



The Voter

League of Women Voters of Anne Arundel County

Niecy Chambers & Susan Elson, Co-Presidents

Joyce Martin, Editor

Summer 2016

Issue 93

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Introducing...

TTLIC



**Third Thursday
League Connection**

UPCOMING EVENTS



FOURTH OF JULY



Naturalization Ceremony July 4, 2016 at 10:00 AM Paca House and Garden

186 Prince George Street, Annapolis, MD

Looking for an inspirational way to start your Independence Day festivities? Celebrate the accomplishments, and witness the pride, of new citizens as they take the oath of allegiance to the United States at a naturalization ceremony hosted annually by Historic Annapolis.

LWVAAC has once again been invited to assist the new citizens with information on voting. Mary-Lou McCutcheon and Maryann Gosnell will staff our voter registration table, with help from Dawn O'Brien and Kathy Larrabee. Bring a friend and join them!



New U.S. citizen Mohammad Hanif and daughter Huma Hanif of Pakistan, July 4, 2015.

(Photo by Kathy Larrabee)

Calendar:

**Fourth of July
Naturalization Ceremony**
Mon, Jul 4, 10:00 am
Paca House, Annapolis

**Tame the Gerrymander
Coalition: Elbridge Gerry
Birthday Commemoration**
Thu., Jul 14, 10:30 am
Lawyer's Mall, Annapolis

**Third Thursday League
Connection (TTLC):
Inaugural "No Host"
LWVAAC Happy Hour**
Thu., Jul 21, 5:00 pm
Carrol's Creek Café
410 Severn Ave., Annapolis

**Third Thursday League
Connection (TTLC)**
Thu., Aug 18, 5:00 pm
Location TBD
Look for an announcement on
our website, lwvaacmd.org

LWVAAC Board Meeting
Tue., Aug 23, 10:00 am-noon
BayWoods of Annapolis

Happy Summer!



Letter from the Co-Presidents

Dear Members,

We were delighted to welcome so many of you and your guests at annual meeting. Standing at the podium, it was a true pleasure to see tables of old friends and new acquaintances immersed in conversation. We appreciate our members' thoughtful direction to the board, and warm reception for our speaker, Dr. Pamela Brown. Thank you to Sue Farmer for organizing a delicious meal and very enjoyable event.

On June 11, your newly elected board met to begin planning for the coming League year. As directed by our bylaws, we began by appointing six individuals to serve a one-year term on the board. They are Kit Cahill, Sue Farmer, Arlene Gavin, Joyce Martin, Gabrielle Strandquist and Sarah Thwaites. A special welcome to Kit, who joins our board for the first time!

You'll notice something new in our Calendar of events. Membership chair Kathy Larrabee has initiated a no-host, no-agenda social called the Third Thursday League Connection (TTLC), for LWVAAC members and friends to meet and mingle in a casual setting. The inaugural TTLC will be a happy hour at Carrol's Creek Café in Annapolis on **July 21**. Come as you are, and look in the bar for Kathy or anyone wearing a LWV logo!

Please remember that the League's membership year runs from July 1 to June 30; the renewal application is on page 8 of this newsletter. Contact Kathy Larrabee if you're not sure whether your membership is up to date.

While League activity slows in the summer, we encourage you to stay in touch. Reach out to a board member if you hear of an event of interest, have an idea for a program, want to hold a voter registration drive, or even if you'd just like to get a cup of coffee. We look forward to hearing from you.

Have a happy and healthy summer!

Niecy Chambers and Susan Elson

LWVAAC Officers:

Niecy Chambers, Co-President
410-295-5228
bayroot5@comcast.net

Susan Elson, Co-President
410-757-8577
elsonsusana@yahoo.com

Carol Sures, Secretary
410-757-9071
cgsures@comcast.net

Alfa Stevens, Treasurer
410-551-2713
stl_magnolia@hotmail.com

LWVAAC Directors:

Kit Cahill
210-823-4114
kcahillknox@gmail.com

Carolyn Ciepiela, Candidates' Forum
410-849-5429
ciepiela@comcast.net

Lois Coon, Legislative Coffee;
410-849-5429
jack.coon@verizon.net

Yolande Dickerson, Voter Registration
410-636-1714
y dickerson2@gmail.com

Sue Farmer
410-268-3022
ssfarmer27@verizon.net

Arlene Gavin
410-849-2198
arlenegavin22@gmail.com

Kathy Larrabee, Membership
410-353-3432
kklarrabee@verizon.net

Joyce Martin, Newsletter Editor
806-543-0253
joyce1167@gmail.com

Myrna Siegel, Program
410-849-8832
thesiegels915@comcast.net

Gabrielle Strandquist
410-757-6632
GSwriteone@comcast.net

Linda Teare
410-280-3303
lindateare@gmail.com

Sarah Thwaites, Telephone Tree
410-987-0952
sarahthwaites483@verizon.net

LWVAAC Nominating Committee:

Anne Schifferle, Chair
410-672-6099
anneschifferle@yahoo.com

Shirley Hatch
410-757-7628
shatch04@comcast.net

Lois Coon, board representative

LOCAL LEAGUE HAPPENINGS

Meet LWVAAC Member...Maryann Gosnell

Maryann is our League's newest member. She and her husband moved to Annapolis full-time from Potomac, Maryland, in 2015. Their Annapolis home had previously been a weekend retreat.

For almost 20 years, Maryann has worked in the advancement office at Bullis School, an independent, co-ed school for grades 2-12 in Potomac. She edited publications, assisted with fundraising and managed the Bullis website. In semi-retirement, she is the Bullis School webmaster, working mostly from home.

Maryann says this year's presidential election sparked her to join the League. The issue of voting rights is very important to her, and she is eager to get involved in voter services and education with the League. The first League event Maryann attended this year was the LWVAAC annual meeting in April. "I was inspired by the dedication and energy of the League members I met," she notes.

Maryann has a business degree from Franklin and Marshall College in Lancaster, Pennsylvania, and has a certificate in publications from George Washington University. Previously, Maryann volunteered in the D.C. area, serving as board chair for Resources to Inspire Students and Educators, which tutors inner-city students. She also was a tutor for the Literacy Council of Montgomery County. In Annapolis, she is a member of Anne Arundel Women Giving Together and has recently joined the Assistance League of the Chesapeake.

Maryann and her husband have two daughters, one grandson and another grandchild on the way. She enjoys reading, tennis, long walks, boating, art and travel.



(Photo by Kathy Larrabee)

Submitted by Kathy Larrabee, Membership Chair



REMINDER

July 1 marks the beginning of a new League year. Complete the membership application on page 8 to keep your LWVAAC membership current through June 2017. Questions? Contact Kathy Larrabee.



Highlights of the LWVAAC Annual Meeting, Saturday, April 30

Business Meeting:

- Thirty-six people attended, including our liaison from the LWVMD board, Betsy Singer, who commended our League on its many achievements this year.
- Treasurer Fussell reported that our Education Fund received a \$1,000 bequest from the estate of Ruth J. Smith. Members approved the 2016-17 LWVAAC budget as proposed.
- Program chair Siegel sought volunteers for the Transportation and School subcommittees of the Community Relations fact-finding project. Fussell encouraged interested members to join the Public Housing subcommittee.
- Members voted to elect the following slate to a two-year term: Alfa Stevens, Treasurer, and Carolyn Ciepiela, Lois Coon and Kathy Larrabee, Directors. The 2016-17 Nominating committee will be chaired by Anne Schifferle, with Shirley Hatch as the off-board member.

Members' Direction to the Board:

- Strandquist reported an issue with polling place accessibility, and asked whether the League could investigate.
- Fussell suggested placing highlights of the *Report from State Circle* in our newsletter.
- Siegel asked members their opinion of this year's discussion based on the book "Give Us the Ballot." Several responded in favor of scheduling another similar meeting featuring a book or other readings.
- Cochran urged the League to monitor County Council and Board of Education meetings in person; "being there" is essential.
- Viamonte expressed concern about increasing divisiveness in many areas of U.S. culture, and asked the League to address this issue regardless of the outcome of the 2016 general election.
- Dickerson suggested a survey to ascertain the effectiveness of *Voters' Guides* and Vote411.org cards.
- Cochran said LWVAAC should use its position on immigration to educate citizens. She suggested that our League work more on development issues with GAN (Growth Action Network), and reminded us that state and national LWV positions may be used a basis for action.



(l-r) Program chair Myrna Siegel with guest Betty Farrar at Annual Meeting, April 30 at Baywoods.
(Photo by Kathy Larrabee)

Carol Sures, Secretary

SPREAD THE WORD...EVERY VOTE COUNTS!

Say it, text it, tweet it, repeat it until everyone believes.

Register to vote by October 18. Vote on November 8.



Planning for 2016-17: Notes from the LWVAAC Board Retreat, June 11, 2016

Each summer, LWVAAC board members and interested members gather for an informal brainstorming session that we call “retreat.” The purpose is to set goals and make preliminary plans for the coming League year; however, the mental effort is usually made very enjoyable by a lovely venue and delicious potluck feast.

This year was no exception! Host Arlene Gavin welcomed us into her comfortable living room with its wall-to-wall views of the woods, and the buffet was laden with board members’ culinary contributions of every kind.

We began by reviewing members’ direction to the board at the annual meeting (see article on p. 4), and assigning responsibility for follow-up actions when appropriate. Program chair Myrna Siegel then introduced a suggested calendar of monthly activities for our consideration and discussion. With respect to the candidates’ forum scheduled for October, Carolyn Ciepiela sought guidance on which Congressional districts to invite (Anne Arundel County contains sections of four districts: 2, 3,4 and 5). Membership chair Kathy Larrabee proposed a new activity called the Third Thursday League Connection (TTLC), designed to be a no-host, no-agenda get-together for LWVAAC members and friends. She also cited the importance of recognizing and celebrating LWVAAC members who achieve “life member” status.

As a result of our retreat discussions, States’ Attorney Wes Adams has been invited to speak on recent criminal justice reforms at our fall kickoff meeting on Tuesday, September 20. In addition, the inaugural Third Thursday League Connection (TTLC) has been scheduled for July 21, 5 p.m. at Carrol’s Creek Café in Annapolis. Additional information will be sent by email and posted on our website.

Submitted by Niecy Chambers

STATE & NATIONAL LWV ACTIVITIES

LWVAAC Participates in LWVMD Biennial Council

Every year, representatives of the 14 local Leagues in Maryland get to make decisions about the state League’s upcoming program year. In odd-numbered years, this important process takes place at a multi-day convention; in 2015, our League hosted the LWVMD Convention in Annapolis. In even-numbered years, a partial-day meeting called Council is held to conduct necessary League business, and to provide participants with information and networking opportunities.

On Saturday, May 21, LWVAAC members Lois Fussell and Kathy Larrabee (pictured right) joined other local League delegates and the state League’s board of directors at the LWVMD Council hosted at Hood College by the League of Women Voters of Frederick County. In addition to representing our League as a voting delegate, Kathy served as a presenter in a workshop on membership best practices.

A complete report on this year’s LWVMD Council appears in the [June 2016 State Board Letter \(SBL\)](#), posted on the LWVMD website, lwvmd.org. To subscribe, email lwvmd@verizon.net.



(Photo by JoAnn Ross, LWVMD)

COMMUNITY OUTREACH & ACTION

Annual Meeting Speaker Discusses Poverty Amidst Plenty in Anne Arundel County

Dr. Pamela Brown, Executive Director of Anne Arundel County Partnership for Children, Youth and Families (ACY) was the featured speaker at the LWVAAC'S Annual Meeting, Saturday, April 30, 2016. Dr. Brown, who earned her doctorate at Florida Atlantic University, is certified to conduct ethical research. She is a University of Phoenix Research Reviewer and Dissertation Chair specializing in qualitative case study methods. Dr. Brown has been conducting community needs assessments for over 20 years, most recently researching and writing the fifth (2015) edition of *Poverty Amidst Plenty* for the Community Foundation of Anne Arundel County.

ACY has a staff of 12, reports to the County Executive and is self-funded through grants and other means. They conduct programs with United Way and other organizations with a multi-dimensional approach to community problems. Her organization focuses on populations in need, including hungry and disconnected student children, homeless youth, and families impacted by incarceration.

Dr. Brown explained the "geography of poverty." She has developed maps showing areas with low income households, high crime rates, instances of mental illness, ER visits, food deserts, public housing and public transportation in Anne Arundel County. In this county, problems resulting from poverty are heavily

concentrated in North County, particularly in the Glen Burnie area, but resources to attack the problems are primarily in Annapolis. This demonstrates poor planning and coordination between agencies. She also singled out the flawed public transportation system, which seems designed to serve shoppers rather than people going to work. She is encouraged that County Executive Schuh is considering this problem.

Dr. Brown said that three key elements in alleviating poverty are affordable housing, affordable child care and transportation. Currently, housing is out of reach for many people: a single-earner family with two children needs a minimum of \$25/hour to live here, but 50,000 residents earn only \$12/hour. Even worse, quality child care has a price tag of \$21,000 per year!

The gap between rich and poor is growing rapidly. While the overall poverty rate in the county is 5%, 26% of Brooklyn Park residents live in poverty. Countywide, about 12% of young people age 16-24 are unemployed, but the rate for blacks is 20%, Hispanics 13%, whites 10%.

The number of homeless families is rising, and there are 1,400 homeless children in our schools. Of these, 300 are "unaccompanied." Dr. Brown mentioned five children living in



Dr. Pamela Brown addresses our 2016 Annual Meeting at BayWoods of Annapolis.
(Photo by Kathy Larrabee)

Poverty Amidst Plenty (cont'd)

a Glen Burnie hardware store with no adult guidance, but working and attending school.

Looking ahead, Dr. Brown noted that the population of senior citizens will continue to grow until 2030. Although “baby boomers” believe they are “redefining” old age, significant impacts on health care and hospitals loom. While poverty is an issue for many in the county, seniors from all income levels experience depression and loneliness.

ACY has an extensive community plan, but programs have not been coordinated thus far. There is a need for elected officials, planners, work force developers, the business community - everyone - to understand the patterns laid out in Dr. Brown’s talk. All of these entities benefit from, and recognize the importance of, a financially-healthy community, politics notwithstanding. Legislative action will play a role in solving some of the problems, and Dr. Brown believes the League can help in that arena.

Submitted by Carol Sures

Environment: Pollinator Protection Act

Maryland’s Pollinator Protection Act passed in the General Assembly and became law without Governor Hogan’s signature. This bill restricts consumer use of neonics, which are systemic pesticides known to contribute to bee mortality and declines in native pollinators including wild bees, birds and butterflies. Studies also show harm to aquatic molting blue crabs and macro-invertebrates from neonics. They may also affect the developing human nervous system.

Managed bees are critical to our food supply, pollinating many of our favorite foods. Known as the “angels of agriculture,” bees pollinate 71 of the 100 crops that make up the majority of the world’s food supply and many of the fruits and vegetables grown in Maryland.

The Pollinator Protection Act takes neonics off the retail store shelves and prohibits anyone who is not a veterinarian, farmer, certified pesticide applicator or their employee from using them. This should be the first step in eliminating neonics altogether.

Anne Schifferle, Environment



Changing of the Guard: Outgoing LWVAAC Treasurer Lois Fussell (standing) reviews the books with newly-elected Treasurer Alfa Stevens. (Photo by Niecy Chambers)





LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF ANNE ARUNDEL COUNTY, MD

web: lwvaacmd.org | email: lwvaacmd@gmail.com

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION (NEW AND RENEWAL)

Date: _____

Includes membership in three levels of the League of Women Voters: Anne Arundel County (local), MD (state) and U.S. (national)

Please check all that apply:

- Membership application options: New LWVAAC member, Renewing LWVAAC member, Former LWV member, Life LWV member.

CONTACT INFORMATION This information will be shared only with other LWVAAC members.

Contact information fields: Name (primary member), Nickname, Name (household member), Mailing address, City/State/Zip Code, Telephone #, Home, Cell, Email, Preferred contact, Referred by.

MEMBERSHIP LEVELS AND ANNUAL DUES Members must be U.S. citizens 18 years of age or older.

Table with membership levels and dues: Individual - \$65, Household - \$30, Student - \$25.

CONTRIBUTION OPPORTUNITIES Membership dues are not tax-deductible.

Table with contribution opportunities: Tax-deductible contribution to the LWVAAC Education Fund, Non-deductible contribution in direct support of LWVAAC, TOTAL.

Make checks payable to: LWV of Anne Arundel County
Mail application and payment to: Kathy Larrabee, LWVAAC Membership Chair, 604 Silkwood Court, Annapolis, MD 21401.
For questions, call: 410-353-3432 or email lwvaacmd@gmail.com.

The League of Women Voters of Anne Arundel County, a nonpartisan, nonprofit political organization, 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.

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