

The Voter

League of Women Voters of Anne Arundel County

Niecy Chambers, President

May 2017

In this Issue

Letter from the President (p. 2)

Local League Happenings (pp. 2-8)

- Member Spotlight (p. 3)
- Planning & Zoning Meeting (p. 4)
- New Member Coffee (p. 5)
- LWVAAC Board Highlights (p. 5)
- Welcome New Members (p. 5)
- 2017 LWVAAC Annual Meeting (pp. 6-7)
- Revised LWVAAC Bylaws 2017 (p. 7)
- Tribute to Jane Garbacz, Life Member (p. 8)

Community Outreach & Action (p. 9)

- Community Partnership with Anne Arundel Public Schools, (p. 9)
- Resolution to begin GDP Land Use Review (p. 9)
- Did You Know? Environmental News (p. 9)

State League (p. 10)

- Lobby Day (p. 10)
- What Would Alice Paul Do? (p. 10)
- Convention (p. 10)

Flyers (p. 11-12)

- LWVMD Fundraiser (p. 11)
- Membership Application (p. 12)

UPCOMING LWVAAC EVENTS Calendar

Annual Board Retreat &

Potluck Lunch

Tuesday, June 6, 2017

10 a.m. to 1 p.m.

317 Eatons Landing, Annapolis 21401

Open to all LWVAAC members, the board retreat is an annual brainstorming/planning session, and a social gathering with a potluck meal. It is also the first official meeting of the board members elected at annual meeting and the newly appointed directors. Please join us!

RSVP to Niecy Chambers 410-295-5228; 973-975-6041 bayroot5@comcast.net



Directions: From Route 50, take Exit 22 eastbound/Exit 21 westbound for Aris T. Allen Blvd/Rt. 665. Stay on Aris T. Allen to Forest Drive. Immediately after the Safeway, take a right on Greenbrier. Proceed on Greenbrier until you pass through brick pillars at the entrance to Kingsport. Bear to the right on Pilot House Road, then take a left on Child's Point Road and continue for half a mile. Turn left on Eatons Landing and proceed to #317 at the end of the cul-de-sac.

LWVAAC Board Meeting and Retreat with Potluck Lunch Tue., June 6 10:00 am—1:00 pm

10:00 am—1:00 pm Hosted by Niecy Chambers

LWVMD Biennial Convention Fri.-Sun., June 9-11 Washington College, Chestertown

Fourth of July

Naturalization Ceremony Tue., July 4, 10:00 am William Paca House Annapolis

LWVMD Summer Fundraiser: *Thurgood* Sun., Jul 23, 1:45 pm Olney Theatre Center, Olney



Joyce Martin, Editor

Issue 100



Letter from the President

Dear Members,

I'm grateful for your vote of confidence, and honored and humbled to be in this new leadership role. The wonderful and challenging thing about the League is that it continually offers new opportunities to learn and ways to engage. It encourages us to apply our strengths, follow our interests, and, when necessary, step outside our comfort zone, but always with the support of fellow members, the board, and a well-established organization. I'm counting on you to direct <u>and</u> correct me in the coming year.

Many thanks to Sue Farmer, Linda Teare, Kathy Larrabee and the staff at BayWoods for their contributions to a well-organized and enjoyable annual meeting. Attendance was up again this year, and included several guests, two of whom, Bettie Farrar and Carolyn Wilson, have since joined LWVAAC. Welcome! Our League was honored to receive a Certificate for Outstanding Service from the state League, and delighted to recognize Jane Garbacz as a life member.

Please join me in saluting retiring LWVAAC board members Yolande Dickerson, Susan Elson and Sue Farmer. Through their years of service, each of them has helped our League, our community and our democracy. We will miss them on the board, and look forward to their continued participation in the League.

I hope you will consider attending the board's annual retreat and potluck lunch on Tuesday, June 6 (*see cover*). We hold this open meeting each summer to plan our activities for the coming program year, discuss concerns and suggestions, and brainstorm together. It's also a chance to become better acquainted with your board members and our League. Please contact me with any questions and to say you'll attend.

A quick reminder that our League's membership year runs from July 1 to June 30; the renewal form is on page 12 of this newsletter. Please contact Kathy Larrabee if you're unsure about your renewal status.

I look forward to working with you. Many thanks!

Niecy Chambers

Congratulations to the 2017-18 Elected LWVAAC Board!

President	Niecy Chambers	bayroot5@comcast.net	410-295-5228
Vice President	Kathy Larrabee	kklarrabee@verizon.net	410-353-3432
Secretary	Carol Sures	cgsures@comcast.net	410-757-9071
Treasurer	Alfa Stevens	stl_magnolia@hotmail.com	410-551-2713
Director	Carolyn Ciepiela	ciepiela@comcast.com	410-268-5152
Director	Lois Coon	jack.coon@verizon.net	410-849-5429
Director	Rachael Lemberg	rachael.lemberg@gmail.com	240-277-1292
Director	Myrna Siegel	thesiegels915@comcast.net	410-849-8832
Director	Gabrielle Strandquist	gswriteone@comcast.net	410-757-6632
Director	Linda Teare	linda.teare@gmail.com	410-280-3303

Note: Appointed board positions will be filled at the June 6 board meeting and retreat.



LOCAL LEAGUE HAPPENINGS

Meet League Member Yolande Dickerson

Yolande Dickerson, a longtime resident of Anne Arundel County, joined the League in 2009. She is ending her four-year tenure on the LWVAAC Board, where she led voter registration and engagement efforts. In addition to coordinating registration drives in area schools, Yolande developed an original interactive presentation on "The Importance of Voting", which is currently being used in county public schools, and

has been shown at local libraries and association meetings.

Yolande served on several other League committees, and enjoyed attending functions with former LWVAAC President Susan Cochran where she observed the League's work in action. "To keep abreast of what the League is all about," Yolande recommends, "attend as many League activities as you can on the local and state level. By all means, join the Board, which is where the action is. You can quickly become immersed in the work of the local organization."



Just recently, Yolande participated in the state League's Lobby Day at the U.S. Capitol. "It was energizing and informative," she recalled.

An advocate of social justice issues, Yolande stresses the importance of volunteerism for all who wish to contribute to communities and make a difference in the lives of others. "Nothing is more rewarding than accepting a challenge and seeing work that is done for others come to fruition."

Active membership in the North Arundel County Preservation Society has allowed Yolande to embrace her love of history and to share her knowledge and reconnect to the many facets of African American history. As a Charter Docent at the Reginald F. Lewis Museum of Maryland and the past Docent of the Museum of Industry in Baltimore, she sees herself as an Ambassador, spreading the word and promoting the history of African Americans in Maryland. Yolande was the researcher and organizer of the publication "The Invisible Cryptologists: African-Americans, WWII to 1956." She also authored a booklet, "Pumphrey School, History Highlights, 1901-1973," which was published in 2006.

Yolande served on the Board of the Anne Arundel County Economic Opportunity Committee, and the County Commission for Women. With involvement in community activities, Yolande still finds time for her favorite activities: reading, music, gardening, touring early century churches and, collecting out-of-print books by black authors. Yolande, an art enthusiast, attends watercolor classes and has had several paintings on exhibit. Yolande earned her undergraduate degree at University of Baltimore (BA, Sociology and Business Management), and pursued Advanced Studies at Bowie State University (concentration in History). Yolande and Walter have been married 46 years, and have four successful children and seven grandchildren.

Submitted by Kathy Larrabee, Membership



Members Learn ABCs of County Planning & Zoning

Anne Arundel County Planning and Zoning Officer Larry Tom and Long Range Planner Lynn Miller met with 17 LWVAAC members and guests on Friday, March 31, to shed light on the fundamental elements of land use planning in our county.

Responsible for enforcing the zoning code in our county charter, Mr. Tom's office reviews all planning and zoning related applications. He receives recommendations on county zoning issues from a seven-member volunteer advisory board appointed by the county executive.

Certain planning requirements are dictated by the state; for example, all Maryland counties must have a General Development Plan (GDP) that is updated every ten years. State law requires that zoning and development be consistent with the GDP. Anne Arundel County's current GDP was adopted in 2009.

In an effort to link new development with existing public services, the state has recently required that county land be mapped according to four growth tiers.

- Tier #1: already served by public sewer systems
- Tier #2: scheduled in the county master plan to have public sewer service
- Tier #3: served by onsite septic systems
- Tier #4: zoned or planned for agricultural or other preservations purposed

In addition to the state requirement, Anne Arundel County voluntarily adopts master plans to guide its land use planning. The Odenton Town Center (OTC) Master Plan provided the basis for the Development

Rights and Responsibilities Agreement (DRRA) between the county and the Odenton landowner. In exchange for certain development rights, the county negotiated to have the landowner build a necessary road, the Odenton Town Center Boulevard. The DRRA guarantees the land will be developed for a variety of uses (retail, single family, parking, etc.), based on the percentage of distribution in the master plan. Mr. Tom feels that development activity in West County is healthy from a planning and zoning standpoint, because it includes a balanced mix of residential and non-residential projects.



LWVAAC members attending the Planning and Zoning Meeting

(Photo by Kathy Larrabee)

During Q&A, Mr. Tom stated that our county

zoning code has no provision for affordable housing, and legislation would be necessary to require it. He explained that annexation by the city of Annapolis is usually at the request of the property owner, and the county's policy is to object.

Mr. Tom is retiring in July 2017 after nearly ten years as county Planning and Zoning Officer. We thank him for his time and service.

Submitted by Niecy Chambers



Larry Tom and Lynn Miller present Anne Arundel County's Planning & Zoning Program

(Photo by Kathy Larrabee)



New Member Coffee

A New Member Coffee, held on April 3 at the Loews Annapolis Hotel, provided an opportunity for new members to meet each other and to learn more about the League from LWVAAC Officers and other members.

In attendance (left side): Alexis Dorsey, Ashley Oleson, Co-President Niecy Chambers, Cassandra McClenny and Maryann Gosnell; (right side): Treasurer Alfa Stevens, Mary Cleave, Secretary Carol Sures, Babs McCauley, and Jeanne Jehl

(Photo by Kathy Larrabee)



LWVAAC Board Meeting Highlights

Board Meeting, March 28, 2017

- Membership: Larrabee announced there are 67 members, including four new to the League.
- **Bylaws:** The board voted to amend *Article III Membership* to conform with a bylaws revision adopted at the 2016 LWV National Convention. The first three articles of local League bylaws must agree with those of the LWVUS. Conforming amendments can be adopted by the board. *(see p. 10)*
- **Program:** Sures provided an update on a proposed program to foster civil discussion among women of disparate political views. Amalia Phillips, a professional facilitator who teaches compassionate listening, met with several board members and the non-member who initiated the proposal, and offered to lead a program or programs for the League. The board will consider arranging a brown bag luncheon or other event with Ms. Phillips after asking how much she would charge.
- Forum: Ciepiela noted that the Annapolis mayoral primary election is on September 19. Two Democrats and two Republicans, including the incumbent, have filed their candidacy. LWVAAC plans to invite all four to participate in a forum prior to the election.
- Voter Service: Dickerson encouraged League members to take Vote411.org training offered by LWVMD.
- Miscellaneous: There is no April board meeting.

Submitted by Carol Sures, Secretary

Please Welcome New Members

Bronwyn Belling, Carolyn Derby, Bettie Farrar, Jeanne Jehl, Mary Jane Morse* and Carolyn Wilson, all from Annapolis!!

*Corrected spelling. We regret the error.



2017 LWVAAC Annual Meeting

On Saturday, May 6, 2017, LWVAAC membership gathered for the Annual Meeting and Brunch at BayWoods of Annapolis. The committee arranged an enjoyable meal and comfortable meeting space.

During the business meeting, members voted to approve the proposed 2017-18 budget, slate of nominees, and bylaws related to elections of officers. The revised bylaw establishes an initial one-year term for a Vice President elected at the same time as a President when succeeding Co-Presidents, and also eliminates term

limits for the Vice President and Governing Executive Board. *(see p. 7)*

LWVMD Board Liaison Betsy Singer presented LWVAAC with an *Outstanding* Service certificate. citing our "information -packed" newsletter, thematic programs, and voter service activities. Membership Chair Kathy Larrabee led a special tribute to Jane Garbacz, who became a life member of the League this year in recognition of her 50 years of active



Members enjoying brunch at LWVAAC Annual Meeting. (left to right): Carter Gibson, Kit Cahill, Rachael Lemberg, Carla Haim (Guest), Betsy Singer, Maryann Gosnell, Babs McCauley. (Photo by Kathy Larrabee)

membership. Kathy presented Ms. Garbacz with a 50-year pin and a flowering plant. Ms. Garbacz spoke glowingly of her years as a League member, and urged others, including men, to become involved. *(see p. 8)*



Susan Cochran urged the board to make LWVAAC a "real voice" in the county through action and advocacy, and called for someone to serve as Action Chair. She recommended that the League closely monitor the transition to an elected school board, and pressed for more action on environmental and land use issues.

After brunch, Ramond Robinson, Anne Arundel County Director of Transit, discussed the challenges for public transportation in the county. County Executive Schuh hired Mr. Robinson in the fall of 2016 to

(Left to right) Mary-Lou McCutcheon, Steven Hult, and Jane Garbacz

(Photo by Kathy Larrabee)



achieve the goal of "getting Anne Arundel County residents to Anne Arundel County jobs." Although the county is currently served by five different transit agencies, a lack of frequency and inadequate geographical coverage make commuting within the county very time-consuming and in some cases, impossible.

Mr. Robinson observed that our county is primarily a family of suburban communities, each with its own center and transit needs. Tactical transportation seeks to provide a direct solution to a transit problem using existing resources when possible. For example, residents might use ridesharing, vans, taxis, even bikes to reach a public bus route. This is called intermodal connectivity.



Mr. Ramond Robinson, Director of Transit, Anne Arundel County (Photo by Kathy Larrabee)

The county will complete a Transit Development Plan this summer. Mr.

Robinson has been gathering customer feedback and reaching out to business leaders to assess workforce requirements. He is working to coordinate service between the five transit agencies and establish "travel markets" within the county. His focus is on moving people, and he is in an ongoing quest for non-traditional approaches. Mr. Robinson urged "changing our mental infrastructure" when considering transit options, and vowed to work with our League to achieve public transportation goals.

Submitted by Niecy Chambers

For the Record: Revised LWVAAC Bylaws 2017

Article III Membership

Section 2. Types of Membership. The membership of the League shall be composed of voting members and associate members.

(a) Voting Members. Persons at least 16 years of age who join the League shall be voting members of the League, the LWVMD and the LWVUS and any regional League to which this League belongs.

Article V Officers

Section 2. Terms and Elections

(a) Except as provided in paragraph (b) of this subsection

(1) The officers shall be elected for terms of 2 years by the general membership at the annual meeting an take office immediately.

(2) The President, Co-Presidents or Governing Executive Board, and the Secretary shall be elected in odd-numbered years; and

(3) The Vice President and the Treasurer shall be elected in even-numbered years.

(b) When a President is elected to succeed Co-Presidents, the Vice President shall be elected in the same year as the President and shall serve an initial term of 1 year.

(c) An individual serving as President or Co-President shall not hold the same office for more than 2 consecutive terms.



Tribute to Fifty-Year Leaguer Jane Garbacz

Jane Garbacz becomes a Life Member of the LWV this year. During her 50 years as a League member, Jane has served the LWV in various capacities while living in Indiana, Idaho, Ohio, Connecticut, New Hampshire, and Maryland. Jane has held leadership positions in the League at the local, state, and national levels.

Jane first joined the LWV in 1967 while living in Columbus, Indiana. "I joined just after the birth of my second son," Jane recalls. "Frankly, I needed intellectual stimulation, something meaningful to think about and do that wasn't related to domestic responsibility." She recalls it was a time when there were more stay-at-home moms and League members were younger. Often babysitting was arranged for meetings.

Now, fast-forward a few years from Indiana to Connecticut where Jane and family lived for 20 years. There, she became the President of the local League for two years, and then served as President of the LWV of Connecticut for four years. Having cultivated a broader interest through those experiences, she joined the LWVUS Board and chaired an ad hoc committee to strengthen membership at the grassroots.

"Serving as a local League president was the best job of my active League years," Jane says. "I particularly enjoyed working on studies of local issues." And serving on the LWVUS Board was the "most interesting job," she adds. "Meeting other LWV leaders and members across the United States helped us build the overall LWV membership."



(Photo by Kathy Larrabee)

Jane's years of volunteering have not been confined to the LWV. In Connecticut, simultaneously with her LWVUS Board position, she was a member of the Connecticut Task Force on Gender Bias in the Justice System and the Governor's Task Force on Public Campaign Finance. Later she was elected to a 4-year term on the Wilton Township Planning & Zoning Commission and a 2-year term on the Board of the Selectmen, which governs the town and manages the budget. With great interest in her alma mater, Cedar Crest College, a women's college in Allentown, Pennsylvania, Jane was Alumnae Association President for 2 years and a member of the College Board of Trustees for 12 years.

Today, Jane mixes her support of the LWVAAC with her devotion to STAIR, a program that provides tutors for second graders in local public schools. She also volunteers with the Assistance League of the Chesapeake, a nonprofit that carries out philanthropic programs in Anne Arundel County.

As the daughter of a U.S. Naval dentist, Jane learned the demands of a military lifestyle. In her senior year of college, she met Gerry Garbacz, a U.S. Naval Academy graduate and active-duty Marine Corps officer. They were married in 1961. They have two married sons and four grandchildren who live in California and Wisconsin.

Submitted by Kathy Larrabee, Membership



COMMUNITY OUTREACH AND ACTION

Community Partnerships with Anne Arundel Public Schools

How often does a community meeting begin with an on-stage performance of two songs from Sondheim's "Into the Woods"? So began "A Conversation About Education and Community Partnerships" on April 6th, presented by Dr. George Arlotto, Anne Arundel County Public Schools Superintendent, in partnership with the 21st Century Education Foundation. (The performances, by the way, were by students in the Performing and Visual Arts Program!)

For more about the many ways the League as an organization and League members as individuals may participate in such "powerful partnerships," see the Fall newsletter!

Submitted by Gail Viamonte

Resolution to Begin the GDP Land Use Review

Soon after the League's program on land use with Planning and Zoning, Officer Larry Tom, the County Council, at their May 5th meeting, voted 7-0 to call on the Administration to start preparing for the General Development Plan (GDP) required by 2019. A new organization called the Anne Arundel County Alliance for Livable Communities (ALC) urged the County Council to pass Resolution 18-17 requesting that the County Executive start the comprehensive review of the 2009 General Development Plan, and their effort was successful. County Executive Steve Schuh had indicated he would wait until a new Planning Officer was chosen since Larry Tom is retiring in July.

The ALC letter to the Council stated:

"Many changes in land use and zoning have occurred since 2009. There are a host of alternatives and priorities that will decide the County's future. Certain proposals for land use in the County need the kind of comprehensive review that is part of the GDP process."

The ALC asked the County to incorporate citizen participation in the review process and provide a budget to support the update. Members of the ALC testified at the County Council meeting in favor of the Resolution. The League has been asked to support the ALC in the effort to see this process started.

Submitted by Susan Cochran

Did You Know? Environmental News

Many of President Obama's environmental rules and regulations have been eliminated by President Trump's Secretary of the Environmental Protection Agency, Scott Pruitt. Secretary Pruitt has been directed to make deep cuts of 40% in the EPA's main scientific branch budget.¹ Additionally, Secretary Pruitt has not renewed 3 of 18 members of the Scientific Counselors Board to be replaced by members from industry.

Governor Hogan also signed the Clean Cars Act of 2017, the Clean Water Commerce Act of 2017, and legislation establishing the Maryland Energy Innovation Institute. These bills are designed to improve water and air quality and promote the use of electric vehicles and attract and develop clean energy innovations in Maryland.²

²Email update on this year's legislative action from Governor Hogan.

Submitted by Anne Schifferle

¹New York Times, May 8, 2017.



STATE LEAGUE

Lobby Day in the Nation's Capital

On April 26, 2017, "Lobby Day," was organized by the LWVMD. Yolande Dickerson represented our LWVAAC. She reports "I travelled by MARC train from BWI and joined the group at the Hart Senate building. It was my first time, even though I've been a League member for a number of years; the experience was beyond my expectations." Eighteen members represented Leagues in 16 counties throughout Maryland. On arrival on Capitol Hill, the League members joined the Lobby Day Corps headed by Ms. Carol Connors, Chairperson, Volunteer Lobby Corps of the LWVUS, and VP LWV of Howard County, Maryland. The day began with Carol providing talking points on matters concerning the new health care legislation. There was a list of nine items under health care that the League supported. The list was helpful in preparing for meetings with Congressional staff to discuss LWV legislative priorities. One very important issue was brought to light: the 2002 enacted HAVA, the Help American Vote Act which created the EAC (Election Assistance Commission), which is vulnerable to defunding and termination. The EAC has provided assistance to the

states with voting systems and machines, and has addressed the concern of hacked equipment. The EAC is non-partisan with a board consisting of equal numbers of Republicans and Democrats. It imposes no requirements and has a wealth of information readily available. Bill 634 has been introduced in the House to terminate the EAC. The Maryland League does not support that position and would like to see the EAC continue and be funded. Forty-seven of the 50 states use it. After reviewing the League priorities, attendees were organized into several groups to visit congressional offices in both the House and Senate. Although there was limited time in each office, the League had an opportunity to present their positions on several bills. In addition to being a "Lobbyist for a Day", a group lunch was provided at the Longfellow building. It was interesting to see the important role the League plays in local politics and in our country. Participation in this trip is recommended to all members who are interested in seeing how the League lobbies on particular issues.

Submitted by Yolande Dickerson

Biennial Convention

Interested in attending the LWVMD Biennial Convention June 10-11 at Washington College in Chestertown? It's open to all members, and a great way to make connections, share interests and learn. Delegates will be voting on a number of important topics, including three recommended studies. Visit the LWVMD website (lwvmd.org) to learn more or contact Niecy Chambers (<u>bayroot5@comcast.net</u>) with any questions.











	ERS*
OF ANNE ARUNDEL COUN	TY, MD
web: lwvaacmd.org email: lwvaacmd@	gmail.com
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:	
New LWVAAC member Renewing LWVAAC member	
Former LWV member: prior League and last year of membership?	
Life LWV member: state and year first joined?	
CONTACT INFORMATION This information will be shared only with other LWVAAC members.	
Name (primary member) Nickname?	
Name (household member, if applicable)	
Mailing address:	
City/State/Zip Code:	
Telephone # 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)	\$ \$
	\$
	²
Student - \$25 (aged 18-30 and currently enrolled in an accredited institution)	
School affiliation:	
School affiliation: Anticipated completion date:	
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School affiliation:Anticipated completion date:	\$ \$
School affiliation: Anticipated completion date: CONTRIBUTION OPPORTUNITIES Membership dues are not tax-deductible. Tax-deductible contribution to the LWVAAC Education Fund, a 501(c)(3) nonprofit	\$ \$ TOTAL \$
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