



Member Handbook



2022-2023

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Mission Statement

The League of Women Voters is a non-partisan national, state, and local organization of women and men working to encourage informed, active participation of citizens through voter services, education, and advocacy on issues of public policy.

Welcome!

From its beginnings in 1966, the League of Women Voters of Calvert County has championed the non-partisan advancement of transparency in government and provided opportunities for county residents to increase their understanding of the challenges that exist in our environment, schools, mental and physical health, public safety, and elections.

We have accomplished this through formal studies, town-hall style meetings, and active engagement in county government processes. Voter registration, voters' guides, and candidate forums have consistently sought to promote citizen knowledge and participation in our democracy.

Underpinning all this work are the talents you bring to our membership. Our volunteers are exclusively responsible for our success.

Thank you for being a part of our local League!

J.C. Hooker
President

Accomplishments of LWVCC

Through the years, League efforts have successfully established:

- The “Year of the Family”
- Calvert County Crusade for Children
- Mental Health Association and Hospice
- ISIA-State Department grants for Zambian Exchange representatives
- Women of the World (WOW) Celebration
- Publications such as “Know Your County” and “Transparency in County Governance”
- Annual Legislative Events with State Officials
- Observer Teams for Board of County Commissioners, Board of Education, and County Planning Commission
- Vote411.org and Voter Bill of Rights
- Significant input on Police Accountability Board Formation



Programs, Studies, and Positions

Programs are determined annually by the membership as governmental issues for study and potential action.

Studies are undertaken by members to examine a subject from all sides, resulting in a report and/or fact sheet.

Positions are statements about those issues that are adopted and serve as the basis for League action in the form of policy recommendations or citizen education.

All topics for study and/or action must conform to the current positions adopted by the US League of Women Voters or the League of Women Voters of Maryland. Those positions can be found on their respective websites.



LWVCC Leadership for 2022-2023

Officers

J.C. Hooker.....President

Sandra Raviv..... 1st Vice President

Gladys White..... 2nd Vice President

Lila West..... Secretary

Janet Bellizzi.....Interim Treasurer

Directors

Sharron Bickel Dawn Collins Cheryl Hannon

Pat Pease Norma Onley Mary Zaversnik

Maureen Hoffman Laretta Grier

Nominating Committee

Members: Debora Harris, Chris Banks, Gladys White,
Norma Onley

LWVCC Volunteer Opportunities

LWVCC Officers and Directors are elected by the membership for 2-year terms, or appointed for 1-year terms by the existing Board. The President, 1st and 2nd Vice Presidents, Secretary, and Treasurer make up the Executive Committee, with 6-12 additional Directors. Board meetings are held once a month on the second Wednesday, or several times per year on Wednesday evening for accessibility to members.

The Board holds decision-making responsibilities for the programs and activities of LWVCC in accordance with the By Laws and approval of the membership.

Each Director is responsible for coordinating a key committee that reflects the core mission of the League: Voter Services, Membership, Observer Teams, Communications, Fund-Raising, Partnerships with other Community Organizations, and Social Justice.

The Voter Services Team plans and executes a variety of voter-oriented activities including production of the Vote411.org and Voters Guides, Candidate Forums for Calvert County and the municipalities of North Beach and Chesapeake Beach, voter registration training and registration drives in various county venues in coordination with the Calvert County Board of Elections and our partner organizations.

The Membership Team recruits and welcomes new members, updates the membership database, shares important information with the membership, and assists in the planning of general membership meetings that offer education and/or seek consensus decisions on vital topics. The team also contacts the membership for special events and to foster connection to the Board and organization through meetings and socials.

The Observer Teams consist of League members who attend meetings (or view virtually) of the Board of County Commissioners, Planning Commission, or Board of Education to track issues under consideration as well as the transparency with which decisions are made and how much the public is encouraged to be involved.

Observers take turns to cover meetings and share notes with the Observer team and the Board of Directors on a regular basis.

The Communications Team drafts letters to the editors, press releases or articles, a bi-monthly member newsletter, the Annual Meeting Reports, and social media posts as well as email blasts regarding upcoming events or action alerts.

The Fundraising Team plans and executes events or other methods for raising donations for League operating or educational funds.

Partnerships with Community Organizations take the form of supporting mutual goals and collaborating on events (such as voter registration) that express those goals. L WVCC recognizes that we are always stronger when we work together with others in true community spirit. Often our members also belong to other partner groups, reflecting their depth of commitment to the Calvert community.

Annual One-Time Events require many helping hands to produce quality occasions that inform our citizens. The following is a list of some of our annual events:

Legislative Event for State Officials: tasks include securing a venue, arranging invitations to officials and tracking rs vps, publicizing the event, arranging refreshments, and providing hosts, timekeepers, and recording notes.

Winter Social: Held in December every year, the Winter Social committee plans the venue and program, secures speakers or entertainers, plans for invitations, publicity, and refreshments.

Annual Meeting: Held in May, the agenda reviews the past year's activities, and the budget and program plans going forward as well as offering special guests or programs.

Summer Social: usually held in August, this event offers a speaker or other program and emphasizes getting acquainted and networking especially for new members.

One-Day Events may be attractive to members who cannot participate in ongoing committees. Calls for volunteers typically go out via email with contact information included. Examples of one-day events are the Green Life Festival at Anne Marie Gardens in June, the Legislative event with State Officials, and various Voter Registration drives at locations across the county (volunteers must first be trained in a brief session coordinated with the Board of Elections).

This 2022-2023 Year will see continued Voter Services activities aimed at the General Elections, the evolution of our Police Accountability Board Task Force into an ongoing Social Justice Committee, and a focus on Climate Change, using our “Effects of Climate Change on Calvert County” report available at www.lwvcalvert.org.



Contact US:

LWV Calvert County
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Prince Frederick, MS 20678

Email: lwvcalvertcounty@gmail.com

Voicemail: (410) 586-2176

url: www.lwvcalvert.org

Additional Resources:

FaceBook: www.facebook.com/TheLeagueofWomenVotersofCalvertCounty

State League: www.lwvmd.org

National League: www.lwv.org