



May 1, 2015

Dear WDC Member:

The Woman's Democratic Club of Montgomery County, Maryland will hold its biennial general membership meeting to elect officers for the 2015-2017 term on Tuesday, June 9, 2015, at 6:30 pm at the Bethesda Marriott, 5151 Pooks Hill Road, Bethesda. The general membership meeting will be followed by dinner and conversation with Attorney General Brian Frosh.

Pursuant to our by-laws, in odd-numbered years, the president appoints a nominating committee consisting of three members of the WDC Board and two non-Board members to select a slate of candidates for the membership to consider. Members may also make nominations from the floor. The by-laws also require that the nominating committee make a written report to the membership at least one month prior to the meeting. Attached is the report of the nominating committee.

In addition, at its meeting on April 15, 2015, the WDC Board voted to create a category of dues for members who are 35 and under. The new "Young Dems" dues rate would be \$25, rather the current rate of \$35. The \$35 annual dues for members over the age of 35 will remain unchanged.

Article III, Section 2 of the Club's by laws states that, "The Board of Directors shall recommend the amount of annual dues. After at least two weeks' written notice, this amount shall be voted on by the general membership at any general meeting." This letter serves as the requisite notice of the Board of Directors' recommendation to lower the amount of the annual dues to \$25 for members aged 35 and younger. This proposal will be put to a vote of the membership at the general membership meeting on June 4.

Rationale:

- At a recent meeting between the Montgomery County Democratic Central Committee and the presidents of the Democratic clubs, the Central Committee stressed the importance of all the clubs engaging younger Democrats, particularly in non-presidential election years.
- The Board of Directors is committed to diversity of all kinds among Club members. Lower dues send a clear message that the Club welcomes younger members and encourages them to join.
- Younger members bring a fresh perspective to the Club, as well as new skill sets, such as experience with social media and digital analytics, that would benefit the Club.
- A vibrant group of young members gives the Club the opportunity to mentor and provide a base for young, talented, Democratic women who are the future of our party.
- The Board of Directors is committed to ensuring the continuing vitality of the Club, and encouraging more young members to join is a step toward that goal.

I look forward to seeing you on June 9 at 6:30 pm at the Pooks Hill Marriott.

Sincerely,

Beth Tomasello
President