

LWVNCA September 7, 2018

Consolidated Liaison Reports from Member Leagues

LWVDC – McMeans reported:

- The Full Rights for DC Citizens Committee created a new curriculum power point and presented to the DC Social Studies Professional Day on August 15th. DC statehood materials have been offered to all DC social studies teachers. The background papers for the DC Statehood Toolkit have been updated and put on the website. Committee members are now collaborating with DC Vote to present LWVDC's Fixing the Hole in Our Democracy in Atlanta, GA, Seattle, WA and St. Cloud, MN. Visits to other cities around the country are planned using funds from the grant that LWV received from the DC government.
- Voter registration activities have continued throughout the summer at several venues including street fairs, farmers' markets and civic events. Leaguers attend the monthly Naturalization Ceremony at the DC Courthouse to register new citizens. President Kathy Chiron contacted the Chief Judge to request that LWVDC be a part of the program each month and was told that going forward the presiding judge assigned to each ceremony will choose not only the guest speaker, but which organizations will be asked to provide remarks.
- On September 12th, LWVDC will hold a Snappy Hour to welcome new members, honor its 50+ members, and learn about what is planned for year of voter engagement and advocacy.
- In late September, the DC League will move to new office space at the WeWork site at 1875 Connecticut Ave., NW.

LWVMD – Gruhl reported:

- July 23, 2018 -- The Annual LWVMD Board Retreat at First Lutheran Church, Ellicott City, included not only the Board but expanded this year to include the volunteer reporters for Report from State Circle and the President or their representative from each Maryland local League. After Portfolio Review we had Small Group Discussions on Membership, Communications, Program, and Action followed by reports from each group. After a luncheon at Miller's Grant we focused on Voter Services discussing Questions, a Constitutional Amendment, Candidate Forums, VOTE411, Voter Registration and Aligning Advocacy with Making Democracy Work.
- August 6, 2018 – LWVMD Board Meeting focused on "Making Democracy Work," discussing Redistricting, Same Day Registration, Coalitions, Involving Youth, two of our consensus studies (Death with Dignity; Corrections and Bail) and Environmental Education/Advocacy. We also focused on "Making League Work," discussing 501c (3) vs (4) status for LWVMD, Financial Reporting, the Fall Workshop, Fundraising, and Communication.
- Sept. 17, 2018 – 12th Annual LWVMD Constitution Day Program and Reception in the Ceremonial Court Room of the University of Maryland Carey School of Law from 12 noon to 2:00 p.m. the topic is "The Changing Makeup of the Supreme Court." Sponsors are LWVMD, the law school, the University of Maryland, Baltimore, and the University of Maryland, College Park, College of Behavioral & Social Sciences, MLaw Programs.

LWV Frederick – Mayfield reported:

Voter registration: At the suggestion of some of our members, we have held voter registration drives at several new places for us this summer:

- At a farmer's market (no registrations, but we recruited a new League member!).
- At National Night Out events, with the Delta Sigma Theta sorority. 10 new registrations at one event in a public housing community.
- At "First Saturday" events in downtown Frederick – our monthly arts-oriented events. So far no new registrations, but lots of interest in the League and Vote411.

- At the annual “In the Street” event, to be held all day on Saturday, September 8th. Main downtown streets are turned into pedestrian malls, and there are lots of vendors and activities. We are partnering with the County Board of Elections.

Lemonade social event: Also a suggestion made at our spring planning meeting. We invited all LWVFC members to an afternoon social at Co-President Sarah Matthews’s house, just to get to know other League members and chat. About 15 people came and had a great time.

LWVNCA workshop: We were thrilled that 7 members of our League participated in the workshop, including 2 non-Board members. And we met a new person who lives in Frederick County there; she then attended our lemonade social!

Frederick County Council: We are monitoring several proposed bills and will probably provide testimony at a future Council meeting. We have been asked to provide input to the County Executive as she prepares her legislative package for the 2019 Maryland General Assembly. And we are studying three proposed amendments to the (relatively new) County Charter which will be on the ballot in November. And a Council member has asked us to work with him to develop a possible conflict of interest policy for our County Planning Commission.

Book club: Our small but mighty group has been meeting monthly. In August we read *Go Back to Where you Came From: The Backlash against Immigration and the Fate of Western Democracy*, by Sasha Polakow-Suransky; for September we are reading *Dopesick: Dealers, Doctors, and the Drug Company that Addicted America*, by Roanoke journalist Beth Macy.

Fall dinner: By the time our LWVNCA Board meets on September 7th, we will have held our annual fall potluck dinner at a member’s house, on September 5th. Our speaker is Nikki Charlson from the Maryland State Board of Elections, on “Election Security.” This event is our only fund-raiser of the year, as we accept voluntary donations.

Upcoming candidate forums:

- Frederick County Board of Education, with Delta Sigma Theta Sorority. Monday, September 24.
- Maryland Congressional District 6, with LWV-Washington County and Delta Sigma Theta. Thursday, October 11.
- Frederick County Executive and County Council members, with United Way. Monday, October 15.

LWV Howard – Gruhl reported:

- Sunday, August 5 --LWVHC members marched at the 73rd Annual Howard County Fair in West Friendship, Maryland. At 2 p.m. the Grand Opening Parade and 35th Annual West Friendship Volunteer Fire Dept. Parade went down the fairground’s Main Street. Leaguers dressed in red, white and blue, waving flags and carrying Vote signs walked behind the County Executive, the County Council, and the Board of Education groups.
- September 19 and 20 –Two unit meetings, both in Columbia, one at 10 a.m. on Wednesday at Vantage House, the other at 7 p.m. on Thursday at Historic Oakland Manor (the LWVHC headquarters) will focus on legislative priorities that LWVHC thinks LWV of Maryland should support during the 2019 Maryland General Assembly. All local Leagues are to send their legislative priorities to LWVMD by Sept. 25. We will also discuss possible program topics for unit and general meetings this League year.
- Candidate Forums:
 - 9/20-- Howard Community College’s Smith Theatre, 5:30-10 p.m., Board of Education, Congress, Register of Wills, Sheriff, State’s Attorney, Clerk of Circuit Court
 - 9/26—George Howard Building’s Bancker Room, 6-10 p.m. , County Executive and County Council
 - 9/27 – George Howard Building’s Bancker Room, 6-10 p.m. , Senators and Delegates for Maryland General Assembly

LWVPGC – Mitchell reported:

- In partnership with the Prince George’s County Board of Elections LWVPGC conducted

polling place site evaluations during Primary Election Early Voting (June 14-21, 2018) and on Primary Election Day (June 26, 2018).

- June 30, 2018, LWVPGC held its Annual Meeting featuring AARP guest speaker Nancy Carr. Ms. Carr talked about AARP's 2018 legislative priorities (e.g., paid sick leave) and other legislative initiatives the organization is focusing on: lobbying for tax credits for caregivers, prescription drug affordability, Nursing Home Protection Act and Nursing Home Oversight Law--to name a few.
- At the August 25, 2018 LWVPGC Retreat, members were briefed about the LWVUS Transformation Road Map and the August 11, 2018 LWVNCA Leadership Training Workshop. Groups presented their research findings on each position. Afterwards, discussion resumed re LWVPGC program planning and a final review of revised/updated/new LWVPGC positions resulted in a consensus.
- Over the last few months, LWVPGC has been working with student/adult leaders to host a voter registration event(s) on select high school and college campuses and is following up with prospective partners (e.g., sorority, non-profit advocacy organization) on upcoming voter registration event opportunities—particularly in communities with low voter registration participation. Alongside LWV Montgomery County, LWVPGC continues to register voters after the Greenbelt, MD District Court's Naturalization Ceremony.

LWV-VA – Lewis reported:

- LWV-VA held a two-day retreat on July 15th and 16th in Richmond, in neutral hotel venue. It was a very productive meeting, with all board members present either in person or via conference call. The main topic was planning for the Fall Workshops scheduled for Sept 8th in Williamsburg. And planning continued for the 2019 Convention on May 18 & 19 in Norfolk.
- We produced and distributed both a full Virginia Voter in July and a Voter Express in August. The September Virginia Voter was released on the day after Labor Day, Sept 4. Carol Lindstrom continues to amaze us!
- We were a presence at the Special Session of the General Assembly on August 30, dealing with the disputed maps of 11 Virginia House districts. We expressed disappointment in the House's inability to work together to come up with a new map for those districts and the adjoining ones that will be impacted.
- Many vacations were enjoyed during the summer!

LWV Arlington – Matusiak reported:

- Voter Service Reps (Kathy Matusiak and Don Gurney) met with Arlington School superintendent and staff, along with Inspire Virginia representative to set up schedule for fall registrations. Will be in all Arlington high schools during week of September 24th.
- No events in August but getting committees set up for the next year.
- Preparing for jam packed September event schedule

LWV Fairfax Area – Wake reported:

- Membership for the Fairfax League on August 22 was 449. We're working to improve our survey in order to better "activate" new members and we hold a new member orientation at least once a month to better inform members what we do and to explain opportunities for involvement.
- Fairfax formed a new Action and Advocacy Committee co-chaired by Wendy Fox-Grage and Deb Wake. Our September Voter https://www.lwv-fairfax.org/s/2018_9-VOTER.pdf focused on our legislative priorities and encouraging members to meet with their elected representatives—and giving them the necessary tools to prepare them for these visits.

- We also have candidate forums scheduled for congressional districts 8, 10, and 11. **I'm attaching a get out the vote handout prepared by Therese Martin.** This can be modified for your area and handed out at metro stations, stuck in windshields, etc. [*Word docx posted on LWWNCA website*]

LWV Falls Church – Lipsky reported:

- Falls Church Fall Festival and Taste of Falls Church - As part of this annual community celebration, we will be staffing a table to encourage voter registration and education. The event takes place on Saturday, September 15, 2018, from 10 am – 4 pm, and is located at 223 Little Falls St, Falls Church VA 22046. The Festival is open to all and features live entertainment, pony rides, children's amusements, crafts, tables promoting many civic organizations, and a Beer Garden. The Taste of Falls Church includes opportunities to taste samples from many area restaurants. The Festival is free, but you do need to purchase tickets for the food items, beer or amusement rides.
- National Voter Registration Day – We will be holding a Voter Registration event as part of National Voter Registration Day on September 25. Our event will take place in the lobby of a local apartment building, West Broad Apartments, 301 West Broad Street, Falls Church, VA 22046, beginning at 6 pm and ending at 8:30 pm.
- High School Voter Registration – We will be holding a voter registration drive at our local high school (George Mason HS) on October 3, 2018.