



The Voter

League of Women Voters of Anne Arundel County

Niecy Chambers & Susan Elson, Co-Presidents

Joyce Martin, Editor

April 2016

Issue 92

<p>In this issue:</p> <p>Upcoming Events (cover)</p> <p>Letter from the Co-Presidents (p. 2)</p> <p>Local League Happenings</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Member Spotlight (p. 3) • Voting Rights Discussion (p. 4) • Bulletin Board (p. 4) • LWVAAC Board Highlights (p. 5) <p>Community Outreach & Action</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Voter Registration (p. 6) • Election Dates (p. 6) • Action Update: MAJR Justice Reinvestment Act (p. 7) <p>Flyers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • LWVAAC Annual Meeting (p. 8) • LWVMD Spring Event: <i>Insights into the 2016 Election</i> (p. 9) • Lobby Day on Capitol Hill (p. 10) • LWVAAC Membership Form (p. 11) 	<p>UPCOMING LWVAAC EVENTS</p> <p><i>2016 Annual Meeting and Brunch</i></p> <p>Saturday, April 30</p> <p>BayWoods of Annapolis</p> <p>9:30 a.m. Coffee & Registration</p> <p>10:00 a.m. Business Meeting</p> <p>11:00 a.m. Brunch</p> <p>Guest Speaker: Dr. Pamela Brown</p> <p>Dr. Pamela Brown is Executive Director of the Anne Arundel County Partnership for Children, Youth and Families, and an expert on conducting community needs assessments. Her most recent report on Anne Arundel County, <i>Poverty Amidst Plenty V</i>, was released in December 2015. Through her work at the Partnership and her years of research, Dr. Brown has gained deep insights into our county, which she imparts to her audience with humor and passion.</p> <p>Reservations required by April 25. Please see the flyer on page 8 for more information.</p>	<p>Calendar:</p> <p>Early Voting Dates Thu., Apr 14 - Thu., Apr 21, 10 am -8 pm <i>For more info, see p. 6</i></p> <hr/> <p>Primary Election Day Tue., Apr 26, 7:00 am - 8 pm</p> <hr/> <p>LWVAAC Annual Meeting & Brunch Sat., Apr 30, 9:30 am - 1:00 pm., BayWoods of Annapolis <i>See flyer, p. 8</i></p> <hr/> <p>LWVMD Spring Event <i>Insights into the 2016 Election</i> featuring Karen Tumulty, Sat., Apr. 30, 12:00 noon, Cosmos Club, 2121 Mass. Ave., NW Washington, D.C. <i>See flyer, p. 9</i></p> <hr/> <p>LWVUS Lobby Day Wed., May 11, 10:00 am - 3:30 pm, Capitol Hill, Washington, D.C. <i>See flyer, p. 10</i></p> <hr/> <p>LWVMD Council Sat., May 21 Hood College, Frederick</p> <hr/> <p>LWVAAC Board Meeting, Tue., May 24, 10:00 am, BayWoods of Annapolis</p> <hr/> <p>LWVUS 52nd National Convention Thu., June 16 - Sun., Jun 19, Washington, D.C.</p>
<p><i>Extra, Extra, Read All About...</i></p> <p>THE CANDIDATES!</p> <p>LWVAAC Voters' Guides for the Primary Election are now available at county public libraries, senior centers and other community facilities, as well as online at lwvaacmd.org. To request a print copy, email pres@lwvaacmd.org and be sure to provide a mailing address.</p> <p>For up-to-date answers to all your voting questions, go to:</p> <p>VOTE411.ORG® ELECTION INFORMATION YOU NEED</p>		



Letter from the Co-Presidents

Dear Members,

The League of Women Voters of Anne Arundel County is not a large League. Its membership currently hovers right around 60. Considering this, it is little short of astonishing that for every issue of *The Voter*, there is never a shortage of newsworthy member activities and programs to report on...and perhaps more importantly, to express our appreciation for.

In this edition, we would like to extend our special thanks to Ashley Oleson and Carol Ann Hecht for their excellent presentation on redistricting and state legislative efforts to reform the process; to Yolande Dickerson, for arranging voter registration events in a number of high schools, for creating a PowerPoint presentation entitled “Why Vote,” and for persuading county officials to make the PowerPoint presentation available for civics education in the public schools; to Myrna Siegel, for her selection of reading materials pertaining to the Voting Rights Act and for moderating a well-attended discussion on the topic; to Lois Fussell for her assistance with the League of Women Voters of Maryland Legislative Day; and last, but definitely not least, to Joyce Martin, for assuming the helm as Editor of this newsletter!

Of course, for every member who takes the lead for an activity or program, there are other members who support and participate in the program. We know this support and participation are critical to our mission, and we thank each of you for your help.

Coming Up! We look forward to seeing each of you at the Annual Meeting on April 30 at BayWoods of Annapolis. The Annual Meeting is an opportunity to get to know your fellow League members and listen to and ask questions of a knowledgeable speaker, all while enjoying culinary treats at the brunch. Hope to see you there!

Susan Elson and Niecy Chambers



Did you know?

...the LWVAAC will award a scholarship equal to one-half of the subsequent year’s annual dues of any active member who recruits 3 or more new members to the LWVAAC in a single membership year (July 1 to June 30).

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LOCAL LEAGUE HAPPENINGS

Meet LWVAAC Member....Katherine (Kit) Cahill

Some years ago, when Katherine (Kit) Cahill was an assistant city attorney in San Antonio, TX, members of the League of Women Voters, appearing before the City Planning Commission, impressed her with their knowledge and delivery. Fast forward to the present: Kit has become one of those impressive League members, recently retired and living in historic Annapolis.

Kit was born in New London, CT, but lived the majority of her childhood in TX and PA. She credits her civic-minded parents with her early interest in volunteer work and affiliations with the Boys and Girls Clubs in Philadelphia.

Following high school, scholarships and a work-study program landed Kit at Wheaton College in Norton, MA, where she majored in Political Science. She recalls that Wheaton, an all-girls school at that time, fostered an environment of respect and strong female friendships, which influenced her desire over the years to mentor other women in the workplace. “My college days in the mid-60s and early-70s were turbulent years in our country’s history...most of us were politically active,” she recalls. Kit worked summer internships both in Washington, DC, and at the United Nations in New York, and she also became involved in state and local political campaigns. “I quickly learned that the real action occurs at the local level where constituents have greater access to their representatives,” she says.

While at Wheaton, Kit and a number of classmates decided on law school because it would allow them to “work within the system.” Also, her parents expected she would continue her education beyond college. “It was just understood that I would get an advanced degree,” she says.

Kit received a scholarship to Syracuse College of Law and soon became interested in land use law. Upon



(Photo by Kathy Larrabee)

graduation, she married her late husband, who attended the business school of Syracuse University. Their honeymoon, a yearlong camping trip across the United States, eventually took them to San Antonio, where they made their home and raised two daughters. Kit says she had never camped before the honeymoon, but she thought it was “great fun” and they continued camping as a family activity. Their girls went on to attend college at SMU in Dallas and Loyola in New Orleans; one majored in theatre and the other in communications, and each now pursue their respective careers in Washington, DC, and Florida.

While living in San Antonio, Kit practiced first in land use issues, then she moved into utilities law and environmental law. She became a member of the American Institute of Certified Planners (AICP), and also enjoyed her role as a regular lecturer for the American Planning Association and the Texas City Attorneys’ Association.

Meet Member Kit Cahill (cont'd)

“I worked for the San Antonio Water System for 15 years before moving to Annapolis in 2005,” she says. “We had fallen in love with Annapolis some years before.” Upon relocating, she soon was principal counsel to DC Water where she served until August 2015. Tragically, just 3 years after moving to Annapolis, Kit’s husband suffered a fatal heart attack. In recalling those dark days, Kit notes, “While life gives us tragedy, it also gives us joy.” Several years after her loss, neighbors planned a dinner party and just happened to invite both Kit and Carter, a

widower. She and Carter were married in 2015, the same year Kit retired. Asked how she plans to spend retirement, she names her hobbies, including reading, the theatre, and films. “And, of course, I am the cliché for the frustrated attorney who wants to write mysteries!” She also will keep her volunteer options open. Kit is a member of the DC Bar, an inactive member in good standing of the Texas Bar and an inactive member in good standing of AICP.

Submitted by Kathy Larrabee, Membership Chair

LWVAAC Discusses Voting Rights

On March 15, 15 League members and a guest gathered at the Severna Park Library to discuss Ari Berman’s book, Give Us the Ballot. The book details the 50 year campaign to roll back the Voting Rights Act, as well as the 2013 Supreme Court decision which achieved much of that goal and the resulting actions by several states to impose new requirements on voters. Prior to attending the meeting participants were asked to read the book and related articles, including several representing alternative viewpoints which applauded the actions of the Supreme Court vis-a-vis the Voting Rights Act.

The discussion focused on the need for voter ID laws and the effect of those laws on different populations. Also discussed were the amount of voter fraud, and the distinction between individual voter fraud and electoral fraud, i.e. stuffing ballot boxes or undercounting ballots.

The participants agreed that the meeting was both informative and enjoyable.

Myrna Siegel, Program Chair



(l-r) Carol Sures, Joyce Martin, Eleanor Mills (guest), Myrna Siegel, Arlene Gavin, Susan Elson at Severna Park Library for the Voting Rights discussion. (Photo by Kathy Larrabee)

Bulletin Board



*Please welcome our newest LWVAAC members:
Kit Cahill, Mary Baer and Cristina Echavarren of
Annapolis, and Maryann Gosnell of Edgewater!*



LWVAAC Board Meeting Highlights

Board Meeting, Tuesday, February 23, 2016

- **Membership:** Larrabee reported that we currently have 57 members. Of the 13 members who attended our voter registrar training in January, four have volunteered to register students at three high schools. An experienced registrar works with a new registrar the first time they serve.
- **Annual Meeting:** The Annual Meeting will be April 30 at BayWoods. Farmer proposed that we charge \$30 for the meeting/brunch, which will cover the costs including the guest speaker. The Board agreed.
- **Voter Service:** Dickerson said parolees can vote as of March 10 as a result of a gubernatorial veto override by the State Senate. New registration forms reflecting the change will be available online on that date. The Board agreed by consensus for Dickerson to contact Ms. Poisson, head of social studies programs for the AACPS Board of Education, to gain approval for the "Why Vote?" PowerPoint presentation to be used in all schools.
- **Help Wanted:** Our League needs a Volunteer Coordinator. This could be a separate position or the coordinator could work in conjunction with Membership. An Arrangements Chair is also needed.

Board Meeting, Tuesday, March 22, 2016

- **Membership:** Larrabee reported we now have 60 members. She proposed sending a postcard, to be mailed June 1, to remind members to renew.
- **Rally for Democracy:** The Board will inform members of the April 17 Rally for Democracy in Washington DC, sponsored by a coalition of organizations across the country in an effort to protect voting rights, get big money out of politics, and demand fair consideration of the Supreme Court nominee. LWVUS has not authorized official League participation. Larrabee will coordinate transportation for members who wish to attend the Rally.
- **Annual Meeting:** All members will receive a printed invitation to the Annual Meeting. Elson will contact possible speakers.
- **Voter Registration/Education:** Registrations have continued at high schools including the Chesapeake Point Charter school where five students registered.
- **Forums:** Ciepiela said immediately after the April 2016 Primary she will invite candidates who have won from Congressional Districts 3 and 4. The Board selected Wednesday, October 19, as the proposed date. AAUW and LWVPGC will be notified of our plans.
- **Voters' Guides:** Chambers reported guides for the primary are in process. The Board approved printing 2,000 copies, contingent on pricing.
- **Vote411.org:** Ideas for promoting the online voters' guide included: ad in the newspapers, press releases, sending information to people who have applied for absentee ballots, and robo calls.
- **Meetings/Conventions:** **LWVMD State Council**, May 21, Frederick. **LWVUS Convention**, June 16-19, Washington DC. We are allotted two voting delegates at national convention and have budgeted funds to pay the registration fee for one.

Carol Sures, Secretary



COMMUNITY OUTREACH & ACTION

Voter Registration Drive Continues

Four newly-trained LWVAAC voter registrars assisted with voter registration at Anne Arundel County high schools during February and March 2016. As a result, our League has registered nearly 120 students in nine schools since last September. Many enthusiastic sixteen-year-olds have registered for the first time knowing that voting for them would not occur until their eighteenth birthdays. Noticeably, their enthusiasm generated more interest throughout the school lunch period.

Voter registration was also held in March at Marley Station Mall in Glen Burnie in partnership with the Coalition of 100 Black Women of Anne Arundel County. Twenty-five voters registered, including two new citizens registering for the first time. After registration, VOTE411.org cards were passed out with an explanation on how to use the online voters' guide website. A surge of voters passed by the table abounding with questions.

Submitted by Yolande Dickerson



Proud newly registered student at Chesapeake High School. (Photo by Kathy Larrabee)

2016 Maryland Primary Election Information

PRIMARY ELECTION: Tuesday, April 26, 2016
Polls open 7:00 am until 8:00 pm

Early Voting

Thursday, April 14 through Thursday, April 21, 2016
10:00 am until 8:00 pm

Anne Arundel County Early Voting Centers:

- Odenton Regional Library, Glen Burnie Regional Library, Severna Park Community Library, Edgewater Community Library, Annapolis Senior Activity Center

All early voting centers in Maryland are accessible to voters with disabilities. For more information, go to VOTE411.org or download the Voters' Guide from our website, lwvaacmd.org.



Kit Cahill and Gail Viamonte prepare to register students. (Photo by Kathy Larrabee)



ACTION UPDATE: Maryland Alliance for Justice Reform (MAJR)

Editor's Note: An article introducing the Maryland Alliance for Justice Reform (MAJR) appeared in the January 2015 issue of *The Voter*. While the League is not a member of MAJR, we support their work as it aligns with the following League positions:

LWVMD supports action to promote fair and appropriate sentencing, including abolition of the death penalty; and a correctional system, including probation and other alternatives to incarceration, that protects society and prepares offenders for successful reintegration into the community. LWVUS believes alternatives to imprisonment should be explored and utilized, taking into consideration the circumstances and nature of the crime. LWVUS opposes mandatory minimum sentences for drug offenses.

The Maryland Alliance for Justice Reform (MAJR) is putting much of its energy this year behind the Justice Reinvestment Act (SB 1005/HB1312). This bill results from months of meetings between legislative sessions by the bipartisan Justice Reinvestment Coordinating Council (JRCC), formed by a MAJR bill in 2015. This body made use of federal funds and help from the Pew Research Center to study Maryland's criminal justice system and make recommendations. The Council was made up of legislators, state agency administrators, representatives of law enforcement, and nonprofit leaders (see www.goccp.maryland.gov/jrcc).

The Justice Reinvestment Act (JRA) could reduce Maryland's prison population by 16% and save \$270 million within 10 years. By reinvesting those funds in alternatives to incarceration, our crime rate could be reduced, taxpayer funds could be saved, and communities and families could be strengthened.

At the front end, JRA would reduce unnecessary and costly incarceration for low-risk and nonviolent offenders and thereby gain increased funds for less costly, more effective diversion programs. These could include drug treatment, mental health treatment, and alternative dispute resolution programs. Nondiscriminatory offender "risk-needs assessments" would avoid unneeded intervention for low-risk offenders and target more effective services to "mid- and high-risk" offenders.

The JRA would reduce allowable sentences for many drug related and other nonviolent offenses, as well as permitting fair sentence reductions retroactively for inmates serving time on the same offenses. It would expand alternatives to incarceration in the sentencing guidelines and include suspended sentences in calculating guidelines.

A county grant fund could begin to provide for a state-wide network of local re-entry programs to help "returning citizens" access appropriate jobs, housing, treatment and other community assistance that will reduce the likelihood of recidivism. Because many people are reincarcerated because of "technical violations" of parole and probation, new guidelines would call for proven-effective, "swift-and-certain," graduated sanctions rather than full suspended prison time for every violation.

Other valuable improvements would provide more victim restitution, parole for elderly and disabled inmates, grants for local reinvestment programs, and training for staff to implement "best practices."

As of this writing, the bill has been favorably reported by the Senate Judicial Proceedings Committee with amendments. The House Judiciary and Health and Government Operations Committees have held hearings but not voted. For more information on this bill and other MAJR is supporting, see www.ma4jr.org.

Submitted by Pat Schenck, Member LWVAAC & MAJR



**LWV League of Women Voters®
of Anne Arundel County**

2016 ANNUAL MEETING & BRUNCH

Saturday, April 30, 2016

BayWoods of Annapolis

7101 Bay Front Drive, Annapolis, MD 21403

- 9:30 a.m. Registration and Coffee
- 10:00 a.m. Business Meeting
- 11:00 a.m. Brunch with Cash Bar

Guest Speaker

Dr. Pamela Brown, Executive Director
Anne Arundel County Partnership for Children, Youth and Families
Poverty Amidst Plenty V: Assessing our County's Needs

\$30.00 per person

**Reservations required. RSVP by April 25, 2016 to
Sue Farmer (410-268-3022 or ssfarmer27@verizon.net)**

Directions & Parking: Route 50 exit 22 to Aris T. Allen Blvd (Rt. 665). Stay on Aris T. Allen to Forest Drive. Follow Forest Drive east about 2.5 miles to Edgewood Road (Giant Food on your left). Turn left on Edgewood Road and follow the road about 1.5 miles. Turn right into BayWoods and follow signs for visitor parking. If all lots are full, there is additional parking a short walk away at the Ellen Moyer Nature Park, on the left just before the BayWoods entrance.

I/WE WILL ATTEND THE ANNUAL MEETING & BRUNCH ON APRIL 30th

Name(s) _____

League Member? Y N # of persons _____ @ \$ 30.00 Check enclosed for \$ _____

Mailing Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone (H) _____ (C) _____

Email _____

Dietary Restrictions _____

Please make your check payable to LWVAAC and mail to Sue Farmer, 7101 Bay Front Drive, #124, Annapolis, MD 21403, or RSVP by phone or email and pay at the door with cash or check. Questions? 410-268-3022 or ssfarmer27@verizon.net. Thank you!



Join the League of Women Voters of Maryland
Saturday, April 30, 2016
at Noon
for
Lunch at the Cosmos Club
The Townsend House



2121 Massachusetts Avenue NW, Washington DC 20008

The Cosmos Club, one of the goals of which is the "advancement of its members in science, literature and art," has a long list of past and present distinguished members.
The Townsend House where the club is located is itself on the National Register of Historic Places.



Featured Speaker
Karen Tumulty
National Political Correspondent
for the *Washington Post*
Insights into the 2016 Election

Reserve parking at the Embassy Row Hotel, 2015 Massachusetts Avenue through Parking Panda www.parkingpanda.com. By telephone: 1-800-232-6415.
RESERVE YOUR PARKING EARLY!
OR
Travel on the Metro Red Line to DuPont Circle. The Cosmos Club is a 2 minute walk.

April 30, 2016 Spring Event

Name(s) _____

Phone _____ League _____

Email _____

_____ \$75 per person for The Cosmos Club luncheon

RESERVATIONS MUST BE MADE BY APRIL 16, 2016
Mail your check made out to LWVMD to:
LWVMD, 111 Cathedral St., Ste. 201, Annapolis, MD 21401
or make your reservation online



Join Maryland Leaguers

for



A DAY ON CAPITOL HILL

Wednesday, May 11, 2016, 10 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.

- ✓ Visit at US Senate and Representative offices
- ✓ Enjoy lunch together in staff dining facility
- ✓ Take part in advocating a LWVUS topic* (voluntary)
- ✓ Have fun!

*Participants will be briefed by email about the LWVUS topic for advocacy.



No fee!

Meet at Taxi/Massachusetts Avenue exit of Union Station, Washington, DC at 10 a.m.

Arrive at Union Station by Amtrak, Marc, Metro, bus or auto. If driving, one can park in Union Station's public parking.

For questions, contact Carole Conors, 410-750-3960 home, 443-794-4678 mobile or CaroleConors@verizon.net. To reserve, contact Carole by email or LWVMD office at LWVMD@verizon.net by Sunday, May 1, and include street address, email address and cell phone number.

Name(s) _____ Cell phone # _____

Email _____ Street address (not PO Box) _____



MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION (NEW AND RENEWAL)

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

Please check one:

- Checkboxes for membership types: 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.

Form fields for contact information: 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.

Membership levels and dues: Individual - \$65, Household - \$30, Student - \$25, School affiliation, Anticipated completion date

CONTRIBUTION OPPORTUNITIES Membership dues are not tax deductible.

Contribution opportunities: 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