

December LWNCA Liaison Reports

LWV Arlington Matusiak:

1. Redistricting Committee meeting – have gotten Paul Smith, who argued cases before the Supreme Court on gerrymandering to do presentation in spring. Will work on logistics at December meeting.
2. Book Club – January discussion and presentation on Electoral college
3. Starting preparations for February in-class high school presentations and voter registrations
4. Planning January mixer for new members
5. Putting together program planning for January meeting

LWV Falls Church Lipsky reported:

1. Despite heavy rains and cold weather, twenty LWVFC volunteers were present at the polls on election day to hand out our Voters Guide, to distribute information on OneVirginia2021 (a non-partisan campaign for fair redistricting), and to thank all who turned out to vote. This capped a very busy and successful election season, in which LWVFC conducted numerous voter registration events, held three public forums, produced paper and online voters' guides, and held several "post card parties" to encourage recently registered voters to vote.
2. LWVFC is in the midst of a fundraising drive. Letters were sent out to all members requesting donations to our Education Fund. A very generous member has offered a dollar for dollar match for the first \$1000 donated.
3. LWVFC will hold its annual Holiday Party on December 3 between 5-7 pm at the new Falls Church Arts Space at 700 West Broad Street in Falls Church. Refreshments will be provided by the members.

LWV Frederick Mayfield reported:

1. The work group studying Section 287(g) of the Immigration and Nationality Act and its effect on Frederick County continues to make progress. The group requested public information from the Frederick County Sheriff's Office and was told that it would cost about \$350 to retrieve and copy the requested documents; the LWVFC Board voted unanimously at its November meeting to pay those costs.
2. A front-page article in the Frederick News-Post on November 16th reported that two Frederick County groups who had proposed dueling bills on county ethics laws in the last legislative session in Annapolis are now working together to propose one common bill – a solution suggested and encouraged by LWVFC.
(https://www.fredericknews.com/news/politics_and_government/county-officials-coming-closer-on-ethics-reform-bill/article_a7e63eed-a3d4-530a-aac7-3c3c87c54199.html)
3. On Saturday, December 2nd, we will host our annual Legislative Luncheon, held just before the Frederick County Delegation to the Maryland General Assembly holds a public hearing on their legislative priorities for the coming session. Senators and Delegates representing the County, together with the County Executive, will meet with us to share their priorities and to hear ours – at the County, National Capital Area, and State levels.
4. We are beginning to set up dates to register voters at local high schools – both public and private -- early in 2018.

LWV of Fairfax Zachry reported:

1. LWVFA's General Meeting on Saturday, November 18, 2017, 1 – 4 p.m., at Virginia International University went very well and had a good attendance. Dr. Stephen Farnsworth, Political Science and International Affairs Director at the Center for Leadership and Media Studies at Mary Washington University gave a very interesting wrap up on the results of the recent election, and Fairfax County Lee District Supervisor Jeff McKay talked

about the legislative environment for Fairfax in the upcoming General Assembly and the positive attitude toward diversity in Fairfax County.

2. December's Unit discussion meetings will conduct Program Planning 2018-2020 for LWVUS and for LWVFA. December's Fairfax VOTER which contains background material on Program Planning, is posted on the LWVFA website, along with other resources, at <https://www.lwv-fairfax.org/unit-meetings-1/>
3. January's topic is to discuss the book, A Nation of Nations: A Great American Immigration Story by NPR's Tom Gjelten. Gjelten 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 changes. 35th District Delegate Mark Keam is from one of the families.
4. February - LWVFA is planning a forum on the status of Redistricting in Virginia, to be held on Sunday, February 25, 2018 at Sherwood Community Center.

LWV of Howard Gruhl reported:

1. Our "Great Decisions" discussion group met November 8 and discussed "Nuclear Security."
2. LWVHC members marched in the Veterans Day Parade in old town Ellicott City's Main Street on November 11.
3. LWVHC members did their annual review of LWVUS Positions at unit meetings on the morning of November 15 and the evening of November 16 in the Library of Oakland Manor in Columbia.
4. Our Annual LWVHC Holiday Potluck Dinner Party will be Sunday, December 3rd from 4 p.m.-6 p.m. at the home of LWVHC Co-President Betsy Grater.
5. We are planning our Annual Legislative Luncheon honoring our county's "Annapolis Delegation" of Maryland General Assembly Senators and Delegates. As is our tradition, the event will occur on the first Saturday of the new year. We will again hold the luncheon at First Evangelical Lutheran Church in Ellicott City

LWV Montgomery County Blankenship reported:

1. Our Trending Topics for November was "Fake News: Fact or Fiction?" The speaker was Brian Kareem, editor for the Montgomery County Sentinel and a CNN political analyst. He gave a lively and informative talk about his many years covering the White House especially what has changed lately.
2. Our January Trending Topic will be Food Security and February will be Women in Politics.
3. Our Discussion Group topic for November was "Renters and Rental Housing in Montgomery County." The discussion covered what is and what isn't available as well as what is and what isn't affordable. We also discussed what effect transportation and the environment have on housing.
4. Our Discussion Group topic for December will be Early Childhood Education in Montgomery County. It will be a consensus discussion. For the first time we will be accepting responses by mail and email as well as at the meetings. This should be an interesting experiment.
5. We are getting ready for our Legislative Dinner in December. We invite our County legislators to a dinner to talk to them about the League's local legislative priorities for the coming year.
6. We heard that we have been approved for our 501c(3) designation. As yet we don't know when it will take effect.

LWV Prince George's Mitchell reported:

1. The LWVPGC November 4, 2017 meeting featuring guest speaker U.S. Senator Van Hollen was a success. Many Collington Life Care Community residents—including resident LWVPGC members attended this event.

2. On November 13, 2017, Membership Chair, Juanita Watts and Pat Behenna registered four (approximately 20%) Prince George's County residents out of a total of 25 registered newly naturalized citizens at the LWV-MC coordinated Naturalization Ceremony registration event held at the U.S. District Court, Greenbelt, MD.
3. Co-Presidents Joyce Duckett, Deborah Mitchell and Board member Ellen Laponsky collaborated planning and hosting LWVPGC's December 2, 2017 Holiday Open House being held at Collington Life Care Community. Members, local community leaders and County residents are expected to attend the event.

LWV Loudoun County Godfrey reported:

1. League of Women Voters Loudoun County held its last general meeting before the holidays, Saturday, November 4, 2017. We discussed several program ideas including Empower the Voter which would feature a panel discussion with female elected officials.
2. We are also beginning to plan for our annual meeting luncheon in Leesburg in late April.
3. Next board meeting will be a holiday dinner at Clydes in Ashburn Monday, December 11, 2017.

LWV District of Columbia Mc Means reported:

1. The second phase of the Statehood Outreach Project continued. Chair of the Full Rights for DC Citizens Committee Anne Anderson spoke at the Missouri Fall Workshop in Sedalia, where representatives of all Missouri League were in attendance. Anderson also spoke to Leagues in Denver and Fort Collins, CO; Caroline Petti spoke to Leagues in Anchorage and Fairbanks, AK and in Salt Lake City, UT; Yilin Zhange spoke to the League in Troy, MI, and will speak in Chicago on December 2nd. The project has received useful evaluation report from those in attendance, and has been covered on some Facebook pages and in all of the newsletters of these Leagues. Suggestions include: having a petition to sign; publishing letters to the editors of local newspapers.
2. Based on those suggestions, the LWVDC Board will create a petition seeking statehood for Washington, DC (the federal government enclave will remain the District of Columbia), which can be circulated by Leagues' members nation-wide, and delivered to Congress to demonstrate support from the whole country. The Board also voted to draft a model letter to the editor to be circulated to Leagues around the country for publication in local newspapers on or about Tax Day.
3. A Holiday Tea will be held on Saturday, December 2nd at the home of President Linda Beebe. The Sheila Willet Award, which is presented to members in recognition of sustained service to the League of Women Voters of the District of Columbia, will be presented to Judy Smith and Janet Bachman for their long-time work on voter registration at the Naturalization Ceremony.

LWV Virginia Lewis reported:

1. November in Virginia was concentrated on the off-year election for members of the House of Delegates. Local leaguers served as Officers of Election, election observers, hosted call-ins for voter assistance, volunteered with OneVirginia2021 at the polls, and did many other things to assist voters.
2. Plans have been finalized for our Pre-Session Roundtable on Dec. 6 at the Credit Union Building in Richmond. We have 20+ speakers from various organizations and government who will let us know what legislation they will be following. Megan Ryhne from Transparency Virginia and the Virginia Coalition for Open Government will be the luncheon speaker.
3. At our Board meeting on Dec.5 we will formally accept the Fredericksburg Area as our newest local league. And plan our upcoming Women's Legislative Roundtables during the General

Assembly, which convenes on Jan.10, with a new Governor, administration, and new leadership and members of the House.

4. The Virginia Voter is coming out this week, and our Voter Express continues as our main communication tool monthly between those editions. We now have several Facebook Groups covering our legislative priorities, and are pleased to be involved with NCA's emphasis on Metro funding.

LWV of Maryland Gruhl reported:

1. The LWVMD responded to the wishes of our local Leagues in establishing the LWVMD Legislative Priorities for the 2018 Maryland General Assembly. The first of three categories is Making Democracy Work; the emphasis will be on redistricting reform, improved voter access, and security of election processes. The second category is Protecting the Environment; we will focus on mitigating climate change, increasing use of clean renewable energy, and ensuring safe water and clean waterways for all. The third category is Promoting Social and Economic Justice; our attention will be on maintaining the safety net for vulnerable populations, providing adequate and equitable pre-K through 12 public education, providing adequate public transportation, and corrections and sentencing reform.
2. The LWVMD Board is planning three events: the 2018 Winter Workshop, the 2018 Spring Fundraiser, and 2018 Legislative Day in Annapolis.
3. Current issue studies by the LWVMD are Death with Dignity, Civic Education, Senior Services, and Corrections and Bail. Each study group is progressing and is using conference calls for communicating rather than time consuming physical meetings.