

# LWV LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS® OF ANNE ARUNDEL COUNTY

## THE VOTER

Alfa Stevens, President

Joyce Martin, Editor

March 2020

Issue 115

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### UPCOMING LWVAAC EVENTS

#### CANCELLATION ALERT

**As we worked to wrap up this issue of *The Voter*, we learned of the Governor and County Executive's decision to declare a state of emergency in response to COVID-19.**

**The League is committed to protecting the safety and well-being of our community. In that spirit, we are canceling all public meetings in March and April, with the intention of rescheduling when current restrictions are lifted.**

**If you have questions or need assistance, please reach out to anyone on the [LWVAAC Board](#).**

**We wish each and every one of you good health and a speedy return to normal activities.**

**Primary Election Day is April 28.  
PLEASE VOTE!**

### Calendar

**LWVAAC Board Meeting**  
Tue, March 24, 10:00 a.m.  
St. Philip's Episcopal Church  
730 Bestgate Rd  
Annapolis

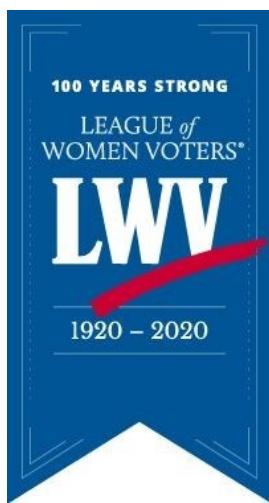
**Electoral College**  
Tue, March 24, 7:00 p.m.  
Unitarian Universalist Church  
333 Dubois Rd  
Annapolis

**Amending America: How Women Won the Vote**  
Thu, April 2, 7:00 p.m.  
Discoveries—Library at the Mall, Annapolis

**Iron Jawed Angels**  
Thu, April 9, 6:00 p.m.  
Eastport-Annapolis Neck Library, Annapolis

**LWVAAC Annual Mtg**  
April 18, 11:00 a.m.  
Café Mezzanotte  
760 Ritchie Highway  
Severna Park

**JOIN  
THE  
LEAGUE!**



## President's Letter

Hello, fellow Leaguers!

Here we are... in the heart of Women's History Month and the Year of the Woman!

Year-long celebrations and observances in celebration of the passage of the 19th amendment and the birth of the League abound. You can learn more about the events the League has planned in this issue of the Voter. Please come out and celebrate with us.

I hope that you will enjoy this edition of the Voter. In this issue, you will see that League members have been busy on many fronts. Many thanks to Susan Cochran and Mary Vickery for coordinating our March 4 Legislative Day activities. The highlight of the day was the presentation of proclamations to the League in honor of our 100th Anniversary by both the House and Senate.

LWVAAC members gathered at the Lowe House Office Building, on two occasions in January to pass out literature and solicit support from legislators for state redistricting reform and the Fair Maps Act. League members also attended both the February 17 Kirwan Bill Hearing and Rally and the Fair Maps Lobby Night. If you want to learn more about pending legislation please read the bi-weekly publication, [Report from State Circle](#) or go to [mgaleg.maryland.gov](http://mgaleg.maryland.gov) to learn more about your own personal policy concerns.

Our Janaury program planning meeting yielded an engaging and detailed review of our League positions as well as those of LWVUS. League member, Jeanne Jehl, proposed a study to assess the League's position on affordable housing and identify any gaps that might be addressed.

Our Voter Services team is in high demand as you may have noticed with the most recent SignUpGenius requests! LWVAAC has been invited to provide voter registration and voter education for residents across the county, young and old.

Mark your calendars for our March 24 panel discussion on the Electoral College: Then and Now. It promises to be an informative and fascinating discussion. It is a free event, open to the public, so please consider bringing a friend or two.

Lastly, [the Board](#) is hard at work preparing for our Annual Meeting on April 18. Workbook reports are due to Carol Sures ([secretary@lwvaacmd.org](mailto:secretary@lwvaacmd.org)) by March 27. Items for members' advance consideration, as well as an Evite to sign up for the annual meeting, will be sent to all members later this month.

Happy Spring! And, as always, thank you for your continued support!

~alfa

Alfa Stevens

[pres@lwvaacmd.org](mailto:pres@lwvaacmd.org)

## Member Spotlight: Susan Cochran

The name Susan Cochran is well known within League circles, where she has been active for nearly 30 years. Susan first joined the League while living in Great Falls, Virginia. There she had the Land Use portfolio as a Board member of the Fairfax County League. She also was President of the Great Falls Historical Society, writing on local history and arranging programs on historical preservation and local residents.

Upon moving to Edgewater, MD, in 2007, Susan helped to revitalize the LWVAAC, serving twice as LWVAAC President and also as LWVMD President from 2014-2016. She led the initiative to reestablish our League's Observer Corps before rejoining the LWVAAC Board as Action Chair in 2019. In this role, Susan monitors county issues and legislation and calls attention to public policy concerns on which the League has a position. Susan is well known among county and state environmental organizations and a frequent advocate on environment and land use policy. Recently, Susan has been at the forefront of drafting testimony, writing newspaper op/eds, and representing LWVAAC in other grassroots organizations. "I very much enjoy working with the outstanding members of the LWVAAC," Susan adds.



Susan originally hails from Burlington, Vermont. She had an early interest in writing and civic affairs and became a high school debater. While attending the University of Vermont, where she received a BS degree in Zoology in 1957, she contributed to her college and community newspapers. Upon graduation, she taught high school biology for 3 years before being awarded a teaching fellowship for a Master of Arts degree in Zoology at the University of Vermont. However, Susan opted to pursue a Master of Arts in Teaching (MAT) because, her husband, Carter, an employee of the U.S. Department of Agriculture, was assigned to a position in San Juan, Puerto Rico in 1961. Joining him later, degree in hand, Susan and Carter began a family. Their two children were born in Puerto Rico. When Susan and family returned stateside, they lived in the Washington, DC area, as Carter was promoted to the U.S. Department of Agriculture headquarters.

As a mother, Susan was very active in her children's schools and served on the PTA boards, initiating a teacher's aide parent corps and also organizing a yearly kite-making project to incorporate science and art. "I recall looking up at the sky on a beautiful sunny day in awe of more than 300 homemade kites," she says.

Always eager for a challenge, Susan enrolled at the George Mason University School of Law once her children had moved from home. Upon receiving a Juris Doctor degree, she joined the Virginia Bar in 1993 and practiced law for 12 years. She is especially proud of taking part in a law suit that helped discourage the Disney Company from establishing themselves in Virginia near the historic Manassas Battleground.

Susan and Carter have been married 60 years and have five grandchildren and three great grandchildren. They enjoy living in Edgewater, near their family.

Kathy Larrabee, Membership

Please Welcome New Members

Hailey Moore, Churchton

Madeline Swanson, Odenton

**Partnering: Another Reason to Love our Libraries!**

In multiple ways, LWVAAC is enjoying Anne Arundel County Public Library's energetic commitment to community partnerships. At present, the Library system partners with the League to host voter registration and education events; distribute *Voters' Guides*; underwrite no-fee programs and venues; develop initiatives that target specific branch communities, and publicize LWV resources and programs through the AACPL network. In addition, the League is invited to meetings of the Adult Programming Interest Group, which represents *all* County branches, the central office's community outreach team, and special guests. Participation affords LWVAAC the opportunity to expand its outreach. For example, following a recent meeting, the Anne Arundel Community College's Director of Adult Education and English Language Learning expressed interest in working with the League on voter registration and educated electorate initiatives.

To date, multiple joint programs are scheduled. Voter registration drives will be held at the Glen Burnie branch on March 18 and Odenton Public Library on April 4, and on March 31, at the suggestion of the Edgewater Library, LWVAAC will present "So You're Voting for the First Time," a program aimed at both teens and adults.

The LWVAAC-sponsored performance by Kate Campbell Stevenson, "Amending America: How Women Won the Vote," will take place in the newly expanded Discoveries: Library at the Mall on April 2. This venue offers LWVAAC a highly accessible public setting and exposure to an expanded demographic. Also as part of the Centennial Celebration, the award-winning HBO film "Iron Jawed Angels" will be shown by request of the Eastport-Annapolis Neck Library on April 9, with the Library Foundation contributing the screening fee and library personnel obtaining the distribution rights.

AACPL is eager to support LWV's publicity and outreach efforts, and has presented the LWVAAC Board with options for displaying literature and other resources in libraries across the county. This expands on the assistance county public libraries have long provided the League in distributing *Voters' Guides* and information about VOTE411.org.

Sharing complementary missions, AACPL and LWVAAC are working together, and the chemistry is fantastic!

Submitted by Gail Viamonte

**The 2020 Census has begun...  
have you been counted?**



## Program Planning Luncheon: Assessing Our Affordable Housing Position

Nearly 30 LWVAAC members engaged in an in-depth review of League positions on January 18 at Union Jack's Pub in Annapolis. Throughout the lengthy session, members demonstrated great focus, knowledge and concern as we discussed our League's positions and those of LWVUS, before forging on to address civic education, upcoming centennial events, and action on redistricting.

Citing recent legislation and affordable housing reports pertaining to Anne Arundel County, Jeanne Jehl proposed a "mini" study to assess gaps and anachronisms in our League's current position. Members expressed strong support but none volunteered. If you might be interested in working with Jeanne on an investigation of affordable housing in our County, please contact her at [jehljeanne@gmail.com](mailto:jehljeanne@gmail.com).



Pictured (l-r) are LWVAAC members Dona Sauerburger, Aden Brown, Kathy Larrabee, and Alexis Dorsey enjoying conversation before the meeting.

### Must See Streaming: Rapper Challenges Voter Apathy

In a widely viewed YouTube video called "[My Vote Don't Count](#)" the young rapper YelloPain demonstrates compellingly that, in fact, it does. Please click [here](#) to view this extraordinary piece. It is well worth your time, and we hope you'll share it with anyone who needs encouragement to go to the polls.

## LWVAAC Board Meeting Highlights: February 25, 2020

**Kathy Larrabee has drafted an orientation plan for new members** and has met with several new members to try it out. Other mentors also have met with new members.

**Plans for the presentation "The Electoral College, Then and Now"** are set for 3/24; also two programs to celebrate the 100th Anniversary of the 19th Amendment and the League's 100th birthday are ready: a performance by Kate Campbell Stevenson on 4/2 , and a showing of "Iron Jawed Angels" on 4/9. See details in this newsletter.

**This League's program planning response to LWVUS was discussed.** The Board reiterated opposition to a concurrence originated by LWVUS, believing this top down approach undermines the League as a grassroots organization.

The **Budget for FY 2020-2021** was presented and discussed. There will be a fundraiser before the end of the current fiscal year.

**The Board agreed to a proposal to review the LWVAAC position on Affordable Housing.** Jeanne Jehl has agreed to chair the study and members will be asked to participate. The proposal will be voted at the Annual Meeting.

**VOTE411 will go "live" on or about 3/7;** the *Voters' Guide* for the Primary is in the works.

Carol Sures, Secretary

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## Legislative Day: What, When and Why

Each year, the League of Women Voters of Maryland (LWVMD) hosts a meeting in Annapolis midway through the General Assembly session. League members come from across the state to meet with legislators, get briefed on legislation of interest to the League, learn about the Governor's proposed budget, attend hearings, have lunch and network. LWVAAC members in attendance at this year's Legislative Day (March 4) were Niecy Chambers, Susan Cochran, Shirley Hatch, Ashley Oleson, Abby Root, Dona Sauerburger, Alfa Stevens, Sally Vavrek and Mary Vickery.

The agenda included updates from *Report from the State Circle* reporters and reports from local Leagues on their visits to each of their respective legislators. Department of Legislative Services Executive, Victoria Gruber, offered an in-depth State budget presentation followed by a hearty and healthy lunch. The day culminated with an informative panel discussion featuring coalition partners: Common Cause, Chesapeake Climate Action Network, and Job Opportunities Task Force.

Legislative Day offered an added attraction this year: official recognition of the League's 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary by both chambers of the Assembly. See photos on page 8.

## Day of Action with League of Women Voters of Maryland (LWVMD)

One of the League's top advocacy priorities for this legislative session is to get a redistricting measure passed by the Maryland legislature. On January 22, LWVAAC members gathered at the House Office Building, together with members from LWVMD and LWV Montgomery County, to pass out literature encouraging support for state redistricting reform.

After receiving team assignments from LWVMD Board member, Nancy Soreng, members moved throughout the halls of the House Office Building distributing 2-page information sheets to the legislators and in their absence, to staff members. The information sheets contained important data and reminded them of the concern both the League and Common Cause share about the composition of Maryland's Congressional districts and the need for fairer maps.

Legislators and staff were also advised of the pending Fair Maps Act bill, drafted in support of redistricting, and sponsored by Sen. Washington (D), District 43 and Del. Jheanelle Wilkins (D), District 20.

Judy Svoboda



Pictured (l-r) are League members and volunteers who participated in the January 22<sup>nd</sup> LWVMD Day of Action referenced above: Judy Svoboda, LWVMD Action Co-Chair Roy Appletree, Alfa Stevens, Gabrielle Strandquist, LWVMD interns Joan Maangi and Stephanie Parajon, Jim and Anne Schifferle.

## Anne Arundel County Adds Human Relations Commission

A new Human Relations Commission, codified in the fall of 2019 with quasi-judiciary powers to enforce the new Fair Housing law, has been amended to broaden its purpose, restoring concerns that were followed in its previous incarnation in the last few decades. Once more there will be a non-voting student member. In the original ordinance passed in 2019 the Commission stated it had the purpose of promoting the ability of all Anne Arundel County residents to pursue their lives free of discrimination in housing. The word "housing" has been dropped and its purpose is simply to pursue their lives "free of discrimination," thus restoring the purpose of the previous Human Relation Commission before codification. A student member had also been a part of the previous Commission. The 2019 codification of the Commission originally was focused on enforcing the new law against housing discrimination in the county and was narrowly drawn. This amended law restores the decade-long original scope of the Commission. The Commission now has a quasi-judiciary function with regard to housing discrimination. Of the eleven-member Commission, seven members are appointed by their respective County Councilmen, and four are appointed by the County Executive. At least four of the members must reflect the ethnic and minority diversity of the residents of the county. One member just has training or experience in mediation.

Now that the new Commission has been established, the Observer Corps will be observing its meetings.

Susan Cochran



**View from the Gallery.** On March 4, League representatives accepted proclamations from both the Maryland House of Delegates (left) and Senate (right) honoring the League's 100th anniversary. Look closely and you'll see LWVAAC President, Alfa Stevens, holding the Senate proclamation. Congratulations, Leaguers. Here's to the next 100!

Photos from LWVMD Facebook

# Electoral College

Then and Now

**Tuesday, March 24, 2020 • 7:00 P.M.**

Unitarian Universalist Church of Annapolis • 333 Dubois Rd, Annapolis, MD 21401

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**Join the League of Women Voters of Anne Arundel County, MD,  
for a better understanding of the Electoral College: Then and Now.**

Our country's founders established the electoral college in Article II of the U.S. Constitution as a final step in the process of electing the President. Citizens vote nationally for the candidate of their choice, but the winner of the election is determined by the outcomes within each state. The 2016 Presidential election was one of several examples over the years in which the electoral college elected a candidate who did not receive the highest number of popular votes.

Today, the electoral college is receiving increased scrutiny for numerous reasons. How are electors chosen and governed? Should the voters in sparsely populated states have a greater say than those living in more populous states? Do swing states get too much attention at election time? Should the popular vote elect the President?

**Panelists** Elaine Apter and Doris Gross will discuss these concerns, review the history of the electoral college, and outline alternatives being considered. The audience is encouraged to participate in an open dialogue on the topic following the speakers' presentations.

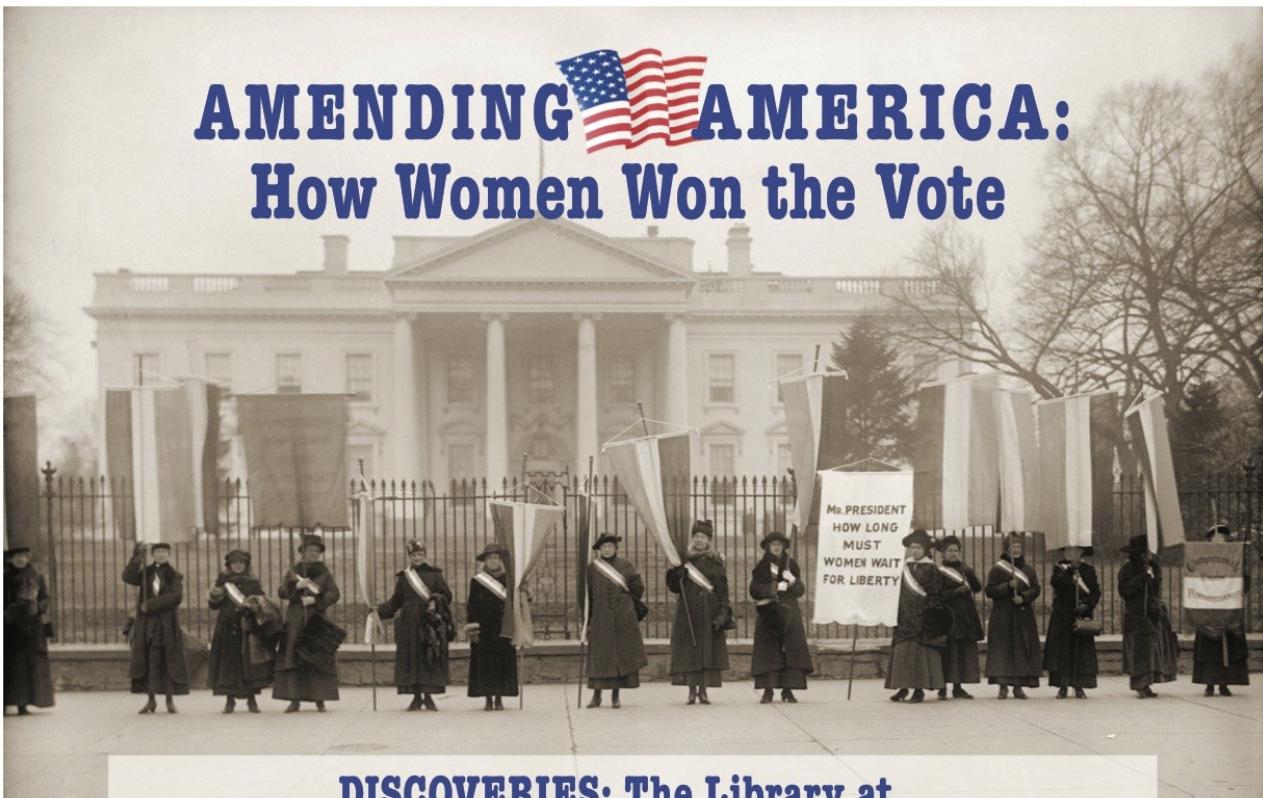
Elaine Apter is past co-President of the League of Women Voters of Maryland and a member of the LWV of Montgomery County. Doris Gross is a member of the League of Women Voters of Anne Arundel County.

*The League of Women Voters is a nonpartisan political organization working to encourage informed and active participation of citizens in government by increasing understanding of major public policy issues and influencing public policy through education and advocacy.*

<https://www.lwvaacmd.org> | @LWVAAC | For more information: 443-672-8270

Empowering Voters. Defending Democracy.





## AMENDING AMERICA: How Women Won the Vote

### DISCOVERIES: The Library at the Westfield Annapolis Mall

2550 Annapolis Mall Road • Annapolis • 410.222.0133

*Thursday, April 2 at 7 PM*

Join Kate Campbell Stevenson as she brings to life through song, monologue and movement the struggle for women's suffrage in the United States, using the powerful words of Abigail Adams, First Lady and early women's rights activist; Rose Crabtree, Council member of the 1920 all-female Town Council of Jackson Hole, Wyoming; and Alice Paul, early 20th century suffragist and co-founder of the National Women's Party.



*Kate Campbell Stevenson*

**LWV**  
LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS®  
of Anne Arundel County

Anne Arundel County  
Public Library  
*Educate. Enrich. Inspire.*



## 2020 ANNUAL MEETING & LUNCH

Saturday, April 18, 2020

Café Mezzanotte, 760 Ritchie Highway, Severna Park 21146

10:45 a.m. Registration  
11:00 a.m. Business Meeting  
12:00 noon Buffet Lunch with Cash Bar  
12:45 p.m. Guest Speaker Kathleen Koch,  
*Affordable Housing for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century*



### Kathleen Koch

Executive Director, Arundel Community Development Services, Inc., a nonprofit agency established to create and retain affordable housing opportunities in Anne Arundel County.

### ADVANCE RESERVATIONS REQUIRED BY APRIL 7. GUESTS WELCOME!

Mail check and registration form: \$35/person

Register [online](#)\* and pay with credit card: \$36/person

Questions? Contact Niecy Chambers (443-672-8270 or [treasurer@lwvaacmd.org](mailto:treasurer@lwvaacmd.org))

\*If link doesn't work, please go to [www.lwvaacmd.org/2020\\_annual\\_meeting](http://www.lwvaacmd.org/2020_annual_meeting)

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I/WE WILL ATTEND THE ANNUAL MEETING & LUNCH ON APRIL 18, 2020.

Name(s) \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

# attending \_\_\_\_ I'm unable to attend but wish to donate \$ \_\_\_\_ Check enclosed for \$ \_\_\_\_

To register and pay [online](#), please go to [www.lwvaacmd.org/2020\\_annual\\_meeting](http://www.lwvaacmd.org/2020_annual_meeting).

RSVP deadline is April 7. Please make check payable to LWVAAC and mail bottom portion to Niecy Chambers, LWVAAC Treasurer, 317 Eatons Landing, Annapolis, MD 21401. Thank you!

[lwvaacmd@gmail.com](mailto:lwvaacmd@gmail.com)

443-672-8270

[lwvaacmd.org](http://lwvaacmd.org)

FB @lwvaac