



The Voter

League of Women Voters of Anne Arundel County

Niecy Chambers & Susan Elson, Co-Presidents

Kathy Larrabee & Niecy Chambers, Co-Editors

October-November 2015

Issue 89

In this issue:

LWVAAC Fall Program
(cover)

Letter from the Co-Presidents
(p. 2)

Local League Happenings
(pp. 3-6)

- *Suffragette* Movie Outing
- *Cuba, Then and Now*
- Meeting with County Executive Schuh
- Community Relations Fact-finding
- Member Spotlight: Rachael Lemberg
- Board Meeting Highlights
- Bulletin Board

Voter Service and Community Outreach (pp. 6-8)

- NVRD at High Schools
- Hispanic Heritage Festival
- AA County Town Hall on Community-Police Relations

Did You Know? (p. 9)

- Solar Energy Park

LWVMD Alerts (p. 9)

LWVAAC membership form
(p. 10)

FALL PROGRAM

A Dialogue with Anne Arundel County School Superintendent George Arlotto, Ed.D.

Monday, November 9

9:30 – 10:15 a.m.

**Board of Education Board Room
2644 Riva Road, Annapolis 21401**

For the second in our 2015-16 series of meetings with key Anne Arundel County administrators, LWVAAC has had the good fortune to arrange a personal session with AACPS Superintendent George Arlotto.

Dr. Arlotto began a four-year term as Superintendent of Schools on July 1, 2014. The current school year marks his 29th in education, as a teacher and administrator, both locally, and in Virginia, the District of Columbia, and Montgomery County. He holds degrees from Lynchburg College, the University of Virginia, and George Washington University.

The Superintendent will offer general remarks about our school district, and answer questions. In light of our League's current focus on community relations, we have asked Dr. Arlotto to comment on the relationship between schools and the communities they serve, as well as on the school district's efforts to enhance trust and understanding between students and law enforcement officials.

Take advantage of this unique opportunity, and join us at the Board of Education on Monday, November 9.

Calendar

LWVMD Website Training

Sat, Oct 24, 9:00 a.m.

111 Cathedral St, Ste 201, Annapolis

LWVAAC/AAUW Movie Outing

Suffragette, a new feature film

Sun, Oct 25, time TBD

Bowtie Theaters, Annapolis

LWVAAC Board Meeting

Tue, Oct 27, 9:30 – 11:00 a.m.

LWVAAC Social with Substance

Cuba, Then and Now

Tue, Oct 27, 11:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

Norair Hall, BayWoods of Annapolis
7101 Bay Front Drive, Annapolis

LWVAAC Program Meeting

Dialogue with AACPS

Superintendent of Schools Arlotto

Mon, Nov 9, 9:30 – 10:15 a.m.

Board of Education Board Room
2644 Riva Road, Annapolis

LWVAAC Board Meeting

Tue, Nov 24, 10:00 a.m. – noon

Location TBD

Voter Registrar Training

Thu, Jan 7, 1:00 – 2:00 p.m.

Annapolis Area Library,
1410 West Street, Annapolis

LWVAAC Board Meeting

Tue, Jan 26, 10:00 a.m. – noon

Location TBD



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Letter from the Co-Presidents

Dear Members,

We are grateful to County Executive Schuh for his participation in our kickoff event on September 12, and to the League members whose contributions and attendance assured the event's success. Special thanks go to Kathy Larrabee for both coordinating our telephone initiative, and videotaping the program. The edited video may be viewed on YouTube: <https://youtu.be/ILXB8fvPofI>

When the position of newsletter editor became vacant last year, Myrna Siegel and Shirley Hatch volunteered to take it on temporarily, to prevent a cutback in publications of *The Voter*. While also managing the demanding Program portfolio, Myrna has capably served as co-editor for the last five issues. Effective this newsletter, Membership Chair Kathy Larrabee has stepped in for Myrna as "temporary" co-editor. Many thanks to Shirley, Myrna and Kathy!

If you enjoy working with Microsoft Word and the written word, and want to make a valuable contribution to the League, please email Niecy or Kathy to learn more about the newsletter editor position.

We're pleased to invite you to three very different events in the next few weeks. First, on October 25, we'll join our AAUW friends at a showing of the just-released movie, *Suffragette*, with Meryl Streep. Next, on October 27, we'll enjoy each other's company and a light lunch while Dawn O'Brien and Carolyn Ciepiela share first-hand experiences in Cuba. Then, on November 9, AACPS Superintendent Arlotto will speak exclusively with our League about important issues facing the school district. We hope to see you at one or all of these programs.

Niecy Chambers and Susan Elson
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Local League Happenings

SUFFRAGETTE

Newly released feature film about the women's suffrage movement in England, with Meryl Streep, Carey Mulligan and Helena Bonham Carter

Our League has been invited by members of the local AAUW chapter to attend a showing in Annapolis on Sunday, October 25. The show time and theater are still TBD. Save the date, and we'll call with details.

For more information or to sign up, email Niecy or Susan at pres@aa.lwvmd.org.

The LWVAAC board cordially invites all members to a *Social with Substance*

Cuba, Then and Now

Tuesday, October 27 * 11:00 a.m. to noon
Norair Hall, BayWoods of Annapolis

Immediately following the October board meeting, Dawn O'Brien and Carolyn Ciepiela will recount experiences and share images from the long-forbidden isle of Cuba. Come to listen, and stay to nosh and talk! Complimentary refreshments will be served; sandwiches available for a small contribution. Members are welcome, as always, to attend the board meeting, which will begin at 9:30 a.m.

County Executive Schuh Meets with LWVAAC



(Photo by Kathy Larrabee)

The League's 2015-2016 year started on a high note with a frank talk by County Executive Steve Schuh, followed by an equally open Q & A period. The meeting, open to the public, was held at St. Philip's Church in Annapolis on

Saturday, September 12. It was well attended. We had asked Mr. Schuh to gear his remarks to LWVAAC's theme for the year, "Community Relations: Public Safety and Individual Rights."

Of particular interest to the League, Mr. Schuh said the county would hold a public safety town hall meeting at Glen Burnie High School on October 6. The meeting was intended to bring together the police and the public to discuss policing and community relations. When asked if there would be town hall meetings on this topic in other parts of the county, he said this one would be a test case. (Editor's note: please see Town Hall article on page 8.)

Mr. Schuh discussed his priorities, which include the addition of three new high schools over the next decade, with the long-range goal of reducing the student population in all our high schools. He believes that no high school should have more than 1,000 students but most of ours are above 2,000.

When asked to select one issue that unites Anne Arundel County, Mr. Schuh answered we are "people of the water," citing our 500-plus miles of shoreline. He also believes (continued on page 4)



most residents unite against the burden of taxes and fees. There is agreement that the educational system needs improving, especially the infrastructure, and that our transportation network is underdeveloped.

One of Mr. Schuh’s goals is greater water accessibility for both boating and swimming. He asked how the audience felt about having “swim at your own risk” beaches without lifeguards. (Currently, all swimming beaches must have lifeguards, which results in restricted public access.) Without lifeguards, beaches would have proper signage about risks, to deflect lawsuits, but he cautioned there inevitably will be accidents. By a show of hands, the audience strongly approved the idea of increased access without lifeguards. He is very concerned about the quality of water in the bay, river, and creeks. He said, for example, the water in Marley Creek and Rock Creek is dangerous even to touch with your hand.

When asked about transportation, he stated that our roads are in bad condition and that improving them is his top priority. He explained that the county needs \$17 million per year for maintenance alone. Schuh said the county is conducting a study on public transportation because the facilities we have now “may not be making sense.” In particular, he believes that we are failing our poor communities, including the seven public housing projects in the county, where transportation is needed to provide access to jobs. He recognizes that the county has a long way to go—that Anne Arundel is no longer predominantly rural and has modern public transportation needs.

Concerning public housing in the county, he has two goals. First, he wants to rehabilitate the properties with private funds to transform them into mixed use, multi-income communities. Second, he wants to help people

living in the projects to acquire work skills so they can find jobs and leave the projects. He said that Federal regulations permit families living in such housing to live there indefinitely and that their offspring are entitled under Federal law to inherit their units. Knowing the League’s interest in public housing, he suggested we contact the head of the Anne Arundel Housing Commission, Cliff Martin, to discuss the housing and the voucher program.

Mr. Schuh was quizzed on development issues and pointed out that there is enormous growth in west county, which needs a huge investment in infrastructure for water, sewer, schools and roads. In answer to a question about development on the Broadneck Peninsula, he said there is not much room left for development so no new sewer lines will be made available there.

In response to a question about the Crownsville Hospital site, Mr. Schuh said the county does not want it because it would entail \$80 million in cleanup costs. He also said there is “no reasonable use” for the county’s benefit and that the state might sell off the site in pieces. Future development would be restricted by the fact that the land is zoned “RA” (rural-agricultural).

Mr. Schuh also explained there is no countywide program for shoreline mitigation and that owners are responsible for their own shorelines. He is concerned with controlling the overgrowth of phragmites, a highly invasive wetland plant, and has a new program to mitigate the damaging rhizomes that crowd native grasses.

A video of our meeting with County Executive Schuh is posted on YouTube: <https://youtu.be/ILXB8fvPofI>

By Carol Sures

Opportunity to Participate in *Community Relations: Public Safety and Individual Rights* Fact-Finding

Our League is currently doing fact-finding in relation to our look at *Community Relations: Public Safety and Individual Rights* in Anne Arundel County. The topic is so all-encompassing that we have decided to break it down into four discrete areas – Public Housing, Police, Transportation, and Schools. Several people will be working in each area doing fact-finding. Each group will be able to set its own parameters and work schedules. Several people have already volunteered to participate, but we could use more. If you have an interest in working with any of these groups, or would like to get additional information before you decide, please contact me. My phone number is 410-849-8832, and my email address is thesiegels915@comcast.net.

Myrna Siegel, Program Chair

Meet LWVAAC Member...Rachael Lemberg

Rachael joined the LWVAAC in fall 2014, shortly after moving from nearby Montgomery County to Annapolis. She says the relocation is perfect; Annapolis called out to her for several reasons.

First, Rachael now lives close to her married daughter, who will soon deliver to Rachael a fifth grandchild. Rachael has two other married children who have four children between them. They live in Germantown, Maryland, and in Ohio. Another reason Annapolis suits Rachael is because she grew up on the water in New Jersey, so the sights and sounds of Annapolis are comforting. Equally important, living in Annapolis puts Rachael in the heart of Maryland politics.

“I refer to myself as a political junkie,” Rachael says candidly. “I want to keep my finger on the political pulse of the state,” she adds. “Living here, I’m able to easily find re-election and issue campaigns that make politics so interesting.” She currently participates in the Legacy Leadership Program at the University of Maryland, which is geared to retirees who are interested in working with the Maryland General Assembly during the 90-day legislative session. She also looks forward to getting involved in League activities during an election year.



(Photo by Kathy Larrabee)

Although Rachael was born and raised on the Jersey Shore, she also lived in Western Ohio for many years. She moved from Ohio to Maryland in 2003 and continued a human resources (HR) career. Then 10 years later, she retired from this challenging field to serve as an HR consultant under contract to various non-profits. Her most current contract was with CARE USA. Retirement also makes Rachael available to support family needs, spoil her dog, Molson, and dedicate time to quilting. “Quilting quiets my active mind and feeds my creative side,” she says.

LWVAAC Board Meeting Highlights: September 22, 2015

- There is a current balance of \$4,062.12 in the checking account; Education Fund balance is \$4,177.01.
- LWVAAC has withdrawn from the League of Women Voters of the National Capital Area (LWVNCA).
- Twenty-seven members have returned surveys; survey responses have been used to match members with activities of interest. Sixteen members have not yet renewed for 2015-16.
- Fact-finding on Community Relations topic will be tackled by four subcommittees: public housing, police, transportation and schools. Program chair Siegel will contact interested members to participate.
- *Give Us the Ballot: The Modern Struggle for Voting Rights in America* will be the subject of a “trending topic” discussion in January or February.
- Voter Registration chair Dickerson coordinated a successful drive at four public high schools in September.
- LWVAAC chose (1) redistricting reform and (2) sentencing reform and accommodations for re-entry as its proposed legislative priorities for 2016.

Submitted by Kathy Larrabee, Secretary pro tem



LWVAAC BULLETIN BOARD

Please join us in welcoming new LWVAAC members,

*BJ Boudreau of Annapolis
and Joyce Martin of Crofton!*

RECOMMENDED READING

*Give Us the Ballot: The Modern Struggle
for Voting Rights in America*
by Ari Berman

**Voter Registrar Training &
Dutch-Treat Lunch**

Registering voters is a fundamental, and highly rewarding, League activity. On Thursday, January 7, 2016, from 1:00 to 2:00 p.m., the Anne Arundel County Board of Elections will conduct a special group training for our League at the Annapolis Area Library, 1410 West St.

Before the training, join other members for dutch-treat at P.F. Chang's, Annapolis Town Center, 11:30 a.m. Contact Kathy Larrabee (kklarrabee@verizon.net) to sign up.

Voter Service and Community Outreach

LWVAAC Volunteers Go to School for National Voter Registration Day (NVRD) Events

LWVAAC members, Sally Vavrek and Dawn O'Brien, registered eighteen Broadneck High School students on National Voter Registration Day (NVRD), Tuesday, September 22, 2015.

Student reactions to voter registration ranged from those who were already registered and wanted to add or change party affiliation, to those who had to be coaxed to register. Those who registered were enthusiastic about being able to vote for their favorite presidential candidate.

Voter registration was announced campus-wide at the start of the day, and in the cafeteria at the beginning of each of four lunch periods. After each announcement we experienced a 'bump' in visits to the voter registration table.

Broadneck faculty members were extremely supportive of voter registration. Business Manager Eileen Lemmon said the school has held a voter registration drive each of the past four years. Elaine Cechak, Library Media Specialist, hand-carried registration forms to students who were having lunch in her classroom and Jane Barss, a Home and Hospital instructor, said that holding a voter registration card was a requirement for passing her course!

By Dawn O'Brien

Editor's note: In conjunction with NVRD, LWVAAC volunteers Fred Bader, Susan Cochran and Yolande Dickerson conducted lunch-time voter registration at Annapolis, Severna Park and North County High Schools, resulting in a total of sixty (60) completed registrations in September. Special thanks to Yolande for coordinating with the schools.

LWVAAC Offers Voter Services at Hispanic Heritage Festival

The Hispanic Heritage Festival, held annually in Anne Arundel County, provides persons of Hispanic heritage access to community services that help them integrate into their communities. This is the second year that LWVAAC has participated to offer voter registration. A number of other nonprofits and government agencies took part in this year's event, held on Sunday, September 27, outside of the Knights of Columbus hall on Solomon's Island Road in Edgewater.

This year, two bilingual students from Anne Arundel Community College helped League volunteer Susan Elson to staff the LWVAAC voter registration table. The students carefully read the instructions on the voter registration forms and consulted with Susan about any issues that needed clarification. Most important, the students' friendly and enthusiastic service resulted in several people registering to vote and others promising to register once they become eligible.

Hosted by the Centro de Ayuda (Center of Help), the festival is also a celebration of Hispanic culture. The crowd enjoyed Hispanic food, music, singing, and dancing, including a dance contest. Children thoroughly enjoyed the moon-bounce attraction.



AACC students Jessica Villa Vazquez and Jeremy Auendano assist League Co-President Susan Elson at the 3rd Annual Hispanic Heritage Festival, providing friendly interpretive services to encourage voter registration. (Photo by Kathy Larrabee)

Anne Arundel County Holds Community and Police Relations Town Hall Meeting

The first Anne Arundel Community and Police Relations Town Hall Meeting was held on October 6, 2015 at Glen Burnie High School. The town hall meeting comes on the heels of a spray painting of anti-police graffiti in Brooklyn Park and a week before a town hall meeting scheduled for October 14th with the Annapolis police department. The town hall meeting, sponsored by the Human Relations Commission, is an outreach effort by the Anne Arundel County police department to build trust in the community, establish healthy dialogue between the community and police, and strengthen police/community relations.

An eight-member panel spoke on various topics, including law enforcement codes, how officers are held accountable for complaints, the acceptable uses of force, policy and the role of the State's Attorney's Office, the role of faith-based organizations and public safety research.

The panel members were Chief of Police Tim Altomare; Deputy Chief Jerard Flemings; State's Attorney Wes Adams; Rev. Carletta Allen, Asbury United Methodist Church; President of the NAACP AA County Branch, Rev. Stephen Tillett; President of the Northern District Police Relations Council, Carl Brooks; Phyllis McDonald, a Johns Hopkins University professor who works with local public safety agencies; and Bascom D. Talley, Senior Staff member at Johns Hopkins University's Division of Public Safety Leadership.



Panelists at Anne Arundel County's Community and Police Relations Town Hall, Oct. 6. (Photo by Alfa Stevens)

Derek Matthews, Annapolis resident and community activist, served as moderator. County Executive Steve Schuh kicked off the meeting with introductory remarks, emphasizing public safety as an important function of government. He also shared information about the construction of a new police academy and a central booking facility, as well as the addition of 185 new police vehicles.

Chief Altomare emphasized his desire to restore the community's trust in the police and bring back programs that help foster positive relationships. He was adamant about zero tolerance of racism in his department. Ms. McDonald commended Chief Altomare and his department on striving to be the best police department it's possible to be and having the lowest citizen complaint rate among their neighboring counties. It was also reported that in 2012 Anne Arundel County officers used force in only 1.3 percent of incidents. In the next year, the statistic was up slightly at 1.5 percent.

At the end of the panelists' remarks, the audience of approximately 50-60 people was invited to ask questions. Concerns ranged from what is being done to work with the Latino community to training for dealing with mental health situations to establishment of a citizens' review board among others.

At the end of the evening, it was quite evident that though the audience was not large as hoped, all those present were there as citizens of the county who care and who share a common desire to make and maintain positive, lawful, and healthy police and community relationships.

Note: This meeting was one of a series. Three more are scheduled to come for each district of the county.

By Alfa Stevens



Did You Know? Annapolis Solar Energy Park

Annapolis is about to turn a closed landfill into a solar energy park. The deal, signed this summer, will allow Annapolis Solar Park LLC to develop the solar project on 80 acres of a closed and capped landfill located near Interstate 97, Maryland Route 450 and Crownsville Road. The solar park is expected to be completed in 2016.

The facility will generate about 21.8 kilowatt hours of electricity, an amount that offsets the annual greenhouse emissions from 3,168 passenger vehicles. Annapolis will be required to purchase two megawatts of solar energy from the park, an amount that would be needed anyway. The city will make about \$5,000,000 over 20 years after signing the lease.

When Annapolis Solar Park is finished, it will be the largest closed landfill project identified by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, city officials said. (Source: *The Capital* 8-4-15)

By Anne Schifferle, Environment

Alerts from the State League

LWVMD Study Opportunities

The thing that sets the League apart from other organizations is that it does not take a position until it has studied an issue. The studies provide the basis for the League’s positions. This year there are a number of study opportunities. At the State League convention in May, League members from around the state approved the following three studies.

1. Study of the primary system employed to select candidates for elected office in the state of Maryland. This will be a two-year study incorporating the study carried out by the state of Washington. If interested in participating, respond to both study co-chairs, Barbara Sanders at bsanders@terpalum.umd.edu and Lu Pierson at lu.pierson@verizon.net, respectively. **Meetings will mainly be held by conference call.**

2. Study of Developmental Rights and Responsibilities Agreements (DRRAs) in the state of Maryland. This will be a study leading to consensus with the aid of LWV Frederick County members who recently completed the study for their county. study will focus on a land planning tool authorized by a 1995 state law. DRRAs allow local governments to “freeze” county land management laws for a length of time, in return for infrastructure contributions agreed upon by the county and the developer. If interested in participating, respond to study chair Margaret Hindman at margarethindman@comcast.net. **Meetings will mainly be held by conference call.**

3. Study of Police and Community Relations. This study will include a review of current state laws that affect police-community relations and the ability to hold police accountable for their interactions with all members of the community. If interested in participating in the study, respond to study chair Lois Hybl at lhybl@verizon.net.

When communicating with the study chairs, please include the name of your local League.

JoAnn Ross, LWVMD Program Chair



MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION (NEW AND RENEWAL)

Includes membership in the LWV of Anne Arundel County, Maryland, and the U.S.

Please check one:

- New LWVAAC member
- Renewing LWVAAC member
- Previous LWV member (state or MD county): _____
- Life member, year joined _____

CONTACT INFORMATION

This information will be shared only with other LWVAAC members.

Name (individual or student member) _____

Name (household member, if applicable) _____

Mailing Address: _____

City/State/Zip Code: _____

Telephone(s) Home: _____ Cell: _____

Email: _____

Preferred contact: telephone email postal

Referred by: _____

MEMBERSHIP LEVELS AND ANNUAL DUES

Members must be U.S. citizens 18 years of age or older.

Individual - \$65 \$ _____

Household - \$30 (2nd or subsequent member of an individual member's household) \$ _____

Student - \$25 (aged 18-30 and currently enrolled in an accredited institution) \$ _____

School affiliation: _____

Anticipated completion date: _____

CONTRIBUTION OPPORTUNITIES

Membership dues are not tax deductible.

A tax-deductible contribution to the LWVAAC Education Fund \$ _____

A non-tax deductible contribution directly to the LWVAAC \$ _____

TOTAL \$ _____

Make checks payable to: LWV of Anne Arundel County
 Mail application and check to: LWVAAC Treasurer, 1130 Shore Drive, Edgewater, MD 21037
 For questions, call: 410-897-0332 (membership chair)

League of Women Voters of Anne Arundel County, a non-partisan, political organization, encourages informed and active participation in government, works to increase understanding of major public policy issues, and influences public policy through education and advocacy.

Revised October 2013