

THE VOTER

A Quarterly Newsletter of the LWVAAC

December 2022, Issue 127

Calendar of Events

LWVAAC Board Meeting (virtual)

Tue, Dec 13, 3 to 5 p.m.

LWVMD Webinar (virtual)

Making Sense of Our Civic Language

Fri, Dec 16, 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. [RSVP](#)

LWVAAC Board Meeting (virtual)

Tue, Jan 10, 3 to 5 p.m.

LWVAAC Program Planning (virtual)

Tue, Jan 17, 7 to 9 p.m. [RSVP](#)

LWVMD Winter Workshop (virtual)

Tue, Jan 21, 9:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. [RSVP](#)

LWVMD Legislative Day (TBA)

Mon, Feb 6, 10 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

LWVAAC Board Meeting (virtual)

Tue, Feb 14, 3 to 5 p.m.

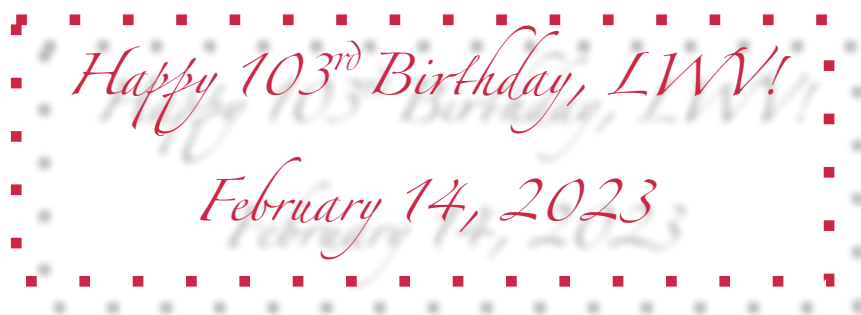


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Join/Renew: www.lwvaacmd.org/join2

Donate: lwvaacmd.org/efdonation



Thank you for giving to
LWVAAC's 2022 [charity drive](#)
in support of the Light House!

Vice President's Letter



Alexis Dorsey

Dear Members,
It will come as no surprise that the last few months have been very busy ones for LWVAAC. Kudos to our Voter Services (VS) team, co-chaired by Vera Herath and Vicki Jordan. Under their leadership, League

volunteers registered voters at schools, correctional facilities, neighborhood events, libraries and just about anywhere that requested our services. The VS team advised other organizations on candidate forum procedures and conducted a voter registrar training for LWVAAC and AAUW members. Last but not least, the VS team produced and distributed 6,500 copies of the popular Anne Arundel County Voters' Guide for the 2022 General Election. We are rightfully proud of their efforts.

Besides our traditional election year responsibilities, another opportunity for service was presented to the LWVAAC by the Associated Press (AP), which is responsible for providing up-to-the-minute polling data to media nationwide. AP requested our help as "stringers" to collect unofficial election night results from local precincts immediately after the polls close. I trekked to a precinct at the Mayo Elementary School in Edgewater for my assignment. Arriving

about 10 minutes before the polls closed, I introduced myself to the Chief Judge and waited for final tabulations to be posted. I was reassured to note how conscientious and careful the election judges were in securing the ballots and running the computerized tabulation. No question of voting integrity there! After receiving the tally, I reported into the AP and headed home. The AP will be looking to the League next election to provide broader coverage. We look forward to helping.

On the Action side, we recently participated, along with other Maryland local Leagues, in selecting the state League's legislative priorities for the 2023 General Assembly session. We appreciate the time and thought members put into our online questionnaire, and we look forward to working together to achieve these legislative goals. For more about the process and results, please see the article on page 9.

The Board has reluctantly accepted the resignation of talented Director Sara Sanders, who stepped down to manage work and personal commitments. If you're curious about what our Board does or interested in taking a leadership role, please consider sitting in on one of our monthly meetings. We meet virtually during the winter months, from 3 to 5 p.m. on the second Tuesday of the month. Email me at vp@lwvaacmd.org with any questions.

On behalf of the LWVAAC Board, I wish you a joyous holiday and a fruitful new year. We'll look forward to seeing you for program planning on January 17, 2023.

~Alexis

Member News

The secret to unwrapping an engaging League experience

By Kathy Larrabee, Director & Membership Chair

How many times have I heard a member say: “OMG, I get too many emails from the League.” Many times, to be honest. But we listen with empathetic ears because it is understandably easy to feel overwhelmed when three League levels choose email as a primary tool for communicating with members. How you choose to manage League email will determine your appreciation for the depth of League’s work locally, statewide, and nationally and also for the engagement opportunities offered you.

Opting out of receiving email, though perhaps tempting, invites isolation and disconnection from the member experience. Members who have opted out of receiving email are often the same members who drift away without ever having been seen.

Key to curbing email frustration relies on email management techniques. Becoming familiar with routine emails sent by LWVAAC, LWVMD, and LWVUS will allow you to quickly identify the sender, determine the topic, and discern if action is required or if the message is simply something nice to know. Respond if you have time, or flag the email for later action. Or delete the email, knowing you have not missed anything but that the message is not of interest to you. Designate a mailbox folder to keep track of Zoom links you receive for meetings, workshops, etc.

The following general list, organized by League levels, may help you identify routine League emails for better managing volume.

LWVAAC Emails

- Announcements of programs and events, often providing a link to the LWVAAC website for RSVP or additional information;
- Requests for member responses to League business—a recent example is the questionnaire on legislative priorities;
- Action Alerts that ask each member to personally take action on an issue by contacting their County elected representative to encourage a vote or other action on a League priority; [Find My Reps](#)
- Links to *The Voter*, LWVAAC’s [quarterly newsletter](#). *The Voter*, which you are reading now, will keep you informed of activities in LWVAAC’s major focus areas, provide a calendar of important future dates, explain county issues, and more; and
- Bulletin Board provides timely League information that comes up between *The Voter* publication dates.

LWVMD Emails

- Announcements for training sessions, workshops, special events—such as Fall and Winter Workshops, Legislative Day, Constitution Day and more.

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- Monthly *State Board Letter* (SBL), which features LWVMD Board-led activities and highlights local League achievements.
- Action Alerts request you to contact your state senator or delegate to advocate on legislation the LWVMD is supporting or opposing.
- Legislative updates sent by LWVMD during the General Assembly session on bills supported by League positions. To manage which advocacy updates you receive, select the topics of interest to you [here](#).
- Fundraising: Local Leagues like ours benefit from a variety of LWVMD-funded resources, including insurance, office equipment, technologies, training programs, and more.

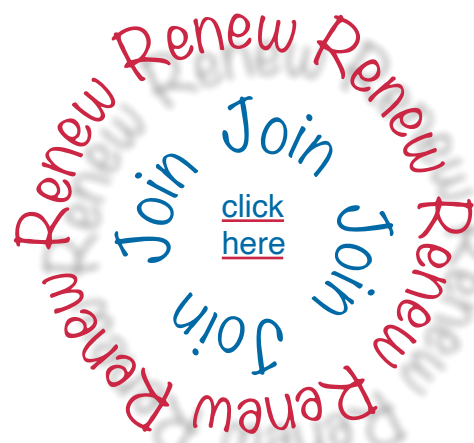
LWVUS Emails

- Monthly updates on national issues LWVUS is observing or lobbying for, announcements concerning Congress, Federal Courts, including SCOTUS, and events/rallies for local League members to support.
- Action Alerts: A request for you to contact your U.S. Representative or Senator to urge support for a particular bill or position of the LWVUS. Action Alerts explain the issue and provide the basis for the League's advocacy.

Knowing about the emails you're receiving and why will help you decide which subjects are most or least important to you. Then you may selectively opt in and out by [visiting the online communications site](#) where member records are maintained. #



Prior to the 2022 general election, LWVAAC members and friends walked the Westfield Annapolis Mall in support of the LWVMD fundraising campaign dubbed Get To The Polls Maryland. Donors sponsored walkers' distances. Shown standing (l-r): Vicki Hutchins, Marguerite Duffy, and Karen Cook. Seated (l-r) Lois Fussell, Cheryl McLeod, Vicki Jordan, and Kathy Larrabee. Two LWVAAC mall walks were organized by LWVAAC Vice President Alexis Dorsey. (Photo by Jesse Fussell)



Resolve to set the League's course for 2023

By Abby Root, Director and Action Co-Chair

LWVAAC members, we need to hear from you. Will you make a resolution to participate in program planning on Tuesday, January 17, 2023, at 7 p.m. via Zoom?

What is *program planning*, you ask? In League lingo, *program* refers to the topics that we choose for study, for education and for advocacy at local, state and national levels. Program can include educational activities to inform our members and community about issues, as well as direct lobbying to achieve the League's public policy goals.

The League takes action on an issue only when we have a position addressing that particular issue. We develop a position on an issue through study and consensus by our members. The League uses its positions to advocate for

change, through testimony, letter writing and in-person meetings with our local representatives.

Studies are the result of program planning. All levels of the League, local, state and national, may undertake a study, whether to develop a new position, update an existing one or simply to gain a deeper understanding of a topic. Not all studies lead to a League position.

Program planning is an annual event and an important part of what makes the League a grassroots organization. Each League member has the opportunity to influence the selection of issues and activities where the League will focus its time and talent.

It takes the enthusiasm and interest of our members to keep our program vital. The program planning process is your voice. We are very interested in your input regarding our programs and positions. Click [here](#) to register. Email action@lwvaacmd.org with any questions or concerns. #



LWVAAC members and friends welcomed the holidays with a festive breakfast at the Light House Bistro, Saturday, December 3. The gathering was part of LWVAAC's charity drive in support of the Light House, Annapolis' homeless prevention support center. Donors have generously given \$800 to LWVAAC's [online collection](#) for the Light House. Donations will be accepted through year-end.

(l-r seated) Alexis Dorsey, Gabrielle Strandquist, Doris Gross, Joyce Martin, Vicki Jordan, Abby Root, Vera Herath, Marg Duffy, Amanda SubbaRao, Jeri Schoenfeld, Susan Crawford, Kathy Lottenbach, Carol Sures. (l-r standing) Roxann King, Yolande Dickerson, Debby Chessin, Kathy Larrabee. Not pictured: Jeanne Jehl. (Photo by Bistro staff)

Face of Our League

Vicki Hutchins

Q: When and where did you first join the League; what prompted you to join?

A: I joined the LWVAAC in spring 2022 in order to learn more about their work before the U.S. midterm and Maryland gubernatorial elections in November. I live in Heritage Harbour, a 55+ community in Annapolis, and as president of my community's civic association, I had reached out to the League for help in planning candidate events. Anyone who is familiar with forums sponsored by the League will understand when I say that it was the best decision I made as a means to inform our residents and to provide them with an opportunity to interact with the candidates.

Q: What civics issues do you care most about?

A: According to Merriam-Webster, CIVICS is a "social science dealing with the rights and duties of citizens." Using that definition, and by extension, in a democracy, in my mind the most important issue is voting. How can we make it easier to vote? How can we emphasize its importance? How can we educate citizens on their right and responsibility? How can we streamline the process? There are many great ideas out there...even Ben & Jerry's has a website!

Q: What was your primary career?

A: I started my career in education with Anne Arundel County Public Schools as a French

Vicki Hutchins explores a cave in the Galapagos while on vacation in 2019. (Photo courtesy of V. Hutchins)



teacher at Lindale Junior High the year it opened in 1971, and later transferred to Old Mill High the year it opened in 1975. After 8 years of teaching, I went into administration as assistant principal at Glen Burnie High, then at Severna Park Junior High, and then principal during the transition of SPJH to Severna Park Middle School. Later I was principal at Central MS and then at Lindale/Brooklyn Park Middle during a major renovation. After my *official* retirement, I worked part-time for 14 summers in the school system's HR department during the teacher hiring season. During that time, I also worked part-time for Johns Hopkins University, supervising candidates for administrative certification during their internship requirement and co-teaching a class on leadership in that program.

Q: What might other League members be interested in knowing about you?

A: I love to travel! That sense of adventure and discovering new places and people might have

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developed during my childhood as an Army brat. My first trip overseas was at the age of 3 with my mother on board the SS United States, headed to meet my father stationed in Germany. Moving every couple of years up and down the east coast, my family ended up at Ft. Meade and, except for 4 years at the College of William and Mary, I've lived in Anne Arundel County ever since. My late husband and I did several university stays and house exchanges in countries such as England, the Netherlands, South Africa, and New Zealand. Such a great way to get to know a place. After John passed away, I started traveling with a wonderful group of friends, and we've been to countries as varied as Italy and Indonesia. I think I'm relatively well-traveled but nothing compared to them. In 2019, we celebrated their 100th country in Morocco.

One of my more unusual (to many people) interests is cemeteries around the world. I've been involved for over 20 years in the tombstone inscription project spearheaded by the AACo Genealogical Society, an effort to document every inscription in the county.

I've lived in Heritage Harbour for 12 years, and I'm active in several community organizations in addition to the Civic Association. A friend and I started a travel group soon after I moved here, and I'm in a book club, a canasta group, and on the Lifelong Learning Committee. I volunteer at Books for International Goodwill, the Maryland State Archives, and a 1723 school in Davidsonville. I'm a member of the Unitarian Universalist Church of Annapolis. #

Annapolis

Julie Belkin

Lisa Lower

Crownsville

Theresa Myers

Edgewater

Sandra Rivera

Gambrills

Zefram Cochrane (student)

Linthicum Heights

Eve Coleman (student)

Severna Park

Jessica McGrath



*** NEWS FLASH ***

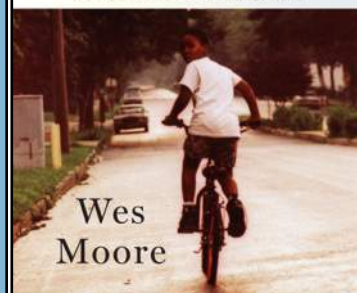
Books for Learning will return in 2023 with the bestseller, **The Other Wes Moore**, authored by the new Governor of Maryland. Member discussion will be in March. Watch your inbox for more info.

NEW YORK TIMES BESTSELLER

The Other Wes Moore

One Name, Two Fates

"Startling and revelatory... a rocketing real-life narrative" —*Baltimore Sun*
"A moving book... a call to arms." —*Chicago Tribune*



Reflection: field trip to Hancock's Resolution



In mid-October, eager to learn about a lesser-known Anne Arundel County historic park in Pasadena, League members ventured to Hancock's Resolution. There, volunteer Director and Docent Diane Finney led an informative tour of the property, which dates back 4 centuries. She touched on the history of Native Americans, Captain John Smith, the War of 1812, and early farming practices along the Patapsco River and Chesapeake Bay.

Thank you to Marguerite Duffy for organizing this fascinating field trip.



Director Finney shares a historic Hancock map; members Lois Fussell (left) and Abby Root (right) listen intently. (Photo by K. Larrabee)



(l-r) Amanda SubbaRao, Kathy Larrabee, Marguerite Duffy, and Alexis Dorsey added stitches to a Story Quilt created by Hancock's Resolution and the Northern Arundel Cultural Preservation Society. (Photo by D. Finney)

Master Gardener Nancy Allred (right) showcases Hancock's native gardens of milkweed, lavender, myriad herbs, and more. (Photo by K. Larrabee)



Learn About
[Hancock's Resolution](#)
Anne Arundel County Historic Park

Action & Advocacy

LWVMD priorities for 2023

By Abby Root, Director and Action Co-Chair

Annually, state Leagues request input from their members on what issues to emphasize during the upcoming state legislative sessions. Advocacy must be supported by public policy positions that have been adopted at the state or national League level.

In determining its legislative priorities, the LWVMD Board weighs a number of factors: local League recommendations; the likelihood that the issue will come before the General Assembly; the availability of Action team* volunteers; Diversity Equity & Inclusion (DEI); and overall capacity.

LWVAAC recently submitted to LWVMD its list of priority areas to be considered for advocacy during the 2023 General Assembly session. Our League's recommendations were based on members' responses to an online survey. LWVAAC member Dona Sauerburger joined Board members Alexis Dorsey, Niecy Chambers, Kathy Larrabee, Joyce Martin, and Abby Root to evaluate the survey results. Issues were organized in three categories, *Making Democracy Work*, *Social and Economic Justice* and *Protecting the Environment*, and each category listed specific issues for members to rank in order of importance.

*Interested in learning to be an advocate with an LWVMD Action team? Check out the [LWVMD Advocacy Training](#) that took place in November. Contact me at action@lwvaacmd.org to learn more.

While our members expressed interest in pursuing all of the listed policy positions, the following issues ranked as our League's highest priorities for LWVMD advocacy.

Making Democracy Work

Highest: *Campaign Reform; Expanding Open Primaries*

High: *Improving the Judicial System; Protecting the Vote*

Although Protecting the Vote is fundamental to the League's mission, it wasn't recommended as a top priority because members felt Maryland had done a good job in this area. In our comments, we advised LWVMD that any threat to Protecting the Vote must receive immediate action by the League.

Social and Economic Justice

Highest: *Affordable Housing; Increased Access to Quality and Affordable Health Care for All; Excellence in Public Education*

High: *Better, More Accessible Public Transportation; Policing Reform; Non-Discrimination and Equity Policies*

Protecting the Environment

Highest: *Reduce/eliminate the Causes of Climate Change; Protect Clean Air and Water*

High: *Reduce Solid Waste*

Although members didn't rank *Improving Land Use* as a top concern for advocacy at the state level, LWVAAC may choose to study and act on the issue at a local level. Our League's [Planning and Zoning position](#) contains multiple goals that could be the basis for action.

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Why are priorities important?

The League does not have resources to focus on every public policy goal. Therefore, we must choose where we want to place our people power and resources to be the most effective.

The 2023 legislative priorities adopted by the LWVMD Board were announced in the [December 2022 State Board Letter](#). To see how they align with our recommendations, please see the article on p. 7 or visit the [LWVMD website](#). #



The League of Women Voters of the United States (LWVUS) filed [an amicus brief](#) in *Moore v. Harper*, an important election law case heard by the U.S. Supreme Court on December 7. LWVUS argued against the “independent state legislature theory” (ISLT), an approach that would remove important checks and balances and give state legislatures complete authority to rewrite the rules regarding how federal elections are run at the state level. LWVMD, along with every other state League in the nation, signed on to the brief. To better understand ISLT, watch this [video](#). (Above) League protestors rally at the Supreme Court on December 7. (Photo courtesy of LWVUS)

Voter Services

General election wrap-up

By Vera Herath, Director and Voter Services Co-Chair

On Tuesday, November 8, Marylanders voted. They cast their ballots safely and securely, electing a new governor, attorney general and comptroller, in addition to other federal, state and local positions. Democracy once again prevailed, with honor and integrity.

Just as in the July primary, voters could cast their ballots in person during early voting (October 27 – November 3) or on Election Day. Alternatively, they could ask to receive a mail-in ballot by regular mail or email. The options for returning a mail-in ballot were plentiful: via USPS postage-paid; deposit in one of the county's 32 drop boxes (locked and camera-monitored 24 hours a day); or return in person to AAC Board of Elections headquarters or to any polling place during voting hours.

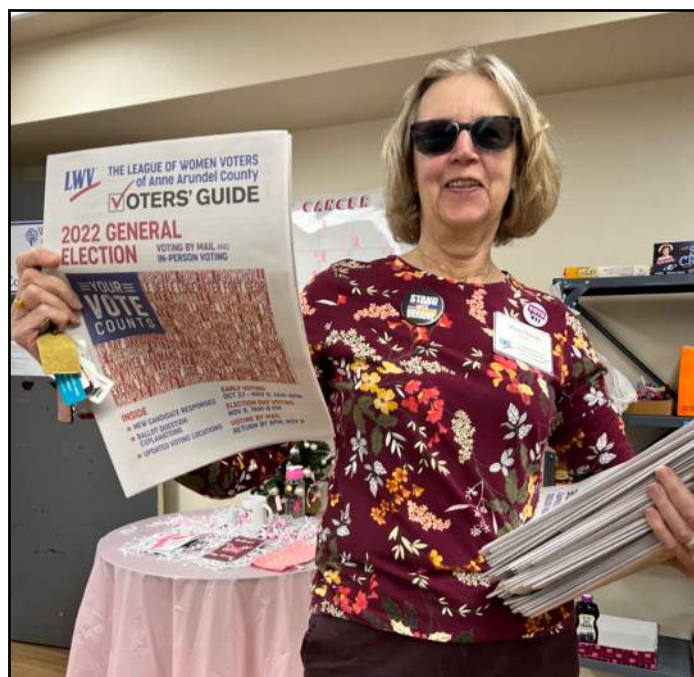
The successful Election Day Page Program, which debuted during the primary, returned for the general election. Nineteen students were assigned to nine polling sites, where they worked 4-hour shifts and earned service-learning credit.

Approximately 10 percent, or 38,925, of Anne Arundel County's eligible 406,492 voters took advantage of in-person early voting. Statewide, the number was about 9 percent, or 381,972. In 2018, about 18 percent of county voters voted early, whereas statewide, the percentage was about the same 9 percent. During the entire election period, about 218,500 of the county's

eligible voters cast ballots. This is 53 percent, as compared with nearly 60 percent in 2018. Many factors affect turnout in midterm elections, so it's difficult to point to any single reason.

Correctly expecting significant use of mail-in ballots, the Maryland State Board of Elections (SBE) took legal action in mid-August, seeking to allow ballot counting to begin before Election Day. On October 7, Maryland's highest court, the Court of Appeals, upheld a Montgomery County Circuit Court ruling in late September, which allowed ballot counting to begin as early as October 1. However, the Anne Arundel County Board of Elections announced on October 15 that it would not engage in early counting, thus making Anne Arundel the largest of the state's

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The Woodside Gardens community organizers invited LWVAAC twice this fall to offer voter services to food pantry patrons. (Above) Voter Services Co-Chair Vera Herath hands out the Voters' Guide at the second event.

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jurisdictions that did not start counting before Election Day. Though the county managed to meet the November 18 deadline for finalizing election results, it came at the cost of a massive increase of work to process nearly 60,000 mail-in ballots in a short period of time. The canvassing took twice as long as usual, 6 days instead of the typical 3 days.

The final tallies for all races statewide are to be certified by the state Board of Elections on December 13. In the meantime, its website provides [detailed and frequently updated information](#). #

LWVAAC answers the call, providing voter registration and education

by Vera Herath, VS Co-Chair

Fall of an election year is an extremely busy time for the LWVAAC Voter Services (VS) Team. For that matter, VS is busy all the time during an election year!

Adding to its already full schedule, VS stepped up this fall to meet a challenging request from the Anne Arundel County Public Schools (AACPS). During a 2-week period in October, the team helped coordinate and staff

a voter registration drive at all 14 AACPS high schools. The result was 225 newly registered voters and another 109 students who took applications and information home! VS enlisted six seasoned LWVAAC registrars, plus five from the NAACP, and five newly trained League and AAUW members to pull off this successful effort. Our team encountered students who were interested, aware and committed to making a difference. They are the future, and the League will be there to fan the flame.

In September, VS hosted an in-person Voter Registration Volunteer (VRV) training conducted by an instructor from the Anne Arundel County Board of Elections (BOE). Due to a recent change in BOE regulations, those who complete the training are certified to mentor others to be registrars. Given the demand for VRVs this year, LWVAAC opened the event to AAUW members and friends. In all, 19 people took part, including 16 LWVAAC members.

The work of the VS team is rewarding and unlimited. Please



LWVAAC members interested in helping the public register to vote recently took advantage of a workshop hosted by LWVAAC and led by Nicole Hill of the Anne Arundel County Board of Elections. The training, held at the Severna Park Public Library in September, certified participants as registrars and instructors. While munching lunch provided by LWVAAC, members became acquainted, reacquainted, and energized to serve. (Photo by K. Larrabee)

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AAC BOE trainer Nicole Hill signs registrar certification cards for LWVAAC directors Abby Root and Carol Sures. (Photo by K. Larrabee)

consider donating several hours when you can. Contact me at votersvc@lwvaacmd.org. There are many other ways to engage, at home and in person. We welcome any suggestions that help us to better reach lesser-served areas of the county and encourage young people toward civic involvement. Please be in touch, all ideas are food for thought. #

VS seeks library liaison

Would you like to help grow the strong partnership between LWVAAC and the Anne Arundel County Public Libraries (AACPL)? Please consider joining the VS team as our AACPL liaison. Our county libraries are extremely supportive of the League's work to educate voters and eager to find creative ways to serve county residents. As part of a collaborative and innovative effort, you'll have the opportunity to reach and benefit a large and diverse audience. Email votersvc@lwvaacmd.org. #



The LWVAAC partnered with the NAACP-AAC to provide voter services at the annual Kunta Kinte Heritage Festival, held in Annapolis each September since 1987. The festival celebrates the perseverance, education, and cultural heritage of Africans, African Americans, and Caribbean people of African descent. Center: LWVAAC Voter Services Co-Chair Vicki Jordan was privileged to help Miss Annapolis, Destinie Johnson, register to vote. (Photo courtesy of the NAACP)



Gina Post, Assistant Branch Manager at the Discoveries: the Library at the Mall in Annapolis welcomes a delivery of the Voters' Guide. She recounted the library's monthly Teen Service Project session at which Vera Herath, LWVAAC Voter Services Co-Chair, talked with teens about the importance of voting. (Photo by K. Larrabee)

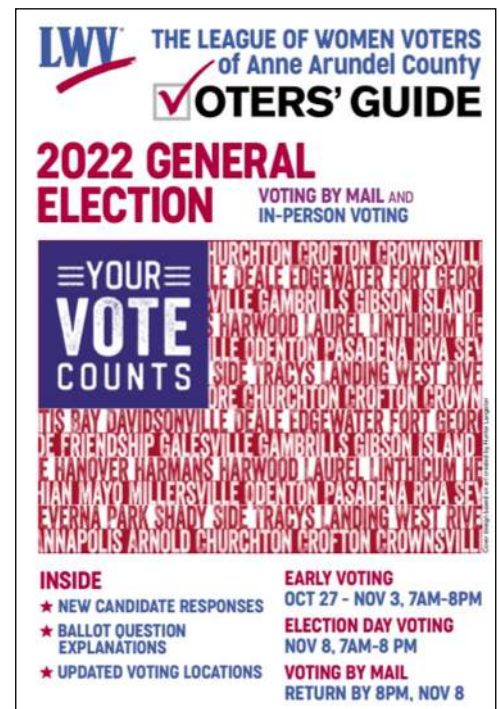
Promoting the LWV Brand: Producing, Publishing, and Distributing the Popular Voters' Guide

Each election cycle, League volunteers across Maryland work to create their county's voters' guide, as well as voters' guides for counties without local Leagues. LWVMD makes this achievement possible by providing extensive training and support, in addition to licensing the VOTE411.org platform for statewide use. The election information gathered by these volunteers is shared with the public at VOTE411.org, on League websites, and in print form.

Anne Arundel County voters continue to demonstrate a demand for print copies of our voters' guide, as evidenced by specific requests and donations. LWVAAC allocates funds for printing the voters' guide in its annual Education Fund budget. Thanks to our donors' generous support, LWVAAC was able to print 7,500 guides for the 2022 primary election and 6,500 guides for the general election, both in a tabloid newspaper format. Of these totals, 1,000 were provided to LWVMD as part of a joint study with Salisbury University on the effect of the print guide on voter turnout.

League volunteers distributed the remaining copies to AA County public libraries and senior centers, the County Board of Elections, educational institutions, and other public facilities. LWVAAC also mailed or hand-delivered print Guides upon request. LWVAAC voter registration events, of course, provided a perfect opportunity to share the Guides with the public. LWVAAC's explanation of the eight local ballot questions generated many thanks from perplexed voters; several made donations in appreciation while others joined the League!

The LWVAAC Board thanks our members who researched and explained the ballot questions and who helped distribute the guides throughout the county. #



County Insights

Welcome new Anne Arundel County Council, the county's elected lawmaking body. Newly elected Council members are Pete Smith (D), Julie Hummer (D), and Shannon Leadbetter (R). Re-elected Council members are Allison Pickard (D), Nathan Volke (R), Amanda Fiedler (R), and Lisa Rodvien (D). Smith is returning to the Council after a 4 year hiatus. He served District 1 as an appointee in 2012-13, and was elected to a full term in 2014.

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Pete Smith, Dist. 1



Allison Pickard, Dist. 2



Nathan Volke, Dist. 3



Julie Hummer, Dist. 4



Amanda Fiedler, Dist. 5



Lisa Rodvien, Dist. 6



Shannon Leadbetter, Dist. 7

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Following a swearing-in ceremony on December 5, each Council member begins a 4-year term, 2023-2026. In the recent general election, 80 percent of county voters responded favorably to the ballot question allowing Council members to serve a maximum of three consecutive 4-year terms rather than the two consecutive terms previously permitted. While loosening term limits for Council members brings Anne Arundel closer in line with other Maryland jurisdictions, it may have fiscal repercussions. As an employee of the County, a Council member who serves more than 10 years is eligible for pension benefits.

At their first meeting, the new Council unanimously passed a resolution to make Pete Smith council chair and Allison Pickard vice chair. Smith is the first Black to become council chair, according to the council's administrative officer.

On a scale of 1 (curious) to 10 (genius), where does your Council knowledge register? If you are a 10, please share your knowledge with others, in and



Steuart Pittman was sworn in as Anne Arundel County Executive on December 5 to serve a second 4-year term. The oath was administered by County Circuit Court Clerk Scott Poyer. The inauguration was held outdoors at the site of the future Crownsville Hospital Memorial Park. Credited with the state transfer of ownership to AAC, Mr. Pittman is set to revitalize the long-abandoned complex into a hallmark project that will serve as both a hub for behavioral health resources and a memorial to those of color who suffered and died there as a result of abusive practices. (Photo by K. Larrabee)

outside the League. Otherwise, consider learning more by dropping in on a County Council meeting. You may attend in person: 1st and 3rd Mondays of each month (except August), 7 p.m. at Arundel Center, 44 Calvert Street, Annapolis. (Parking is nearby.) Or, you may tune in from home on your local TV cable channel [listed here](#). #

To join the League's Observer Corps and attend Council or other government meetings on behalf of the LWVAAC, contact Alexis at observer@lwvaacmd.org Observer Corps members, who attend in-person meetings, often partner and carpool, enjoying the comradery.

County names PAB Charging Committee

By Kathy Larrabee, Director

Anne Arundel County's progress to fully establish a Police Accountability Board (PAB), as mandated by state law and further defined by County legislation, continues with the addition of a new Administrative Charging Committee (ACC). The ACC will review the findings of the law enforcement agency that conducts the investigation of a complaint to determine if an officer should be administratively charged. A trial board, the third prong of ensuring accountability, in turn, will adjudicate matters for which police officers are subject to discipline.

The five member ACC is made up of two members appointed by County Executive Stuart Pittman and two members appointed by the PAB. The PAB Chair Jeanette Ortiz, Esquire, will serve as the fifth member.

From among approximately 100 applicants, County Executive Pittman appointed the following:

- **Charlett Bundy**, an attorney with more than two decades of experience in corporate governance and employment law, who served as a Civil Rights Investigator with the Maryland Commission on Civil Rights.
- **Curtis Zurcher**, a retired intelligence analyst and U.S. Air Force NCO with deep experience in personnel, discipline, and training issues.

The PAB appointed:

- **Dr. Andrew Miller**, an assistant professor of political science at the U.S. Naval Academy, who

wrote his doctoral dissertation at MIT and whose research focuses on citizen-police cooperation in gang-contested communities.

- **Lisa Snead**, an attorney and senior staff counsel with Anne Anne Arundel Public Schools who represents the County Board of Education on EEO matters.

For detailed PAB information, see the [PAB Fact Sheet](#). #

AAC Principal of the Year

According to an Anne Arundel County Public Schools (AACPS) press

release, Richard Rogers, principal of Mills-Parole Elementary School in Annapolis, has been named the recipient of the 2022-2023 George Arlotto Leadership

Award and will represent AACPS in *The Washington Post* Principal of the Year program later this year.

Rogers is the second consecutive elementary school principal and second consecutive Annapolis cluster principal to win the award.

A veteran educator with more than 27 years' experience in public, private, and charter schools, Rogers served as a principal in Washington, D.C., public schools for 11 years before coming to Anne Arundel County Public Schools in 2017. He served as principal at North Glen Elementary School in Glen Burnie from 2017 to 2020 before moving to Mills-Parole Elementary School. #



New Resilience Authority To Tackle Rising Seas

By Kathy Larrabee, Director

Anne Arundel County is rich in history and natural beauty, enjoyed by its residents and tourists alike. The county's 500 miles of waterfront, including coastline along the western shore of the Chesapeake Bay, rivers, and creeks, is a chief attraction, supporting all manners of paddlers, boaters, sailors, and marine-related businesses. But this beauty comes with a high price tag for the county and the city of Annapolis, which accounts for 17 miles of the total county coastline. Low coastal areas flood on a regular basis, especially City Dock.

Driven by tidal conditions and sea-level rise, the county is experiencing one of the largest increases in flooding in the country.

Portions of the Annapolis City Dock are underwater 50 to 60 days a year, up from 3 to 4 days a year merely 50 years ago.



*Flooded Annapolis City Dock and Main Street
(Photo courtesy of City of Annapolis)*

In 2019, for example, during record turnout for the 50th Annual Sailboat Show at City Dock, a sudden nor'easter tested the city's infrastructure as a tidal flood raised the water level more than 4 feet above normal for more than 24 hours. Gates were closed and booths were flooded. Moreover, a 2019 [study](#) led by Stanford University confirms that flooding is hurting Annapolis business overall. The study suggests that current flooding is reducing visits to downtown Annapolis by about 2 percent per year. Another foot of sea level rise would cut the number of visitors by 24 percent, the study authors estimated.

Annapolis Mayor Gavin Buckley made flooding mediation a cornerstone of his campaign for office when first elected in 2017 and then again for re-election in 2021. Under his administration, and the leadership of Robert Clark, President and CEO of Historic Annapolis, Inc., a City Dock Action Committee (CDAC) took root, comprising more than 90 stakeholders who spent more than 7 months creating a blueprint entitled [Transforming City Dock](#) to address the dock's future. The rebuild of the Noah Hillman Garage currently underway is intended to add parking that will eventually be

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eliminated at the dock when resiliency solutions transform the dock area.

The city's flooding issues have been studied numerous times over the years resulting in a patchwork of ideas and first steps that failed to clear bureaucratic hurdles or produce sufficient, reliable funding sources. Now, pulling together, city and county leaders are on a new funding tack to rescue our state capital from rising tides. Assisted by legislation introduced in 2020 by state Senator Sarah Elfreth and now a law, Maryland cities and counties may establish finance authorities for climate resilience

The U.S. Naval Academy, a City Dock neighbor, announces a \$37.5 million project to protect against sea level rise

projects. The authorities are allowed to borrow money for

infrastructure projects through municipal bonds. In a recent media interview, Senator Elfreth, explained the importance of her legislation. "The city [Annapolis] is prohibited from borrowing against future revenues unless that money is coming from a dedicated source, such as a resilience authority." In turn, the Anne Arundel County Council passed legislation last year to provide for the Resilience Authority's articles of incorporation, membership, appointed staff, and powers. This local ordinance specifically states "the Resilience Authority may issue and sell bonds that are limited obligations and are not a pledge of the faith and credit or taxing power of the County or the City of Annapolis."

Moving right along, in several recent press releases, County Executive Steuart Pittman announced Dan Nees as Interim Executive Director of the Resilience Authority of Annapolis and Anne Arundel County, to serve for 9 months, and named the appointed members of the Authority's Board of Directors. Mr. Pittman described the Authority as the first multi-jurisdictional authority



Dan Nees, Interim Director of the Resilience Authority of Annapolis and Anne Arundel County. (Photo courtesy of AAC Executive's Office)

in the nation established to finance and support infrastructure that will ensure communities are resilient to the impacts of climate change.

Dan Nees, an expert on environmental facets of global and community sustainability, stepped forward to oversee the initial structure and strategies of the Authority. He will be assisted by Throwe Environmental, LLC, where he is currently director of finance and policy. Throwe offers clients analysis, technical assistance, and outreach to finance the impacts of climate change.

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Nees served on the Annapolis CDAC in 2019-2020 and, over the past decade, managed a variety of projects related to the Chesapeake Bay and Anne Arundel County in his capacity as a director of the University of Maryland (UMD) Environmental Finance Center. See his [resume](#) to learn more.

The Resilience Authority's Board of Directors will serve as the governing body for the authority to work with residents to set priorities and with the city and county to develop a project portfolio. According to the County's press release, the Board offers a diverse background of experience and knowledge which will help the Authority secure funding opportunities and implement meaningful projects to prepare the county for sea level rise, increased flooding, heat waves and other extreme weather events. Board members are appointed to 4-year terms.

To keep up-to-date on the Authority's progress and community outreach efforts, periodically [check in here](#). #

Who's Who in the Resilience Authority

County Executive Pittman's appointments:

- **Jamie Benoit**, Chairman and CEO, Information Analysis, Inc.
- **Teresa Sutherland**, CPA
- **Veronique Bugnion**, CEO of Clearly Energy, Inc. and Johns Hopkins University Professor of climate finance
- **Stacy Schaeffer**, Land Conservation Expert at RES
- **Mike Sewell**, Safety Director, Ernest Maier, Inc.
- **Emily Clifton**, Associate Executive Director, Low Impact Development Center
- **Mariah Davis**, Senior Policy and Campaigns Manager, Choose Clean Water Coalition/National Wildlife Federation

Mayor Buckley's appointments:

- **Jared Littmann**, Owner of K&B True Value
- **Nate Betnum**, Self-employed
- **Vince Leggett**, Founder, Blacks of the Chesapeake Foundation