fund](#) Executive Director Alice Johnson Cain. Roundtable topics will focus on:

- Civic learning and civic engagement as a life-long journey
- Civics recognition program for students and schools
- Civics across the curriculum
- MD Dept of Service and Civic Innovation and Service Year Options

At this summit, the Governor's Office on Service and Volunteerism will present its Youth Service Award. And for entertainment, there will be a musical performance and a Youth Service and Civics Slam in which students share the experiences they've had around service and civics. If you'd like to be a part of this summit, please click [here](#) to register.

Civic Education Summit



Maryland Civic Education & Engagement Leadership Summit

Strengthening Civics for All!

Thursday, April 20th
3:30 PM - 7:30 PM
Online

Register:
bit.ly/StrengtheningCivics
www.mdccivics.org

Maryland Youth Voter Summit a Success



LWVMD held its first annual Maryland Youth Voter Summit last month to explore ways to empower young voters who are still in schools, whether that's high school, community college, or a four-year institution. League members and youth participants had an opportunity to learn the process of voter registration and ask questions of Barry Jackson, Deputy Director of the Board of Elections of Washington County.

Two incredible civic leaders inspired attendees to build stronger programs in schools. Airiss Prince of Baltimore City Youth Voter Registration Committee spoke about its mission to reach youth voters in high schools and public spaces. Jahnvi Rao of New Voters presented their relational peer-to-peer model for coaching high school students to develop successful voter registration drives.

LWVMD plans to host a student training early in the school year aimed at all Maryland students. If any local Leagues would like to participate by recruiting and supporting student participants, please contact Genie Massey gmasey@lwvmd.org.

Genie Massey, Youth Engagement and Civic Education Chair

Committees

LWVUS Transformation Update

Dr. Turner, LWVUS Board President, has recorded a 13-minute [video](#) on League accomplishments and goals that is **suitable for League Annual Meetings**. It is recommended that you use the [YouTube version](#) as it has closed captioning and is better quality. Please check it out!

Transformation Initiative

LWVUS received 204 applications for the League Transformation work groups that represent a diverse group of League members. LWVUS has appointed 70 people instead of the originally intended 40 to workgroups that will be working in March and April; the workgroups will address the business model, data, functional specifications, and League capacity. The report that these workgroups release represents about 25 miles of a 100-mile marathon. These groups will solicit feedback on their work products, possibly via surveys or webinars, with further discussion taking place at the LWVUS's June Council.

Moonshot Initiative to Abolish the Electoral College

At the 2022 LWVUS Convention, Dr. Turner announced that LWVUS will begin a campaign to abolish the Electoral College. Dubbed a "Moonshot Initiative", this effort will be a giant undertaking and that will take many years to realize. The timeline for the first year of work is:

- June 22 Moonshot Announcement
- July 22 LWVUS staff and EC working group established
- Aug 22 EC workgroup begins
- Jan 23 Board discussion on path forward
- Mar 23 Plans shared with state leaders
- Apr 23 Staff evaluates feedback from state leaders
- June 23 Moonshot sessions at Council
- July 23 Moonshot work launches with Leagues

LWVUS will be creating education resources for the League to use publicly and internally. The first goal will be education and passing of the [National Popular Vote Compact](#). Maryland was the first state to pass this in 2007. So, for now, LWVMD will be waiting to see what the next steps will be.

Nancy Soreng, LWVMD President

STRUCTURE TRANSFORMATION PLAN

The League Structure Transformation Plan is a multi-faceted, long-term initiative to address the League's organizational capacity at all levels.