



The VOTER

VOLUME 58 NUMBER 5

May 2018

Calendar (League activities in bold)

EVENT/ACTIVITY	DATE	DAY	TIME	LOCATION/INFO
LWVCC Board	June 4	M	7-9 pm	Vogelson Library, room B third floor. Members are welcome to attend, but please let us know because meetings are occasionally moved or cancelled.
Primary Election Day	June 5	Tu	Day	Polls open 6 a.m. to 8 p.m.
Voter Registration	July 12	Th	10 a.m.	After the naturalization ceremony, Camden. Contact the League at lwvccnj@gmail.com or call (856) 438-0182 if you are interested in helping register.

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Board Report

May 7 2018

1. Took Citizens Guides (local) for various nearby locations. About 500 of the 1,000 we ordered were distributed. We want to use these all! We encourage towns to print from the web version.
2. We discussed the annual meeting. Well attended, but attendees would have preferred an actual luncheon. Maybe a pot luck?
3. Approved setting up a PayPal account for electronic renewals and donations.
4. Janet is learning more and more about Running & Winning as we move along plans for next year.
5. Appointed Kristin Burke as President (so her term can start immediately, rather than July 1).

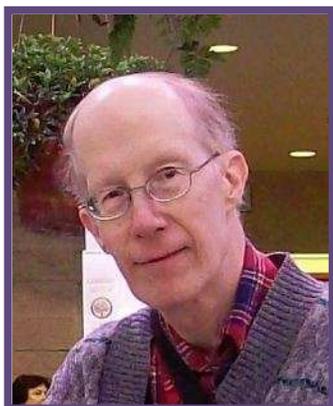
League of Women Voters of Camden County

Scan to view the Camden County
Citizen's Guide to Elections & Local Government



Board Message

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We welcomed three more new members in April: Lisa Godfrey (Haddonfield), Naomi Lubkin (Cherry Hill), and Regina Spitalieri (Laurel Springs). Glad to have them all with us!

We would like to thank Lori Watson for her donation to the League.

Our Annual Meeting was well attended, and the speaker was excellent. See the story and pictures, below.

As you may have noticed, we have a new President after many years without. Kristin Burke, who joined a little over a year ago, soon got involved at both the local level and in Fair Districts NJ at the state level, joined the board, and is now ready to lead. Congratulations to Kristin! She'll be representing us at National Convention in Chicago in June. I have the privilege of representing Burlington County, which didn't use its own delegate slot.

The activity level of our League in recent months is impressive. Voter registration for new citizens in both our traditional site in Camden and our new location helping LWVBC in Burlington County. Gatherings to meet and discuss League events. Observer corps visiting Freeholder and other meetings. Running & Winning getting started again. A presence (see April Voter) at the March for Our Lives.

We also have some changes (and continuations) in our board, in addition to our new President. Joe and Pearl Friedman, who stepped up to add to the number of board members when we were at a real low, have both been very helpful and hard working in that role. They are stepping down after several years of service. Pearl adds these years to many years on the board, including as President, in years past. Joe will serve on the Nominating Committee off board. We thank them both for their service.

Anita Hahn and Janet Fisher-Hughes, appointees to the board, are now elected members. I have volunteered for and been elected as secretary (heck, I take minutes at almost every meeting anyway!). Bobbie Porter and Myrna Schlanger will continue to serve, as will Harriet Snyder as Treasurer. We have a good board, plus some off-board volunteers. I look forward to working with them all.

In League... Ed

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

Voice Mail Line: (856) 438-0182 (new)
(856) 795-7878 (old, going away)

Voter Editor: Ed Gracely (856) 629-2869

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Visit our web site: <http://www.lwvnj.org/camdencounty>

Follow us on Twitter: @LWVCCNJ

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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!

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". Also, converting to view by month shows a lot more entries.

The **June** meeting is Thursday, Jun 21st, 2018 @ 7 pm (Town Hall at 6:30) in the Cherry Hill Community Center 820 Mercer Street, Cherry Hill, NJ.

The **July** meeting is Thursday, Jul 19th, 2018 @ 7:00 pm (Town Hall at 6:30) in the Haddonfield Borough Hall 242 Kings Highway E., Haddonfield, NJ

LWVNJ President's Letter from the State Board Report – April 2018

Nancy Hedinger, President

Dear Local League Presidents and Leaders,

These past few months have witnessed exciting times for LWVNJ. In mid-March, the League held another successful and inspiring Making Democracy Work awards reception – thanks to our planning committee, honorees, sponsors, local League donors and guests. Soon after, LWVNJ and our coalition partners scored a major legislative victory with the passage of the most comprehensive Automatic Voter Registration bill in the country. Jesse Burns had the privilege of attending the bill signing, where she received a pen from Governor Murphy which we have added to the LWVNJ collection.

On April 24, we attended the bill signing for the Equal Pay legislation which we actively supported as part of the Time to Care Coalition. We also look forward to the signing of another Time to Care bill, Earned Sick Leave, which passed both houses of the Legislature on April 12th. A special thanks to our members who participated in the Earned Sick Leave lobby day, weathering the freezing cold as we waited to get into the State House!

Some other bills the League has supported - the ban on offshore drilling and reinstating New Jersey in the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative - were also signed by the Governor this month. None of these legislative successes would have been possible without your support. As soon as the budget break is over, we will be back to work on other important voting bills. Please continue to sign our petitions and make the calls to your legislators when you receive emails from LWVNJ – it's working!

While we've been busy at the State House, we are also continuing to grow our Fair Districts NJ coalition and educating the people of our state about this exciting campaign. Our first educational forum is at 7:00 pm this evening at Monmouth University. Members of our distinguished panel will discuss the problem and offer solutions. (Hint: Fair Districts NJ!)

If you are interested in working on this campaign, please sign up at www.fairdistrictsnj.org.

Hopefully, the My Voice, My Vote initiative is keeping your League busy, speaking with students and registering voters at high schools in your area. Involving young people in civic engagement discussions stimulates the future lifeblood of our organization and instills hope for the continued relevance and success of our mission! If you have an opportunity to speak with high school or college students about the League, ask them to join and become involved. The boards of LWVUS and LWVNJ have just made it easier by waiving Student PMP through 2020! These students are our future. Let's engage them early so we can learn from each other as we transform the League for the next century.

In League

Nancy

ANNUAL MEETING WRAP UP

About 35 people attended our Annual Meeting at the Unitarian Universalist Church in Cherry Hill on April 28.

The highlight of the session was the talk by our keynote speaker Brian Remlinger, Statistician for the Princeton Gerrymandering Project. He noted that polarization is high today -- voting is increasingly determined by what party an individual is in. This makes gerrymandering especially concerning and highlights the need for redistricting reform.

He noted a number of common rules for proper redistricting, such as compactness, keeping towns together, keeping "communities of interest" together (sometimes a bit tricky to ensure or define). The latter can easily be abused -- to create a gerrymandered district, just declare some irrelevant characteristic like "living near the river" as forming a "community"!

So, how do you gerrymander effectively (if you want to)? The two basic techniques are called packing and cracking, and they are often used together. Suppose 60% of a state is Democrats, but the Republicans control the legislature at the moment. How do they maintain control? Put as many of the Democrats as possible into mostly Democratic districts. This guarantees the democrats those seats, but the price they pay is that they become uncompetitive in nearby districts because all the Democrats are so concentrated. This is "packing" (them into a few places). Then take the remaining Democrats and make sure they are spread between as many districts as possible, forming a majority in none.

Sometimes numbers help. Suppose there were 10 districts. If you could somehow create even 3 districts with 100% Democrats, the remaining 7 districts would have overall more Republicans than Democrats (50-40 split). So if you can make sure that all of the remaining districts have at least moderately more Republicans than Democrats (easy with a 50-40 split), the Republicans should win 7 of the districts and only lose the 3 they ceded, even though the state is 60% Democratic.

Yes, Democrats do this too. I had to pick one party for an example!

There are several Supreme Court cases pending -- expect to hear by the end of June.

Brian was asked about computerized district drawing. He said that computers have a hard time taking communities of interest into account, may reflect the implicit biases of the programmer, and are not too good at maintaining geographical boundaries.

There are issues with the upcoming census, but they shouldn't change the numbers drastically. If the census is terrible, the President in 2021 can refuse to certify it.

Visit <http://www.fairdistrictsnj.org/> to learn more about what the League is doing about redistricting reform in New Jersey. Visit <http://gerrymander.princeton.edu/#> to learn more about gerrymandering and the Princeton Gerrymandering Project.

See pictures on the next page.



Left, our speaker, Brian Remlinger.
Below, part of the audience.



Lower left, Kristin Burke, LWVCC president.
Lower right, Rosemary and Barbara watching intently!



Left, more of our audience.
Above, Brian listening to Kristin.

Pictures by Ed Gracely and Bob Fisher-Hughes.
Barbara Jean Kahn provided the two ladies intently watching.

STUDENTS ATTEND THE MAY 1 NATURALIZATION CEREMONY!

A group of 6th grade students from Camden Promise Charter School attended and witnessed the Naturalization Ceremony on Tuesday May 1st, 10 a.m. at the U.S. Courthouse, 4th & Cooper Streets, Courtroom #1 before District Judge Joseph H. Rodriguez.

Melanie James wrote, "The kids had a great time! It was great to hear Judge Rodriguez' firsthand experience as an immigrant. Many students from the group we took were also 1st or second generation Americans so it was a great experience for them. We also had a chance to meet Judge Rodriguez and have a photo with him! We are looking forward to bringing another group in the near future."

Melanie James

The class, with Judge Rodriguez in the center.



Photo by Anita Hahn. We have permission from their parents to use it.

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: _____ C / H / W

(Please include area code)



League of Women Voters of Camden County
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