

## **Consolidated Liaison Reports for February 1, 2019**

### **LWVDC – McMeans reported:**

1. The DC League's Annual Program Planning Meeting was held at the West End Library on Saturday, January 12, 2019. Thirty-two members attended. Everyone had an opportunity to be heard and to discuss issues that had been identified in a pre-meeting survey. A final report and proposal for our local program focus for the two-year period 2019-2021 is being completed by Jessica Bennett and Mary Pat Twomey.
2. The League received another grant for the Full Rights for DC effort to get statehood and voting representation in Congress and the Senate for DC residents. The DC League's plans to spend the money include working with national officers and staff to make presentations at ten state conventions around the country in 2019. DC leaguers will do five programs and national staffers will make the other five using the toolkit developed by Anne Anderson and her committee.
3. The DC league has obtained 75 tickets for the Nationals baseball game on Voter Registration Day, September 24, 2019. We will be sharing those tickets with NCA leaguers. Kathy Chiron has received assurances that we can register voters inside the stadium, and she plans to ask if we can throw out the first pitch and have a "register to vote" message on the score board at half-time. Between now and September, the DC League will work with NCA to come up with a good plan for distribution of the tickets. Because we did not use all of the 100 tickets that we received last year, and because 2019 is not an election year, we asked for fewer tickets this year.

### **LWVMD – Gruhl reported:**

1. The Maryland General Assembly convened its 2019 session on Wednesday, January 9. The League of Women Voters of Maryland was delighted this semester to deploy for the General Assembly our two new LWVMD Legislative Interns, Colleen Herrmann and Nadia Monnier. Colleen is a sophomore at the University of Maryland, College Park. She is studying Public Policy and Communications Rhetoric. She is very active in the university's student government. Nadia is a Political Science major in her senior year at Hood College in Frederick. Her minor is Nonprofit Management and Civic Engagement. She is passionate about politics and the nonprofit sector.
2. Report from State Circle editor Ruth Crystal electronically distributed the first of its six bi-weekly issues on January 24. Twenty-four topics are being tracked during the 2019 Maryland General Assembly session by around nineteen Leaguers who are volunteer reporters. The topics are: Administration of Justice; Budget; Campaign Finance; Children and Families; Domestic Violence; Drug Abuse; Education; Education: Accountability; Elections; Environment: Climate Change; Environment: Land Use; Environment: Renewable Energy; Environment: Stormwater, Bay, Phosphorus, Pesticides, Recycling, Trees & Other; Gun Control; Health; Human Trafficking; Immigration; Juvenile Justice; Meeting Basic Human Needs; Equality of Opportunity; Redistricting Reform; Taxes; Transparency in Government; and Transportation.
3. The LWVMD Winter Workshop occurred Saturday, January 26, 2019 at the Wilde Lake Interfaith Center in Columbia from 9:30 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. Registration and breakfast treats donated by the LWVMD Board began the event. Two sets of concurrent workshops were from 10 to 11 a.m., then 11:15 a.m. to 12:15 p.m. The three topics were Bail Reform (State Study/Consensus), NationBuilder Update, and Lobbying for Redistricting. The delicious buffet luncheon at 12:30 p.m. was followed by the Guest Speaker, Kim Humphrey, Legislative Counsel for the ACLU of Maryland Education Program. Her PowerPoint presentation was on "The Recommendations of the Kirwan Commission."

### **LWV Frederick MD – Mayfield reported:**

1. Concurrence meeting. We met on January 22nd to discuss the LWVMD study on Death with Dignity and whether or not to concur with the position of the Utah League. We did reach consensus and will forward our results to the State committee.
2. LWVUS reception. Our co-presidents represented Frederick County at the LWVNCA reception on January 25th. We had a great time and really enjoyed talking to LWV Board members and staff. Thanks to all the NCA folks who planned this event.
3. LWVMD Winter Workshop. Six Frederick County members participated in the State Winter Workshop on Saturday, January 26th, attending sessions on redistricting, bail and corrections, and using the Nationbuilder software. The luncheon speaker, Kimberly Davis, an attorney with ACLU of Maryland, spoke about equitable funding for public education and the Kirwan Commission.

4. New members meeting. On Monday evening January 28th we held an information session for new or prospective members, or current members who want to get more involved with League work. We got several prospects through posting the event on Facebook.
5. Book club. Our January selection is *Maid: Hard Work, Low Pay, and a Mother's Will to Survive* by Stephanie Land. Unless the weather interferes, we will meet for dinner on Tuesday, January 28th to discuss the book and then attend an author event sponsored by a local independent bookstore and the public library. In March, we will co-sponsor an event in which Elaine Weiss will come to Frederick to discuss *The Woman's Hour*.

**LWV Howard County** – Gruhl reported:

1. Despite our LWVHC Office on the Ground Floor of Oakland Manor in Columbia being closed Christmas Day, New Year's Day, and Martin Luther King, Jr. Day, our League maintained a productive pace during the first month of 2019. The first Saturday of each new year LWVHC holds a Legislative Luncheon followed by speeches from our "Annapolis Delegation" to the Maryland General Assembly. The GA begins its annual 90-day session the next Wednesday. This year we held the event at St. John's Episcopal Church in Ellicott City, moved up the start time of the potluck, and renamed the event the LWVHC Legislative Kick-off Brunch. Close to 100 Leaguers and friends attended and asked questions of our state senators and members of the House of Delegates.
2. We had unit meetings at Vantage House on Jan. 16 and Oakland Manor on Jan. 17. Sally Hunt, a LWVMC member on the Death With Dignity LWVMD Study Committee, gave excellent presentations about the Death With Dignity concept and LWVMD's position on DWD during General Assembly bill discussions. LWVHC's Director for Internal Communications Krista Threefoot edited and electronically distributed another informative monthly issue of the "Howard County Voter."

**LWVMC** – Siegel reported:

1. On Monday, January 28, LWVMC held its first Trending Topics of 2019. We had two speakers, Henry W. Bogdan, Director of Public Policy at Maryland Association of Non-Profits (MANO) and Nancy Soreng, Co-Chair, MD Redistricting Reform Campaign, former President of LWVMC and LWVMD, and member of LWVNCA. We also had a surprise visit from Sen. Cheryl Kagan, who represents Rockville and Gaithersburg (we were meeting in the Rockville Library). Between the three we got a thorough understanding of the issues before the Maryland Assembly this legislative session that are relevant to LWVMC, as well as advice from Henry Bogdan on how to talk to someone who has a different view on an issue than you do.
2. LWVMC continues to work hard 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. Some of us will attend the second public hearing on Maryland's Emergency Commission on Congressional District 6 Gerrymandering this Thursday, January 31. We were also pleased to see the editorial by the Washington Post's Editorial Board in support of RCV on January 24.

**LWVPGC** – Mitchell reported:

1. They sent representatives to the LWVMD Winter Workshop. It was a great learning experience for their members.
2. They are recruiting volunteers to help with distribute literature to the member of the General Assembly about redistricting on February 5<sup>th</sup>.

**LWV-VA** – Lewis reported:

Highlights of our League activities since December are:

1. The Virginia General Assembly convened on Jan 9, and our legislative team got right to work following legislation and contacting legislators about our priority issues, which are ERA ratification, an independent redistricting commission and voter protection measures.
2. Our Women's Legislative Roundtables (WLRTs) kicked off in our new location at the SunTrust Building, with legislators, non-profit partners and the legislative team providing updates on legislation every Wednesday morning from 8:30 to 9:30.
3. Our League Day (aka Lobby Day) plans are in place for Feb. 6, at the SunTrust Building, with lunch and speaker at the Berkeley Hotel.
4. Our February Voter Express will be sent out today!

**LWV Arlington** – Matusiak shared the report from Porte:

1. We now have a Voter Rights committee, which will take on issues such as the restoration of felony voter rights and access to the polls.
2. Our next Sips and Civility event is on Monday, February 4 and is a Women's trivia event. Come enjoy a fun night while you test your knowledge of women's history as well as trivia related to our LWV-Arlington history (in honor of our 75th Anniversary this year). Prizes will be awarded. The event will be held at 7 pm at Heavy Seas Ale House, 1501 Wilson Blvd., Arlington, VA 22209.
3. We will host a "Money in Politics" event involving former U.S. Attorney Gene Rossi, who ran for Lieutenant Governor of Virginia in 2017, and former Congressman Tom Davis. The two will discuss a bipartisan way to get money out of politics. The event will be held on February 23 at 1 pm; George Mason Law School.
4. High school registrations with Inspire Virginia will begin February 20. In addition, plans are underway to reach out to all condominiums and apartments to inform them of our voter registration and condominium election monitoring services.
5. We held a chapter wide meeting to begin work on the impact of Amazon and will follow up with a meeting with some county board members in March.
6. The Voter Girl project is a one-day class available for all scout levels – from Daisies to Ambassadors – with a curriculum appropriate for each level. The first event will be held on March 16.
7. Our annual pre-legislative forum with our Arlington delegates to the Virginia General Assembly was held on January 3, 2019 in the Arlington County Board Room. The forum was an opportunity for the LWV-Arlington and members of the public to convey to our Arlington delegates the issues that are important to them in advance of the General Assembly legislative session.
8. One of our members will attend an event at the Alexandria jail on February 7 for non-profits in which inmates will be given information about registering to vote.

**LWV Fairfax** – Wake reported:

1. Thank you for hosting the LWVUS Reception. We enjoyed having the opportunity to meet with the board and staff.
2. We have begun planning for the Candidate Forums that will occur in the fall and continue with our Voter Registration efforts--especially in the high school. A special election for House District 86 is scheduled for February 19.
3. We have been responding to Action Alerts issued by the state league and look forward to participating in League Day February 6.

**LWV Falls Church** – Lipsky reported:

1. League Birthday Party: LWVFC will be hosting a 99th Birthday Party for the League of Women Voters. Date: Sunday, February 17, 2019. Time: 5:00 – 7:00 pm; Place: Famille Café, 700A West Broad Street, Falls Church, VA.
2. Weekly Discussion Group: LWVFC has started a weekly discussion group to talk about current events. The group meets Wednesday mornings at a local café.
3. We the People Book Group: This group meets monthly. The February book is One Person, No Vote; How Voter Suppression is Destroying Our Democracy, by Carol Anderson. Date: February 24, 2019. Time: 2:30 pm. Place: Tyson-Pimmit Library, 7584 Leesburg Pike, Falls Church, VA 22043.

**LWV Loudoun County** – Godfrey reported:

1. The League in Loudoun is sponsoring two events:
  - January 30, Voting Rights in Loudoun County, Ashburn Library 7 - 9 p.m. featuring updates on ERA and Redistricting and the Loudoun County Registrar talking about voting in Loudoun County;
  - February 28 from 6:30 to 9 p.m. at Cascades Senior Center, Discussion on the Proposed New Comprehensive Plan for Loudoun County.
2. Our annual luncheon Saturday, April 13, 2019 at River Creek Clubhouse will feature Dr. Edgar Hatrick, former LCPS Superintendent, discussing Civility and Civics Education.