



The HARFORD COUNTY **VOTER**

The Newsletter of the League of Women Voters of Harford County, Maryland

info@harford.lwvmd.org
Eileen Coffee, President

February, 2010

www.harford.lwvmd.org
Karen Heppen, Editor

CALENDAR

Wednesday, Feb. 3 - Judge William O. Carr and Theodore Hart, Juvenile Master
7:00pm Harford Community College
Serving the Youth of Harford County through Court Programs
(More information on page 2)

Monday, Feb. 8 - LWV-Harford Board Meeting
4:30pm Slavia Bank
All are welcome!

Thursday, Feb. 25 - LWVMD Legislative Day
(Flyer in this issue)

Tuesday, March 16 - LWVMD Voter Service Workshop
10am-Noon Wilde Interfaith Center,
Columbia, MD *(Information to follow.)*

Saturday, April 24 - LWV 90th Birthday Tour
10am - 3pm Washington D.C.
(Information to follow)

DO YOU WANT TO GET IN TOUCH WITH US?

Email us at:
membership@harford.lwvmd.org
info@harford.lwvmd.org

LWV-HARFORD BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Eileen Coffee, President
Sandy Tracy, Vice President
Elaine Boram, Secretary
Karen Heppen, Treasurer
Morita Bruce, Director
Carol DeRan, Director
Peg Hill, Director
Jane Howe, Director
Ann Hughes, Director



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Dear Harford Leaguers,

The Maryland legislature is now in session, with members proposing possible legislation, bills being assigned to committees, and the work just beginning. LWVMD will soon begin to issue *Report from State Circle* so we can follow what is happening to bills upon which we have a stated position.

Several board members will have attended the January 30 winter LWVMD workshops on the Administration of Justice Study and Lobby Day preparation. All members are encouraged to attend state workshops and programs; look for information in this issue about Legislative Day on February 25 in Annapolis.

On February 3 we will co-sponsor an event at Harford Community College's Edgewood Hall, room 132 at 7:00 p.m. The speaker is Judge William O. Carr, Chief Judge of the Third Circuit Court along with Theodore Hart, Juvenile Master. The program has been arranged in conjunction with our current local League study, *Juvenile/Youth Services in Harford County*. Members and the public are cordially invited, so please attend with a friend!

There will be an information session at the Board of Elections, 133 Industrial Lane, Forest Hill on February 6. The upcoming primary in September and the midterm general elections in November will be discussed.

This spring we will be hosting the LWV Maryland Council. This is quite an honor for LWV Harford, but we will need your help to make it a success. Please reserve Saturday, May 22 to attend and to help our local League shine!

Eileen

Please join us to hear Judge William O. Carr,
Chief Judge of the Third Circuit Court,
and
Theodore Hart, Juvenile Master,
speaking on

Serving the Youth of Harford County through Court Programs

Wednesday, February 3 at 7:00pm
Harford Community College, Edgewood Hall, Room 132
Members and guests are welcome!

Hosted by
LWV Harford
Harford Community College Political Awareness Association
The Paralegal Student Association

LEAGUE'S 90th BIRTHDAY IS COMING



LEAGUE OF
WOMEN VOTERS®

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 10:00 a.m. on Saturday, April 24, at the new Capitol Visitor Center where a tour just for us has been arranged. Then, members of the LWVMD Board will accompany small groups to lunch at one of the many restaurants on Capitol Hill. 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.

The day will end around 3:00 p.m. Mark your calendars now! Details to follow.

LWV HARFORD WANTS YOU!

The nominating committee is beginning its search for a slate of officers for LWV Harford. If you are interested in becoming a board member, or would like to have some input in the nominating committee's deliberations, please contact Stephanie Hallock at 410-838-2127 or by email at drshallock@yahoo.com



CENSUS 2010 UPDATE

It's starting to get busy! Census Day is only two months away on April first when we all get counted! Your League of Women Voters of Harford County has been charged with Team Leader of the Undercount Subcommittee. That means it is our job to identify and reach out to the "hard to count" populations in our jurisdiction.

We were successful in writing a grant to the federal Census Office which will provide items for distribution to increase awareness of the upcoming census. By next week, we should have fabric grocery bags, note pads and pencils to hand out at various events that we will be co-sponsoring as we come up to the big day in April.

Here is what we need from **YOU**. We are still looking for locations for a QAC - A Question Assistance Center - that will be staffed by Census personnel. This needs to be a high traffic public location where people can get answers to their Census questions, preferably in an undercounted area along the Route 40 corridor. We are also looking for Be Counted Sites. These should also be in high traffic public areas where we can place an information kiosk or display. Also, Census 2010 is still hiring. Call 866-861-2010 or go to www.2010censusjobs.gov.

An accurate Census 2010 count is so important, and the resulting data will impact us for the next 10 years! Get out there and get yourself and your neighbor and your friends and your relatives counted. If you can schedule a presentation to a group or organization, let me know and please pass this information along to your email address list.

You can always contact me for more information. Call 410-457-4849 or email janehowe@aol.com.

Jane Howe

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
January 21, 2010

CITIZENS UNITED DECISION SETS OFF REVOLUTION IN CAMPAIGN FINANCE **Supreme Court Erred, Decision Undermines Basic Pillar of American Democracy**

Washington, DC –The following is a statement by Mary G. Wilson, national president of the League of Women Voters on the Supreme Court's decision in *Citizens United v. FEC*. The League filed an amicus brief in this case:

"The Supreme Court has made a tragic mistake. Their decision announced today in *Citizens United v. FEC* is constitutionally irresponsible and will surely bring about an anti-democratic revolution in how we finance elections in this country. Today, basic pillars of American democracy have been undermined – that elections should not be corrupted by vast corporate wealth and that the voters should be at the center of our democratic system.

"Justice Stevens had it right when he said, in his dissent, 'The Court's ruling threatens to undermine the integrity of elected institutions across the Nation. The path it has taken to reach its outcome will, I fear, do damage to this institution.'

"In creating a new constitutional right for corporations to spend unlimited amounts of their shareholder's money to determine the outcome in candidate elections, the Court has unleashed into our elections tremendous sums of money from for-profit corporations that cannot possibly be matched in quantity by contributions from ordinary citizens. The only possible outcome of this is that big money and special interests will have an even tighter grip on our democracy.

"Congress and the President enacted campaign finance laws over a series of decades for a reason – to protect our democracy from the perverse influence of big money in our elections. In making this decision, the Court has ignored the best interests of the American public and our representative form of government."

The League of Women Voters, a nonpartisan political organization, encourages informed and active participation in government, works to increase understanding of major public policy issues, and influences public policy through education and advocacy.

(Press release from lwv.org website)



**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 Street, 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**

10:15 AM 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 Street
SPEAKER: Linda Lamone, State Administrator of Elections

Registration Form - **LEGISLATIVE DAY - February 25, 2010** Deadline: **Feb. 22, 2010**

NAME _____

LOCAL LEAGUE or AAUW _____

PHONE _____ EMAIL _____

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

Make check payable to: LWVMD and mail to: 106B South Street, Annapolis, MD 21401
Phone: 410-269-0232



GET IN ON THE ACTION!

To receive Action Alerts about national and state legislation and issues of importance to the League go to:

www.LWV.org and click on Action Alerts -
Take Action -
Sign up for the Action E-List.

www.LWVMD.org and click on Legislative Action -
Subscribe (in the right column) - Email

You can also become a fan of LWVUS on Facebook
and read and make posts.

Take action! Join in the conversation!



MEMBERSHIP COUPON

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF HARFORD COUNTY

Dues paid now cover membership through June 30, 2011

Name(s) _____

Address _____

Telephone _____

City, State Zip _____

Cell _____

Email _____

Principal household member \$45.00

Additional household members @ \$22.50 = \$ _____

Contribution \$ _____

Total \$ _____

Please make check payable to League of Women
Voters of Harford County and mail c/o: Heppen,
309 Avatar Court, Havre de Grace, MD 21078
Questions? Email membership@harford.lwvmd..org