

March 2, 2018 LWNCA Liaison Reports

LWV Arlington - Matusiak reported:

Our February Board meeting was packed with upcoming events and we are in the Middle of them right now.

1. From Feb 20 – March 2nd we have been and will be in Arlington High Schools doing our in-class voter registration presentations again. We have been again 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 have two more schools to go and we have registered 296 students!
2. In other areas:
 - Held Membership Event at local restaurant and discussed with new/newer members how they could get involved and what they wanted to do within the League – it was really exciting to talk to new members and get their ideas
 - Sponsoring Arlington League members to attend March 4th rally in Richmond with OneVirginia2021 on gerrymandering.
 - Book club meeting – will tour archives on April 15 and discuss what goes into Archives.
 - 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 have a date and when we get the venue we will put out invitations – it will be in April
 - Our first Sips and Civility (thanks Amy!) is set for March 6th – with games and prizes
 - Preparing for our Annual Meeting – date set for May 19th at the Sheraton Pentagon – speaker to be Tom Hicks of the Election Assistance Commission on the work of that commission.
 - Working with the LWV Fairfax, Louden, Falls Church and the state League on the issue of consistent Metro funding –

LWV Frederick – Mayfield reported:

1. During the months of January and February, working around some weather-related school closings and delayed openings, we completed our goal of registering voters at all Frederick County public high schools. We also recruited some students to serve as election judges during the 2018 primary and general elections.
2. On January 31st, we held a consensus meeting, attended by 24 members, to discuss the Maryland state consensus issue of primary voting. We were encouraged by the participation of some newer members and are working to involve them more in the work of the League.
3. On Saturday, March 3rd, we will join with the Frederick County Alumnae Chapter of Kappa Delta Sigma Sorority for a reenactment of the 1913 Women's Suffrage Parade in Washington, DC.

LWV of Fairfax - Zachry reported:

1. February 25th Redistricting Forum at Sherwood Community Center in the City of Fairfax was a huge success. Panelists included Delegate Ken Plum, Professors and students from College of William & Mary Law School and Center for Geospatial Analysis, three Commissioners from California's Citizens Redistricting Commission and concluding remarks by Brian Cannon and Olga Hernandez. Over 225 people attended and many participated in the Q & A after each set of panelists.
2. March Unit discussion groups will talk about Metro Fund It/Fix It campaign and status of legislation in the three districts. The March 2018 Fairfax VOTER contains background information and has been sent to LWNCA board members. The VOTER and additional resources are posted on LWVFA website at <https://www.lwv-fairfax.org/unit-meetings-1/> .
3. LWVFA membership was 358 as of February 1, 2018 and five new people have joined since then.

4. LWVFA Annual Meeting is Saturday, April 21, 2018 at Waterford at Fair Oaks, 12025 Lee Jackson Memorial Highway (Route 50), Fairfax, 22033. Registration at 9:30 AM, Business meeting at 10 AM. Keynote speaker at 11 AM is NPR correspondent and author Tom Gjelten (A NATION OF NATIONS). Luncheon cost for League members is \$40, \$50 for general public, and \$10 fee to attend meeting only. More information and Reservations online at <https://www.lwv-fairfax.org/2018annualmeeting/> or download form and pay by check. Reservation Form also attached.

LWV Falls Church – Lipsky reported:

1. Meeting with our State Representatives: LWVFC sponsored a Town Hall meeting with our two State representatives (Senator Richard Saslaw and Delegate Marcus Simon) on January 20 to hear their perspectives on the current legislative session. The Town Hall was very well attended (standing room only) and included an extensive question and answer segment. On February 17, Delegate Simon returned to share information at the midway point in the legislative session.
2. Sips and Civility: LWVFC continued its “Sips and Civility” series with an evening gathering at a local restaurant on January 10, to discuss legislation being considered by the State legislature in its current session. Participants were provided with post cards, which they could use to let their representatives know their views on pending matters.
3. Program Planning Meeting: LWVFC held its annual program planning meeting on January 28, to consider possible changes to our local structure and to plan activities for the coming year. The meeting was very well attended. The members present agreed with a proposal to reduce the size of our governing board, and to conduct most of our substantive work through a revitalized committee structure.

LWV of Howard County- Gruhl reported:

1. A lovely New Members’ Orientation was held in the gracious Columbia home of LWVHC Co-President Betsy Grater on February 10. Board members described their respective roles in our organization. Attendees munched on delicious appetizers and desserts.
2. Valentine’s Day decorations and sweet treats enhanced the LWVHC’s “Great Decisions” Discussion Group’s meeting on the evening of February 14 at the home of LWVHC members Janis and Jerry Cripe. “The Waning of Pax Americana” was the topic examined.
3. Consensus was sought on the “Maryland Open vs. Closed Primaries Study” at the February 21 morning and February 22 evening unit meetings at Oakland Manor in Columbia.
4. LWVHC collaborated with the Howard County Public Library System to present a public program in the Avalon Room of the Miller Library in Ellicott City on the evening of February 27. The topic was “The Public School System and the Charter School System.” Dr. Cherise Hunter spoke for the Howard County Public Schools and Edward Walters spoke about charter schools.

LWV Montgomery County - Blankenship reported:

1. Our February Trending Topic was “Women in Politics” and it was a great success. In March we will have Dr. Dana Fisher presenting “Can Political Protest Equal Successful Action.”
2. In January we did our Program Planning and will be sending in our results very soon.
3. Our Discussion Group topic for February was Economic Development in Montgomery County. We are still experimenting with email and snail mail consensus responses.
4. We’ve started to put together our big fundraiser our “Sunday at the Movies” which will be March 25. Our film will be “The Hand That Feeds.” It’s a behind the scenes look at what undocumented worker face every day.

LWV Prince George’s - Mitchell reported:

1. January 31, 2018, LWVPGC moderated a Prince George's County Executive candidates' forum hosted by Prince George's County Educator's Association (PGCEA) at its headquarters in Forestville, MD. All verified and filed candidates were invited to participate. Over 200 PGCEA members, county residents, community leaders and other stakeholders attended the event.
2. LWVPGC is finalizing plans to co-sponsor two local candidates' forums this month: 1) County Executive, March 10, 2018 and 2) State's Attorney, March 29, 2018. Both will be held at Prince George's Community College.
3. Preparation has begun to produce and publish the LWVPGC VOTE411 Guide.
4. The LWVPGC March 3 meeting will be devoted to finalizing program planning.

LWV Loudoun County - Godfrey reported:

1. Loudoun is sponsoring a forum entitled Empower Voters To Take Action Thursday, March 8 with five panelists from the community.
2. Our annual meeting luncheon is also scheduled Saturday April 14 at River Creek Country Club in Leesburg at 11:30 am with the guest speaker Pat Fishback.

LWV District of Columbia - Mc Means reported:

1. First, it is with great sadness that I report the death of President Linda Beebe on January 23rd. First Vice President Alex Dickson is serving as Acting President until the DC League's annual meeting on April 21st. The Nominating Committee is seeking a candidate to fill the remainder of Linda's term. A celebration in remembrance of Linda, hosted by her family, was held on Saturday, February 17th.
2. The DC League is pleased to report that in a unanimous vote the Council passed the DC Fair Elections Bill, a campaign finance reform proposal to provide matching funds for small donors. The Mayor had opposed the legislation. The DC Fair Elections Coalition is asking Leaguers to attend at least one of the Mayor's Budget Forums to urge support of funding and implementation of the law.
3. On the DC Statehood front, the Full Rights Committee will seek, through LWVUS, another grant from the DC government to continue its current project of educating sister Leagues, both in person and through social media. Committee Chair Anne Anderson has sent a packet of information to all Leagues, including an Equality for DC yard sign.

LWV Virginia - Lewis reported:

1. We suffered a great loss on Jan 30, when we learned of the death of our Co-Director of Communications, Meghan Dorsett. Along with her partner and Co-Director, Carol Lindstrom, she produced our monthly Voter Express and periodic Virginia Voter. She was an incredibly talented person; her graphics for our publications were outstanding and her technical abilities with layout were without peer. She will be so greatly missed by all in the Virginia League, but most especially by her surviving wife, Carol.
2. Due to Meghan's passing, the February issue of the Virginia Voter was delayed until mid-February; many hands stepped in to help Carol get that out, and she continues to get assistance from others for keeping our communications with each other going out in a timely fashion.
3. Our Women's Legislative Roundtables (WLRT) for this session ended on Feb. 28; we've had very good attendance from leaguers and drop-ins from legislators, administration officials and coalition partners. The change of venue from past years has turned out to be not quite the challenge we thought it might; even a snow storm on the first day (albeit a very mild one) did not deter attendance from leaguers and legislators.

4. We shared our League Day (aka Lobby Day) with our long-time partner, AAUW, on February 7, with over 60 in attendance for lunch at the Berkeley Hotel, another change of venue for us. We brought on board two new credentialed volunteer lobbyists this session, Valarie Fillgrove and Mary Crutchfield, and we lobbied heavily for Redistricting Reform, the ERA, protecting voter rights, education, Medicaid expansion, and transportation issues. The GA will adjourn on March 10, and we hope to see a budget that will include support for Medicaid expansion. Most of the election law proposals were carried over for deliberation by a to-be-named Joint Committee from the P&E committees.

LWV of Maryland - Gruhl reported:

1. A VOTE411 Workshop was held by LWVMD on Saturday, February 3 at the Eastern Shore Convention Center in the city of Easton from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.
2. The following Saturday, February 10, a VOTE411 Workshop was held by LWVMD at the Howard County Public Library Miller Branch in Ellicott City from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.
3. The 2018 LWVMD Legislative Day in Annapolis will be Tuesday, March 6. After registration at 8:30 a.m. in the Miller Senate Office Building attendees can visit General Assembly legislators or take a tour of the legislative physical complex. At 10 a.m. attendees convene and report on their legislative visits. They will discuss proposed legislation impacting LWVMD's legislative priorities. The Executive Director of Maryland's Dept. of Legislative Services, Victoria Gruber, will give a presentation on the Maryland state budget. This will be followed by discussion of the impact of the budget on League's legislative priorities. After the buffet luncheon attendees will hear Guest Speaker Nikki Charlson, Deputy Administrator of the State Board of Elections, talk about Election Security.