



# The Voter

League of Women Voters of Anne Arundel County

Niecy Chambers and Susan Elson, Co-Presidents

Shirley Hatch and Myrna Siegel, Co-Editors

September 2015

Issue 88

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## 2015-16 KICKOFF MEETING

### *A Conversation with Anne Arundel County Executive Steve Schuh*

**Saturday, September 12 at 1:00 p.m.  
St. Philip’s Episcopal Church, Annapolis**

LWVAAC is pleased to have the County Executive’s help in getting our League year off to a flying start!

Elected in 2014, County Executive Schuh ran on a five point program “to make Anne Arundel County the best place to live, work and start a business in Maryland.”

One of his five goals was improving public safety.

He will speak with us about the state of the county, and his immediate concerns and priorities. In addition, we have asked him to reflect on the topic, “Community Relations: Public Safety and Individual Rights,” and to respond to questions.

Please plan to attend, and bring a friend! Admission is free and light refreshments will be served. See flyer on p. 9.



Above: Welcoming new citizens at Paca House on July 4. LWVAAC was there; story on page 6.

## Calendar

### **LWVAAC Kickoff Meeting**

*A Conversation with County Executive Steve Schuh*  
Sat, Sep 12, 1:00 – 3:00 p.m.  
St. Philip’s Episcopal Church  
730 Bestgate Road, Annapolis

### **Constitution Day Program**

*Love & Death on the Supreme Court: New Rulings on Same Sex Marriage and Death Penalty Executions*  
Thu, Sep 17, 12 p.m.  
UMD Carey School of Law,  
500 Baltimore Street, Baltimore

### **LWVMD Fall Workshops**

Sat, Sep 19, 10:00 a.m. – 1:30 p.m.  
Wilde Lake Interfaith Center,  
10431 Twin Rivers Road, Columbia

### **LWVAAC Board Meeting**

Tue, Sep 22, 10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.  
BayWoods of Annapolis

### **LWVMD Fall Fundraiser**

*Erma Bombeck: At Wit’s End*  
Sun, Oct 11, 2:00 p.m.  
Arena Stage, 1101 Sixth Street SW,  
Washington DC

### **LWVMD Membership & Leadership Development Training**

Sat, Oct 17, 10:00 a.m. – 3:30 p.m.  
Wilde Lake Interfaith Center,  
10431 Twin Rivers Road, Columbia



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## *Letter from the Co-Presidents*

Dear Members,  
Summer can be a slow time for some, but we are proud and grateful that our League has remained active in carrying out its mission and in planning for the coming year.

One of the board's goals has been to encourage greater member participation in the activities of the League. Earlier this summer, you received a renewal letter, which also asked about your skills and interests in relation to the League. If you have not already renewed your membership or responded to the questionnaire, please do so. The League needs your membership and values your active participation. Many thanks to our membership chair, Kathy Larrabee, for her work on this project.

Kathy has also set up a "telephone tree" whereby members will be contacted by a board member about upcoming League events and volunteer opportunities. Thanks again, Kathy.

We have great news to announce! Governor Hogan has named Ashley Oleson, LWVAAC member and LWVMD administrator, as one of his appointees to the Maryland Redistricting Reform Commission. In announcing the appointment, the Governor's website noted that the League of Women Voters has been a strong voice calling for redistricting reform and educating voters about the issue. We are certain Ashley's abilities and energy will make her an outstanding member of the commission.

Finally, we would like to express our appreciation to all those who, month after month, keep our local League on track with the many visible and behind-the-scenes tasks that must be done.

Susan Elson and Niecy Chambers  
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## Local League Happenings

### Meet LWVAAC Member...Nancy Pond



Nancy moved to Annapolis from Bethesda, MD, following retirement in 2013 from the Veterans Administration Medical Center. Her career as a licensed clinical social worker spanned more

than 40 years. She is currently a resident of Heritage Harbour. Nancy was first active with the LWV in the late 70's while living in Memphis, TN, her birthplace. Last year, she reconnected with LWV by joining our Anne Arundel County League (LWVAAC).

Nancy says her League membership provides an opportunity to be involved in initiatives important to her, such as candidate debates, community forums, and League studies that involve thorough research of important community issues. "Joining the League also gives me an opportunity to stay current on political issues at national, state, and county levels," she notes. Nancy aspires to participate in the LWVAAC Observer Corps program to monitor the activities of the County Council. "It will be a good way to learn first-hand about Anne Arundel County issues," she says.

Nancy graduated from Rhodes College in Memphis and received a Master's degree from the University of Maryland School of Social Work in Baltimore, with a concentration in community organization. She applied her Master's to her employment as well as to civic activities related to social work. For her achievements, she is listed in *Who's Who in the East*.

In retirement, Nancy has found much to keep her busy. In addition to sailing, she belongs to several social organizations that support her interest in a wide range of music, from jazz to rock 'n' roll. Most recently, Nancy is enthusiastic about decorating her Heritage Harbour condominium.

### 2015 LWVMD Convention in Pictures

LWVAAC received high marks for its hosting of the State League Convention in Annapolis this past June, thanks to the many local League volunteers and participants. Kathy Larrabee deserves special recognition, not only for coordinating our volunteers but also for capturing the weekend in pictures. More of her photos may be found at:

<https://www.dropbox.com/l/eCCrBEACLNBqAQ6jQlZqlon>



Above: (l-r) Anne Schifferle, Mary-Lou McCutcheon and Lois Coon offer a warm welcome to a convention delegate.



Above: The Cake Committee (l-r) Niecy Chambers, Shirley Hatch, Carol Sures and Susan Elson.



*Left:* Shirley Hatch gives her decorations the final touch.  
*Above:* Kathy Larrabee comes out from behind the camera.

*Above:* Sue Farmer relaxes with a piece of cake.  
*Right:* Cong. Sarbanes speaks on campaign finance reform.

## In Memoriam: Anne Nelson, LWV Life Member

*(Myrna Siegel, current program chair and former co-president of the League of Women Voters of Anne Arundel County, delivered the following remarks at services for Anne Nelson, who passed away on May 25, 2015.)*

I was privileged to serve with Anne Nelson for several years as (League) co-president. Anne was a life member of the League of Women Voters, meaning that she had been a member for more than 50 years. She had been a driving force behind this League since 2003, when she and three other BayWoods residents, Carolyn Ciepiela, Sue Farmer and Rose Thormann, resuscitated the local League when it was on the verge of collapse. This group worked tirelessly to give this revitalized League new life.

As important as these actions were, I think Anne's crowning achievement with this League was our study of immigration in Anne Arundel County. In 2008, there was a high profile raid to find undocumented immigrants in the county which upset Anne greatly because of the way it was carried out. As a result, Anne suggested we study two questions: what is the impact of immigration on Anne Arundel County, and what is the impact of Anne Arundel County on immigrants. We had a two year study to answer these questions.

As with everything Anne did, this study was very professional. We used reports and interviews and held

two focus groups. Our findings, conclusions and recommendations were presented to the community. One recommendation was that Anne Arundel Community College be permitted to accept in-county resident tuition from any graduate of a county high school who meets all other requirements of the community college without regard to immigration status.

Subsequently, a bill which would have such an effect throughout the state was introduced in the legislature. As we had a position on the issue, we could testify to the legislature. (The League can only take a position after studying an issue, and we had studied it.) Other Leagues in the state adopted our position and the state League was able to testify on the bill.

All because Anne Nelson saw a wrong which needed righting.

*Right:* Anne was honored for her service to the League at the LWVAAC 2012 annual meeting, which she attended with her husband and daughter.





## LWVAAC Board Meeting Highlights

### Board Meeting & Retreat, June 15, 2015

- Adopted a nonpartisan policy as required.
- Voted to discontinue membership in the League of Women Voters of the National Capital Area (LWVNCA), an inter-League organization oriented to the Washington, D.C. metropolitan region.
- Adopted a focus for the coming year(s) that was later named “Community Relations: Public Safety and Individual Rights.” The effort will help determine program topics and dovetail with the LWVMD study on Police-Community Relations, adopted at 2015 Convention, but will be broader in scope.
- Voter Service proposed that our League register voters in area high schools.
- LWVAAC received glowing reviews for the LWVMD Convention. Membership chair Kathy Larrabee made calls to staff the Convention; about 12 LWVAAC members, including several who had recently joined, volunteered.

### Board Meeting, Tuesday, August 25, 2015

- There is a current balance of \$5,810.12 in the checking account; Education Fund balance is \$4,117.01.
- Membership chair Larrabee prepared a telephone call list for board members to contact members to provide information and to arrange assistance in attending events. Calls will be made for the kickoff meeting with County Executive Schuh on September 12.
- Speakers for upcoming programs may include the Superintendent of Schools, the Health Department, the Chief of Police and others. Some may be asked to address our community relations focus/theme.
- In addition to larger public events, the board will arrange “trending topics” member meetings, at different times and locations to facilitate member attendance. One may follow a board meeting.
- A committee (led by Program chair Myrna Siegel) will meet to narrow the “Community Relations: Public Safety and Individual Rights” focus/theme, which is too general to tackle as a whole, prior to soliciting broader member participation. An LWVAAC member will serve as a liaison to the LWVMD’s study on Police-Community Relations.
- A new membership directory will be available in October.
- Regular LWVAAC board meetings will be held on the fourth Tuesday of the month, from August through May, except December and April. Meetings begin at 10 a.m.

Submitted by Carol Sures, Secretary

## LWVAAC BULLETIN BOARD

Please join us in welcoming  
new LWVAAC member

**SYDNEY PONTURO!**

### HELP WANTED

*Do you enjoy computer work? Have experience with desktop publishing or website design? LWVAAC has both one-time and on-going volunteer opportunities for you! Please contact Niecy Chambers.*

### ¿Hablas español?

**Contact Susan Elson for a unique opportunity to serve the League and our community on Sept. 27.**

## Community Outreach

### Centro de Ayuda Hosts 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Hispanic Heritage Festival

For the second year, the League of Women Voters of Anne Arundel County will take part in the annual Hispanic Heritage Festival, a family-friendly activity and information fair. The event is hosted by our county's Centro de Ayuda (Center of Help), which provides assistance, information, and referral services to more than 2,000 people each year.

In addition to assisting eligible individuals with voter registration, members will help to "give a face to the League" and explain who we are and what we do. Volunteers will also have the opportunity to network with other individuals and organizations that serve our county's diverse population.

This year's festival will be held from 12:00 noon to 5 p.m. on Sunday, September 27, at the Knights of Columbus, 2590 Solomon's Island Road, Edgewater, MD.



Above: Carolyn Ciepiela visits with Centro de Ayuda's President Patricia Omana at the 2014 Hispanic Heritage Festival.

Members who would like to volunteer for this event should contact Susan Elson by phone at (410) 757-8577 or by email to [elsonsusana@yahoo.com](mailto:elsonsusana@yahoo.com). **If you are able to speak and understand Spanish, your assistance with this event would be extremely valuable.**

### Historic Annapolis Welcomes League Participation at July 4<sup>th</sup> Naturalization Ceremonies



Above: Dawn O'Brien (left) registers new voters. Right: New citizen Abiodun Olalere of Nigeria, with son Timi and daughter Foyin.



Once again, LWVAAC joined with Historic Annapolis in welcoming twenty-nine new citizens into the American family at the 9th annual naturalization ceremony held at the William Paca House & Gardens in Annapolis, on Saturday, July 4.

U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) officials administered the Oath of Allegiance to the candidates for citizenship. Maria Contreras-Sweet, head of the U.S. Small Business Administration, teared up as she spoke of the privileges and responsibilities of citizenship. She described her own journey as a

child from Guadalajara, Mexico, to California, where she held executive positions in several firms and became the state's secretary of business, transportation and housing before joining Obama's Cabinet.

For these newly naturalized citizens, the League provided voter registration forms and information on registering to vote.

Dawn O'Brien

Visit [aa.lwvmd.org](http://aa.lwvmd.org) for more photos of this inspirational celebration, courtesy of Kathy Larrabee.



## Maryland Women’s Coalition for Health Care Reform Symposium

The Maryland Women’s Coalition for Health Care Reform is holding their 2nd Annual Engagement Symposium on Friday, September 25 from 8:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. at the Unitarian Universalist Church in Annapolis. Registration is \$30 in advance (\$40 at the door) and includes coffee, light snacks and lunch.

This is an opportunity to hear the latest news about Maryland’s efforts toward health care reform from the people making it happen. Presentations will provide an overview of two of Maryland’s major reform initiatives: (1) the expansion of access to health care coverage through the Affordable Care Act and Maryland Health Benefit Exchange; and (2) the state’s unique delivery system transformation – New All-Payer Model.

For more information go to [www.mdhealthcarereform.org](http://www.mdhealthcarereform.org).

## 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](mailto:bsanders@terpalum.umd.edu) and Lu Pierson at [lu.pierson@verizon.net](mailto:lu.pierson@verizon.net), respectively.
- 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. This 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](mailto:margarethindman@comcast.net).
- 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](mailto:lhybl@verizon.net).

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

JoAnn Ross, LWVMD Program Chair

### Calls for Action

#### “Making Democracy Work”

The Voting Rights Act was signed by President Lyndon Johnson 50 years ago. Congress has various proposals before it which could create barriers to voting protection embodied in the VRA. Voter discrimination cannot be tolerated. Tell your members of Congress key protections for all voters must be restored.

#### “Gerrymandering”

Governor Hogan has called for a new process for Maryland. The League of Women Voters has undertaken a number of initiatives to promote reform of the manner election districts are drawn and approved in Maryland. This is a continuing issue for the League. Sign the petition, and keep informed.



## LWVMD 2016 Legislative Priorities

The state League board is seeking suggestions from local Leagues for setting priorities for the 2016 General Assembly session. All League members are encouraged to submit recommendations to their local League board. Priorities must relate to topics on which the League has a national or state consensus.

In considering priorities, Action Chair Ruth Crystal suggests consulting the Maryland General Assembly website ([www.mgaleg.maryland.gov](http://www.mgaleg.maryland.gov)) to find a summary of legislation that passed and failed in 2015.

In addition, legislative committees are already meeting in advance of the January 13, 2016 session opening. For example, the Public Safety and Policing Workgroup, relevant to our state study on Police and Community Relations, has been meeting during the summer. Information regarding these meetings, which are open to the public, can be found on the General Assembly website under the “Committees” tab.

**Please email your 2016 legislative priorities to [pres@aa.lwvmd.org](mailto:pres@aa.lwvmd.org) or call Niecy or Susan by September 21.** The LWVAAAC board will consider all member suggestions at its meeting on September 22. Our League’s list is due to the state League by Sept 24, 2015. Final statewide priorities will be adopted in November.

## State League Seeks Volunteers For Development Committee

At the August state League board meeting, it was decided that it’s high time LWVMD have a strategic plan for sustained funding. You, our members, have been extremely generous in your support and we couldn’t survive without you. However, if we want to do more than survive, we are going to need to look for funding sources beyond our traditional fundraising appeals and events. Please consider volunteering to help with this effort. My hope is that the results will not only strengthen the state League but will enable us to better support local Leagues as well. Contact [pres@lwvmd.org](mailto:pres@lwvmd.org) if you are interested or just want to learn more before making a commitment.

Nancy Soreng, LWVMD Co-President

Please take a moment to complete and return the member survey to Kathy Larrabee, and don’t forget to renew your League membership! **THANK YOU!**



**LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS®**  
**OF ANNE ARUNDEL COUNTY, MARYLAND**

## 2015-16 Kickoff Meeting



### A Conversation with County Executive Steve Schuh

Anne Arundel County Executive Schuh will comment on the state of the county, discuss his immediate concerns and priorities, and reflect on the League's study topic, *Community Relations: Public Safety and Individual Rights*, as it pertains to Anne Arundel County. Your questions are welcome; please bring a friend!

Saturday, September 12, 2015

1:00 p.m.

St. Philip's Episcopal Church, 730 Bestgate Road, Annapolis

Attendance is free and open to the public. Light refreshments will be served.

Email [pres@aa.lwvmd.org](mailto:pres@aa.lwvmd.org) or visit [aa.lwvmd.org](http://aa.lwvmd.org) for more information.



LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF MARYLAND FALL WORKSHOP



Saturday, September 26, 2015

Wilde Lake Interfaith Center, Columbia, MD 21044 -2331

Registration fee: \$25

(Includes morning coffee/breakfast breads, lunch, materials)

- 9:30 am Registration
10:00 am Welcome and Announcements
10:15 am Briefing on LWVUS study: Constitutional Amendments
11:30 am Briefing on LWVUS study: Money in Politics
12:30 pm Lunch and workshop: Group Collaboration via Google Docs

Directions:

From the North: Take Rt. 29 south to Columbia Town Center exit (Little Patuxent Pkwy). Bear right onto Gov. Warfield Pkwy. Take 2nd right onto Twin Rivers Rd. At first light turn left onto Trumpeter Rd. Interfaith Center will be on your right.
From the South: Take Rt. 29 north to Broken Land Pkwy. Follow it West through 3 traffic lights to Twin Rivers Rd and turn left onto it. Follow Twin Rivers Rd to 2nd light and turn left onto Trumpeter Rd. The Interfaith Center will be on your right.

FALL WORKSHOP 2015 REGISTRATION FORM

(Deadline for Registration September 23, 2015)

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

LEAGUE \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

Amount enclosed \_\_\_\_\_

Now you can register ONLINE! Go to http://www.lwvmd.net/fall\_workshop\_2015

Mail to: LWVMD, 111 Cathedral Street, Suite 201, Annapolis, MD 21401 or call: 410-269-0232 or email: lwvmd@verizon.net

## NINTH ANNUAL CONSTITUTION DAY PROGRAM



Thursday, September 17, 2015

Program 12:00 p.m.

Reception 1:00 p.m.

Ceremonial Court Room

University of Maryland

Francis King Carey

School of Law

500 W. Baltimore Street

Baltimore, MD 21201

*Presented By*

*LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF MARYLAND*

*UNIVERSITY OF MARYLAND FRANCIS KING CAREY SCHOOL OF LAW*

*UNIVERSITY OF MARYLAND, BALTIMORE*

### **LOVE AND DEATH ON THE SUPREME COURT NEW RULINGS ON SAME SEX MARRIAGE AND DEATH PENALTY EXECUTIONS**

**Moderator:** Maxwell Stearns, J.D. - Professor of Law and Marbury Research Professor,  
University of Maryland Carey School of Law

**Panelists:** University of Maryland Carey School of Law Professors:  
Richard Boldt, J.D.; Martha Ertman, J.D.; and Mark A. Graber, J.D.

**RSVP by September 15 to reserve seating and parking  
and to volunteer or donate refreshments  
(Parking - \$7.00 for two hours. Carpooling encouraged)**

Email your name, email address, phone and local League to  
**[andreagruhl@aol.com](mailto:andreagruhl@aol.com) or click [here](#)**

Questions? 301.596.5460

**Directions and Parking:**

From Route I-95 (North or South) take Route 395 (downtown Baltimore). Exit onto Martin Luther King, Jr. Blvd., staying in right lane. At fourth traffic light, turn right onto Baltimore St; pass law school on left side of street. Turn left at second traffic light onto N. Paca St.; turn right into entrance for Baltimore Grande Garage, which is across street from east side of law school. Parking building is for UMB Hospital patients/staff and law school faculty, but Constitution Day attendees who reserved a space will be accommodated.



## Join the League of Women Voters of Maryland At the Arena Stage Theater



By Alison Engel and Margaret Engel - Authors of *Don't Mess With Texas*

Sunday, October 11, 2015

2:00 p.m.

Arena Stage at the Mead Center for American Theater  
1101 Sixth Street, SW, Washington, D. C.

Tickets \$90.00

(Box office price - \$99.00)

Limited number of available tickets!

Contact LWVMD office by phone - 410.269.0232

or email - [lwvmd@verizon.net](mailto:lwvmd@verizon.net)

to confirm availability before sending your check to:  
LWVMD - 111 Cathedral Street, Annapolis, MD 21401

Now you can register ONLINE!

Go to [http://www.lwvmd.net/at\\_wit\\_s\\_end](http://www.lwvmd.net/at_wit_s_end)

For directions to Arena Stage go to:

<http://www.arenastage.org/plan-your-visit/transportation-parking/>  
Arena Stage is only one block from the Waterfront (SEU) Green Line Metro stop.



**YOUR LEAGUE NEEDS YOU**

**TO JOIN LWVMD  
FOR THE THREE R'S to:**

**RE-TOOL RE-LEARN RE-VITALIZE  
YOUR LEAGUE**

**RE-TOOL** - A new look at the Best Practices that have carried the League through the past 100 years

**RE-LEARN** - New outreach, visibility and leadership development skills

**RE-VITALIZE** - Emphasize marketing opportunities and add value to being a League member.

**ALL LEAGUE MEMBERS ARE ENCOURAGED TO PARTICIPATE IN THIS MEMBERSHIP LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT TRAINING DAY**

Saturday, October 17, 2015 10:00 AM TO 3:30 PM  
The Wilde Lake Interfaith Center 10431 Twin Rivers Road, Columbia, MD

Bring a "bag" lunch. Beverages and dessert will be provided.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

League: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone #: \_\_\_\_\_

Please register **by mail** : LWVMD - 111 Cathedral Street Suite 201, Annapolis, MD 21401  
or via email: [Info@lwvmd.org](mailto:Info@lwvmd.org) **by Friday, October 9, 2015**



### 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