



2023 Annual Report

Book II

Report on 2022-2023 Activities

Wednesday, May 25, 2022

6:00 to 8:00 PM

Virtual Zoom Meeting

Please register at lwwcalvert.org to receive instructions
to join the meeting

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League of Women Voters of Calvert County
Calendar of Activities for 2022-2023

June 2022

June 7: Voter registration training
June 4: Green Life Festival
June 5: LWVMD Convention
June 17: Board meeting
June 18: NAACP Family and Community Day at Jefferson Patterson Park
June 22-27: LWVUS Convention
June 29: BOE Candidate Forum for Primary election at CSM
Continuation of study on "The Prince Frederick Town Master Plan Revision"

July 2022

July 6: Voter registration at SMILE
July 13: LWVCC Board meeting
July 19: Primary Elections
July 22: LWVCC Board retreat at Southern Community Center
July 29: Voter Services team meeting

August 2022

August 2: National Night Out at Calvert Pines and Chesapeake Beach
August 3: New School Superintendent reception at CSM
August 19: Voter Services team meeting
August 23: Rep. Hoya's Women's luncheon in DC

September 2022

September 6: Voter Services team meeting
September 7: Voter registration at SMILE
September 12: Observation team meeting
September 14: LWVCC Board meeting
September 16: Voter registration at Patuxent HS
September 19: Voter registration at Fairview Library
September 20 & 28: National Voter registration day at CSM (virtual)
September 21: Voter registration at Southern library
September 21: Voter registration at Huntingtown HS
September 22: Candidate Forum at HEB (BOCC, Sheriff, Register of Wills, States Atty)

September 27: Candidate Forum at HEB (BOE and Delegates)
September 29: Voter registration at Twin Beaches library

October 2022

October 3: Observation team meeting
October 11: North Beach Mayoral and Town Council Candidate Forum
October 12: LWVCC Board Meeting
October 12: Voter registration at SMILE

November 2022

November 1: Social Justice team meeting
November 8: Own Your Vote event
November 9: LWVCC Board meeting
November 29: Social Justice team meeting

December 2022

December 11: Winter Social (virtual)-cancelled
December 14: LWVCC Board meeting

January 2023

January 11: LWVCC Board meeting
January 18: Social Justice team meeting
January 21: LWVMD Winter Workshop

February 2023

February 6: Nominating Committee meeting
February 7: WOW Planning meeting
February 8: LWVCC Board meeting
February 15: Social Justice team meeting
February 20: Nominating Committee
February 27: LWVMD Legislative Day

March 2023

March 6: Observer Team meeting
March 6: Nominating Committee meeting
March 8: LWVCC Board Meeting
March 11: WOW virtual celebration

March 11: Pat Hofmann and Michael Kent Recognition Dinner
Mar 17: Community Day for Homeless Services Board
March 28: NAACP reception for new CSM President
March 25: CBW Awards event

April 2023

April 3: Observer team meeting
April 8: LWVMD Presidents' meeting
April 12: LWVCC Board meeting
April 11: CSM Spring Fling voter registration
April 19: Social Justice team meeting
April 22: Green Life Festival at Anne Marie Gardens

May 2023

May 1: Observer team meeting
May 10: LWVCC Board Meeting
May 15: LWVMD Day on Capitol Hill
May 24: LWVCC Annual Membership Meeting (virtual)

June 2023

June 2-4: LWVMD Convention
June 5: Observation team meeting
June 15: LWVCC Board meeting and retreat
June 17: NAACP Family and Community Day at Jefferson Patterson Park
June 23-26: LWVUS National Convention

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, renamed the Green Life Festival.

A large number of vendors showcased their green products, services, and programs on June 4, 2022 at Annemarie Gardens in Solomons. The event was well attended. The LWVCC had a table staffed by Lila West and Gladys White. The League's focus was

voter registration, handing out literature about the election process, and fact sheets from the League's Climate Change Study.

Civic Education for Youth

Submitted by Pat Pease

No committee activities reported for this year.



History Fair

LWVCC did not participate in this year's History Fair, but will revisit this event in the coming year.

Legislative Evening with Elected Maryland State Delegation

Submitted by JC Hooker

Instead of the customary annual Legislative Evening with elected officials, the Board opted to plan a "Meet and Greet" event with officials including BOCC commissioners later in February. The November elections were a very busy tie for LWVCC, and it was felt that a later event would give more time for planning. Hence, a February "Meet and Greet" with local officials, including the County Commissioners, was planned to acquaint citizens with their officials going into the new legislative year. Unfortunately, language

that defines BOCC meetings prevent more than two commissioners to be at any gathering which did not meet our hopes for all commissioners to attend, and as a result, the Meet and Greet was put on hold.

Membership and Membership Events

Submitted by Sandra Raviv and Norma Olney

LWVCC currently has 67 paid members. We have continued efforts to foster a closer connection with League members through timely communications, and outreach for specific volunteer opportunities. Going forward, we'll continue to recruit new members and encourage active engagement in our programs upon joining.

Planned Fund-Raising Events—Norma Olney

We participated in a Pampered Chef fundraiser, netting \$ 256. for the League in June, 2022, and Janet Bellizzi biked her way to raising almost \$800 from the Calvert Chapter for LWVMD

Winter Social, December 7, 2021—Sandra Raviv

This event was cancelled due to low signups.

Observer Team Annual Report 2022-2023

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 5, 2023. Visitors are welcome and should contact Sharron Bickel.

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. 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 Ravigo

LWVCC has continued to publish a variety of email and bi-monthly newsletter communications to keep members informed of our activities and ways they can

participate. Where an especially important event is upcoming, the Board sends out announcements and/or makes personal calls to members. Janet Bellizzi continuously updates our website. We are looking for a volunteer to maintain our FaceBook page.

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. For almost three years, the study group has been meeting weekly, and the study is ready for member approval. The study has tracked the County's development of the Prince Frederick Town Center Master Plan, which has been delayed due to a number of factors.

The goals of the study were 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, followed by a public comment period.

The next step was for the Planning Commission to formally adopt the draft Master Plan, after which there would 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, and after the Planning Commission made any final changes, the Master Plan would be forwarded to the Board of County Commissioners for approval.

However, due to the Covid pandemic and other reasons, the timeline was not followed and the final draft still has not been presented or approved. Please see the League's study report for details.

The role of the L WVCC Board:

A draft of the Study committee report has been approved by the L WVCC board and will be voted on at the Annual Meeting by the membership before presentation to external audiences, including local government.

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, it is appropriate that the report be reviewed by the membership.

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

Currently the Redistricting Committee has no further work until the next census unless changes are made by the State legislature.

Report of the Social Justice Committee

Submitted by Mary Ann Zaversnik

In August of 2022, the CCLWV Social Justice Committee was launched and incorporated the previous L WVCC Police Accountability Task Force. The Committee determined that the following topics could fall under their purview:

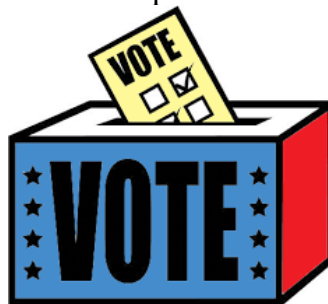
- **Police Accountability and Criminal Justice:** Monitor the Calvert County Police Accountability Board and its reports to gauge transparency and effectiveness. Support reform of the criminal justice system. Support term limits for sheriffs.
- **Basic Human Needs:** Support training and programs to help people find adequate employment opportunities to break the cycle of generational poverty, and support families with children by advocating for paid family leave and childcare.
- **Gun Safety:** Advocate for efforts to reduce gun violence and promote gun safety.
- **Legislative Bills:** The MD League's committees generally review and prioritize all bills coming up; we might follow and choose those falling under social justice categories.
- **Economic Inequality:** Support efforts to bring economic prosperity to all Calvert citizens such as pay equity and earned income tax credit.

- **Calvert County Detention Center:** Determine needs of inmates while in detention including release/re-entry preparation, particularly for those held for longer periods. What kind of training do Corrections Deputies receive for this role? Is this an "entry-level" job for moving into the Sheriff Department?

Police Accountability: Members of the committee will meet with the Police Accountability Board to hear their assessment of progress and make suggestions where appropriate.

Basic Human Needs: The Committee decided to study the availability of employment resources to assist job seekers, the availability of family friendly employment opportunities, and what stands in the way of residents seeking employment or other financial assistance to maintain economic security. We conducted interviews with 9 agencies/organizations that assist job seekers and are now obtaining information from 12 employers in the county to determine their hiring practices, job opportunities including entry level positions, and salary levels and benefits offered. In addition, we are distributing a community survey to determine the experiences of residents seeking employment and other financial assistance.

Our goal is to determine if and how the LWVCC might assist community members in their search for employment or financial assistance. Our product could be in the form of a booklet of the resources available with contact information. We plan to prepare a report of our findings with recommendations for possible action.



Voter Services Report, 2022-2023

Submitted by Gladys White

Voter Registration Training

Two one-half hour trainings were sponsored by the Committee with the Board of Elections (BOE) which provided the virtual sessions in May and June. 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 trainings. A special thanks to Janet Bellizzi for arranging these events that were available to all of

our outreach partners. For 2023, two training sessions are scheduled for late summer and early fall in preparation for the 2024 election cycle.

Vote 411.org

The 2022 election came with a large number of candidates applying for various positions, primarily the School Board, County Commissioners, and Sheriff. Janet Ashby worked with LWVMD and obtained answers to a set of questions scripted by the Voter Service team and our members. The answers were put in the database for 411.org, which was made available in May for the July primaries and updated in September for the General Election in Nov. Printed copies were given to the libraries, senior centers and Project Echo.

Voter Service Events:

First Event: Spring Fling at CSM on April 19 11-3 pm. Thanks to Erika Fisher for helping to arrange this event, and also to Mary Ann Saversnik, Janet Bellizzi, Lila West, and Janet Ashby.

Second Event: Three events were held at Huntingtown (September 21), Patuxent (September 16) and Calvert (October 6) High Schools. We thank the school staff for their assistance and our members who gave their time to make these events successful. Janet Ashby, Sandy Raviv, Julie Schardt, Brandon Hooker, Pat Pease, Anna Vermillion, and Mary Ann Zaversnik assisted.

Third Event: Community Day at Jefferson Patterson Park sponsored by the Calvert County branch of NAACP on June 18, 2022. We registered individuals to vote and gave out information about our climate study, membership applications, and pamphlets on the importance of voting. The event was well attended. Renita Alexander provided a table for the event and Norma Onley, Pat Pease, Pat Hofmann, and Gladys White assisted. It was a wonderful day at the park.

Fourth Event: The National Night Out was held August 2, 2022. Volunteer members participated at Harriet Brown Community Center in Prince Frederick. Norma Onley, Dawn Collins, and Anna Vermillion covered this event at HEB. We were able to register people to vote and provide information about the voting process.

Fifth Event: National Voter Registration Day Event

We held this event in person at the College of Southern Maryland (CSM) in Prince Frederick on September 20, and September 28, 2022. We'd like to acknowledge student liaison Erika Fisher for all her help with this event. We registered individuals and

provided updated information about the upcoming November, 2022 election. We thank Gladys White, Sandy Raviv, and Mr. and Mrs. Martin for their help.

Sixth Event: Community Resource Day at Calvert Senior Pines on March 17, 2023. More than 40 vendors provided information to the most needy in our county, and LWVCC gave out snacks, socks, and toiletries. Most people said they were already registered, but they did obtain information from the Board of Elections regarding the election. Thanks to our team, Lila West and Dave Hardy, Janet Ashby, Mary Ann Zaversnik, and Brandon Hooker.

Seventh Event: Public library voter registration was organized by Pat Hofmann at all four county libraries. There events occurred on September 19, 21, 24, and 29. Pat was assisted by other members of the team.

Eighth Event: voter registration at SMILE Thrift Store four events on June 1, July 7, Aug 3, and Oct 14th, 2022. The staff at Smiles was wonderful, a pleasure to work with, and the clients loved getting the information sheets about early voting. Anna Vermillion, Mary Ann Zaversnik, Norma Onley, Lila West, all helped while Janet Bellizzi served as our contact person.

Forums: The League held four forums for the election season of 2022. The first was for the primary election of Board of Education candidates at CSM on June 29, 2022. This was Malcolm Funn's last League moderating task before his untimely passing. The second and third forums were held at HEB during the general election season Sep 22 and Oct 6, 2022. These forums were for local candidates including Commissioners, Sheriff, Register of Wills, Delegates, State's Attorney, and Board of Education. The fourth forum was held in North Beach on Oct 11 for Mayor and Council candidates. Thanks to the hard work of our members, all events were successful and well attended by the public. A special thanks to the Comcast cable group for taping the forums for viewing by the public at a later time.

We also gave out registration forms and election information at the following venues: St. John Vianney Food pantry, Mt. Olive Methodist Church, Brooks United Methodist Church, and the Calvert County Fair.

I would personally like to thank the Voter Service Committee for all their hard work during the 2022 election period. We were able to accomplish our regular goals despite the continuing 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 being on standby when needed.

Women of the World Celebration, March 12, 2023

Submitted by Norma Onley



LWVCC was represented at the planning committee for the 2023 Annual Woman of the World (WOW) Awards event by Norma Onley. WOW was held on Saturday, March 11, 2023.

Tricia Powell was this year's League honoree. She has lived in Calvert County for over twenty years. She has a Master of Business Administration and is a retired licensed Health Care Administrator with over thirty years working in various venues such as acute care, psychiatric care, and long-term care. She has received several awards over the years, in recognition of her performance and currently consults.

During the last twenty years, Tricia has been very active in the community. She has been a member of the **Drum Points Property Association Board** for several terms, during which tenure she was instrumental in lowering the Special Tax District fee and successfully stopping the building of break-water barriers in the Chesapeake Bay which would have been harmful to the ecosystem. She **co-founder and served as Vice President of Health Share**, a county organization under the auspices of Calvert Hospital that subsidized prescription drugs for the working poor. Tricia has also served as a **CASA volunteer** (Court Appointed Special Advocate), receiving two awards for performance. Following this experience Tricia became a **certified mediator** for the District Court throughout Southern Maryland for several years. In this role, she mediated cases such as breach of contract and child custody. Her settlement record was so impressive that she was honored by the State of Maryland District Court with a Volunteer of the Year Award and a Service Award. She also set up a special program to mediate families with trouble teens at no cost to the economically disadvantaged. Tricia served two terms on the Calvert County Democratic Committee, including as Vice President.

Following this, Tricia joined the League of Women Voters as a Board of Directors member serving as Treasurer, and she currently is chair of the study committee for the Prince Frederick Master Plan update process used by the County's Planning and Zoning. In addition to the above, she is an active member of the NAACP and the Rotary Club.

Tricia lives with her husband, Mel, who retired as the Executive Director of the Southern Maryland Higher Education Center. In addition to her community activities, she is a writer, artist, and avid knitter.