

CONSOLIDATED LWFVCA LIAISON REPORTS, MARCH 1, 2019

LWFVDC – McMeans reported:

1. The DC League's Annual General Meeting will be held on Saturday, April 27th at the Festival Center, 1640 Columbia Road, NW, in DC's Adams Morgan neighborhood. We will have an option of bringing your own lunch or pre-ordering a moderately-priced box lunch. The keynote speaker is Spencer Boyer, the recently-appointed Washington Director of the Brennan Center. Further details such as the time, transportation options, and a reservation form, will be available on our website in March. The winners of the Sheila Willet Distinguished Service Award and the Linda Beebe Award will be announced at the meeting.
2. The six issues the we will focus on for our 2019-2021 Local Program are: Statehood, which will include continuing our advocacy for DC Statehood; Get Out the Vote (GOTV), which will include development of a comprehensive 2020 plan for DC; Centennial Celebrations, which will include development of an extensive calendar of events focused on the LWFVDC centennial, while leveraging partnerships for LWFVUS and suffrage centennial celebrations; Fair Elections/Money in Politics, which will include education and advocacy on campaign finance reform and ranked choice voting; Census, which will include partnering with others to educate and encourage participation in the 2020 census; and Know the District of Columbia (KDC), which will include the update and the creation of an online version of this publication.
3. With respect to the League's grant for the Full Rights for DC effort to get statehood and voting representation in Congress and the Senate for DC residents, we have learned LWFVUS has enough staff to make presentations at all ten state conventions around the country in 2019. DC leaguers will train the national staffers using the toolkit developed by Anne Anderson's Full Rights for DC Committee and will ensure that the time commitment and documentation requirements of the grant are met. If there are scheduling conflicts, DC Leaguers may make some of the presentations so that all events are covered.

LWFVMD – Gruhl reported:

1. The annual LWFVMD Legislative Day is Tuesday, March 5, 2019. It will be in the House of Delegates Office Building in Annapolis. Registration and coffee/breakfast treats will be available at 8:30 a.m. Leaguers can visit legislators' offices before the program begins at 10 a.m. Reports on legislator visits will be followed by discussion of proposed legislation impacting LWFVMD's legislative priorities. Victoria Gruber, Executive Director, Department of Legislative Services, will do a presentation on the Maryland budget. A catered luncheon will be followed by Guest Speaker Josh Tulkin, Director of Sierra Club Maryland. He frequently testifies on environmental and transportation issues and works closely with many Leaguers dealing with these issues. A Q&A session will conclude the program. After 1 p.m. Leaguers may opt to visit various General Assembly committee hearings throughout the afternoon.
2. LWFVMD Legislative and Budget Priorities for the Maryland General Assembly Session of 2019 are: Making Democracy Work, Protecting the Environment, and Promoting Social and Economic Justice. Our goals for the first concept include: redistricting reform; improved voter access & security of election processes; campaign finance reform. Our goals for the second concept include: mitigating climate change; increasing the use of clean renewable energy; ensuring safe water & clean waterways for all. Our goals for the third concept include: maintaining the safety net for vulnerable populations, providing adequate & equitable pre-K – 12 public education; providing adequate public transportation.
3. LWFVMD has issued its First Call to the State Convention. It will occur Friday through Sunday, June 7-9. LWFV of Montgomery County is the host and the convention will be in Gaithersburg. Stay tuned for more details.
4. LWFVMD is pleased to report we have experienced a 20% increase in membership this "League Year." We are now 1,449 members strong. LWFVMD is also pleased that we have more than 9,464 persons who have related to us via our website (lwfvm.org).

LWFV Frederick MD – Mayfield reported:

1. We held a Program Planning Party for members at a director's house on Tuesday evening, February 12th, attended by 18 members – 5 more than last year. Participants broke up into groups and looked at League positions in the areas of Natural Resources, Representative Government, and Social Policy, for

LWVNCA, LWVMD, and our local League. We posted giant pieces of paper on the walls, with positions listed on them, and members voted to retain, drop, or amend them by adding stickers and stars; added new suggestions for positions or actions; and volunteered to work on specific tasks. It was a very active, fun planning meeting and generated lots of lively discussion.

2. On Tuesday evening, Frederick 19th, just before the latest snowstorm hit, we held a public forum at the Urbana Regional Library, focused on the new Frederick County Master Plan, Livable Frederick. The proposed plan represents a new approach to comprehensive planning, a “core, vision-based, policy-focused document, with a collection of other interrelated plans (such as community and corridor plans, functional plans, and large area plans) that all stem from and support this central core document.” About 30 residents attended; the presentation, by a member of the County Planning Department and a citizen member of the Livable Frederick Committee, was excellent, and there were lots of questions at the end. Many people stayed long after the panel was over, to ask more questions and make comments, and about ten people signed a form indicating they would like to learn more about the League.
3. Our Book Club held its monthly meeting, over pizza and beer at Uno’s, on Friday night, February 15th. This month we discussed John Pfaff’s Locked In: The True Causes of Mass Incarceration and How to Achieve Real Reform. Next month we will join with a local independent bookstore and the County historical society to sponsor a talk by Elaine Weiss about The Woman’s Hour.
4. We have a new website! We are using the new MyLO (My League Online) software; check us out at www.lwvfc.org.

LWV Howard County – Gruhl reported:

1. Our LWVHC Membership Co-Directors are having a series of get-togethers of new with old members at pubs and cafes in Howard County.
2. Around 100 persons attended the 2019 LWVHC Legislative Kickoff Brunch at St. John’s Episcopal Church a few days before the General Assembly opened Wednesday, January 9. AAUW partnered with League on this event and provided about one fifth of attendees. The Howard County Historical Society partnered also and the HCHS Executive Director brought a display including a 19th century Howard County voting registry. Half our dozen member Annapolis Delegation attended the potluck and spoke at the panel program where they each gave a 5-minute talk about what they planned to accomplish in this year’s 90-day legislative session.
3. The LWV of Maryland study on “Death with Dignity” was the focus of our two unit meetings in January. After presentations on the topic we voted unanimously to concur with the LWV of Utah’s position statements thus supporting LWVMD’s request for our local Leagues’ concurrence. A 2019 bill on DWD will be considered in the General Assembly.
4. A February unit meeting on the Environment was snowed out and rescheduled for March 6th. Our very involved Director for Environment Betsy Singer will lead a discussion on the latest environmental news in the General Assembly.

LWVMC – Siegel reported:

1. On Monday, February 25, LWVMC held its second Trending Topics of 2019, which focused on current racial disparities in the county. We had two speakers, Maya Rockey Moore Cummings, founder and CEO of Global Policy Solutions, and Tiffany Boiman, a commissioner on the Montgomery County Commission for Women. Ms. Boiman discussed the implications of the Commission’s current report, A Tale of Two Counties: The Status of Women in Montgomery County, and Dr. Cummings discussed the film Against All Odds: The Fight for A Black Middle Class. A lively Q&A and discussion followed the comments of the two speakers. Next month on March 25 our Trending Topics will focus on open primaries and on April 14 we will hold our annual Sunday at the Movies. This year’s film is The Best Democracy Money Can Buy. Our annual meeting will take place on Saturday, June 1, rather than the originally scheduled May 18.
2. As part of our Making Democracy Work initiative, LWVMC continues to focus on ranked choice voting (RCV) and redistricting reform (two topics that are also on the docket in Annapolis) with visits and literature drops at the offices of assembly members, testimony at hearings, etc. Members of LWVMC plan to join with other LWV Maryland members next Tuesday, March 5, for Legislation Day in Annapolis. We also recently completed our brochure titled Your Elected Officials.
3. Our next LWVMC Board Meeting is Weds, March 6.

LWVPGC – Mitchell reported:

1. In partnership with other organizations, LWVPGC is in the process of applying for funding from the 2020 Maryland Census Grant Program to support/implement Program efforts in hard-to-count communities and populations in Maryland.
2. The 2020 Maryland Census Grant Program was created by the Maryland General Assembly in 2018 as a vehicle to support the accurate counting of the population of the State and its local jurisdictions and the collection of basic demographic and housing for the 2020 Census.
3. LWVPGC will hold its monthly meeting Saturday, March 2, 2019. Featured guest speaker Del. Erik Barron (District 24) will talk about Bail and Corrections Legislation. Members will review/discuss LWVMD Bail & Corrections Study information to respond to Bail & Corrections Consensus Form questions.

LWV-VA – Lewis reported:

1. The Virginia General Assembly adjourned on Feb 23, after a tumultuous session which was distracted by admissions of racist activities by the Governor and Attorney General and accusations of sexual misconduct by the Lieutenant Governor. Our Legislative Team followed bills relating to the ERA, Redistricting and various election laws, and issued many Action Alerts in an Advocacy challenge.
2. The resolution supporting the ERA passed the Senate, but was bottled up in the House, and various parliamentary maneuvers were unsuccessful in getting it to a vote on the floor. ERA activists were very visible (and vocal) throughout the session and have vowed to be back next year. We are relieved that a Constitutional Amendment Resolution creating a bi-partisan commission to draw maps passed in both houses. The Resolution will have to be passed again in the 2020 GA session before it can go to the voters for agreement in time for the 2021 drawing of new maps.
3. Our Women's Legislative Roundtables (WLRTs) continued through Feb. 13, including League Day on Feb 6. The new location in the SunTrust building was very successful – plenty of room, with coffee service and pastries for the early morning start of 8:30 am. Attendance was good throughout the session, and we had several legislators drop in, along with partner spokespersons.
4. Our League Day (aka Lobby Day) took place on Feb. 6 at the SunTrust building, followed by lunch with speaker at the Berkeley Hotel – most leagues were represented at the event.
5. Our March Virginia Voter will be sent out this weekend!

LWV Arlington – Matusiak shared the report from Porte:

1. High school voter registration: To date we have registered more than 200 students at area high schools. Snow delays have forced us to extend the registration through March.
2. Money in Politics: We sponsored a discussion on "Bipartisan Solutions to Campaign Finance Reform" attended by fifty people. Speakers were former Republican US Representative Tom Davis and prosecutor Gene Rossi.
3. Arlington sent 11 members to LWV Virginia League Day on February 6.
4. Our Sips and Civility Team held a women's trivia contest and birthday celebration for LWV at Heavy Seas Alehouse in Arlington.
5. Our newest committee, Voter Access, met and will place an emphasis on restoration of rights both legislatively and meeting with people who need rights restored.
6. June 1 is the date for our annual meeting and our speaker is Elaine Weiss, author of "The Women's Hour."
7. Members are invited to:
 - Virginia Equal Rights Coalition ROAR" Awards (Representing Our Amendment Rights)
 - When: this Sunday, Mar. 3, 4-6 PM
 - Where: Sweetwater Tavern, 3066 Gate House Plaza, Falls Church, VA 22042
 - Nearby Delegates Marcus Simon and Mark Keam will attend this informal ceremony, as well as Arlington's League of Women Voters President and ERA Chair, Arlington's AAUW co-chair Susan Burk, and more.
 - Arlington AAUW Meeting – March 16 – 1 PM – Speaker LWV ERA Chair Julia Tanner
 - Arlington Central Library. 1015 N Quincy Street – contact Susan Nelson snelsoninva@gmail.com.

- March 26 – Movie “Power of Black Women Voters” – 7 – 9 PM – Arlington Central Library.
- 1015 N Quincy Street - <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/the-power-of-black-women-voters-tickets-52524283546?aff=eac2>

LWV Fairfax – Wake reported:

1. Fairfax is training members for registering high school students. A session was held Saturday, February 23. The next session will be Tuesday, March 5.
2. Fairfax Sheriff Stacey Kincaid will be the keynote speaker at our Annual meeting to be held at 9:30 at the Waterford at Fair Oaks. Sheriff Kincaid is the first woman to serve as sheriff in Fairfax County and has introduced many innovative programs. Deadline to register for the meeting is March 21: <https://www.lwv-fairfax.org/2019-annual-meeting/>
3. We will be joining the Fairfax NAACP for an Affordable Housing Forum Thursday, March 14 at 7:30 at the First Baptist Church in Vienna. <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/community-forum-on-housing-for-all-tickets-55678859969>

LWV Falls Church – Lipsky reported:

1. Training: Learn How to Run a Non-Partisan Candidate Forum. Date: Sunday, March 10, 2019. Time: 3:00 pm. Place: Falls Church Community Center, Senior Room, 223 Little Falls Street, Falls Church, Virginia 22046. This event is free for all League members. For non-League members, we ask for a donation of \$20.00 at the door (check/cash). Food, training, and materials for participants will be provided. One special aspect of this event is that we will be training the George Mason High School student leaders who will run the candidate forum listed below.
2. Candidate Forum: Forum for candidates who will be running in the Virginia primaries for State Senate District 35 and for Arlington/Falls Church Commonwealth Attorney. Date: Sunday, April 7, 2019. Time: 3:00 – 5:00 pm. Place: George Mason High School, 7124 Leesburg Pike, Falls Church, VA 22043. This forum is very special as it will be run by student leaders at George Mason High School.
3. League History: As part of our celebration of the 99th anniversary of the founding of the League, our local newspaper, The Falls Church News-Press, published a guest commentary written by Falls Church management team member, Johannah Barry. For the article, Johannah researched the history of our local Falls Church League, which was founded in 1951. We were amazed at all the activities our founders were involved in during their first few years. In just their first two months of existence, they reported that they sent out a candidates’ questionnaire, ran a candidates’ meeting, held a Finance Drive, published a pamphlet on the Bond issues, attended the State Convention, sent a representative to the Citizen’ Advisory Committee on the Budget and put out numerous types of publicity! The Falls Church League went on in its early years to advocate for school integration and for fair and affordable housing. This very interesting article can be found on the website of The Falls Church News Press, under local commentary, dated February 14, 2019. The web address is: <https://fcnp.com/2019/02/14/guest-commentary-defending-democracy-empowering-voters/>

LWV Loudoun County – Kinney reported:

Had a forum on Loudoun 2040 and a speaker from the Piedmont Environmental Council on February 28. Their Annual Meeting will be April 13th.