

The League of Women Voters of Washington County

Annual Meeting Handbook

Thursday, June 13, 2024

Supper - 6:00 p.m.
Annual Meeting - 6:45 p.m.

LOCATION:

Bistro Eleven,
13208 Fountainhead Plaza, Hagerstown, MD 21742

RSVP to *Richard Willson* 240-513-8126 or pres-washco@lwvmd.org
by *Monday, June 10, 2023*

Or RSVP online at http://www.lvwashco.org/washington_county_events

Be sure to bring this handbook with you to the meeting.

The League of Women Voters of Washington County
Annual Meeting Agenda
Thursday, June 8, 2023

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Call to Order 6:45 p.m. Richard Willson	
Adoption of Agenda & Rules	2
Consent Items	
<u>Minutes of 2023 Annual Meeting</u>	3
<u>Amendments to Bylaws</u>	8-11
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<u>Program - Black Storytellers of Western Maryland</u> present,	7
 “Democracy, Voting Rights & Community Development” 	
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Presentation of <u>Local Positions</u> for Action (Drop, Retain, Update)	12-13
Discussion of program	
Announcements	
Adjournment 8:00 p.m.	

**Twentieth Annual Meeting of the
League of Women Voters of Washington County, Maryland
June 13, 2024**

At the annual meeting of the League of Women Voters of Washington County, Maryland, the members take an active role in formulating and planning the activities for the ensuing year. Board officers and members of the nominating committee are elected, an adequate budget is adopted and such other business as may properly come before the meeting is transacted. It is important that all members review the materials contained in this annual meeting handbook prior to the meeting. Members' participation in this meeting is very important so that the activities of this League in the coming year will reflect the interests and input of all members.

Please bring this workbook with you to the Annual Meeting.

Purpose and Policy

Purpose: The purpose of the League of Women Voters of Washington County, Maryland, shall be to promote political responsibility through informed and active participation of citizens in government and to act on selected governmental issues.

Policy: The League of Women Voters of Washington County, Maryland shall not support or oppose any political party or candidate.

RULES FOR THE ANNUAL MEETING

Only dues-paid members may vote.

Any League member has the privilege of the floor.

Individuals who wish to speak should rise, address the Chair, and when recognized give their name.

Members making nominations from the floor must have prior permission of the nominee (no second required; no debate).

The Annual Meeting of the Washington County League of Women Voters was held on June 8, 2022. The meeting was held at Bistro Eleven in Hagerstown.

The Washington County League of Women Voters held their Annual Meeting on June 8, 2023. The dinner meeting was held at Bisto 11. Members and guests in attendance. Richard Willson, Melanie Fouche, Fanny Crawford, Evvie Williams, Wren Massey, Graham Synder, Linda Kohn LWVMD newly elected president, Genie Massey newly elected vice president of LWVMD, Albert and Elyssa Doub, Joseph Rafter, Chip and Carolyn Wood and Stephny Lietuvnikas.

The meeting was called at 7:47 pm. The minutes of the June 2022 meeting the treasurer's and budget and program for 2023-2024 moved in a consent agenda motion moved in first by Joseph Rater and second by Evvie Williams all said aye. All present officers will continue in office. All present said aye, none opposed. Joseph Rafter has accepted the position on the nominating committee for the 2023-2024 league year.

As of 2/25/2023 we have 26 members.

The local league participated in the state league program planning and the legislative priorities planning. The local league participated in NVRD at three sites. We registered the most voters at Hagerstown Junior College. These three items were for the 2022-2023 year.

Directions To The Board for 2023-2024: Have more in person meetings, supper, luncheon, or coffee & dessert. One member stated that she would much rather have in person meetings than Zoom meetings.

We need to invite all members to board meetings. We need to be more conscious in informing our members on what we are doing by e-blasts or newsletters . One suggestion for an in person meeting would be a discussion around what the league policies are.

Chip Wood brought up his effort to get the Washington County Board of County Commissioners re-consider the proposal for the rail to trail from Hagerstown to south county. A discussion was held on how the league goes about doing a study, coming to consensus and advocating an issue. Linda Kohn explained how the state study on local control of education came about, and was approved for a state study at the state convention. The League of Women Voters is a grassroots citizens advocacy organization. Local leagues can advocate for an issue if the state or national league has a position. A local league can advocate locally if the issue has been studied and consensus has happened.

National Voter Registration Day is on 9/19/2023.

The state fall workshop is on 9/30/2023 via Zoom.

The business portion of the meeting adjourned at 8:22 pm.

Submitted by Melanie Fouche

Discussion:

Genie Massey gave a brief history of the league after women won the right to vote. Now that women have won the vote, voters need to be informed and educated on the issues and how to advocate. In the last year the local league has been discussing a youth advisory council to get students involved in civic engagement. We were not successful in getting into the schools. Massey has been working with Gary Willow from the board of education. She has been talking with Barry Jackson, the head of the local Board of Elections, to help with voter registration in the schools. Massey discussed the Montgomery County effort which is a peer to peer effort to get students registered and involved in civic engagement.

In her discussion she put to rest the general belief the civics is not taught in schools. It is incorporated across the curriculum. There are three middle schools that have been designated as community schools, they are Northern Middle, E. Russell Hicks and Western Heights. These three schools have after school programs for student enrichment. She suggested that this would be an avenue to get students involved in civic engagement. She suggested that maybe during the week of NVRD we could get into these three schools. There are 6 municipalities in the state that allow 16 year olds to vote. Willson suggested that we could work with the Hagerstown City government which operates under a charter to get this done locally.

Graham Synder, a student at North Hagerstown High School and the student representative to the local board of education, talked about the local and state student government associations. He stated that the association is very strong, that they have good communications across the state and that they have a general assembly every three months to discuss student issues. Montgomery and Howard County are putting forth names of students to the state board of education.

Two other mentions of civic engagement are the Harvard Business School Case Studies, and the Chamber Commerce Civic Bees.

League of Women Voters of Washington County, Maryland

Suggested Slate of Officers

President	Richard Willson (continue)	7/23 – 6/25
Co-Vice President	Fanny Crawford	7/24 – 6/26
Co-Vice President	Evvie Williams	7/24 – 6/26
Treasurer	Richard Willson	7/24 – 6/26
Secretary	Melanie Fouche (continue)	7/23 – 6/25
Board Member	Genie Massey (continue)	7/23 – 6/25
Nominating Committee (off Board)	Joe Rafter (continue)	7/23 – 6/25

LWVWC FY2025 Budget

July 1, 2024 to June 30, 2025

	FY2023 Actual	FY2024 to date	FY2025 Proposed
Income			
Contributions	1,751.98	0.00	372.00
Member dues new system			97.50
Member dues old system	1,072.50	772.50	97.50
	2,824.48	772.50	992.00
Total Income			
Expenses			
Advertising	86.91	90.37	100.00
Organization	285.00	939.98	100.00
Program & arrangements	960.46	200.00	100.00
State and National Dues	552.00	920.00	936.00
Stripe Fees	37.11	21.52	20.00
Total Expenses	1,921.48	2,171.87	992.00
Net income (Expense)	903.00	(1,399.37)	0.00

Notes:

Eight individual members and one household will renew before the end of 2024, but the per member payment assessed by LWVUS is expected to be the full (normal) assessment of \$32 per member with another \$16 per member going to LWVMD. After January 1, 2025 we will have two individuals and three households renewing under the new system where individual memberships will be \$75.00 and household memberships will be \$112.50 of which local leagues will receive 20%. If our members are able to pay dues at this higher level our income will go up, as we currently net 14% from dues when the per member payments are considered.

Program: Black Storytellers of Western MD (BSOWM)

Patricia Gaye Smart is a long-time Black Storyteller, retired educator and President of the BSOWM, a newly formed organization under the umbrella of the Doleman Black Heritage Museum, Inc. BSOWM originated in Hagerstown, sanctioned by our Senior Pastor, Reverend Donald K. Marbury of Ebenezer A.M.E. Church and established on International Women's Day, March 8, 2023. We were organized to fill the need to keep our cultural stories alive for the diaspora and for the enjoyment of all.

"**My BFF**" is an original story that I first told at the Delaware Storytelling Residency last summer, about how one person, a BFF, can encourage self and others toward economic and self actualization.

Janice E. Kelsh was born and raised in Hagerstown, MD and has memorabilia or heirlooms from growing up in Hagerstown, including her diary from 1960 which she often tells stories from. Janice is Founder of the Miniature Piano Enthusiast Club (1991); one of the Co-Founders of the BSOWM; Secretary of the Doleman Black Heritage Museum and the niece of its founders, the late Marguerite (Kelsh) and Charles Doleman.

"Meet Sojourner Truth (1797 – 1883) – Women's Rights Advocate and Pilgrim of Freedom" will chronologically highlight Sojourner Truth's work for women's rights, coupled with a recitation of her most widely quoted and best known speech on equality...."**Ain't I A Woman?**"

Lola L. Mosby was born in Hagerstown Maryland, as a twin. After graduating from high school she took college courses in business, then worked in banking for twenty-five years. She managed her own business, L&L Classic Clothing for sixteen years, and served on the governing boards of many organizations, including BSOWM, (past) pro Tem steward of Ebenezer Church, and Friends of Halfway African American Cemetery. Motto: "Know where you come from in order to know where you are going."

"**Voting In My Community**" is an original, personal story.

**LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF WASHINGTON COUNTY
BY-LAWS**

**ARTICLE 1
NAME**

- Sec. 1 The name of the organization shall be the League of Women Voters of Washington County, Maryland, Inc. hereinafter referred to in these bylaws as LWVWC. This Local League is an integral part of the League of Women Voters of the United States and the League of Women Voters of Maryland, hereinafter referred to in these bylaws as LWVUS and LWVMD, respectively.

**ARTICLE II
PURPOSE AND POLICY**

- Sec. 1 Purpose: The purpose of the LWVWC shall be to promote political responsibility through informed and active participation of citizens in government and to act on selected governmental issues.
- Sec. 2 Policy: The LWVWC shall not support or oppose any political party or any candidate.
- Sec. 3 Diversity, Equity & Inclusion Policy. The League is fully committed to ensure compliance - in principle and in practice - with LWVUS' Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Policy.

**ARTICLE III
MEMBERSHIP**

- Sec. 1 Eligibility: Persons **who meet the eligibility criteria set by the League of Women Voters of the United States**, ~~16 years of age, who subscribe to the purposes and policy of the LWVWC,~~ shall be eligible for membership. ~~a. Voting members are those members who have paid their current dues.~~
- ~~a. Those who have been members of the League for 50 years or more shall be life members excused from the payment of dues.~~

**ARTICLE IV
MEMBERSHIP MEETINGS**

- Sec. 1 Meetings: Regular Meetings of the membership shall be held at least three (3) times annually. In addition, an Annual Meeting is to be held prior to the State Convention/Council meeting, at a time and place to be decided by the Board.
- Sec. 2 Annual Meeting: The Annual Meeting shall
- a. Elect officers and directors
 - b. Elect two (2) non-board members for the nominating committee, one of whom shall be Chairman.
 - c. Adopt a Budget
 - d. Review and entertain changes in the by-laws (See Article XII),
 - e. and transact other business as may come before it.

Notice of the Annual meeting shall be sent to all members at least 30 days before the meeting. All the above information included.

Sec. 3 Fifteen (15) percent of the voting members shall constitute a quorum. A majority vote of those qualified shall constitute an election.

ARTICLE V OFFICERS

Sec. 1 Election: The officers of the LWVWC shall be a president (co-presidents), vice-president(s), secretary (Recording and/or Corresponding) and treasurer (secretary/treasurer).
They shall be voting members of the LWVWC and shall be elected for terms of two (2) years by the general membership at the Annual Meeting.

Sec. 2 President: The President shall preside at all business meetings of the LWVWC and Board of Directors' shall be an ex-officio member of all committees except the nominating committee, and may sign and endorse checks (in the absence of the treasurer).
The president shall sign all contracts and other instruments when authorized by the Board on behalf of the LWVWC. In the event of absence, disability or death of the president, the vice president shall assume the responsibility of the president.

Sec. 3 Vice President: The Vice President, in the absence of the president will possess all the powers and shall perform the duties of that office. The VP shall perform such other duties as the Board may designate.

Sec. 4 Secretary: The Secretary(s) shall keep minutes of the general and special meetings of the membership and the Board and send a copy of same to all board members within a designated time. The secretary shall notify all officers and directors of their election. The secretary shall also have charge of such correspondence as is designated by the president of the board and shall keep records of communications received and sent. The Secretary shall perform any other duties as the President and Board direct.

Sec. 5 Treasurer: The Treasurer shall collect and receive all monies due, shall deposit them in a bank designated by the board, and shall disburse the same guided by the budget and available income. The treasurer shall present written financial statements to the Board at their regular meetings and an annual report. Depending on the LWVWC's number of members, a review of the books shall be performed if less than 50 members, and over 50 an audit shall be performed by someone not on the board, to be presented at the Annual Meeting.

ARTICLE VI BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Sec. 1 Number: The Board of Directors shall consist of the Executive officers of the LWVWC and not more than six (6) Directors elected by the membership and not more than six (6) Directors appointed by the President.

Sec. 2 Terms: The Officers shall serve two (2) years and the Directors shall serve one (1) year with re-election as desired.

- Sec. 3 Qualifications: All Elected and appointed officers and directors shall be voting members.
- Sec. 4 Procedures: a. Vacancies: Vacancies, with the exception of the President, shall be filled by a majority vote of the Board and serve until the next election. Three (3) consecutive unexcused absences (without reason given) shall constitute resignation.
b. Quorum: a majority of the members of the Board of LWVWC shall constitute a quorum.
c. Meetings: there shall be at least six (6) regular meetings of the Board annually.
- Sec. 5 Powers and Duties: The Board shall have full charge of the property and business of the organization with full power and authority to conduct the same, subject to the instruction of the voting membership. It shall plan and direct the work necessary to carry out the program adopted by the National Convention, the State Convention, and League of Women Voters regional organizations, and the Annual Meeting. The Board shall create and designate such Committees as it deems necessary. The Board shall provide for an annual financial review or audit.

ARTICLE VII FINANCIAL ADMINISTRATION

- Sec. 1 Fiscal Year: The fiscal year of the LWVWC shall commence on the first day of July each year.
- Sec. 2 Dues: ~~“All members shall pay membership dues as established by the League of Women Voters of the U.S. Annual dues shall be payable on the member’s anniversary date. Any member who fails to renew by paying annual dues will be dropped from the membership rolls after a 30 day grace period. The amount of dues shall be recommended by the Board and approved by the voting membership at the Annual Meeting. Annual dues for additional family members shall be one-half (1/2) the annual rate.”~~
- Sec. 3 Budget: A balanced budget for the ensuing year shall be submitted by the Board to the Annual Meeting for adoption. The budget shall include support for the work of the League as a whole.
- Sec. 4 Budget Committee: The budget committee shall consist of the president and treasurer, ex-officio, and at least one other member. If the membership is over 50, two (2) members of the Board and three members of the voting membership shall serve, one of those non-Board members being designated as chairman.

ARTICLE VIII Nominations and Elections

- Sec. 1 Nominating Committee: The Nominating Committee shall consist of two (2) non-board members and two (2) Board members. The chair shall be one of the non-board members. The non-board members shall be elected at the annual Meeting. Vacancies shall be filled by appointment of the Board.
- Sec. 2 Report of Nominating Committee: The report of the nominating committee containing nominations for officers, directors and members of the next nominating committee shall be sent to the members at least 30 days before the Annual Meeting. Consent of all nominees must have been obtained. The report shall be presented at the Annual

Meeting. Additional nominations may be made from the floor immediately thereafter provided the consent of the nominee has been obtained.

- Sec. 3 Elections: Elections shall be by ballot unless there is only one nominee for an office, in which event the secretary may be instructed to cast the ballot for every voting member. A majority of those qualified to vote and voting shall constitute an election. Absentee or proxy voting shall be permitted.

ARTICLE IX PRINCIPLES AND PROGRAM

- Sec. 1 Authorization: The governmental principles adopted by the National Convention of the LWVUS and supported by the League as a whole constitute the Principles and Program of the LWVWC.

- Sec. 2 Program: The Program of the LWVWC shall consist of those governmental issues chosen for concerted study and action by majority vote of membership of the LWVWC at its Annual Meeting. These issues may be changes in already existing positions as well as new topics.

The Board shall consider recommendations submitted to the Board by the voting members 60 days prior to the Annual Meeting and shall formulate a proposed program.

The proposed program shall be sent to all members 30 days before the Annual Meeting.

- Sec. 3 Member Action: Members may act in the name of the LWVWC ONLY when AUTHORIZED to do so by the Board. Such action(s) must be in conformity with and not contrary to positions taken by the LWVUS, LWVMD and existing positions of the LWVWC.

ARTICLE X NATIONAL CONVENTION/STATE CONVENTION AND COUNCIL

- Sec. 1 National LWVUS – Convention: The Board shall select delegate(s) to the convention in the number allotted to the LWVWC under the provisions of the Bylaws of the LWVUS.

- Sec. 2 State LWVMD – Convention and Council: The Board shall select delegates to Convention or to Council in the number allotted to the LWVWC under the provisions of the Bylaws of the LWVMD.

ARTICLE XI RULES OF ORDER

- Sec. 1 Rules of Order: The rules contained in “Robert’s Rules of Order, Revised” shall govern the organization in all cases to which they are applicable and in which they are not inconsistent with these Bylaws.

ARTICLE XII AMENDMENTS

- Sec. 1 Amendments: These Bylaws may be amended by a two-thirds (2/3) vote of the voting members present and voting at the Annual Meeting (or at a special general meeting

called for the purpose of amending the bylaws) provided the amendments were submitted to the membership at least 30 days in advance of the meeting. Amendments to these Bylaws shall become effective upon adoption unless a specific effective date is included in the amendment.



League of Women Voters of Washington County
1117 Fairview Rd.
Hagerstown, MD 21742
<http://lwvwashco.org/>



WASHINGTON COUNTY LWV-LOCAL PROGRAMS

1. HOME RULE (1965, 1976-77, 1984, 1988, reviewed 2002, revised 2005)
 - a. Support of Charter Home Rule with a full-time administrative director as the best form of government for Washington County.
 - b. Support code home rule as an alternative method to have home rule in Washington County.
2. HOUSING (1965-66, 1976, reviewed 2002, revised 2013)
 - a. Support efforts to use federal, State or local funds to create affordable rental housing options;
 - b. Support the efforts of nonprofits willing to build additional affordable housing; and
 - c. Call on elected officials for the development of a comprehensive housing policy for Washington County.
3. PLANNING AND ZONING (1996-67, 1974-75, revised 1989-90, reviewed 2002, 2005)
 - a. Support a long-range Comprehensive Plan for Washington County, which includes a Planning and Zoning Study.
 - b. Support agricultural land preservation.
 - c. Support a planning growth pattern utilizing established criteria for land development and preservation.
 - d. Support continued protection of water resources including municipal watershed and supply areas.
 - e. Support historic preservation.
 - f. Support opportunities for public input in the planning process through informational meetings and public hearings.
4. COOPERATION BETWEEN COUNTY AND MUNICIPAL GOVERNMENTS (1970-71, 1974, REVISED 2002)
 - a. Support the creation of an independent group to 1) ascertain where cooperation, coordination and consolidation are desirable and 2) recommend methods and mechanisms to support needed changes.
 - b. Support the establishment of a non-governmental organization to identify area-wide problems and to create solutions.
5. LAW ENFORCEMENT (1973, 1980 updated for information only, reviewed 2002)
 - a. Support continued up-grading of coordination and cooperation of the law enforcement agencies serving Washington County and those initiatives that would accomplish these efforts.
6. TAX STRUCTURE AND FISCAL POLICIES OF WASHINGTON COUNTY (1975-76, reviewed 2002)
 - a. Recognizing that inequities exist, we recommend that an independent study be conducted to determine areas of tax duplication.
 - b. Support tax differentials where duplication exists.
 - c. Support services sharing where duplication occurs.

7. DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AND ABUSE (1982-83, reviewed 2002, Title changed 2008)
 - a. Support spousal abuse intervention programs in Washington County.
 - b. Support funding of spousal abuse intervention programs through state and local governments.
 - c. Support use of private and grant monies as supplemental support.
8. CHILD CARE OPTIONS IN WASHINGTON COUNTY (1984-85, 1990-91, reviewed 2002, 2012)
 - a. Support adequate staffing and funding levels for agencies that oversee and provide resources to Family Day Care and Child Care Centers.
 - b. Local government should provide funding and resources for extended day care.
9. EDUCATION (1983-84, 1984-85, revised 2010)
 - a. Support equitable funding by local, state and federal sources with adequate funding for mandated initiatives.
 - b. Support equity of programs, staffing, instructional materials, and technology across the county school system.
 - c. Support continuing professional development for teachers and staff.
10. ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT (1988, reviewed 2002)
 - a. Support economic development that is diversified, targeting industry/business that is beneficial to the community.
 - b. Support infrastructure. Water, sewer, utilities, that adequately service desired growth, both industrial/business and residential.
 - c. Support protection of the environment through regulation and monitoring of industries.
 - d. Support upgrading transportation — air, roads, rail, and addressing future needs.
 - e. Support protection of farmland and historic sites through zoning.
 - f. Support education as an economic tool.
 - g. Update of Comprehensive Plan, and Zoning Regulations, as tools for land use.
 - h. Implementation of Strategic Plan as a way to identify and address critical issues.