



LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS[®]
OF ANNE ARUNDEL COUNTY, MARYLAND

2017 ANNUAL MEETING

May 6, 2017

BayWoods of Annapolis

Annapolis, MD

Niecy Chambers and Susan Elson, Co-Presidents

lwvaacmd.org

pres@lwvaacmd.org

MEETING WORKBOOK

LWVAAC ANNUAL MEETING

Agenda

Saturday, May 6, 2017

Part I: Board Reports

Introductions and Co-Presidents' Report	Niecy Chambers and Susan Elson
Highlights of the 2016 Meeting	Carol Sures, Secretary
Greetings from LWVMD	Betsy Singer, LWVMD Liaison
Presentation of the FY 2017-18 Budget	Alfa Stevens, Treasurer
Report of the Bylaws Committee	Niecy Chambers
Report of the Nominating Committee	Anne Schifferle, Nominating Chair
Adoption of Program for 2017-18	Myrna Siegel, Program Chair
Report of the Membership Chair and Recognition of LWVAAC Life Member	Kathy Larrabee

Part II: Input from Members

New Board Members
Member Interests and Associations
General Directions to the Board
Adjourn
Brunch

**Guest Speaker: Ramond Robinson, Director of Transit
Anne Arundel County Department of Planning and Zoning**

Envisioning a Comprehensive Transit Network for Anne Arundel County

Mr. Robinson earned a B.S. in Environmental Sciences/Geography and a M.S. in Geography and Earth Science from North Carolina Central University. He has experience as a transit planning official in Chatham County, Georgia, the City of Charlotte, as well as the Research Triangle Park in North Carolina. Prior to coming to Anne Arundel County in the fall of 2016, he was the Chief Transit Officer for the City of Alexandria, Virginia. Mr. Robinson's role in Anne Arundel County has been to plan, organize and supervise new service initiatives, while overseeing implementation of short and long range service adjustments. Mr. Robinson is a Hampton, Virginia native, but has made Maryland his home with his wife Sheena and his two baby girls, Sidney and Simone.



LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF ANNE ARUNDEL COUNTY

2017 ANNUAL MEETING

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Co-Presidents' Letter, Niecy Chambers & Susan Elson

This year, our League's programs closely mirrored our legislative priorities and our positions. With a focus on corrections and sentencing reform, we held two public meetings on Maryland's 2016 Justice Reinvestment Act, and considered racial and social inequities of our judicial system in our Books for Learning discussion of *Between the World and Me* by Ta-Nehisi Coates and *Just Mercy* by Bryan Stevenson. We met with Anne Arundel County Planning and Zoning Officer Larry Tom to get fresh insights into land use and the county's conformity with LWVAAC's longtime position on Planning and Zoning. Our Legislative Coffee provided the opportunity to voice our League's support for an all-elected Board of Education in Anne Arundel County, a position we've held since 1994.

Prior to the 2016 election, we mustered volunteers for multiple voter registration events, prepared and distributed Voters' Guides, promoted VOTE411.org and sought out ways to encourage voter participation. We hosted a Candidates' Forum for Congressional District 3, and implemented a well-received new format that allowed candidates to discuss topics in more depth.

However, it wasn't a year of all work and no play! To help members become acquainted outside of our formal meetings, Membership Chair Kathy Larrabee initiated The League Connection (TLC), no-host, no-agenda social gatherings at different local restaurants, which were a wonderful success. We also enjoyed a group movie outing, holiday tea, and a new member coffee, where recent LWVAAC joiners got to know one another and the board officers.

There's a new item on the agenda for this annual meeting called Member Interests and Associations. We're eager to hear about our members' interests outside the League, and/or other community groups to which they belong, to help guide our programs in the year ahead. We hope you will consider sharing.

Thank you for your membership in the League of Women Voters of Anne Arundel County. Your commitment to the League strengthens our community and our democracy.

LWVAAC member Mary-Lou McCutcheon at the July 4, 2016 USCIS Naturalization Ceremony at Paca House in Annapolis.

Photo by Kathy Larrabee



Highlights of 2016 Annual Meeting, Carol Sures, Secretary

Thirty-six people attended the meeting on Saturday, April 30, 2016 at BayWoods of Annapolis. Co-president Niecy Chambers greeted members and introduced Betsy Singer, LWVAAC's liaison from the state League Board. Ms. Singer brought commendations from LWVMD, especially for the high quality of our newsletter, our meetings with County officials and the training of new voter registrars.

Budget: Treasurer Lois Fussell presented the proposed FY 2017 Budget for the General Operating and Education Funds. Lois Coon moved (Carolyn Ciepiela 2nd) to approve the budget as proposed.

Members voted to approve the budget as presented. Fussell noted that LWVAAC recently received a \$1,000 legacy from the estate of Ruth Smith.

Program: Program Chair Myrna Siegel stated that no changes to current League positions or new local studies were proposed during program planning. She reported that two fact-finding subcommittees are investigating Public Housing and Police, respectively, as part of our League's Community Relations: Public Safety and Individual Rights initiative. Siegel asked for additional volunteers to research transportation issues and schools.

Membership: Membership Chair Kathy Larrabee asked for a volunteer to assist with membership, and stated the need for a volunteer coordinator, especially for staffing voter registration events.

Nominations: Nominating Chair Alfa Stevens presented the following slate of officers and directors:

- Alfa Stevens, Treasurer (2016-18)
- Carolyn Ciepiela, Director (2016-18)
- Lois Coon, Director (2016-18)
- Kathy Larrabee, Director (2016-18)
- Anne Schifferle, Nominating Committee Chair (2016-17)
- Shirley Hatch, Nominating Committee Member (2016-17)

Linda Teare moved (Siegel 2nd) to accept the slate. **Members voted to approve the slate as presented.**

Directions to the Board:

- Gabrielle Strandquist asked the League to investigate polling place access for handicapped voters.
- Lois Fussell suggested printing excerpts from the "Report from State Circle" in the newsletter.
- Myrna Siegel asked for reactions to the League's book discussion meeting on voting rights; comments were favorable and indicate continuation of book discussion meetings.
- Susan Cochran asked for in-person observers at County Council and Board of Education meetings.
- Gail Viamonte wants the League to address the increasing divisiveness in U.S. culture.
- Yolande Dickerson suggested we survey the effectiveness of our Voter Guides and Vote411.org cards.
- Cochran said we may need to update our immigration position and should explain immigration issues to the public.
- Betsy Singer said the Howard County LWV assists their Board of Elections in poll evaluations and is paid for their work. Cochran said that our Board of Elections has refused our assistance.
- Cochran wants the League to work closely with Growth Action Network (GAN), and to use LWVMD positions as a basis for action on local environmental issues.

The meeting adjourned at 11:30 a.m. Dr. Pamela Brown, Executive Director, AA County Partnership for Children, Youth and Families, spoke before lunch. Her topic was "Poverty Amidst Plenty V: Assessing Our County's Needs."

Proposed Budget for FY 2017-18, Alfa Stevens, Treasurer

			Proposed FY17-18	YTD Actual as of 4/28/17	Budgeted FY16-17	Actual FY15-16
GENERAL FUND	Beginning Balance			\$4,337.11		\$4,616.01
Income						
Members	Number	Dues				
<i>Individual (actual as of 2/1/17)</i>	57	\$65.00	\$3,705.00			
<i>Household(actual as of 2/1/17)</i>	6	\$30.00	\$180.00			
<i>Life (projected)</i>	1	\$0.00	\$0.00			
<i>New (projected)</i>	5	\$65.00	\$325.00			
Total Dues			\$4,210.00	\$3,251.00	\$3,860.00	\$3,310.00
Contributions			\$250.00	\$314.00	\$250.00	\$520.00
Annual Meeting			\$1,000.00		\$1,000.00	\$1,170.00
Total Income			\$5,460.00	\$3,565.00	\$5,110.00	\$5,000.00
Disbursements						
LWVUS – PMP	63 total	\$32.00	\$1,920.00	\$1,776.00	\$1,776.00	\$1,888.00
LWVMD – PMP	63 total	\$15.00	\$900.00	\$832.50	\$832.50	\$885.00
Insurance			\$175.00		\$200.00	\$171.74
Mtg. Expense			\$125.00		\$225.00	\$225.00
Copies & Mailing			\$200.00	\$114.10	\$200.00	\$295.74
Conventions			\$450.00		\$110.00	
Annual Meeting			\$1,000.00		\$1,000.00	\$1,043.50
Membership			\$250.00	\$77.36	\$300.00	\$267.29
Legislative Coffee			\$300.00	\$331.00	\$250.00	\$277.83
GAN Membership			\$50.00	\$50.00	\$50.00	\$50.00
Website & Miscellaneous			\$90.00	\$125.73	\$150.00	\$174.80
Total Disbursements			\$5,460.00	\$3,306.69	\$5,093.50	\$5,278.90
To/(From) Reserves				\$258.31	\$16.50	(\$278.90)
	Ending Balance			\$4,595.42		\$4,337.11
In Kind Contributions*						
Copies & Mailing						
Annual Meeting						\$25.00
Membership						
Miscellaneous						
*not included above						
			Proposed FY17-18	YTD Actual as of 4/28/17	Budgeted FY16-17	Actual FY15-16
EDUCATION FUND	Beginning Balance			\$6,218.16		\$4027.01
Income						
Fundraising Campaign			\$2,500.00	\$2,369.52	\$2,750.00	\$3,040.00
Bequest & Other			\$500.00	\$1,055.00		\$1,225.00
Total Income			\$3,000.00	\$3,424.52	\$2,750.00	\$4,265.00
Disbursements						
Candidate Forums			\$ 350.00	\$339.16	\$ 500.00	
Voter Registration & Education			\$150.00		\$200.00	
Voters' Guides & VOTE411.org			\$2,000.00	\$2,100.00	\$1,600.00	\$1,970.00
Educational Public Meetings			\$100.00	\$100.00	\$100.00	
Support for Other Leagues			\$250.00			
Fundraising			\$150.00	\$ 0	\$350.00	\$103.85
Total Disbursements			\$3,000.00	\$2,539.16	\$2,750.00	\$2,073.85
	Ending Balance			\$7,103.52		\$6,218.16

Proposed Bylaws Revision, Niecy Chambers

The Board recommends the following amendment to the LWVAAC bylaws, subject to approval by a majority vote of members at our 2017 Annual Meeting. Existing wording to be replaced has been struck-through; proposed new language is printed in bold type.

ARTICLE V: OFFICERS

Section 1. Officers. The officers of the League shall include:

- (a) One of the following combinations:
 - (1) A President and a Vice-President;
 - (2) Two Co-Presidents; or
 - (3) A Governing Executive Board;
- (b) A Secretary; and
- (c) A Treasurer.

~~Section 2. Terms and Elections. The officers shall be elected for terms of 2 years by the general membership at the annual meeting and take office immediately. The President, Co-Presidents, or Governing Executive Board, and the Secretary shall be elected in odd-numbered years. The Vice-President and the Treasurer shall be elected in even-numbered years. Officers, except the Treasurer and the Secretary, shall not hold the same office for more than 2 consecutive terms.~~

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 and 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.**

Explanation: The bylaws adopted in 2013 are silent on the process for transitioning from Co-Presidents who are both elected in odd-numbered years to President/Vice-President who are elected in odd- and even-numbered years, respectively. This amendment establishes an initial 1- year term for a Vice-President elected at the same time as a President, when succeeding Co-Presidents.

In addition, this amendment eliminates term limits for the Vice President and the Governing Executive Board. There is no League requirement that bylaws stipulate term limits for officers. Relaxing this restriction will help ensure that the LWVAAC Board retains leadership and institutional knowledge.

Report on Conforming Bylaw Amendment, Niecy Chambers

The first three articles of local League bylaws must conform to the first three articles of the bylaws of the League of Women Voters of the United States. Pursuant to a bylaw amendment adopted at the 2016 LWV National Convention, the LWVAAC Board approved the following bylaw revision at its March 28, 2017 meeting. Because this is a conforming amendment, the Board may vote on its adoption.

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.

- (1) ~~Citizens 18 years old or older~~ **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.

Report on Program Planning, Myrna Siegel

No changes in current LWVAAC positions or new studies are proposed.

At our December program planning meeting members identified three areas for emphasis and possible study in 2017-2018. They are:

- **Public transportation** – focus on what exists and what the needs are.
- **Criminal justice** – urge LWVMD to continue advocating for statewide reform; locally ask the public defender to address bail bond reform.
- **Education** – gather information about the county’s school board selection process and review our position.

Report of the Nominating Committee, Anne Schifferle, Chair

At the Annual Meeting, we elect people to serve as board officers and directors. The members of the nominating committee are Anne Schifferle, Chair, Shirley Hatch and Lois Coon.

The nominating committee presents the following slate of officers and board members:

Board Officers:

Nominated for 2017 - 2019

Niecy Chambers, President

Carol Sures, Secretary

Nominated for 2017 - 2018

Kathy Larrabee, Vice President

Board Directors:

Nominated for 2017 - 2019

Myrna Siegel

Gabrielle Strandquist

Linda Teare

Nominated for 2017 - 2018 (unexpired term)

Rachael Lemberg

Nominating Committee:

Nominated for 2017 - 2018

Anne Schifferle, Chair

Shirley Hatch

TRIBUTE TO JANE GARBACZ, LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS LIFE MEMBER

LWVAAC salutes Jane Garbacz, who became a life member of the League of Women Voters this year in recognition of her 50 years as an active member. During that time, Jane has held leadership positions at the local, state, and national levels of the League while living in Indiana, Idaho, Ohio, Connecticut, New Hampshire, and Maryland.

Jane first joined the League in 1967 in Columbus, Indiana. “I joined just after the birth of our 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.



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, and then served four years as president of the LWV of Connecticut. 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 League membership.”

Jane’s years of volunteering have not been confined to the League. In Connecticut, simultaneously with her LWVUS board position, she was a member of the state’s 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 four-year term on the Wilton Township Planning & Zoning Commission and a two-year term on the Board of 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 two years and a member of the College Board of Trustees for 12 years.

Today, Jane mixes her support of LWVAAC with her devotion to STAIR (Start the Adventure in Reading), a program that provides tutors for second graders in local public schools. She also volunteers with the Assistance League of the Chesapeake.

As the daughter of a Navy dentist, Jane learned the demands of a military lifestyle. In her senior year of college, she met Jerry Garbacz, a U.S. Naval Academy graduate and active-duty Marine Corps officer. They were married in 1961. They have two married sons and 4 grandchildren who live in California and Wisconsin.

LWVAAC 2017 ANNUAL MEETING: PORTFOLIO REPORTS

Membership, Kathy Larrabee

The total number LWVAAC members fluctuates throughout the year, going as low as 41 members during the renewal period in early fall and as high as 70 members by spring. We currently have 69 enrolled members with several other individuals expressing interest in joining. This year, we're delighted to count Jane Garbacz as a new life member (50 years in the League of Women Voters). Sadly, longtime LWVAAC member Dorothy Scruggs of Jessup died in August 2016.

In summer 2016, the LWVUS put the final touches on a new database, wherein all member contact information is entered and maintained by local Leagues. It has become a good recordkeeping resource for the LWVAAC, and facilitated production of our *Member Directory* in December 2016.

A primary LWVAAC focus in 2016-17 has been to build a stronger League by helping to connect our members with one another and the Board. This has been encouraged in a number of ways, including the following:

- The September 2016 issue of the newsletter, *The Voter*, introduced the current LWVAAC officers through narrative and photos. In each subsequent issue, member profiles/photos were published, as well as articles about members with special accomplishments within the League and related areas of interest.
- Members interested in Voter Services were paired to staff voter registrations throughout the county and for the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Service in Baltimore, often carpooling to the events.
- Three informal happy hours, dubbed The League Connection (TLC), were held at different local restaurants.
- As a follow-up to the League's book discussion in January 2017, LWVAAC organized an outing to a new movie about race in America. Eight members attended and gathered afterward to exchange personal experiences and impressions.
- A Telephone Tree, with calls made by the LWVAAC Board, has helped to encourage member attendance at events. More importantly, it has given the Board an opportunity to connect with members on a personal level.
- A New Member Coffee with LWVAAC officers presented another opportunity for members to meet, socialize, and learn about the LWV.

Overall, these connections have helped identify new leaders among our membership, some of whom intend to join the LWVAAC 2017-2018 Board, and have provided League volunteers where needed.

Programs 2016-2017, Myrna Siegel, Chair

Our initial program for the year was held on September 20. Our guest was Deputy State's Attorney Claude deVastey Jones who gave us an excellent overview of the provisions of the Justice Reinvestment Act (JRA) which the Maryland General Assembly passed in 2016. The JRA shifts the focus from incarceration for drug offenses to addiction treatment and other services. The intent is to redirect monies saved from a decrease in the jail population to these assistance programs.

In November, we had a consensus meeting focused on the state League study of single vs. multi-member legislative districts in Maryland. At the 2015 LWVMD Convention, the state League adopted a study of open primaries. To ensure that the state League would be able to advocate on proposed redistricting reforms, the LWVMD Board tasked the open primaries study committee with compiling information for a consensus discussion and possible update of the League's existing position on single and multi-member districts. The resulting consensus was to retain the existing position.

Our January meeting was our second annual Books for Learning Session, hosted by Arlene Gavin. This has become a popular event. The two books we discussed were *Between the World and Me* by Ta-Nehisi Coates, and *Just Mercy* by Bryan Stevenson. Both books provoked lively discussions.

On February 25, William Davis, District Public Defender for Anne Arundel County met with members of the League and their guests. He discussed continuing developments related to implementation of the Justice Reinvestment Act and focused on the issue of cash bail, outlining a recent Court of Appeals rule change that establishes new sentencing guidelines for judges.

Land use and growth were the subjects of our March meeting. Larry Tom, Planning and Zoning Officer, and Lynn Miller, Long Range Planner discussed "Shaping Growth in Anne Arundel County." They focused on state requirements for county land use planning; explained growth tiers and the general development plan (GDP); discussed development activity in West County, and reviewed the Developer Rights and Responsibilities Agreement (DRRA) between Anne Arundel County and Halle Company for construction at Odenton Town Center.

Legislative Coffee, Lois Coon

Each year, LWVAAC plans to meet with the delegates and senators from Anne Arundel County at the beginning of the General Assembly Session to discuss League legislative priorities and inquire about programs of interest. Our legislative coffee also provides an opportunity for legislators to speak about their committee assignments, concerns and any bills they may be sponsoring.

This year, our annual Coffee and Conversation with Legislators was held on January 12, the second day of Session. Ten legislators, including Senators Astle and Reilly, and Delegates McMillan, Chang, Malone, Frush, McConkey, Peña-Melnyk, West, and Delegation Chair Beidle attended and took questions from approximately twenty-five League members in attendance. Among the topics raised were the future of fracking in Maryland and the possibilities for bond review and further criminal justice reform. Discussion continued until the session bell rang at 10:00 am. Kathy Larrabee and Gabrielle Strandquist were a great help in making the early morning arrangements.

Candidates' Forum, Carolyn Ciepiela

In anticipation of the November 2016 General Election, a Candidates' Forum for candidates for Maryland's 3rd Congressional District was held on Wednesday, October 26, 2016 at Woods Memorial Presbyterian Church in Severna Park, with the American Association of University Women as co-sponsor. Participants were Mark Plaster (R) and John Sarbanes (D). Nnabu Eze (Green Party) was invited but unable to attend. The use of a new format in which candidates were notified in advance of

topics to be addressed proved to be quite successful. Candidates were able to focus more on the issues and less on partisan conflicts, making the evening more informative and more pleasant. Positive audience feedback made it likely that this method will be used again in the future.

Voter Registration, Yolande Dickerson and Kathy Larrabee

On July 4, LWVAAC registered new citizens following the annual naturalization ceremony held by the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Service (USCIS) at the historic Paca House in Annapolis. Three LWVAAC volunteer registrars staffed the registration table. Our League has been invited to assist with voter registration at the event for many years, and we look forward to returning in 2017.

In response to a request from the state League, which received an LWVUS grant for voter registration activities, LWVAAC provided volunteers to register newly naturalized U.S. citizens following weekday ceremonies held at the USCIS in Baltimore, MD. The state League prepared information packets for the new citizens and distributed the USCIS ceremony schedule to local Leagues in the Baltimore region. Between August 15 and September 30, 14 LWVAAC certified registrars, working in teams of 2, registered on average 30 to 40 new citizens following 14 separate ceremonies held over 11 days. A tally of registrations by the citizens' resident counties was provided to LWVMD. This program is ongoing, with LWVMD contacting interested volunteer registrars directly regarding scheduling.

LWVAAC also staffed pre-election voter registrations at the Y in Arnold, North County High School, Brooklyn Park and Glen Burnie Regional libraries, and two at the Anne Arundel Community College, one on National Voter Registration Day and one on National Students' Day.

Several LWVAAC members initiated registrar training/certification directly with the Anne Arundel County Board of Elections.

Voter Education and Engagement, Yolande Dickerson

The "Importance of Voting" PowerPoint presentation created by our League and distributed in the public schools last spring was shown this fall in several public libraries and at association meetings in northern Anne Arundel County.

Leading up to the election, LWVAAC joined in a media campaign initiated by the LWVNCA to promote voter participation. We invited our members to submit motivational sound bites and catch phrases about voting that could be tweeted, posted on Facebook or added to an email signature. We published information about voting services in our newsletter, and sent press releases about VOTE411.org and the Voters' Guide, which were published in the *Capital* and the *Bay Weekly*.

Voters' Guides, Niecy Chambers

The League's online voters' guide software, VOTE411.org, greatly simplifies the task of inviting candidates to participate, and sharing their responses. Our League had responsibility for following up with Judges and Board of Education members on the Anne Arundel County ballot, and candidates for U.S. Representative in District 4. We were also tasked with providing explanations of the six county charter amendments, which Myrna Siegel and Susan Cochran researched and wrote.

Prior to the start of early voting in October, 2,500 print copies of our League's Anne Arundel County *2016 General Election Voters' Guide* were distributed to public libraries, senior centers, schools and other public venues. Donations to the Education Fund covered the cost of this nonpartisan public service. A printable version was also posted on our website. We found that some libraries were reluctant to hand out the print Voters' Guides to voters because they didn't want to run out.

In the next election cycle, we will work to increase participation in VOTE411.org by candidates, and awareness and utilization of the online VOTE411.org resource by voters.

LWVMD Legislative Day, Susan Cochran

Twelve LWVAAC members attended the state League's Legislative Day on Wednesday, March 1. The program included reports from *Report from State Circle* reporters on the progress of LWVMD's priority bills, a review of the state budget by Wayne Deschenaux, Executive Director of Legislative Services, and an address on corrections and sentencing reform by Toni Holness, ACLU Public Policy Director. Prior to the program, Leaguers visited their delegations to discuss legislative priorities and leave League materials. Appointments need to be made a week or more in advance to ensure seeing the legislators. This year, the Anne Arundel delegation had a special morning conference on local bills, and most of our legislators were not available to speak with LWVAAC members.

LWVAAC members attending the 2017 LWVMD Legislative Day included John Baer, Susan Cochran, Mary Cleave, Yolande Dickerson, Lois Fussell, Brian Hagenbuch, Shirley Hatch, Pamela McFarland, Ashley Oleson, Gabrielle Strandquist, Marylou Symonds, and Sally Vavrek.

Action, Niecy Chambers

In 2017, League legislative priorities and positions aligned with proposed legislation at both the local and state level. The LWVUS position on immigration, paired with LWVAAC's 2010 local consensus, allowed us to submit testimony in support of the City of Annapolis Non-discrimination of Foreign Born Residents Ordinance, which was adopted in February 2017. Applying our League's longstanding position supporting an elected school board, we wrote testimony and a public appeal urging the Anne Arundel County delegation to act. Timing is everything; it appears the General Assembly will pass legislation to establish an all-elected Board of Education for Anne Arundel County this year. We also alerted members to contact their representatives regarding bills dealing with corrections and sentencing reform, one of the LWVMD 2017 legislative priorities and a focus of our programming this year.

Newsletter, Joyce Martin

The Voter is our local connection with League members and friends. Its intent is to keep everyone informed about our LWVAAC programs and objectives. Seven issues of *The Voter* have been published this year prior to Annual Meeting, and another will come out in May. In every issue, we publish a calendar of upcoming events, a member spotlight, board meeting highlights, information about League programs and community concerns, and flyers. We have had good participation from League members in contributing informative and timely articles. In all this outreach, we hope to encourage all members to get acquainted with one another and help enrich our collective League experience.

Publicity, Alfa Stevens

Press releases were sent out for the following public events:

- 1) "A Conversation with Anne Arundel County State's Attorney: Criminal Justice – A New Approach", September 20, 2016
- 2) "Congressional Candidates Forum for Maryland District 3", October 26, 2016
- 3) "Discussion with District Public Defender William Davis about the 2016 Justice Reinvestment Act", February 25, 2017

Press releases were also sent out in April 2016 and in October 2016 announcing the availability of our *Anne Arundel County Voters' Guide for the 2016 Primary Election* and *the 2016 General Election*, respectively, and providing instructions on use of VOTE411.org. *Bay Weekly* published an article on the voter's guide in its October 27, 2016 edition.

Releases are currently sent to the Baltimore Sun, The Capital, The Maryland Gazette, Eye on Annapolis (<http://www.eyeonannapolis.net/>), several other smaller local print publications, and the county calendar (<http://www.aacounty.org/news-and-events/>).

Fundraising, Niecy Chambers

This year, the Board decided to conduct our annual fundraising campaign for the 501(c)(3) Education Fund in conjunction with the League's 97th birthday on February 14. Hand-addressed cards with a Valentine's Day theme were mailed to past and current members and friends of the Anne Arundel County League. We received a warm and generous response, raising nearly \$2,400 in support of LWVAAC's voter service and public educational programs within a month. In addition, this year the Education Fund has received over \$1,000 in unsolicited donations, and our General Operating Fund has benefited from over \$300 in contributions. Thank you to all our generous supporters.

LWVAAC Summary of Positions

Introduction: The positions summarized below are the result of studies conducted by the League of Women Voters of Anne Arundel County over many years. The studies enable the League to articulate its public policy positions and, after they are subscribed to by members, they are used to take action to impact decisions made by various county and city level policy bodies.

Affordable Housing (Adopted 1992)

Action to secure affordable housing for low and very low income residents and special populations in Anne Arundel County and the City of Annapolis.

Support for:

1. rehabilitation of the existing housing supply to maintain the stock of affordable housing;
2. meeting the housing and human service needs of special populations including, but not limited to the homeless;
3. increasing opportunities for people of low or moderate income;
4. ensuring an adequate stock of subsidized housing, and rental assistance and services to low and very low income persons.

Board of Education (Adopted 1994)

Support for election of Board of Education members in nonpartisan elections held at the same time as partisan elections.

County Charter (Adopted 1992, modified 2014)

[Action to secure] **Support for** a charter that is clear, concise and confined to fundamentals.

Waste Management

Hazardous (Adopted 1982) Support the efforts of County government to control problems of hazardous waste. Support establishment of central collections points for disposal of hazardous wastes from households and other small generators. Urge the County to provide adequate information on how to report suspected hazardous wastes and on ways to reduce the use of hazardous products in the household.

Solid (Adopted 1990, modified 1994) Support a program of solid waste management that protects public health and the environment through promotions of source reduction, recycling, and adoption of a conservation ethic among individuals, businesses, and government. We believe every individual must take responsibility for his or her waste and must change disposal habits. A solid waste plan should emphasize source reduction, waste materials recovery, recycling, and composting. Incineration (waste to energy) and other alternatives should be considered only after health, environmental, and economic effects have been studied. Includes City of Annapolis.

Planning and Zoning (Adopted in 1986, modified in 1992 and 1995)

Endorsement of the concept of controlled growth and encouragement of strong enforcement of existing land use controls (zoning, and storm water and sediment controls) and adoption of new regulations to support the concept.

The League supports the following goals in accordance with this position.

1. Promote and pursue balanced development in appropriate target areas that will have minimum impact on the environment and maximum long-term benefit to employment and the tax base including provision of opportunity for affordable housing and a variety of commercial activities in established commercial areas and discouragement of strip development.
2. Enforce the County implementation of the critical area laws and ensure their adequacy.
3. Enforce more strongly the adequate public facilities ordinances, including those regarding water and sewer systems, waste water treatment plants, roads, and public transportation.
4. Reduce air, water, and noise pollution.
5. Expand and strengthen watershed management with storm water and sediment controls, using stronger enforcement of regulations and citizen participation, e.g. as monitors.
6. Maintain the integrity of rural residential and established farming areas by expanding the agricultural preservation program.
7. Expand programs that support carpools, vanpools, and all forms of public transportation.

Transportation (Adopted 1988)

Support development and improvement of public transportation in Anne Arundel County, and encourage the county government to have thorough, professional studies made of the transportation needs of various sectors of the population, to develop proposals for meeting the needs, and to find ways to implement appropriate proposals. The LWVAAC should evaluate proposals using relevant criteria regarding:

Users' concerns--needs of various population groups and geographical areas, affordability of fares, travel time reliability and comfort, and safety;

Economics--capital costs (rights of way, construction and equipment), capital funding, operating costs, potential ridership and fare, operating revenues;

Physical matters- availability of rights of way, relation to other systems existing and planned, adaptability to future growth, and fuel type and consumption;

Environmental impact-- pollution, and degradation of natural resources.

Immigration (Adopted 2010)

Increase focus and support for the LWVUS position on immigration: In achieving overall policy goals, the League supports a system for unauthorized immigrants already in the country to earn legal status, including citizenship, by paying taxes, learning English, studying civics and meeting other relevant criteria...the League does not support deporting unauthorized immigrants who have no history of criminal activity...all persons should receive fair treatment under the law.

Outlook for work:

Call on local and county police to conduct investigation and apprehension of immigrants in a fair and humane manner.

- With LWVMD, work to establish Immigration Reform as a legislative priority within the LWVUS. Urge that reform include a federal solution to the present denial to non-citizens of housing, health care and welfare services for those non-citizens whose low income levels would otherwise make them eligible.
- Enlist Spanish-speaking adults as mentors for reassuring and informing immigrant adults of the practices of our schools and systems for everyday living.
- Enlarge the number and scope of after-school and summer activities available to Hispanic/Latino middle-school students, and encourage and promote participation in such programs by the students.
- Permit Anne Arundel County Community College to accept in-county resident tuition from any graduate of a county high school who meets entrance requirements.
- Foster formation of a private non-profit Council for Immigrant Services composed of representatives of public and private organizations serving the immigrant population, including businesses, as well as the county and city Human Relations Commissions.

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF ANNE ARUNDEL COUNTY, INC.

BYLAWS

ARTICLE I

Name

Section 1. Name. The name of this organization is the League of Women Voters of Anne Arundel County, Inc., herein referred to as the League. The League is an integral part of the League of Women Voters of the United States, herein referred to as the LWVUS, and of the League of Women Voters of Maryland, herein referred to as the LWVMD.

ARTICLE II

Purposes and Policy

Section 1. Purposes. The purposes of the League are to promote political responsibility through informed and active participation in government and to act on selected governmental issues.

Section 2. Political Policy. The League shall not support or oppose any political party or candidate.

ARTICLE III

Membership

Section 1. Eligibility. Any individual who subscribes to the purposes and policy of the League is eligible for membership.

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

(b) Voting Members.

(2) 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.

(3) Life Members. Individuals who have been members of the LWVUS for 50 years or longer shall be life members and are excused from payment of dues.

(b) Associate Members. All others who join the League will be associate members.

ARTICLE IV

Board of Directors

Section 1. Selection, Qualifications and Terms. The Board of Directors (herein referred to as the Board) shall consist of the officers of the League, 6 elected directors and not more than 6 appointed directors. All directors shall be voting members of the League. Three directors shall be elected by the

general membership at each annual meeting and shall serve for 2 years or until their successors have been elected. The elected members shall appoint additional directors not exceeding 6 as they consider necessary to carry on the work of the League. The terms of office of the appointed directors shall be 1 year and shall expire at the conclusion of the next annual meeting. Vacancies other than the presidency may be filled by vote of the remaining members of the Board. The person filling the vacancy shall serve until the end of the unexpired term.

Section 2. Powers and Duties. The Board shall manage and supervise the business, affairs and activities of the League subject to the instructions of the annual meeting. It shall select delegates to the state convention and council and to the national convention. It shall accept responsibility for other matters as the national or state board may delegate to it. It shall have the power to create special committees as it considers necessary and shall perform other duties as specified in these bylaws.

Section 3. Meetings. There shall be at least 7 regular meetings of the Board annually. The President may call a special meeting of the Board and shall call a special meeting upon the request of 5 members of the Board.

Section 4. Quorum. A majority of the members of the Board shall be a quorum.

ARTICLE V

Officers

Section 1. Officers. The officers of the League shall include:

- (d) One of the following combinations:
 - (4) A President and a Vice-President;
 - (5) Two Co-Presidents; or
 - (6) A Governing Executive Board;
- (e) A Secretary; and
- (f) A Treasurer.

Section 2. Terms and Elections. The officers shall be elected for terms of 2 years by the general membership at the annual meeting and take office immediately. The President, Co-Presidents, or Governing Executive Board, and the Secretary shall be elected in odd-numbered years. The Vice-President and the Treasurer shall be elected in even-numbered years. Officers, except the Treasurer and the Secretary, shall not hold the same office for more than 2 consecutive terms.

Section 3. Authorities and Responsibilities.

(a) The President. The President shall have the customary powers of supervision and management of the office; shall preside at all meetings of the League and the Board or designate another member to preside; shall be an ex officio member of all committees except the nominating committee. In the absence of the treasurer, may sign or endorse checks, drafts, or notes; and shall perform other duties as the Board may direct. In the event of the absence, disability, resignation or death of the

President, the Vice-President shall assume the office of President. If the Vice-President is not able to serve as President, the Board shall fill the vacancy from among the elected directors.

(b) Co-Presidents. Co-Presidents shall have all the powers enumerated in Section 3(a). They shall determine how those powers shall be divided between them. In the event of the absence, disability, resignation or death of a Co-President, the other Co-President shall assume the office of President. If the other Co-President is not able to serve as President, the Board shall fill the Co-Presidency vacancy from among the elected directors.

(c) Governing Executive Board. A Governing Executive Board shall consist of the Board members, both elected and appointed, acting as a governing body without an executive. The Board members shall assume the powers of the President and divide the powers among themselves.

Section 4. The Vice-President. The vice-president shall perform duties the president and the Board direct.

Section 5. The Secretary. The secretary shall keep minutes of the meetings of the membership and of the Board. The secretary shall notify all officers and directors of their election and shall sign with the president all contracts and other instruments when authorized by the Board and shall perform other duties the president and the Board direct.

Section 6. The Treasurer. The treasurer shall perform the customary duties of the office and arrange for an annual review or audit of the books and records.

ARTICLE VI

Financial Administration

Section 1. Fiscal Year. The fiscal year of the League is from July 1 to June 30.

Section 2. Dues. Annual dues shall be paid by July 1. The Board may set reduced dues for students, associate and household members, and may provide scholarships for active members. A member who fails to pay dues within 3 months after they are due shall be dropped from the membership list.

Section 3. Budget Committee. The budget shall be prepared by a committee which shall be appointed not later than 2 months before the annual meeting. The treasurer shall be a member of the budget committee. The proposed budget shall be sent to all members not later than 1 month before the annual meeting.

Section 4. Distribution of Funds on Dissolution. In the event of the dissolution of the League, all money and securities of the League shall be paid to the LWVMD after the state and national per member payments and other obligations have been met. All other property of the League shall be conveyed to a person, organization or corporation for public, charitable, or educational uses and purposes as the Board in its absolute discretion may designate.

ARTICLE VII

Meetings

Section 1. Membership Meetings. There shall be at least three program meetings of the membership each year. The Board shall determine the date, time and place of the meetings.

Section 2. Annual Meeting. An annual meeting shall be held between April 1 and June 30, on a date to be determined by the Board. At the annual meeting, members present and voting shall:

- (a) Adopt a local program for the next year;
- (b) Elect officers, directors, the chair and members of the nominating committee;
- (c) Determine the amount of dues members shall pay;
- (d) Adopt a budget; and
- (e) Transact other business that properly comes before them.

Section 3. Quorum. Ten percent (10%) of the voting members is a quorum for all League meetings.

ARTICLE VIII

Nominations and Elections

Section 1. Nominating Committee. The nominating committee shall consist of 3 members. The chair and one member, who shall not be members of the Board, shall be elected at the annual meeting. Immediately after the annual meeting, the Board shall appoint 1 of its members to the nominating committee. A vacancy shall be filled by appointment by the Board.

Section 2. Report of the Nominating Committee. The report of the nominating committee shall be sent to all members 1 month before the date of the annual meeting.

Section 3. Other Nominations. A nomination may be made from the floor by a voting member, if the proposed nominee consents.

Section 4. Elections. The election shall be by ballot. If there is only one nominee for each office, the secretary may be instructed to cast the ballot for every nominee. A majority of members qualified to vote, present and voting shall constitute an election. Absentee and proxy voting are not permitted.

ARTICLE IX

Principles and Program

Section 1. Principles. The principles of the League are concepts of government adopted by the national convention and supported by the League as a whole. They are the authorization for the adoption of the national, state and local program.

Section 2. Program. The program of the League shall consist of action to implement the principles and those local governmental issues chosen at the annual meeting for study and action as follows:

- (a) Voting members may make recommendations to the Board not later than 2 months before the annual meeting;
- (b) The Board shall consider these recommendations and formulate a proposed program that shall be sent to the members not later than 1 month before the annual meeting;
- (c) The members may adopt a program by a majority vote; and
- (d) Program recommendations properly submitted to the Board but not proposed by the Board shall by majority vote be considered at the annual meeting and may by majority vote be adopted by the annual meeting.

Section 3. Changes in Program. Changes to the program may be made if:

- (a) Information concerning the proposed change has been sent to all members at least 2 weeks before a general membership meeting at which the change is discussed; and
- (b) Final action by the membership is taken at a succeeding meeting.

Section 4. Program in Action.

- (a) Members may act in the name of the League only if authorized by the Board.
- (b) Members may act only in conformity with a position of the League, the LWVMD, and the LWVUS.

ARTICLE X

Parliamentary Authority

Robert's Rules of Order Newly Revised shall govern the League in all cases to which they are applicable and in which they are not inconsistent with these bylaws.

ARTICLE XI

Amendments

The bylaws may be amended by two-thirds vote of the voting members at an annual meeting, if the proposed amendments are submitted to the membership in writing not later than 1 month before the meeting.

Revised March 28, 2017