

BOOK II

**League of Women Voters
of Calvert County**



2020 ANNUAL REPORT

BOOK II

REPORT ON 2019-2020 ACTIVITIES

Wednesday, May 27, 2020

6:00 to 8:00 p.m.

Virtual Zoom Meeting

Please register for the Annual Meeting on line at lwvcalvert.org, to obtain instructions for connecting with the meeting.

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A REPORT ON 2019-2020 ACTIVITIES

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Introduction

to the 2020 Annual Report of the League of Women Voters of Calvert County

Please register for the Annual Meeting on line at the LWVCC website: lwvcalvert.org to obtain instructions for connecting to the meeting.

This Annual Report outlines the activities of the League during 2019 – 2020.

- **Book I:** contains materials for our 2020 Annual Meeting, including an agenda for that meeting, the Nominating Committee Report, Recommended Programs for the coming year, the revised Calvert County League of Women Voters (LWVCC) Bylaws and the Calendar of the past year's activities.
- **Book II:** is a comprehensive report on the Calvert County League's activities this past year. For ease of use, Book II is organized alphabetically---starting with the Calvert County Green Expo and ending with WOW (the Women of the World annual awards luncheon.)

Please read these materials and have them with you during the 2020 Annual Meeting. We encourage you to volunteer to work in areas that especially interest you.

Watch for updates on LWV activities at our website – <https://lwvcalvert.org>. And please join us at our upcoming 2020 Candidate Forums next fall, member activities and the monthly meetings of the LWV Board of Directors.

Individual LWV members submitted the reports about their areas of activity. Sharron Bickel and Dawn Tucker compiled and organized that information into this *Annual Report*.

**THE LWV (LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS
... is a nonpartisan political organization that
encourages informed and active participation in government,
works to increase understanding of major public policy
issues, and seeks to influence public policy through
education and advocacy.**

Men as well as women can join the LWV.

**For more information about the Calvert County LWV,
see <https://lwvcalvert.org/>**

Calvert County Green Expo

Submitted by Gladys White



The League of Women Voters of Calvert County conducted a study and recommended that the County increase the use alternative energy. The study, led by Dawn Balinski, recommended “the greening of Calvert County.” The County formed the “Calvert County Citizens Green Team.” The main event of the team is the Annual Calvert County Green Expo.

Over 100 vendors showcased their green products, services and programs on June 1, 2010 in Anne Marie Gardens in Lusby. The event was well attended by over 1,000 people from the Tri County area. The League of Women Voters of Calvert County had a table staffed by Renita Alexander, J.C. Hooker and Gladys White. The League’s focus at the event was voter registration, showing the League’s sign and distributing information on upcoming events, voter registration and league policy statements on environmental issues. Approx. 1,000 people attended.

Civic Education for Youth Advocacy Pilot Program

Submitted by Pat Pease

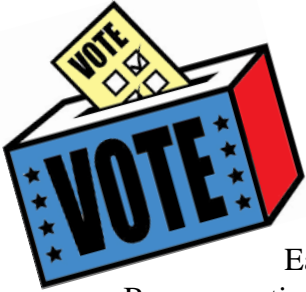
Five years ago in collaboration with #Our Common Calvert youth and LWVCC, the Advocacy Project began to encourage high school youth empowerment and leadership skills by developing and presenting to local legislators topics of concern including the environment, equity issues (LGBTQ, hate crimes criminal justice), minimum wage, personal health, public safety, gun safety and election law. Members of LWVCC assisted the project with training about who their legislators are, how a bill is developed and supported and how it becomes law.

After a search for bills of interest to the students, a trip to the legislature was planned with advance notice to legislators, and transportation was provided by the school administration to go to Annapolis to meet and address their legislators in action and observe the House and Senate at work. Other trainers from the community involved in the project included the Equity Team teachers from the high schools, the NAACP, CBW, staff from the States Attorney’s office and legislative aids to our state officials.

Each year we learned what could be done to improve the experience for students and legislators. We were unable to make the trip this year due to legislative activities beyond our control. However, the project concept was expanded considerably by working with civics classes as well as the Equity group of teachers and students at Calvert High School.

History Fair Award on *Breaking Barriers in Voting*

Submitted by Margaret Dunkle



National History Day (“History Fair”) is a nationwide effort for middle-and high-school age students to do rigorous historical research. Students can choose to do an exhibit, a performance, an historical paper, a website, or a documentary.

Each year there is a different theme. The 2020 theme was *Breaking Barriers in History*. Because voting is at the heart of our democracy as well as a core value of the League of Women Voters, the Calvert County League of Women Voters sponsored a prize for the best projects on ***Breaking Barriers in Voting***.

Eligible projects eligible could look at any aspect of *Breaking Barriers in Voting* in the United States, such as:

- Decisions our founders made about who could – or could not – vote
- The 15th Amendment (1870), which granted *African-American men* the right to vote
- The 19th Amendment (1920), which granted *women* the right to vote
- The Voting Rights Act (1965), which aimed to eliminate racial discrimination in voting by, for example, outlawing “literacy” tests
- Gerrymandering – creating voting district boundaries in a way that helps one political party over another
- Efforts to suppress voting – from yesterday’s *poll taxes* requiring that citizens pay a fee in order to vote . . . to efforts today to require official photo IDs or to have fewer polling places
- Technology’s role in making voting secure – from voter registration to counting votes
- Effects of different systems of voting, such as the caucuses in presidential elections and “open primaries”
- Comparing elections in the U.S. to other countries
- The effect of electing the President by *Electoral College* votes, rather than the *popular vote*

The winners of the League of Women Voters 2020 Award focusing on *Breaking Barriers in Voting* were:

Emily Ingle & Hannah Staley of Huntingtown High School for their exhibit on *Women’s Rights: How Women Came Together to Make a Difference*. Their teacher is Ms. Morris.

Brooklyn Remus of Mill Creek Middle School for her historical research paper on woman’s suffrage and *Susan B Anthony*. Her teacher is Ms. Hall.

Photo to the right shows LWV First Vice President Margaret Dunkle with Senior Division winners Emily Ingle & Hannah Staley.



Legislative Evening with Elected Maryland State Delegation Calvert Pines Senior Center

Submitted by Chris Banks

The League of Women Voters (the League) Legislative Evening, as a service to the citizens of Calvert County, provided an opportunity for individuals and local organizations to express ideas and opinions to Calvert's Legislative Team in the Maryland General Assembly (General Assembly). The 2019 event was held at the Calvert Pines in Prince Frederick on Thursday, November 14, 2020 starting at 6:30pm.

Following the Meet and Greet session from 6:30-7:00pm, the audience was welcomed by the Chairwoman, Chris Banks, and listened to a review of the forum rules as presented by Dixie Miller. Inez Claggett served as moderator for the evening.

Elected officials in attendance were Past Senate President, Thomas V. Miller, Delegate Michael A. Jackson, Delegate Jerry Clark and Andrew Fulginiti, aide to Mark Fisher who was unable to attend. Senator Jack Bailey had sent regrets prior to the event. Each legislator was granted 4 minutes each to discuss achievements from the previous legislative session as well as upcoming issues before the 2020 General Assembly.

Of the 22 organizations and individuals pre-registered to speak, 16 actually participated speaking on a wide variety of topics. Among the organizations represented were Boys and Girls Club of Southern MD, Calvert County Commission of Women, Calvert County Demographic Central Committee, Calvert County Republican Central Committee, Calvert Mediation, Circle of Angels, Sustainable Calvert Network, Mason Road Community Group, Calvert County NAACP, Calvert County Minority Business Alliance, Maryland Episcopal Public Policy Network and the Sierra Club. Concerned Black Women were also in attendance as well as individuals from the Kirwan Commission which held a forum the previous night. Workers with the 2020 Census were also present.

The speakers presented on what they considered legislative matters as well as those related to non-legislative matters. Comments made included words of appreciation from the CEO of the Boys and Girls Club who wanted it known how much Senator Miller had supported and helped obtain increased funding for the club's after school and summer programs. The President of the NAACP expressed concerns regarding legislation which could negatively impact food truck owners in Calvert County especially African Americans, because of the greater expenses created if passed. The Chair of the Republican Central Committee aired the problem of increased taxes for Calvert citizens resulting from the funding of the Kirwan Commission if it were to pass. Speaking for the Kirwan funding which is intended to improve the quality of education in Maryland, was Len Zusa representative from the League of Women Voter as well as the Calvert Education Association. The 2020 Census Calvert organizer strongly encouraged citizens to acknowledge their civic duty and complete and return their census forms when arrived.

Speaking passionately for the citizens who reside on Mason Road in Prince Frederick was a active senior citizen. She chronicled how the lack of adequate traffic control 261 was jeopardizing those who had to access Mason Road from 261. It appears that this matter has been brought to legislators' attention for

over 15 years. The legislators listed and commented on these and other matters and readily received the follow-up handouts from the speakers.

The evening ended with a call to action from the League President JC Hooker to all in attendance. Her calls to action included getting registered to vote, vote and return the census among other essential civic duties. On behalf of the League, she expressed gratitude to the legislators for their time and attention to citizen concerns.

Many thanks to committee volunteers.



Membership and Membership Events

Submitted by Sharron Bickel, J.C. Hooker, Sandra Raviv and Norma Olney

Committee Activities

Due to various difficulties, unfortunately, we had no Membership Committee chair during this year. However, we were fortunate to have an active board that stepped in to get the job done.

Currently, the League has 75 members. The roster is maintained on the WIX platform (<https://lwvcalvert.org>, managed by League member Janet Bellizzi) as well Salesforce (LWV national platform). Every year, the roster manager updates our membership with the national league (LWVUS) which in turn updates the state league. The board treasurer, Tricia Powell, reports membership numbers. Within a few months, WIX will be replaced by NationBuilder, a platform provided by the LWV of Maryland. J.C. Hooker, with the assistance of others, manages the Face Book account.

Over the years, there has been confusion as to what constitutes the LWVCC fiscal year. This year, with the revision of the Bylaws, there is greater clarity. The fiscal year has been set from July 1, 2020, to June 30, 2021. Membership dues are due prior to July 1, 2020. We hope this clarification will help in recruiting and maintaining our membership.

Our primary LWVCC business meeting has been our Annual Meeting, usually scheduled for May. However, we plan to have a second membership business meeting this year, probably in late fall or early winter.

Please volunteer to serve on the Membership Committee!

The membership committee duties include welcoming new members, communicating with members and potential members about the League's mission and the great opportunities to be a part of that mission. And of course, the committee lets the membership know about social gatherings as well. It is a great opportunity to get to know the wonderful members of the Calvert League.

Summer Social Membership Meeting

Submitted by J.C. Hooker

A Membership Social Meeting was held at Calvert Pines, August 17, 2019, 2 – 4 pm. The membership arrived to an assortment of refreshments to nibble on while networking. Our guest speaker, Mr. Lee Osbury from the Census, gave a twenty minute power point presentation on Census 2020. He answered questions from the audience. (Examples: If someone does not have a computer to complete the report, what do you do? If you had a Post Office Box, would you still get notified about the Census?) Mr. Osbury assured the audiences that all sources of media such as social media, television, radio, newspapers, flyers, brochures, mail outs and any other form available would be used to get the word out to the public. Field workers will be used as the final phase of the Census.

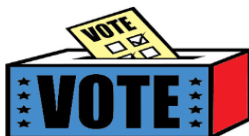
The Census has created a Complete Count Committee in each area to help with get the word out to the community and make certain everyone is counted. Calvert County's Complete Count Committee is comprised of community organizations, government and citizens. The County's fair share of Federal and State funds for jobs, education, housing, businesses, and manufacturing depends on our census count. The League of Women Voters has two representatives, Janet Bellizzi and Gladys White, that participate on the Complete Count Committee.

All information gathered is confidential. April 1, 2020 is the Official Census Day. Groups that are largely under-counted are age 5 and under, ages 18-24, veterans, non-English speakers, immigrants, persons with disability, and seniors. Each person not counted results in a loss of \$1800 per person per year. Calvert County scored 80% participation in 2010. Our goal is 100% participation this year to ensure no dollars are lost to the County.

Gladys White gave an overview of Voter Services including planned voter registration trainings, ongoing voter registration, the 411.org online candidate information site, and distribution of the of the printed candidate information.

Prior to the General Election the Voter Services Committee will hold a forum for candidates. Voter Services first task is to ensure voters are registered, second to inform voters of rules and regulation changes, and third that voter VOTE. Voter Services encourages the membership to get involved during this busy time of year to ensure that voters are registered and voters know where and how to vote.

EVERY VOTES COUNTS!



2020 Winter Social

Submitted by Sandra Raviv

Members attended an informal winter social on a Sunday afternoon, December 7, 2019, at the Bayside History Museum in North Beach, courtesy of Grace Mary Brady, League member and Museum Administrator. In addition to delightful delicacies and goodies brought by the members, a variety of holiday beverages and music were also enjoyed.

Following time for networking and exchange of holiday greetings, the group engaged in a Trivia contest centered on the women's suffrage movement, organized by Sandra Raviv. Winners with the most correct answers received prizes of assorted chocolates. It was agreed that everyone learned something new about women's suffrage from the lively exercise.

100th Anniversary Celebration

Submitted by Sandra Raviv

The LWVCC developed several projects in 2020 to recognize the League's 100 years of promoting democracy.

A "Letter to the Editor" (written by Sharron Bickel) was published in the local *Calvert Recorder* to publicize the occasion, giving a brief description of the League's early history and contributions that the local LWVCC has made to this community.

On February 12, the League held a program at Asbury Solomons for the public and distinguished guests. The event was emceed by Margaret Dunkle, who underscored that we were celebrating both the establishment of Women's Suffrage and the formation of League of Women Voters.

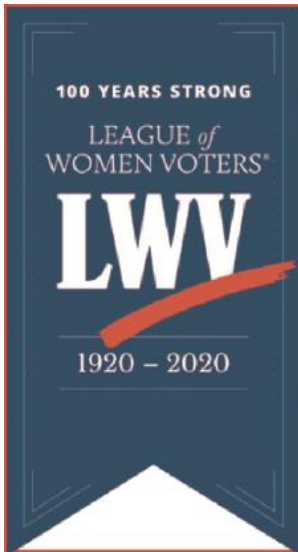
Sandra Raviv summarized the first two years of the local Calvert League (1967 – 1969), pointing out the similarities in issues that the early and present day League share.

Maureen Hoffman read proclamations from both State and County officials recognizing the League of Women Voters' contributions. This was followed by a panel of past League presidents (Barbara Fetterhoff, Norma Imershein, Debra Harris) who offered memories of significant moments in their experience in the Calvert League. The panel was moderated by Sharron Bickel.

Pat Pease, representative to the LWV of Maryland, gave an overview of 2020 League Objectives, including the state League's Study on Civic Education in Maryland.

Len Zuza gave a power point explanation of key elements of proposed Kirwan Commission on Education recommendations with pros and cons.

President J.C. Hooker closed the celebration with remarks on the crucial mission of the League to assure voting rights.



"Congratulations to the LWV Celebration 100 Years of Service" From the Family of the late Regina Brown

Events and Fundraisers for the League of Women Voters of Calvert County

Submitted by Norma Olney

The Calvert League missed two great events this spring due to the Covid-19 crisis. A much anticipated boat cruise leaving from Solomons Island was scheduled for Sunday, April 26 from 3-5 pm, aboard the historic "Half Shell."

In addition,, our annual membership dinner was to be held May 13, 2020 at Stoney's Seafood Restaurant located in Prince Frederick, MD from 6 pm to 8-pm. We were disappointed, but both canceled events will be rescheduled at a later date in 2020.

The Events and Fundraising committee is also exploring ideas for 2021 such as 1) "Sit and Sip", a wine tasting at Running Hare Vineyard in Prince Frederick, MD; 2) a "Tea Party" (for ladies a hat an gloves will be required!); 3) Golf Tournament and 4) several boat ride cruises out of Solomons Island and/or Chesapeake Beach, MD.

The Events and Fundraising Committee welcomes fellow League members who would like to **volunteer and experience the fun and satisfaction of helping to plan these events.**

By the time we are released from "safe distancing", we will be raring to see the sights and enjoy each other's company!.

Observer Teams of the League of Women Voters of Calvert County

An Introduction to the League of Calvert's Three Observer Teams

Submitted by Sharron Bickel

Our local League of Women Voters maintains three separate observer teams – one each for the Board of County Commissioners, Board of Education and the Planning Commission. Our observers attend each of the meetings and, when life interferes, they watch video of the meetings. Through collaboration with team members and other the other observer teams, they focus on:

- emerging issues,
- the level of transparency, and
- whether the observed bodies are acting as honest brokers of information.

While meeting agendas and staff support materials are published in advance, the team members observe and report on the discussions and questions concerning the topics. Those discussion and topics can foretell future issues to be alert for. The three teams meet jointly approximately every three or four months.

Planning & Zoning Observation Team

Submitted by J.C. Hooker

There were several important meetings observed by the Planning Commission Observer Team during 2019-2020.

The July meeting for the Calvert County Planning and Zoning Commission outlined the direction of the County for the upcoming meetings.

On August 6, 2019 the Commissioners voted to adopt the July 23, 2019 draft of the Calvert County Comprehensive Plan with amendments. The plan replaces the Comprehensive Plan adopted in 2004 and amended in 2010. The Comprehensive Plan document serves as a guide for a vision of the county's future. The plan will be implemented through local laws and public investments over the next 25 years. The Calvert County Comprehensive Plan (August, 2019) (PDF) and an overview presentation can be found online under the Planning & Zoning. Items of interest at this meeting were a Public Hearing regarding Calvert County Comprehensive Plan; Transportation Plan Update, and Major Subdivision Proposed List.

The September Meeting was live stream on cable. Ms. Waddell summarized the Updating of the Zoning Ordinance which includes the Transportation Plan Update and Updating seven town centers, starting with Prince Frederick town center. Updating the Town Center would be in three stages 1) Issue Identification 2) Develop and Update Plan 3) Adoption Process. The process will take 12-15 months for each town center in the master plan. During this process each town center will be updating the town center zoning regulations, which is a separate process.

Ms. Waddell informed the Commissioners that the staff goal is to address the concerns that were voiced from the Comprehensive Plan. The staff goal is to engage the community for their concerns and feedback. Types of meetings, dates and times are being considered. Plans are to have a Liaison

Committee with people from residences and organizations on the committee. The plan is to engage the community with information through social media, such as face book.

A Special Meeting and Work Session were held September 26, 2019. The staff was directed to distribute the Draft Transportation Plan for a 60-day review, and leave it open for public comment during that time.

The Schedule for Town Center Master Plans Updates - * Prince Frederick January 2020, Dunkirk July 2020, Lusby January 2021, Solomon July 2021, Owings January 2022, Huntingtown July 2022, St. Leonard January 2023 * Also the Town Center zoning regulations will need to be updated.

Other updates will be as follows:

Calvert County Land Preservation, Parks & Recreation Plan 2021 for adoption in 2022 Calvert County Comprehensive Plan 5-year review 2024

County Transportation Plan 5-year review 2024

Town Center Master Plan reviews 2025-2028

Zoning Regulations 5-year review

Initiate the County Comprehensive Plan Update 2027 for adoption in 2029

Town Center Master Plan Updates 2030-2035

The Planning Commission Public Hearing regarding Calvert County Transportation Plan was set for December 18, 2019, 7:00 p.m. at Harriet E. Brown Community Center.

At the January 15, 2020, Meeting the Planning Commission voted to accept the edits proposed by staff, to close the record, and to delay action on the plan to determine whether it is consistent with the Calvert County Comprehensive Plan. The Planning Commission directed that the draft be updated to include the edits and to make the update available on the county's website.

On February 4, 2020 the Board of County Commissioners (BOCC) held a work session on the Transportation Plan. The BOCC directed that minor edits be made to the plan and to add the technical memos to the appendix. The BOCC directed staff to proceed to public hearing. Next Steps: The BOCC scheduled a public hearing on the February 2020 draft Transportation Plan on February 25, 2020 at 10:30 a.m. at the Board's regularly scheduled meeting.

The Government Offices closed April 3, 2020 and reopen April 27 but not to the public. The Planning Commission meeting is scheduled for live stream May 20, 2020 at 7 PM on live stream. The agenda and minutes will be posted prior to every meeting. You are encouraged to watch the live stream or on demand.

The process of updating the Prince Frederick Town Center Master Plan and the Town Center Zoning Regulation has been delayed due to Corona virus Disease 2019 (COVID-19). Get involved and stay informed because the other six town centers will go through the same process that Prince Frederick Town Center is doing now.

Planning Commission Observers are J.C. Hooker, Sandra Raviv and Maureen Hoffman

Board of County Commissioners (BOCC) Observer Team

Submitted by Sharron Bickel

The Board of County Commissioners Observer Team volunteers observe the weekly meetings of the Board as well as other Commissioners' meetings requiring public notice. Recently, the public has not been able to physically observe the meetings, but the meetings can be observed via video.

During the coming year (2019 – 2020) the team will meet monthly, either in person or via telephone conference or zoom, to schedule coverage and discuss observations.

The team will focus on the development of the Prince Frederick Master Plan, which is ongoing, and the team will contribute to the League study of the development of the Prince Frederick Master Plan, if the study is adopted.

Quarterly, the BOCC team meets jointly with the Board of Education Observers and the Planning Commission Observers to share information and concerns.

Team volunteers are Dave Hardy, Lila West, Karen Horton, Ann Mychalus and Sharron Bickel.

We invite you to volunteer for this interesting, enlightening experience!

Board of Education Observer Team

Submitted by Pat Pease

The 2019 – 2020 school year has centered on the unrest and distress of teachers and students throughout the system. Several of the evening Board meetings were focused on hearing from teachers, parents and students who registered their concerns about the disciplinary design and the time it was taking away from students' learning experience. A primary issue raised was dealing with the disruptive behavior of students at the elementary level in early grades.

Teachers have been injured by young students responding physically in anger and frustration from lack of social emotional control. Additionally, they feel they haven't enough time to prepare the required written lesson plans which must be submitted to supervisors.

One meeting lasted until midnight so that over 50 teachers and several parents could voice their concerns. To the credit of Board members, they have encouraged these discussions and even called a special evening hearing inviting all teachers to come and express their concerns.

Both teachers and students have urged funding for more psychologists and social workers. Because the school pay scale for these credentials is lower than what professionals can earn in the private sector, there is not much appeal to spend the short periods of time moving from school to school. Nor do the schools have full time scheduling for services daily. And so, Student Services has several vacancies that cannot be filled.

Each year a student is elected to serve on the board to provide an understanding of their experience in the school environment. They convey insights from a student perspective that the Board respects and appreciates. *Board of Education Observers are Pat Pease and Gladys White.*

The Equity project is designed for middle and high school students by the administrator, Sandy Walker, and faculty using a curriculum entitled “Speak Up At School: How to Respond to Everyday Prejudice, Bias, and Stereotypes.” Trainings and other materials are accessed throughout the year for all other faculty and staff as well. The project is being replicated by other school systems in Maryland with Mr. Walker’s assistance.

The Calvert Board of Education took upon themselves four challenges this school year: restoring pay steps, teacher shortages, social emotional learning and closing the achievement gap. Year “One” is underway with many more to follow. A huge undertaking. Definitely years of challenge ahead.

Publicity Committee Activities

Newsletter, e-campaigns, social media presence, website, press releases and ads were developed. Seeking members for this committee. Sandra Raviv will be the committee chair.

League of Women Voters of Calvert County Studies: *An Introduction to the League of Calvert’s Studies Purpose, Process and Opportunity*

Submitted by Sandra Raviv

A foundational underpinning of the League since its inception in 1920 is the participation of *informed* citizens in their political process. Hence, since its creation in 1957, the League Education Fund has served as a citizen education and research organization providing a process for thorough and balanced examination of important issues. The Fund’s archived studies are available to some 800 national, state, and local Leagues in addition to the public. From the LWV Education Fund Clearinghouse for studies web page (<https://sites.google.com/a/leagueofwomensvoters.org/clearinghouse/home>):

“Year in and year out, the men and women of the League are committed to providing fact-based information and open discussion forums to help voters make their own decisions....Our goals have always been to widen democratic participation; insist on both governmental and campaign funding transparency; and encourage full researched, fact-based decision-making in both foreign and domestic policies.”

“The League of Women Voters takes action on an issue only when we have a position addressing it. If the members have not studied and come to consensus on it, the League has no position and therefore cannot take action. Studies (whether national, state, or local) are a defined process lasting one to three years, during which we undertake through pursuit of facts and details, both positive and negative, and come to consensus about policy.”

Study committee members draft consensus questions, utilizing articles, books, videos, data, interviews, and other resources to examine an issue. The information is brought to the membership for consensus on the questions, and then to the Board for recommended positions based on the membership consensus. The study committee reviews the Board recommendations, and forms a consensus statement which becomes the recommended League position. This proposed position then goes back to the members who vote to approve, amend, or reject it.

Study committees are chaired by one or two Board members, who help to enlist members who will be as neutral or balanced as possible, representing all sides of the study issue. Specific roles for each member are determined based upon their experience with the issue.

The Calvert League has authored many studies in its 50- plus years history: on transportation, housing, the needs of children, transparency in government, the county's environmental practices, etc. The studies directly or indirectly led to the formation of the Collaborative for Children, the swimming pool, the Harriet Elizabeth Brown Community Center, the Housing Authority, the Green Expo, etc. Let's keep the possibility of initiating a study in mind as we identify civic problems.

Study of The Effects of Climate Change in Calvert County

Submitted by Sandra Raviv

If the proposed study, The Effects of Climate Change in Calvert County, is approved, the study group will define "climate change" as it applies to Calvert County. The group will identify sources of information, interview scientists and others engaged in studying the subject as well as County officials involved in environmental policy. It may also study circumstances in which conflict arises around mitigation efforts.

This study would follow up on a League forum held previously on the phenomenon of and effects of rising sea level on Calvert County.

The study group will give periodic reports to the Board and the membership of its activities. Any issues that the study group identifies that may be appropriate for League action will be forwarded to the Board.

Study of Prince Frederick Master Plan and the Calvert County LWV

Submitted by Sharron Bickel

The proposed study of the Prince Frederick Master Plan, if approved, would follow the development of the Plan and report the group's findings to the membership. This will be an important study, because the Prince Frederick Mast Plan will undoubtedly foreshadow the way Master Plans for other Town Centers will be developed.

The study group will develop procedures and goals for the group. Probable goals may include interviewing all stake holders and assessing the extent to which there are opportunities for citizen input and transparency.

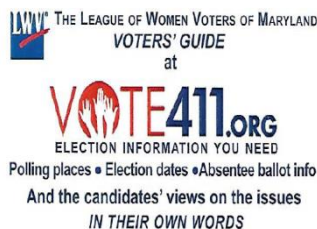
The observer teams (Board of County Commissioners, Planning Commission, Board of Education) will assist the study group in acquiring information.

Issues may be identified on which the League may want to take a position as the study proceeds. These issues will be brought to the attention of the Board and the membership.

The study will require sufficient member involvement and adequate funds (at this time, no major expenses are expected) to proceed.

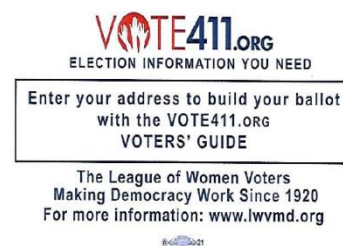
Voter Services Report for 2019-2020

Submitted by Gladys White



Voting and Voter Services are in the DNA of the League of Women Voters.

The Voters' Bill of Rights



The Maryland Voter Bill of Rights document was approved in July of 2019 by the Board of Directors. The document provides the community information and insights into the voting process. The Bill of Rights gives information about the following: types of identification required to present when voting; important dates related to the elections process; and an explanation of the provisional ballot and mail-in ballot. This document is currently on display at the front desk of the Board of Election Office located in Prince Frederick, Maryland. Copies of this document were provided to the State League for their use and is available on the LWVCC website under “Publications”.

We have worked very closely with the Board of Election staff on this document. As the Board of Election received new information, the document was updated accordingly. The latest update pertains to the change in the primary election date due to COVID-19. This document has been made available and distributed at each of our events during this calendar year. The documents were also translated into Spanish to provide greater access and information to the Hispanic and Latino populations.

Voters Registration Trainings

This year the committee was able to sponsor two trainings. The Board of Election staff provided the trainings at the Calvert Library in Prince Frederick. The first event was held in September 2019, where forty-six people received the training in September. The second event was held on March 5, 2020 in which twenty people received training. The committee would like to extend their appreciation to Gail Hatfield, Paula Bailey and the entire staff of the Board of Elections for their cooperation and participation in these events. As a reminder, the training needs to be continually revised and updated yearly.

Voter Registration Events for 2019-2020

Committee members participated in National Night Out, which was held at the Harriet Brown Community Center and the Yardley Hills Development. We were able to register people to vote, provide information about the Voter Bill of Rights and distribute flyers about the Legislative Evening.

Voter registration events were held at the College of Southern Maryland (CSM) campus in Prince Frederick on September 24, 2019 and October 2, 2019. Buildings A and B were utilized for the National Voter Registration. At both events the following materials were distributed: information about the Voter Bill of Rights in English and Spanish; applications for election judges; and information about the 2020 Census. The committee is extremely grateful for Ms. Erika Abell and the CSM staff for their assistance with these events. The CSM student population is important to our mission. We were able to register approximately seventy students during these activities. Success for these events is attributed to the cadre of volunteers from the following organizations: Concerned Black Women of Calvert County; Let People

Vote of Southern Maryland; the Tri-County Alumnae Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc.; and the Omega Pi Omega Chapter of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc.

Voter registration drives were conducted at all public high schools in Calvert County between mid-October and early November. The following high schools participated in the drives: Calvert High School, Patuxent High School, Huntingtown High School and Northern High School. The students were excited and prepared for the event. At Northern High School some of the student league members volunteered to assist us with registration. The staff at each school were very welcoming to our endeavor. The committee was very pleased with the outcome of these activities at each school.

Family Life Center Community Fair

On October 18, 2019 the league took part in the Family Life Center (FLC) Fair at St. John Vianney Church located in Prince Frederick. This fair addressed the needs of the homeless and the most needy in our community. We gave away snacks and clothing items such as socks, hats, and gloves. Many of the participants registered to vote. We also provided copies of the Voter Bill of Rights to the attendees.

Voter Education Activity

Ms. Erika Abell requested that the Voter Service committee organize an activity about the importance of the voter process for the students at the Prince Frederick campus of College of Southern Maryland. Janet Bellizzi and I wrote a script to be presented. The theme was “Your Vote Your Choice Your Future”. The presentation was provided on February 11, 2020. We stressed the importance of voting and how one vote can change the outcome of elections. The presentation was well received, and the students had many questions.

Vote 411.org

Election 2020 is fast approaching and Vote 411.org is getting ready. Janet Ashy has been working with the state league on behalf of LWVCC. She submitted questions and collected responses from candidates to be part of the website. Vote 411.org should be online as soon as the Calvert Board of Elections confirms certain voting conditions, hopefully by early May.

Calvert County Complete Count Committee

Two committee members participated in the Calvert County Complete County Committee, which was formed by the Calvert County Board of Commissioners at the request of the U.S. Census Bureau. The goal was to reach and include in the 2020 census hard-to-reach populations such as non-English speaking residents, immigrants, the disabled, children under the age of 5 or between the ages of 18 and 24, the illiterate, seniors, homeless, as well as veterans. LWVCC committed to the following actions:

1. Post flyers and reminders on LWVCC website and Facebook
2. Email all members and partners and ask those organizations to share with their membership
3. Work with Safe Nights organization to obtain permission to visit site first week of March for education and request QAC the last week of March (All Saints Episcopal Church in Sunderland)
4. Arrange presentation at Spanish mass at St. John Vianney.
5. Post posters at Port Republic, Solomons, and Lusby post offices.
6. Participate in monthly presentations to BOCC.

We are waiting for a final decision as to whether the final date to respond to the census will be moved by Congress to October as requested by the U.S. Census Bureau.

I would like to thank the committee for all their hard work that helped us to accomplish the goals of the activities stated and to all the league members who stepped up when we needed them throughout the year.



Women of the World (WOW) Luncheon

Submitted by Sandra Ravio

The League participated with the Commission for Women and other county organizations in the planning of the 2020 WOW event scheduled at the Rod and Reel Restaurant in Chesapeake Beach in April 2020, providing accounting and registration support as in previous years.

The League nominated longstanding member, Sharron Bickel, as honoree for this year's event. She served the League as board secretary, vice-president and co-president. She created the League's first observer team - observers for the Board of County Commissioners' meeting and chaired the Transparency in Government study group.

Unfortunately, due to the outbreak of the Covid-19 pandemic, the WOW luncheon had to be postponed until September.

League volunteers will be needed to help with the WOW luncheon in September. This is a great chance to meet members from other organizations as we produce this great celebration.

