

2020 ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING



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MEETING WORKBOOK

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2020 Annual Membership Meeting Luncheon (to be rescheduled)

Our guest speaker will be Kathleen M. Koch, Executive Director for Arundel Community Development Services, Inc. (ACDS), a nonprofit housing and community development agency established to create and retain affordable housing opportunities.

Kathleen M. Koch received her M.S. in Applied Public Affairs and her B.S. in Planning from the State University of New York at Buffalo. She was instrumental in the creation of ACDS and has shepherded the organization from an agency with an annual operating budget of \$3 million to an organization with an annual operating budget of over \$12 million. ACDS serves as Anne Arundel County's Housing and Community Development agency responsible for planning and developing projects with public and private funds that serve the County's low and moderate income residents and communities. In addition to the creation of new affordable homeownership units, ACDS has helped to create and retain over 2,000 affordable rental units in the County. As the Executive Director for the agency responsible for administering HUD funding, Ms. Koch oversees the County's efforts to affirmatively further fair housing. In addition, she has been a key player in the regional efforts to overcome impediments to fair housing.



Ms. Koch is a 2006 Fannie Mae Foundation Fellow and a graduate of the Senior Executives in State and Local Government Program from the Kennedy School of Government at Harvard University. She also received the "Housing Person of the Year Award" in 2013 for her statewide efforts to promote affordable housing. She has served on many committees representing the County Executive and received various awards from the National Association of Counties, the American Planning Association, and various historic preservation associations.

PHOTO CAPTIONS AND CREDITS

Cover (l-r) Carolyn Ciepiela, Joyce Martin, Gail Viamonte, Susan Cochran and Alfa Stevens, January 28, 2020. *Photo by Marg Duffy.*

Page 5 (l-r) Carol Sures, Sarah Thwaites and Myrna Siegel, October 15, 2012. *Photo by Kathy Larrabee.*

Page 6, lower left (l-r) Alexis Dorsey, Marg Duffy, Gabrielle Strandquist, Madeline Swanson and Susan Cochran, January 18, 2020. *Photo by Kathy Larrabee.*

Page 7, lower right (l-r) Charlie Gross, Doris Gross, Maryland Delegate Mike Rogers (D-Dist. 32), and Jeanne Jehl, November 14, 2019. *Photo by Kathy Larrabee.*

Page 13 (l-r) Niecy Chambers, Susan Cochran, Alfa Stevens, County Executive Steuart Pittman and Alexis Dorsey, September 12, 2019. *Photo by Peter Baron.*

Page 14 LWVAAC voter registrar training, October 16, 2019. *Photo by Kathy Larrabee.*

Page 15 (l-r) Kathy Lottenbach and Kathy Larrabee, September 24, 2019. *Photo by librarian.*

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF ANNE ARUNDEL COUNTY
2020 ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING
Meeting Workbook

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The 2020 Annual Membership Meeting and Luncheon, planned for April 18, has been postponed in compliance with COVID-19 restrictions. It will be held at a future time when our members can gather freely and safely. In the meantime, the LWVAAC Board is pleased to share this Meeting Workbook, which contains key items requiring members' attention as well as reports on the past year's activities.

As a grassroots organization, the League relies on **member input**. LWVAAC bylaws ensure that our members determine the League's direction by **electing the Board, approving the budget and bylaws revisions and adopting program activities**. While these votes usually take place at Annual Meeting, this year we'll be using a ballot. Please take time to review the 2020-21 slate of nominated officers and directors, the FY21 budget, and the proposed affordable housing study found on pages 3-4 of this workbook. We have enclosed a ballot, along with instructions for voting by email or postal mail. The deadline to vote is May 31, 2020.

The Board welcomes your guidance and thanks you for participating!

2020 Annual Meeting Committee: Carol Sures, Chair, Alfa Stevens, Niecy Chambers,
Kathy Larrabee and Gail Viamonte

President's Letter, Alfa Stevens

While I had hoped to welcome you in person to our 2020 Annual Meeting, plans took a sudden and dramatic turn as a result of the unprecedented COVID-19 pandemic. Nearly every aspect of our lives, including the work of our League, has been impacted. Although it was disappointing to cancel so many long-planned and eagerly-anticipated events, our Annual Meeting Luncheon among them, I expect we'll appreciate each meeting and social gathering even more when the threat has passed.

In the meantime, I am happy to be able to share this meeting workbook with you. The portfolio reports speak volumes about the thought, planning and effort our members have dedicated to the mission of empowering voters and making democracy work in Anne Arundel County over the past year. We can all take pride in LWVAAC's accomplishments.



This year's highlights include our League's participation on the Year of the Woman Committee and our collaborations with County Councilwoman Allison Pickard (District 2) and the Anne Arundel County Public Library system. Partnerships like these provide a welcome opportunity to expand our visibility and outreach efforts, especially in parts of the county where we've had little or no presence in the past.

Regrettably, the celebrations we'd planned for the League's centennial anniversary fell victim to the pandemic, along with several public education events and voter registration activities. We hope to reschedule these worthy programs when restrictions are lifted.

There remains important, though challenging, work for our League to do promoting participation in the upcoming elections and the 2020 U.S. Census. With people homebound and libraries and senior centers closed, [VOTE411.org](https://www.vote411.org), the League's online *Voters' Guide*, will be more valuable than ever. Please help spread the word that candidate responses and election information are just one click away if voters visit [VOTE411.org](https://www.vote411.org) or download the *Voters' Guide* from our [website](#).

LWVAAC member Marg Duffy has suggested a novel way for League members to engage in meaningful discourse from the comfort of home. We've selected two books for an online discussion: *Fearless* by Charlene Butts Ligon, about a poor Virginia seamstress who took on Jim Crow, beat the poll tax and changed her city forever; and *Let the People Pick the President* by Jesse Wegman, which makes the case for abolishing the electoral college. Dates and instructions for Zoom, a web-based conferencing tool, will follow soon. Thank you, Marg!

On a final note, I want to extend congratulations to members Carol Sures and Sarah Thwaites. In recognition of their respective 50 years of active service, they have the honorable distinction of gaining League of Women Voters life member status, in the year of our centennial. Sarah is a Board Member Emeritus and Carol is our forever Board Secretary and coordinator of this very workbook. Our League is indebted to them both.

As we try to adjust to a *new normal*, please stay safe and be well. Keep practicing social distancing while we live out our daily lives, work, and continue to serve. Thank you for your membership in the League of Women Voters of Anne Arundel County!

Highlights of 2019 Annual Meeting, Carol Sures, Secretary

Thirty-one people attended the meeting on Saturday, May 11, 2019 at Café Mezzanotte, Severna Park. President Niecy Chambers conducted the meeting, thanking Vice President Kathy Larrabee's grandson, Donald Ely, for designing the annual meeting invitations and response cards. She also welcomed new members and guests. Chambers remarked that the foundation of the League is nonpartisanship and consensus and that the organization depends on its members for guidance. She predicted several opportunities in the coming year for the Observer Corps, and for study and action on redistricting, class size in county schools, the Census and the Electoral College. She urged members to "tell us."

Budget: Alfa Stevens presented the proposed FY 2019-20 Budget for the General Operating and Education Funds. Stevens moved (Susan Cochran 2nd) to approve the proposed budget. **Members voted to approve the budget as presented.**

Bylaws: Kathy Larrabee explained the bylaw changes presented in the Workbook. She thanked Sures and Kathleen Lottenbach for serving on the bylaws committee. Larrabee moved (Joyce Martin 2nd) to adopt the bylaws as presented. **Members voted to approve the bylaw changes as presented.**

Nominations: Nominating chair Shirley Hatch thanked Anne Schifferle and Kathy Larrabee for their work on the nominating committee. Hatch presented the following slate for the 2019-21 term:

Alfa Stevens, President
Gail Viamonte, Vice President (2019-20 to fill unexpired term)
Carol Sures, Secretary
Niecy Chambers, Treasurer (2019-20 to fill unexpired term)

Directors:

Debby Chessin
Marg Duffy (2019-20 to fill unexpired term)
Kathy Larrabee (2019-20 to fill unexpired term)
Joyce Martin
Myrna Siegel

Hatch moved (Alexis Dorsey 2nd) to accept the slate of officers as proposed. **Members voted to endorse the slate as proposed. At this point, the gavel was turned over to newly-elected president Alfa Stevens.** Stevens thanked Chambers for her hard work as president.

Comments and Directions to the Board:

- Larrabee suggested we may look into fair housing issues while Cochran pointed out we have an Affordable Housing position which may need updating.
- Cochran also said we are charged with providing public information and with advocacy. She believes a Councilman is proposing a non-flexible tax cap Charter amendment and believes this issue needs immediate study as it may become a referendum item in 2020. She asked for a letter to the County Council in opposition.
- Yolande Dickerson said we must strive to appear in person before County Council and other entities.
- Larrabee suggested we provide information concerning the Census to the public.

The meeting adjourned at 11:45 a.m. After a buffet luncheon, Elaine Weiss, author of *The Woman's Hour: The Great Fight to Win the Vote* spoke and answered questions.

Proposed Budget for FY 2020-2021, Niecy Chambers, Treasurer

| | | | Proposed FY20-21 | YTD Actual as of 4/1/20 | Budget FY19-20 | Actual FY18-19 |
|----------------------------------|--------------------------|-------------|-----------------------------|------------------------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| GENERAL FUND | Beginning Balance | | | \$6,706.90 | | \$5,005.71 |
| Income | | | | | | |
| Members | Number | Dues | | | | |
| Individual (actual as of 2/1/20) | 70 | \$65.00 | \$4,550.00 | | \$4,745.00 | |
| Household (actual as of 2/1/20) | 13 | \$30.00 | \$390.00 | | \$270.00 | |
| Life (as of 2/1/20) | 4 | \$0.00 | \$0.00 | | \$0.00 | |
| Student (as of 2/1/20) | 4 | \$0.00 | \$0.00 | | \$0.00 | |
| New (projected) | 4 | \$65.00 | \$260.00 | | \$260.00 | |
| Total Dues | | | \$5,200.00 | \$4,425.00 | \$5,275.00 | \$5,360.00 |
| Contributions | | | \$500.00 | \$410.00 | \$350.00 | \$585.00 |
| Annual Meeting | | | \$1,225.00 | 35.00 | \$1,400.00 | \$1,120.00 |
| Total Income | | | \$6,925.00 | \$4,870.00 | \$7,025.00 | \$7,065.00 |
| Disbursements | | | | | | |
| LWVUS – PMP | 91 total | \$32.00 | \$2,512.00 | \$2,480.00 | \$2,480.00 | \$2,096.00 |
| LWVMD – PMP | 91 total | \$14.00 | \$1,099.00 | \$1,085.00 | \$1,162.50 | \$979.00 |
| Insurance | | | \$182.00 | | \$170.00 | |
| Meeting Expense | | | \$300.00 | \$325.00 | \$225.00 | \$225.00 |
| Copying & Mailing | | | \$300.00 | | \$300.00 | \$442.00 |
| Registration Fees | | | \$500.00 | | \$750.00 | \$155.00 |
| Annual Meeting | | | \$1,225.00 | \$250.00 | \$1,400.00 | \$1,000.01 |
| Observer Corps | | | \$250.00 | | \$150.00 | \$150.00 |
| Membership | | | \$350.00 | | \$300.00 | \$148.40 |
| Legislative Reception | | | \$250.00 | \$211.00 | \$300.00 | \$16.95 |
| GAN Membership | | | \$100.00 | \$100.00 | \$100.00 | \$100.00 |
| Fees & Miscellaneous | | | \$182.00 | \$200.11 | \$87.50 | \$51.45 |
| Total Disbursements | | | \$7,250.00 | \$4,651.11 | \$7,425.00 | \$5,363.81 |
| To/(From) Reserves | | | (\$325.00) | \$218.89 | (\$400.00) | \$1,701.19 |
| | Ending Balance | | | \$6,925.79 | | \$6,706.90 |
| In Kind Contributions | | | | | | |
| Miscellaneous | | | | | | \$11.00 |
| Annual Meeting | | | | | | \$26.67 |
| | | | Proposed FY20-21 | YTD Actual as of 4/1/20 | Budget FY19-20 | Actual FY18-19 |
| EDUCATION FUND | Beginning Balance | | | \$5,090.42 | | \$6,309.56 |
| Income | | | | | | |
| Fundraising Campaign | | | \$4,000.00 | \$30.00 | \$3,500.00 | \$3,350.00 |
| Bequest & Other | | | \$500.00 | \$395.00 | \$400.00 | \$630.00 |
| Total Income | | | \$4,500.00 | \$425.00 | \$3,900.00 | \$3,980.00 |
| Disbursements | | | | | | |
| Candidate Forums | | | \$600.00 | | \$500.00 | \$2,350.00 |
| Voter Registration & Education | | | \$150.00 | \$100.00 | \$150.00 | \$150.00 |
| Voters' Guides & VOTE411.org | | | \$3,000.00 | | \$2,500.00 | \$2,594.00 |
| Educational Public Meetings | | | \$500.00 | | \$100.00 | |
| Support for Other Leagues | | | | | \$200.00 | |
| Fundraising | | | \$250.00 | \$0.00 | \$450.00 | \$ 105.14 |
| Total Disbursements | | | \$4,500.00 | \$100.00 | \$3,900.00 | \$5,199.14 |
| To/(From) Reserves | | | | \$325.00 | | (\$1,219.14) |
| | Ending Balance | | | \$5,415.42 | | \$5,090.42 |

Report on Program Planning, Niecy Chambers

At our January 18 program planning meeting, membership readopted the current LWVAAC positions. The Board recommends adoption of a review of the LWVAAC affordable housing position, as proposed by Jeanne Jehl:

Purpose and Scope of the Affordable Housing Position Review: There is an urgent need for affordable housing across the United States, especially in metropolitan areas where populations and economic inequality are increasing. Although Annapolis and Anne Arundel County have long been challenged by a shortage of affordable housing, the LWVAAC has not reviewed and updated its position since 1992. I propose a 6-month review, beginning in March 2020 and continuing until September, to consider updating the League's position. It will be informed by meetings and interviews with local elected and appointed officials.

Additional Information: This study is timely, with prominent coverage of affordable housing in the national and local media. It was inspired by two observations of the Housing Commission of Anne Arundel County (HACA) as well as a personal visit to a public housing property in Annapolis. The topic also has been the subject of a recent two-part forum sponsored by the local chapter of the American Institute of Architects (AIA), with participation from County Executive Pittman and Melissa Maddox-Evans, CEO of the Housing Authority of the City of Annapolis.

Chair and/or Interested Members: Jeanne Jehl and Kathy Larrabee. Jehl will contact other members to assess their willingness to participate.

[EDITOR'S NOTE: Kathleen Koch, the luncheon speaker scheduled to address our 2020 Annual Membership Meeting, is Executive Director for Arundel Community Development Services, Inc. (ACDS), a nonprofit agency established to create and retain affordable housing opportunities. She looks forward to providing our members with an overview of local affordable housing issues and options when we are able to reschedule.]

Report of the Bylaws Committee, Carol Sures, Chair

The Bylaws Committee recommends adoption of a new bylaw: ARTICLE XIII Virtual Meetings

Board and membership meetings may be held, and League business conducted, by virtual means when external factors prevent a quorum from assembling in person.

Report of the Nominating Committee, Lois Coon, Chair

The members of the 2019-20 Nominating Committee are Lois Coon, Chair, Anne Schifferle and Kathy Larrabee. The committee presents the following slate of candidates for election:

Board Officers:

Gail Viamonte, Vice President (2020-22)
Niecy Chambers, Treasurer (2020-22)

Board Directors:

Alexis Dorsey (2020-22)
Marg Duffy (2020-21 to fill unexpired term)
Jeanne Jehl (2020-21 to fill unexpired term)
Kathy Larrabee (2020-22)
Abby Root (2020-22)

Nominating Committee (Off-Board):

Anne Schifferle (2020-21)

LWVAAC 2019-2020 PORTFOLIO REPORTS

MEMBERSHIP, Kathy Larrabee, Chair

Enrollment numbers don't tell the whole story when it comes to LWVAAC membership. That's because throughout the membership year we gain new members, but upon renewal, we lose a few. Members who do not renew their memberships generally fall into two categories: those who never engaged with the League to attend or participate in activities, or those who are seeking to align their civic interests with an organization. So, while enrollment ranges between 85 to 90 members most years, in recent times the LWVAAC overall profile has changed in subtle ways.

Membership Profile: In 2019-2020, LWVAAC membership comprises more working people, along with very recently retired. The number of member spouses (joining as a second household member) has doubled, adding diversity in presence and in thought at League activities. For the first time since LWVUS introduced free membership for students, we have four college-student members. Also, in 2019-2020, we honored two long-time, stalwart members with emeritus status on the Board. Along those lines of League loyalty and dedicated participation, in 2020 we celebrate two members who have attained Life Member status (50 years of LWV membership)—Carol Sures and Sarah Thwaites.



Learning By Doing: Another first, in 2019-2020, three relatively new members joined the LWVAAC Board for the purpose of learning the inner workings of the League. There is no better classroom than a Board meeting. Unexpectedly, this learning opportunity quickly became a two-way street as these new Board members stepped up with fresh energy and ideas.

New Dues Payment Option: The LWVAAC website has a new feature likely of importance to all members. New enrollees and renewing members now may pay dues online. For anyone uncomfortable with online payments, we will of course continue to accept checks and other payment methods. Annual membership renewals typically occur on or before July 1, 2020. If you first joined in February 2020 or later, then you do not need to renew in 2020. Visit the LWVAAC website and click the tab [Join LWVAAC](#) to see this new payment feature.

Mentoring: This year, LWVAAC reorganized its new-member Mentoring Program to include more Board members, who have extensive League experience. Mentors have been paired with relatively new members who live in geographic proximity. Pairing mentors and members geographically makes group meetings convenient and allows for nearby friendships with other Leaguers and carpools. Beginning in September, Mentors will provide periodic member orientation (over coffee or lunch, of course) to dive deeper into complex aspects of League to explain how the LWV, nationwide, is knitted into a powerful grassroots organization with one voice and a consistent message. There are over 700 local Leagues in

the United States. By the way, approximately 18 of our 85 members have belonged to other Leagues in MD and the nation before joining the LWVAAC.

Member Development and Engagement:

- Approximately 32 percent of our LWVAAC members helped to kicked off the membership year with a member-only reception for the Anne Arundel County Legislative Delegation in November at the Lowe House Office Building.
- In December, the holiday social, hosted by members Niecy and Jim Chambers, was notable for both its camaraderie and the generosity of LWVAAC guests who contributed gifts for women and children enrolled in programs of the YWCA of Annapolis and Anne Arundel County. On behalf of the LWVAAC, Niecy delivered the gifts to the YWCA and received a warm letter of appreciation.
- Other statewide League events, such as the LWVMD Fall and Winter Workshops, Constitution Day, Fair Maps Day of Action and Legislative Day were each attended by about 10 percent of LWVAAC members.
- Sadly, four major LWVAAC events have been cancelled or postponed as a result of the pandemic: a forum on the Electoral College; two celebrations of the 100th anniversary of the LWV and women's suffrage; and the Annual Membership Meeting.



PROGRAM PLANNING, Niecy Chambers

The LWVAAC Board held its annual retreat on June 22, 2019 at the Unitarian Universalist Church in Annapolis. We reviewed *Directions to the Board* provided by membership at the May 11, 2019 Annual Membership Meeting and discussed the League's focus for the coming program year. After the meeting we retreated to the private room at Jalapeno's for lunch, forgoing our traditional potluck.



On January 18, we returned to Union Jack's in Annapolis for our annual program planning session. Logistical issues and an ambitious agenda made for a challenging meeting, but some 30 members persisted through a discussion of our local positions, LWVUS' focus, a proposed national concurrence, a state civic education study, centennial celebrations and redistricting reform advocacy. After the meeting, several members urged LWVAAC to assign higher priority to local League program

planning and consider issues related to LWVUS separately. I thank everyone who attended for their patience, stamina and feedback.

OBSERVER CORPS, Alexis Dorsey, Chair

The Observer Corps (OC) is an LWVAAC committee that actively observes County government. The purpose of the Corps is to ensure transparency, gain understanding, improve communications and identify issues of concern to the League based on its positions.

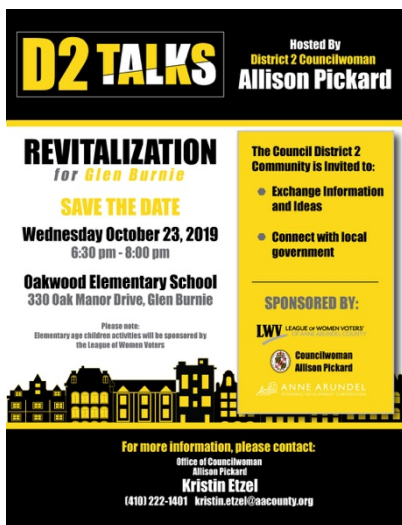
The OC continues to monitor the County Council, Planning and Zoning, Planning Advisory Board and Citizens Advisory Committee. Several members attended some of the “Visioning Meetings” planned by County Executive Pittman and the Office of Planning and Zoning. Much of the focus of the Corps has been on these agencies due to the ongoing revision of the General Development Plan which will impact the direction of the county for the next decade. Understanding this process is pertinent to LWVAAC’s positions.

Recently OC members have added observations of the Housing Commission of Anne Arundel County and the Human Relations Commission. LWVAAC has a position related to affordable housing adopted

in 1992 and is considering an update so understanding the current status of housing in the county is relevant. The Human Relations Commission is newly constituted by the County Council as a quasi-judiciary body with the power to enforce the fair housing ordinance. Observing this Commission will add to our knowledge regarding affordable housing concerns. The Corps plans to add the Transportation Commission to its observations since transportation issues frequently affect all other areas.

The Observer Corps partnered with the office of Councilwoman Allison Pickard and the Anne Arundel Economic Development Corporation to present a forum on Glen Burnie Revitalization. The event called “D-2 Talks” brought together nearly equal numbers of constituents and county government representatives for an exchange of

information and idea. Councilwoman Pickard thanked LWVAAC for its help with this successful event and we anticipate collaborating on additional events in the future.



ACTION, Susan Cochran, Chair

Legislative Meet and Greet

The Action Committee organized a reception for the Anne Arundel County Legislative Delegation from 3:30 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. on November 14, 2019. The event was planned to coincide with the delegation’s first official meeting of the year and was held in our County’s meeting room in the Lowe House Office Building. All LWVAAC members received an Evite for the event and 35 members attended. Light food and beverages were provided. The purpose of the gathering was to get acquainted with legislators and share LWVMD’s



legislative priorities for the 2020 session. LWVAAC President Alfa Stevens offered a brief overview of the League of Women Voters and Ashley Oleson, LWVMD State Director, talked about LWVMD's hopes for Fair Maps legislation. She praised Delegate Malone (R-Dist. 33) for his work on redistricting reform legislation. Each legislator then introduced himself or herself and spoke about goals and concerns for the upcoming General Assembly session.

Several LWVAAC members stayed for the public hearing, during which County legislators recognized and thanked our League. As its first order of business, the delegation elected Delegate Ned Carey (R-Dist. 31A) as Chair and Delegate Mark Chang (D-Dist. 32) as Vice Chair. Representatives of local organizations then presented their legislative priorities for the 2020 General Assembly session.

Day of Action

One of the state League's top advocacy priorities for the 2020 legislative session was to get a redistricting measure passed by the Maryland legislature. On January 22, LWVAAC members gathered at the Lowe House Office Building, together with members from LWVMD and LWV Montgomery County, to pass out literature encouraging support for state redistricting reform.

After receiving team assignments from LWVMD Board member Nancy Soreng, members moved throughout the halls of the House Office Building distributing 2-page information sheets to the legislators and in their absence, to staff members. The handouts expressed the concern LWVMD and Common Cause share about the composition of Maryland's Congressional districts and the need for redistricting reform. Legislators and staff were also advised of the pending Fair Maps Act bill, drafted in support of redistricting and sponsored by Senator Mary Washington (D-Dist. 43) and Delegate Jheanelle Wilkins (D-Dist. 20).

EDITOR'S NOTE: The 2020 General Assembly adjourned almost three weeks early in response to the COVID-19 pandemic and failed to pass the Fair Maps bill or any other redistricting legislation.

Legislative Day



Susan Cochran and Mary Vickery led the contingent of LWVAAC members for the LWVMD Legislative Day on March 4 in the Lowe House Office Building. Vickery and Cochran arranged early morning meetings with several Anne Arundel County legislators or their aides prior to the opening bell. When the General Assembly's 10 a.m. session began, President Alfa Stevens accompanied Beth Hufnagel (President, LWV Howard) and Theresa Freligh (President LWV Harford) on the floor of the Senate to receive a proclamation honoring LWVMD on its 100-year anniversary.

The formal Legislative Day program included a report on the Maryland budget and review of the Kirwan Commission findings by Victoria Gruber, Executive Director, Department of Legislative Services; recognition of the *Report from State Circle* reporters, and a panel representing three of LWVMD's coalition partners—Common Cause, Chesapeake Climate Action Network, and the Job Opportunities Task Force.

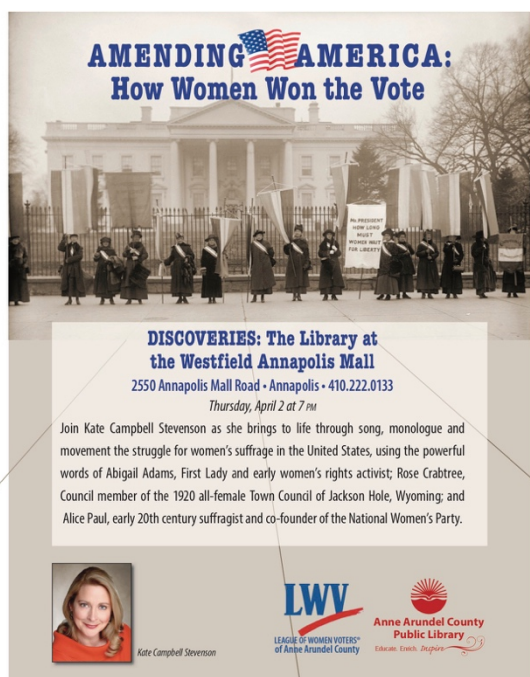
Nine LWVAAC members took part: Niecy Chambers, Susan Cochran, Shirley Hatch, Ashley Oleson, Abby Root, Dona Sauerburger, Alfa Stevens, Sally Vavrek and Mary Vickery.

Action Committee 2019-2020 Accomplishments

- Susan Cochran spoke to a community group in Crofton on the importance of supporting Forest Conservation Bill 68-19 and kept League members informed about the bill through action alerts.
- President Stevens presented testimony in support of Forest Conservation Bill 68-19 on October 7 to a packed Anne Arundel County Council chamber. She also sent a letter on behalf of the League to the editor of *The Capital* in support of the bill. Susan Cochran presented testimony as a private citizen and other LWVAAC members sent letters of support for the bill to their respective Council members. The Forest Conservation bill passed unanimously at the November 18, 2019 County Council meeting.
- *The Capital* published an opinion piece by President Stevens on the value of civic participation, entitled *Passage of Anne Arundel forest bill shows importance of civic participation* (December 1, 2019). The opinion piece was also featured in the Maryland Gazette (December 4, 2019).
- LWVAAC provided public testimony in opposition to Anne Arundel County Resolution 18-19 Charter Amendment-Budgetary and Fiscal Procedures-Income Tax (defeated) and in support of Anne Arundel County Bill 90-19 Public Works-Utilities-Partial Deferral of Residential Wastewater System Connection Charges and Assessments (passed unanimously).
- The Action Committee participated in LWVMD's Day of Action for redistricting reform in January (see p. 7) and on February 14, President Stevens helped State Director Ashley Oleson deliver Valentine's Day cards seeking support for the Fair Maps Act to AA County legislators.
- Throughout the year, Stevens and Cochran used email to share information about priority legislation and urge LWVAAC members to express their opinions to elected representatives.

CENTENNIAL ACTIVITIES

League Celebrations and Commemorations, Marg Duffy and Gail Viamonte



LWVAAC planned two events to celebrate the 100th anniversary of the formation of the League of Women Voters and passage of the 19th Amendment. A performance by Kate Campbell Stevenson, *Amending America: How Women Won the Vote*, was to take place in the newly expanded Discoveries: Library at the Mall in Annapolis on April 2, 2020. The venue offered the League a highly accessible public setting and exposure to an expanded demographic. AACPL designed and printed posters describing the event, making the electronic file available to the League for further reprinting and marketing. The following week, on April 9, the award-winning HBO film "Iron Jawed Angels" was to be shown by request of the Eastport-Annapolis Neck Library, with the Library Foundation contributing the screening fee and library personnel obtaining the distribution rights. Both events were postponed due to COVID-19 restrictions.

In addition, LWVAAC has chosen three suffragists to honor on bookmarks to be printed and distributed at 100th anniversary events. The bookmarks recognize the following suffragists: Carrie Chapman Catt, who was instrumental in passage of the 19th Amendment and founded the LWVUS in 1920; Madeleine Lemoyne Ellicott, who founded the LWVMD, also in 1920; and Augusta Chissell, an important African American leader of the suffragist movement in Baltimore in the early 20th century.

Year of the Woman, Alfa Stevens

In late fall 2019, women from Annapolis and Eastern Shore communities, in collaboration with What'sUp? Media, met to form the *Year of the Woman* (YOW) steering committee of which LWVAAC was invited to be a member. The goal of the committee is to plan and facilitate the implementation of a creative and memorable commemoration of the 100th anniversary of the ratification of the 19th Amendment. The year-long observance is dedicated to celebrating how far women have come since being given the right to vote, with an eye toward what's next.

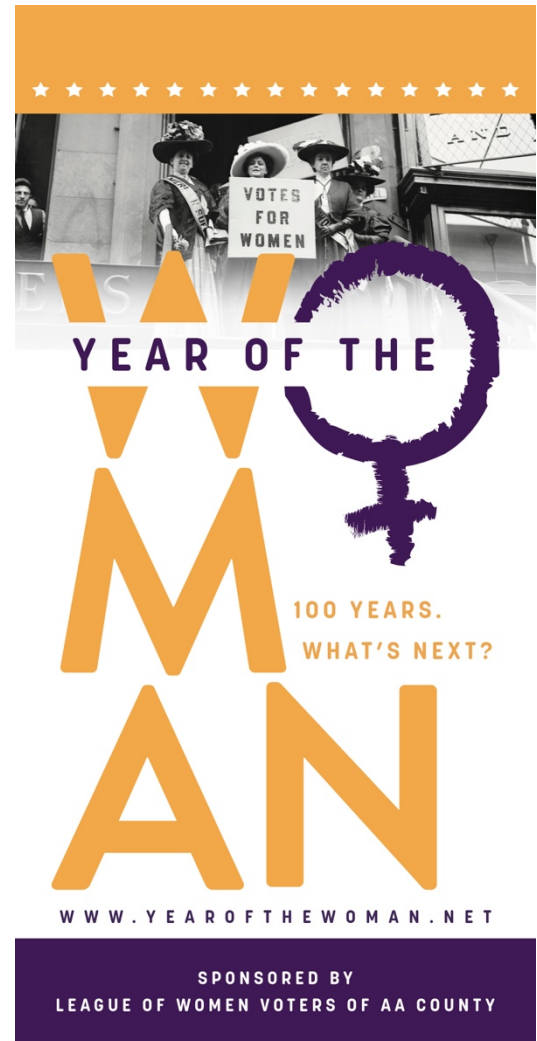
The celebration kicked off with commemorative *Year of the Woman* banners hung along West and Main streets in the City of Annapolis throughout the month of January. To show support, local businesses and nonprofits, LWVAAC and LWVMD among them, purchased the banners, which bore the sponsoring organization's name. The LWVAAC banner hung on Main Street while LWVMD's hung on West Street. In recognition of the month in which the amendment was finally ratified, banners are scheduled to hang again in August 2020.

A number of events to include speakers, events, films, and book clubs have been planned in celebration. Specifically, LWVAAC was asked for assistance with two major endeavors. One is hosting voter registration for residents at Chrysalis House and Sarah's House. The second was serving as judges for the annual National History Day competition.

This competition was sponsored at the local level by the Social Studies department of AACPS. This year's theme was *Breaking Barriers in History*. In particular, judges were looking for projects that best demonstrated the impact of the 19th Amendment. LWVAAC members Susan Cochran, Debby Chessin and Alfa Stevens served as judges along with YOW committee members, Leslie Sfakiyanudis and Veronica Tovey. From the seven finalists, one winner was selected.

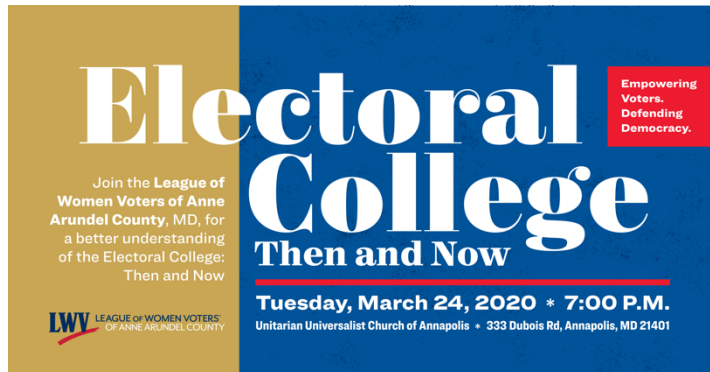
As a part of the planned celebration, *What's Up? Media Year of the Woman* magazine will feature a series of stories themed around women's suffrage. LWVAAC member Ashley Oleson was selected to be a free-lance contributor. Her article is slated to appear in the October issue.

To learn more about what's being planned and all related events be sure to check out the YOW webpage <https://whatsupmag.com/yearofthewoman>.



Public Informational Forum, Kathy Larrabee

LWVAAC planned a public forum entitled *Electoral College: Then and Now* to be held on March 24, 2020 at the Unitarian Universalist Church in Annapolis. However, we were forced to cancel the event due to concerns and restrictions related to the novel coronavirus pandemic. LWVAAC hopes to reschedule the forum in Fall 2020, leading up to the general election.



The stars had aligned for this opportunity to educate League members and the public on both important historical facts about the electoral college and recent events aimed at letting the popular vote decide who will win the presidency. LWVUS has worked since 1970 to end the electoral college, and updated its position in 2010 to support the use of the National Popular Vote Compact as an acceptable way to achieve the goal of the

direct popular vote for election of the president. Enter Montgomery County League member Elaine Apter and LWVAAC's own Doris Gross, both of whom have been students of the electoral college for some time. In 2019, Doris contributed a two-part series on the electoral college to the LWVAAC newsletter.

Panelists Elaine Apter and Doris Gross worked together to merge their individual electoral college presentations on the history and alternatives being considered. With the presentation carefully tweaked, the venue selected, A/V details ironed out, factual handout prepared, and publicity well underway, it was painful to cancel this timely program. Now we look forward to drawing the public's attention to the electoral college in the Fall as our nation once again prepares to select a president.

CIVIC EDUCATION

We the People Statewide Competition, Debby Chessin

For the 21st time on January 9, 2020, high school students from across the state competed in a simulated Congressional hearing as part of the *We the People: The Citizen and the Constitution* academic program. This year's competition was held in the Anne Arundel Delegation Room of the Lowe House Office Building in Annapolis.



We the People
THE CITIZEN AND THE CONSTITUTION

Marcie Taylor-Thoma, PhD, Director, Maryland Council for Civic and History Education and competition organizer, recruited LWVAAC member Debby Chessin to serve as a judge. This year's winner for the state of Maryland was Boonsboro High School, led by teacher Ashley Vascik.

The [*We the People: The Citizen and the Constitution*](#) program facilitates civic competence, life-long thinking skills such as application, synthesis, evaluation, and encourages responsibility in upper elementary and secondary students. It is an innovative and interactive course that teaches about the history and principles of the United States Constitution and includes legal cases that helped to strengthen these principles. State bar associations, foundations, and other educational, professional, business, and community organizations support this program nationally. "Started in 1987, more than 30 million

students and 75,000 educators have participated in the We the People program." (To learn more, visit <https://civiced.org/wtp-the-program>)

AACPS Collaboration, Niecy Chambers and Alexis Dorsey

LWVAAC member Marcie Taylor-Thoma, Director of the Maryland Council for Civic and History Education, arranged for LWVAAC to participate in a training session for 5th grade Anne Arundel County Public School (AACPS) teachers on the Simulated Congressional Hearing (SCH) curriculum which was first introduced in 15 AACPS elementary schools in 2018-19. As in the *We the People: The Citizen and the Constitution* competition referenced above, small groups of 5th grade students, after researching a topic, assume the role of Constitutional experts and present oral statements before a panel of judges who portray a Congressional committee. The judges pose follow-up questions to test student knowledge. Students are evaluated on their understanding of the Constitution, Bill of Rights and American History, as well as their use of supporting evidence, reasoning, application and participation.

Betsy Crook, AACPS Elementary School Social Studies Coordinator, observed a visible difference in students who participated in SCH the first year. She noted that teams often perform better before judges from outside the school system. If COVID-19 restrictions are lifted before the end of the school year, LWVAAC has volunteered to provide judges for these 5th grade contests.

COMMUNITY OUTREACH

Library Collaboration, Gail Viamonte

The Anne Arundel County Public Library (AACPL) system demonstrates energetic commitment to community partnerships. Beginning 2019-2020, LWVAAC, represented by Gail Viamonte, established an ongoing collaboration that promotes two-way communications with all AACPL initiatives and branches, through the library's central administrative Program and Outreach Department (Rebecca Hass, Manager; Michelle McConville, Coordinator and LWVAAC liaison).



LWVAAC is invited to regular meetings of the Adult Programming Interest Group (APIG), which represents all County branches, the central administrative community outreach team, and special guests. Already, attendance afforded LWVAAC the opportunity to expand its reach further, through introduction to Anne Arundel Community College's Director of Adult Education and English Language Learning, who has expressed interest in working with LWVAAC on initiatives to register and educate voters. Participation in the APIG group meetings also facilitated League involvement with the *Year of the Woman* Committee.

The AACPL Program and Outreach Department accepts and solicits League materials for dissemination to individual branches, for local community distribution. Potential League programs are "offered" to branches through P&O. Branches can request these programs or suggest additional programs, based upon community needs and interests. Individual branches advise the League regarding effective scheduling, and branches market the event in their communities. Depending on the nature of the League event or program, the event/program is further publicized countywide, through AACPL's print publication *Happenings*, and through AACPL's website and social media. In certain cases, P&O has been willing to publicize League events not located at branch libraries, but pertinent to AACPL's

identified program initiatives (e.g., *The Electoral College: Then and Now*, which was scheduled to be held at the Unitarian Universalist Church.)

As reported above, AACPL stepped up to co-sponsor two LWVAAC Centennial celebrations, providing venues and publicity, as well as essential staff and financial assistance. In addition, the Library system frequently partners with LWVAAC to host voter registration and education events/materials distribution, as described in the Voter Services report below.

The initiative and support, whether through event marketing, materials dissemination, resource sharing, program development, venue selection (at no charge), build on the complementary missions of the two organizations. The League anticipates further synergies that will inform AACPL and individual branches, and at the same time magnify and expand the League's reach in the county.

Meetings and Presentations

On September 11, 2019, Alfa Stevens, Niecy Chambers, Alexis Dorsey and Gail Viamonte attended a luncheon meeting at the invitation of the Holy Trinity Church senior group in Glen Burnie. Stevens gave an overview of the League's structure, purpose and work in the county. The overview was well-received and solicited several questions by the Holy Trinity seniors.

Alfa Stevens, Niecy Chambers, Susan Cochran, and Alexis Dorsey met for a very productive and time well-spent meeting with Anne Arundel County Executive Steuart Pittman and his Government Affairs Officer Peter Baron on September 12, 2019. Stevens gave an overview of the League's structure, purpose and work in the county. Chambers provided the state and national League perspective, and Observer Corps Chair Dorsey and Action Chair Cochran discussed their portfolios. The County Executive pointed out that several of our League's positions aligned with initiatives of his administration. He inquired how one becomes a member and subsequently joined our League.



In January, a Girl Scout troop leader reached out to LWVAAC for a speaker and resources to help her two troops of 4th and 6th graders earn a "Right to Vote" badge which the local council had recently established. In particular, she wanted the girls to learn more about the suffrage movement and how the voting process itself works. We recommended the Annenberg Institute video, [*The 19th Amendment: A Woman's Right to Vote*](#), and Niecy Chambers planned to speak at a troop meeting on March 25, 2020. The presentation was cancelled due to COVID-19; our hope is to reschedule.

Through the partnership with AACPL mentioned above, LWVAAC was invited to make a presentation to first-time voters explaining the election process. The meeting was scheduled for the evening of March 31 at the Edgewater Library. AACPL took responsibility for publicity and reported interest among recent citizens as well as young voters. In addition to a brief interactive slide show, LWVAAC planned to demonstrate VOTE411.org and register voters. This event also was postponed due to COVID-19.

Community Cooperation and Support

To demonstrate support for AACPL and our community, in September 2019, the LWVAAC Board authorized purchasing a brick that will bear LWVAAC's name and be installed at the new Michael E. Busch Annapolis Library on West Street.

LWVAAC enjoys a long tradition of cooperation with the Association of American University Women Anne Arundel Branch (AAUW). AAUW regularly shares information about LWVAAC events with its membership and collaborates on candidate forums. This year, AAUW invited President Stevens to deliver greetings from LWVAAC at the AAUW State Convention, scheduled for June 27 in Annapolis.

In the spirit of mutual support, LWVAAC publicized the election year fundraiser of the Caritas Society of St. John's College both by email and on our Facebook page. A number of community organizations, including Caritas, helped promote LWVAAC's forum on the Electoral College.

The Annapolis Chapter of The Links, Inc. invited LWVAAC to host a resource table at its Women's Empowerment Forum, scheduled for March 28, 2020 at Anne Arundel Community College. The theme of the event, which was postponed in response to the pandemic, was *The Year of the Woman: Bold, Strong, Resilient*.

LWVAAC continues to support the Growth Action Network (GAN) as an organizational member, and is represented on the GAN Board by Susan Cochran.

VOTER SERVICES, Niecy Chambers and Carolyn Ciepiela

Voter Registrar Training

Voter registrar training sponsored by LWVAAC was held at St. Philips Episcopal Church in Annapolis on October 16, 2019. Nineteen League members and two non-League individuals attended the class and received their official voter registrar cards. Training was conducted by Nicole Hill from the Anne Arundel County Board of Elections.



Voter Bill of Rights

This winter, the League of Women Voters of Calvert County (LWVCC) produced a customizable two-page fact sheet entitled *State of Maryland - Voter Bill of Rights* in both English and Spanish. Janet

Bellizzi, an LWVCC member, graciously offered to prepare an *Anne Arundel County Edition*, which LWVAAC will distribute at voter registration events and online. We thank our colleagues to the south!

Voter Registration Events

Signup Genius continued to be an effective method of coordinating volunteers for voter registration events. Members were eager to apply their training and slots filled quickly. This year, LWVAAC arranged the following opportunities to register voters and share election and League information:

July 4, 2019 U.S. Naturalization Ceremony, William Paca House, Annapolis

September 22, 2019 Kunta Kinte Festival, Annapolis

September 24, 2019 National Voter Registration Day (NVRD) Westfield Mall, Annapolis

September 24, 2019 (NVRD) Marley Station Mall, Glen Burnie

October 3, 2019 Civility Matters, Anne Arundel Community College, Arnold

November 2, 2019 Day of the Dead Festival, Annapolis

March 12, 2020 Damascus House, Brooklyn

The following scheduled LWVAAC registrations were cancelled or postponed due to COVID-19:

March 18, 2020 Glen Burnie Library

March 24, 2020 Unitarian Universalist Church (Electoral College: Then and Now)

March 26, 2020 Cadia Healthcare Annapolis

March 28, 2020 Women's Empowerment Forum

March 31, 2020 Edgewater Library (So You're Voting for the First Time)

April 2, 2020 Discoveries: the Library at the Mall (Kate Campbell Stevenson performance)

April 4, 2020 Odenton Library

In addition, Ralph Thomas, Voter Registration Coordinator for the Anne Arundel County NAACP, invited League members to help at NAACP events and several League-trained registrars volunteered.

VOTE411.org and Voters' Guide

LWVAAC has responsibility for inviting candidates in all Anne Arundel County races, as well as Congressional District 4, to participate in the League's online voters' guide, [VOTE411.org](https://www.vote411.org). VOTE411.org went live for the 2020 Primary Election on March 14. On March 17, the Governor announced that the Primary would take place on June 2 instead of April 28; it has since been decided that most citizens will vote by mail. A downloadable PDF version of the *Voters' Guide* for Anne Arundel County is posted on the LWVAAC website. A decision has yet to be made regarding print copies, since the League usually distributes these through public libraries and senior centers, which are currently closed due to COVID-19.



2020 U.S. CENSUS, Niecy Chambers

Throughout the year, LWVAAC members Kathy Larrabee, Niecy Chambers and Yolande Dickerson attended meetings of the Anne Arundel County Complete Count Committee to gain knowledge about the 2020 Census and become informed on County initiatives.

LWVAAC offered census information on its website and

Facebook page (7 posts), at voter registration events and in its *Voters' Guide for the 2020 Primary Election*. We continue to look for ways to encourage participation and reach hard-to-count populations.



COMMUNICATIONS

Newsletter, Joyce Martin

Our League's newsletter, *The Voter*, serves to connect League members and friends and share information about programs and objectives. Since summer 2019, three issues of *The Voter* have been published, and one more is scheduled before the end of the program year. Good participation from League members continues to assure high-quality articles. Each issue contains a calendar of upcoming events, information about programs, and articles about topics of League and community interest, as well as forms and flyers promoting events. Another regular segment is the Member Spotlight, featuring a short biography and photo of an LWVAAC member. Hopefully this outreach helps all members get acquainted, feel connected and enjoy rich League experiences.

This year the communications team experimented with an alternate format, called *The Bulletin*, to complement our traditional print-based *Voter*. *The Bulletin* was intended to share timely announcements and be read online. It would contain brief notices and photos with live links to longer articles or event signups. We successfully published two *Bulletins* but ultimately concluded that our Publisher software wasn't up to the job. Not ones to throw in the towel, the communications team is currently evaluating whether the free version of MailChimp has the features LWVAAC needs. Stay tuned!

Copies of past newsletters are posted online here: www.lwvaacmd.org/voternews

Facebook, Kathy Larrabee and Ashley Oleson

Facebook is a powerful communication tool for getting information out to a broad social media audience. Several years ago, LWVAAC developed a Facebook page and has since made good use of it to announce breaking news, promote ideas, enhance campaigns, and publicize events. Moreover, by linking the FB page and the LWVAAC website, we have increased our exposure. LWVAAC members Kathy Larrabee and Ashley Oleson, who also is the LWVMD State Director, serve as the page administrators. Both have been verified by FB as eligible to post political news of a nonprofit.

The success of any FB page depends upon getting users to "follow" the page and then to share the posts with their friends and followers, who in turn also share. When each user maximizes the reach of their individual social network, then the total overall number of people finally reached can be huge. Building a following on the LWVAAC FB page has been slow but steadily upward. To help FB page administrators measure the reach, FB offers "insights"—an analytical tool that provides pertinent data on each post. Data include the number of people reached with a single post, number of clicks, engagements, and reactions.

Insights: On average, LWVAAC posts received 25 views—some posts as low as 8 and one as high as 546. For example, on multiple posts in support of Anne Arundel County Bill 68-19, an ordinance strengthening the Forest Conservation Act, posts received a total of 387 views. Additionally, we linked several posts to the testimony of our President Alfa Stevens, which had been uploaded to the LWVAAC website. Another insight example comes from our FB posts about an LWVAAC reception held last fall for the Anne Arundel County Delegation of the Maryland General Assembly, wherein a single post with pictures had been viewed 235 times. The LWVAAC Electoral College Forum was promoted heavily through FB, including on the FB “events” listing. Feedback from an “insights” chart showed “views” of this event ranged from 63 to over 500 on several individual days.

| Topic | Number of Posts with graphics and video | Linked with the LWVAAC Website | Number of views by FB users |
|--|---|--------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| AA County Council, County Executive legislation/events | 11 | 6 | 457 |
| Census2020 | 9 | 1 | 207 |
| Voting Information | 6 | 2 | 237 |
| Civility Matters (Video), Civic Engagement Op/Ed | 2 | 2 | 136 |
| LWV Legislative Priorities | 2 | | 8 |
| Fair Maps Campaign | 9 | 0 | 249 |
| Special Recognition Days and Events* | 12 | 3 | 277 |

*Excludes number of views emanating from FB events.

Website, Niecy Chambers

With thanks again to LWVMD, which currently absorbs the cost for local Leagues, LWVAAC is able to utilize the NationBuilder (NB) platform for our website, member database and email communications. In 2019-20, we sent 19 customized email blasts to League members, prospects, elected officials and others through NB. The platform allows us to “tag” individuals according to their areas of interest, and provides analytic data showing how many people open and “click through” our emails.

This year LWVAAC signed up for online credit card processing through NB, enabling us to accept dues, annual meeting fees and other payments through our website. We also began to use NB’s interactive event pages that provides live links to maps and allow website visitors to RSVP and purchase tickets, when applicable.

FUNDRAISING, Niecy Chambers

LWVAAC’s annual fundraising appeal in support of voter services such as candidate forums and the print *Voters’ Guide* will be mailed in late May or early June 2020.

LWVAAC SUMMARY OF POSITIONS

Introduction: The positions summarized below are the result of studies conducted by the League of Women Voters of Anne Arundel County over many years. Studies inform members about public policy issues. When a League study results in consensus among members, the resulting position statement articulates desired LWVAAC's public policy and may be used to advocate at local governmental levels.

Affordable Housing (Adopted 1992)

Action to secure affordable housing for low and very low income residents and special populations in Anne Arundel County and the City of Annapolis.

Support for:

1. rehabilitation of the existing housing supply to maintain the stock of affordable housing;
2. meeting the housing and human service needs of special populations including, but not limited to the homeless;
3. increasing opportunities for people of low or moderate income;
4. ensuring an adequate stock of subsidized housing, and rental assistance and services to low and very low income persons.

Board of Education (Adopted 1994; achieved 2017)

Support for election of Board of Education members in nonpartisan elections held at the same time as partisan elections.

County Charter (Adopted 1992, modified 2014)

[Action to secure] **Support for** a charter that is clear, concise and confined to fundamentals.

Waste Management

Hazardous (Adopted 1982) Support the efforts of County government to control problems of hazardous waste. Support establishment of central collections points for disposal of hazardous wastes from households and other small generators. Urge the County to provide adequate information on how to report suspected hazardous wastes and on ways to reduce the use of hazardous products in the household.

Solid (Adopted 1990, modified 1994) Support a program of solid waste management that protects public health and the environment through promotions of source reduction, recycling, and adoption of a conservation ethic among individuals, businesses, and government. We believe every individual must take responsibility for his or her waste and must change disposal habits. A solid waste plan should emphasize source reduction, waste materials recovery, recycling, and composting. Incineration (waste to energy) and other alternatives should be considered only after health, environmental, and economic effects have been studied. Includes City of Annapolis.

Planning and Zoning (Adopted in 1986, modified in 1992 and 1995)

Endorsement of the concept of controlled growth and encouragement of strong enforcement of existing land use controls (zoning, and storm water and sediment controls) and adoption of new regulations to support the concept.

The League supports the following goals in accordance with this position.

1. Promote and pursue balanced development in appropriate target areas that will have minimum impact on the environment and maximum long-term benefit to employment and the tax base including provision of opportunity for affordable housing and a variety of commercial activities in established commercial areas and discouragement of strip development.
2. Enforce the County implementation of the critical area laws and ensure their adequacy.
3. Enforce more strongly the adequate public facilities ordinances, including those regarding water and sewer systems, waste water treatment plants, roads, and public transportation.
4. Reduce air, water, and noise pollution.
5. Expand and strengthen watershed management with storm water and sediment controls, using stronger enforcement of regulations and citizen participation, e.g. as monitors.
6. Maintain the integrity of rural residential and established farming areas by expanding the agricultural preservation program.
7. Expand programs that support carpools, vanpools, and all forms of public transportation.

Transportation (Adopted 1988)

Support development and improvement of public transportation in Anne Arundel County, and encourage the county government to have thorough, professional studies made of the transportation needs of various sectors of the population, to develop proposals for meeting the needs, and to find ways to implement appropriate proposals. The LWVAAC should evaluate proposals using relevant criteria regarding:

Users' concerns--needs of various population groups and geographical areas, affordability of fares, travel time reliability and comfort, and safety;

Economics--capital costs (rights of way, construction and equipment), capital funding, operating costs, potential ridership and fare, operating revenues;

Physical matters--availability of rights of way, relation to other systems existing and planned, adaptability to future growth, and fuel type and consumption;

Environmental impact--pollution, and degradation of natural resources.

Immigration (Adopted 2010)

Increase focus and support for the LWVUS position on immigration: In achieving overall policy goals, the League supports a system for unauthorized immigrants already in the country to earn legal status, including citizenship, by paying taxes, learning English, studying civics and meeting other relevant criteria...the League does not support deporting unauthorized immigrants who have no history of criminal activity...all persons should receive fair treatment under the law.

Outlook for work:

Call on local and county police to conduct investigation and apprehension of immigrants in a fair and humane manner.

- With LWVMD, work to establish Immigration Reform as a legislative priority within the LWVUS. Urge that reform include a federal solution to the present denial to non-citizens of housing, health care and welfare services for those non-citizens whose low income levels would otherwise make them eligible.
- Enlist Spanish-speaking adults as mentors for reassuring and informing immigrant adults of the practices of our schools and systems for everyday living.
- Enlarge the number and scope of after-school and summer activities available to Hispanic/Latino middle-school students, and encourage and promote participation in such programs by the students.
- Permit Anne Arundel County Community College to accept in-county resident tuition from any graduate of a county high school who meets entrance requirements.
- Foster formation of a private non-profit Council for Immigrant Services composed of representatives of public and private organizations serving the immigrant population, including businesses, as well as the county and city Human Relations Commissions.

BYLAWS OF THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF ANNE ARUNDEL COUNTY, INC.

ARTICLE I

Name

Section 1. Name. The name of this organization is the League of Women Voters of Anne Arundel County, Inc., herein referred to as the League. The League is an integral part of the League of Women Voters of the United States, herein referred to as the LWVUS, and of the League of Women Voters of Maryland, herein referred to as the LWVMD.

ARTICLE II

Purposes and Policy

Section 1. Purposes. The purposes of the League are to promote political responsibility through informed and active participation in government and to act on selected governmental issues.

Section 2. Political Policy. The League shall not support or oppose any political party or candidate.

ARTICLE III

Membership

Section 1. Eligibility. Any individual who subscribes to the purposes and policy of the League is eligible for membership.

Section 2. Types of Membership. The membership of the League shall be composed of voting members and associate members.

a) Voting Members.

- (1) Persons at least 16 years of age who join the League shall be voting members of the League, the LWVMD and the LWVUS and any regional League to which this League belongs.
- (2) Those who live inside the area of the League may join the League or any other League. Those who reside outside the area of the League may join the League, another local League or shall be LWVMD members-at-large.
- (3) Life Members. Those who have been members of the League for 50 years or more shall be life members excused from payment of dues.

- b) Associate Members. All others who join the League will be associate members.

ARTICLE IV Board of Directors

- Section 1. Selection, Qualifications, and Terms. The Board of Directors (herein referred to as the Board) shall consist of the officers of the League, 6 elected directors and not more than 6 appointed directors.
- (a) All directors shall be voting members of the League. Three directors shall be elected by the general membership at each annual meeting and shall serve for 2 years or until their successors have been elected. The elected members shall appoint additional directors not exceeding 6 as they consider necessary to carry on the work of the League. The terms of office of the appointed directors shall be 1 year and shall expire at the conclusion of the next annual meeting. Vacancies other than the presidency may be filled by vote of the remaining members of the Board. The person filling the vacancy shall serve until the end of the unexpired term.
- (b) The Board may designate long-standing Board members as Board Members Emeritus, who shall not vote but may provide counsel to the Board.
- (c) The Board, by a majority vote, may terminate a Board member for, but not limited to, the following reasons:
- (1) Failure to appear at 3 consecutive Board meetings without advance notification to the President.
- (2) Failure to comply with League policies and guidelines concerning conflict of interest as set forth in LWVMD guide for local Leagues
- Section 2. Powers and Duties. The Board shall manage and supervise the business, affairs and activities of the League subject to the instructions of the general membership at the Annual Meeting. It shall select delegates to the state convention and council and to the national convention. It shall accept responsibility for other matters as the national or state board may delegate to it. It shall have the power to create special committees as it considers necessary and shall perform other duties as specified in these bylaws.
- Section 3. Meetings. There shall be at least 7 regular meetings of the Board annually. The President may call a special meeting of the Board and shall call a special meeting upon the request of 5 members of the Board.
- Section 4. Quorum. A majority of the members of the Board shall be a quorum.

ARTICLE V Officers

- Section 1. Officers. The officers of the League shall include:
- (a) One of the following combinations:
- (1) A President and a Vice-President
- (2) Two Co-Presidents
- (3) A Governing Executive Board
- (b) A Secretary
- (c) A Treasurer
- Section 2. Terms and Elections.
- (a) Except as provided in paragraph (b) of this subsection:

(1) The officers shall be elected for terms of 2 years by the general membership at the annual meeting and take office immediately;

(2) The President, Co-Presidents or Governing Executive Board, and the Secretary shall be elected in odd-numbered years; and

(3) The Vice President and the Treasurer shall be elected in even-numbered years.

(b) When a President is elected to succeed Co-Presidents, the Vice-President shall be elected in the same year as the President and shall serve an initial term of 1 year.

(c) An individual serving as President or Co-President shall not hold the same office for more than 2 consecutive terms.

Section 3. Authorities and Responsibilities.

(a) The President. The President shall have the customary powers of supervision and management of the office; shall preside at all meetings of the League and the Board or designate another member to preside; shall be an ex officio member of all committees except the Nominating Committee. In the absence of the treasurer, may sign or endorse checks, drafts, or notes; and shall perform other duties as the Board may direct. In the event of the absence, disability, resignation or death of the President, the Vice-President shall assume the office of President. If the Vice-President is not able to serve as President, the Board shall fill the vacancy from among the elected directors.

(b) Co-Presidents. Co-Presidents shall have all the powers enumerated in Section 3(a). They shall determine how those powers shall be divided between them. In the event of the absence, disability, resignation or death of a Co-President, the other Co-President shall assume the office of President. If the other Co-President is not able to serve as President, the Board shall fill the Co-Presidency vacancy from among the elected directors.

(c) Governing Executive Board. A Governing Executive Board shall consist of the Board members, both elected and appointed, acting as a governing body without an executive. The Board members shall assume the powers of the President and divide the powers among themselves.

Section 4. The Vice-President. The vice-president shall perform duties the president and as the Board directs.

Section 5. The Secretary. The secretary shall keep minutes of the meetings of the membership and of the Board. The secretary shall notify all officers and directors of their election and shall sign with the President all contracts and other instruments when authorized by the Board and shall perform other duties the President and the Board direct.

Section 6. The Treasurer. The Treasurer shall perform the customary duties of the office and arrange for an annual review or audit of the books and records.

ARTICLE VI Financial Administration

Section 1. Fiscal Year. The fiscal year of the League is from July 1 to June 30.

Section 2. Dues. Annual dues shall be paid by July 1. The Board may set reduced dues for students, associate and household members, and may provide scholarships for active members. A

member who fails to pay dues within 3 months after they are due shall be dropped from the membership roster.

Section 3. Budget Committee. The Board shall appoint the Committee. The Treasurer shall be a member of the Committee but shall not serve as chair. The proposed budget shall be prepared not later than 2 months before the Annual Meeting and provided to all members not later than 1 month before the Annual Meeting.

Section 4. Distribution of Funds on Dissolution. In the event of the dissolution of the League, all money and securities of the League shall be paid to the LWVMD after the state and national per-member payments and other obligations have been met. All other property of the League shall be conveyed to a person, organization or corporation for public, charitable, or educational uses and purposes as the Board in its absolute discretion may designate.

ARTICLE VII Meetings

Section 1. Membership Meetings. There shall be at least 3 program meetings of the membership each year. The Board shall determine the dates, times and places of the meetings.

Section 2. Annual Meeting. An Annual Meeting shall be held between April 1 and June 30, on a date to be determined by the Board. At the Annual Meeting, members present and voting, shall:

- (a) Adopt a local program for the next year.
- (b) Elect officers, directors, and a member to the nominating committee.
- (c) Determine the amount of dues members shall pay.
- (d) Adopt a budget.
- (e) Transact other business that properly comes before them.

Section 3. Quorum. Ten percent (10%) of the voting members is a quorum for all League meetings.

ARTICLE VIII Committees and Elections

Section 1. Nominating Committee. The Nominating Committee shall consist of 3 members: The Chair, preferably a former Board Member, shall be appointed by the Board for the following program year in advance of the Annual Meeting; 1 member, who shall not be a Board member but shall be elected at the Annual Meeting; and one member, who shall be a Board member, will be appointed by the Board immediately after the Annual Meeting. A committee vacancy shall be filled by a Board appointment.

(a) Report of the Nominating Committee. The report of the Nominating Committee shall be sent to all members 1 month before the date of the Annual Meeting.

(b) Other Nominations. A nomination may be made from the floor at the Annual Meeting by a voting member, if the proposed nominee consents.

(c) Elections. The election shall be by ballot. If there is only one nominee for each office, the Secretary may be instructed to cast the ballot for every nominee. A majority of members qualified to vote, present and voting, shall constitute an election. Absentee and proxy voting are not permitted.

Section 2. Budget Committee. See Article VI, Financial Administration.

Section 3. Bylaws Review Committee. The Committee shall consist of 3 members. The Board shall appoint 2 Board members, who shall select a non-Board member, to review Bylaws annually. Any changes to the Bylaws shall be reported to the Board for approval before presenting them to be voted on by members at the next Annual Meeting.

ARTICLE IX

Principles and Program

- Section 1. Principles. The principles of the League are concepts of government adopted by the national convention and supported by the League as a whole. They are the authorization for the adoption of the national, state and local program.
- Section 2. Program. The program of the League shall consist of action to implement the principles and those local governmental issues chosen at the Annual Meeting for study and action as follows:
- (a) Voting members may make recommendations to the Board not later than 2 months before the Annual Meeting.
 - (b) The Board shall consider these recommendations and formulate a proposed program that shall be sent to the members not later than 1 month before the Annual Meeting.
 - (c) The members may adopt a program by a majority vote. Program recommendations properly submitted to the Board, but not proposed by the Board, shall by majority vote be considered at the Annual Meeting and by majority vote may be adopted by the Annual Meeting.
- Section 3. Changes in Program. Changes to the program may be made if:
- (a) Information concerning the proposed change has been sent to all members at least 2 weeks before the Annual Meeting at which the change is discussed; and, final action by the membership is taken at a succeeding meeting.
- Section 4. Program Action.
- (a) Members may act in the name of the League only if authorized by the Board.
 - (b) Members may act only in conformity with a position of the League, the LWVMD, and the LWWUS.

ARTICLE X

National Convention, State Convention and Council

- Section 1. National Convention. The Board of Directors shall select delegates to the convention of the LWWUS up to the number allotted by the bylaws of that organization.
- Section 2. State Convention and Council. The Board of Directors shall select delegates to the convention or council of the LWVMD up to the number allotted by the bylaws of that organization.

ARTICLE XI

Parliamentary Authority

Robert's Rules of Order Newly Revised shall govern the League in all cases to which they are applicable and in which they are not inconsistent with these Bylaws.

ARTICLE XII

Amendments

The Bylaws may be amended by two-thirds vote of the voting members at an annual meeting, if the proposed amendments are submitted to the membership in writing not later than 1 month before the meeting.

Revised April 8, 2019
Accepted by the Membership without revision May 11, 2019