



The VOTER

VOLUME 57 NUMBER 5

May 2017

Calendar (League activities in bold)

EVENT/ACTIVITY	DATE	DAY	TIME	LOCATION/INFO
LWVCC Board Meeting	June 5	M	7 p.m.	Vogelson Library, Room B (3rd floor). Members are welcome to attend, but please let us know because meetings are occasionally moved or cancelled.
Voter Registration	July 19	W	10 a.m.	After the naturalization ceremony, Camden. Contact the League at lwvcc@hotmail.com or call 856-795-7878 if you are interested in helping register.

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Board Report

May 1, 2017

The board:

1. Learned that voter registration on the Battleship NJ for new citizens went very well. See story below.
2. Planned membership renewal.
3. Discussed moderator training.
4. Discussed possible fundraisers.
5. Tentatively decided on redistricting for the fall kickoff -- date tentatively Sept 16 -- hold it!

League of Women Voters of Camden County

Board Message

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Greetings to all League members and friends:

This has been an eventful spring! The LWVNJ cocktail reception went well (and raised more than expected). State board members Ed Gracely (me!) and Ann Saunders from the LWVCC were there, as was long-time member Winne Rowell-Bullard. The LWVNJ convention followed the next day and also went well (see story below), with Ed and Ann for the state board, plus Winne, Harriet Snyder, and Kristin Burke representing our League. Meanwhile, locally, we registered new citizens on the Battleship New Jersey -- see story below. And did multiple other voter registrations!

It's membership renewal time -- Most of you will have received an email asking you to renew. Please do so promptly. Those who joined for the first time since January 2017 have membership through June 2018.

Some of you don't have to renew, like our 50-year members. But one of them, Eloise Douglas, made a donation to the League instead. Thank you, Eloise! And I see donations from Bobbie and Joel Porter, Marion Steininger, and Janet Morrison. Thanks to everyone. As you know, we send most of our dues to the state and national Leagues in the form of "per member payments" so we need additional funds to run our local League. Expenses include our voice mail line, our post office box, conventions (we contribute to a member's expenses), printing directories and citizens guides, and miscellaneous. In years when we do Running & Winning, that is a big additional expense, but we fund-raise separately for that. Our Annual Meeting generally pays for itself.

It was pointed out to me that some members may not know how to access our Facebook page (which has pictures and stories not in the Voter). The important point is that you do **not have to have a Facebook account**. You can visit any public Facebook page just by clicking the link. You can see pretty much everything that is there. These sites are meant to be open. Many candidates have Facebook pages they expect the public to visit, for example. Facebook may bug you to sign up, but if you don't have (or want) an account, just go to the content. Our page is <https://www.facebook.com/LWVCCNJ/>.

In League

Ed for the board

The League of Women Voters, a nonpartisan political organization of men and women, encourages informed and active participation in government, works to increase understanding of major public policy issues, and influences public policy through education and advocacy.

The League of Women Voters of Camden County, LWVCC
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Visit our web site: <http://www.lwvnj.org/camdencounty>

Follow us on Twitter: @LWVCCNJ

Like us on Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/LWVCCNJ/home>

The VOTER is published ten times a year to keep the membership and public informed of the activities of the League of Women Voters of Camden County. For subscription or membership information call (856) 795-7878.



Getting there - Directions!

Haddon Township: Rohrer Library: Take 295 to Route 30 north. On 30, pass King's Highway. In about a mile after King's Highway, just after Nicholson Road on the left, you'll see Cuthbert Road on the right. Turn right onto Cuthbert from 30. Stay on Cuthbert for about half a mile. Just past Hopkins, turn right onto MacArthur. The library is at that corner. // This is the same Cuthbert Road that becomes Cuthbert Blvd further north at routes 70 and 38, so you could take it south from there. MacArthur is about 0.8 miles south of Haddon Avenue on Cuthbert Blvd.

Voorhees: Vogelson Regional Library: Driving south on 30, turn left onto Somerdale Road just above the Voorhees Town Center. Go under the train bridge in about a half mile, then turn right onto Burnt Mill (at the light). Soon turn left onto Laurel Road at a light. The library is on your right as you pass the mall.

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Freeholder Meetings

We encourage League members to observe Freeholder meetings when they are convenient for you. Just show up with a LWV button to let them know we are watching! Don't make any statements -- you aren't entitled to speak for the League (or even yourself after wearing a League button). You can ask a neutral/informative question, however. Meetings start at 7. It's good for Camden County!

The list for the year is online in the form of a county events calendar at <http://www.camdencounty.com/calendar/list> It has lots of entries and is a bit hard to navigate. Try searching for "Freeholder Meeting" or a specific month like "May Freeholder Meeting". A member is maintaining a Google docs list [here](#). It shows days and times, and who plans to attend.

The **June** meeting is Thursday June 15, 2017 at 7 pm at the Cherry Hill Community Center 820 Mercer Street, Cherry Hill, NJ. They generally have an open forum at 6:30.

LWVNJ Convention Report

Ed Gracely

I was hoping for some hot floor battles and debate. The President was probably hoping for none of the above, with everything being easily approved with minimal debate. She mostly got what she wanted! Major bylaws revisions, deficit budget, and board nominees all approved with only a few points of discussion.

As usual, we started with local Leagues talking about their accomplishments. Harriet Snyder represented us. She mentioned our many voter registration efforts, including the Naturalization Ceremony, and the numerous new and interested members we have seen over the past few months.

Kelly McFarland of the League of Women Voters of the United States spoke to the assembly about the need to balance being true to our core values with being flexible.

One major source of discussion in conventions is often the non-recommended items. Say a local League recommends in program planning (over the winter) that we study regulation of corn crops. The board reviews these recommendations, and only 1 League requested this. It does not seem close to League interests and there was minimal explanation. So the board agrees to show it as a suggestion but doesn't "recommend" it. Then, at convention, 3 local Leagues stand up to support this item! They convince the delegates to consider it, we debate it, and so on. This year there were **no** local Leagues doing that. Nobody defended their not recommended program items or asked the delegates to approve them. So that went fast!

Budget got some discussion, but I won't bore you with it here.

We changed the bylaws. You may already know we now allow 16 year olds and noncitizens as members (as of a national League bylaw change). We also decreased the size of the state board, clarified authority of the president, and of the board over committees, and a variety of other things.

At lunch we gave out a variety of awards and heard an interesting speaker. We acknowledged 50-year members (Renée Robbins from the LWVCC was there). We concluded business after lunch, and elected our new officers and directors. Nancy Hedinger remains president. I (Ed) remain Program VP. Ann Saunders remains on the board as VP, but transitions from development to governance. None of the other members of the board are Camden or Burlington County members.



A few waiting for the opening Parade of Leagues. Harriet far right. Karen from BurlCo next to her.



Kristin speaking, Winne working.

New Member and First-Time Convention Attendee Impressions

Kristin Burke



I only recently joined the League, but I was excited to have the opportunity to attend the state League Convention on April 29 as a Camden County chapter delegate, along with Harriet Snyder and Winne Rowell-Bullard and our very own state board members Ed Gracely and Ann Saunders. The Convention provided a full day of tackling necessary business, engaging in spirited brainstorming discussions, and celebrating state chapter accomplishments.

Delegates voted to approve numerous changes to the state League bylaws, all of which served to make the bylaws current with existing practices and/or national policies, none of which were controversial. The state League budget was also approved, though it was clear that we all hope to improve the financial standing of the League so we do not continue dipping into reserves. Other business included a report from Executive Director Jesse Burns and approving the slate of board nominees. There were no major changes to the program/positions for the 2017-2019 biennium.

We were treated to a presentation by Kelly McFarland, Senior Director of Governance & Volunteer Strategy for the National League, where she discussed some of the challenges and opportunities facing the League going forward. In the newly energized political climate, we want to ensure that the nearly century-old League does not get overshadowed by the newer groups that have come to existence since last November. Another over-arching theme was how to balance the tradition and formality of League practices with the flexibility demanded by today's fast-moving political climate.

The caucus period allowed attendees to choose from a variety of topics including: bylaws, budget, League vision, and immigration. I attended the League vision caucus, led by Ms. McFarland. The group held a lively discussion about what the League can and should do to remain current. Some expressed concern that our nonpartisan emphasis gets lost on outsiders. Others shared their ideas for growing and engaging membership. Guidance from the state and national level was requested in terms of new ideas, and also for new technology (consistent websites, training tools, online payment for dues and donations, etc.). I'm hopeful that the National League office will recognize the energy at the chapter level and help direct more resources to us for fulfilling the League's mission.

Both the parade of Leagues and the luncheon offered wonderful opportunities to hear about the accomplishments of our fellow New Jersey Leagues. The luncheon speaker, Keesha Gaskins-Nathan, gave an engaging presentation about political engagement. I left the Convention feeling invigorated and ready to take on important League issues at the local, state, and national level. I look forward to working with fellow LWVCC members to capitalize on the energy of the Convention.

Naturalization ceremony on the Battleship NJ

May 1, 2017

Anita Hahn and Kristin Burke

On Monday, May 1, 2017, members of the League of Women Voters Camden County were aboard the Battleship New Jersey to assist newly sworn U.S. citizens in registering to vote. The special naturalization ceremony on the historic battleship was presided over by the Honorable Judge Joseph H. Rodriguez, the United States District Judge for the District of New Jersey, and Louis R. Moffa, Jr., President of the Camden County Bar Association. Immediately following the Oath of Allegiance, the 41 new citizens were invited to complete a voter registration form, their first official step in participating in the democratic process.

The candidates for citizenship, their families, League members and other guests were treated to an emotional and moving experience. Judge Rodriguez regaled attendees with a tale of immigration from his own family. One day in 1918 off the coast of Atlantic City, multiple vessels were being sunk by a German U-boat. The Germans boarded one passenger ship and ordered the passengers off, and among the weary emigrants headed to shore in lifeboats was Judge Rodriguez's father, who had fled Cuba.

Mr. Moffa discussed his family's immigrant past as well, and stressed to the candidates the importance of assimilating into American culture while retaining and celebrating their own rich culture from their native countries. He left the audience with the words of Martin Luther King, Jr.: "We may have all come on different ships, but we're in the same boat now."

The 41 new citizens represented some 20 different counties, and nearly all remained after the ceremony to complete their voter registration with the assistance of League and AAUW members. It was certainly an energizing, feel-good morning, and it was observed by the League that the new citizens appeared understandably proud to have reached their goal of naturalization. As a group, they were distinguished, and although they took this milestone in their lives very seriously, there was an air of contagious joy on the Battleship on May 1.

If you would like to volunteer to register new citizens at future naturalization ceremonies (all ceremonies take place in Camden), please email Bobbie Porter at joelpmd@hotmail.com.



Louis Moffa (L), Judge Rodriguez (R) and new citizen.



League volunteer Anita Hahn (R) with new citizen (C) and friend.



A whole family!

Pictures courtesy of Anita Hahn.

If You Are Interested In:

- *Learning about government and the political process.*
- *Getting involved in the political process in nonpartisan ways.*
- *Meeting and working with other citizens who care about good government.*



Join the League Of Women Voters of Camden County

Call 856-795-7878 or send this form to: PO Box 245, Voorhees, NJ 08043

Annual membership is \$60 (plus \$30 for each additional household membership). To join, or for more information, send this form or call the number above. **First time new annual membership** is only \$25! This also applies to student and household members (for an entirely new household membership).

I want to become a member of the LWV of Camden County: _____ (Check enclosed for \$ _____)

Please send me information on membership in the LWV of Camden County _____

Name _____

e-mail: _____

Address _____

Phone: _____

(Please include area code)

The



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