



LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS®
OF ANNE ARUNDEL COUNTY, MARYLAND

2018 ANNUAL MEETING

April 28, 2018

BayWoods of Annapolis

Annapolis, MD

lwvaacmd.org

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MEETING WORKBOOK

LWVAAC ANNUAL MEETING

Saturday, April 28, 2018

Agenda

Part I: Board Reports

Introductions and President's Report

Niecy Chambers

Highlights of the 2017 Meeting

Carol Sures, Secretary

Presentation of the FY 2018-19 Budget

Alfa Stevens, Treasurer

Report of the Nominating Committee

Anne Schifferle, Nominating Chair

Adoption of Program for 2018-19

Myrna Siegel, Program Chair

Part II: Input from Members

Discussion of LWVUS *Transformation Roadmap*

Directions to the Board

Announcements

Adjourn

Lunch with Cash Bar

Guest Speaker: Derek Matthews

Community and Minority Outreach Officer, Office of the County Executive

Anne Arundel County: Fighting Hatred, Building Community

Derek Matthews works on several special projects, including improving diversity in the County workforce and facilitating strong relationships with community organizations and interest groups. He also leads work on the Anne Arundel United Campaign. The goal of the campaign is to build greater tolerance, understanding and community among all Anne Arundel County residents through open dialogue and hands-on activities.

Derek comes from a diverse law enforcement career in the international and national private sectors, local, and at the senior federal government level. He is an author and motivational speaker and is in the process of becoming a United Methodist Pastor, following in the path of his mother, the late Rev. Callie Matthews.

Derek and his wife of 27 years have a set of twins who recently graduated college and have begun their professional careers, one as an Anne Arundel County teacher and the other as Second Lieutenant in the United States Army.



Photo by Kathy Larrabee

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF ANNE ARUNDEL COUNTY
2018 ANNUAL MEETING
Meeting Workbook

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President's Letter, Niecy Chambers

As the reports in this workbook demonstrate, the League of Women Voters of Anne Arundel County continues to evolve, learn and grow. Each year, we strive to respond to events in the world around us, while maintaining the important services for which the LWV is known. Whatever changes we embrace, at its core, our League reflects the interests, abilities and drive of our members. You determine the direction we move and the activities we undertake.

As the LWV approaches its centennial in 2020, the national League has distributed a *Transformation Roadmap* proposing structural changes designed to increase membership and rejuvenate the League. This will be a focus of discussion at the state League's biennial council on June 9, and at the LWVUS national convention this summer, and your input is essential. An overview of some of the key elements of the *Roadmap* have been provided at the end of this workbook. I look forward to hearing your views.

Change may come but, in the meantime, there's League work to do. LWVAAC began planning a year in advance to host General Assembly candidate forums in four AA County districts next fall – a first! Carolyn Ciepiela has put her years of knowledge into a uniform Forum Do List and plans to train and oversee the subcommittee chairs for each event. We are excited to bring this important voter service to all parts of the county and hope you will help make this endeavor a success.

Another key initiative is our Voter Engagement program, led by Joyce Martin. Joyce arranged an LWVAAC registrar training this winter and is actively “beating the bushes” for opportunities to register voters. Please let her know if you know of a community center, church, place of business, festival or other venue that might welcome a voter registration table.

We'll soon begin to promote VOTE411.org and publish our *Anne Arundel County Voters' Guide* for the 2018 primary election on June 26. Debby Chessin provided invaluable help in encouraging candidate participation, and we'll be seeking additional volunteers to demonstrate VOTE411.org and distribute copies of the *Voters' Guide*. Please contact me for more information.

A highlight of our League's service to voters this year will be our public forum entitled *Protecting Our Elections: Security of the Systems, Integrity of the Results* on Tuesday, May 15 at AACC. We're delighted to have three expert panelists with election experience at the local, state and national levels: Joe Torre, Nikki Charlson and John T. Willis. This is a valuable opportunity to answer questions and allay public concerns, and we hope you will encourage your friends and neighbors to attend.

Beyond our voter service efforts, we successfully reestablished an Observer Corps this year. Promoting transparency and accountability in government is a key League goal, and the Observer Corps is its primary means. We are indebted to Susan Cochran for leading the effort and mentoring the volunteers, and to Alexis Dorsey and Kathy Larrabee for carrying on her good work.

In our member meetings this year, we've continued to explore and discuss injustice. We followed with interest the Anne Arundel United initiative that began last fall and look forward to learning about ways to support this community building effort from our luncheon speaker, Derek Matthews.

Thank you for attending our 2018 Annual Membership Meeting!

Highlights of 2017 Annual Meeting, Carol Sures, Secretary

Forty-three people attended the meeting on Saturday, May 6, 2017 at BayWoods of Annapolis. Co-president Niecy Chambers opened the meeting by commenting that the current political picture speaks to the need for the League's continuing role, and she said there are many opportunities for members to serve our community. She commended three retiring Board members, Sue Farmer, Yolande Dickerson and co-president Susan Elson for their services, and she thanked Kathy Larrabee for her work on membership and for her help in organizing the Annual Meeting.

Betsy Singer brought greetings from LWVMD, presenting an Outstanding Service certificate. She particularly commended the LWVAAC's fine "information-packed" newsletter, programs that matched our theme for the year, and our voter service activities.

Budget: Treasurer Alfa Stevens presented the proposed FY 2018 Budget for the General Operating and Education Funds. Stevens moved (Marylou Symonds 2nd) to approve the proposed budget. **Members voted to approve the budget as presented.**

Bylaws: Chambers presented a bylaws revision to establish the transition from Co-Presidents to President/Vice-President with respect to the timing of their elections, and eliminate term limits for the Vice President and the Governing Executive Board. Chambers moved (Lois Coon 2nd) to approve the amendment. **Members voted to approve the amendment.**

Nominations: Nominating Chair Anne Schifferle, presented the following slate:

Niecy Chambers, President (2017-19)

Carol Sures, Secretary (2017-19)

Kathy Larrabee, Vice President (2017-18)

Myrna Siegel, Gabrielle Strandquist, Linda Teare, Directors (2017-19)

Rachael Lemberg, Director (2017-18 - filling unexpired term)

Anne Schifferle and Shirley Hatch, Nominating Committee (2017-18)

Myrna Siegel moved (Mary Lou McCutcheon 2nd) to accept the slate. **Members voted to approve the slate as presented.**

Program: Program Chair Myrna Siegel reported that no changes in current LWVAAC positions or new studies were proposed. She noted members had identified transportation, criminal justice and education for emphasis in the coming year. She observed that the Books for Learning meeting was popular and would be repeated. She also said our League had held meetings highlighting criminal justice.

Membership: Membership Chair Kathy Larrabee led a special tribute for Jane Garbacz who became a life member. She presented Ms. Garbacz with a 50-year pin and a flowering plant.

Directions to the Board: Susan Cochran wants the League to be leaders in the county and to initiate study and action through letters and meetings with officials. She stressed the need to follow planning for the General Development Plan, recommended holding a forum on the newly enacted elected school board, and urged the League to advocate forcefully on various environmental issues. She also cited the importance of having an Action Chair.

Jane Garbacz would like the League to recruit more men into the organization.

Mary Cleave suggested that Rachael Lemberg be Action Chair.

Rachael Lemberg advised more use of social media to involve younger women in the League.

The meeting adjourned at 11 a.m. Ramond Robinson, Director of Transit, AA County Department of Planning and Zoning, spoke after brunch. His topic was “Envisioning a Comprehensive Transit Network for Anne Arundel County.”



Kathy Larrabee recognizes life LWV member Jane Garbacz at 2017 LWVAAC Annual Meeting.



(l-r) Alexis Dorsey and long-time Secretary Carol Sures.



(l-r) Bettie Farrar, Mary Cleave and Marylou Symonds socialize at the Annual Meeting brunch, May 6, 2017.

Photos by Mary-Lou McCutcheon and Kathy Larrabee

Proposed Budget for FY 2018-19, Alfa Stevens, Treasurer

| | | | Proposed FY18-19 | YTD Actual as of 4/24/18 | Budget FY17-18 | Actual FY16-17 |
|----------------------------------|--------------------------|-------------|---------------------|-----------------------------|-------------------|-------------------|
| GENERAL FUND | Beginning Balance | | | \$5,372.98 | | \$4,337.11 |
| Income | | | | | | |
| Members | Number | Dues | | | | |
| Individual (actual as of 2/1/18) | 62 | \$65.00 | \$4,030.00 | | \$3,705.00 | |
| Household (actual as of 2/1/18) | 7 | \$30.00 | \$210.00 | | \$180.00 | |
| Life (as of 2/1/18) | 1 | \$0.00 | \$0.00 | | \$0.00 | |
| New (projected) | 7 | \$65.00 | <u>\$455.00</u> | | <u>\$325.00</u> | |
| Total Dues | | | \$4,695.00 | \$2,980.00 | \$4,210.00 | \$4,666.00 |
| Contributions | | | \$300.00 | \$240.00 | \$250.00 | \$244.00 |
| Annual Meeting | | | <u>\$1,350.00</u> | | <u>\$1,000.00</u> | <u>\$1,260.00</u> |
| Total Income | | | \$6,345.00 | \$3,220.00 | \$5,460.00 | \$6,170.00 |
| | | | | | | |
| Disbursements | | | | | | |
| LWVUS – PMP | 70 total | \$32.00 | \$2,096.00 | \$1,920.00 | \$1,920.00 | \$1,776.00 |
| LWVMD – PMP | 70 total | \$15.00 | \$982.50 | \$907.50 | \$900.00 | \$832.50 |
| Insurance | | | \$141.50 | | \$175.00 | |
| Mtg. Expense | | | \$225.00 | \$152.95 | \$125.00 | |
| Copies & Mailing | | | \$300.00 | \$165.30 | \$200.00 | \$234.52 |
| Conventions | | | \$150.00 | | \$450.00 | |
| Annual Meeting | | | \$1,650.00 | | \$1,000.00 | \$1,715.73 |
| Membership | | | \$350.00 | \$8.80 | \$250.00 | \$314.38 |
| Legislative Coffee | | | \$300.00 | \$107.15 | \$300.00 | \$331.00 |
| GAN Membership | | | \$50.00 | \$50.00 | \$50.00 | \$50.00 |
| Website & Miscellaneous | | | <u>\$100.00</u> | <u>\$205.20</u> | <u>\$90.00</u> | <u>(\$120.00)</u> |
| Total Disbursements | | | \$6,345.00 | \$3,516.90 | \$5,460.00 | \$5,134.13 |
| To/(From) Reserves | | | | (\$296.90) | | \$1,035.87 |
| | Ending Balance | | | \$5,076.08 | | \$5,372.98 |
| In Kind Contributions* | | | | | | |
| Annual Meeting | | | | | | |
| Miscellaneous | | | | | | |
| *not included above | | | | | | |
| | | | Proposed FY18-19 | YTD Actual as of 4/24/18 | Budget FY17-18 | Actual FY16-17 |
| EDUCATION FUND | Beginning Balance | | | \$7,002.79 | | \$6,218.16 |
| Income | | | | | | |
| Fundraising Campaign | | | \$3,000.00 | \$2,216.93 | \$3,000.00 | \$2,394.52 |
| Bequest & Other | | | <u>\$550.00</u> | <u>\$470.00</u> | | <u>\$1,055.00</u> |
| Total Income | | | \$3,550.00 | \$2,686.93 | \$3,000.00 | \$3,449.52 |
| | | | | | | |
| Disbursements | | | | | | |
| Candidate Forums | | | \$2,000.00 | \$686.40 | \$350.00 | \$339.16 |
| Voter Registration & Education | | | \$150.00 | | \$150.00 | |
| Voters' Guides & VOTE411.org | | | \$2,750.00 | | \$2,000.00 | \$2,100.00 |
| Educational Public Meetings | | | \$200.00 | | \$100.00 | \$100.00 |
| Support for Other Leagues | | | \$200.00 | | \$250.00 | |
| Fundraising | | | \$250.00 | \$133.24 | \$150.00 | \$125.73 |
| Total Disbursements | | | \$5,550.00 | \$819.64 | \$3,000.00 | \$2,664.89 |
| To/(From) Reserves | | | (\$2,000.00) | \$1,867.29 | | \$784.63 |
| | Ending Balance | | | \$8,870.08 | | \$7,002.79 |

Report on Program Planning, Myrna Siegel

No changes in current LWVAAC positions are proposed.

At our December 2017 program planning session, members supported retaining all of LWVAAC's existing positions and recommended additional review of our Planning and Zoning position with respect to the deforestation that is occurring in Anne Arundel County. The board is to research relevant state and national positions before deciding whether to recommend a study.

A new study was suggested to investigate race relations in the County. Prior to initiating such a study the board will seek input from Derek Matthews, coordinator of the *Anne Arundel United* initiative, as to whether and how to conduct a study on this topic.

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 Kathy Larrabee.

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

Board Officers:

Nominated for 2018-2020

Kathy Larrabee, Vice President
Alfa Stevens, Treasurer

Board Directors:

Nominated for 2018-2020

Lois Coon
Rachael Lemberg
Gail Viamonte

Nominated for 2018-2019 (unexpired term)

Debby Chessin

Nominating Committee (Off-Board):

Nominated for 2018-2019

Anne Schifferle, Chair
Shirley Hatch

LWVAAC 2018 ANNUAL MEETING: PORTFOLIO REPORTS

MEMBERSHIP, Kathy Larrabee

Member Enrollment: The LWVAAC membership year is July 1 through June 30. We ended the previous membership year with 72 members, including 4 who joined at the annual membership meeting held in May. Since June, we've added 11 members for a total of 83, and we expect to close the membership year with a total enrollment of 90. In the current political climate, our League and others have experienced an increase in membership inquiries. Prospective members state interest in becoming active with a nonpartisan political organization that works to educate and engage voters.

The dues renewal process each year takes place between the spring annual meeting, where members traditionally renew, and September 30. On October 1, non-renewals are tagged inactive on the LWVAAC roster. In the fall, we prepare our *Member Directory* for distribution to members.

Member Engagement and Development: We have continued our efforts to involve members in activities that interest them. In the near future, we will again query members through a survey to learn of their League expectations. Such information helps in the matching process.

Here are a few examples of new member involvement during the 2017-18 program year. Along with two "veteran" Leaguers, three recent members assumed leadership roles by joining the Board of Directors this year. It is on the Board that we learn firsthand about LWV principles and practices. One of these new board members is gathering candidate information for VOTE411.org, the second has taken responsibility for our Facebook page, and two others have volunteered to coordinate the candidate forums next fall. Another relatively new member now chairs the LWVAAC Observer Corps, stepping in for the founding chair who is running for the House of Delegates. New members actively participated in both the consensus discussion last November, and program planning in December, gaining insight into these two key League functions. Several recent members served on the Legislative Coffee committee, contributing valuable new ideas and publishing a handout that highlighted the Anne Arundel County delegation and their pre-filed bills. This handout was later used as a reference for LWVAAC members who attended the annual LWVMD Legislative Day. To prepare for the upcoming elections, several new members are being trained as voter registrars. About 10 percent of the membership is currently certified to register voters.

The League Connection (TLC): TLC, a social program, helps members become acquainted outside of the League work environment. Happy hour held in the fall was not well attended, but a November lunch at P.F. Chang's drew a comfortable number that filled a very long table. TLC was activated again at our Program Planning session held at Union Jack's British Pub in December, which allowed ample time for lunch and conversation.

New Member Orientation: In May a new member coffee, similar to the one held in April 2017, will bring together LWVAAC Officers and new members in an informal setting to help new members become familiar with LWV lingo and processes.

PROGRAM ACTIVITIES

Programs 2017-2018, Myrna Siegel

Our kick-off program for the year was held on October 10 and featured an exchange of ideas with Stephen A. Tillett, President of the Anne Arundel County NAACP, Pastor of Asbury Broadneck UMC, and author of the 2017 book *Stop Falling for the Okeydoke: How the Lie of "Race" Continues to Undermine Our Country*.

In November, we met to determine our League's consensus on the state League study of *Open vs. Closed Primaries*. Participants, including several new members, were fortunate to have former League president Susan Cochran and LWVMD study committee member Dona Sauerburger help us understand this complex topic, as discussion leader and resource person, respectively.

Program Planning was the focus of a working lunch in December, attended by more than one-third of our members. Lois Fussell led the review of our existing positions and solicited members' input on future LWVAAC program activities.

Part I of our Books for Learning discussion group took place in February, when we met to discuss Dr. William J. Barber, II's book, *The Third Reconstruction*. In the summer of 2013, Dr. Barber led a faith-based, grassroots coalition in North Carolina in weekly rallies protesting actions by state government that restricted voting and other civil rights. These protests became known as Moral Mondays.

Part II of Books for Learning was held in April and focused on Richard Rothstein's book, *The Color of Law*. Rothstein provides a detailed chronicle of the roles played by federal, state, and local governments in establishing and reinforcing neighborhood segregation.

In May we will host a public forum at Anne Arundel Community College entitled "Protecting Our Elections: Security of the Systems, Integrity of the Results." Panelists Joe Torre, Anne Arundel County Election Director, Nikki Charlson, Deputy Administrator of the State Board of Elections, and former Maryland Secretary of State John Willis, Senior Executive in Residence in the University of Baltimore College of Public Affairs will provide a local, state and national perspective. We gratefully acknowledge AACC Professor Peter Wirig's assistance in promoting the event on campus, and the AACC Instructional Design Team for agreeing to videotape the program for posting online.

Legislative Coffee, Lois Coon and Kathy Larrabee

LWVAAC's annual *Conversation and Coffee* with Anne Arundel County legislators in the General Assembly has for many years provided League members with an opportunity to present LWV legislative priorities and to hear from our county representatives about issues they expect to be at the forefront of the upcoming session. Unfortunately, this year's event, scheduled for January 11, 2018, the second day of the Assembly's 90-day session, turned out to be a prime example of best laid plans going awry at the last minute due to unforeseen circumstances. After months of planning, with the goal of enriching the event and doubling member and delegation attendance, we learned the evening before that both Democrats and Republicans would caucus on a possible veto override at the time of our event, making them unavailable to meet with us. The LWVAAC Board has agreed that this event be scheduled outside

of the legislative session in the future to avoid conflicts. We welcome members' suggestions as to both timing and format.

Regardless of the outcome, our League commends the efforts of the Legislative Coffee committee members who graciously gave their time to preparing for the event. Committee members distributed LWVMD priorities to our representative's offices, and a handout that was created for the meeting, containing information about each member of the delegation, has proven valuable not only for LWVMD Legislative Day attendees but also for our Candidate Forum and Voters' Guide volunteers.

VOTER SERVICES

Candidate Forums, Carolyn Ciepiela

In anticipation of the September 19, 2017 Mayoral Primary, a forum with the four candidates for Mayor of Annapolis was held on September 13, 2017 at Congregation Kneseth Israel in Annapolis, with the Anne Arundel County Branch of the American Association of University Women (AAUW) as co-sponsor. LWVAAC hired a professional videographer to record the forum and posted the video on Facebook and our website. The event was also broadcast live by WNAV. LWVAAC's new format of notifying candidates beforehand regarding topics of discussion proved once again to be a successful method of encouraging substantive answers and conversation among the candidates, prior to answering questions from the audience.

LWVAAC assisted the state League in developing a Generic To Do List and PowerPoint presentation for the 2018 Winter Workshop on running nonpartisan candidate forums. These resources will be helpful in training other members as forum coordinators.

Preparations are underway for LWVAAC to hold candidate forums for the General Assembly races in Districts 30, 31, 32 and 33 in the fall of 2018. Consideration is being given to co-sponsoring a forum for the County Executive race. In March 2018, the Board adopted a policy establishing eligibility criteria for candidate participation in LWVAAC forums.

Voter Registration, Joyce Martin and Kathy Larrabee

The annual Independence Day naturalization ceremony at the historic William Paca House in Annapolis would not be complete without the voter registration table staffed by League volunteers. On July 4, 2017, 22 immigrants from 16 countries, including Japan, Spain, Kenya, Pakistan, Iran, Estonia and South Korea, registered to vote after taking the Oath of Allegiance. LWVAAC registrars have provided this service every year since 2006.

For several years, LWVAAC has organized a voter registration drive at Anne Arundel Community College in collaboration with students in the Legal Studies Club. Often scheduled to coincide with National Voter Registration Day (4th Tuesday in September), our 2017 drive, held on September 20, also commemorated Constitution Day (September 17).

In preparation for the 2018 elections, LWVAAC hosted a voter registrar training at Severna Park Library on March 20, 2018. Twelve League members participated.

LWVAAC registered voters at Annapolis High School during lunch period on April 19. We are actively seeking additional registration opportunities throughout the county.

Voters' Guide, Niecy Chambers and Debby Chessin

Invitations to participate in the League's *2018 Voters' Guide* were sent to candidates in early March 2018. LWVAAC has responsibility for monitoring all Anne Arundel County races as well as Congressional District 4, which includes part of Prince George's County. VOTE411.org, the interactive online version, will go live in mid-May for the primary election on June 26, 2018. LWVAAC will print and distribute 2500 copies of its *Primary Election Voters' Guide for Anne Arundel County*, and will post a downloadable PDF version on its website.

Thanks to legislation passed in 2017, Anne Arundel County Board of Education members will appear on the primary ballot for the first time in 2018. LWVAAC volunteers will make a special effort to encourage participation in the *Voters' Guide* by the candidates.

Voter Engagement, Joyce Martin

Voter engagement involves going beyond registering voters to encouraging confidence and participation in our democracy. To achieve this, LWVAAC answers questions about the voting process, provides reliable information, promotes civic education, and always reinforces the importance of voting. The League has an opportunity and a responsibility to emphasize that everyone has a voice.

COMMUNICATIONS

Newsletter, Joyce Martin

The Voter is our local connection with League members and friends. Its intent is to keep everyone informed about LWVAAC programs and objectives. Since summer 2017, six issues of *The Voter* have been published, and one more is scheduled before the end of the program year. We continue to have good participation from League members in submitting high quality articles.

In every issue we publish a calendar of upcoming events, information about programs, and articles about issues of League and community interest, as well as forms and flyers. Another regular segment is our Member Spotlight, featuring a short biography and photo of one of our members. With this outreach, we hope to help all members to get acquainted, feel connected and enrich our League experiences.

Facebook, Rachael Lemberg, Kathy Larrabee and Ashley Oleson

At the spring 2017 Annual Membership Meeting, new Board member Rachael Lemberg strongly suggested that the LWVAAC establish a Facebook page as a tool for promoting LWV positions and events and to help increase membership. With encouragement from the LWVAAC Board, Lemberg developed the page along with help from members Kathy Larrabee and Ashley Oleson. Lemberg and Oleson became the LWVAAC FB Administrators. Larrabee wrote the LWVAAC FB Guidelines, adopted by the LWVAAC Board. The guidelines help the FB administrators manage content and set parameters for appropriate posts.

Our first test was the Annapolis Mayoral Forum in October 2017. We were able to share our Facebook posting with other Facebook groups whose members may have had an interest in attending the forum. We believe it was an effective and easy tool to broadcast our event to a wider, yet nonpartisan audience.

We will continue to collect data (number of views, number of members, etc.) to monitor the effectiveness of our FB Page.

Website, Niecy Chambers

The LWVAAC website got a face lift in 2017, with a new color scheme, updated homepage and a monthly calendar of events linked to the LWVAAC Gmail account. LWVAAC would greatly benefit from a dedicated webmaster to monitor and update web content on a regular basis.

Publicity, Alfa Stevens and Rachael Lemberg

To publicize the Mayoral Candidate Forum held in Annapolis on September 13, 2017 a press release was sent to local media and WNAV 1430 AM radio was contacted directly. WNAV provided a live broadcast, along with Maryland Crabs Podcast. Additionally, social media was used to publicize the forum to numerous groups based in the Annapolis area.

Similar media techniques are being pursued to publicize the May 15, 2018 public forum on election security. Press releases also will be sent in June 2018 to announce the publication of our *Anne Arundel County Voters' Guide for the 2018 Primary Election* and provide instructions on use of VOTE411.org.

Press 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/>).

OBSERVER CORPS, Susan Cochran

LWVAAC established its Observer Corps (OC) in 2017 when Susan Cochran volunteered to chair the Corps and recruited interested members. The League OC program helps to ensure that citizens are aware of the decisions that impact their lives and promotes government transparency and accountability.

LWVAAC OC volunteers attend meetings of various county boards and commissions, as well as County Council meetings to ensure that requirements of the Maryland Public Information Act and the Open Meetings Law are met. Issues of interest to the League, covered by our positions, are brought to the attention of the League Board for possible action or study. In addition to the County Council, OC volunteers are monitoring the Planning Advisory Board, the Human Relations Commission, the Transportation Commission and the Agritourism Commission. As new OC volunteers are added to the Corps, its capacity will expand to include more boards/commissions. The first OC meeting in October 2017 began with only 5 members; since then 5 additional members have expressed interest by attending one or more monthly meeting and researching additional county organizations to monitor. Debby Chessin, Susan Cochran, Alexis Dorsey, Kathy Larrabee, Dona Sauerburger, Myrna Siegel, Alfa Stevens, Gabrielle Strandquist, and Gail Viamonte have been active members of the committee. Alexis Dorsey has assumed the position of chair for the coming year.

FUNDRAISING, Niecy Chambers

As in the previous year, LWVAAC's annual fundraising appeal for contributions to its 501(c)(3) Education Fund coincided with the League's 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 are grateful to our supporters for their prompt and generous response, donating over \$2,200 to date.

Election year activities, such as candidate forums and *Voters' Guides*, raise awareness of the League and provide an opportunity to attract outside contributions. We can also reach potential supporters through Facebook. We'll pursue these new sources of support this year and also work to expand the mailing list for next year's annual appeal.

LWVAAC COMMUNITY ACTION & OUTREACH, Niecy Chambers

In April 2018, as a member of the Growth Action Network (GAN), LWVAAC signed onto a letter supporting County Council Resolution 6-18, which called for a charter amendment to prevent the County Council from voting for zoning changes unless the Planning and Zoning Officer certifies that the proposed rezoning is consistent with the Growth Development Plan (GDP). Despite a strong show of public support for tightening enforcement of the GDP, the resolution was defeated.



As moderator Carol Richards looks on, member Ashley Oleson urges action on gerrymandering. Ashley represented the League on an Anne Arundel Women Giving Together panel entitled "Woman on the March" in Annapolis, March 8, 2018. Co-panelist Angela Dodson, author of *Remember the Ladies*, is not shown.



(l-r) LWVAAC members Rachael Lemberg, Kathy Larrabee and Niecy Chambers wear their support for redistricting reform at the Tame the Gerrymander rally outside the Supreme Court, March 28, 2018.

Photos courtesy of Kathy Larrabee

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 which, after they are subscribed to by members, 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; achieved 2017)

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.

(a) Voting Members.

(1) 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.

(2) Those who live inside the area of the League may join the League or any other League. Those who reside outside the area of the League may join the League, another local League or shall be LWVMD members-at-large.

(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:

- (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.

- (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.

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 June 6, 2017

Select Goals of the LWVUS *Transformation Roadmap*

The *Roadmap* identified a clear focus, healthy League network, culture change and sufficient resources as strategic priorities and proposed the following organizational goals:

#1 Universal adoption of the mission and vision statements as the “north star” for all League activities.

Our Mission: *Empowering Voters. Defending Democracy*

Our Vision: *We envision a democracy where every person has the desire, the right, the knowledge, and the confidence to participate.*

#2 Five program strategies define the core work of the League as a Defender of Democracy.

- a) ensuring voter access
- b) mobilizing voters
- c) providing voter education
- d) ensuring voter protection
- e) promoting transparency and accountability in government

#3 The League at all levels exhibits a healthy and inclusive culture with a goal of increasing membership and member engagement reflective of the demographic characteristics (race, age, ethnicity, income) of communities served.

#4 Capacity of national and state Leagues is strengthened to support local Leagues technologically, administratively and financially. LWVUS collects dues, leads fundraising, shares revenues and data.

#5 A robust internal communications network is implemented along with standardized reporting to measure mission impact, publicly promote the League brand.