



# **2022 Annual Report**

## *Book II*

# **Report on 2021-2022 Activities**

Wednesday, May 25, 2022

6:00 to 8:00 PM

### **Virtual Zoom Meeting**

Please register at [lwwcalvert.org](https://lwwcalvert.org) to receive instructions  
to join the meeting

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## Introduction to the 2022 Annual Report League of Women Voters of Calvert County

Please register for the Annual Meeting on line at the LWVCC website: [lwvcalvert.org](https://lwvcalvert.org) to obtain instructions for connecting to the meeting.

This Annual Report outlines the activities of the League during 2021 – 2022.

- **Book I:** contains materials for our 2022 Annual Meeting, including an agenda for the meeting, the Nominating Committee Report, the revised Calvert County League of Women Voters (LWVCC) Bylaws and the Calendar of the past year's activities.

- **Book II:** is a comprehensive report on the Calvert County League's activities this past year as well as continuing and new programs for the coming year. For ease of use, Book II is organized alphabetically---starting with the Civics Education for Youth and ending with WOW (the Women of the World annual awards luncheon.)

Please read these materials and have them with you during the 2022 Annual Meeting. We encourage you to volunteer to work in areas that especially interest you.

Watch for updates on LWV activities at our website – <https://lwvcalvert.org>. And please join us at our upcoming 2022 Candidate Forums next fall, member activities, and the monthly meetings of the LWV Board of Directors.

Individual LWV members submitted the reports about their areas of activity. Sandra Raviv and Gladys White compiled and organized that information into this *Annual Report*.

**THE LWV (LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS)  
... is a nonpartisan political organization that  
encourages informed and active participation in  
government,  
works to increase understanding of major public policy  
issues, and seeks to influence public policy through  
education and advocacy.  
Men as well as women can join the LWV.  
For more information about the Calvert County LWV,  
see <https://lwvcalvert.org/>**

## **Green Life Festival**

*Submitted by Gladys White*

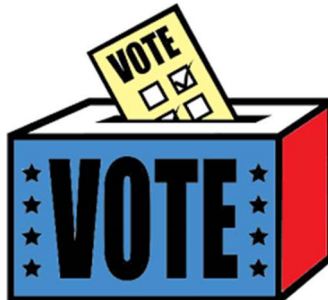
The LWVCC conducted a study and recommended that the County increase the use of renewable energy. A committee led by LWVCC member Dawn Balinski recommended a greening of Calvert County. The county then formed the Calvert County Green Team whose main event was an annual Green Expo, currently called the Green Life Festival.

A large number of vendors showcased their green products, services, and programs on June 5, 2021 at Annemarie Gardens in Lusby. The event was well attended despite the pandemic. The LWVCC had a table staffed by Norma Onley, Lila West, Dave Hardy, Carol Booker, Gladys White, and Rose Crunkleton and her sons. The League's focus was voter registration, handing out literature about the election process, and fact sheets from the Climate Change Study submitted by Sandra Raviv and study committee.

## **Civic Education for Youth**

*Submitted by Pat Pease*

No activities reported for this year.



## **History Fair**

*Submitted by Pat Hofmann*

LWVCC was a sponsoring organization for the 32nd<sup>t</sup> History Fair event held virtually on March 12, 2022. The theme was "Debate & Diplomacy in History: Successes, Failures, Consequences." LWVCC representative Pat Hofmann gave out the LWVCC women's history award to a team of girls from Windy Hill MS: Caroline David, Haylee Starken, Georgia Vitolo, and Bria Williams. Their project was entitled "Wilmar Eight: When Eight Women Took a Stand." Mr. Chris Lusby of Windy Hill Middle School was chosen as History Fair Teacher of the Year, while Devon Page of Northern Middle

School was named History Day Teacher of the Year. A complete list of student award winners can be found at <https://www.calvertnet.k12.md.us/departments/instruction/subjects/social-studies/history-fair>.

## **Legislative Evening with Elected Maryland State Delegation**

*Submitted by JC Hooker*

The annual Legislative Evening was held virtually on Wednesday, November 17, 2021 from 6:30-8:30 PM with the technical assistance of the Calvert County Library. Moderated by LWVCC member Patricia Powell, the agenda included remarks from Calvert General Assembly Delegates Rachel Jones and Gerald Clark, and a taped message from Sen. Michael Jackson. Fourteen local organizations then addressed the group to acquaint them with the wide array of services that they contribute to the community as well as assistance they may be requesting from the Annapolis delegation.

## **Membership and Membership Events**

*Submitted by Sandra Raviv and Norma Olney*

LWVCC currently has 72 paid members. We have increased our efforts to foster a closer connection with League members through the newsletter, Face Book page, and website. New members receive a current Member Handbook and welcome letter, and we encourage them to volunteer in our activities according to interest. We continue to follow our tradition of a Holiday Social in December, and we welcome members as guests at our regular Board meetings.

Last year, the membership approved an increase in dues to \$65 for primary members and \$25 for additional household members. This increase has added somewhat more revenue to keep our organization financially healthy.

### *Planned Fund-Raising Events—Norma Olney*

Due to the coronavirus pandemic our fundraising events were limited. Our only fundraiser for the year was a planned cruise that was cancelled. This committee will continue to explore other fundraising ideas as Covid regulations are eased.

### *Winter Social, December 7, 2021—Gladys White*

This event was held virtually on Dec 16, 2021. It was titled Celebrating the Arts. The moderator was Len Zuza, with instrumental music selections by Joy Conway from Plum Point MS and Elinore Cole from NHS. Readings from the book titled *Seasons*, by deceased member Marie Andrews included the poem "The Gifted Tree." Additional

music was provided by member Dave Hardy, and Mr Harris, and Mr. Warren Miles. The main event of the evening was member Carol Booker's introduction of her recently published book entitled *Cove Point on the Chesapeake, the Beacon, the Bay, and the Dream*. Carol kept the presentation exciting, interesting, and educational; it was a book worth reading. We had a wonderful time thanks to the work of the planning committee: Renita Alexander, JC Hooker, Cheryl Hannon, Lila West, Norma Onley, Sandra Raviv, and Gladys White.

## **Observer Team Annual Report 2021-2022**

### **LWVCC Observer Teams**

*Submitted by Sharron Bickel*

There have been changes this past year in the way the Observer Teams operate. Initially, the teams for the Board of Education, Planning Commission and Board of County Commissioners met individually. Two years ago, the observers transitioned to a joint meeting held quarterly. The productivity of the joint meetings persuaded the observers from every group to meet jointly monthly, which we began in January, 2022.

Important county issues always funnel through major county agencies, including the Planning Commission, the Board of County Commissioners or the Board of Education all three of which have dedicated observers. Many of the issues our League follows involve one of these three boards. The ability to discuss issues with people who are educated about the way these county departments function and what issues are surfacing during the meetings of these organizations increases our understanding of how issues develop and are resolved. Not only is it educational, but it's also enjoyable.

For example, this past two years, the County has seen an increasing focus on racial issues as a result of events such as the "Black Lives Matter" movement and controversy over "Critical Race Theory" which involved both the Board of Education and the Board of County Commissioners. Similarly, the Board of County Commissioners has been responding to the mandate to develop a "Police Accountability Board."

The new Town Center Master Plans which are currently being developed are primarily being presented to the public through the Planning Commission and the Board of County Commissioners. The fact that observers have focused on these major agencies has helped the Study Group that is tracking the development of the Prince Frederick Town Center Master Plan complete its task.

At present, the requirement for a written observation report has been dropped, although we appreciate the written notes and may reconsider this policy.

For those League members who would like to learn more about the Calvert County government, please consider joining one of the observer teams. Information about the specific observer duties (Board of Education, Board of County Commissioners, Planning Commission) will be on the LWVCC website.

Meetings are held at 9:30 am, the first Monday of the month. The next meeting will be virtual, Monday, June 6, 2022. Visitors are very welcome.

Current observers are JC Hooker, Pat Pease, Gladys White, Lila West, Karen Horton, Linda Calvert and Sharron Bickel.

### **Outreach Partners**

*Submitted by various League members*

Our League is committed to supporting our partner organizations and receives support from them in return for mutually beneficial activities. Where appropriate, for example, the Voters Services committee offers voter registration for the NAACP Family Day in June, and we have collaborated with the Calvert County Library by sponsoring films or utilizing their Zoom capabilities for events.

### **Publicity Committee**

*Submitted by Sandra Raviro*

LWVCC has continued to publish a bi-monthly newsletter to keep members informed of important issues and events as well as a Face Book page, website, and other communications with the press and partner organizations. Student member Ashley Anderson contributed an excellent cameo piece on Janet Ashby for one of our newsletters. We would like more help with our social media posts.

### **Report of the Prince Frederick Master Plan Study Group**

*Submitted by Sharron Bickel*

The proposed study of the development of the Prince Frederick Master Plan was approved at the 2020 Annual Meeting. Over the past two years, the study group has been meeting weekly, and the study is approaching completion. The study has tracked

the County's development of the Prince Frederick Town Center Master Plan, which will be the first of many Town Center Master Plans to be adopted.

**The goals of the study are the following:**

A. Assess the outreach efforts to Countians to educate the public and encourage participation in the development of the Town Center Master Plan.

B. Assess the extent to which the Master Plan addresses the many concerns expressed by citizens during the outreach meetings and surveys as to what should be included in the Town Center Master Plan.

C. Assess the transparency of the process to develop the Master Plan.

**The timeline of the study:**

The first draft of the new Prince Frederick Master Plan was released to the public in July, 2020, when the Department of Planning and Zoning presented it to the Planning Commission. Following protocol, a public comment period followed the presentation. (The League Study Group did not submit comments because at that point in time, our study was insufficiently complete.)

The next step is for the Planning Commission to formally adopt the draft Master Plan, after which there will be a second comment period (60 days) to provide an opportunity for the public to comment on the final draft. After the 60-day comment period ends, and after the Planning Commission makes any final changes, the Master Plan will be forwarded to the Board of County Commissioners for approval.

During the upcoming 60-day comment period, (which we anticipate will occur around the time of the LWVCC Annual Meeting in May, 2022) the Study Group would like to submit an "interim LWVCC Study Group report" as the League's comment. When the Prince Frederick Master Plan is finally approved by the Board of County Commissioners, we will complete the report and release the final Study Group report.

**The role of the LWVCC Board:**

A draft of the "interim report" will be submitted to the LWVCC board for approval before we submit it to the Planning Commission during its comment period. Likewise, the "final report" will be submitted to the LWVCC board for approval before the completed study is released to the membership for approval.

**Membership approval:** Not all studies are submitted for membership approval. (Some studies are primarily for education of League members.) However, it is possible that the Board will want to take action or make a public comment based on this report. In that case, it would be appropriate that the report be reviewed by the membership.



The timing of the release of the study for approval by the membership is uncertain, depending on the actions of the Planning Commission and approval by the LWVCC board. When the study is finalized, and after Board approval, the study will be put online for members to read and (hopefully) approve.

**Study Group members:** The Study Group has been ably led by Tricia Powell. Other group members have been Sue Bilek, Sharron Bickel, Malcolm Funn, JC Hooker, Karen Horton, Michael Moore, Randi Vogt, Duwane Rager, Lila West and Gladys White. Members of the Observer Teams have also contributed to the work on the study.

## **Report of the Redistricting Committee**

*Submitted by Dawn Collins*

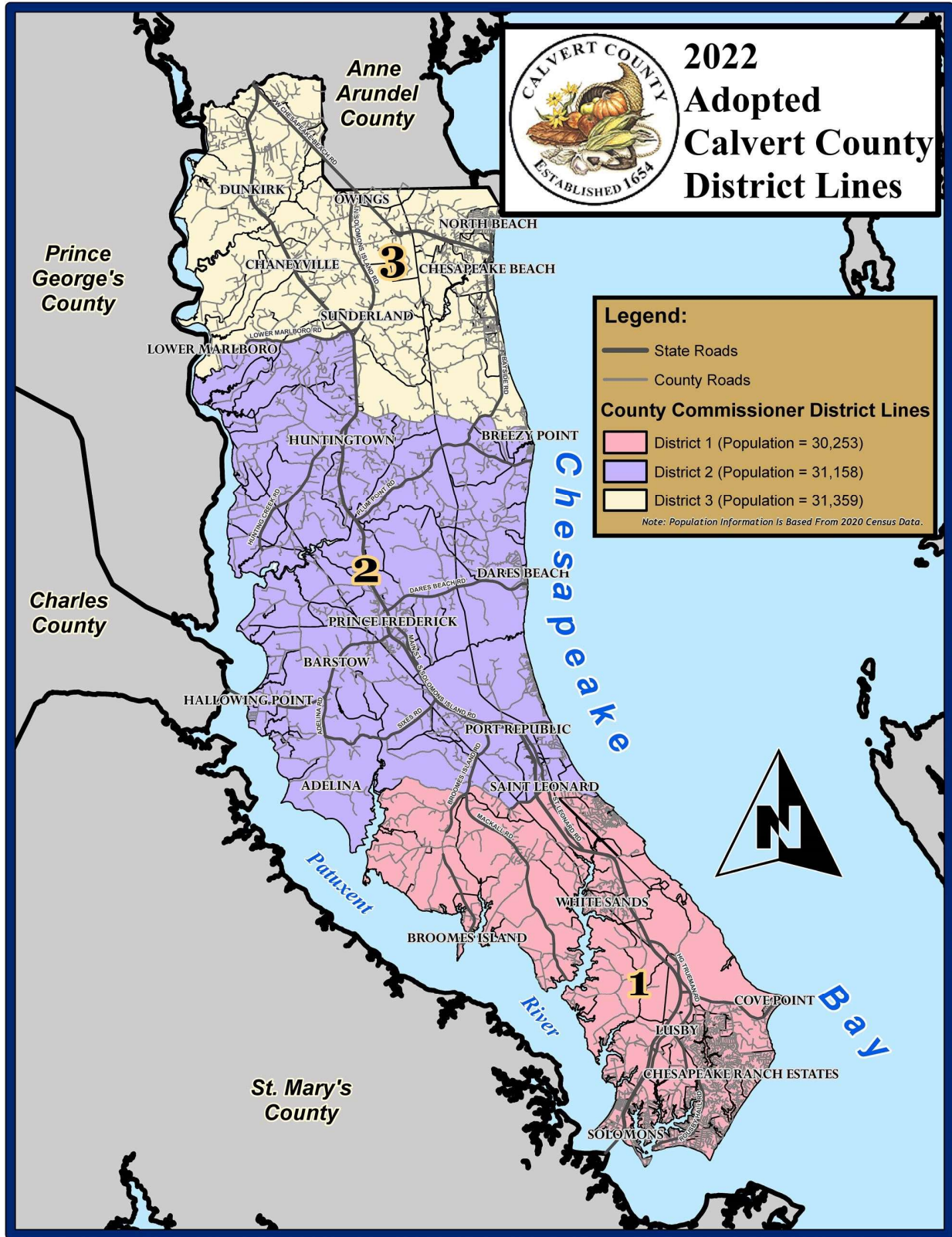
The Committee was charged with reviewing Board of County Commissioner (BOCC) election districts and boundaries following the decennial census to account for population changes. The Committee, considering changes in population, arrived at the conclusion to recommend the most practical and geographically and numerically equal district boundaries.

The Redistricting Committee was comprised of nine appointees:  
5-appointees were selected by the Calvert County Commissioners.  
1-appointee was selected by the Calvert County Democratic Party  
1-appointee was selected by the Calvert County Republican Party  
1-appointee was selected by the Calvert County League of Women Voters  
1-appointee was selected by the NAACP of Calvert County

One of the main points that was reiterated by Chairperson Parran was that the Board of County Commissioners cannot change the number of districts in the county and that such change would require state legislation; however, any individual or organization can introduce a bill for a change.

All of the meetings were available for public viewing at the Calvert County Redistricting Committee.

**Listed below is the map adopted by the Calvert County Commissioners**



## **Report of the Task Force on Social Justice and Police Accountability**

*Submitted by Sandra Raviv*

The creation of the Task Force was prompted by publication of a BOCC proposal on how the Policy Accountability Act of 2021 ought to be implemented, based largely on recommendations from outgoing Commissioner Tim Hutchins. The resolution called for three law enforcement retirees for the 9-member Police Accountability board as well as a member from the mental health community and a chaplain with experience with either the military and/or law enforcement. Further, those from the law enforcement community would be required to have 20 years of law enforcement experience, a college degree in criminal justice or similar field, and training from the FBI Academy.

The Task Force (Sandra Raviv, chair, Tricia Powell, Len Zuza, Gladys White, Renee Yuengling, JC Hooker, and Mary Ann Zaversnik) began meeting in July, 2021 and held bi-weekly meetings to research issues associated with civilian review boards and determine what goals the Task Force wanted to pursue. A citizens forum was planned and held in early September, offering the viewing public diverse perspectives on policing from a panel of mental health representatives, law enforcement, youth, and minority groups.

The Task Force then examined each updated resolution from the BOCC, and offered comments both in person at meetings and public hearings, and virtually through the County website. With the assistance of other local organizations (LWVMD, NAACP, PRISM, and ACLU), we were able to achieve several significant modifications in the final resolution regarding composition of the Police Accountability Board and Charging Committee, term of office for volunteer members, etc. There has been considerable push-back from the law enforcement community on the topic of police accountability and we have been disappointed in aspects of the application process adopted by the BOCC.

Our next steps will create a fact sheet for informing citizens about the role of sheriffs in the County, as well as a survey to tap what citizens want in their sheriff to be. These materials will be distributed to our members and other local organization memberships prior to the July primaries.

## **Voter Services Report, 2021-2022**

*Submitted by Gladys White*

### **Voter Registration Training**

Three trainings were sponsored by the Committee; the Board of Elections (BOE) provided the virtual trainings on June 2, July 7, and September 8, 2021. Each training was one-half hour. The Voter Services committee would like to extend their appreciation to Gail Hatfield, Paula Bailey, Kristen Scott and the entire BOE staff for their cooperation and participation in these events. A special thanks to Janet Bellizzi for arranging these events that were available to all of our outreach partners.

For 2022, two training sessions are planned in early spring.

### **Vote 411.org**

With the approach of the 2022 election process, the county has a large number of candidates applying for various positions, primarily the School Board, County Commissioners, and Sheriff. Janet Ashby is working diligently with the State League and will obtain answers to a set of questions scripted by the voter services team and our members. The 411.org online information will be available in May for the now July primaries. Printed copies will be given to the public libraries for their patrons.



**Voter Registration Events**

### **Voter Service Events:**

**First Event:** Community Day at Jefferson Patterson Park. The Calvert County branch of NAACP sponsored a community day on June 19, 2021. We registered individuals to vote and gave out information about the climate study, and membership applications, and pamphlets on the importance of voting. The event was well attended; Renita Alexander provided a table for the event. Sandy Raviv, Cheryl Hannon, Lila West, Dawn Tucker, and Cassandra Okwumabua helped to register individuals. It was a wonderful day at the park.

**Second Event:** The National Night Out was held in August, 2021. Volunteer members Sandy Raviv and Herb Wolff participated at Kellam's Field in Chesapeake Beach while Norma Onley, Janet Ashby, Gladys White, and Cheryl Hannon covered the event at Calvert Pines Senior Center in Prince Frederick. Both locations were able to register people to vote and provide information about the voting process.

**Third Event:** St. John Vianney Family Life Center's Community Fair on Oct 15, 2021 in Prince Frederick. The fair addressed the needs of the homeless and most needy in our community. We gave away snacks, toiletries, and clothing items such as socks, hats, and gloves. Some individuals registered to vote assisted by Malcolm Funn, Cheryl Hannon, Renita Alexander, Gladys White, Cassandra Okwumabua, and Norma Onley. Remaining items **were** donated to Project Echo on November 26th for their clients. We received thank you cards from both organizations for our support.

### **National Voter Registration Day Event**

We held this event at the College of Southern Maryland (CSM) on September 28, 2021. Janet Bellizzi and Gladys White conducted a virtual presentation entitled "Your Vote-Your Choice-Your Future, Part 2." The presentation lasted approximately one hour, which included the most updated information from Calvert County Board of Elections. A question-and-answer period followed the session. We worked with Erica Fisher, who was the student liaison for CSM at the Prince Frederick campus. A large number of students attended this presentation as well as representatives from other CMS campuses. Our goal was to educate students to the importance of voting. If the pandemic permits, we will participate at a live "Spring Fling" event at CSM on April 19, 2022.

### **Voter Bill of Rights**

For the 2022 elections, the Voters Bill of Rights will be updated with information obtained from the Calvert County Board of Elections and the State BOE. This is a useful tool but must be accurate.



I would personally like to thank the Voter Service Committee for all their hard work during the 2020 election period. We were able to accomplish our regular goals during the COVID-19 pandemic and to educate the public during this election season. The committee consisted of the following people: Janet Ashby, Janet Bellizzi, Sharron Bickel, and J.C. Hooker. We would also like to thank Carol Booker for her assistance.

## **Women of the World Celebration, March 12, 2022**

*Submitted by Norma Onley*

LWVCC was represented at the planning committee for the 2022 Annual Woman of the World (WOW) Awards event by Norma Onley. WOW was held on Saturday, March 12, 2022.

**Norma Imershein**, long-time League member and officer, was honored for her tireless work in the community, always providing service to others. Born in New York City, she lived both in the City and Long Island. She had a long career as a dietician, which explains her excellent cooking skills. After retiring, she moved to Calvert County to be near her daughters. Norma began her career as a volunteer at age 10, volunteering for the library and any other worthwhile cause, and it became a lifelong habit. When she moved to Calvert, she volunteered for the Chesapeake Biological Laboratory, the Calvert County Library, the LWV, and SMILE. She was nominated for the "Calvert You Are Beautiful" award which was only given to exceptional volunteers.

Norma's many years of service to the League includes assisting with the annual Legislative Evenings, various tasks on the Voters Service Committee; the Board of County Commissioners Observer Team, as a member of the Board of the LWV, and fundraising. As a member of the fundraiser committee, she participated in a number of original "shows," skits which featured Calvert County VIPs, including one she wrote herself, "Good Morning Calvert, County." As a fundraising activity, she also arranged to lead cooking classes, demonstrating how to cook wonderful desserts. When asked what drew her to the League, she responded that she was attracted to its goals and its calling to educate the public about democracy and public policies and how they affect our lives. We are truly grateful for Norma, and recognize her many contributions with a floral arrangement and Certificates of Appreciation from our local Commissioners, and State and Federal Representatives.

