

## **Liaison Reports – January 2018**

### **LWV Arlington** - Matusiak reported:

1. Our December Board meeting was filled with purpose and action for the next year. Our very active Board has mapped out a plan for activities that will help move our agenda forward.
2. We have been invited back into the Arlington High Schools in February to do our in-class voter registration presentations again. We will be working with the InspireVA folks—and anyone who volunteered in the past knows what a great group the leaders and students of that organization are! We are excited!!
3. In other areas:
  - Book club meeting – discussion of the Electoral College in January
  - Redistricting Committee meetings and speaker in the spring – Paul Smith, who has argued cases before the Supreme Court on gerrymandering has agreed to do a presentation – we will advise when the date is set!
  - Working with the LWV Fairfax, Loudoun, Falls Church and the state League on the issue of consistent Metro funding – this is an important area, particularly for Arlington, and we want to make sure all constituents keep this issue in the forefront.

### **LWV Frederick** – Mayfield reported:

1. We held our annual Legislative Luncheon, for our county executive and her staff, and our state delegation, on Saturday, December 2nd. This was a new time (lunch instead of breakfast) and venue (community room at the public library instead of a church basement) for us, and it was very successful. The room was accessible, and parking at the next-door parking garage was free during the holiday season. Around 40 people attended, and the legislators expressed their appreciation for the League's work, especially in helping to craft an ethics bill supported by both political parties.
2. The LWVFC Board held our monthly meeting on Wednesday, December 13th, barely squeezing in all of our business in the 1.5 hours we allotted for it. Membership is up, finances look good, program planning is going smoothly. Pat Louison from Frederick Women for Change met with us and discussed her group's plans to work with us to voters at public libraries in the county. We all signed the Metro Fund It/ Fix It petition and will have copies available at our upcoming events.
3. We will begin registering high school voters in January. For the first time, we are scheduled to register voters at a private high school: Saint John's Regional Catholic Prep School is excited to host us and wants us to address the entire student body during home room, explaining the work of the League and the importance of voting. We have also developed a sheet of FAQs about voter registration for high schools students and will pilot it this year.
4. We are using social media more effectively: our Facebook coordinator is doing a great job of re-posting national and state events, as well as pertinent news articles, and we have more Likes than ever. We are also using SignUpGenius to solicit volunteers to help with voter registration and are getting some prospective members through this process.

### **LWV of Fairfax** - Zachry reported:

1. January's unit discussion meetings will discuss the book, A Nation of Nations: A Great American Immigration Story by NPR's Tom Gjelten, who focuses on a handful of immigrant families living in Fairfax County, VA, a place that saw its foreign-born population grow

sevenfold in the three decades after the immigration laws were changed in 1965. Delegate Mark Keam (D-35) is a descendent from one of the families. Background information is contained in the LWVFA January 2018 Fairfax VOTER posted on the LWVFA website at: [https://static1.squarespace.com/static/58706fbb29687f06dd219990/t/5a3551eb41920241eb750ecf/1513443824330/2018\\_1\\_VOTER\\_January.pdf](https://static1.squarespace.com/static/58706fbb29687f06dd219990/t/5a3551eb41920241eb750ecf/1513443824330/2018_1_VOTER_January.pdf) PDF of January VOTER is also attached to this Liaison Report.

2. February 25 - LWVFA has finalized its plans for a Forum on Redistricting in conjunction with OneVirginia2021([www.onevirginia2021.org](http://www.onevirginia2021.org)) on Sunday, February 25, 2018, from 1 – 5 PM at Sherwood Community Center, 3740 Old Lee Highway, Fairfax, VA 22030. Admission is free but register at <https://redistrictingvaforum.eventbrite.com> if you want to attend. Flyer with more details about the event is attached.

**LWV Falls Church** – Lipsky reported:

1. LWVFC will be considering changes to its governance structure at our planning meeting this month. Under discussion is a suggestion to reduce the size of the governing board to five officials. This leaner structure will make it easier to schedule meetings and make timely management decisions. The proposal envisions that the substantive work of our local league will be conducted through committees appointed by the Board.
2. LWVFC had a successful end of year fundraising drive. Our direct appeal letter to members raised \$1600. We were also able to access generous matching funds from a member and her employer.
3. LWVFC had a lively and well-attended Holiday party in December. Although the party was not organized as a fundraiser, we were able to raise additional funds for league projects through several successful raffles.

**LWV of Howard County-** Gruhl reported:

1. The LWVHC Annual Legislative Luncheon will be this Saturday, January 6 at 11 a.m. at First Evangelical Lutheran Church (corner of Chatham Road and Frederick Road in Ellicott City). A potluck luncheon will be followed by five-minute presentations by each Senator and House of Delegates member stating what each plans to accomplish in the 2018 Maryland General Assembly. The panel, our Annapolis Delegation, concludes the event with a spirited Q & A session. One hundred Leaguers, friends, and politicians have RSVP'd to attend this popular annual event, which has occurred in early January in conjunction with the start of the Maryland General Assembly for around 70 years.
2. We are making proactive plans for LWVHC Fundraising and will have a meeting Saturday, January 13 at a member's home to discuss financial opportunities for our local League.
3. Thursday and Friday, January 17 and 18 we will have unit meetings at Oakland Manor in Columbia. The topic will be LWV of Maryland's study, "Primaries in Maryland."

**LWV Montgomery County** - Blankenship reported:

1. Our January Trending Topic will be "Clean Protein: The Revolution That Will Reshape Your Body, Boost Your Energy—And Save Our Planet." The speaker will be Bruce Friedrich who is the Director of the Good Food Institute.
2. Our Discussion Group topic for December was Early Childhood Education in Montgomery County. As I reported last meeting we were accepting email and snail mail consensus

responses for the first time. We got a few email responses and they will be tabulated with all the others.

3. We are doing our program planning meetings next week.
4. We've started to put together our big fundraiser our "Sunday at the Movies" which will be March 25. We haven't picked a film so if you have any great suggestions we'd love to hear them.

**LWV Prince George's** - Mitchell reported:

1. LWVPGC's December 2, 2017 Holiday Open House was well attended by host Collington Life Care Community residents, members, local community leaders, and candidates. More than 15 non-members signed the Event sign-up sheet.
2. Five Prince George's County naturalized citizens were registered to vote (out of a total of 50) at the December 4, 2017 Naturalization Ceremony Voter Registration held at the Greenbelt, MD U.S. District Court.
3. The LWVPGC Board of Directors are scheduled to meet on January 8, 2018 to develop program planning sessions for upcoming meetings, discuss coordination of information and candidates forums, publication and dissemination of the 2018 League Voter Guide, and 2018 Prince George's County polling place evaluations.

**LWV Loudoun County** - Godfrey reported:

1. Loudoun County is holding their next general membership meeting Saturday, January 13. Plans are progressing for a March 8 panel discussion about Empowering Voters to Take Action. We look forward to advocating for and against legislation before the General Assembly.

**LWV District of Columbia** - Mc Means reported:

1. On November 30th, as part of the DC Statehood Coalition, LWVDC co-sponsored a forum with the UDC David A. Clarke School of Law on Moving Towards Local Control of DC's Criminal Justice System. The subject was how DC could regain control of parole for DC inmates. This is an important issue for local autonomy and justice for the people of DC, and could be accomplished separately, and ahead of, achieving statehood.
2. DC Leaguers have been actively supporting the DC Fair Elections Bill, a campaign finance reform proposal to provide matching funds for small donors. Recognizing that campaign expenses vary according to the office, the dollar limit on single candidates is \$200 for a Mayoral race, \$100 for an At-Large Council seat, and \$50 for a Ward Council seat. The match is set at 5 -1 for all. Following a hearing on December 13th, the bill was passed out of committee with unanimous support.
3. The LWVDC Board has voted to join the Carbon Pricing Coalition, which supports a carbon pricing program in DC. The program would tax carbon creators, and rebate funds to low-income residents impacted by the higher prices resulting from the taxes.

**LWV Virginia** - Lewis reported:

1. We held a very successful Pre-Session Roundtable on Dec, at a new venue, the Credit Union House in Richmond. Over 90 people, leaguers and others, participated in a "speed-dating" approach to getting the issues in front of attendees. Over 20 speakers from state government, coalition partners, and other advocacy groups gave quick overviews of their legislative priorities for the upcoming General Assembly session beginning Jan.10. Our speaker, Megan Rhyne, became ill, but we were able to get two attendees speak to us in more depth about their legislative agendas.

2. We did publish a full Virginia Voter in early December, and the January Voter Express has been posted to our home page (lww-vw.org). Our editor and producer of both (Meghan Dorsett, the Co-director of Communications) has been undergoing treatment for cancer and heart issues – we would appreciate kind thoughts and prayers for her continuing progress and return to health. The Co-director, Carol Lindstrom, has stepped up mightily to follow through on these efforts.
3. We did recognize The Fredericksburg Area League as a full league at our Dec. 5th board meeting – materials have been forwarded to LWVUS for formal acceptance. We now have 13 local leagues, one MAL Unit in the Roanoke area, and, of course, one ILO, the NCA.
4. We will resume our Women’s Legislative Roundtables (WLRTs) on January 17, at the Credit Union House, at 8:30 am. We’ll continue to look for a location within the Pocahontas building for a better space. Plans are in process for our League Day on Feb 7, with a lunch scheduled with AAUW that day. More information next month!

**LWV of Maryland** - Gruhl reported:

1. LWVMD will officially participate in *the Annual Maryland Environmental Summit* on Thursday, January 18 from 4 p.m. to 6 p.m. at the Miller Senate Office Building in Annapolis. The Keynote Speaker will be Bob Perciasepe, former Secretary of the Maryland Department of the Environment, and Deputy Administrator of EPA. This event will be preceded by six Environmental Advocacy Workshops from 12:00 to 3:00 p.m.
2. *The Annual LWVMD Winter Workshop* will be on Saturday, January 20 at 9:30 a.m. to 2 p.m. at First Evangelical Lutheran Church in Ellicott City. The first session will have two simultaneous workshops: *Preparing for Elections: Forums and Debates*, and *Non-Profit Treasurer’s Seminar*. The second session will have two simultaneous workshops: *How to Run a Condo Election*, and a repeat of *Non-Profit Treasurer’s Seminar*. The catered Luncheon will be followed by a Guest Speaker.
3. March 6<sup>th</sup> LWVMD will hold its *Annual Legislative Day in Annapolis*. Starting at 8:30 a.m. attendees can visit legislators. Our program begins at 10 a.m. The luncheon starts at 1 p.m. “*Voting Security*” will be the topic of the post-luncheon Guest Speaker.
4. Leaguers and friends from the National Capital Area and beyond are invited to attend the LWVMD and LWVPGC fundraiser Spring Bus Tour, “*True Grit: Legendary Ladies of the Chesapeake.*” It will occur Tuesday, May 15. At 6:45 a.m. we meet at Greenspring Shopping Center Parking Lot in Baltimore then proceed to the Riva Road Park and Ride in Annapolis for another boarding at 7:45 a.m. The step-on guide joins us in Dorchester County. Explore Maryland’s Eastern Shore sites of famous ladies, especially Harriet Tubman. Lunch at Portside Restaurant in Cambridge. Dinner is on your own at Cracker Barrel in Stevensville. The event concludes at approximately 8:45 p.m. with last drop off at start site. Tour price is \$140. Pay to LWVMD by check or by credit card via LWVMD website. See detailed flyer with registration form at LWVMD website.