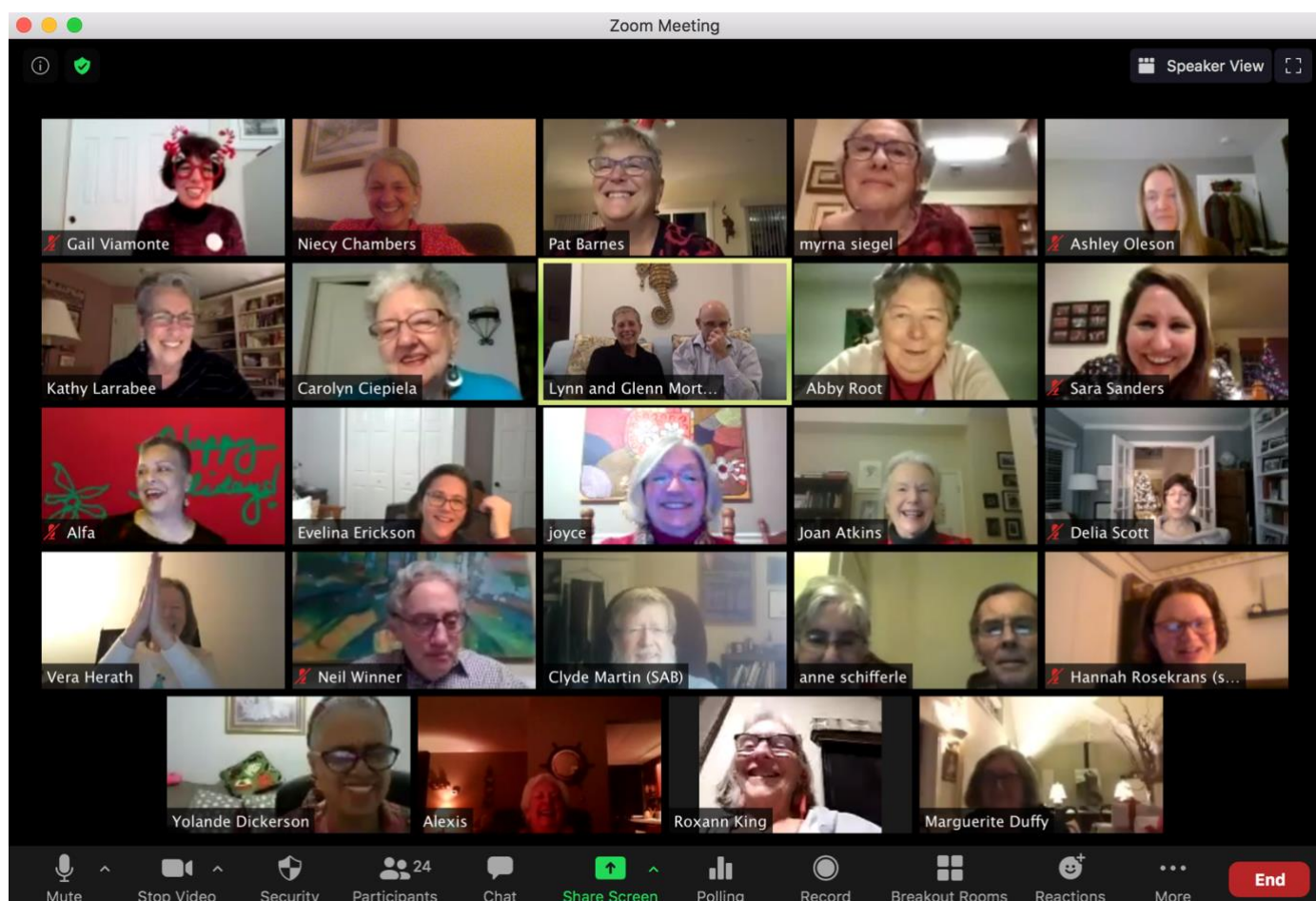




2021 ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING



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MEETING WORKBOOK

PUBLISHED APRIL 23, 2021

LWVAAC ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING

Agenda

Saturday, April 24, 2021

Part I: Board Reports

Introductions and President's Report	Alfa Stevens, President
Highlights of the 2020 Annual Meeting	Carol Sures, Secretary
Report of the Bylaws Committee	Carol Sures, Chair
Presentation of the FY 2021-22 Budget	Niecy Chambers, Treasurer
Adoption of Program for 2021-22	Abby Root, Director
Report of the Affordable Housing Study Group	Jeanne Jehl, Chair
Report of the Nominating Committee	Kathy Larrabee, Chair
Acknowledgment of Life Members	Alfa Stevens, President

Part II: Input from Members

Gail Viamonte, Vice President

New Board Members
Member Interests and Associations
General Directions to the Board
LWVMD Biennial Convention
Break

Guest Speaker: Kathleen M. Koch

Executive Director, Arundel Community Development Services, Inc. (ACDS)

Kathleen M. Koch received her M.S. in Applied Public Affairs and her B.S. in Planning from the State University of New York at Buffalo. She is a 2006 Fannie Mae Foundation Fellow and a graduate of the Senior Executives in State and Local Government program at Harvard University's Kennedy School of Government. She was recognized in 2013 as "Housing Person of the Year Award" for her statewide efforts to promote affordable housing.

Ms. Koch was instrumental in the creation of ACDS, a private nonprofit chartered in 1993 to manage Anne Arundel County's federal housing and community development programs. Since its founding, Ms. Koch has shepherded the organization from an agency with an annual operating budget of \$3 million to one with an annual operating budget of over \$12 million, enabling ACDS to expand its scope of services. Currently, ACDS manages a portfolio of grants and loans, in addition to providing direct assistance to county residents, including homeownership and foreclosure prevention counseling, downpayment and closing cost assistance, accessibility modifications, property rehabilitation and affordable rental units.



LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF ANNE ARUNDEL COUNTY
2021 ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING

Meeting Workbook

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2021 Annual Membership Meeting Committee:

Carol Sures, Chair, Alfa Stevens, Niecy Chambers, Kathy Larrabee and Gail Viamonte

President's Letter, Alfa Stevens

It was certainly my hope to welcome you in person to our 2021 Annual Membership Meeting. But the continuing pandemic dictates otherwise. Won't we be happy when this COVID storm is past?

Nevertheless, I am eager to greet you at our virtual meeting on April 24 and proud to share with you this preliminary Annual Meeting workbook ahead of the meeting. The LWVAAC Board Directors' portfolio reports published here tell a remarkable story of creative planning during a challenging year of *new normal*. We persevered to provide educational programs and services, for which the League is best known, despite hurdles.



Along with our faithful long-time members, we're honored to have many new members this year.

We kicked off the program year with a discussion of the book *Fearless* by Charlene Butts Ligon. That discussion was followed up with a virtual conversation between the daughters of two courageous mothers and civil rights pioneers--the author of *Fearless* and the daughter of the first Black woman to serve as a delegate in the Maryland legislature and then as the first Black state senator in America.

We also enjoyed partnering in community projects to commemorate the 19th Amendment centennial. In October our member Ashley Oleson contributed an excellent article entitled *Women, Race, and the Ongoing Fight for True Equality* to the *What's Up? Media's* year-long series themed around the women's suffrage movement.

As activities related to the Fall general election accelerated our voter services, we held registration drives, and printed copies of the *Voters' Guide* in a *new* newsprint format. We responded to an unprecedented number of requests for registrars and speakers. We devised new ways to help educate voters during a pandemic—staffing the LWVMD election info-line to answer voters' questions and using texting, social media and virtual forums. Collaborations with our county's public libraries and many foodbanks county-wide provided novel opportunities to inform voters in diverse communities.

The League's foremost legislative priorities for the 2021 General Assembly session included *Redistricting Reform* and *Protecting the Right to Vote*. Member Carol Ann Hecht represents LWVAAC on the LWVMD Redistricting Action Team organized to lead efforts to enact fair maps. LWVAAC's 2021 priority is Affordable Housing. Board Director Jeanne Jehl and several members initiated a timely review of our League's existing affordable housing position and will tackle an action strategy to address the growing issue in our county.

This past year presented two opportunities for our members to participate in the League's consensus process. These meetings delved into facts presented by the LWVMD study groups on *Vote By Mail* and *Ballot Initiatives*.

Lastly, I want to pause in remembrance and acknowledgement of the incredible life and legacy of longtime member, past LWVAAC Co-President, and Board Member Emeritus Arlene Gavin, who passed away last November. She is truly missed.

Thank you for your continued support and commitment to *Make Democracy Work*. Thank you for a fabulous and impactful year!

Highlights of 2020 Annual Meeting, Carol Sures, Secretary

Sadly, the gala Annual Meeting and Luncheon did not transpire on April 18, 2020 as planned. The COVID-19 pandemic shut us down, but it did not stop us! In place of a physical meeting, we mailed our 2020 Annual Membership Meeting Workbook to all members and we asked them to vote on our critical business issues via a printed ballot. Members responded enthusiastically: 53 members returned their ballots either electronically or by postal mail. Here are the results of the voting:

Election: We accepted the following slate of nominees:

Board Officers:

Gail Viamonte, Vice President (2020-22)

Niecy Chambers, Treasurer (2020-22)

Board Directors:

Alexis Dorsey (2020-22)

Marg Duffy (2020-21 to fill unexpired term)

Jeanne Jehl (2020-21 to fill unexpired term)

Kathy Larrabee (2020-22)

Abby Root (2020-22)

Nominating Committee (Off-Board):

Anne Schifferle (2020-21)

Budget: Members voted to approve the FY 2020-21 Budget as presented.

Program: Approval was given to review the LWVAAC Affordable Housing position. A committee chaired by Jeanne Jehl will consider updating the position if needed.

Bylaws: Members approved the adoption of a new LWVAAC bylaw:

ARTICLE XIII Virtual Meetings

Board and membership meetings may be held, and League business conducted, by virtual means when external factors prevent a quorum from assembling in person.

***Please visit lwvaacmd.org/lwvref to
access this Annual Meeting Workbook
along with Workbooks from prior
years and other LWVAAC publications.***

Proposed Budget for FY 2021-2022, Niecy Chambers, Treasurer

			Budget FY21-22	YTD Actual as of 4/23/21	Budget FY20-21	Actual FY19-20
GENERAL FUND	Beginning Balance			\$7,510.43		\$6,706.90
Income						
Members	Number	Dues				
Individual (actual as of 2/1/21)	81	\$65.00	\$5,265.00		\$4,550.00	
Household (actual as of 2/1/21)	15	\$30.00	\$450.00		\$390.00	
Life (as of 2/1/21)	4	\$0.00	\$0.00		\$0.00	
Student (as of 2/1/21)	4	\$0.00	\$0.00		\$0.00	
New (projected)	4	\$65.00	<u>\$260.00</u>		<u>\$260.00</u>	
Total Dues			\$5,975.00	\$5,075.00	\$5,200.00	\$5745.00
Contributions			\$350.00	\$122.50	\$500.00	\$410.00
Annual Meeting			<u>\$1,225.00</u>		\$1,225.00	\$35.00
Total Income			\$7,550.00	\$5,197.50	\$6,925.00	\$6,190.00
Disbursements						
LWVUS – PMP	104 total	\$32.00	\$2,832.00	\$2,512.00	\$2,512.00	\$2,480.00
LWVMD – PMP	104 total	\$14.00	\$1,239.00	\$1,099.00	\$1,099.00	\$1,085.00
Insurance			\$50.00		\$182.00	
Program Expense			\$400.00	\$120.00	\$300.00	\$325.00
Printing, Postage & P.O. Box			\$450.00	\$172.00	\$300.00	\$721.71
Registration Fees			\$1,500.00	\$50.00	\$500.00	\$50.00
Annual Meeting			\$1,225.00		\$1,225.00	\$250.00
Observer Corps			\$250.00		\$250.00	
Membership			\$300.00	\$92.70	\$350.00	
Legislative Reception			\$250.00		\$250.00	\$211.00
Coalitions & Community Outreach			\$250.00	\$494.89	\$200.00	\$300.00
Board Expense			\$100.00	\$94.00	\$65.00	
Bank Charges & Other Misc.			\$4.00	(\$9.31)	\$17.00	(\$36.24)
Total Disbursements			\$8,850.00	\$4,625.28	\$7,250.00	\$5,386.47
To/(From) Reserves			(\$1,300.00)	\$572.22	(\$325.00)	\$803.53
	Ending Balance			\$8,082.65		\$7,510.43
			Budget FY21-22	YTD Actual as of 4/23/21	Budget FY20-21	Actual FY19-20
EDUCATION FUND	Beginning Balance			\$9,129.02		\$5,090.42
Income						
Fundraising Campaign			\$3,500.00	\$125.00	\$4,000.00	\$3,810.00
Bequest & Other			<u>\$500.00</u>	<u>\$1,125.00</u>	<u>\$500.00</u>	<u>\$563.00</u>
Total Income			\$4,000.00	\$1,250.00	\$4,500.00	\$4,373.00
Disbursements						
Candidate Forums			\$600.00		\$600.00	
Voter Registration & Education			\$250.00	\$300.00	\$150.00	\$134.40
Voters' Guides & VOTE411.org			\$2,000.00	\$2,971.75	\$3,000.00	\$40.00
Educational Public Meetings			\$1,000.00		\$500.00	
Community Support			\$1,000.00			
Fundraising			<u>\$150.00</u>		<u>\$250.00</u>	<u>\$160.00</u>
Total Disbursements			\$5,000.00	\$3,271.75	\$4,500.00	\$334.40
To/(From) Reserves			(\$1,000.00)	(\$2,021.75)		\$4,038.60
	Ending Balance			\$7,107.27		\$9,129.02

Report on Program Planning, Abby Root

At our January 12, 2021 program planning meeting, membership readopted the current LWVAAC positions. No new studies or updates were proposed.

There was much discussion at the meeting about updating some of our positions, such as zero waste and net zero forest initiatives, on which our local League presently has no position. Since updates require a new study with a study leader and significant member participation, it was decided that LWVAAC could advocate locally based on the LWVMD and LWVUS positions.

Report of the Bylaws Committee, Carol Sures, Chair

Although no revisions to LWVAAC bylaws were originally proposed, subsequent to the preparation of the Preliminary Annual Meeting Workbook, a required change was brought to the attention of the Bylaws Committee. Delegates to the 2020 National LWV Convention adopted a new bylaw pertaining to LWVUS' Diversity, Equity and Inclusion policy which was codified in Article II, Section 2. Articles I and II of our local League bylaws must conform with Articles I and II of LWVUS bylaws. Therefore, the Bylaws Committee moves the adoption of the following revisions to LWVAAC bylaws.

Article II Purposes and Policy

Section 2. Policies. The policies of the League are:

- a. Political Policy. The League shall not support or oppose any political party or any candidate.
- b. Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Policy. The League is fully committed to ensure compliance - in principle and in practice - with LWVUS' Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Policy.

The full version of current LWVAAC bylaws is provided below, beginning on p. 19.

Report of the Nominating Committee, Kathy Larrabee, Chair

The members of the 2020-21 Nominating Committee are Kathy Larrabee, Chair, Anne Schifferle and Marg Duffy. The committee presents the following slate of candidates for election:

Board Officers:

Alfa Stevens, President (2021-23)

Carol Sures, Secretary (2021-23)

Board Directors:

Pat Barnes (2021-22 to fill unexpired term)

Marg Duffy (2021-23)

Vera Herath (2021-23)

Joyce Martin (2021-23)

Nominating Committee (Off-Board):

Mary Vickery (2021-22)

LWVAAC 2020-2021 PORTFOLIO REPORTS

MEMBERSHIP, Kathy Larrabee, Chair

As of mid-March 2021, LWVAAC has 112 members, including 17 who reside in the same household as a primary member, 4 Life members (more than 50 years in the League), a state Senator, our Anne Arundel County Executive, the new LWVMD State Director, and several students, one of them a U.S. Naval Academy midshipman. We rank fourth in size among the 15 Maryland local Leagues and Affiliates. The LWVAAC membership roster typically expands during a General Election year as partisan politics makes the work of a nonpartisan League more appealing.

This election cycle, more partisan than recent times, gained our League approximately 25 new members.

"I'm drawn to the League's emphasis on the democratic process and its outreach to elected officials and citizens...across party lines and toward a more perfect union on the basis of informed research."

--New Member, 2021

About half the new members have made themselves known by responding to our phone calls or emails or by attending League events. To help members become acquainted, in each issue of the LWVAAC quarterly newsletter, *The Voter*, we profile one or two members. If you wish to be introduced, please contact the editor@lwvaacmd.org for details.

The first order of business for the LWVAAC Membership Committee at the start of each fiscal year (July 1) is a fast-tracked process to help members renew their support with the payment of dues. In 2020-2021, 76 members renewed and 11 did not. As always, we began the renewal process by sending each member a reminder with options to pay by check/postal mail or to use our new online payment option (plus a \$2 credit card processing fee). Following renewal, our League shares a portion of each member's dues with LWVMD and LWVUS based on a member head count as of January 31. Members who join close to the end of the fiscal year (June 30) are excused from the renewal process.

Member Directory: Following the renewal deadline of September 30, the Membership Committee finalized the *2021 Member Directory*. It contains not only members' names and contact information, but also Board composition, planned League events, our bylaws, and LWVAAC public policy positions. For the first time, members received both a print copy and a private link to an online roster that is regularly updated for new members and changes in contact information.

Member Orientation: For new members, and others who wished to brush up on their League knowledge, we held two virtual Member Orientations this year – one during the day for non-working members and one in the evening for working members. About half the new members participated. In addition to orientation, which is a quick overview with a great deal of information, the Membership Chair and Board members continue to connect with new members via telephone and email to point out engagement opportunities or simply to provide explanation where we sense better understanding is wanted.

Member Survey: The Membership Committee conducted an internal survey to learn of members' interests and skills. Judging by returns, it was well received; and matches are underway as best they can be during pandemic restrictions on in-person activities. We are fortunate to have so many well educated and accomplished members with good skill sets.

Member Engagement: We would be remiss to overlook the opportunity here to address the importance of member engagement as key to a fulfilling membership experience—whether participating in programs or volunteering for a task. Generally, members who attend League activities at all League levels and engage in other ways soon become long-time members, seeing the value in the League's work. Conversely, members who do not engage, usually do not stay. Our virtual events this past year, have drawn a larger number of members than in-person events in past years. It is understandable that virtual gatherings eliminate issues of driving, parking, and even leaving a warm house on a cold day or on a cold, dark evening. But the personal interaction with and among members has been missed.

An exception was the virtual Holiday Social held on December 9 (see cover photo). Twenty-eight members gathered online for a festive celebration of the season, organized by Gail Viamonte, Alexis Dorsey and Niecy Chambers. Participants welcomed the opportunity to converse in small groups, chuckle at the video entertainment and raise their voices in a holiday sing-a-long. The evening was capped by a pledge drive that raised \$2,700 for the Anne Arundel County Food Bank.

Three new members will join the Board for the 2021-2022 year, to assist or lead primary League functions. Others stepped up to assist with election-related activities. One member initiated a mass distribution of *Voters' Guides* to county foodbanks to help educate underserved communities. Others participated in voter registrations or helped to staff a statewide election hotline to answer voters' questions. Several, who were League members elsewhere before moving to Anne Arundel County, are using their League experience to facilitate consensus meetings and to help out our Board or LWVMD.



The **League of Women Voters**, founded in 1920, is a grassroots nonpartisan, political organization. It educates and advocates on important local, state and national issues and offers voter services, including voter registration, candidate forums, civic instruction and voters' guides.



Illustrations by Donald Ely

In 2020, LWVAAC printed bookmarks commemorating three notable suffragists, Carrie Chapman Catt, Madeleine L. Ellicott and Augusta T. Chissell, with the intention of distributing them at public events celebrating the centennial anniversary of women's suffrage. When the pandemic halted large in-person gatherings, the Board opted to share the bookmarks with new members, volunteers and others deserving of League recognition. The back side appears above. LWVAAC thanks Donald Ely, Kathy Larrabee's talented grandson, for donating his time and expertise to this project.

PROGRAMS: TRENDING TOPICS, Marg Duffy, Chair

The COVID-19 quarantine forced cancellation of three LWVAAC public 19th Amendment Centennial events. Fortunately, there was no output of expenses. The Trending Topics program adapted quickly to virtual discussions, taking advantage of the state League's Zoom license to expand its offerings. Importantly, national protests sparked by social injustices drove us to look at Centennial events and thoughtfully reconsider who and what we celebrate in the League. Our Books for Learning and event topics were selected to educate ourselves on a myriad of social justice issues. For the 51st Anniversary of Earth Day and the current Administration's focus on environmental policies, we designed conservation and climate reality programs. In total, we sponsored seven programs during the fiscal year.

Four "Books for Learning" Discussions

- ***Fearless:** How a poor Virginia seamstress took on Jim Crow, beat the poll tax and changed her city forever* by Charlene Butts Ligon
- ***The Untold Story of Women of Color** in the League of Women Voters* by Carolyn Jefferson-Jenkins. Anne Arundel County Public Library (AACPL) supported this program by purchasing Jenkins' book to include in its collection in time for our Books for Learning discussion.
- ***Evicted:** Poverty and Profit in the American City* by Matthew Desmond
- ***Half-Earth:** Our Planet's Fight for Life* by Edward O. Wilson

PBS American Experience Post-Viewing Discussion

"**The Vote**" a two-part documentary and follow up panel discussion about the final 10 years of the women's suffrage movement based upon Elaine Weiss' *The Woman's Hour: The Great Fight to Win the Vote*. Members gathered afterward on Zoom to discuss the series.

Two Presentations with Guest Speakers

—***A Conversation with Two Daughters: The Fight for Social Justice*** a live-streamed interview featuring Mary Sue Welcome and Charlene Butts Ligon talking with moderator Yolande Dickerson about their mothers' battles against injustice and how they changed history. Nearly 270 people have since viewed the recorded *Conversation with Two Daughters* on YouTube and about 80 people watched during the live-streamed event.

—***Climate Change: Global to Local*** an Earth Day event featuring presenter Elvia Thompson, President of Annapolis Green.

PROGRAM PLANNING, Abby Root, Chair

In League lingo, "Program" means the issues that we choose for study, for education and for taking action at local, state and national levels. Program can include both educational and advocacy work. "Program Planning" is part of what makes the League a grassroots organization. Each League member has the opportunity to influence the selection of issues where the League will focus its time and talent.

The LWVAAC held its annual program planning meeting on January 12, 2021 via Zoom. Twenty-two members participated in an informative, spirited discussion of our local League positions as well as reviewing the LWVMD positions.

The consensus of the members was to retain all our current local positions:

- Affordable Housing
- Board of Education
- County Charter
- Waste Management
- Planning and Zoning
- Transportation
- Immigration

There was much discussion about present-day concerns, such as zero waste and net zero forest initiatives, which our local League positions do not address. Since updates require a new study with a study leader and significant member participation, it was suggested that LWVAAC base advocacy on these issues on LWVMD and LWVUS positions.

Although there is still much advocacy needed on the LWVAAC immigration position, it was noted that one part of the League's position was achieved, the Maryland Dream Act of 2012, which permits Anne Arundel Community College to accept in-county resident tuition from any graduate of a county high school who meets entrance requirements.

Jeanne Jehl, chair of the LWVAAC Affordable Housing Study Group, presented an overview of the issue and invited members to a briefing on the study group's findings to be held March 25 via Zoom.

Members recommended that all LWVMD positions be retained, but submitted comments regarding gaps in the Drunk Driving and Firearms Control position.

No new local or state studies were proposed.

Thank you to everyone who attended. It takes the enthusiasm and interest of our members to keep our program vital. The program planning process is your voice.

AFFORDABLE HOUSING STUDY, Jeanne Jehl, Chair

The Study Group on Affordable Housing was initiated in early 2020 as a result of members' interest in the topic. Study Group members include Jeanne Jehl, Kathy Larrabee, Abby Root and Mary Vickery; Niecy Chambers serves as the group's advisor.

The group reviewed the LWVAAC position statement, which was adopted in 1992. It collected information through a review of positions from other MD counties and LWVMD; interviews with local public officials; review of recent legislation at the state and county levels and government documents pertinent to affordable housing needs and programs; and reading about programs and strategies from other states and communities.

Jeanne Jehl made a brief presentation on the topic at the LWVAAC Program Planning meeting on January 7, 2021, and discussed current issues in Anne Arundel County. Members who participated in a League Book Club discussion of "Evicted," by Michael Desmond, on February 3, experienced a gripping portrayal of eviction as a consequence of the lack of affordable housing.

The Study Group expects to complete its work with the presentation of a [fact sheet](#) and a discussion with members on March 25, 2021.

CONSENSUS MEETINGS, Carolyn Ciepiela and Abby Root, Directors

LWVAAC members played an active role in two statewide consensus decisions, helping to determine whether LWVMD would adopt a position on Vote by Mail (VBM) and Citizen Ballot Initiatives. Anne Golden demonstrated her League prowess as discussion leader for both Saturday afternoon Zoom sessions, assisted by representatives of the LWVMD study committees, in the role of resource person, and recorders Carolyn Ciepiela and Abby Root. Twenty-four LWVAAC members participated in the VBM consensus and twenty joined in the consideration of Ballot Initiatives.

LWVAAC reached consensus in favor of implementing VBM, as did the other Maryland Leagues, enabling LWVMD to adopt and implement a statewide position in time for the 2021 General Assembly session, in which several pieces of VBM legislation were considered. LWVAAC members had strong but mixed feelings about the pros and cons of ballot initiatives and our League was unable to reach consensus either supporting or opposing a position for Maryland. Local Leagues have until April 16 to submit the results of their consensus meetings on ballot initiatives. LWVMD will share the statewide results at the LWVMD Biennial Convention on June 5.

COLLABORATION AND PARTNERSHIPS, Gail Viamonte, Vice President

Collaboration in the time of COVID laid down tracks towards many a creative destination. A few tracks dead-ended with the cancellation of in-person gatherings and recalculated pandemic priorities. Most tracks brought the League and existing or new partners to reimagined locations.

Although the Year of the Woman (YOW) steering committee convened by *What's Up? Media* suspended events and in person meetings, LWVAAC sponsored a second commemorative banner to mark the August centennial of ratification of the 19th Amendment. Branded with the LWVAAC name, the banner flew prominently on West Street throughout the month of August. The collaboration with YOW also led to LWVAAC member Ashley Oleson writing an article for the October 2020 issue of *What's Up* magazine.

Collaboration with the Anne Arundel County Public Library (AACPL) expanded, in person and virtually, with the active support of staff at AACPL headquarters and individual branches. AACPL offered its robust Web presence, email network and curbside pickup service as conduits for promoting League programs and distributing LWVAAC election information. Mutual AACPL-LWVAAC Webpage/ Facebook links were established. The League was offered promotional tools for its own, as well as AACPL, programs. AACPL designed a poster and extensive publicity for what was to be a LWVAAC community program featuring Kate Campbell Stevenson in "Amending America: How Women Won the Vote."



In August, the LWVAAC banner was displayed on West Street in Annapolis.

Timed to celebrate the grand opening of the newly expanded location of Discoveries: Library at the Mall, this program unfortunately became a casualty of COVID shutdowns.

Voter Education and Get Out the Vote activities in October 2020 included work with two newer partners. Gail Viamonte presented virtually to youth in foster care regarding the importance of their civic engagement and vote and the practicalities of registration and accessing this year's ballot. The invitation came through Marymount Professor Margaret Oh Tseng, volunteer with The Blue Ribbon Project, a non-profit community organization. Anne Arundel Community College's Legal Institute and Office of Student Engagement's online program "No Need to Be Spooked About Voting" convened panelists Court of Special Appeals Judge Douglas Nazarian, Deputy Administrator for the Maryland State Board of Elections Nikki Charlson, AACC Professor Kymberly Jackson, and LWVAAC Vice President Gail Viamonte, with Moderation by Professor Luke Fredericks. Forward to March 2021, and, pursuant to LWVAAC's panel performance, AACC's Office of Student Engagement requested ideas for the college's celebration of Women's History Month, which LWVAAC gladly provided.

Alfa Stevens, Yolande Dickerson and Niecy Chambers represented LWVAAC at a Juneteenth 2020 celebration and voter registration event in West County, hosted by the Organization of Protestng Students (OOPS), co-founded by two Anne Arundel County Public School (AACPS) rising seniors. Support for AACPS burgeoned Spring 2021, with LWVAAC's Board responding to a request by MacArthur Middle School to underwrite prizes for a March 2021 "Women of the Century" essay contest. LWVUS invited LWVAAC to nominate local area high-school history/government teachers for the Case Method Institute at Harvard University. The Institute provides professional development, continued resources, and networking to teachers for integrating "decision point" case studies and methodology to promote further understanding American democracy. LWVAAC and AACPL successfully forwarded ten teachers from seven county high schools.

Other collaborations related to civics education are noted in subsequent reports. President Alfa Stevens participated in a virtual Voter Education forum, Voter Service Chair Niecy Chambers partnered with AACPL librarians on a presentation for first-time voters called *Election 2020: New Voters New Voices* and Member Debby Chessin judged the annual Maryland *We The People* competition.

VOTER SERVICES, Niecy Chambers, Chair

Voter Registrar Training

In keeping with Governor Hogan's "safer at home" guidelines, many of our League's experienced voter registrars were sidelined during the lead-up to the 2020 General Election. In lieu of in-person voter registrar training, the Anne Arundel County Board of Elections offered individual online sessions. Several new members deserve recognition for completing the virtual training on their own and bolstering LWVAAC's ranks of certified registrars. Thanks to Pat Barnes, Sara Fissel, Vera Herath, Delia Scott and Jeri Schoenfeld, our League now has more than 40 eligible voter registration volunteers.

Voter Registration Events

Signup Genius remained LWVAAC's app of choice for coordinating volunteers. During the summer and fall of 2020, our League organized or joined in the following community events, helping to register voters, complete ballot applications and share information about the election:

- Organization Of Protesting Students (acronym OOPS, whose motto is “change is ever an accident.”) Juneteenth Commemoration at Severn-Danza Park, 6/19/20
- Housing Authority of the City of Annapolis (HACA) Resident Services Pop-Up Events at Robinwood, Eastport Terrace, Bloomsbury Square and Morris H. Blum Senior Apartments, 6/30/20, 7/9/20, 7/16/20, 9/3/20, 9/17/20, 9/29/20, 10/1/20, 10/10/20
- LWVAAC National Voter Registration Day (NVRD) Drives at the Y in Arnold, Glen Burnie Town Center and the Y in Pasadena, 9/22/20
- LWVAAC Voter Information Tables at Maryland City Library at Russett Common, 9/14/20, 9/28/20
- Y of Central Maryland Community Clinics at the Y in Pasadena and Lloyd Keaser Headstart, 10/3/20 and 10/10/20, respectively
- Fannie Lou Hamer Awards Watch Party at American Legion Hall, 10/6/20

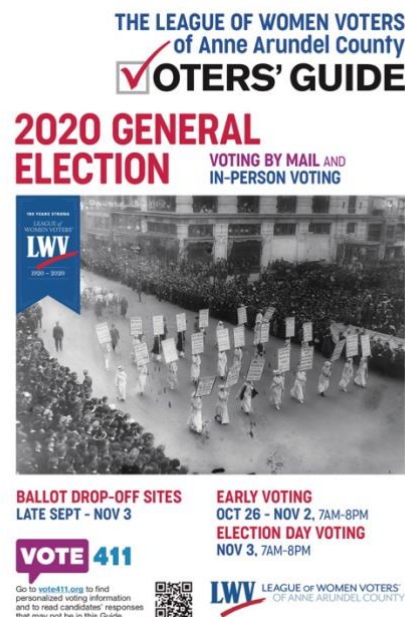
VOTE411.org and Voters' Guides

VOTE411.org refers both to the League's online voter resource and to the software application used to gather candidate responses and other pertinent election information. LWVMD pays for all Maryland Leagues to use the VOTE411.org app to communicate with candidates, pose questions on public policy issues, post explanations of ballot measures, promote candidate forums, and publicize voting dates and requirements. Information is exported from VOTE411.org to create PDF and print versions of the *Voters' Guide*.

For the 2020 primary and general elections, LWVAAC was responsible for contacting Anne Arundel County and Congressional District 4 candidates. In addition, League members wrote explanations of the seven Anne Arundel County Charter amendments which appeared on the November 2020 ballot.

The 2020 Maryland Primary Election was postponed from April 28 to June 2 and conducted primarily by mail due to the COVID-19 pandemic. With the county observing “stay at home” orders, LWVAAC relied on its website and Facebook page to communicate updated election information and provide access to copies of the *Voters' Guide*, by digital download, email and mail. Stamped postcards distributed at voter registration made it easy for voters to request physical or emailed copies of *Voters' Guide*.

For the 2020 General Election, following the example of the Baltimore County and Montgomery County Leagues, LWVAAC experimented with using a professional graphic designer to lay out its *Voters' Guide* in a newsprint format. Because printing on this medium is less expensive, LWVAAC was able to print 12,500 copies of the *Guide* within the allowance budgeted for 3,000 copies in booklet form. Copies were placed in public locations throughout the county by LWVAAC volunteers and distributed by the Anne



Arundel County Public Libraries at curbside pickup. Regrettably, efforts to get copies in voters' hands were hindered by the pandemic and the public's lack of familiarity with the *Voters' Guide* and several thousand copies went unused. Informed by this experience, the Board intends to research other distribution methods, including a possible newspaper insert, as well as increased promotion of VOTE411.org and our *Voters' Guides*.

Communicating Election Information

Pandemic-related changes to the voting process in both the 2020 Primary and General Elections elevated the need for factual, timely, unbiased information. Fortunately for LWVAAC, the state League and Anne Arundel County were reliable and ready sources. LWVMD was one of eight organizations invited to participate in the State Board of Elections working group, enabling it to share frequent updates. A user-friendly webpage on the Anne Arundel County website provided step by step voting instructions in English and Spanish. Beginning in August 2020, LWVAAC shared this election information via email, social media, website and print materials. Sample handouts included a double-sided *Voting Plan* flyer which was produced in English and Spanish and a *Voter's Bill of Rights* pamphlet. In the fall, LWVAAC provided the *Voting Plan* flyers in bulk quantities to food pantries throughout the county for distribution to clients, along with the *Voters' Guide*. Print materials were also distributed at voter registration events.

To address electorate needs during a 2020 election characterized by evolving registration methods, ballot submission procedures, and timelines, LWVMD publicized a statewide Election Call Line for voters. The phone number allowed voters with election questions to be transferred immediately to a responsive volunteer. LWVMD provided training and an excellent on-line reference guide for quickly locating answers to questions. LWVAAC Members Alexis Dorsey, Kathy Larrabee, Babs McCauley, Mary Lou McCutcheon, Hannah Rosekrans, Sara Sanders, and Gail Viamonte stepped up to staff the line, with Kathy Larrabee further coordinating the schedule, which arranged daily weekday phone coverage from late September through Nov 3, Election Day.

While overall call volume turned out to be lower than anticipated, the range and diversity of questions (from "My husband received his ballot; I did not. Can you help me track it?" to "Is there a fluent Spanish speaker who can support a voter in obtaining and submitting her ballot?") called for creativity, expertise—and detective work. Among the many thanks received was that from Harold, a 91year old voter from Baltimore County, who followed up his phone call with an email stating, "the League is a trusted source for information. I love and respect the League."

For more information about the League's voter service activities prior to the 2020 General Election, please see pp 7-8 of the [December 2020](#) issue of LWVAAC's newsletter, [The Voter](#).

CIVICS EDUCATION

Virtual Voter Education Webinar, Alfa Stevens, President

On October 15, 2020 President Stevens was one of four invited panelists in a virtual Voter Education webinar hosted by "The Collective Group," a cadre of six Black organizations across the county. She shared the history, background and mission of the League as a nonpartisan and grassroots political organization. As part of her presentation, she also provided guidance on navigating both the *Voters'*

Guide and the VOTE411.org website as a way to become a more informed and confident voter in the 2020 general election.

The presentation was well-received with many thanks for the “new” and “valuable” information and for the “great scorecard explaining the pros and cons of each ballot amendment.” Participation in the webinar proved an invaluable experience and provided a great opportunity to educate more in the community about the League and its mission.

LWVAAC & AACPL Partner to Instruct New Voters, Niecy Chambers, Voter Service Chair

LWVAAC was invited by the Odenton Library to co-host an online program explaining the “how” and “why” of voting to young and first-time voters. AACPL organized and promoted the hour-long evening event, entitled *Election 2020: New Voters New Voices*, which was held on October 6 via Zoom.

LWVAAC prepared and presented a slide show that emphasized the potential power of the youth vote and highlighted the League’s online voter interface, VOTE411.org. One participant volunteered that he was in the process of becoming a U.S. citizen and several asked thoughtful and challenging questions. State Delegate Mark Chang, who represents the Odenton area, attended and offered personal words of encouragement to the young voters. After the meeting, Odenton Library distributed election resource “grab bags” that included LWV pens and *Voters’ Guides* to participants at curbside pickup.

***We the People* Competition, Debby Chessin, Member**

On Saturday, January 16, I volunteered to judge an annual statewide high school competition, part of the *We the People: The Citizen and the Constitution* program, an engaging and exciting curriculum on the history and principles of our constitutional democracy from the [Center for Civic Education](#). The capstone project for students is preparing and practicing for district, state, and national competitions in the form of mock congressional hearings where students demonstrate their depth of knowledge and understanding of constitutional principles and ideas.

Teams of students representing their high schools made four-minute presentations on the Bill of Rights and right to privacy. Our panel of judges asked questions to determine how well the students could relate principles and ideas from the Constitution to everyday life.

Boonsboro High School in Washington County emerged as the winner of the 2020-2021 Maryland State “We the People” competition and will participate in the national competition April 23-26, 2021. The competition was organized by Dr. Marcie Taylor-Thoma, educator and Executive Director of the Maryland Council for Civic & History Education, as a Zoom event due to COVID-19 restrictions.

I was very moved by the students’ enthusiasm, depth of knowledge, and ability to apply that knowledge to current everyday life. They were obviously well taught and coached by their teacher Ms. Ashley Vascik, NBCT, Social Studies Teacher & *We the People* Coach!

OBSERVER CORPS, Alexis Dorsey, Chair

The Observer Corps is a committee of the League that actively observes County government. The purpose of the Corps is to ensure transparency, gain understanding, improve communications and identify issues of concern to the League based on its positions.

The Observer Corps continues to monitor the County Council, Planning Advisory Board, Citizens Advisory Committee, Housing Commission of Anne Arundel County, the Human Relations

Commission, and the County Board of Elections. The pandemic had a significant impact on the Observer Corps' ability to continue in-person monitoring of county government. By linking to virtual meetings, accessing video recordings and written minutes, we were able to stay informed on most of these agencies, especially the County Council.

The Observer Corps is currently involved in a "Transparency Project". Our goal is to evaluate how well county departments and agencies have maintained transparency and kept the public informed on issues, meetings and decisions during the pandemic. Also, as an outgrowth of observing the Housing Commission, it was decided to review the LWVAAC position on Housing.

ACTION, Susan Cochran, Chair

The Action Committee is intent on making the voices of LWVAAC heard. We supported our president, Alfa Stevens, as she submitted testimony for amending County Council Resolution No. 47-20 (see below) and called on all members to observe her virtual testimony. The Action Chairman initiated a letter to the editor of the *Capital Gazette* approved by our Board and signed by Vice President Gail Viamonte that ran in the February 8, 2021 edition. The letter praised efforts by the County Council to maintain transparency during the Covid19 pandemic. We encourage members to bring issues to our attention that may call for action by the LWVAAC Board.

County Council Testimony, Alfa Stevens, President

On November 16, 2020 LWVAAC provided virtual testimony opposing County Council Resolution No. 47-20 (*Supporting law enforcement agencies and their leaders, officers, and deputies who serve the communities of Anne Arundel County, Maryland and disapproving the efforts to delegitimize the honorable profession of law enforcement*) as introduced. While League testimony expressed support for law enforcement profession it did not the language "disapproving efforts to delegitimize the honorable profession of law enforcement." Others testified similarly in support of part of the resolution but opposed the resolution as first introduced. Amendments offered by Councilmember Rodvien (District 6) eliminated the final clause and the resolution was adopted unanimously.

AAC Legislative Delegation Priorities Meeting, Alfa Stevens, President

This year, we were excited to have the opportunity to meet with our Anne Arundel County legislators. In a meeting held virtually on December 17, 2020, President Stevens met with the Delegation and shared LWVMD's foremost 2021 legislative priorities of Redistricting Reform and Protecting the Right to Vote. Stevens solicited the delegation's support of statewide efforts to enact meaningful reform of Maryland's redistricting processes, to include stronger standards to protect and promote the voices of the many diverse communities. In addition, she shared LWVAAC's 2021 priority of Affordable Housing and emphasized the need for and support of legislation to provide more housing opportunities for low- and moderate-income residents in the County.

Growth Action Network (GAN), Susan Cochran, Liaison

LWVAAC is an organizational member of Growth Action Network (GAN), a network of community organizations that has as its mission involving citizens in planning and advocacy so that county growth will enhance life now and in the future. I serve on the board for GAN and chaired a GAN committee looking into the advisability of replacing the Planning Advisory Board (PAB) with a planning commission that would have the power to make decisions about land use and planning in concert with

the Office of Planning and Zoning. Every other county in Maryland has a commission. GAN made the recommendation to adopt a planning commission to the County Executive, but, with the advice of the County Planning Officer, Steve Kaii-Zeigler, Mr. Pittman said they were not ready to make that change in the government.

COMMUNICATIONS, Kathy Larrabee, Chair

The LWVAAC Board recently agreed to combine a number of communication-related tools within a Communications Committee to improve coordination and efficiency. These tools include the LWVAAC quarterly newsletter, *The Voter*, website, and Facebook page.

In addition, the Communications Committee will work with League program and event planners to develop messaging and promotional strategies appropriate to the intended audience for each occasion. Promotional content will include written materials designed for posting online, press releases, and fliers, for example, to be disseminated through various social and e-print media and printed publications, as well as through other membership organizations. Program planners, however, will have the option to promote their own events independent of this Committee if they prefer.

The Committee also will assist with finding venues and handling details for in-person LWVAAC events when requested to do so. This logistical assistance would free-up program planners to concentrate on content.

The following describes LWVAAC's communication efforts of this past fiscal year:

Newsletter, Joyce Martin, Editor

This year *The Voter* has been revamped into a quarterly publication coming out in March, June, September and December. In conjunction with the revised schedule, new procedures have been adopted to standardize aspects of content planning, copy editing, layout, final review and distribution.

Submissions are sent to a shared email, editor@lwvaacmd.org, and uploaded to a Google drive which can be accessed by all members of the Communications Committee.

Each issue of the newsletter contains:

- a calendar of upcoming events,
- information about programs,
- articles about studies, and issues of League and community interest, as well as
- forms and flyers promoting events.

Another regular segment is the Member Spotlight, featuring a short biography and photo of an LWVAAC member. This outreach is intended to help all members to get acquainted, feel connected and have enriched League experiences.

Separately, the *Bulletin Board* has evolved into a new email blast to quickly notify members of upcoming events. It provides specific information for the event(s) with links to register. Its notifications are not on a set schedule, but in response to current events.

Good participation from League members continues to assure submission of high-quality articles.

Copies of past newsletters are posted online here: www.lwvaacmd.org/voternews

Facebook, Kathy Larrabee

Facebook is a powerful communication tool for getting information out to a broad social media audience. But building a following on the LWVAAC Facebook page has been difficult primarily because so few LWVAAC members have a FB presence. Sharing FB posts to rapidly multiply the number of viewers is the power of social media, which leads to posts that go viral, an expression often heard in national news reports.

Nevertheless, having a FB page does give LWVAAC an additional tool for sharing important news, especially during election cycles. During the 2020 general election, the FB page received many “Likes” for its linkages to voting information on the Maryland State Board of Elections and the AAC Board of Elections websites, and the AAC Voters’ Guide, which was posted to the LWVAAC website. The LWVAAC FB page enhances our website posts, acting as a billboard sign and linking to documents on the site. Most importantly, our FB page provides access to social media calendars on which events are broadly distributed on the FB social media platform.

Facebook interface showing a post from the **League of Women Voters of Anne Arundel County, MD**. The post is published by Katherine Dorsey Larrabee on July 20, 2020.

Post Content:

Join us this evening, Thursday, August 6, 6 p.m. for a moderated discussion with two daughters of two civil rights activists:
<https://youtu.be/ug1pEFRCf>
Mary Sue Welcome, Esq. is the daughter of MD Senator Verda Welcome, the first Black woman in the nation elected to a state legislature. And Charlene Butts Ligon, author of *Fearless: How a poor Virginia seamstress took on Jim Crow, beat the poll tax and changed her city forever*, tells the story of her mother Evelyn T. Butts.
Their battles for anti-discrimination, equality, and justice changed history and a nation. To RSVP, click here:
<https://www.lwvaacmd.org/calendar>, OR tune in live at 6 p.m. tonight on the LWVAAC YouTube Channel: <https://youtu.be/ug1pEFRCf3w>

Video Thumbnail Text: mothers champion undeterred determined pioneer

Engagement Metrics:

- 1,003 People Reached
- 26 Reactions, Comments & Shares
- 17 Likes, 3 On Post, 14 On Shares
- 2 Love, 0 On Post, 2 On Shares
- 0 Comments, 0 On Post, 0 On Shares
- 7 Shares, 7 On Post, 0 On Shares
- 27 Post Clicks
- 6 Photo Views, 6 Link Clicks, 15 Other Clicks

NEGATIVE FEEDBACK

- 2 Hide Post, 0 Hide All Posts
- 0 Report as Spam, 0 Unlike Page

Reported stats may be delayed from what appears on posts

Website, Niecy Chambers

LWVAAC continues to rely on the NationBuilder (NB) platform for our website, member database and bulk communications. NB also enables the League to collect RSVPs for upcoming events and process online donations and dues payments. Over the past year, LWVAAC has posted 11 events and sent 32 customized email blasts to members, prospects, elected officials and others. During the same time period, 48 individuals have paid dues online and 9 have donated to the Education Fund through NB.

FUNDRAISING, Niecy Chambers

LWVAAC's fundraising drive for the 2019-20 fiscal year took place in May 2020, after the publication of the 2020 Annual Meeting Workbook. This annual appeal, conducted by mail with a *Year of the Woman* theme, sought donations to the LWVAAC Education Fund. Thanks to LWVAAC's generous donors a total of \$3,905 was raised in support of the League's voter services.

Several members of the public sent donations along with messages of appreciation for LWVAAC's *Voters' Guide*. A postcard was enclosed with mailed copies to solicit support.

A fundraising effort will take place before the end of the 2020-21 fiscal year. The theme and date have not been decided.

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. Studies inform members about public policy issues. When a League study results in consensus among members, the resulting position statement articulates desired LWVAAC's public policy and may be used to advocate at local governmental levels.

Affordable Housing (Adopted 1992, reviewed by study group 2021)

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. **(Achieved 2012)**
- 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.

BYLAWS OF THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF ANNE ARUNDEL COUNTY, INC.

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. Those who have been members of the League for 50 years or more shall be life members 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.

(a) 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.

(b) The Board may designate long-standing Board members as Board Members Emeritus, who shall not vote but may provide counsel to the Board.

(c) The Board, by a majority vote, may terminate a Board member for, but not limited to, the following reasons:

(1) Failure to appear at 3 consecutive Board meetings without advance notification to the President.

(2) Failure to comply with League policies and guidelines concerning conflict of interest as set forth in LWVMD guide for local Leagues

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 general membership at 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

(3) A Governing Executive Board

(b) A Secretary

(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 as the Board directs.

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 roster.

Section 3. Budget Committee. The Board shall appoint the Committee. The Treasurer shall be a member of the Committee but shall not serve as chair. The proposed budget shall be prepared not later than 2 months before the Annual Meeting and provided 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 3 program meetings of the membership each year. The Board shall determine the dates, times and places 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, and a member to the nominating committee.
- (c) Determine the amount of dues members shall pay.
- (d) Adopt a budget.

(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 Committees and Elections

Section 1. Nominating Committee. The Nominating Committee shall consist of 3 members: The Chair, preferably a former Board Member, shall be appointed by the Board for the following program year in advance of the Annual Meeting; 1 member, who shall not be a Board member but shall be elected at the Annual Meeting; and one member, who shall be a Board member, will be appointed by the Board immediately after the Annual Meeting. A committee vacancy shall be filled by a Board appointment.

(a) 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.

(b) Other Nominations. A nomination may be made from the floor at the Annual Meeting by a voting member, if the proposed nominee consents.

(c) 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.

Section 2. Budget Committee. See Article VI, Financial Administration.

Section 3. Bylaws Review Committee. The Committee shall consist of 3 members. The Board shall appoint 2 Board members, who shall select a non-Board member, to review Bylaws annually. Any changes to the Bylaws shall be reported to the Board for approval before presenting them to be voted on by members at the next Annual Meeting.

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. Program recommendations properly submitted to the Board, but not proposed by the Board, shall by majority vote be considered at the Annual Meeting and by majority vote may 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 the Annual Meeting at which the change is discussed; and, final action by the membership is taken at a succeeding meeting.

Section 4. Program 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 L WVUS.

ARTICLE X National Convention, State Convention and Council

Section 1. National Convention. The Board of Directors shall select delegates to the convention of the L WVUS up to the number allotted by the bylaws of that organization.

Section 2. State Convention and Council. The Board of Directors shall select delegates to the convention or council of the LWVMD up to the number allotted by the bylaws of that organization.

ARTICLE XI 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 XII 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.

ARTICLE XIII Virtual Meetings

Board and membership meetings may be held, and League business conducted, by virtual means when external factors prevent a quorum from assembling in person.

Revised May 31, 2020



Upcoming Earth Day Event

CLIMATE CHANGE: GLOBAL TO LOCAL

Individual Actions Make A Difference



A Virtual Presentation by

Elvia Thompson

Co-founder & President, Annapolis Green

Tuesday, April 27, 2021 at 7:00 p.m.

RSVP: lwvaacmd.org/earthday21

Elvia Thompson has had an accomplished career as a federal government analyst and public relations professional. She was trained by former Vice President Al Gore to be an advocate for climate change action. Ms. Thompson is a co-founder of [Annapolis Green](https://www.annapolisgreen.org/), whose mission is “to connect, inform and inspire Annapolis residents, organizations and businesses to care for the environment, live more responsibly and create a more beautiful and thriving community.” Her presentation offers a local perspective on a global issue and provides concrete steps each of us can take to mitigate the effects of climate change. RSVP at lwvaacmd.org/earthday21 to receive program link. Email questions or comments to Marg Duffy at program@lwvaacmd.org.

lwvaacmd@gmail.com

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