



NEWSLETTER

Fall/Winter 2025

Dear Members and Friends,

Fall, my favorite time of year, is slowly but surely turning into winter. As we look back on the past few months, it's clear just how busy and engaged our League has been. With an especially active season of voter guide and Vote 411.org preparation, community outreach, and a full slate of community events, our schedules have been as full as our commitment to empowering voters. In addition, we are embarking on some new and exciting activities – a new Membership Committee is planning new activities for our members and developing a new Speaker's Series. We have a new Scholarship Committee and will be awarding a scholarship at our Annual Meeting this spring. See more on these events in this newsletter as you read on. As you know, 2026 is an election year so in addition to our regular league work on the Voters' Guide, board member Nancy Lynott, and I have been recruited to be the Voter Services Coordinators for the State League. Because of this increased workload on our schedule, we've decided to combine our Fall and Winter newsletters into one comprehensive issue. We appreciate your understanding and are excited to share all the important work we've accomplished together.



Now here's what been happening since the summer!

NATIONAL VOTER REGISTRATION DAY

This event was held on Tuesday, September 16. This is a non-partisan, civic holiday dedicated to registering voters and preparing them to vote in time for the next election. We had three teams of two each at Queen Anne's County High School, Kent Island High School, and Chesapeake College. Everyone, staff, and students always seem glad to see us, but this year, unfortunately, the rain kept some of the students away at Chesapeake College. We rarely register anyone to vote, but we handed out over 100 of the Vote411 cards. Many students were interested in these and scanned the QR code to browse through the website. Even though we don't register many students, we do get the chance to engage them in conversations about the importance of making their voice heard at the voting booth!



Kent Island H.S.



Queen Anne's County H.S.



Chesapeake College

CORSICA RIVER DAY

Sunday, September 21 was a beautiful sunny day – perfect weather for Corsica River Day at Conquest Beach! This event, sponsored by Queen Anne’s County, combines environmental education highlighting the importance of protecting our watershed along with lots of family-friendly activities. There are so many exhibitors and vendors, you can spend the whole day browsing and learning about the Chesapeake Bay and the rivers in our watershed...and...you can learn about voting and how to make your voice heard in the voting booth and how your voice matters on issues that are important to you. We always have a booth at this event with lots of information on making a plan to vote, how and where to vote, and why it’s important to vote.



Jinny Guy, Liz Hammond, Ann Grace, Steve and Barbara Sharkey

CENTREVILLE DAY

This is always a huge event with over 1,000 people attending! This is truly a community festival. Held this year on Saturday, October 15, from 11:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m., we had a steady stream of visitors to our table – even some from other states come to this event. I'm sure many of you attend this event so you know what a wonderful, fun-filled day this is. Once again, because most people are already registered, we don't hand out too many voter registration applications, but we do get the chance to engage folks in the importance of voting.



Jinny Guy, Liz Hammond, and Carolyn Moorshead

MAKE A DIFFERENCE DAY

This is another great community event, which basically provides a one-stop resource fair for residents needing information and services on health care, housing and shelter, employment assistance, food, and veteran's services and benefits. This event supports at-risk populations and builds community connections to people most in need of these types of services. We actually do hand out voter registration applications to many people at this event, and we get to talk to lots of folks from different walks of life. We've had some great conversations with people about the importance of voting and why their vote really does count!



Liz Hammond, one of the visitors who stopped by our table, Barbara Sharkey, and Patricia Jamison

...and in other important news!

VOTER CERTIFICATION TRAINING

At our board meeting in September, the Queen Anne's County Board of Elections held a voter certification/re-certification training for those of us who register voters at the community events we participate in. It's a pretty thorough training, and they answer all the questions we have about voting but were afraid to ask! The training is always open to all of our members and anyone who would like to be able to register people to vote. This year we had a few members attend who were not board members! The certification is good for two years, so when we hold this training again, we will be sure to let you know so you can participate if this interests you!

FALL WORKSHOP

The League of Women Voters Maryland holds workshops quarterly throughout the year, and the Fall Workshop was held on Saturday, September 27, via Zoom. The agenda for this workshop included discussions of the recently passed budget bill in congress and how it would affect health care coverage (Medicare and Medicaid) especially in rural areas in Maryland.

There was also a discussion of "Responding to National Issues at a Local Level" and the importance of communicating with local policymakers.

The speakers were interesting and extremely informative. Nikki Tyree, Executive Director, discussed the importance of "in-district" meetings with our local state delegates, and we, here in Queen Anne's County, are making an attempt to meet with our state delegates to discuss legislation important to the League of Women Voters. I'll let you know how that turns out!

NEW EASTERN SHORE LOWER LEAGUE

Great, exciting news! There is now a new league on the lower Eastern Shore comprised of Wicomico, Somerset, and Worcester counties! Nancy Rogers is the new president, and we were excited to meet her at the (see below!)

EASTERN SHORE PRESIDENT'S MEETING

Recently held in Cambridge on Friday, October 17. In addition to meeting Nancy, we had a lot to discuss and go over. The presidents of Kent, Mid-Shore, and of course, Queen Anne's discussed the upcoming Voters' Guide and Vote411 for the 2026 election; how to handle the potential forums; Voter Services; participation in the State League initiatives such as advocacy, the new Building Relationships initiative, and what local issues each league is participating in. We try and meet quarterly and a half-way point as leagues now cover almost the entire Eastern Shore!

...AND MORE LOCAL LEAGUE NEWS

MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE AND SPEAKER'S SERIES

Our new Membership Committee, headed by Barb Witten, Pat Sommers, and Joyce Woodford, is planning some exciting events this year starting off with a Wine and Cheese Get Together on Sunday, January 25, 3:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m. at the home of Patricia Jamison. We plan to have a speaker and combining this with a food drive and asking everyone who can attend to bring a non-perishable food item, and, hopefully, to bring a friend who would like to become a member of The League of Women Voters. Look for an email from us soon with the formal invitation and information!

Also, our Membership Committee is working on a new Speakers Series to, hopefully, begin in February. They have some great suggestions for presenters and topics, and if you have any ideas for topics that would interest you, please let us know!

SCHOLARSHIP COMMITTEE

We are rapidly moving ahead working with the local high schools to offer a scholarship to a deserving high school graduate in continuing their education at a college or trade school. We hope to announce the winner at our upcoming Annual Meeting this spring! This is a program we have discussed for several years, and it looks like this is finally coming to fruition. Stay tuned for more information on this exciting new program!

...and in other news

I think it's important in this newsletter to bring up the subject of the No Kings Rally that was recently held in October. Some of our members participated in this rally, and we received questions about our participation. So, I would like to explain our position on participation in events such as these:

The League of Women Voters is proudly and has always been proudly nonpartisan, which means we never support or oppose any political party or candidate. We do our best through publications such as the Voters' Guide, Vote411.org, and by holding candidate forums to maintain our non-partisanship commitment. However, being nonpartisan does not mean being nonpolitical. The League has always been deeply involved in political issues – particularly those that impact democracy, governance, and the rights of voters.

The League's presence at the No Kings Protest was consistent with this long-standing mission. The event addressed concerns about protecting democratic institutions and ensuring checks and balances – principles that align with the League's values and policy positions. By participating, we were not endorsing any party or candidate but rather standing up for the democratic processes that make representative government work. We did not partner with the Democratic Club.

Participation was about defending democracy, not partisanship. Being nonpartisan gives us credibility to speak out on political issues that affect all voters, regardless of affiliation – and that is exactly what members of the League were doing at the protest.

UPCOMING EVENTS CALENDAR

Date	Event	Time	Location
Monday, January 12, 2026	LWVQAC Board Meeting	6:30 p.m.	Centreville Library
Wednesday, January 14	Maryland General Assembly begins		
Sunday, January 25	Wine & Cheese Get Together	3:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.	Home of Patricia Jamison
Saturday January 31	LWVMD Winter Workshop	TBA	Zoom
February TBA	Speaker's Series	TBA	
Monday, February 9	LWVQAC Board Meeting	6:30 p.m.	Centreville Library
Monday, March 9	LWVQAC Board Meeting	6:30 p.m.	Centreville Library
Tuesday, May 5	Annual Meeting and Dinner	TBA	TBA

As I've said in all our newsletters, as we move forward, your involvement and support are crucial to the success of our mission! Whether you are a long-time member, a new member, or interested in becoming a member, your voice matters. Together, we can make a positive impact on our community and beyond! At our last few board meetings, we have had a few members attend and offer their suggestions, insights, and comments on our agenda items. These comments are always welcome and very helpful! We welcome and encourage each and every one of you to come to our board meetings and be a part of making our league stronger.

This is a quarterly newsletter (usually!), and your feedback is very important to us. Your input and ideas are invaluable, so please don't hesitate to reach out to us. You can reach us by email at lwvqac@gmail.com, and visit our website at www.lwvqac.org, and check out our Facebook page!

Thank you for your dedication to the League of Women Voters of Queen Anne's County and Happy Holidays!

With warm regards,
Liz Hammond
President

