



LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF MARYLAND, INC.

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STATE BOARD LETTER

February 2010

Calendar

February

- 15 Monday Presidents Day – LWVMD office closed
- 25 Thursday LWVMD Voter deadline
- 25 Thursday Legislative Day (*See flyer page 3*)

March

- 1 Monday Local League Program Planning Reports due to LWVUS
- 1 Monday LWVMD Board meeting, 10 a.m. Wilde Lake Interfaith Center, Columbia
- 5 Friday State Board Letter deadline
- 5 Friday NCA Board meeting
- 12 Friday NCA Fundraiser—The Capital Steps (*See flyer page 5*)
- 16 Tuesday Voter Service Workshop 10-12, Wilde Lake Interfaith Center, Columbia
RSVP *Barbara Sanders, BSanders@TerpAlum.umd.edu*

April

- 2 Friday NCA Board meeting (Good Friday)
- 5 Monday LWVMD Board meeting
- 6 Tuesday LWVMD Lobby Day on Capitol Hill
- 9 Friday State Board Letter deadline
- 12 Monday General Assembly adjourns
- 23 Friday Local League Consensus Report Due on Administration of Justice Study
- 24 Saturday Spring Fundraising Event (*See flyer page 6*)



LEAGUE’S 90th BIRTHDAY CELEBRATION

Celebrate the League’s 90th birthday with your League friends and a heaping serving of the history of women’s suffrage and the majestic beauty of our nation’s capitol building. We’ll start at 10 on Saturday, April 24, at the new Capitol Visitor Center. Then, members of the LWVMD Board will accompany small groups to lunch at one of the many restaurants on the hill (think dine-around). We’ll follow that with a docent-led tour of the Sewall-Belmont House, headquarters of the historic National Woman's Party and the Washington home of its founder and Equal Rights Amendment author, Alice Paul. (*See flyer Page 6*)

President's Message

Dear Friends,

As I sit here on Friday, Feb. 5, around noon, and watch the snow that's expected to continue until tomorrow night, I'm glad that we didn't postpone our Winter Workshop. Yet, deciding to hold it on the scheduled date was a tough call. I was really quite amazed and impressed that more than 40 dedicated Leaguer's braved the storm to attend. As far as I know, everyone made it home safely, although for a dozen or more, it was a day later than they had planned.

Because the weather is precarious in January/February, next year we will try to schedule the Winter Workshop in a free venue and have a meal that can be ordered at the last minute (like pizza and drinks). That way, if we have to cancel or postpone, we will be able to give refunds.

We were able to print a limited number of new When You Go to Annapolis brochures. They are available for pick up in the LWVMD office and will be available on Legislative Day. Speaking of which, I hope to see many of you

in Annapolis on Feb. 25. Despite the lack of funds to spend on new initiatives, the General Assembly is busy working on all kinds of legislation including constitutional amendments and changes to election law. Read RSC (there is an easy link to it at lwvmd.org) to find out about some of these. Background material on specific bills that we will talk about on Legislative Day will be sent out later this month.

The League is working with a number of groups to raise awareness about the long term problems associated with Maryland's lack of adequate revenue. To find out more about this initiative, visit BalancedApproachMD.org.

A flyer for our trip to Washington DC to celebrate the League's 90th birthday is included in this issue. Think about inviting a potential new member to join you on what will be a fun and educational outing.

I hope to see you at one of the many upcoming events.

Nancy Soreng

VOTERS SERVICE WORKSHOP

Tuesday, March 16, 2010 - 10:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

The State League will have a Voter Service Workshop from 10 to noon, Tuesday, March 16, at the Wilde Lake Interfaith Center in Columbia to begin the state coordination of Voters' Guides and other election services. Each League should have at least one or two people there.

Please contact Barbara Sanders at bsanders@terpalum.umd.edu to let her know who will be attending for your League.

Join the League of Women Voters of Maryland and AAUW Maryland for

LEGISLATIVE DAY



Thursday, February 25, 2010
House of Delegates Building
Room 170, 6 Bladen St., Annapolis, MD 21401

\$35.00 (includes buffet lunch with vegetarian option; parking not included)
Guests are welcome

8:30 AM - 10:10 AM - Registration – Room 170, House of Delegates Building
(Morning Coffee available lower level Delegates Bldg.)

8:30AM - 10:00 AM - Visit with your delegation to the Maryland General Assembly

Contact your Local League President for background materials and instructions.

Note: Local Leagues are responsible for making appointments with legislators in advance.
Photo ID required for admission to all Maryland government buildings

10:15AM State budget presentation by Warren Deschenaux, Director, Office of Policy Analysis, MD Department of Legislative Services
Update on legislation in current session by reporters from LWVMD
Report from State Circle
Presentation of AAUW legislative priorities

Noon **Lunch - Ram's Head Tavern, 33 West St.**
SPEAKER: Linda Lamone, State Administrator of Elections

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Registration Form -LEGISLATIVE DAY - February 25, 2010

Deadline: Feb. 22, 2010

NAME _____

LOCAL LEAGUE or AAUW _____

PHONE _____ EMAIL _____

No. _____ @ \$35.00 TOTAL PAID \$ _____

Make check payable to: **LWVMD** and mail to: 106B South Street, Annapolis, MD 21401 -

Elections: Voters' Guides Best Practices

Leagues have earned high recognition value and community trust by providing citizens with accurate, factual, unbiased nonpartisan candidate and ballot information for state and local primary and general elections in print or web-based formats. As you plan the development, publication and distribution of your next Voters' Guide, please refresh your knowledge by reviewing VOTERS' GUIDES BEST PRACTICES: It can be found by going to

www.lwv.org and typing "Voters Guides" in the Search Box on the right near the top of the page.

You may now include a League membership "ad" in your Voters' Guide, as long as general League funds vs. tax-deductible funds cover the pro-rata cost of the "ad."

*Barbara Sanders
Voters' Service Chair*

Notes from the February 1, 2010 LWVMD Board Meeting

On Monday, Feb. 8, (8 – 8:45 p.m.), Maryland Senate President Mike Miller will read a proclamation recognizing the **League's 90th birthday**. We will have a cake afterwards in the Senate meeting room. Join us! (Postponed due to weather, stay tuned for new date.)

Please ask members to RSVP to Barbara Sanders ASAP bsanders@TerpAlum.umd.edu if they plan to attend the **Voters Guide/Voters' Service workshop Tuesday, March 16, from 10 a.m. -12 noon at the Wilde Lake Interfaith Center in Columbia.**

Nancy Soreng will forward a letter to LL presidents that our members can use to urge their delegates to support new revenue sources. LWVMD is part of a group of advocates interested in increasing revenue sources during these difficult economic times.

The board approved a motion to co-sponsor a Rally for Campaign Finance Reform on Feb. 22 at 6 p.m. in Lawyers' Mall, Annapolis.

Newly updated "When You Go to Annapolis" brochure is posted on our website.

LWVMD testimony is posted on our website during the General Assembly session.

*Betsy Sexton
Secretary*

Making it Easy to Support the League

Electronic donations to the League are now welcome! Friends and supporters can make a secure on-line donation by clicking the **DONATE** button on our website (www.lwvmd.org). Contributions go to the League of Women Voters of Maryland Education Fund and are tax deductible.

We are grateful to a generous League member who has committed to matching the donations that we receive electronically, so please encourage your friends and neighbors to contribute, and consider showing your support for LWVMD as well.



The League of Women Voters of the National Capital Area

Offers an evening of laughs with the fabulous
Capitol Steps Comedy group
Friday, **March 12, 2010** at 7:30 pm
In the Reagan Building, 1300 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW in D.C.
Tickets for fundraiser are \$45

Reservation deadline is March 5, 2010
Mail the form below with check payable to NCA to:

Barbara Sherrill
4826 N. 17th Street
Arlington, VA 22207

The Federal Triangle metro stop (orange/blue lines) is connected to the Reagan Building and International Trade Center by a covered passageway. The Metro Center metro stop (red line) is two blocks away, and the Smithsonian metro stop (orange/blue lines) is within walking distance.

Name: _____ Phone: _____

Address: _____ League _____

_____ Number of Tickets: _____

E-mail address _____



**THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF MARYLAND
IS CELEBRATING OUR 90TH BIRTHDAY
WITH A FUN-FILLED AND INFORMATIVE DAY
IN WASHINGTON D.C.**

**Saturday, April 24, 2010 10:00am - 3:30pm
\$30.00 per person**

Join us - and bring your friends and family!



Meet fellow-Leaguers and friends at 10:00am at the Capitol Visitors Center where our tour of the Capitol begins.



The Capitol Visitor Center, the new main entrance to the U.S. Capitol, is located on the East front at First Street and East Capitol Street, NE. It is located underground on the east side of the Capitol. The closest metro stops are Union Station or Capitol South. For those driving into Washington, there is a parking garage at Union Station. (For more information, go to www.visitthecapitol.gov)

**After the tour, Lunch-Around!
Choose from various nearby restaurants
where LWVMD Board members will escort small groups,
or select your own lunch option.**



At 2:00pm, we will be guided through the Sewall-Belmont House and Museum, headquarters of the historic National Woman's Party and the Washington home of its founder and Equal Rights Amendment author, Alice Paul.



The Sewall-Belmont House and Museum, 144 Constitution Avenue NE, is located at the corner of Constitution Avenue and 2nd Street, NE, next to the Hart Senate Office building.

Space is limited - Please respond ASAP! Final date for registration is April 20.

Name(s) _____

Phone _____ Email _____

Mail your check for \$30 per person made out to LWVMD to: LWVMD, 106B South St., Annapolis, MD 21401