



The Voter

League of Women Voters of Anne Arundel County

Niecy Chambers & Susan Elson, Co-Presidents

Joyce Martin, Editor

November/December 2016

Issue 96

In this issue	UPCOMING LWVAAC EVENTS	Calendar
<p>Letter from Co-Presidents (p 2)</p> <p>Local League Happenings (p 3-4)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Member Spotlight (p 3) Bulletin Board (p 3) Books for Learning (p 4) Board Meeting Highlights (p 4) <p>Voter Service and Community Outreach (p 5-6)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Maryland District 3 Congressional Candidates' Forum (p 5) Voters' Guides (p 6) Did you know? Environmental Issues on Fracking (p 6) <p>Flyers (p 7-9)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 2017 Program Planning and Holiday Tea (p 7) Exploring the Dynamics Between Police and Communities of Color: Where Do We Go From Here? (p 8) LWVAAC Membership Application Form (p 9) 	<p style="text-align: center;">Legislative Delegate Districts in Maryland: Single or Multi-Member</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>A topic for League study, discussion & consensus</i></p> <p style="text-align: center;">Tuesday, November 15 from 1 - 3 pm Edgewater Library, 24 Stepney's Lane</p> <p>At the 2015 LWVMD Convention, the state League adopted a study of open primaries, which subsequently developed into two stages. The LWVMD board felt that Maryland's use of single and multi-member districts might be the subject of legislation in the 2017 General Assembly, and that the state League's position (adopted in 1993) could be important in testifying on redistricting reform. As a result, they tasked the study committee with compiling information for a consensus discussion and possible update of the League's existing position on single and multi-member districts first, before addressing the topic of open primaries.</p> <p>Our League will discuss Maryland's single and multi-member legislative districts on Tuesday, November 15, from 1 to 3 p.m. at the Edgewater Library. Resources for the consensus discussion are posted on the LWVMD website (lwvmd.org) under Publications-Fact Sheets.</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>*Save the Date*</i></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>Thursday, Dec 6, 3 - 5 pm</i> <i>317 Eatons Landing, Annapolis</i></p> <p>With the election finally over, and the holidays just begun; We'll celebrate and plan ahead with League friends, tea and fun! (see flyer p. 7)</p>	<p>LWVAAC Consensus Meeting: State Study on Single vs. Multi-Member Legislative Districts Tue, Nov 15, 1 - 3 pm Edgewater Public Library</p> <p>LWVMD Public Forum: Exploring the Dynamics Between Police and Communities Sat, Nov 19, 9 am - 12:30 pm University of Baltimore Turner Learning Commons 1415 N. Charles St. Baltimore</p> <p>LWVAAC Board Meeting Tue, Nov 22, 10 am - 12 pm BayWoods of Annapolis</p> <p>LWVAAC Program Planning & Holiday Tea Tue, Dec 6, 3 - 5 pm Hosted by Niecy Chambers 317 Eatons Landing Annapolis</p> 



Letter from the Co-Presidents

Dear League Members:

Our Anne Arundel County League has completed its work leading up to the 2016 General Election. It is at a time like this that the nonpartisan voter services provided by the League of Women Voters stand in sharp relief against the increasingly partisan backdrop of politics as usual.

During this election season, our League has published its Voters' Guide for Anne Arundel County, and made it publicly available both in print and online at Vote411.org. Especially important, our League members have gone to schools, naturalization ceremonies, public libraries, and other venues to afford citizens a convenient opportunity to register to vote, update their address and change their party affiliation. League registrars have helped to answer voters' many questions about the election, and reinforce the importance of voting.

On October 26, LWVAAC and the American Association of University Women, Anne Arundel County chapter, co-sponsored a debate between Mark Plaster, Republican, and John Sarbanes, Democrat, candidates for U.S. Representative from the 3rd District. It was gratifying to see the candidates' civil and respectful discourse despite

their significant differences of opinion. Our thanks and congratulations to Candidate Forum Chair, Carolyn Ciepiela, her committee members, and the AAUW on a job well done!

We also acknowledge Kathy Larrabee, Susan Cochran and Alfa Stevens for successfully raising public awareness of our League's efforts in the media. Through their efforts, The Capital carried a story on our debate, WNAV aired an interview about our Voters' Guide, and Bay Weekly ran an article on Vote411.org. Great work!

With the election almost behind us, we turn our attention to League business. On November 15, we'll seek to reach consensus on the first part of the LWVMD study on open primaries, which addresses our state League's position on single and multi-member districts (see cover). Then, on December 6, we'll tackle local and state League program planning, while enjoying holiday cheer at a festive High Tea (see Flyer p. 7). See you there.

We thank you for your continued membership, support and participation in the League of Women Voter's of Anne Arundel County. Happy Holidays!

Niecy Chambers & Susan Elson

LWVAAC Board of Directors

Officers:

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

Susan Elson, Co-President
410-757-8377
elsonsusana@yahoo.com

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

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

Directors:

Katherine (Kit) Cahill
210-823-4114
kcahillknox@gmail.com

Carolyn Ciepiela, Candidate's Forum
410-268-5152
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
ssf farmer27@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
joycel167@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 . . . Cristina Echavarren

Cristina and her husband, Clark Bouwman, moved from Chevy Chase to Annapolis in 2014. Cristina joined the LWVAAC in 2015, just after attending an LWVAAC Gerrymandering Program. But, before she had an opportunity to become engaged in League activities, her consulting work in finance took her to Italy for an extended period. She returned home several months ago.

Cristina is originally from Montevideo, Uruguay. Her family immigrated to the US when she was young. However, she returned to Uruguay to finish high school. Most of Cristina’s family still living in Uruguay are ranchers. Like many kids from ranching families, she learned at an early age how to round up cattle and sheep and drive them to market on horseback.

Cristina earned her undergraduate degree at American University (BA, economics) and a Global MBA at the University of Maryland University College. She worked for many years at the Inter-American Development Bank in Washington, DC. Since retirement, she has been occasionally consulting on finance; most recently in Rome, Italy. She is fluent in Spanish and English, with limited ability in Italian. Cristina has always enjoyed community work, serving as a community leader for several decades. “I strongly believe that volunteering my time can make a community better,” she says. Cristina and Clark, married 24 years, enjoy many outdoor activities, including sailing and kayaking in Annapolis, hiking, camping, and bicycle riding. Cristina has a son from a previous marriage and two grandchildren, ages 9 and 3, living in California.



Kathy Larrabee, Membership Chair

Bulletin Board

Please Help Us Welcome
New LWVAAC Member
Sharon Ledbetter
Sharon lives in Annapolis.

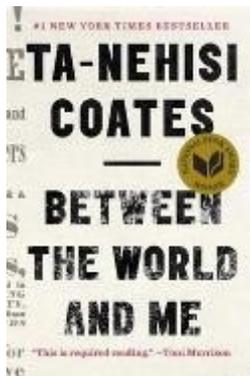


Books for Learning

January 31, 2017, Place and time TBD

[Editor’s Note: We are reprinting this article from the September 2016 issue as a reminder, and to announce the meeting date of Tuesday, January 31, 2017.

The time and location will be published in the January edition of *The Voter*.]

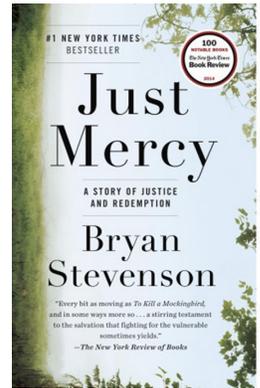


For our January meeting we have chosen two books for discussion: *Between the World and Me*” by Ta-Nehisi Coates and *Just Mercy* by Bryan Stevenson.

Coates’ book is written as a letter to his teenage son about the feelings, symbolism and realities associated with being black in America. Coates, who grew up in Baltimore, explains to his son the “racist violence that has been woven into American culture.” He shares stories of his

experiences that led to his conclusions as to the truth about history and race.

Bryan Stevenson is a lawyer and social justice activist. After law school, he began representing poor clients in the South, first in Georgia, then in Alabama, where he co-founded the Equal Justice Institute. The book focuses mainly on that work and those clients. The narrative backbone of the book is the story of a black man, falsely accused of the murder of a young white woman, for which he spent six years on death row.



Both books are eye-openers. I can’t say you will enjoy them, but you will begin to see the world from a different perspective. You can choose to read one or both books. They are both available at the library.

Myrna Siegel, Program Chair

LWVAAC Board Meeting Highlights

Board Meeting, October 25, 2016

- **Announcements:** The Board commended Larrabee’s letter to the editor in *The Capital* concerning gerrymandering.
- **Program:** Siegel noted that the November 15 consensus meeting will be on single vs. multi-member legislative districts. Several Board members expressed surprise and disappointment that the consensus would not address open primaries, since that was the topic adopted for study at the state convention. Chambers will ask LWVMD for an explanation.
- **Membership:** Larrabee reported 54 current members, including one new member; eight members have chosen not to renew. Several members are approaching life status (50 years in the League).
- **Voter Registration:** Larrabee will no longer manage our League’s participation at the USCIS ceremonies in Baltimore. LWVAAC volunteers will be coordinated by Barbara Crain (LWV-Baltimore Co.) and Ralph Watkins (LWVMD). Trained registrars will be invited to continue volunteering.
- **Annual Meeting:** Elson reported that Dr. Jennifer Lawless is not available to speak at our luncheon. Elson will issue an invitation to retiring Senator Barbara Mikulski.
- **Legislative Priorities:** LWVMD requested our League’s top five priorities for 2017. The board selected redistricting reform, adequate public transportation funding, corrections and sentencing reform, mitigating climate change, and eliminating contested elections for Circuit Court judges.

Carol Sures, Secretary



VOTER SERVICES & COMMUNITY OUTREACH

Maryland District 3 Congressional Candidates Forum

On Wednesday evening, October 26th, another successful candidates' forum was presented to the voters of Anne Arundel County by the LWVAAC, co-sponsored by the American Association of University Women, Anne Arundel County Branch. Although the Green Party candidate dropped out a few days prior to the event, a substantive and civil discussion took place between the two remaining candidates for Maryland District 3's Congressional seat---Mark Plaster, the Republican contender, and John Sarbanes, the Democratic incumbent.

A wide range of issues was covered during the two-hour forum, thanks in part to a major change in format. Although the audience had an opportunity to pose their questions to the candidates in the last hour of the forum, the first hour was basically a debate between the two candidates on subjects chosen by the Forum Committee and submitted to the candidates well before the forum. Consequently, and especially due to the fact that our Moderator, Susan Kopen Katcef, is a professional journalist who is the Capital News Service's Broadcast Bureau Director at the Philip Merrill College of Journalism, University of Maryland, the evening proved to be mostly one of substance rather than rhetoric. Ms. Kopen Katcef guided the candidates adeptly through the debate so that we learned exactly where they stood on important issues, including, but not limited to, criminal justice reform, voter enfranchisement and climate change. Although this format definitely requires such a professional guide, I am already recommending it to League colleagues in other states as a way to bypass personal remarks and get to the issues which are important to the electorate and to the League.

We were a little short on audience as we had hoped for more than 100. That can at least partly be attributed to the fact that there was, concurrent with our forum, a broadcast of a debate between the two competitors for Barbara Mikulski's soon-to-be-vacated Maryland Senate seat. Another significant factor is that the borders of District 3 are spread, irrationally, right across the state, and protrude north into Baltimore County and south into Howard County, making it very difficult to define a target voting population.

All of that aside, LWVAAC is proud to have presented another successful candidates' forum along with our co-sponsors, the AAUW, and we hope to continue to refine and perfect all aspects of this traditional League event.

Carolyn Ciepiela, Forum Committee Chair



Candidates Mark Plaster, Republican (left) and John Sarbanes, Democrat, discussing issues at the District 3 Congressional Forum



Congressional Candidates' Forum with Susan Kopen Katcef, moderator.

(Photos by Kathy Larrabee)

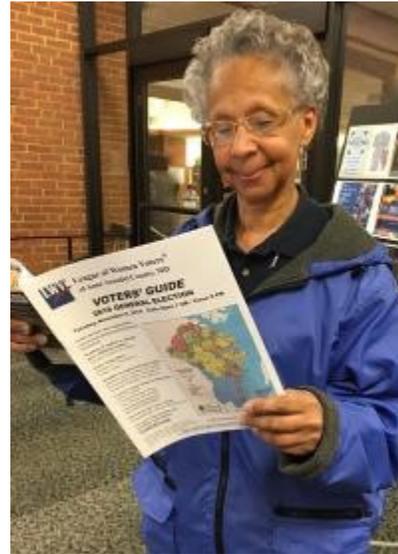


VOTERS' GUIDE

For the general election, our League printed and distributed 2500 copies of the Voters' Guide for Anne Arundel County countywide. We emphasize to the libraries and other public spaces the importance of making the Guide accessible to patrons, and we take every opportunity to educate voters about the VOTE411.org.



Librarian Evelyn Alfred, Annapolis Regional Library



Reverend Evelyn, Minister for Pastoral Care, Mount Moriah AME Church, Annapolis, checks facts in the Voters' Guide to prepare for a Sunday sermon.

(Photos by Kathy Larrabee)

Did You Know? Environmental Issues on Fracking*

Fracking is the process of pumping water, sand and chemicals into the ground to release natural gas. New fracking regulations have been proposed by Maryland Department of Environment Secretary Ben Grumbles. The proposed rules include faster permitting and relaxed requirements for buffers to protect areas near drilling sites compared to those proposed in 2014 by the administration of Governor Martin O'Malley. But the proposal would ban well heads in four watersheds including nearly 41,000 acres around Deep Creek Lake in far western Maryland. The proposal also includes stricter guidelines for well casings with four layers of steel casing and cement around fracking wells. Drillers would also have to disclose the chemicals they use, an idea the industry has fought saying it would expose industry trade secrets.

A coalition called "Don't Frack Maryland" has said in a statement that the proposed rules are less stringent than those proposed by the previous administration and urged the state legislature to permanently ban

fracking. Six in ten Marylanders oppose the practice while 27% support fracking.

Fracking legislation may be introduced during the 2017 Maryland legislative session. Several Democratic lawmakers have decided they will sponsor legislation to ban fracking saying no safeguards can adequately protect the public and the environment from the practice. There is concern about water protection, air pollution and earthquakes.

A state moratorium on issuing permits ends Oct 1, 2017.

Anne Schifferle, Environment

*The Capital Sept. 28, 2016; The Washington Post Oct. 8, 2016



League of Women Voters®
of Anne Arundel County

invites you



2017 Program Planning & Holiday Tea

Tuesday, December 6, 2016

3:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.

317 Eatons Landing, Annapolis 21401

Program Planning

Local program activities reinforce the League's grassroots foundation, by addressing topics of immediate concern to our members and our community. A proposed program activity does not need to result in a consensus study or position. The critical element for any proposed program is member interest and a committed chairperson.

The purpose of this meeting is to identify and discuss local topics of immediate concern to our members, and to evaluate both our League's and the state League's existing positions.

Holiday Tea

Relax, reflect and enjoy a proper afternoon tea with your League board!

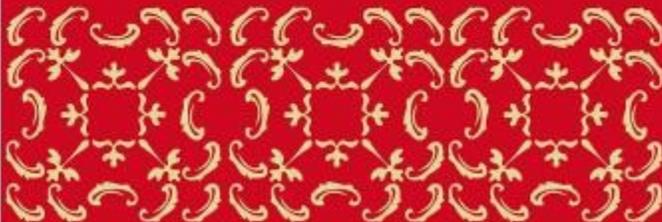
OPTIONAL \FLAU(-Ə)R\ EXCHANGE

Some like to bake, others choose to garden;

Still others prefer their \FLAU(-Ə)R\ to harden;

Whatever your pleasure, storebought or homemade,

Bring some form of \FLAU(-Ə)R\, to sample or trade.



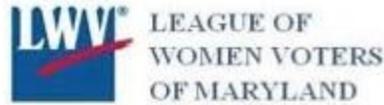
Questions? Please contact:

Niecy Chambers

bayroot5@comcast.net

(410) 295-5228

(978) 975-6041



**Exploring the Dynamics
Between Police and Communities of Color:
Where Do We Go from Here?**

Saturday, November 19th – Registration 8:30 a.m. – Program 9 am to 12:30 pm
University of Baltimore H. Mebane Turner Learning Commons
1415 Maryland Ave, Baltimore, MD 21201

Featuring: University of Baltimore President Kurt Schmoke as Moderator.

Lay of the Land: Dr. Benjamin Wright, School of Criminal Justice, UB.

Police Perspective: Commissioner Kevin Davis, Baltimore City Police; Chief William Harden, Pokomoke Police.

Prosecutor Perspective: Inspector General Carlos Acosta – Prince George’s County Police Department; Elizabeth Embry, Chief of the Criminal Division in the Maryland Office of the Attorney General.

Community Perspective: Gerald Stansbury, President Maryland Conference NAACP; Marion Gray-Hopkins.

Legislative Actions Current and Future: Lawrence Grandpre, Leaders of a Beautiful Struggle; Toni Holness, Public Policy Counsel, Maryland ACLU; the Honorable Delegate Alonzo Washington.

A Vision for Community Policing: Neill Franklin, Executive Director, Law Enforcement against Prohibition; Dayvon Love, Director of Public Policy, Leaders of a Beautiful Struggle.

Attendance is FREE but registration is requested as there is LIMITED seating
To register and get more information on the location and parking

call the LWVMD office at 410-269-0232



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.

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.

Revised June 2016