The Voter

League of Women Voters of Anne Arundel County

Niecy Chambers, President — Joyce Martin, Editor

August 2017 — Issue 101

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UPCOMING LWVAAC EVENTS

Annapolis Mayoral Candidates Forum

Moderated by Susan Kopen Katcef

Wednesday

September 13, 2017

7:00—9:00 pm

Congregation Kneseth Israel

1125 Spa Rd., Annapolis

(see flyer, p. 11)

Co-sponsored by AAUW, Anne Arundel County Branch

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LWVAAC registered new Americans to vote following a naturalization ceremony on July 4th at the William Paca House in Annapolis. About 15,000 people became naturalized citizens in ceremonies across the country on July 4th, according to U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services. (See p. 7.)

(Photo by Kathy Larrabee)

Calendar

11th Annual LWVMD Constitution Day Program
Sept. 18, 12:00—2:00 pm
U. of MD
Carey School of Law
500 W. Baltimore St.
Baltimore

Annapolis Primary Election
Sept. 19, 7:00 am — 8:00 pm

Observer Corps Training
Sept. 20, 10:30 pm
332 Hamlet Circle
Edgewater

LWVMD Fall Workshops
Sept. 23, 10:00 am
First Evangelical Lutheran Church
3604 Chatham Road
Ellicott City

LWVAAC Board Meeting
Sept. 26
10:00 am—12:00 noon
BayWoods of Annapolis

National Voter Registration Day
Sept. 26

TLC
(The League Connection)
Sept. 28, 4:30—6:00 pm
Severn Inn, Annapolis

Brown Bag Lunch with Stephen A. Tillett
"Stop Falling for the Okeydoke"
Oct. 10, 12:00—2:15 pm
Annapolis Regional Library
1410 West St., Annapolis

Letter from the President

This summer, the board was pleased to welcome three first-time LWVAAC directors, Mary Cleave, Rachael Lemberg and Gail Viamonte, and to be rejoined after a year's hiatus by director Lois Fussell. As you'll read in this newsletter, their fresh perspectives and unique talents are already benefiting our League. We're particularly grateful to Rachael for giving LWVAAC a social media presence with our first-ever Facebook page!

In another "sea change" for our League, long-time Program Chair Myrna Siegel is taking a much-deserved sabbatical from that role this year. "Program" is an all-encompassing term in League lingo, and Myrna has successfully guided every aspect, contributing creativity, organization and grace. It's a tribute to her extraordinary competence that several people will share the responsibilities she has managed! Luckily, Myrna plans to remain on the board, where we'll have the benefit of her advice and assistance.

Change provides new opportunities for members to become involved. In this issue, former LWVAAC president Susan Cochran seeks volunteers for an Observer Corps, and Gail Viamonte introduces the possibility of a partnership with the public schools. Please contact any board member to learn more or suggest your own program ideas.

We appreciate your help in publicizing our Candidates' Forum on September 13, and ask that you mark your calendars for our Brown Bag Lunch with Stephen A. Tillett on Tuesday, October 10. Details will be provided in the September *Voter*.

Welcome Back!

Niecy Chambers

LWVAAC Board of Directors

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Nominating Committee:
Anne Schifferle, Chair
Shirley Hatch
Kathy Larrabee

LOCAL LEAGUE HAPPENINGS

LWVAAC June/July Board Meetings and Annual Retreat Highlights

June 6, 2017, Board Meeting

Voted to appoint six members to one-year terms as Directors on the Board: Mary Cleave, Lois Fussell, Arlene Gavin, Joyce Martin, Sarah Thwaites, Gail Viamonte.

Adopted Nonpartisan Policy (required annually).

Corrected LWVAAC Bylaws to conform with first three Articles of LWVUS Bylaws.

Discussed a resolution before the County Council condemning racism; will support the resolution.

June 6, 2017 Annual Planning Retreat

Each summer, the LWVAAC Board and interested members meet to plan programs and activities for the coming League year. This year's Retreat was held on June 6 at the home of President Niecy Chambers. The planning session is traditionally followed by a potluck lunch with ample opportunity for members to socialize.

The Retreat format encourages creative thinking and spirited discussions on wide-ranging topics. A few highlights of the Retreat are as follows:

- To continue the LWVAAC Winter "Books for Learning" meeting, two books are under consideration: *White Rage* by Carol Anderson and *The Third Reconstruction* by William Barber. (A final decision is pending.)
- The League will create a one-day workshop to teach other local political groups, such as those spawned by the Women's March on Washington, how to run nonpartisan forums. Several groups have reached out to the LWVAAC for help.
- The LWVAAC will establish a Facebook page for more visibility and to help promote League programs and events.
- The LWVAAC will explore member interest in establishing an Observer Corps as a way of promoting transparency in government and ensuring county residents are aware of government decisions that impact their lives. The program could possibly start with the County Council, Board of Education, and Human Rights Commission. (See Observer Corps article on Page 9).

July 25, 2017, Board Meeting

Noted the FY 2016-17 financial report showed a net income and most categories falling within budgeted projections, except Annual Meeting which was in the red.

LWVAAC ended the membership year (June 30) with 72 members. Members are being urged to renew.

Susan Cochran will seek members to staff an Observer Corps to monitor the County Council, and other boards and commissions.

Annapolis Mayoral Forum is on schedule for September 13 at Kneseth Israel Synagogue. AAUW will co-sponsor.

LWVAAC will participate in National Voter Registration Day.

Submitted by Carol Sures, Secretary

Meet New Member—Marguerite Duffy Harbachewski

Marguerite Duffy Harbachewski was born in Washington, DC, where she grew up inspired by the buildings and institutions around her. Her father, a police officer, and her mom, a parish secretary, encouraged her to read everything, watch the evening news, and listen to all sides. Recently retired, Marguerite joins LWVAAC because it fits with the core values she embraced throughout her life, and she wants to learn more about critical issues in Maryland.

Marguerite's career was at the national level of government, holding numerous senior positions in the executive branch. Marguerite was known for performing well under pressure and was often tapped for crisis management teams, including the Presidential Clemency Board, the Federal Energy Office, the G-7 Summit; the Grand Canyon Visibility Summit; the Governors Education Summit, and Inaugural Committees. She headed the briefing office for the Administrator of EPA, reading innumerable pages, summarizing key issues quickly and concisely, chairing communication teams, and traveling throughout the country. She served as the Administrator's policy advisor on Chesapeake Bay and as Senior Editor for the Office of Enforcement and Compliance. She earned Silver Medals for team efforts establishing environmental programs for 365 Native American tribes; guidance documents for agency Environmental Impact Statements; and an environmental crimes hotline. She was communications director for Coastal America, a multi-agency program, where she received the National Leadership Award for expanding environmental learning centers in aquariums throughout the United States.

Working full time through college, Marguerite earned an A.B. from Goucher College in American Studies and English; and a M.P.A. from American University.

Presently, Marguerite is a full-time student at Schuler School of Fine Arts. She is an active member of a community book club and is engaged with Breast Cancer Awareness programs.

Marguerite's biggest passion is her family: husband Carl, son Nick, and their dog Spy. They live in Annapolis.

Submitted by Kathy Larrabee, Membership

LWVAAC is now on Facebook!

Rachael Lemberg has been diligently working on designing and posting a Facebook page for our League. Please follow us at the link below:

https://www.facebook.com/LWVAAC/

Bulletin Board

Please help us welcome LWVAAC new members:

Marguerite Harbachewski and Carla Haim of Annapolis
and
Clyde Martin of Crofton

TLC
(The League Connection)
September 28
4:30-6:00 pm.
Severn Inn, Annapolis

STATE AND NATIONAL LEAGUES

My First LWVMD Convention

The LWVMD biennial Convention, hosted this year by the Kent County League, unfolded over the weekend of June 9-11 at Washington College in Chestertown, MD. I attended for the first time, fulfilling the role of voting delegate for the LWVAAC along with our president, Niecy Chambers, and member Susan Cochran, who has served as president of both the LWVAAC and the LWVMD. Though in the company of experienced Leaguers, the idea that I would have to vote on things I might not fully understand worried me a bit. The League can be a complicated organization that tackles complicated issues. But, I also know that to grow in the League, one must move into unfamiliar territory.

Following an efficient check-in at the Sassafras Dormitory where we each had a room within a suite, the Convention kicked off with a review of proposed rules and parliamentary procedures. I soon learned why. Nearly 80 participants, representing 12 of the 14 local Leagues, had much to report, recommend, debate and vote on. I was seated among veteran Leaguers and critical thinkers, whom I soon realized know how to be heard and how to affect change. I learned that we all know more than we realize if we would take time to look around us and begin to recognize the issues facing our counties and communities that need to be addressed.

An ambitious agenda included adoption of four studies: **Death with Dignity**; **Civic Education** (for both students and the general population); **Corrections and Bail**; and **Services for the Aging.**

And, in keeping with League protocol, the LWVAAC delegation submitted an Action Motion, which the Convention passed, requesting that LWVMD press elected officials and educators to publicly condemn racism and acts of hate, and actively support efforts to eliminate bias and improve understanding and tolerance, particularly among our youth.

Overall, this Convention experience helped me connect the dots between the local Leagues and the state League. The local Leagues collectively are the eyes and ears of Maryland, and we have ample opportunities to make a difference.

Submitted by Kathy Larrabee

"What did I get myself into?"

… I thought, after I had volunteered to serve on the LWVMD Primary Election Study Committee. I was brand-new to the League and didn't know anything about it, other than it had something to do with women and voting (hey, I'm a woman and I vote, so I belong!) One of the first things that I learned when I joined, to my delight, is that LWV members include men as well as women!

I had joined the LWV because

> *I desperately want to do something about our dysfunctional, partisan government, and thought that one thing that might affect partisan / bi-partisanship is the election system.*

What better place to look into election systems than the League of Women Voters?!

I was just getting my feet wet when I found out that there was a committee to study the primary election system, so I took a big breath and asked if I could join. I was surprised (and a little scared!) that they accepted someone as new as I was.

That was just over a year ago, and I'm so very glad that I took the plunge. Without any exceptions, the committee members respected me and took me seriously – even saying that my naïvete gave them the advantage of having the materials reviewed by someone who was not steeped in the culture and was not afraid to say that she didn't know what this or that was about.

And OH! How much I learned! I still am naïve about the LWV process (committee leaders and members helped me along with that), but I learned a LOT about the election systems, delved into research about their effect on partisanship as well as citizen engagement and disenfranchisement, minority representation, and many other useful and fascinating subjects.

The committee work was quite manageable, meeting by phone once every month or so, and accepting assignments as I was able to do so.

But one of the greatest benefits of being on the committee was engaging with such thoughtful, insightful, understanding, patient, knowledgeable and respectful people, everyone working together to get all perspectives fairly represented in our report.

I will never again hesitate if given an opportunity to work on a LWV committee!

Submitted By Dona Sauerburger

League Studies

Studies are part of *League Program* and, in League parlance, League Program includes all of the positions the League uses to affect public policy as well as the procedure for adopting these positions. Leagues must have a consensus position on an issue to advocate for or against any legislation or public policy. LWVAAC may base its advocacy on its own positions, and on those adopted by LWVMD and LWVUS.

A League Study has 3 parts: 1) selection of an issue, 2) study and discussion of the issue by members, and 3) formulation and use of the consensus position, if any, to influence public policy.

LWVAAC formally breaks down the study process into the following schedule:

- **Fall:** Program Planning Meeting: members discuss issues facing the community and possible activities for LWVAAC, including studies;
- **Winter:** LWVAAC Board reviews proposed studies and makes recommendations based on member interest and resources, including study chair;
- **Spring:** Annual Meeting: Members vote on adoption of proposed studies;
- **Summer:** Study Committee forms, establishes scope and timeline and begins research.

Submitted by Niecy Chambers and Kathy Larrabee

Gerrymander Meander 2

LWVMD Elbridge Gerry birthday commemoration.

Photos by K. Larrabee

In July several LWVAAC members joined the Gerrymander Meander 2, held in Baltimore County in commemoration of Elbridge Gerry's birthday. Elbridge Gerry served as the fifth Vice President of the United States under James Madison. But he is best known as the namesake of gerrymandering. The event, in support of redistricting reform, included van pools to four specialty restaurants located in four different Congressional Districts within a 13 mile distance, crossing district lines seven times. In addition to delicious food at each stop, speakers included Maryland's Lieutenant Governor Rutherford, Maryland Senator James Brochin (D-42), and Walter Olson, co-chair of the Governor's Commission on Redistricting Reform, among others. LWVAAC member and LWVMD Administrative Director Ashley Oleson noted, "This meander might only cover 13 miles, but we are in the final stretch of a marathon. For the past three years we have been building momentum for redistricting reform. Now we have to carry this fight over the finish line."

VOTER SERVICES AND COMMUNITY OUTREACH

Voter Registration

(Photo by Kathy Larrabee)

LWVAAC Voter Engagement Chair, Gabrielle Strandquist, (right) assists a new citizen with voter registration. On July 4, the LWVAAC capped an inspiring naturalization ceremony held at the William Paca House in Annapolis by providing voter registration services. In all, 22 immigrants from 16 countries, including Japan, Spain, Kenya, Pakistan, Iran, Estonia and South Korea, took the Oath of Allegiance. William Paca, who was born in Maryland, was signatory to the United States Declaration of Independence as a representative of Maryland and later became Maryland's third governor. This is the 12th year Annapolis has hosted a naturalization ceremony on Independence Day.

Community Partnerships with Anne Arundel County Public Schools

How often does a community meeting begin with a performance of two songs from a Broadway production of Sondheim's "Into the Woods"? So began "A Conversation About Education and Community Partnerships," presented by Dr. George Arlotto, Anne Arundel County Public Schools Superintendent and a panel of enthusiastic district program managers, in partnership with the 21st Century Education Foundation. The performances successfully acted to highlight the Visual and Performing Arts magnet program—one of many focal points of education and experiential practice within the school system.

Held April 6th and first noted in the LWVAAC May *Voter*, the meeting encouraged any number of potential collaborations, now more fully described in this newsletter issue, in timely anticipation of the upcoming school year.

The LWVAAC Board currently is brainstorming ways in which the League might further its mission and 2017-2018 priorities by engaging with the school district and its students. As the Board discusses ways in which LWVAAC might collaborate with AACPS, the rich and varied possibilities may also be of interest to individual League members.

Described by AACPS, as "powerful partnerships," these opportunities include:

- Job Shadows = Inviting one or more students to one's workplace;
- Speakers Bureau = Bringing one's expertise to the classroom;
- Internships = Offering students practical experience;
- Community Challenge = Offering high school juniors "the opportunity to work in teams, enhance research skills, improve communication, and think critically through a real-world issue or problem provided by a community partner;"
- Service Learning = Offering opportunities for community service, which the school combines with coursework education;
- Signature Programs = Bringing school and community together around a themed collection of skills, knowledge, activities, and applications (e.g. STEM, Community Development and Global Citizenship, etc.);
- Sponsorships = Donating time or money to support student opportunities.

Several of these opportunities (e.g. Job Shadows, Speakers Bureau, Internships) may attract individual League members' involvement; others (Community Challenge, Signature Programs, Service Learning) may offer possibilities for the League to further its activities through existing school initiatives.

The Board welcomes ideas concerning how LWVAAC may create synergies among its activity priorities and AACPS initiatives. Such collaborations could magnify LWVAAC's impact as well as help grow successive generations of informed and active participants in government.

The district makes collaboration user-friendly, providing an Office of School and Family Partnerships and a one-key-point-of contact for groups or individuals wishing to match their resources and interests with district, school, and pupil need. For example, for a volunteer interested in being a much needed mentor for a school-aged child but concerned about knowing where to start, AACPS offers training, "scripts" for starting a conversation, guidelines for the mentoring role, and other school resources both to orient and support the mentor and to follow-up with the student. Additionally, there is "no lower limit" on frequency or amount of time required of a volunteer. If an individual is interested in reading to students, but only once a month…once a week...only once, period...all offers are welcome by the district, including requests to work with specific age groups or schools.

Fundamental to an informed and skilled citizenry, public schools are both a resource to, and a mirror of, their communities. Anne Arundel County Public Schools offers a diversity of schools and a multiplicity of potentially engaging activities—for students and community members alike. How can and should LWVAAC make specific use of these opportunities?

Submitted by Gail Viamonte

Growth Action Network (GAN) Liaison Report

Growth Action Network met with the Alliance for Livable Communities on Monday, July 10, to discuss a strategy to work with the County to further citizen participation in shaping the general development plan. The Anne Arundel General Development Plan (GDP) must be revised by 2019. The task is very extensive and intensive.

In June, the County Council adopted a resolution asking the County Executive to begin comprehensive review of the 2009 General Development Plan during 2017 and to incorporate citizen participation into the review. The completed revised plan must be adopted by 2019 when Comprehensive Zoning will be legislated.

County Executive Schuh said such a plan should wait until the new Planning Officer is hired. Phil Hager has been appointed effective July 31, so we expect in August we will hear more about the GDP. Hager served as the head of planning in Carroll County and earlier in Allegany County.

I recommend that the League, as a member of the GAN network, explore ways the League can be most helpful in educating the public on the GDP process and getting the County to include citizen participation in the process.

The plan is a ten-year-guide for development that includes categories such as land use, environment, preservation, water resources and transportation.

The plan on land use is a guide that must be adhered to consistently in the zoning process, allowing for some rare exceptions.

Submitted by Susan Cochran

LWVAAC Observer Corps

The League always has been a champion of transparency in government. One way our League can help to protect our right to know and to ensure a healthy democracy is to form an Observer Corps.

Observers monitor both the issues being discussed at county meetings and the process by which they are being discussed. Observers note *what* decisions are being made and *how* they are being made. By a simple reporting system, Observers bring their observations back to the League.

Observers make their own schedules and choose the meetings they want to attend. Becoming an Observer is an opportunity to learn more about our county government and current issues.

If you are interested in learning about what the LWVAAC Observer Corps entails, please come to a coffee meeting on Wednesday, September 20, 10:30 a.m. at 332 Hamlet Circle, Edgewater 21037, or call Susan Cochran on 410-956-0036 to arrange a time that is best for you. At the meeting we will talk about the value of the program and how it works. If you have an issue in the county you would like to follow, bring that suggestion with you. There is no obligation in coming to hear about the program at this meeting. Susan may also be reached at suzanwc@verizon.net.

Submitted by Susan Cochran

Environment: Offshore Wind Turbines

Maryland Public Service Commission approved subsidies for two offshore wind projects off the coast of Ocean City that would be the largest of their kind in the country. This project could make the state a leader in the industry. If plans are approved in the federal permitting process, the turbines could be operational by 2020.

The commission said that the offshore wind projects in Maryland would reduce carbon dioxide emissions by 19,000 tons per year for two decades, helping the state to reach its goal of reducing carbon emissions by 40 percent by 2030.

The wind turbines are expected to cost residential rate payers less than $1.40 per month. Michael James who chairs Ocean City's economic development committee said business owners and residents will push to ensure that the turbines are small and as far from the shoreline as possible.

Submitted by Anne Schifferle, Environment

The Capital, May 12, 2017; The Washington Post Metro, May 13, 2017

The more things change, the more they remain the same.

Wind turbines as proposed off the coast of Ocean City

(left) Mountain ridges and wind turbines as in western Maryland

League of Women Voters®
of Anne Arundel County, MD

MAYORAL CANDIDATES FORUM

CITY OF ANNAPOLIS 2017 ELECTION

JOIN US FOR A MODERATED DEBATE AMONG THE PRIMARY CANDIDATES:

Mike Pantelides (R) John Astle (D)

Nevin L. Young (R) Gavin Buckley (D)

MODERATOR:

Susan Kopen Katcef

Broadcast Bureau Director, Capital News Service, Philip Merrill College of Journalism, University of Maryland

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 13, 2017 7 PM – 9 PM

Congregation Kneseth Israel
1125 Spa Road, Annapolis, MD 21401
(corner of Spa Road and Hilltop Lane)

SPONSOR:

Education Fund of the League of Women Voters of Anne Arundel County, a nonpartisan organization.

CO-SPONSOR:

American Association of University Women, Anne Arundel County Branch, a nonpartisan organization.

IMPORTANT 2017 ELECTION DATES

*8/21 Primary Voter Registration Deadline
*9/19 City of Annapolis Primary Election
*10/9 General Voter Registration Deadline
*11/7 City of Annapolis General Election

For more information, call 240-277-1292,
email lwvaacmd@gmail.com
or visit lwvaacmd.org.

11th Annual LWVMD Constitution Day Program

"The Fourth Amendment and Electronic Surveillance"

Moderated Panel of Experts TBA
Including **Dr. David C. Gray**, Professor of Law, UMD Carey School of Law, Professor of the Year, 2012-2013,
Author, ***"The Fourth Amendment in an Age of Surveillance"*** published May, 2017 by Cambridge University Press

Reception follows Q&A of Program

Monday, September 18, 2017, 12:00 – 2:00 p.m.
Ceremonial Court Room
University of Maryland Carey School of Law
500 W. Baltimore St., Baltimore, MD 21201

Co-Sponsors: League of Women Voters of Maryland, University of Maryland Carey School of Law, University of Maryland, Baltimore, and University of Maryland, College Park, University of Maryland College of Behavioral & Social Sciences, University of Maryland MLaw Programs

Leaguer volunteers needed: Greeters, Ushers, Publication display, Sign-in table, Reception helpers, Donors of cookies, brownies, party sandwiches. **RSVP** for volunteering, seating, parking space by Sept. 14 to Andrea Gruhl (andreagruhl@aol.com). Program and reception are free, but parking space is about $7 for 2 hours at Baltimore Grande Garage.

Directions: From Route I-95 (North or South) take Route 395 (Downtown Baltimore). Exit onto Martin Luther King, Jr. Blvd. At 4th traffic light turn right onto W. Baltimore St. Pass law school on left side of street. Turn left at 2nd traffic light onto N. Paca St. Turn right into Baltimore Grand Garage. Carpools encouraged.

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:

☐ 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 at least 16 years old.

Individual - $65 $ _____

Household - $30 (2nd or subsequent member of an individual member's household) $ _____

Student - $25 (aged 16-30 and currently enrolled in an accredited institution) $ _____

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 $ _____

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 though education and advocacy.

Revised June 2017