



# THE VOTER

*A Quarterly Newsletter of the LWVAAC*

March 2023, Issue 128

## Calendar of Events

**LWVMD Maryland Youth Voter Summit** (virtual)  
Sat, Mar 11, 1 p.m. [RSVP](#) (see p. 14)

**LWVAAC Board Meeting** (virtual)  
Tue, Mar 14, 3-5 p.m.

**LWVAAC Books for Learning**  
*The Other Wes Moore*  
Wed, Mar 22, 11:45 a.m. [RSVP](#)  
Busch Annapolis Library, 1410 West Street  
(see p. 9)

**League Lunch** (separate checks)  
Wed, Mar 22, 1 p.m. [RSVP](#)  
Paul's Homewood Cafe, 919 West Street  
(see p. 9)

**LWVAAC Annual Meeting & Brunch**  
Speaker: Dr. Mark Bedell, AACPS Superintendent  
Sat, Apr 15, 11 a.m. - 1:30 p.m. [RSVP](#)  
Queen Anne Ballroom, Crowne Plaza Hotel,  
173 Jennifer Road, Annapolis (see p. 8)

**LWVAAC Earth Day Commemoration**  
*Restoring the Bay: The Good, Bad & Ugly*  
Speaker: Gerald Winegrad, Environmentalist  
Sun, Apr 23, 2-3:30 p.m. [RSVP](#) (see p. 9)  
Busch Annapolis Library, 1410 West Street

**LWVMD Day on Capitol Hill** (TBD)  
Mon, May 8

**LWVMD Convention** (hybrid)  
Fri-Sun, June 2-4  
Hampton Hotel, Frederick, MD

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## LWVAAC Online

Alfa Stevens, President, [pres@lwvaacmd.org](mailto:pres@lwvaacmd.org)  
Alexis Dorsey, VP, [vp@lwvaacmd.org](mailto:vp@lwvaacmd.org)  
Voter Services, [votersvc@lwvaacmd.org](mailto:votersvc@lwvaacmd.org)  
Membership, [membership@lwvaacmd.org](mailto:membership@lwvaacmd.org)  
Editorial Staff, [editor@lwvaacmd.org](mailto:editor@lwvaacmd.org)  
LWVAAC Directors, [board-aac@lwvmd.org](mailto:board-aac@lwvmd.org)  
Website: [www.lwvaacmd.org](http://www.lwvaacmd.org)  
Facebook: @lwvaac Phone: 443-672-8270  
Join/Renew: [www.lwvaacmd.org/join2](http://www.lwvaacmd.org/join2)  
Donate: [lwvaacmd.org/efdonation](http://lwvaacmd.org/efdonation)  
Voter Toolkit: [lwvaacmd.org/voter\\_toolkit](http://lwvaacmd.org/voter_toolkit)

## Vice President's Letter



Dear Members,  
Our League frequently collaborates with other organizations, among them the American Association of University Women (AAUW), Anne Arundel County Public Libraries (AACPL) and the Anne Arundel County

Public Schools (AACPS). As a retired teacher, I particularly welcome LWVAAC's involvement with the public schools. In past years, our members have served as judges for We The People, a civics education curriculum that culminates in a mock Congressional hearing in which students must demonstrate their understanding of the Constitution. For the past 2 years, we have recommended high school teachers to obtain professional training through the Harvard Case Method Project, sponsored by LWVUS. Our Voter Services team regularly assists with voter registration at the 14 AACPS high schools. Most recently, a League member served as a judge for the annual Regional History Day contest and presented a prize on LWVAAC's behalf. (See pp. 6-7.) With so many overlapping interests, it's only natural we should invite Dr. Mark Bedell, the new AACPS Superintendent of Schools, to address our Annual Meeting.

As the world gradually emerges from the worst of the pandemic, in-person gatherings are our reward. It was a pleasure to catch up with members at the Presidents' Day Mall Walk celebrating the League's 103rd anniversary, and the reception for the new AA County Council (see p. 7 and 10, respectively). Looking ahead, the future looks bright. I encourage you to mark your calendars for the in-person discussion of our new Governor's book followed by an optional lunch, the annual membership meeting and brunch, and Earth Day insights from a renowned Chesapeake Bay environmental advocate. Each is an opportunity to stimulate your intellect while engaging with fellow Leaguers.

We remain grateful for the option of virtual meetings, an unknown alternative not so long ago. Despite the downsides, videoconferencing facilitates participation, eliminating the need to drive at night, hire a sitter or schedule a snow date. Zoom allowed Abby Root to lead a very successful, early January program planning session and it's the way our Board meets on a monthly basis.

As we adjust to daylight savings and move toward summer, I look forward to seeing you, on screen and in person. Thank you for your participation and membership. Happy Women's History Month and Welcome Spring!

~ Alexis

## Member News

### Building Capacity to Accomplish the Mission

By Kathy Larrabee, Director

As the number of nonprofits in Maryland grows, capacity building becomes more important because each competes for leaders, active members, and sufficient revenue sources. The term capacity building means doing whatever is needed to bring your nonprofit to the next level of operational, programmatic, financial, or organizational maturity, so it may more effectively and efficiently advance its mission. Building organizational capacity helps put a nonprofit on solid footing as the landscape shifts in a fast-paced environment. In recent times, the pandemic obliged volunteer organizations to find new ways to sustain connections with members and public audiences.

As a grassroots nonprofit, the LWV must be ever mindful of capacity building for operational and organizational efficiency. The sustainability of our 103-year-old, three-tiered, national network is supported by local Leagues. LWVAAC is one of 15 local Maryland Leagues. With collective power in mind, LWVUS President Deborah Ann Turner often emails us about the [League Structure Transformation Plan](#), a strategic capacity building effort begun several years ago. An LWVUS task force determined that “to strengthen the League’s grassroots power, LWV members need a unified understanding of what it means to be a League member. Likewise, state and local Leagues need



*At the annual summer retreat, members concentrated on building the capacity of the LWVAAC for the year to come. (Photo by K. Larrabee)*

a unified understanding of what it means to be affiliated with the national League of Women Voters.”

Thinking about the League as a long-standing, national network, what inspired you to join? What does it mean to you to be a League member? How will you personally support the League’s efforts to build organizational capacity for future sustainability? Perhaps your role begins with small steps.

Two significant capacity building activities you might consider:

**Peer Learning** is one of the best ways for new members to learn League principles and practices and [about county and state government](#). Learn by doing. Set a goal to understand grassroots government and politics as well as you know national government and politics. [Click here](#) to contact the LWVAAC

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Membership Director to be paired with a veteran League mentor to learn at your own pace and on your own schedule.

**Leadership Development** is essential for an organization to flourish. Most organizational decisions come from its leadership. The process of developing strong leaders involves training and practice. If you're already a knowledgeable Leaguer, considering developing new skill sets, or using already-honed skills to help your Board. [Arrange to attend a few Board meetings](#) as an observer, register for LWVMD training opportunities presented via email and on the [LWVMD website](#) throughout the year. Learn how to be an advocate for League priorities. What are

those priorities? How are they determined each year? Learn the processes by which these and public policy positions that support advocacy are developed.

To begin a League-learning journey, plan to attend the LWVAAC annual membership meeting on Saturday, April 15 (details on p. 8). This meeting, including the workbook you'll receive before the meeting, sets the stage for the coming business year. In concert, plan to attend the LWVMD Convention June 3-4 in Frederick, MD. Every small step you take to engage with the LWV will help build the LWV's overall capacity for a strong sustainable national presence. #

## Faces of our League

### Danielle Dyer

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

I joined in August 2022 through the League of Women's Voter of Anne Arundel County website. There was an associate that I met at a function who told me that she was a member of the League of Women Voters in Baltimore County. She told me how great it was and that she was a member for many years. That is what prompted me to join the League.

**Q: What civics issues do you care most about?**

I care about economic development and education.

**Q: What is your primary career?**

I am a Contracts Specialist at the U.S. Department of Defense

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

I like to travel, exercise, and write poetry. #





## Dawn Edgerton-Cameron

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

I'm a new League member, though I became familiar with the League at least a decade ago through the Voters Guide (which was a great resource when we initially moved to Annapolis). I decided to join now because I've spent the last several years trying to stamp out misinformation and have respectful discussions that cultivate critical thinking skills around political topics. I've taken the past couple of years to re-energize myself and am now able to move beyond "keyboard warrior" to taking tangible actions to elevate and protect our democracy.

**Q: What civics issues do you care most about?**

Reproductive rights / gender equity, common sense gun control legislation, voter rights protections and creating an informed voting public!

**Q: What is your primary career?**

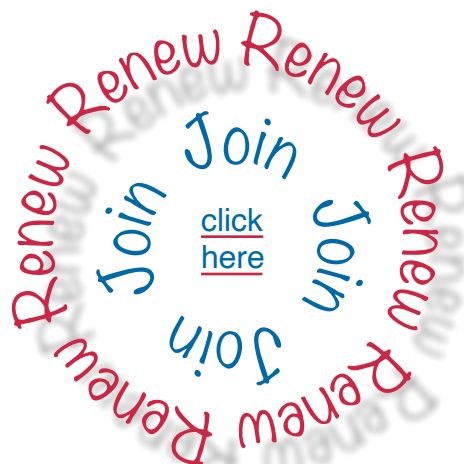
I am a Financial Advisor with Edward Jones. "Women in Transition" (women who have recently divorced, been widowed, retired, relocated or changed jobs) are a special interest of my practice since I'm also passionate about helping to close the wealth gap.

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

My husband, Perry, and I moved to Annapolis in 2011 to be closer to Navy football. I am an equestrian, "dog-mom" to Dutch, and a "foodie" who loves to travel and read. I am involved in several community groups, including St. Margaret's Pony Club. #



*The 2023 Member Directory was recently mailed to all LWVAAC members. In addition to member and Board contact information, the directory contains the LWVAAC bylaws, local positions, and a calendar of events. Click to request a copy.*



## Community Outreach

### LWVAAC supports Regional History Day competition

By Cynthia Barry

I volunteered to be a judge at the recent Anne Arundel County Regional History Day Contest, representing the LWVAAC. The event was held at Broadneck High School on February 8. I thought it important for young people in 6th through 12th grades to see that the League of Women Voters values an awareness of history and engagement in civic affairs.

Sponsored by Maryland Humanities, the annual History Day Contest challenges middle and high school students, working individually or in small groups, to create a project that requires critical thinking, research, analysis, writing, and public speaking skills.

The theme of this year's contest is *Frontiers in History—People, Places, Ideas*. Our League sponsored a Community Special Award for the Project Best Representing Women's History. This commendation is for a "project that focuses on an individual, event, or movement and while connecting to the annual theme proves why the impacts made are valuable to the culture, history, economics, or politics of the United States or world."

Judges received training prior to the event and were assigned to teams. My team judged the Documentary category and nominated one project—on trailblazing combat photographer

Margaret Bourke-White. There are five categories—documentary, paper, website, performance, and poster exhibit. Each category can nominate one project for a Special Award in addition to or including the nominees for overall 1st and 2nd place winners. The top two winners go on to represent the county at State and National awards levels.

During my day of judging, I saw the students' enthusiasm for their topics, the way the student teams worked together, the variety of topics, the commitment, the creativity of presentation, and the depth of research. I could easily infer the dedication of the teachers.

All projects had to have annotated bibliographies of primary and secondary sources and show a broad range of sources. I came away thinking this is an excellent community and educational



*League volunteer Cindy Barry serves as a judge of student projects at the Anne Arundel Regional History Day Contest. (Photo by K. Larrabee)*

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endeavor and gives a visible and favorable profile to the League, most especially in young people's eyes.

I enjoyed the experience of judging and I look forward to attending the 2023 Anne Arundel County Regional History Day Expo and Awards Ceremony on March 7 along with other League members. It will be my honor to present the Special Award on the LWVAAC's behalf. #

## MARYLAND HISTORY DAY

[Click here to learn about the 2023 Contest.](#)



*At the Regional History Day awards ceremony held at Broadneck High School on March 7, League member Cindy Barry presents a prize on behalf of the LWVAAC to Miori Schoeder of Crofton High School for a winning project that best represented women in history. Miori's project focused on Agnes Varda (1928-2019), who was a photographer, film director, key Paris-based figure in modern film history, and one of the world's leading filmmakers. She began a movement to give directors full creative control over their work, allowing them to eschew overwrought narrative in favor of improvisational, existential storytelling. (Photo by K. Larrabee)*



*League members show their spirit on Presidents' Day, walking at Westfield Annapolis Mall. (l-r) Alexis Dorsey, Derek and Judith Thompson, Niecy Chambers and Kathy Larrabee. (Photo by A. Myers)*



## League Events

### With Spring comes Annual Meeting

By Niecy Chambers, Treasurer

Whether you're new to the League or a 50-year veteran, the annual membership meeting is a highlight of the Spring calendar. It encompasses the perfect blend of substance, purpose and fun: an informative guest speaker, key decision-making by the League's grassroots, a nourishing meal, and abundant interesting conversationalists. Please mark your calendar for the LWVAAC annual meeting to be held on Saturday, April 15, 11:00 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. at the Crowne Plaza Hotel Annapolis.

Upon arriving, you'll have the chance to enjoy a cup of coffee or tea while getting reacquainted or meeting other members for a first time. So much catching up to do! Next, we'll tackle the League business and then reward ourselves with a brunch buffet. Finally, we'll gain fresh insight into our county school system with remarks by the new AACPS Superintendent, Dr. Mark T. Bedell. To prepare for the

Q&A period, read the feature article about our guest speaker on p. 18 of LWVAAC's [September 2022 Voter](#).

During the business meeting, members will be asked to approve the 2023-2024 budget, elect a president and secretary along with several directors, adopt amendments to the bylaws and propose activities, events, advocacy work or initiatives they would like LWVAAC to undertake in the coming year. We'll also vote on program recommendations. (See Program on p. 16.) You can understand why member presence at the annual meeting is essential to setting the course for a new League year.

To ensure that members are informed about their voting options, the Board will email the proposed budget, bylaws, nominations and

program recommendations on or before March 15. For the Annual Meeting on April 15, the Board will assemble and distribute a comprehensive *Annual Meeting Workbook* that contains portfolio reports recapping LWVAAC's activities throughout the current year. [Click here to view prior year workbooks.](#)

Please [contact me](#) if you have any questions and keep an eye out for email updates concerning Annual Meeting. #

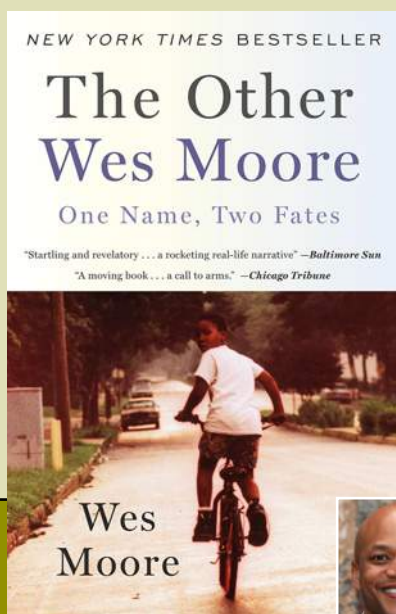
[Register for Annual Meeting & Brunch](#)  
\$40/person



*Members get down to business during the 2022 Annual Meeting. (Photo by K. Larrabee)*



## Book Discussion & Lunch Outing



WEDNESDAY - MARCH 22, 2023  
11:45 A.M. TO 12:45 P.M.  
MICHAEL E. BUSCH ANNAPOLIS LIBRARY  
1410 WEST STREET, ANNAPOLIS 21401

LEARN HOW OUR NEW GOVERNOR'S TEENAGE LIFE INFORMED HIS IDEAS FOR JUVENILE JUSTICE REFORM. A NEW YORK TIMES BESTSELLER AND REQUIRED READING IN MANY HIGH SCHOOLS, THE BOOK IS ESPECIALLY TIMELY FOR UNDERSTANDING THE GOVERNOR'S COMMUNITY SERVICE AGENDA.

### [RSVP HERE](#)

PLEASE JOIN US FOR LUNCH (BUY-YOUR OWN) AFTER THE DISCUSSION AT NEARBY:  
PAUL'S HOMEWOOD CAFE  
919 WEST ST, ANNAPOLIS, MD 21401

## LWVAAC 2023 EARTH DAY COMMEMORATION

### *Restoring the Chesapeake Bay: The Good, the Bad, and the Ugly*

Featuring former State  
Senator Gerald  
Winegrad

Sunday, April 23

2:00 p.m.

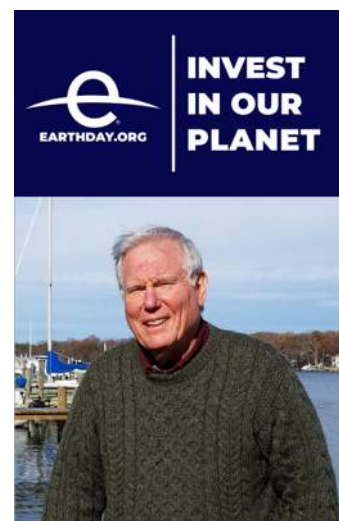
Busch Library, 1410 West Street, Annapolis

Former Senator Gerald Winegrad has devoted himself to environmental causes for 53 years. He will examine the results of 39 years of formal efforts to restore the Chesapeake Bay in which he was integrally involved.

Bay restoration efforts are based on limiting nutrients and sediment that cause living resources to decline. You will learn from an expert insider on the successes and failures in achieving these goals and impediments to further progress. He will detail what needs to be done and how citizens can take actions to accomplish saving the Bay. The former Senator will pull no punches in revealing the sometimes inconvenient truths about restoring the Bay.

His extensive Bay experience as a life-long Marylander, environmental attorney, state legislator, member of the Chesapeake Bay Commission, and graduate school professor teaching a course he wrote on Bay restoration makes this a session one won't want to miss. #

[RSVP HERE](#)



Gerald Winegrad

## Informal & informative get-together with Anne Arundel Council members

By Kathy Larrabee, Director and Membership Chair

A recent face-to-face gathering with Anne Arundel County Council members and League colleagues was a breath of fresh air after too many virtual events in past years. The intimate gathering took place at Picante restaurant in Annapolis several hours before Council convened a regular bi-monthly meeting at which the League was scheduled to testify in support of a bill to expand affordable housing options.

At Picante with League members, Council members homed in on goals aimed at developing strong and prosperous county communities. Conversation ranged from safety and security of communities to quality-of-life programs for families and improved education for children, to possible solutions to manage extreme traffic accessing the Chesapeake Bay Bridge through Anne Arundel County. (See next page for Councilmanic district map.) #

1. Pete Smith, District 1, is Council Chair. He is returning to the Council after last representing District 1 from 2014-18. He spoke passionately about the opportunity for this Council and County administration to help define the character of Anne Arundel County 30 years from now through incremental changes and innovative programs. He related his childhood experiences as an impetus for his determination to focus on community safety, quality schools and job opportunities.

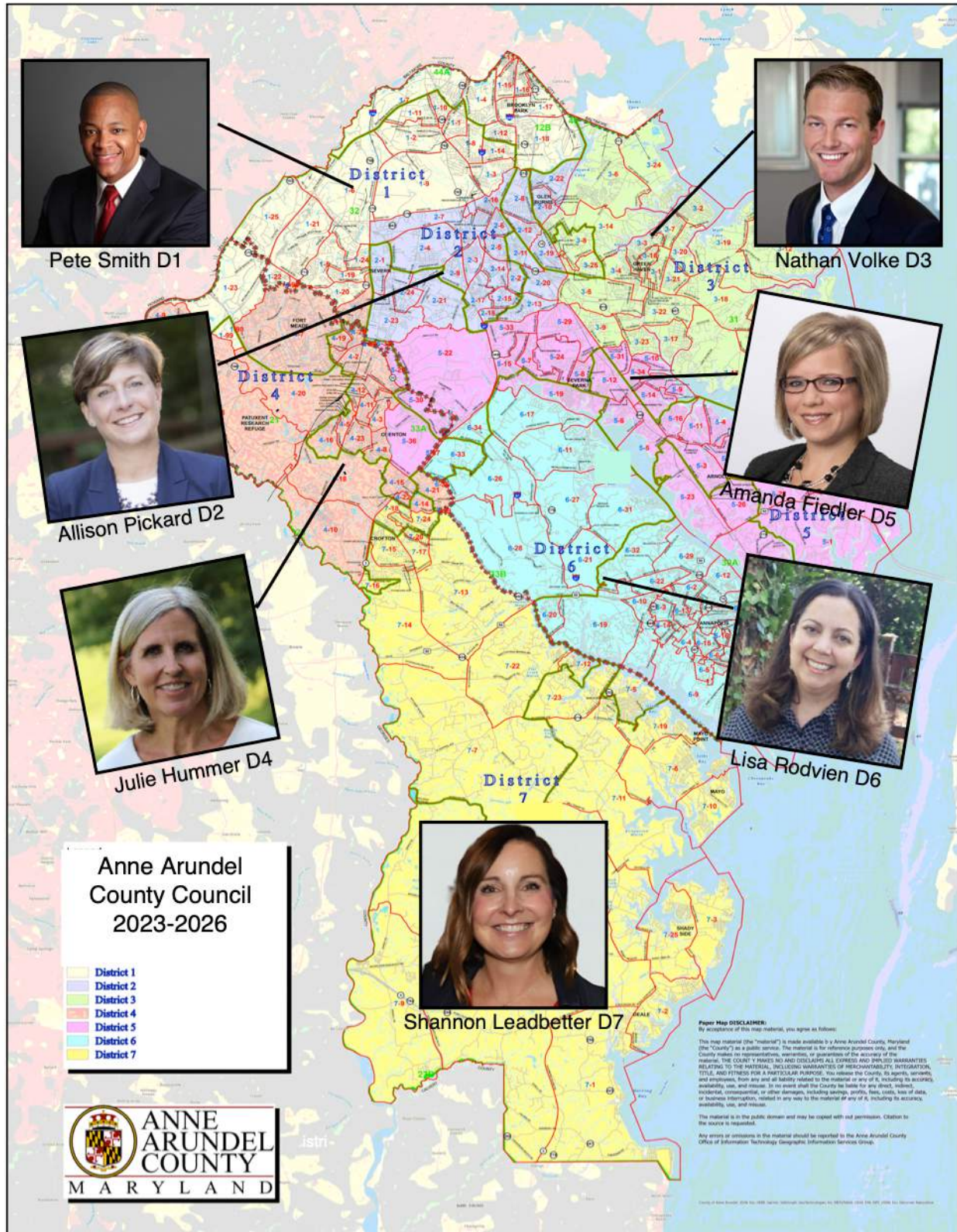
2. Julie Hummer, District 4, is newly elected to the County Council with experience as past president and vice president of the AAC Board of Education. She said her priorities in office are the same as she campaigned on—families and children and education. Discussing environmental issues, she stated her opposition to the proposed Chesapeake Terrace Rubble Landfill, to be in District 4 along Patuxent Road in Odenton and bordering the large Piney Orchard community.

3. Amanda Fiedler, District 5, was reelected to a second term. Her priorities are to support and strengthen small businesses, including agriculture and the economic life on waterways. On land, she cited “traffic, traffic, traffic” as a high priority, expressing strong support for an additional span to the Chesapeake Bay bridge and eventual replacement of the two aging spans. #



Photos by K. Larrabee







## Voter Services

### League volunteer empowers incarcerated voters

By Kathy Larrabee and Vicki Jordan, Directors

The Value My Vote Act\* became Maryland law in 2021. It requires that individuals who are incarcerated while awaiting trial, or are convicted of misdemeanors, be informed of their voting rights and given the opportunity to register to vote and vote via mail-in ballot.

In partnership, the Maryland Department of Public Safety and Correctional Services (DPSCS), the State Board of Elections (SBE) and local boards, local detention and correctional facilities, and the Maryland Correctional Administrators' Association, put in place a robust voting program at correctional facilities. The program included: Sending voter registration and mail-in voting information and forms to eligible individuals at detention centers in 21 counties. Correctional facilities provided estimated quantities, and advocacy organizations provided feedback on the mailing's content. SBE sent 4,100 packets to State correctional facilities and 6,800 packets to local correctional facilities for

distribution to eligible individuals in those jails. To collect completed voter registration and mail-in ballot application forms, prior to the primary election, DPSCS installed 46 secure boxes at all 19 of its detention and correctional facilities for individuals to place completed voter registration and mail-in ballot request forms.

The 2021 state law makes consistent the practices to allow eligible incarcerated people to vote. Before, the Charles County, Garrett County, and Montgomery County Boards of Elections had existing agreements with county detention centers to regularly provide election materials. Without such an agreement in Anne Arundel

County, the LWVAAC had unsuccessfully tried to provide materials to local correctional/detention centers.

For the 2022 elections, LWVAAC Director Vicki Jordan, a regular volunteer at the Ordinance Road Correctional Center (ORCC), welcomed the



*Vicki Jordan*



*Ordinance Road Correction Center, AAC*

\* Codified as Election Law Article, §1-303.1 and Correctional Services Article, §2-501.

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opportunity to serve as the League's conduit. In conjunction with ORCC staff, she assisted inmates on three different occasions, answering questions and providing election resources and voter services. She estimates registering 45 incarcerated men and women. Vicki notes that, "Inmates who were incarcerated in Anne Arundel County but were residents of other Maryland counties and Washington DC also were eligible to register." She said many inmates simply needed to update their voter records.

Vicki used the League's printed *Voters' Guide*, explaining to inmates how to navigate the *Guide* to learn of candidates' platforms and ballot issues prior to voting via mail-in ballots. Inmates' completed ballots were collected securely by the Anne Arundel County Board of Elections. ORCC received accolades for their forward-leaning efforts to register inmates and provide library time for them to read *Voters' Guides*. With the help of LWVAAC and the BOE, ORCC was able to secure LWV *Voters' Guides* for other counties and jurisdictions as well.

LWVAAC is grateful for the work Vicki undertook to communicate the importance of voting and ensure that all eligible voters have an opportunity to vote. Our League looks forward to future collaborations with ORCC staff. #

## Maryland restores and expands voting rights

In 2016, Maryland restored the voting rights of convicted felons who have completed serving their court-ordered sentences of imprisonment. The law does not apply to anyone convicted of buying or selling votes. Maryland was only one of 14 states to restore the right to vote to eligible felons. In 2021, the Value My Vote Act built on the earlier law by requiring the State Board of Elections and the Maryland Department of Public Safety and Correctional Services to provide a voter registration application and documentation informing individuals upon their release from prison of their restored voting rights. In addition, the law calls for signage to be posted in every parole and probation office informing released felons of their right to vote.

## Voter Services never sleeps!

by Vera Herath, Director and Voter Services Co-chair

Since 2023 is not an election year, the LWVAAC Voter Services (VS) team is enjoying a much needed slow-down in action. However, don't think we're just resting on our laurels! We've already had our first event of 2023: partnering with NAACP-AAC on February 25 to offer voter registration and related information at the 4th Annual Minority Money Matters at Anne Arundel Community College.

[see next page]

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Check the schedule of events below to see if there are dates you might be available to help the VR team. We anticipate many more requests from our community partners. We're also eager to hear your suggestions of events and places where our voter services might reach diverse segments of the county, including Latinx and underserved populations.

Please lend your talents and ideas to help us expand and protect voting rights! It is only through member participation that the LWVAAC Voter Services can grow. Join the team today!

Contact LWVAAC Voter Services Co-Chairs at [votersvc@lwvaacmd.org](mailto:votersvc@lwvaacmd.org). #

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## 2023 Voter Services Schedule of Events

Annapolis Pride Parade & Festival, June 3

Juneteenth, June 17

Naturalization Ceremony at Paca House, July 4

Annapolis Family Day, July

National Voter Registration Day, September 19

Kunta Kinte Festival, September 23

High School Voter Registration drive, October

## Maryland Youth Voter Summit 2023

*Students Empowering Democracy*

Virtual, Nonpartisan, Free  
1 PM, Saturday, March 11

Hosted by  
The League of Women Voters of Maryland

With Special Guests  
New-Voters.org, Baltimore Youth  
Voter Registration Committee,  
and Board of Elections Staff

[www.lwvmd.org/current\\_events](http://www.lwvmd.org/current_events)



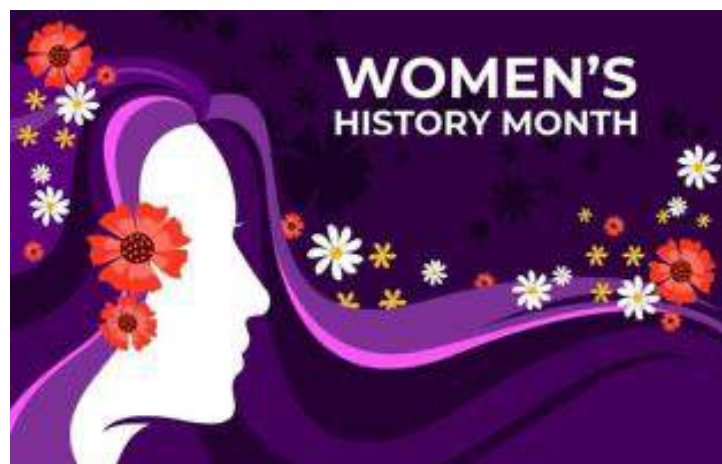
Students & Educators,  
we can strengthen the  
youth vote together!



Do you feel like politicians  
need to hear more about the  
issues you care about?

***You're not alone!***

There is power in the  
youth vote, but only if we  
***register every voter!***





## Action and Advocacy

### LWVAAC Urges Passage of Affordable Housing Bill 6-23

By Abby Root, Director and Action Co-chair

Following the February 21 gathering of LWVAAC members and County Council members in downtown Annapolis (see p. 10), a group of Leaguers seized the opportunity to observe a County Council meeting for themselves. Members had a special reason to attend this particular bi-monthly Council session. LWVAAC Action Co-chair Abby Root had signed up to testify on behalf of the League in support of Bill 6-23, a zoning ordinance that would permit accessory dwelling units (ADUs) in the county. An ADU is a second dwelling unit on an owner-occupied property of a certain size.

LWVAAC has a policy position supporting the creation of affordable housing to meet the housing needs of special populations and to increase housing opportunities for people of low or moderate income. The League believes ADUs are one way for the county to meet the challenge of the rising costs of housing. ADUs could be more affordable for low- and moderately-low-income residents. Such a unit, occupied by an older adult or disabled person, could allow them to remain in the community near family and friends. An ADU also could serve an empty nester or young adult just entering the workforce. Moreover, ADUs could provide additional housing options within a neighborhood without changing the character of the community.



*LWVAAC Action Co-Chair Abby Root testifies before County Council. (Photo by K. Larrabee)*

In all, eight organizations and individuals joined LWVAAC in testifying for passage of the bill. No one spoke in opposition. Council then considered two amendments that they had previously discussed in a Council work session; one passed and the other failed. A third amendment was withdrawn by its sponsor. Following the meeting, Councilwoman Hummer thanked League members for their support and presence at the hearing.

[Bill 6-23](#) was further amended at the March 6 Council Meeting. County Council is expected to vote on the amended legislation at its regular bi-monthly meeting on March 20. #

[Read the League's oral testimony.](#)

## In League

### Local Leagues' program requests pose challenge

By Niecy Chambers, LWVMD Board Liaison

After tabulating local Leagues' program planning survey responses this February, the state League Board faced a conundrum. Ten of the fifteen Maryland Leagues had submitted program recommendations, which, when combined, proposed two new studies and seventeen study updates to existing positions. With interest in such a wide variety of topics, how would the Board determine the studies to recommend to membership at the 2023 LWVMD Convention?

Program planning is a mainstay of the League year and the cornerstone of League advocacy. In order to advocate on a public policy, the League must have a position; in order to adopt a policy position, League members must study the issue and reach consensus on specific aspects. The

content of the position statement determines when a League may or may not advocate on an issue. The wording is critical because, once adopted, any material change requires additional study and consensus by League members.

The national and state LWVs vote on proposed studies at their biennial Conventions. LWVUS convenes in even-numbered years, state Leagues hold their Conventions in odd-numbered years. LWVMD's 2023 Biennial Convention will take place June 3-4 in Frederick, MD. In addition to electing directors and adopting a budget, delegates will vote whether to undertake any statewide studies based, in part, on the LWVMD Board's program recommendations.

Statewide studies typically take 2 years to complete. During the research stage, members from multiple Leagues form a committee to decide the scope of their study and gather information on all aspects of the topic, including pros and cons. They prepare a summary fact sheet that explains the issue for other League members and present the material at an LWVMD workshop. They also develop consensus questions that will set the parameters of the League's position. Local Leagues hold meetings to discuss the issue and the consensus questions. The LWVMD Board evaluates the local League responses to decide whether there is consensus at the state level on the different elements of the study. At least two-thirds of Maryland's local Leagues must participate in the consensus process in order for LWVMD to

#### What is League program?

*League program* is the education and advocacy platform that we adopt to move our mission forward. *Program planning* is the grassroots process of recommending and selecting governmental issues for study and agreement in reaching a position.

*Program* includes current policy positions, development of new positions through consensus or concurrence, and action (advocacy) based on those positions.

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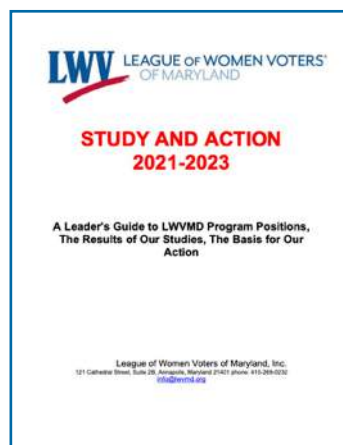
propose a statewide consensus. If those criteria are met, delegates at the next state Convention vote to adopt the new or updated policy position.

Because consensus requires such a significant commitment of time and League resources, the LWVMD Board weighs numerous factors before recommending a state study. They consider whether government action is possible, if the state is the appropriate level to address the issue and whether LWVMD involvement is likely to make an impact. Demonstrated interest and commitment by members across the state is key in deciding whether to recommend a study.

The situation facing the LWVMD Board in February was challenging but welcome. The Board relies on guidance from League members and values active participation in core LWV activities like program planning. Several Board members quickly volunteered to join a subcommittee to consider local Leagues' suggested studies. A first step will be evaluating whether the League interpreted the LWVMD position correctly. Next, they'll research whether an LWVUS position addresses the concern. The subcommittee will report its findings at the March 16, 2023 LWVMD Board meeting. The LWVMD Board's final recommendations for studies will be shared with membership in May and voted on at the June Convention. Stay tuned! #



[Impact on Issues 2022-2024](#)



[Study and Action 2021-23](#)

LWVAAC held its annual program planning meeting in January. Fifteen members gathered on Zoom to consider whether our local League's existing positions merited updating and to evaluate whether a new study should be undertaken to address a local issue. While no new studies were proposed, members expressed strong interest in examining LWVAAC's positions in light of current conditions in the county.

After reviewing LWVMD positions, LWVAAC members called for an update of the [Drunk Driving](#) position to encompass other forms of impaired driving, especially in light of the recent legalization of recreational marijuana, which a [state League position](#) supported.

If you'd like to participate in a statewide study of impaired driving, please contact [action@lwvaacmd.org](mailto:action@lwvaacmd.org). The more interest is expressed, the greater possibility the LWVMD Board will recommend this study. #



## News from League Partners



**SAVE THE DATE**



**Northern Arundel Cultural Preservation Society**

# Maryland Day

**April 1st, 2023, 1 to 4 p.m.**

**Lloyd Keaser Community Center  
5757 Belle Grove Rd Brooklyn MD 21225**

**Featuring exhibits and presentations:**

- Contributions of African Americans to the military
- Buffalo Soldiers
- African American Farmers and Truck Farmers
- Interactive children's games
- T-shirts, Tea Sets and Books available for sale.

For more information: <https://www.marylandday.org/events/northern-arundel-cultural-preservation-society>

## Community Volunteer Opportunity: Glen Burnie High School

Volunteer interview coaches are needed to conduct 10-minute Mock Interviews with the Class of 2024. Coaches will provide students with verbal and written feedback on both their resume and interview skills. Slots are open on March 14, 15, 20 and 21.

The purpose is to provide interview experience and help prepare students for college and career readiness.

Contact Shirley Wais at [swais@aacps.org](mailto:swais@aacps.org) to learn how to volunteer.