

January 2019 Consolidated Liaison Reports

LWVDC – McMeans reported:

1. The DC League's Annual Program Planning Meeting will be held at the West End Library on Saturday, January 12, 2019. Board Members Jessica Bennett and Mary Pat Twomey have planned a World Café brainstorming format to elicit ideas from members for our local program focus for the two-year period 2019-2021.
2. In December, DC League members spent many volunteer hours conducting the election for officers and board members of Service Employees International Union (SEIU), Local 22, the union serving MedStar Washington Hospital Center and Children's Hospital. We mailed more than 1,300 ballots to union members and counted the 600+ ballots that were mailed back to us.
3. The League has received another grant for the Full Rights for DC effort to get statehood and voting representation in Congress and the Senate for DC residents.
4. On December 18th, the DC League co-sponsored a pre-release screening of On the Basis of Sex. Over 200 people attended. All received a packet of flyers from the sponsors: 2020 One Woman One Vote Festival, National Woman's Party (NWP), National Portrait Gallery, National Museum of Women in the Arts, and League of Women Voters DC.

LWVMD – Gruhl reported:

1. The annual LWVMD Winter Workshop will be Saturday, January 26, 2019 from 9:30 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. at the Wilde Lake Interfaith Center in Columbia. After a light breakfast, registrants will attend two workshops chosen from two identical sets of concurrent workshops at 10 – 11 a.m. then 11:15 a.m. to 12:15 p.m. Topics are Bail Reform (State Study/Consensus), NationBuilder Update, and Lobbying for Redistricting. The luncheon speaker will be Kim Humphrey, Legislative Counsel for the ACLU of Maryland Education Program. "The Recommendations of the Kirwan Commission" is the topic. The Workshop fee for members is \$25 and non-members may attend for \$30.
2. The LWVMD Board in December 2018 approved a new procedure for LWV members-at-large living in non-LWV jurisdictions of Maryland to coalesce and form a state League affiliate. Basically, each must have a 3-person leadership group and at least 8 members-at-large. While the affiliate is focusing on League activities in their community, the LWVMD will do their administrative functions. Carroll County already has such a League affiliate. Cecil County and Charles County may be forming such groups.
3. Planning is underway for the annual LWVMD Legislative Day in Annapolis. The date is Tuesday, March 5 and the site is the House Office Building, Room 180.

LWV Frederick MD – Mayfield reported:

After the frenzy of November and the election, December was a pretty slow month for the Frederick County League.

1. Co-Presidents Sarah Matthews and Betty Mayfield represented the League at the swearing-in ceremony of the newly-elected County Executive and members of the County Council on Monday morning, December 3rd. Our historic downtown theater was full of well-wishers: members of the local legislative delegation, representatives of the two Maryland Senators, officials and staff of Frederick City and other municipalities in the County, successful and unsuccessful candidates for many local offices – even the Frederick Children's Chorus, who sang several numbers. It was a festive, hopeful, bipartisan event.
2. On Saturday, December 8th, the Frederick County legislative delegation to Annapolis held their annual public hearing, in which citizens offer advice and suggestions for the upcoming legislative session. It is the tradition of the Frederick County League to host a luncheon before that meeting, for the County Executive and her legislative staff, for the delegation, and for all of our members. It is an opportunity for the legislators to share their plans for the year, and for us to remind them of the League's current program and positions. We focused on eliminating political gerrymandering and alerted them that we have two upcoming consensus studies: Death with Dignity, and Bail and Corrections Reform.

3. We posted photographs and information about both of those events on our Facebook page, using a little \$5 “grant” from Facebook to boost the one about the legislative luncheon. Over 1000 people were reached by the post, with 139 active engagements; several candidates liked it and shared the post with their supporters. Facebook says: “Great work! Your ad has an average relevance score of 10, which means it’s getting more positive feedback and is costing less to deliver than most ads on Facebook.” 😊
4. We attempted to participate in a local naturalization ceremony in mid-December, handing out and collecting voter registration forms, but we were told that the organizers had arranged to work with the local Women’s Commission to register voters at the event. Something to work on...
5. Hoda Zaki has agreed to coordinate LWVFC efforts to celebrate the Centennial of the League. (Our own 60th anniversary is this year, which we will also celebrate.)
6. Lots of upcoming events in January: A concurrence meeting on Death with Dignity, book club author event with the public library and a local bookstore, LWVMD winter workshop, and LWVNCA reception.

LWV Howard County – Gruhl reported:

1. Howard County’s League of Women Voters will be having its annual potluck event on Saturday, January 5 to send our Senators and Delegates to the 2019 Maryland General Assembly. For many decades LWVHC has held this on the first Saturday in the new year just a few days before the General Assembly convenes. Previously it has been termed the LWVHC Legislative Luncheon. This year we are moving up the time and turning it into a brunch termed the LWVHC State Legislative Kick-Off Brunch. At 10:30 a.m. the buffet of largely homemade foods is selected by guests who then sit among the politicians scattered at tables around the room. The brunch chatting ceases about 11:15 a.m. and the Annapolis Delegation goes to the front of the room to form a panel. The League Moderator introduces each panelist. Each gives a 5-minute speech about what they hope to accomplish at the 2019 General Assembly. Subsequently the audience and the politicians have an always lively Question and Answer Session. This year’s event will adjourn at 12:30 p.m.
2. LWVHC unit meetings this month will discuss “Death with Dignity in Maryland,” the subject of a study by the League of Women Voters of Maryland. Wednesday, January 16 from 10 - 12 noon a unit meeting will occur at Vantage House. Thursday, January 7 from 7 - 9 p.m. a unit meeting will be at Historic Oakland Manor’s Library.

LWVMC – Siegel reported:

1. On January 14 and 15 we are holding our programming planning for 2019.
2. LWVMC is working to find a good Spanish translator for our Vote 411 guide. We found a woman who works for a local Spanish newspaper who said she had been meaning to contact us for years. We intend to apply for a grant from Montgomery County to help cover the cost of the translation and will explore other grant options to help allay the cost of the English version.
3. We are holding a Trending Topics on January 28 at the Rockville Library on ACTivate Maryland, which is a statewide initiative to build a stronger economy, foster vibrant communities, improve the quality of life for all Marylanders, and ensure that all communities are thriving. LWVMD is one of several ACTivate Maryland core partners. Our February Trending Topics will examine social justice.
4. The LWVMC board has agreed to increase the number of prizes available to reward outstanding student projects at this year’s History Day contest. This year’s contest is on March 2 at Richard Montgomery County High School. We will hand out up to three \$50 prizes to worthy students. We are also going to adjust our criteria to require winning projects to reflect issues that are relevant to LWV.

LWVPGC – Mitchell reported:

1. Sally Hunt (LWVMD Death with Dignity Study Committee) will give a presentation on Death With Dignity at the January 5, 2019 LWVPGC monthly meeting.
2. Afterwards, league members will engage in the concurrence process re 2018 Death with Dignity Study to reach consensus whether to support the LWVUT position.

LWV-VA – Lewis reported:

1. We had a very successful Pre-Session Roundtable on Dec. 5 at the John Marshall Hotel in Richmond, a new venue for us. We had presentations from three Administration members and 20 coalition partners and other non-profits. Over 130 leaguers and guests were present.
2. We continue planning for our Convention in Norfolk on May 17 & 18.
3. Our Legislative team has geared up for the upcoming GA session, beginning Jan. 9. We are co-sponsoring with VaRatifyERA several activities on that day. We will be supporting Constitutional Amendments on voting rights for all citizens and an independent commission for redistricting.
4. We distributed our Directory and produced a *Virginia Voter* and the *January Voter Express*.

LWV Arlington – Matusiak reported:

1. On Dec 12 our President attended the Jewish Community Relationship Council's Inaugural "Lox and Legislators Breakfast." She was able to meet with Attorney General Mark Herring and discussed several League initiatives.
2. Also on Dec 12, she attended an informational meeting on the arrival of Amazon. The chapter has since formed a committee to deal with Amazon's arrival on two levels. First, to formulate plans to get new employees registered to vote and, to assure that the County Board adequately handles the issues of affordable housing, transportation and schools.
3. On December 16, several members attended a "Cup of Solidarity Tea" event at the Dar Al Hijrah Mosque. The Mosque outreach coordinator arranged this.
4. Arlington has formed a new committee to work on legislation promoting voter access such as no excuse early voting and the restoration of rights.
5. We are also working on expanding our condominium outreach program to promote our board elections and voter registration programs.

LWV Fairfax – Wake reported:

1. The Fairfax area league held a combination November/December board meeting late in November to allow members to wrap up action items and enjoy time with their families December 22- January 2. Some members were more successful than others at being able to take a complete break. Our nominating committee is busy trying to fill a slate for elections in early April.
2. Before the break, we were busy registering students because they'll be eligible to vote in the special election January 8. (Jennifer Wexton, who was state senator in 33rd district, defeated Barbara Comstock in congressional district 10. Delegate Jennifer Boysko is running for the 33rd district seat and if she wins, there'll be an additional election, likely in March, to fill her seat in the 86th district. Her win would also mean there would be an open seat when the Virginia General Assembly reconvenes on January 9 and would likely remain open for the duration of the 45 day "short" session.)
3. We have been gearing up for the start of the session next week. We will be testifying to the Northern Virginia Delegation on Saturday. [see attached] Some of our members will be joining VirginiaRatifyERA as they hold a rally to welcome back legislators. We'll also be traveling to Richmond every Wednesday for the Women's Legislative Roundtable (WLRT) sponsored by LWVVA. Many members participated in a December lit drop for OneVirginia2021 encouraging legislators to support redistricting and will be writing postcards this month.

LWV Falls Church – Lipsky reported:

1. **Town Hall with State Representatives:** LWVFC will host a town hall with our Virginia state representatives, State Senator Dick Saslaw and House Delegate Marcus Simon, to find out about issues and priorities facing the current state legislative session. Date: Saturday, January 12, 2019. Time: 10:00 -11:30 am. Place: George Mason High School, 7124 Leesburg Pike, Falls Church, VA 22043.
2. **LWVFC Bi-Monthly Membership Meeting:** LWVFC is re-instituting general membership meetings to help keep our members informed and connected. Regular monthly meetings had been discontinued

when we went to a streamlined three member management team concept a year ago. Although that system has been working well for making official decisions and conducting official business, there was a perceived need to still have times when the whole membership can gather face-to-face for an update on local league priorities and activities. We will be experimenting with bi-monthly membership meetings beginning this month. Date: Sunday, January 13, 2019. Time: 3:00-5:00 pm. Place: Falls Church Community Center, Senior Room, 223 Little Falls Street, Falls Church, VA 22046.

3. **Public Forum on Concepts of a Happy City:** LWFVC will host a discussion based on the book, *Happy City: Transforming Our Lives Through Urban Design* by Charles Montgomery. Date: Sunday, March 31, 2019. Time: 3:00 - 5:30 pm. Place: Falls Church Community Center, Senior Room, 223 Little Falls Street, Falls Church, VA 22046.

LWV Loudoun County – Godfrey reported:

1. The League has planned two forums in the next two months. At Ashburn library we are holding a panel discussion on voting rights and redistricting reform Jan 17 from 7 to 9 with local experts presenting.
2. At Cascades Senior Center Feb 28 we are hosting a program on Loudoun's proposed updates to the comprehensive plan.
3. We are also advocating online and by postcard for the ratification of the ERA and for redistricting reform.