

Upcoming Events

LWVAAC

Community Case Presentation (virtual)

Thu, Mar 31, 6:30 p.m. to 8 p.m.

(see p. 15 for details or [RSVP](#))

Annual Membership Meeting & Brunch (in person)

Sat, Apr 9, 10 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

DoubleTree of Annapolis

(see p. 17 for details or [RSVP](#))

Trending Topics (virtual)

Earth Day: Climate Crisis & the Environment

Thu, Apr 21, 4 p.m. to 5 p.m.

Board Meetings (virtual)

Tue, Mar 8, 6 p.m. to 8 p.m.

Tue, May 10, 6 p.m. to 8 p.m.

LWVMD

Legislative Day (virtual) [RSVP](#)

Mon, Mar 7, 9:30 a.m. to 12 p.m.

DEI Workshop (virtual) [RSVP](#)

Sat, Mar 19, 9 a.m. to 11 a.m.

Lobby Day on Capitol Hill

Fri, May 13, time TBA

Biennial Council (virtual)

Sat, June 4, details TBA

LWVUS

National Convention (hybrid)

June 23-26

Denver, CO [RSVP](#)



Save the Date

CLIMATE CRISIS & THE ENVIRONMENT IN ANNE ARUNDEL COUNTY

Invest in Our Planet

Thursday, April 21, 2022 4:00 pm
Virtual Presentations

Vice President's Letter

Is it Spring yet? It may be today, but not tomorrow.

In any case, Spring is around an inestimable, but undeniable, corner.

With Spring comes the LWVAAC Annual Member Meeting, scheduled for April 9. Please join us for this important business meeting that is also a

gratifying time for essential camaraderie—combined gifts and efforts that comprise the LWVAAC and lead us to smile when we see one another. See page 17.



At the January LWVMD Winter Workshop, I had the privilege of presenting on our behalf a [Local League Spotlight](#) highlighting our activities. I could hardly confine myself to the suggested three slides, to showcase our rally participation, voter registrations, testimony, letters, field trips, book discussions, and more. LWVAAC has been, is, and will continue to be, active, successful, and far-reaching in finding venues and means to accomplish its mission.

A major theme recently has been our engagement with the Anne Arundel County Council and County Charter revision process. I recently testified at a Charter Revision Commission meeting, urging it once again—as LWVAAC did during the formulation of the original Charter for Anne Arundel County—to keep the Charter clear, concise, and confined to

fundamentals. Subsequently, we publicly supported a resolution to place on November's ballot a referendum on a public campaign financing system for county executive and county council candidates. See page 6.

This issue of *The Voter* recounts and anticipates many LWVAAC achievements. The League is a grassroots organization, rooted in vision and action at the local level. Our evolving growth sustains us all. And here comes Spring. ~Gail

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Member News

The Value of Volunteer Knowledge

By: Kathy Larrabee, Membership Director

Approximately 63 million Americans, 25 percent of the adult population, volunteer their time, energy, and talents to making a difference, according to the latest data collected through a 2015 survey sponsored by the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics.

Though that percentage represents a slight decline over several decades, volunteers remain key to the success of most non-profit organizations. Moreover, the resources non-profits can provide to volunteers typically will determine volunteers' satisfaction and success.

The League views knowledge to be an essential tool for member volunteers, along with their time and energy. Whether you're serving on the LWV Board of Directors or supporting core League programs—such as Action and Advocacy and Voter Services—pairing knowledge of the League with an understanding of local and state government and community issues, will guarantee you a feeling of empowerment and satisfaction.

Begin learning about the League by snooping around on the [LWVAAC](#) and [LWVMD](#) websites, [ask for a private orientation](#) if you've missed a group orientation, participate in League activities presented to you via email and in the LWVAAC quarterly newsletter, *The Voter*, and in the monthly LWVMD *State Board Letter* (a recap of monthly state

League business). Eventually the pieces will come together.

Simultaneously, start your local government, self-education without leaving the comfort of your home, Check out the [Anne Arundel County government website](#): click on the Judicial Branch and Legislative Branch buttons, or on various Departments to become familiar with administration of county business. Check out upcoming County Council legislation and then plan to view a few twice-monthly meetings of the County Council aired on [local, cable TV channels](#). Match county business to League positions. Become a regular [LWVAAC Observer](#) of a government body or commission of interest to you. Lastly, be amazed by how your knowledge base begins to grow and you become a knowledgeable volunteer able to educate family, friends, and voters about issues. Consider [becoming an election judge](#), as our member Vera Herath has been for many years, even before joining the League.

Most people have more contact with local government through numerous services and programs, or just local annoyances, than with Federal government. Yet many know more about national issues than about local issues. As a League member, learning about the League and local government is akin to putting on your oxygen mask first for an inflight emergency in order to reliably help others. #

Face of Our League

Susan Crawford

I moved to Anne Arundel County in December 2021 by way of Ohio, Connecticut, Maryland (once before), and New York (most recently). My husband, Jay, and I lived in New York for 43 years, commuting to work in New York City for much of that time. Soon we will live in Pasadena in a 100-year-old family home we're rebuilding.

In the 1980s and 90s I developed a full appreciation for what League participation has to offer, eventually becoming president of the Putnam County League in New York for several years. League participation offers incomparable opportunities for new knowledge on local issues, connections to local leaders and community services, and a way to create positive, lasting change. As a new Anne Arundel County resident, I was prompted to join the League because back in New York I met some of my dearest friends in the League. At that time, in the 80's, a few of us formed a small, playgroup for our four 8-month-old babies. Those babies later had siblings, so our play group and friendships grew. In May, Jay and I will travel to New York to see a few of those friends and to attend the wedding of one of the children.

The civic issues I care most about are those women have historically been socialized to care about: raising and socializing the next generation to enter a healthy, sustainable environment.

The accomplishments I'm most proud of include continuing to provide a supportive role for our children and grandchildren who live in New York and Los Angeles. I've also enjoyed a 40-year career in Architectural Design and Construction Management, especially efforts toward historic preservation. I most recently have become interested in the Bronze Age archeological research into gender role origins. #



Welcome New Members

Annapolis: Martha Schwieters
Courtney Shaw
Wendy Widmann

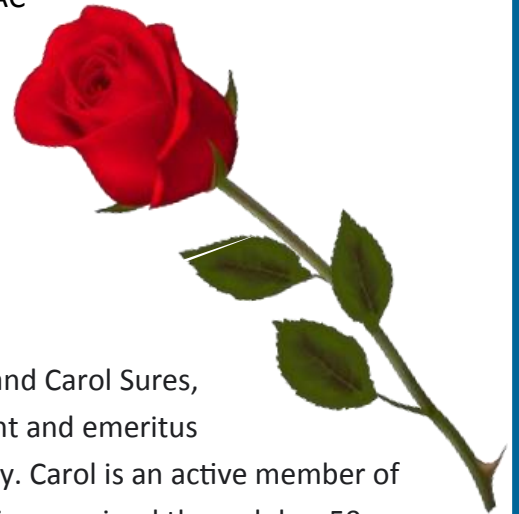
Pasadena: Susan Crawford
Angela Cremeans
Margaret Kauder

Millersville: Jennifer Zito

In Memoriam

Mary Ann Love

Mary Ann Love, a 20-year LWVAAC member, died on January 27 at the age of 81. Throughout her League membership, she served in the Maryland House of Delegates, representing constituents of District 32 in western Anne Arundel County. First appointed as a delegate to complete an unfinished term, she was elected to the office in 1994 and served five terms. During her time in office, only two other women served in the legislature—State Senator Pam Beidle, a delegate at the time and currently an LWVAAC member, and Virginia Claggett, a former delegate and LWVAAC member. From 1999 to 2010, Mary Ann distinguished herself as the first woman to chair the Anne Arundel County legislative delegation. In recent tributes, Mary Ann was remembered for her election stickers that read, *Keep Love in the House*, along with a big red heart.



Bob Siegel

Allan Sures

Our condolences to two remarkable League members, Myrna Siegel and Carol Sures, who lost their husbands this January. Myrna, a past LWVAAC president and emeritus Board member, moved to Massachusetts last fall to be closer to family. Carol is an active member of the LWVAAC Board who contributes invaluable knowledge and experience gained through her 50+ years in the LWV. Allan Sures was himself a League member for nearly 30 years, and Bob Siegel was well known in League circles as Myrna's supporter-cheerleader.

**RENEW YOUR
MEMBERSHIP
[HERE](#)**

Action and Advocacy

A Push for Public Campaign Financing

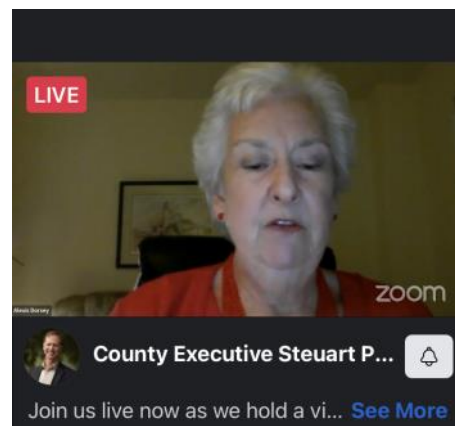
By: Abby Root and Susan Cochran,
Directors and Action Co-Chairs

The LWVAAC Action team recently advocated for County Council Resolution 1-22, seeking an amendment to the County Charter to require the establishment of a public campaign financing system for candidates for County Executive and the County Council. If passed by a super majority of the County Council, it would have appeared on the November ballot to let the voters decide.

LWVAAC Vice President Gail Viamonte's letter to the editor of *The Capital Gazette* in support of

Resolution 1-22 was published prior to the County Council meeting to bring public awareness to the bill. Soon after, LWVAAC issued an Action Alert to its members asking them to contact their council members to urge a yes vote on 1-22 at the February 7 council meeting.

Board Director Alexis Dorsey spoke at a virtual rally, organized through the County Executive's office and co-sponsored by LWVAAC, the hour before the Council meeting on February 7, advocating for the resolution. At the County Council meeting, Abby Root, LWVAAC Action co-chair, testified to urge the Council to vote in favor of the resolution so voters could decide on the



LWVAAC Director Alexis Dorsey urges Councilmembers to vote in favor of Resolution 1-22.

November ballot. Unfortunately, the Resolution did not pass. The vote was 4-3 along party lines.

Even though it did not pass, we are proud that LWVAAC, along with other organizations, was at the forefront. LWVAAC is monitoring activities within the county focused on a petition drive to get the issue on the ballot.

It took a team effort to advocate our support. Thank you to Susan Cochran, Gail Viamonte, Niecy Chambers, Kathy Larrabee and Alexis Dorsey for your valuable input. #



LWVAAC Director Abby Root (far left) testifies before the County Council in favor of a resolution to put a public campaign finance question on the November 2022 ballot.

Trending Topic: Environment

Conversation with Matt Johnston, Environmental Policy Director for Anne Arundel County

By: Marg Duffy, Director and Programming Chair

To meet the challenges of a changing climate, County Executive Steuart Pittman appointed Matt Johnston to keep the County on task. He is the first Director of Environmental Policy for Anne Arundel County. As LWVAAC's Programming Director, I interviewed Johnston to learn more (see below).

How do you manage your job without an official county environmental department?

Anne Arundel County government has amazing civil servants and fabulous teams with outstanding leadership. My role is to reach across existing departments, bring people together, ask what we can do better, or what policy or legislative changes are needed? I can then brief the County Executive on specific issues and communicate policy direction back to departments. The strategy is working.

What is the biggest environmental issue in our County?

The climate crisis is the overarching environmental issue in the county, state, nation, and world. We must cut greenhouse gas emissions. Within 100 years the County could face a 2 to 4 foot sea level rise. Last October, two storm events caused tidal surges 4 feet higher than normal in the Bay. That was a wake-



Matt Johnston

up call. That storm will be the new normal by the end of the century. Climate change is also increasing rainfall. That's a problem because statewide stormwater controls were based on old data. So the county was instrumental in getting a bill passed in 2021 requiring the Maryland Department of Environment to use precipitation and flooding data from new storms and update stormwater control practices.

Do you have the resources to enforce and mitigate erosion controls on stormwater sites?

The County Executive says all the time: "we've got to stop the chocolate milk!" So the County has added new inspectors to ensure permitted construction sites have built controls correctly. In the past inspectors did not walk off-site where runoff was reported, so our office adopted a new paradigm. A team of engineers and restoration specialists now walk the site, plus the outer perimeter to ensure site controls

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are in place and are not causing chocolate milk to leave the site. If problems are found, construction is stopped until it's corrected.

How do you monitor old communities that were built decades ago?

The Bureau of Watershed Protection and Restoration manages a stormwater program to control runoff into the Bay and works with old communities on projects to curtail Bay pollution. Many communities predate storm water regulation, and there's always more backlog of projects than funding. To accelerate climate mitigation efforts for communities, the County Executive created a Resilience Authority to bring expertise and financing to communities to protect properties from floods. A director will be selected soon followed by seating a board. Then the Authority will begin to seek financing and assist old and new communities with projects.

*"The climate crisis is the overarching environmental issue in the county, state, nation, and world."
~ Matt Johnston*

How is the County cutting greenhouse gas emissions?

County Executive Pittman signed an Order to convert the county's gas-powered vehicles to electric and the County Council passed an Ordinance in December 2020 making it law. A consultant was hired to explore charging station capacity. Replacing the 1,600 vehicle fleet is a process that has begun with purchasing hybrid-electric police cars. Additionally,

new county buildings must be designed to green building LEED Silver standards; we are beginning to explore going beyond those standards.

What about increasing solar energy?

The County has expansive capacity for solar projects on commercial rooftops and brownfields (closed waste sites). Maryland's Community Solar Pilot Program requires selling a percentage of solar energy for low and moderate income residents. However, the application process for developers to build a solar project is extremely complex, requiring multiple levels of signatures in requesting a tax waiver. With the climate crisis accelerating, the County believes we must quicken the state process to make solar energy available for more residents. The County is working with Senator Elfreth's office and the League of Conservation Voters on a bill (SB0264) for the state to eliminate some of this red-tape.

Can you expand on the environmental justice and equity programs?

Low-income communities are often concrete jungles without tree canopies and subjected to flash flooding. Maryland's Five Million Tree Campaign includes funding for an urban tree planting program. Luckily, the County has an urban tree planting program run by the Watershed Stewards Academy, called *Replant Anne Arundel*, that is perfectly

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positioned to break through that concrete jungle and add green spaces. The Academy also trains Tree Troopers (volunteers), who planted 5,000 native trees in the first year in the middle of the coronavirus—it was simply awesome.

Why are developers still removing so many trees despite the County's 2040 Plan and the Forest Ordinance?

Weak laws have allowed massive deforestation in Anne Arundel County for many decades. County Executive Pittman set a priority to revamp the law. The County Council passed a Forest Conservation bill (68-19) modifying county conservation provisions. The bill increased the amount of forests that must be conserved on every building site, the amount of trees that must be replanted after development occurs, and the fees in lieu that developers pay if they cannot replant trees. Where there are 75 acres of intact forest, Bill 68-19 mandates that no tree may be removed without County permission. On February 22, the County Council had the opportunity to amend a Bill that was put forward to adopt the Green Infrastructure Master Plan to implement Plan 2040's proposed policy for parks, open space, connected corridors, and conserving 30 percent of land in Anne Arundel County by 2030. Hearings are scheduled for March 7.

Is our household waste program effective for curbing methane and household waste (food waste, trash and recycling?)

The County is fortunate to have a methane gas and energy system at the Millersville Landfill. There are no plans for large scale food compost operations

that involve enormous capital costs, but there are several small scale composting sites around.

Recycling requires every person to know what can go in curbside yellow bins because contaminated loads cannot be processed and are instead sent to the landfill.

Are our County aquifers safe?

Sea level rise is a concern as tides move further inland and there is possible salinity intrusion into private water supplies. Our public aquifers are well protected, but as population increases so does water usage and drawdown of these aquifers. The County is working with Hampton Roads, Virginia, to learn about their multimillion dollar project to protect and recharge their aquifer. Importantly, each person must act to protect groundwater and surface water by curtailing pesticides and lawn fertilizers, using organic compost, and scooping up the dog poop.

Have you had a recent moment in nature free from environmental problems and have you had time to read a book you'd share?

I live on the Mayo Peninsula near the Chesapeake Bay where I take walks and enjoy its beauty. Believe me it's worth many sessions of therapy. Your members may enjoy the *Hidden Life of Trees* by

Peter Wohlleben. Mostly I enjoy reading Dr. Seuss with my son, Luke. I recommend that everyone read *The Lorax* and encourage everyone to plant a tree! #



Voter Services

Ramping Up for 2022 Elections

By: Vera Herath, Director, Voter Services

The Anne Arundel County Board of Elections (AACBOE) is already hard at work: They have vetted and accepted nine early voting sites throughout the county. They are accepting and processing mail-in ballot applications – yes, if you want to vote by mail, you must officially request a ballot. They are processing candidate filings. The filing deadline recently was extended to March 22 because of redistricting issues. [BOE is hiring and training election judges](#). According to the BOE, 2,473 election judges will be needed to staff the 195 polling places in Anne Arundel County. As of late February, 2,091 judges have been hired and assigned, leaving 382 vacancies to be filled. In particular, the BOE is seeking individuals affiliated with the Republican party to ensure enough bipartisan judge teams.

Speaking of redistricting, there are four legal challenges to the current maps passed by the Maryland General Assembly. Depending on the outcome of these challenges and whether a new redistricting plan will be implemented, the June 28 primary election may be delayed. Local Boards of Elections must wait for legal challenges to be sorted out before they can finalize their own precinct maps, determine whether candidates' and voters' precincts or districts will change, and then, finally, put together ballots. Obviously, a great deal will need to be done in a very short amount of time. But, to date, no one knows when the work can begin.

In addition to the election-related work mentioned above, the AACBOE continues to train and certify Voter Registration Volunteers (VRV), including student volunteers (minimum age 18). Throughout March, county high schools will be holding voter registration events at which student VRVs, with

Important 2022 Election Dates

April 28 Ballot drop boxes will be placed

May 14 Ballots mailed to voters who requested mail-in ballots

June 7 Last day to register to vote in Primary election, update registration information, or change party affiliation

June 16-23 Early voting at nine AA County sites

June 28 Primary election

July 11 Registration resumes

September 24 Ballots mailed to voters who requested mail-in ballots

October 18 Last day to register to vote in the General election, update registration, or change party affiliation

October 27-Nov 3 Early voting at nine AA County sites

November 8 General election

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assistance from adult VRVs, will register peers to vote and work to interest them in the election process. The League anticipates that many voters will be registered at events and venues leading up to elections.

Become a certified VRV; join the LWVAAC team. For training information, contact Vera Herath, votersvc@lwvaacmd.org.

Voters' Guide

The LWVAAC Voter Services team has begun working on the 2022 voters' guides for Anne Arundel County. We've developed the questions to be asked of candidates, but this is only the beginning. Part of the effort includes updating the nationwide VOTE411

system, which offers voters 24/7 access to reliable, nonpartisan information about voting, elections, candidates, ballot questions, you name it! Please consider adding your talents to this invaluable project to enhance voter education and participation.

Last, but definitely not least, be on the lookout for announcements about LWVAAC-sponsored candidate forums. We hope to hold one before the Primary and another before the General election. Even if we opt for a virtual format, there will be plenty of prep work, for which we will need help. Come work with us! It's a great learning experience and it's fun.

Contact Voter Services at votersvc@lwvaacmd.org. Check out the [AAC Board of Elections](https://www.aacounty.org/elections) website, or call 410-222-6600 for information.

Investigation Confirms Integrity of Annapolis Voting System

As was reported in the December 2021 issue of *The Voter*, the Board of Elections' canvass of ballots following the fall 2021 Annapolis election revealed that three voters in Ward 8 had each cast two ballots. An investigation by the City of Annapolis Board of Supervisors of Elections determined that the duplicate votes were truly innocent mistakes. The City Board requested explanations from the three voters at fault, all of whom complied. Based on their responses, plus the findings of the State Board of Elections that the electronic poll books had not been properly updated, the City determined that no further action was needed and the probe was closed.

By Vera Herath

Program Activities

Program Planning

By: Abby Root, Director and Action Co-Chair

Each January, in concert with other local Leagues in Maryland and across the county, LWVAAC holds an program planning meeting. It was held virtually this year. The aim of program planning is to review current LWVAAC positions and to reach consensus on whether each one should be retained, dropped, or updated. In addition, participants may propose study topics that LWVAAC members may want to undertake in the coming year. For this formal review, LWVAAC Board Directors Abby Root served as moderator and Alexis Dorsey as Recorder.

Positions derive from studies conducted and adopted by League members. Study findings anchor all League advocacy work. Following an enthusiastic discussion of LWVAAC positions, participants agreed all remain relevant to current issues in Anne Arundel County (AAC) but urged that LWVAAC focus more attention on the following three:

Affordable Housing: Two large developments are being planned in the Parole area of Annapolis for residential and retail space as part of the [Anne Arundel County \(AAC\) Smart Growth Plan](#), to include workforce housing. Participants also raised questions about the annual count of the homeless population by the Annapolis Housing Authority.

Transportation: Appropriate public transportation accessible from low-income housing continues to be a problem in AAC. Public transportation issues tie into the LWVAAC affordable housing position.

Immigration: Participants agreed the LWVAAC position on immigration is current, but immigration policy and programs should be more closely monitored by LWVAAC.

No new study ideas were suggested by participants of this program review meeting.

Board Director Marg Duffy presented an LWVUS survey that asked the question: Does our League support the proposed LWVUS program focus on continuing the *Campaign for Making Democracy Work* including Voting Rights, Improving Elections, Redistricting, and Money in Politics? The consensus of the group was to support this campaign.#

Observations of the Observer Corps: Government at Work

By: Alexis Dorsey, Director and Observer Corps Chair

The Observer Corp (OC) is a committee of the LWVAAC that actively observes Anne Arundel County (AAC) government to gain understanding, promote transparency and accountability, and identify issues of importance to voters.

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Consider becoming a LWVAAC Observer. Start by choosing an area of government whose work is of interest to you and attend a public meeting. The OC team can help and act as a guide for observing while you learn about local issues.

Here's a recap of recent activities among select public entities covered by LWVAAC Observers.

AA County Council & Administration

Two pieces of County Council legislation recently came to the attention of LWVAAC and its Observer Corps: (1) a possible Charter amendment to establish a system of public campaign financing, and the Anne Arundel County Police Accountability Board. Abby Root, LWVAAC Action Co-Chair, testified before the Council in favor of the Resolution. (See page 6.) Alexis Dorsey, LWVAAC OC Chair, also spoke in favor of the Resolution earlier in the evening at a rally organized by the County Executive and his Office of Community Engagement and Constituent Services and co-sponsored by the LWVAAC.

Bill 16-22, to establish a Police Accountability Board (PAB) in AAC was introduced at the February 7 Council meeting and is expected to be heard on March 7. A 2021 Maryland law requires that counties establish PABs by July 1, 2022. PABs will receive public complaints of police misconduct. In turn, they will appoint members to Administrative Charging Committees and Trial Boards to review and adjudicate these complaints. LWVMD established a Police Accountability Action Committee, chaired by



Ericka McDonald, and joined the Maryland Coalition for Justice and Police Accountability (MCJPA). LWVAAC observers will monitor inclusivity and transparency in both the process and structure of the AAC PAB.

As proposed in Bill 16-22, the AAC PAB will consist of a nine-member board: eight from the County and at least one from the City of Annapolis. Also, the legislation requires that the PAB reflect the racial, gender and cultural diversity of the county. Suggestions, not requirements, include involving representatives from stakeholder communities and individuals with a diversity of experience. Of concern in other Maryland counties are steps to establish boards with membership tilted toward those with law enforcement or legal experience.

AAC PAB Volunteer Observers Needed

Anyone who is interested in following the County Police Accountability Board, please contact Alexis Dorsey at observer@lwvaacmd.org.

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AAC Planning Advisory Board

The Board is involved in what is probably their most significant work as a citizen advisory board—the process of reviewing the Capital Budget and Program FY 2023 - 2028 as submitted by the County Executive. At two significant meetings, the PAB considered presentations of the Capital Projects for departments such as Police, Fire, Anne Arundel County Public Schools, Transportation, Recreation and Parks, and the Office of Information Technology. Guided by the Office of Planning and Zoning personnel, they will continue to meet and discuss these budget requests and then will submit their recommendations to the County Executive and County Council. They also have reviewed the Land Preservation: Park and Recreation Plan (LPPRP) and the Parole Town Center Master Plan. Detailed information about these plans can be viewed [here](#).

Charter Revision Commission continues its decennial meetings and plans to submit its report in March. Several issues have been discussed but not finalized. #

Affordable Housing Update

By: Jeanne Jehl, LWVAAC Member and Affordable Housing Coalition Liaison

In 2020-21, a group of LWVAAC members, led by then-Director Jeanne Jehl, studied affordable housing issues in Anne Arundel County (AAC) to determine if the broad goals of our League's Affordable Housing study, adopted in 1992, remained applicable in the

present day. Based on the study group's findings and detailed presentation, LWVAAC membership agreed to retain the original position.

Soon after concluding its study update, LWVAAC was invited to join the Anne Arundel Affordable Housing Coalition. Jeanne Jehl serves as our liaison. She recently attended the Coalition's business meeting and celebratory annual luncheon.

In addition to Coalition representatives, a number of guests were also present, including members of the Anne Arundel County Council, several Annapolis City Council members, the Executive Director of the Housing Authority City of Annapolis, along with private sector developers who work with the Arundel Community Development Services (ACDS), a private, nonprofit organization that was created in 1993 to address the county's housing and community development needs. A representative of Centro de Ayuda received the Coalition's nonprofit-of-the-year award. Centro de Ayuda provides legal, social, and language services to help low-income immigrants in our neighborhoods access justice and transform their lives.

County Executive Stuart Pittman was guest luncheon speaker. He reviewed the accomplishments of his administration in promoting affordable housing and announced he would allocate \$10 million in federal funds to a Housing Trust Fund. He also recognized ACDS Director Kathy Koch, who retired in December after 40 years with ACDS. #

Community Outreach

Help LWVAAC Bring Civics Education and Civil Discourse to the Community

By: Gail Viamonte, Vice President and Collaborations & Partnerships Chair

On Thursday, March 31, at 6:30 p.m., Anne Arundel County public school teachers Hunter Hammond (Old Mill High School), Steve Bellizzi (Annapolis High School), and Joseph Landgraf (North County High School) will moderate a virtual discussion on *Martin Luther King and the Struggle for Black Voting Rights*. Members of the public are invited to participate actively in this program, modeled after the renowned Harvard Case Method Project approach to civics education, which engages participants in examination of and response to key moments in American democratic process. Ms. Hammond, Mr. Bellizzi, and Mr. Landgraf were nominated by LWVAAC to be trained in this nationally successful approach to learning. This year alone, over 90 such community programs have been held by local Leagues nationwide. We encourage League members and friends to come, revisit history and relive events in ways hauntingly familiar but perhaps different from what you may have experienced or imagined.

In December, in the spirit of giving, LWVAAC members donated over \$1,800 to The Lighthouse, a homeless prevention support center located in Annapolis. Recognizing the career development programs of The Lighthouse, a group of League members also met for breakfast at The Light House Bistro, which provides opportunities to people who have employment barriers, including workforce skills. A “diversity tree”, so named for its array of decorations honoring holidays of several religions, became the centerpiece of the gathering.



Shown here (l-r) League members and guests Vera Herath, Cheryl Menke, Amanda SubbaRao, Debby Chessin (with diversity tree), Marg Duffy (event organizer), Abby Root, Glenis Mitchell, and Kathy Larrabee. Also present, but not pictured, were members Delia Miller, Jeri Schoenfeld, and Mark SubbaRao (photographer).

In League with State & U.S.

The League's Public Policy Positions: How They're Developed and Used

By: Kathy Larrabee (based on the January 2022 *State Board Letter* article by L. Kohn)

LWV public policy positions are based on studies of various issues carried out by members in local and state Leagues. Within local and state Leagues, the findings of a completed study move to a consensus process, wherein members engage in discussion to decide if the study should become a position. If a majority agree that it should, then a new position is adopted. The position is then used to advocate for or against League priorities or public issues.

Developing new positions at the national level (LWVUS) sometimes follows a different process. A local or state League may propose that an already adopted position be adopted by concurrence. This request for national adoption will occur at a LWVUS biennial convention (see right). Following a discussion of pros and cons, concurrence among delegates representing local and state Leagues across the county, the position may be elevated from local or state to a national position. This process may be observed at the LWVUS Convention in June 2022 as the California LWV proposes concurrence on a position related to criminal justice.

In May, prior to the Convention, LWVMD will convene a meeting of all local Maryland league members who will attend the 2022 LWVUS Convention as delegates to review the proposed concurrences and determine how they might relate to [LWVMD's current positions](#). The Boards of the local Maryland Leagues will choose their Convention delegates soon. (see box above)#

About Convention Delegates

Convention voting delegates are members of the LWVUS Board and representatives selected by state and local Leagues. Each local and state League is allotted delegates based on their League level and size. For example, because the LWVAAC member enrollment is between 100 and 149 members as of January 31, LWVAAC will be allotted 3 voting delegates.

LWV Conventions & Councils

The national League of Women Voters and state Leagues, including LWVMD, hold biennial conventions and councils on alternating years. A convention, is typically held over a 3-day period; A council meeting is typically held on a single day. LWVMD's 2022 Council will be held virtually on Saturday, June 4. Keep an eye open for details to be published in the LWVMD *State Board Letter* and on the [LWVMD website](#).

The [2022 LWVUS Convention](#) will be held June 23-26 in Denver, CO. It will be presented in a hybrid format, both in-person and virtually. Convention offers something for everyone, including state and local League delegates and new and longstanding local League members.

Plenary sessions will be livestreamed. Delegates will have online access to debate and vote. Other attendees may observe plenary but without presenting, debating, or voting on any motions. However, they may fully participate in all non-plenary activities.#



2022 ANNUAL MEETING & BRUNCH

Saturday, April 9, 2022

DoubleTree by Hilton Annapolis

210 Holiday Court, Annapolis, MD 21401

- 10:00 a.m. Business Meeting
- 11:00 a.m. Brunch Buffet
- 11:45 a.m. Guest Speaker, Andrea E. Mansfield
- 12:30 p.m. Conclusion



Andrea Mansfield is the current Chair of the Anne Arundel County Charter Revision Commission and a team member at Manis Canning & Associates, a premier lobbying firm in Annapolis. She'll share insights about her work with both organizations.

\$36.50 per person in advance/\$40 per person at door

Guests welcome. RSVP required by March 31, 2022.

Please follow instructions on form or go to lwvaacmd.org/22annual_mtg

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I/WE WILL ATTEND THE ANNUAL MEETING & LUNCH ON APRIL 9, 2022

Name(s) _____

Phone _____ Email _____

of persons _____ @ \$ 36.50. _____ I'm unable to attend but wish to support the League's work.

Check enclosed for \$ _____ Dietary restrictions _____

Please make your check payable to LWVAAC. Mail bottom portion to LWVAAC, P.O. Box 35, Arnold, MD 21012 or RSVP by email and pay at the door with cash or check.

Questions? 443-672-8270 or treasurer@lwvaacmd.org. Thank you!