



The VOTER

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October 2017

Calendar (League activities in bold)

EVENT/ACTIVITY	DATE	DAY	TIME	LOCATION/INFO
LWVCC Board Meeting	Nov 6	M	7-9 pm	Haddon Township Library, Story Room
LWVCC Program Planning	Dec 13	W	6-9 pm	Porter residence. All welcome. Pot luck -- bring something tasty!

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Board Report

August 23, 2017 Member/Board pot luck

At the August meeting the board (with member input):

1. Made and approved plans for the fall Kickoff (See p 4).
2. Appointed Kristin Burke to the Board.
3. Made further plans for our Boscov's Fundraiser.
4. Discussed the recent and very successful moderator training session (See board message, p2)
5. Discussed some committee and structural ideas, and plans for a meet and greet, as presented by Kristin.
6. Discussed fall voter registration.
7. Discussed member renewal.

October 2, 2017, regular board meeting

The board:

1. Agreed to test Google Voice as a replacement (free!) for our current League phone line.
2. Finalized plans for the Boscov's Friends fundraiser.
3. Continued with plans to maximize member renewal.
4. Discussed the Kickoff. Successful, but several aspects cost more than we anticipated. We will revise location and food next year.
5. Learned about frequent Naturalization Ceremonies in BurlCo. Anita will look into it.
6. Planned the Holiday party and program planning for Dec 13.
7. Discussed committees, including a possible chair for R&W.

Board Message

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Welcome to new members Wendy Clouser, Bonnie Dewey, and Marie Henselder Kimmel! And thanks to Bonnie for her donation with her member dues as well. And to Renee Robbins for her donation.

Our **moderator training** session went fabulously. **Ten** trainees! Dawn Clarke from the LWVNJ led the session (with some help from me). The trainees are from Camden County (4), Burlington County (4) and the new Atlantic County Member at Large Unit (2). **Next steps** will be for them to observe at least one, but often several forums, enough so they feel comfortable that they know the basic process. They may also time keep, screen questions, and be included in the preliminary discussions around these forum as well. When a trainee feels ready to try a session, an experienced moderator will work with her or him (yes, we had a male trainee) to prepare, be present in the audience for moral support, and give feedback. If all goes well, we have a newly-certified moderator. Yeah! I want 10 of them...

I mentioned the term "**Member at Large Unit**" above. Here's a bit of League terminology worth knowing. First of all, a Member at Large (MAL) is a member of the LWVNJ but not of an established local League. Some of our MALs live far from a local League. In other cases, a local League grew old and faded away, leaving only some MALs still interested. If they have a bit of leadership and organization, they can form an MAL Unit to help with some League business. The exciting MAL Units, however, are the ones created when new members in an area want to move towards establishing a new League. This is the case in Atlantic County. They have a wonderful and engaged group of members, who are putting together what they need to apply for recognition as a local League. Members of an MAL Unit can moderate debates and organize them. They can do voter registration. But the Unit does not have its own bank account or board. It cannot send a formal representative to Convention. So the goal is to become a full League. I expect Atlantic County to be there in a year or so!

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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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.

Kristin attended the June meeting, arrived early and was able to introduce herself to most of the Freeholders, several of whom were quite interested to talk to her. Good contacts!

The **November** meeting is Thursday November 9, 2017 at 7 p.m. at the Camden County College, Camden, NJ,. Town hall meeting at 6:30 p.m.

Program Planning and Holiday Party

Dec 13 at the Porter's 6 pm

Old time League members know the Holiday Party as one of the highlights of the League year! We gather for a tasty pot luck dinner and desert at a member's house, then divide up into groups to discuss the League's all-important program at either the national or the state level. You can have fun, schmooze with friends and fellow members, and learn more about the League's positions on issues of interest. Plus providing useful input to higher levels of League.

How we handle things depends on how many people come. With enough members, we do breakout groups, each assigned an area of League program. With fewer, we work as a whole. Typically Ed Gracely, local and LWVNJ board member, leads the plenary session discussion (which we have in either case).



Voter Registration Efforts at Naturalization Ceremonies

Many opportunities to get involved

Anita Hahn, LWVCC

Every week in New Jersey, through the process of naturalization, scores of candidates take the Oath of Allegiance to the United States to become U.S. Citizens, eligible to register to vote.

Would you like to be part of the process? To observe as the new citizens take the oath of office, then register them to vote? Both the Camden County LWV and the Burlington County LWV have activities at naturalization ceremonies and can use your assistance!

In **Camden County**, Naturalization Ceremonies are held five times a year at various locations: the U.S. Courthouse, on the Battleship New Jersey and recently at Rutgers University. These events are always stirring with inspirational speeches from the presiding judges and guests, often acknowledging contributions made by citizens who have come from other countries to make the United States their home.

In **Burlington County**, a Naturalization Ceremony is also held *almost daily* at the U.S. Citizenship and Information Services (USCIS) Field Office in Mt. Laurel. Representatives of the League of Women Voters of Burlington County began attending these events on a regular basis in April 2017 and since then have helped more than 1,000 new citizens to complete their voter registration forms. Candidates from the 11 southern-most counties in New Jersey typically apply to the USCIS field office at 530 Fellowship Road in Mt. Laurel. Keith Dorr, Supervisory Immigration Services Officer, manages the naturalization ceremonies, among other responsibilities, and has been deputized by the Clerk of the Superior Court of New Jersey to administer the Oath of Allegiance for new citizens.

The next **Naturalization Ceremony in Camden County** will take place at the U. S. Courthouse, 4th and Cooper Streets in Camden at 10:00 a.m. on Thursday, November 16, 2017. The League of Women Voters Camden County (LWVCC), led by board member Bobbie Porter, attends these ceremonies to provide voter registration forms and guidance, along with congratulations, to all new citizens. If you would like to help out at an upcoming Naturalization Ceremony in Camden County, call Bobbie Porter at 856-429-1415

In **Burlington County** the events are almost daily, so opportunities to participate are numerous. I (Anita Hahn) am coordinating the effort with LWVBC Voter Services Chair Susan Illion. If you are interested, please contact me (Anita) directly -- I will coordinate with Susan: hahna98@yahoo.com or (856) 261-2783 (C). Most likely we will arrange occasional groups from the LWVCC to take responsibility for a specific day, to give the busy LWVBC folks a break!

Anyone witnessing a Naturalization Ceremony and assisting with voter registration can be guaranteed a moving, rewarding experience.



LWVCC Kickoff



This picture, by Marcia Lugger (thanks Marcia!) shows the main speakers and presenters at the Kickoff.

Bobbie Porter (L) spoke about our wonderful voter registration efforts, especially at the Naturalization Ceremony.

Marie Henselder Kimmel (second from left, now a member!) spoke about America's Promise and its efforts to overturn Citizens United (thus allowing reasonable campaign finance restrictions).

Ed Gracely (behind Harriet Snyder) spoke about moderating and moderator training, while Harriet introduced the meeting and spoke about voter registration.

The man in the tie, our keynote speaker, Sam Daley-Harris encouraged us to pick something that matters to focus on, work with others, persist, be firm but polite, and get it done!

Kristin Burke, second from right, helped organize the meeting and spoke about some new ideas for the League, such as revived committees.

Renée Robbins, right, spoke about Running & Winning, our program for high school girls, developed by her and Anne Maiese from a less interactive LWVUS version many years ago, and now the standard, used nationwide. We have plans to reinvigorate our local version in another year!

Missing from the picture -- Myrna Schlanger, who did most of the organizing work, and obtained our tasty and varied meal.



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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