



2022 ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING



P.O. Box 35, Arnold, MD 21012 * lwvaacmd.org * lwvaacmd@gmail.com * 443-672-8270 * FB@lwvaac

LWVAAC ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING
Agenda
Saturday, April 9, 2022

10:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.

Part I: Board Reports

Introductions & President's Report

Highlights of 2021 Annual Meeting

Presentation of the 2022-2023 Budget

Adoption of Program for 2022-23

Report of the Bylaws Committee

Report of the Nominating Committee

Gail Viamonte, Vice President

Joyce Martin, Secretary

Niecy Chambers, Treasurer

Abby Root, Director

Niecy Chambers, Chair

Kathy Larrabee, Chair

Part II: Input from Members

Report on Collaboration and Partnerships

New Board Members

Member Interests and Associations

General Directions to the Board

LWVUS Biennial Convention

Gail Viamonte

11:00 a.m.

Guest Speaker, Andrea Mansfield

11:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.

Buffet Brunch

Guest Speaker: Andrea Mansfield

Andrea E. Mansfield has more than 20 years of government relations, management, and administration expertise, having led and coordinated policy efforts for the Maryland Association of Counties (MACo) and implemented the legislative agendas of state agencies. In state government, she worked within three Administrations in positions of increasing responsibility, serving as legislative liaison to the Legislature for the Department of Budget and Management, and the Department of Labor, Licensing and Regulation (DLLR); and Special Assistant, Director of Financial Aid, and Assistant Secretary of Finance Policy with the Maryland Higher Education Commission.



Andrea serves on the Board of Leadership Maryland and was a member of the class of 2019, serves on the board of the Maryland Economic Development Association and co-chairs the Public Policy Awareness Committee, Chairs the Anne Arundel Charter Revision Commission, and is the Chair of the Odenton Town Center Advisory Committee. She has a Master of Policy Sciences from the University of Maryland, Baltimore County and a Bachelor of Arts in Government and Politics from the University of Maryland, College Park.

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF ANNE ARUNDEL COUNTY

2022 ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING

Meeting Workbook

Table of Contents

Vice President's Letter, Gail Viamonte	1
Highlights of 2021 Annual Meeting, Joyce Martin, Secretary	2
Proposed Budget for FY 2022-23, Niecy Chambers, Treasurer	3
Report on Program, Abby Root, Action Co-Chair	5
Report of the Bylaws Committee, Niecy Chambers, Chair	5
Report of the Nominating Committee, Kathy Larrabee, Chair	9
2021-22 Portfolio Reports	
Membership	9
Program, Activities and Events	10
Voter Services	13
Observer Corps	16
Action	16
Collaboration and Partnerships	18
Diversity, Equity and Inclusion	19
Communications	20
Fundraising	22

2022 Annual Membership Meeting Committee:

Niecy Chambers, Chair; Vera Herath, Kathy Larrabee, Joyce Martin, and Gail Viamonte

Cover: LWVAAC members rally for fair maps, December 8, 2021. (l-r) Gabrielle Strandquist, Abby Root, Jim Schifferle, Karen Cook, Susan Cochran, Marylou Symonds, Kathy Larrabee, Amanda SubbaRao, Gail Viamonte, Niecy Chambers, and Yolande Dickerson.
(Photo by D. Collins)

VICE PRESIDENT'S LETTER, Gail Viamonte

Dear Colleagues and Friends,

It certainly has been an unusual year. In the continuing context of the pandemic, we gingerly pivoted among judiciously staged outside rallies, technically refined Zoom gatherings, and long-awaited face-to-face meets. The League of Women Voters of Anne Arundel County provided testimony virtually and in person. We advocated through letters to the editor, emails, and telephone calls. Materials in hand (and online) and masks on our faces, we provided voters and potential voters across various county venues with nonpartisan support in understanding issues and registering to vote.



Throughout the year, our League maintained a constant, consistent, and recognized presence and authority. We monitored and commented upon the establishment of County positions and revision of the County Charter. Legislators and County officials contacted us for support on legislation and assistance in recruiting election judges and registrars. Other community groups requested we partner on voter services and advocacy. Staying true to our mission to empower voters and defend democracy, LWVAAC engaged others and engaged with others, both organizations and individuals.

Yes, we continued to do all of that. In fact, this past year was as productive and prolific as ever.

There were losses—members who passed on or moved—and we continue to acknowledge and honor their personal stories and legacies. We have also seen to one another in illness, mourning, and a variety of human conditions that make belonging to our League a source of camaraderie and friendship.

Continuing to grow, our League augmented means of orienting new members and continued to educate ourselves: about Diversity, Inclusion, and Equity; the Environment; Affordable Housing; a more inclusive local history—and national, state, and local issues, each of which typically comprises a myriad of sub-topics. Our non-League friends are inevitably impressed by our depth of knowledge and by our accomplishments on behalf of others!

The pages of this Annual Workbook detail and bring to life our—YOUR—year of achievements and hard work. May you be as rightfully gratified as the rest of us are grateful. Take a few moments to acknowledge and savor all your accomplishments—before, as we know each other will—you take up our valuable work again.

HIGHLIGHTS OF THE 2021 ANNUAL MEETING, Carol Sures, Secretary

The 2021 Annual Meeting was held Saturday, April 24 via Zoom with 24 members in attendance. President Alfa Stevens called the meeting to order. She enumerated the numerous League activities that continued despite the difficulties and restrictions imposed by COVID-19: book discussions, partnering in community projects to commemorate the 19th Amendment centennial, preparing both the online and print edition of the *Voters' Guide*, and looking for new ways to inform voters during the pandemic. Members participated in two LWVMD consensus meetings: *Vote by Mail* and *Ballot Initiatives*. We paused to remember longtime member and Board officer Arlene Gavin who passed away in November 2020.

Carol Sures summarized highlights of the 2020 Annual Meeting.

Election: The slate of Board Officers and Directors for (2021-23) was adopted as follows:

Board Officers:	Alfa Stevens, President (2021-23) Carol Sures, Secretary (2021-23)
Board Directors:	Pat Barnes (2021-22 to fill unexpired term) Marg Duffy (2021-23) Vera Herath (2021-23) Joyce Martin (2021-23)
Nominating Committee (Off-Board)	Mary Vickery (2021-22)

Budget: Members voted to approve the FY 2021-2022 Budget as presented.

Program: Re-adoption of all the LWVAAC positions was **PASSED**.

Bylaws: Bylaws' chair, Sures, explained that LWVUS requires all state and local Leagues to conform to its "Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Policy." It was moved that **the adoption of the revision to the LWVAAC bylaws be added to Article II – Purposes and Policy. (b). Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Policy. The League is fully committed to ensure compliance – in principle and practice – with LWVUS's Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Policy. PASSED**

Membership: Membership chair Kathy Larrabee welcomed new members and congratulated Carol Sures and Sarah Thwaites for their 50 years of active service to the League.

Noted: Guest speaker Kathleen M. Koch, Executive Director, Arundel Development Services, Inc., was scheduled to speak after the meeting. Unfortunately, Ms. Koch was unable to appear and will address the League at another time. The time was filled with a productive and enjoyable social exchange among the members.

Carol Sures, Secretary

PROPOSED BUDGETS for FY 2022-2023, Niecy Chambers, Treasurer

OPERATING FUND	FY 22-23 Proposed Budget	FY 21-22 Estimated Actual	FY 21-22 YTD Actual to 3/8/22	FY 20-21 Actual	FY 19-20 Actual	FY 18-19 Actual
Beginning Acct Balance		\$8,626.72	\$8,626.72	\$7,510.43	\$6,706.90	\$5,005.71
INCOME						
Dues	\$6,655.00	\$5,880.00	\$5,040.00	\$5,980.00	\$5,745.00	\$5,360.00
Contributions	\$125.00	\$100.00	\$54.00	\$185.50	\$410.00	\$585.00
Annual Meeting	\$1,600.00		\$219.00		\$35.00	\$1,120.00
Ed Fund passthrough		\$1,660.00			\$34.40	
Total Income	\$8,380.00	\$7,640.00	\$5,313.00	\$6,165.50	\$6,224.40	\$7,065.00
DISBURSEMENTS						
LWVUS PMP	\$3,216.00	\$2,832.00	\$2,832.00	\$2,512.00	\$2,480.00	\$2,096.00
LWVMD PMP	\$1,407.00	\$1,239.00	\$1,239.00	\$1,099.00	\$1,085.00	\$979.00
Meetings & Events						
Annual Membership Mtg	\$1,600.00	\$1,660.00	\$200.00		\$747.05	\$1,000.01
Receptions w/Elected Officials	\$1,200.00	\$496.68	\$496.68		\$211.00	\$266.95
Member/Guest Activities	\$350.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$120.00		
Board (monthly & retreat)	\$200.00	\$200.00		\$222.60	\$175.00	\$125.00
Public Programs	\$250.00	\$100.00			\$150.00	
Total Meetings & Events	\$3,600.00	\$2,456.68	\$696.68	\$342.60	\$1,283.05	\$1,391.96
Community Outreach						
Coalition Dues	\$150.00	\$200.00	\$200.00	\$50.00	\$100.00	\$100.00
Community Support	\$150.00	\$0.00		\$100.00	\$200.00	
League Promotion (handouts, displays, publicity)	\$300.00	\$0.00		\$100.00		
Total Community Outreach	\$600.00	\$200.00	\$200.00	\$250.00	\$300.00	\$100.00
Member & Board Expenses						
Registration fees	\$350.00	\$1,000.00		\$50.00	\$50.00	\$155.00
Member Directory (copies, supplies, postage)	\$200.00	\$160.30	\$160.30	\$147.70	\$48.01	\$63.13
Other print materials (handouts, bookmarks, etc.)	\$200.00	\$0.00		\$294.89	\$34.40	\$148.40
Misc. copies & supplies	\$75.00	\$75.00	\$37.00	\$113.40	\$142.25	\$323.87
Misc. postage	\$75.00	\$27.00	\$4.20	\$3.60		\$55.00
P.O. Box Rental	\$120.00	\$118.00		\$118.00		
Communications Expense	\$75.00	\$50.00				
Advocacy Expense	\$350.00	\$150.00				
Miscellaneous Board Expense	\$100.00	\$75.00		\$94.00	\$0.00	\$26.45
Bank charges (net)	\$12.00	\$53.00	(\$0.76)	(\$10.98)	(\$1.84)	
Total Member & Board Expenses	\$1,557.00	\$1,708.30	\$200.74	\$810.61	\$272.82	\$771.85
Ed Fund passthrough				\$35.00		\$25.00
Total Disbursements	\$10,380.00	\$8,435.98	\$5,168.42	\$5,049.21	\$5,420.87	\$5,363.81
To/(From) Reserves	(\$2,000.00)	(\$795.98)	\$144.58	\$1,116.29	\$803.53	\$1,701.19
Ending Acct Balance		\$7,830.74	\$8,771.30	\$8,626.72	\$7,510.43	\$6,706.90

EDUCATION FUND	FY 22-23 Proposed Budget	FY 21-22 Estimated Actual	FY 21-22 YTD to 3/8/22	FY 20-21 Actual	FY 19-20 Actual	FY 18-19 Actual
Beginning Acct. Balance		\$9,337.27	\$9,337.27	\$9,129.02	\$5,090.42	\$6,309.56
INCOME						
Annual Fundraiser	\$3,500.00	\$3,430.00	\$1,180.00	\$2,335.00	\$3,810.00	\$3,350.00
Miscellaneous Donations	\$1,500.00	\$1,570.00	\$1,395.00	\$1,590.00	\$563.00	\$630.00
Total Income	\$5,000.00	\$5,000.00	\$2,575.00	\$3,925.00	\$4,373.00	\$3,980.00
DISBURSEMENTS						
Candidate Forums	\$1,200.00	\$1,000.00	\$750.00	\$0.00		\$2,350.00
Voter Reg. & Education	\$500.00	\$300.00	\$66.78	\$300.00	\$134.40	\$150.00
Voter Guides & Vote411	\$3,000.00	\$2,500.00	\$0.00	\$2,971.75	\$40.00	\$2,594.00
Educ. Public Mtgs	\$500.00	\$200.00	\$0.00	\$200.00		
Fundraising	\$300.00	\$200.00	\$0.00	\$170.00	\$160.00	\$105.14
Community Support	\$500.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$75.00		
Total Disbursements	\$6,000.00	\$4,200.00	\$816.78	\$3,716.75	\$334.40	\$5,199.14
To/(From) Reserves	(\$1,000.00)	\$800.00	\$1,758.22	\$208.25	\$4,038.60	(\$1,219.14)
Ending Account Balance		\$10,137.27	\$11,095.49	\$9,337.27	\$9,129.02	\$5,090.42

LWVAAC Roster	Member Type	Count	Dues	Per Member Payment (PMP) LWVUS/LWVMD
As of 2/1/22	Individual	93	\$65.00	\$32/\$14
As of 2/1/22	Household	15	\$30.00	\$16/\$7
As of 2/1/22	Life	4	\$0.00	N/A
As of 2/1/22	Student	2	\$0.00	N/A
Projected FY 22-23	New	4	mixed	

Program Recommendation, Abby Root, Program Planning Chair

Members met January 26, 2022, to review LWVAAC and LWVUS positions. Abby Root and Marg Duffy led the discussion and Alexis Dorsey served as recorder. There was consensus among members to readopt all of our [local League positions](#) and to support [LWVUS' Campaign for Making Democracy Work®](#) which includes Voting Rights, Improving Elections, Redistricting, and Money in Politics. No new local or national studies were proposed.

Report of the Bylaws Review Committee, Niecy Chambers, Chair

Gail Viamonte, Kathy Lottenbach, Kathy Larrabee and Niecy Chambers comprise the 2021-22 Bylaws Review Committee. Proposed revisions are capitalized in bold print and explained below. Current bylaws may be found in the 2022 LWVAAC Member Directory and on our [website](#).

GENERAL REVISIONS: Numbers have been spelled out with the corresponding digit in parentheses throughout the revised bylaws, and articles and sections have been renumbered as needed.

AMENDMENT #1 Addition

Article III Membership

Section 2. (a) Voting Members

(4) STUDENT MEMBERS. THOSE WHO ARE ENROLLED FULL- OR PART-TIME IN AN ACCREDITED INSTITUTION SHALL BE STUDENT MEMBERS.

Explanation: The first three articles of local and state League bylaws must conform with the national League's bylaws. The definition of student member was added to the LWVUS bylaws by a vote of delegates at the 2020 LWVUS Convention.

AMENDMENTS #2 & #3 Clarification

Article IV Board of Directions

Section 1. Selection, Qualifications and Terms

(a) All directors shall be voting members of the League. **THREE (3)** directors shall be elected by the general membership at each annual meeting. **ELECTED DIRECTORS SHALL TAKE OFFICE IMMEDIATELY** and shall serve for **TWO (2)** years or until their successors have been elected **OR APPOINTED**.

Explanation: The current bylaws do not specify when directors take office, nor do they acknowledge that successors may be appointed in the event of a vacancy.

(b) **AT THE FIRST BOARD MEETING FOLLOWING THE ANNUAL MEETING, THE** elected **BOARD** members shall appoint additional directors not exceeding **SIX (6)** as they consider necessary to carry on the work of the League. The terms of office of the appointed directors ~~SHALL BE ONE (1) YEAR AND~~ shall expire at the conclusion of the next annual meeting.

Explanation: It has long been LWVAAC policy to appoint additional directors at the first Board meeting after annual meeting. This amendment adds that provision to the bylaws and establishes one criterion for the end of the term of office.

AMENDMENT #4 Clarification

Article IV Board of Directors

Section 4. Quorum. A majority of the members of the Board ~~SHALL BE A QUORUM, BE PRESENT~~ **AT A BOARD MEETING TO CONDUCT OFFICIAL LEAGUE BUSINESS.**

Explanation: The purpose of defining a quorum is to establish a threshold for voting and other League decision-making. The amendment clearly states the meaning and purpose.

AMENDMENT #5 Clarification

Article V Officers

Section 1. Officers. The officers of the League shall include:

- (a) One of the following combinations:
 - (1) A President and a Vice-President, **OR**
 - (2) Two Co-Presidents, **OR**
 - (3) A Governing Executive Board; **AND**
- (b) A Secretary; **AND**
- (c) A Treasurer.

Explanation: Conjunctions have been added for clarity.

AMENDMENT #6 Addition and Clarification

Article V Officers

Section 2. Terms and Elections.

- (a) Except as provided in paragraph (b) of this subsection:
 - (1) The officers shall be elected for terms of two (2) years by the general membership at the annual meeting; ~~AND TAKE OFFICE IMMEDIATELY.~~
 - (2) The President, Co-Presidents or Governing Executive Board, and the Secretary shall be elected in odd-numbered years; **AND**

(3) The Vice President and the Treasurer shall be elected in even-numbered years.

(4) OFFICERS SHALL TAKE OFFICE IMMEDIATELY WITH THE EXCEPTION OF THE TREASURER.

(5) THE OUTGOING TREASURER SHALL CONTINUE TO SERVE ALONG WITH THE NEWLY ELECTED TREASURER UNTIL THE LEAGUE'S ACCOUNTS AND RECORDS HAVE BEEN DULY TRANSFERRED, NO LATER THAN JUNE 30.

Explanation: The current bylaws require all officers and elected directors to take office upon election at the annual meeting. This is not realistic for the Treasurer because signing authority for the League's accounts must be transferred before the newly elected Treasurer can take over. The deletion of the phrase in (1) and addition of (4) and (5) reflects actual practice.

AMENDMENT #7 Addition

ARTICLE VI

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

THE PURPOSE OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE IS TO ADVISE AND SUPPORT THE PRESIDENT (OR CO-PRESIDENTS). IT SHALL BE COMPRISED OF THE ELECTED OFFICERS AND CHAIRED BY THE PRESIDENT. MEETINGS SHALL BE CONVENED BY THE CHAIR OR AT THE REQUEST OF A MAJORITY OF EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEMEBERS. WHEN CONVENED, IT SHALL CONSIDER AND MAY AUTHORIZE ANY LEAGUE ACTIVITIES AND EXPENDITURES NOT RESERVED IN THE BYLAWS FOR MEMBER OR BOARD APPROVAL. DECISIONS SHALL BE BY CONSENSUS WITH THE CHAIR HAVING FINAL SAY. THE CHAIR MAY INVITE THE PARTICIPATION OF ADDITIONAL BOARD MEMBERS OR PORTFOLIO CHAIRS TO ADDRESS A SPECIFIC FOCUS AREA OR PROJECT. THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MAY CONVENE IN-PERSON, VIRTUALLY OR VIA GROUP EMAIL.

Explanation: The current bylaws do not define or provide a statement of purpose for an Executive Committee. The LWVAAC Board recommends adding Article VI above which is consistent with actual Board practice.

AMENDMENT #8 Revision

Article VII Financial Administration

Section 2. Dues. ~~ANNUAL DUES SHALL BE PAID BY JULY 1.~~ DUES SHALL BE PAYABLE ANNUALLY ON THE ANNIVERSARY OF THE INDIVIDUAL'S ENROLLMENT.

Explanation: LWVAAC's membership term is currently tied to the League's fiscal year which ends June 30. The fixed date results in some individuals benefitting while others have shortened terms, despite paying the same dues. New members join online at different times throughout the year, unaware that their membership will expire on June 30. In addition, an anniversary renewal is more readily automated and tracked in our NationBuilder database.

NOTE: If this amendment is adopted, the committee recommends that the change to anniversary renewals be implemented retroactively to 2021.

AMENDMENT #9 Clarification

Article VIII Meetings

Section 2. Annual Membership Meeting. An **ANNUAL MEETING OF THE MEMBERS** be held between April 1 and June 30, on a date to be determined by the Board. At the annual meeting, members present and voting, shall:

- (a) Adopt a local program for the next year.
- (b) Elect officers, directors, and a member to the nominating committee.
- (c) Determine the amount of dues members shall pay.
- (d) Adopt a budget.
- (e) Transact other business that properly comes before them.

Section 3. Quorum. Ten percent (10%) of the voting members ~~IS A QUORUM FOR ALL League meetings~~ **must be present at a general membership meeting to conduct official League business.**

Explanation: As currently written, Section 3 conflicts with Article IV, Section 4, which defines a quorum for League Board meetings. The amendment clarifies the meaning of quorum and differentiates between Board and membership meetings.

AMENDMENT #10 Clarification

Article IX Committees and Elections

Section 1. Nominating Committee. The Nominating Committee shall consist of **THREE (3)** members: The Chair, preferably a **CURRENT OR** former Board member, shall be appointed by the Board for the following program year in advance of the annual meeting; **ONE (1)** member, who shall not be a Board member but shall be elected at the annual meeting; and **ONE (1)** member, who shall be a Board member, will be appointed by the Board immediately after the annual meeting. A committee vacancy shall be filled by a Board appointment.

Explanation: This clarifies that Board experience, present or past, is valued in selecting a Nominating Committee Chair.

AMENDMENT #11 Revision

Article XIV Virtual Meetings

Board and membership meetings may be held, and League business conducted, by virtual means. ~~WHEN EXTERNAL FACTORS PREVENT A QUORUM FROM ASSEMBLING IN PERSON.~~

Explanation: This article was added in 2020 in response to the pandemic. The popularity and efficiency of holding League meeting virtually makes the qualifying phrase unnecessary.

Report of the Nominating Committee, Kathy Larrabee, Chair

The members of the 2021-22 Nominating Committee are Kathy Larrabee, Chair, Marg Duffy, and Mary Vickery. The committee presents the following slate of candidates for election:

Board Officers

Alexis Dorsey, Vice President (2022-2024)

Niecy Chambers, Treasurer (2022-2024)

Board Directors

Kathy Larrabee (2022-2024)

Vicki Jordan (2022-2024)

Amanda SubbaRao (2022-2024)

Nominating Committee (Off-Board)

Jeri Schoenfeld (2022-2023)

LWVAAC 2021-2022 PORTFOLIO REPORTS

MEMBERSHIP, Kathy Larrabee, Chair

Membership is the indispensable strength and vitality of the LWV across the nation. Membership occurs at the grassroots in more than 750 local leagues, including the LWVAAC. As national politics becomes more partisan and voting rights and related disparities make daily headlines, League membership grows overall with people who hope to make a difference in some nonpartisan manner.

Member Roster: LWVAAC has grown steadily and significantly over the past five years to a current high of 120 members. Membership categories include primary and household, life (members for 50-plus years) and students. The LWVAAC has four life members. Members' dues are shared annually with the state League (LWVMD) and the LWVUS based on a roster count that occurs each January 31. Members are eligible and encouraged to participate in League events at all levels. We were pleased to see that a number of new members attended the LWVMD Fall and Winter Workshops and received the LWVMD Advocacy training to help support League positions during the 2022 Maryland General Assembly session.

Within our membership roster, there are numerous composition and capacity shifts within a year. Some new members are brand new to the League and others have belonged to a League elsewhere and rejoined upon moving to Maryland. Unfortunately, a number of new-to-LWVAAC members do not connect with the League, do not attend orientation or member events—and then opt not to renew their memberships. In addition, as ever, we are saddened to lose members to debilitating illnesses and death.

Connecting Members: The membership team believes strongly in making an initial connection with new members, trying first to speak briefly via phone or to meet for coffee, and to

encourage an in-depth, new-member orientation. This past year, we scheduled three new-member orientations—two in-person sessions to be held at public libraries in two different parts of Anne Arundel County, and one virtual orientation. The in-person meetings were cancelled due to lack of member commitment (related to the Omicron variant). The Zoom orientation hosted 8 of 29 new and newish invited members. Several new members requested private, in-person orientations, which were more interactive than the virtual group meeting—and enjoyably social. Private orientation remains an option for anyone reading this and wishing to do the same. To schedule, email Kathy Larrabee at membership@lwvaacmd.org.

Member Meetings: Members are strongly encouraged to attend two important member meetings each year. The Welcome Back Reception is held in September to engage members in the League’s planned activities for the year. The Annual Membership Meeting takes place in Spring, as required by our bylaws, so that members can elect new Board officers and directors, adopt a budget for the year ahead, and provide direction to the Board. These meetings also are opportunities for members to mingle and meet in an optimal social setting. If you have missed attending these two annual meetings, please consider attending in the 2022-2023 program year, which runs from July through June. Our September 2021 kickoff meeting was a breath of fresh air for members after months of isolation due to the pandemic. Approximately 30 percent of members attended. Anne Arundel County Executive Stuart Pittman was the guest speaker.

LWVAAC continues to print a *Member Directory* in Fall just after the membership renewal process ends. Copies are postal mailed to each member. The directory contains members’ names and contact information, Board director names, portfolios, and emails, as well as a calendar of scheduled League events, bylaws, and policy positions. Members may also access an online version of the directory which is updated throughout the year as members join or move. To update contact information in the Directory, members may email membership@lwvaacmd.org.

Recruitment, Engagement, Retention: Although encouraged by LWVUS to have a recruitment plan in place, our League currently does not. Labor shortage is our excuse for not actively recruiting new members, and we invite any member interested in assisting to be in touch. Nevertheless, member engagement continues to be a primary focus. We believe if a member attends several events, gets involved by helping with even a one-time task (or more), they will feel a part of the LWV and will find member satisfaction. There is significant evidence that members who do not engage, usually do not stay. We hope you will be the member who engages in some small way to become the member who stays.

PROGRAMS, ACTIVITIES & EVENTS

Trending Topics, Marg Duffy

Our ability to hold in-person gatherings this year was driven by spikes of the COVID variants and County alerts. We arranged two in-person gatherings (a field trip and a fundraiser) and five virtual programs pertaining to trending topics.

Last summer's field trip was in support of the LWVUS *Making Democracy Work*® campaign. Members carpooled to the Eastern Short for a traveling Smithsonian exhibit entitled ***Voices and Votes: Democracy in America***. Afterwards, members gained a deeper understanding of Maryland history through a guided tour of the Kennard African American Cultural Center, and shared their impressions over lunch in Grasonville.

The **holiday fundraiser** was dedicated to the Light House, an Annapolis homeless prevention support shelter that provides workforce training and employment. Members were invited to contribute online to the Light House during the month of December and to meet for breakfast at the Light House Bistro, operated by the shelter, on Saturday, December 11. A congenial group of members and guests enjoyed holiday merriment while discussing issues of importance to the League. Thanks to members' support, the online drive raised more than \$1,600 in support of the Light House.



Vicki Jordan studies the *Make a Change in a Democracy* exhibit.

Photo by K. Larrabee

January's trending topic book discussion, which was open to the public, was relocated from the public library to a virtual format due to COVID health alerts. Attendees discussed ***The Fourth Turning***, a nonfiction book which offers an intricate look at American history past to present. Discussion covered cycles in history, generations, divisiveness, and events that reshaped government.

This year's membership events included an enrichment program, ***Civil Conversations***, led by Cynthia Barry. Held virtually during May and June of 2021, the four-part series involved reading selected writings of historic importance by Harriet Martineau, James Madison, Elizabeth Cady Stanton, and Frederick Douglass. Via a moderated discussion, participants were encouraged to practice listening skills and civil discourse while individuals expressed differing opinions.

For ***Earth Day 2021***, the program committee organized a virtual presentation, ***Climate Change: Global to Local***. Over the past year, more than 100 people have viewed the recording on LWVAAC's YouTube channel. ***Earth Day 2022***, scheduled for April 21, features three virtual presentations focused on overarching environmental issues and solutions in Anne Arundel County. Topics include climate crisis, water quality, waste management and recycling, and biodiversity and pollinator native planting.

To bring members up to date with critical environmental concerns in the County, Trending Topics Chair Marg Duffy conducted an **interview** with the Director of Environmental Policy for Anne Arundel County. The interview is published in the [March 2022](#) issue of *The Voter*.

Annual Board Retreat, Niecy Chambers

Our League's 2021 Board Retreat took place on June 12 at the Pip Moyer Rec Center in Annapolis. Despite its name, this annual event is open to, and benefits from the input of, all members. Its primary purpose is to plan the League's calendar for the coming year and to assign responsibility for overseeing the different activities.

The 2021 gathering was both a welcome return to tradition and an impressive demonstration of the new skills we had gained, courtesy of the pandemic. It was LWVAAC's first-ever hybrid meeting, with 15 members meeting in person and 6 others joining via Zoom.

Each Board Director acquainted those in attendance with the types of activities encompassed by their portfolio and the many ways to volunteer. Participants discussed preliminary plans for a Fall Welcome Back Reception and agreed to hold virtual LWVAAC Board meetings in the evening to make them more accessible. During the break, in-person attendees shared ideas and experiences while enjoying a catered box lunch.

Special thanks to Gail Viamonte, Neil Winner, and Marg Duffy for their contributions to this event.

Welcome Back Reception, Niecy Chambers, Marg Duffy, and Joyce Martin

Taking advantage of a brief respite from new variants and fresh outbreaks of the virus, LWVAAC held an in-person Welcome Back Reception at Café Mezzanotte in Severna Park on September 13, 2021. More than 30 members and guests gathered to enjoy cocktails, appetizers, and each other's company. County Executive Pittman, an LWVAAC member at the time, joined in the socializing before addressing the group as our guest speaker. He spoke about his administration's achievements and ongoing challenges in tackling our League's priority issues, including election laws, social justice, affordable housing, transportation, and the environment.

The LWVAAC has hosted Welcome Back Receptions in the past but not every year. Members' positive response to the 2021 event supports making the Welcome Back Reception an annual tradition.

Annual Program Planning Meeting, Abby Root

The aim of program planning is to review the League's current positions, reach consensus on whether to retain, drop or update these positions, and think about where our League wants to concentrate our advocacy for the coming year.

On January 26, 2022, 15 LWVAAC members participated virtually in our annual Program Planning meeting. Abby Root moderated the review of LWVAAC's current positions, with Alexis Dorsey as the recorder. After considerable discussion, members came to consensus to retain all our League's positions, but focus our energy and resources on the following three:

- **Affordable Housing:** There was discussion about two large developments being planned in the Parole area for residential and retail space as part of the Smart Growth Plan, to include workforce housing. It was suggested that the League monitor these

developments from the standpoint of affordable housing, as well as studies regarding the number of people experiencing homelessness in Anne Arundel County.

- **Transportation:** It was agreed that the area of greatest concern and need for public transportation is near low-income housing, which ties into our Affordable Housing position and warrants continued follow-up.
- **Immigration:** It was agreed that, although our position is valid and does not need to be updated, local immigration policy and programs should be more closely monitored by the LWVAAC.

A new study was not suggested at this time.

Local Leagues are asked to review national LWV positions in even-numbered years when the LWVUS Convention takes place. 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.

VOTER SERVICES, Vera Herath and Vicki Jordan, Co-chairs

Voter Registration and Education, Vera Herath, Co-chair

Our League engaged in a good deal of voter registration activity this year. Many LWVAAC members received their Voter Registrar certification training, which the county Board of Elections continues to offer virtually.

We organized or participated in the following community events, during which we helped to register voters and provided information about voting and elections, in general, and the Fall 2021 City of Annapolis elections, in particular:

- Housing Authority of the City of Annapolis (HACA) Community Resources Day, June 5
- Juneteenth, partnering with NAACP Anne Arundel County Branch (NAACP-AAC), June 19
- Family Day, again with the NAACP-AAC, July 31
- HACA Unity Day, August 21
- Back-to-School Block Party at Van Bokkelen Elementary School, August 28
- Kunta Kinte Festival, September 25
- National Voter Registration Day at O'Malley Senior Center, September 27 and Busch Library, September 28
- Coffee with the Annapolis Ward 2 Candidates, October 27

In November, we began soliciting LWVAAC Voter Registration Volunteers (VRVs) to assist with a voter registration initiative at county high schools. The Anne Arundel County Public Schools (AACPS) are managing the program, with support from the county Board of Elections, and utilizing volunteers from the LWVAAC, NAACP-AAC and other community groups. A primary goal of the program is to enlist student registrars to encourage peer participation. The program

was originally scheduled to occur in December 2021 but was rescheduled to March 2022. During the month of March, 14 public high schools held events. Five LWVAAC Voter Registration Volunteers (VRVs) participated in drives at seven of the schools. NAACP-AAC provided six VRVs and there were 19 student VRVs representing seven schools. The March initiative resulted in 254 voter registration applications being completed on site and 145 taken to complete at home. The level of student interest, curiosity, and energy was remarkably high, which was most gratifying to see. School staff were all helpful and welcoming.

LWVAAC was invited to participate in *Lunch and Learn: Voting 101* at Anne Arundel Community College (AACC) on March 9, presented by the AACC Student Government Association. Vera Herath gave a brief presentation on the importance of voting, resources for election information, where and how to register. Attendance was very small, but interested and active, with insightful comments and questions. As the number of in-person activities on campus increases, AACC expects there will be more such opportunities for LWVAAC to engage with students.

Voter Services Co-Chair Vera Herath also attends the county Board of Elections monthly meetings, as a member of the LWVAAC Observer Corps.

Candidate Forums, Vicki Jordan, Voter Services Co-chair

The LWVAAC hosted a successful 2021 Annapolis Mayoral Candidates' Forum, co-sponsored by the NAACP of Anne Arundel County (NAACP-AAC), October 19, 2021, at Congregation Kneseth Israel synagogue in Annapolis. Gavin Buckley, the Democrat incumbent, and Steven Strawn, the Republican challenger, participated in an energetic exchange on issues ranging from the environment, city finances, affordable housing, and other matters, which were raised by questions from a large, very engaged audience.

The forum was moderated by Josh Kurtz, founding editor of Maryland Matters. Alfa Stevens, LWVAAC President, gave the opening remarks, and Jacqueline Boone Allsup, NAACP-AAC President, provided the closing remarks.

The League was proud to host this extremely well-attended nonpartisan candidate forum, particularly during COVID-19 restrictions, as it provided a safe, respectful environment where voters could meet the candidates and have their questions and concerns addressed. Leading up to the event, it was very well publicized and on the night of the event it was simultaneously broadcast by WNAV. A professionally done video was provided to the public via the League's YouTube channel.

It takes a village to plan and execute a candidate forum and the Voter Services Committee is grateful to all those who assisted. Our committee is currently in discussions with the Heritage Harbor Civic Association about co-sponsoring a forum in late August 2022, prior to the General Election. There will be specific jobs for LWVAAC members both in advance and during this evening event. Please email votersvc@lwvaacmd.org if interested in volunteering.

VOTE411.org and Voters' Guides, Niecy Chambers and Angela Cremeans

VOTE411.org refers both to the LWV-owned public website that offers voters customized election information and to the software application Leagues across the country use to gather candidate responses and create local voters' guides. Our state League purchases the license for LWVAAC and other Maryland Leagues to use the VOTE411.org app to communicate with candidates, pose questions on public policy issues, post explanations of ballot measures, promote candidate forums, and publicize voting dates and requirements. Information is exported from VOTE411.org to create PDF and print versions of the voters' guide.

This year, LWVAAC has responsibility for inviting all candidates running for offices in Anne Arundel County, including state senators and delegates, to participate in the voters' guide. Prior to emailing invitations to the candidates through the VOTE411.org app, our League must research the current salaries and job descriptions for the various offices, develop unbiased questions on topics of concern to our county, track down missing candidate email addresses and enter this information in the VOTE411.org database. A questionnaire sent to members in December gathered valuable input on questions for local candidates, and new LWVAAC member Angela Cremeans has led our research effort. Additional help will be needed to contact candidates who fail to submit responses. Please email votersvc@lwvaacmd.org if interested in volunteering.

Our *Anne Arundel County Voters' Guide for the 2022 Primary Election* will be printed on large format newsprint, with layout by a professional graphic designer. Print voters' guides will be distributed through the county's public libraries and senior centers and other community outlets. In addition, copies will be mailed to voters in one precinct of the county as part of a study by LWVMD and Salisbury State University.

The purpose of this study is to determine whether reading a voters' guide improves voter turnout and/or whether voters with access to a guide are more likely to vote in local elections. Dr. Sandy Pope (Social Sciences, Salisbury State University) will identify a precinct with about 1,000 voters in Anne Arundel, Frederick, and Dorchester Counties. Voters' guides will be mailed to all registered voters in each of those precincts. After the election, questionnaires will be sent to the same voters as well as to voters in a second precinct that did not get the guide. LWVAAC welcomes the opportunity to participate in this research and increase public awareness of our voters' guide.

The 2022 Maryland Primary Election has been postponed from June 28 to July 19 due to challenges to the district maps adopted by the General Assembly. Based on the new Primary date, the League plans to publish online and print voters' guides by June 4.

OBSERVER CORPS, Alexis Dorsey, Chair

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

This year, the OC has continued to monitor the Anne Arundel County Council, Planning Advisory Board, Housing Commission, Board of Elections, and Human Relations Commission. Meetings of the Board of Education and Charter Revision Commission have also been observed.

Additionally, the OC is focusing on the implementation of the Maryland Police Accountability Act of 2021, which requires each county to establish a Police Accountability Board (PAB) prior to July 1, 2022. At time of writing, legislation authorizing a PAB in Anne Arundel County is still before the County Council, pending a vote on several proposed amendments. Once passed, the OC's involvement will continue. The county government will be responsible for establishing the membership, funding, and staffing of the PAB, and the OC will monitor the transparency and effectiveness of the implementation.

During the year, we have learned about the process of reviewing the Capital Budget, the County Charter, Land Preservation Plans, the Parole Town Center Master Plan, and the need for Affordable Housing. We are working with LWVAAC Communications to share what we have learned with our members and the public.

Consider becoming a LWVAAC Observer. Start by choosing an area of government whose work is of interest to you and attend a public meeting, in person or virtually. The OC team can help and function as a guide for observing while you learn about local issues. Email observer@lwvaacmd.org for more information.

ACTION, Abby Root and Susan Cochran, Co-chairs

The Action Committee advocates by testifying, writing letters to the editor, and emailing Action Alerts on current legislative issues. We educate the public on the pros and cons of an issue, explain why the League participates in advocacy for or against the issue, and encourage our members and the public to advocate on their own behalf.

This year we participated in rallies, testified, wrote letters to the editor of the *Capital Gazette*, and sent out Action Alerts.

County Council Testimony, Alfa Stevens, President

On October 18, 2021, LWVAAC President Alfa Stevens submitted written and oral testimony against Bill 81-21, an ordinance concerning *General Provisions – Prohibition against Use of County Funds or Resources to Promote or Require Discrimination*.

Stevens' testimony stated: "The League of Women Voters of Anne Arundel County strongly opposes Bill 81-21. We believe it runs counter to the values of the League and, in fact, to the

values and intent of an educational system in a democracy where civil and respectful exchange of ideas and communication of factually supported information should be embraced. The proposed bill represents an intrusive and suppressive attempt, through legislation, to censor one or more aspects of curriculum—and, therefore, threatens all aspects of current or future curriculum..... The League believes that it is the role of responsible government to share in the solution of problems, not hide from them. Further, the League does not believe it is the role of government to determine what school curriculum shall and shall not be.” The vote was 4-3 along party lines, but required a super-majority to pass. The LWVAAC is monitoring activities within the county to organize a petition drive to put the question of public campaign financing on the November ballot.

County Charter Revision Commission Testimony, Gail Viamonte, Vice President

On January 24, 2022, LWVAAC Vice President Gail Viamonte testified before the Anne Arundel County Charter Revision Commission urging the commission to keep the Charter clear, concise, and confined to fundamentals. Viamonte thanked the members of the Commission for their work on behalf of our County.

County Council Resolution 1-22

In February 2022, the LWVAAC advocated for the passage of County Council Resolution 1-22, which proposed an amendment to the County Charter to require the establishment of a system of public campaign financing for candidates for County Executive and the County Council. If passed by a super majority, 5-2, of the County Council, the proposed amendment would have appeared on the November 2022 ballot to let the voters decide.

LWVAAC Vice President Gail Viamonte sent a letter to the editor of *The Capital Gazette* in support of Resolution 1-22. In February we sent an Action Alert to our members asking them to contact their Council member to urge them to vote yes on Res. 1-22 at the February 7, 2022, 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 February 7 Council meeting, advocating for the resolution. At the County Council session, Abby Root, LWVAAC Action co-chair testified to urge the Council to vote in favor of the resolution so voters could decide.

Unfortunately, the Resolution did not pass. The vote was 4-3 along party lines. LWVAAC is monitoring activities within the county to organize a petition drive to put the question of public campaign financing on the November 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.

Redistricting

Abby Root represented the LWVAAC on the LWVMD redistricting team. The goal of the committee was to build public interest and advocacy for fair mapping. Root testified at the Maryland Citizens Redistricting Commission (MCRC) representing the LWVAAC. She spoke

about Anne Arundel County being broken up into four Congressional districts and the resulting difficulty in addressing the environmental problems of the Chesapeake Bay.

Root also testified at the Legislative Redistricting Advisory Commission (LRAC) advocating for the League's position of fair and effective representation in the state legislature and U.S. House of Representatives when drawing the maps. She also spoke about the environmental problems of the Bay and reducing the number of Congressional districts in the County.

The LWVAAC participated in a Fair Maps rally, along with other organizations, in Annapolis on December 8, 2021, during the special session of the Maryland General Assembly.

The redistricting team is presently monitoring the lawsuits that have been filed over the gerrymandered maps approved by the Maryland General Assembly. On March 25, 2022, the judge presiding over a lawsuit regarding the Congressional map ruled that the present map unfairly favors Democrats. It was sent back to the state legislature to remap.

Action Alerts

Stakeholder Advisory Committee

On July 7, 2021, Action co-chair Susan Cochran sent an Action Alert asking members to consider applying for a position on a region Stakeholder Advisory Committee (SAC). Region Plans offer community members an opportunity to develop a shared vision for their community's future. The County Council directed the Office of Planning and Zoning to collaborate with communities to prepare plans for each of the county's nine regions. Stakeholder Advisory Committees were established to work collaboratively with County staff to prepare Region Plans. The League believes land use planning is an important citizen function. Region Stakeholder Advisory Committees are an opportunity for you to participate in shaping future land use in your area.

Charter Revision Commission on County Redistricting

On December 15, 2021, Action co-chair Susan Cochran sent an Action Alert encouraging LWVAAC members to follow and take part in the Charter Revision Commission's public hearing on December 16, 2021, soliciting feedback on redistricting in the County.

COLLABORATIONS AND PARTNERSHIPS, Gail Viamonte, Chair

Since 2020, a LWVAAC initiative designated as "Collaborations and Partnerships" has focused on at least one strategic outreach each year. Once the relationship is established, the team passes on the developing connection to Committee Chairs for their consideration and integration into one or more active portfolios.

Last year, LWVAAC sought to develop more active relationships with Anne Arundel Community College and Anne Arundel County Public Schools. This year, each of these relationships strengthened.

The eight Anne Arundel County Public School History and Government teachers nominated to the Harvard Case Method Project <https://www.hbs.edu/case-method-project/> and completing their training in April 2021, implemented this methodology in their classrooms.

On March 31, 2022, three of the teachers, Hunter Hammond (Old Mill High School), Steve Bellizzi (Annapolis High School), and Joseph Landgraf (North County High School) moderated a highly energetic, interactive, and well-received virtual Community Case discussion of “Martin Luther King, Jr. and the Struggle for Black Voting Rights.”

Publicity for this event was expanded through existing relationships (LWVAAC, AACPS, LWVMD, AAUW, AACC) and new outreach to other individuals and groups. The combination of topic, moderators, medium, purpose, and publicity yielded eighty-six registrations and seventy-four participants, inclusive of individuals from across and beyond Maryland and representing various communities and organizations, County and State League members and staff, Anne Arundel Community College personnel, and AACPS educators and students.

Gail Viamonte continues to work with Eve Case, AACPS Social Studies Coordinator from the Division of Curriculum and Instruction, on future nomination of additional teachers to the Harvard Case Method Project. Gail also serves on the LWVUS National Advisory Board for the Case Method Project.

Concurrently, Voter Services engaged with AACPS’s Eve Case, the NAACP, and the Board of Elections regarding county-wide plan for registering high school students to vote (see Voter Services).

After their involvement on a student “Get Out the Vote” panel in 2020, Anne Arundel Community College’s Student Government Association approached Gail Viamonte for a speaker to this year’s “Lunch and Learn: Voting 101.” This opportunity was shared with Voter Services and led to Vera Herath’s embodying LWVAAC’s presence and expertise--and once again reinforcing the League as the “go to” contact for voter education and registration, as well as LWVAAC’s responsiveness to the Community College.

Since LWVAAC’s inception, individual member’s cultivated professional relationships or personal affiliations have furthered League success (and will continue to do so). Institutionalizing relationships so that they become networks shared and accessed by multiple League portfolios or committees ensures longevity, creates synergies and allies, and can lead to desired outcomes and serendipitous benefits.

DIVERSITY, EQUITY, AND INCLUSION

Along with state and local Leagues across the country, LWVMD and LWVAAC amended their bylaws in 2021 to adopt the LWVUS policy on diversity, equity, and inclusion. Article II, Section 2 now reads: *The League is fully committed to ensure compliance—in principle and in practice—with LWVUS’ Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Policy.*

Adopting a policy is an important first step, but implementation is key. In 2021, LWVMD formed a DEI Committee to explore what the DEI policy means, how we can use it to change the way we operate and how best to support local Leagues in implementing these practices. Over the last year, the LWVMD DEI Committee has adopted definitions of the elements of DEI, organized a DEI training for local and state LWV leaders, and led a public DEI workshop via Zoom.

LWVAAC Director Sara Sanders is co-chair of the LWVMD DEI Committee. She, along with other LWVAAC members, participated in both the DEI training and workshop, and worked to inform our broader community about the definition and implications of the three elements of DEI. The definitions were published in the December 2021 issue of our newsletter and will soon be added to our LWVAAC website. DEI awareness has encouraged the LWVAAC Board to reevaluate the scheduling of meetings and the composition of event panels.

Last July, Anne Arundel County Executive Pittman established a new Equity, Diversity and Inclusion position in his administration and appointed Pete Hill as Director. In a letter to the County Executive commending his action, LWVAAC President Alfa Stevens wrote, “More self-awareness and understanding of wide-ranging perspectives and experiences is key to the success of making Anne Arundel County the best place – engaging all households, communities, and policymakers in order to achieve a more perfect democracy for all. Democracy can only be strengthened by the inclusion of all the diverse voices within the community.”

In the fall, LWVAAC President Alfa Stevens testified before County Council, alongside Mr. Hill, in opposition to Bill 81-21 (see Action p. 16). In her remarks, she argued that teaching children an inclusive and factual curriculum of American history will help to produce adults who recognize and reject discrimination.

COMMUNICATIONS, Kathy Larrabee, Chair; Amanda SubbaRao, Niecy Chambers

In 2021, the LWVAAC Board established a Communications portfolio to organize the website, Facebook, *The Voter* newsletter, and organizational e-blasts under one umbrella. Three Board members currently comprise a communications team, working closely together to maximize the LWVAAC image and exposure. In addition, the team provides the Board with counsel and editing regarding messaging and manages media relations, including promotion of League events organized by Board directors. Since September, the communications team has assisted with testimony for AA County Council hearings and publicized a candidates’ forum and several Zoom events.

The following summarizes the status of LWVAAC’s most visible communication tools:

Website, Amanda SubbaRao

LWVAAC has updated the look and feel of our website, aligning it with the LWV brand and improving accessibility. We continue to use the LWVMD NationBuilder platform to manage the website, member database, and bulk communications. We also use NationBuilder to send automated membership renewal reminders and collect dues online and for event RSVPs and

tickets, as well as for online donations. We have been investigating other ways we can leverage the built-in functions of NationBuilder to make our website more dynamic and useful to our members. For example, the blog feature has allowed us to pull actionable content from the LWVAAC's newsletter, *The Voter*, to give it greater visibility on the homepage and offer people ways to engage.

In addition, we have created our own tools to improve the website experience. One tool we have built is an interactive "Representative Finder" page that will show visitors to our website their local, state, and federal representatives and public officials, along with their contact information.

We are also working toward a reorganization and updated display of our online League information that will make it as easy as possible for members and prospective members to find out more about our current programs and activities, and for County residents to find the information they need. A high priority is to transfer essential League documents, e.g., our public policy positions, from PDFs to searchable webpages. Our vision is to turn the website into an easy to use one-stop information shop for our members and for our community.

Facebook, Kathy Larrabee

Maintaining a strong social media presence has been a challenge for our League for numerous reasons, including that very few members support the LWVAAC page by viewing and sharing posts, which is critical to the multiplying effect on social media. To enhance FB posts, content and images, the FB administrator is working in parallel with content enhancements to the LWVAAC website. This past year, FB posts averaged 40 views each. Posts consisted of special recognition days, alerts to county and state legislation support by the LWVAAC and LWVMD, and event announcements for LWVAAC and LWVMD. We gained 10 new followers this past month for a total of 343. A majority of followers are women over the age of 65 according to platform analytics.

THE VOTER Newsletter, Kathy Larrabee & Niecy Chambers

The Voter is the LWVAAC's quarterly newsletter, published the first week of June, September, December, and March. This year, process improvements regarding planning, collecting, and editing content for each issue have streamlined production. The four 2021-22 issues have included more than 75 pages of newsworthy content and images.

The Voter received a visual facelift in 2021, the much-appreciated contribution of a volunteer with a background in graphic design. In addition, the layout of *The Voter* was redesigned to mimic magazine architecture and content styles.

The Voter is distributed to members and others interested in LWVAAC activities through an e-blast that contains a hyperlink to the newsletter, which can be read online or downloaded to print. Current and past issues may be found on our website at lwvaacmd.org/voternews. *The Voter* announces future League events and provides hyperlinks to event details on our website, along with RSVP options. Members who have opted out of receiving the newsletter are missing

an easy opportunity to know about upcoming LWVAAC and LWVMD events. If you have opted out of receiving email from the League, make it a regular practice to visit the [LWVAAC Homepage](#) to stay informed.

Not all local Maryland Leagues have newsletters because publishing is labor intensive overall. The LWVAAC newsletter would not be possible without the participation of our Board directors, who consistently provide quality content regarding their portfolios (focus areas). Most recently *The Voter* content has shifted a bit from reports on past activities to upcoming event details, special articles, and broad items of interest about the LWV and membership. For example, Vera Herath, Voter Services Director, recently provided a personal account of serving as an election judge for years and encouraged members to consider the same. Marg Duffy, Environmental Director, provided an excellent interview with the first-ever Anne Arundel County Environmental Policy Director. If you have an idea for a topic we should cover or an article you would like to contribute, please be in touch: editor@lwvaacmd.org.

Bulletin Board and other e-blasts, Niecy Chambers

Bulletin Board e-blasts are sent, as needed, to communicate time-sensitive announcements and reminders. Pertinent event information is outlined in invitation form and enhanced by images when possible. Hyperlinks take the reader to the complete event listing for details and registration. *Action Alerts*, as explained in the Action report (p. 16), provide information about pending legislation or government actions on which the League has a position. In addition to these targeted messages, the LWVAAC President, Vice President and portfolio chairs regularly employ e-blasts to share information with League members and the community at large.

FUNDRAISING, Niecy Chambers, Kathy Larrabee and Vittoria Natale

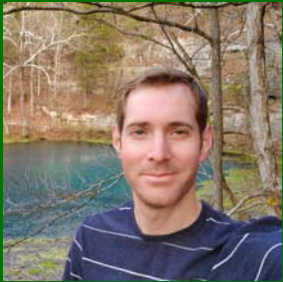
Our League's 2021 annual fundraising drive kicked off last June, just as the country marked the 50th anniversary of the 26th Amendment, which granted 18-year-olds the right to vote. In celebration of our nation's young and new voters, LWVAAC pledged proceeds from this appeal to support our League's civics education activities and voter outreach. Donors responded generously, contributing \$3,820 toward these initiatives. Throughout the year, our Collaborations & Partnerships Committee has vigorously sought opportunities, such as the March 31 Harvard Case Method presentation, to promote civics education, and has worked alongside the Voter Services Committee to educate, inform and engage voters.

In 2022, our fundraising team welcomed Vittoria Natale, a new-to-LWVAAC member who helped developed this year's content and theme, *It's the Journey that Counts*, highlighting the League's ongoing journey to Make Democracy Work®. The annual appeal was mailed in mid-March 2022. Contributions will support our nonpartisan election year activities, including candidate forums, voter registration events, informational materials, and print voters' guides.



***Environmental Challenges and Solutions
in Anne Arundel County***
Virtual Presentations

Thursday, April 21, 2022
4:00 to 5:00 p.m.



Climate Crisis: The Overarching Environmental Issue
Matt Johnston, Director of Environmental Policy AAC

Intense storms, flooding and runoff, hotter summers and droughts are just a few of the environmental challenges facing our County. Learn how the County is tackling these challenges from legislation to collaborative projects countywide and district specific.



Household Waste: Curbside to County
Rich Bowen, Recycling Program Manager for AAC

Have you ever questioned if an item is recyclable yet tossed it in the yellow bin anyway? Or wondered about methane and food in our landfills? Join the discussion on household to curbside waste and County recycling, issues, trends and solutions.



Community Solutions: Master Garden Outreach
Nancy Allred, Interim Master Gardener Coordinator AAC

Learn healthy soil practices, how to reduce waste by composting, adopting climate resilient landscape methods, and planting for wildlife benefit, especially native pollinators.

LWVAACMD.Org FB:@LWVAAC

Contact: Marg Duffy program@LWVAACMD.com or 443-672-8270

RSVP for Zoom link: lwvaacmd.org/earthday22