



The VOTER

VOLUME 58 NUMBER 9

October 2018

Calendar (League activities in bold)

EVENT/ACTIVITY	DATE	DAY	TIME	LOCATION/INFO
LWVCC Board Meeting	Nov 5	M	7-8:50	Vogelson Library, Room C third floor
Election Day	Nov 6	Tu	6am-8pm	Your polling place (or vote by mail).
Fair Districts NJ	Nov 7	W	7 pm	Moorestown Friends Meetinghouse. See flier . Sponsored by the Burlington County LWV.
Drinks and Discourse	Nov 13	Tu	5:30-7:30	PJ Whelihan's Cherry Hill
LWVCC Program Planning and Holiday Party	Dec 5	W	6-9 pm	At the Porter residence in Cherry Hill. Socialize, eat, and discuss League program (LWVNJ)

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Board Meeting Report

At the Oct 1 meeting, the board

1. Decided to terminate the Verizon voice mail line as of Dec 31. It still gets a very rare message. We'll put a message on for now.
2. Learned that we made (at that time) \$266 from the Boscov's fundraiser.
3. Decided to use the EveryAction option in LWVNJ to let people make tax deductible donations to the LWVCC (not membership renewals -- yet. Watch for that!)
4. Discussed fall Kickoff. Small but interested turnout. Needed better marketing. And a mic for the speaker!
5. Discussed upcoming voters service and Vote411 activities.
6. Agreed to co-sign anti-fracking letter, barring any objections in the next few days.
7. Agreed that Ed will run Program Planning.

League of Women Voters of Camden County

President's Message

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Hello LWVCC,

After a long process that involved a lot of learning, we are so proud to announce that Camden County is participating in Vote411.org for the first time!

Vote411.org is the League's tool for voters to get personalized ballot information based on their address, plus other useful tools for voting. We received responses from all Freeholder candidates and a few more candidates in other races, and we were able to post names of candidates in all municipal races. We also input race information for Gloucester and Burlington county-level races. We are still trying

to squeeze in Board of Ed races if possible, to give voters a more complete resource. We are confident that more of YOU will volunteer next year to help with this effort, and that by 2020 we will be a go-to resource in our area.

Our members have been active elsewhere this month as we gear up toward Election Day on Nov 6. Rebecca Tasso and Anita Hahn teamed up with Rutgers Camden students to give a civics presentation at a charter high school in Camden. They learned a lot and are planning additional sessions in the coming weeks - thank you also to JoniJean Crivello and Lisa Godfrey for assisting! I myself participated in two panels on voter education/engagement: one at Congregation M'Kor Shalom and one for the Deltas Sorority. Claudia Tucker-Keto and Ed Gracely attended an 1844 No More workshop on voting rights for convicted felons and proudly represented the League.

We continue to grow as well. Welcome to Nadine Yackle (Blackwood) and thank you for your donation!

And finally, we wrapped up our Boscov's fundraiser which brought in \$450 for our chapter. Look for bigger fundraising efforts to come later this year; as we grow our efforts, we must grow our pool of resources. We look forward to engaging all of you in some of the exciting initiatives on our horizon.

Sincerely,
Kristin Burke

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

e-mail: lwvccnj@gmail.com (new)

Visit our web site: <http://lwvnj-camden.org/>

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) 438-0182.



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.

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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 **November** meeting is Thursday, November 8 at the Camden County College, Camden, NJ.

Doesn't look like there is a December 2018 meeting (I see none in the calendar as of 10-26).



**LWV BURLINGTON COUNTY
PRESENTS**

REDISTRICTING REFORM FOR A FAIRER NJ

Please join us for a discussion about
gerrymandering and the current status of the League of
Women Voters of New Jersey's
Fair Districts NJ Initiative

DATE: November 7, 2018

TIME: 7:00 PM

**LOCATION: Moorestown Friends Meetinghouse
Social Room
118 East Main Street, Moorestown**

SPEAKERS:

Ben Williams, JD - Princeton Gerrymandering Project
Will Adler - Princeton Gerrymandering Project
Helen Kioukis - LWV New Jersey

INFORMATION:

www.lwvburlco.org
856-396-5600

Civics Lessons at the Camden Academy Charter School

Rebecca Tasso

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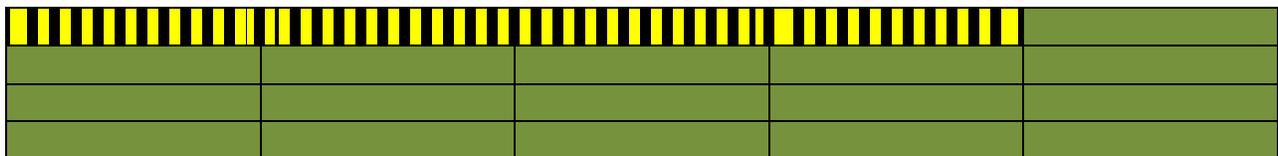
Four volunteers (League members Rebecca Tasso and Anita Hahn, together with Rutgers Camden students Noelia Guzman and Austin Ginsburg), are presenting a series of talks to seniors at the Camden Academy Charter High School. We certainly learned a lot from our first 2 sessions, and are planning additional presentations. The students didn't seem to respond to graphs, so the handout will be altered to be more engaging to this demographic. The students had some knowledge of NJ politicians more well-known in the media (Cory Booker), but did not know the governor's name and we can presume don't know the names of their local legislators, like many adults! The issues that interested them most included college funding and marijuana legalization. They also asked about campaign promises and the electoral college.

They seemed to react strongly on several topics, such as the difference between voter turnout in Camden City v. Cherry Hill. The presenters challenged them to consider whether voters outside of Camden, and outside their age group, were voting for their interests.

The presenters looked to change the way their think about elections: that when someone runs for office, they are asking for a job and we get to decide whether they get it or not. We also used an interactive exercise to encourage going to the polls, by demonstrating what it looks like when voters allow a small number of citizens to choose elected officials for everyone. Noelia asked how many kids were wearing glasses -- just 4. Anita noted that if only those 4 (out of 20 in the class) voted, "that would be only four of you making the decisions for the rest of you."

The presentation only takes about 20 minutes, after which voter registration forms are handed out to eligible students. We would love more volunteers to help build on this program and expand to other schools.

Are we letting 4 out of 20 decide for us?



Let's get to 20/20!



IT'S NOT 1844 ANY MORE

Restorative Rights Claudia Tucker-Keto



Our civil rights, like our human rights are not to be taken lightly. However, there are many “citizens” in these United States whose rights are violated every day. Recently a few League members attended a Restorative Rights presentation led by the New Jersey Institute for Social Justice and hosted by Mt. Olive Baptist Church in Magnolia. The presentation focused on restoring the right to vote for incarcerated, formerly incarcerated felons and those on probation or parole in the State of New Jersey. The speakers are shown in the picture on the left.

Currently in New Jersey a person awaiting trial, even if held in a correctional facility, but not yet adjudicated, has the right to vote. This right is honored by correctional facilities -- for example, the Camden County Correctional Facility hosted a voter registration drive, registering 47 detainees.

We go to the polling place to vote, mail in our voting ballots at election time, talk about “our” right to vote for a public representative and to make certain those in our communities are aware of these rights. Do we think about those in our midst who have committed a crime(s) against our humanity, who are no longer considered “citizens,” those who have lost a very basic right that we hold in high esteem, the right to vote? Even after serving their time and no longer considered a threat to society, these citizens are considered “criminals” for the remainder of their lives. They can eventually vote again, but while still on parole they cannot, although their prison term has been completed.

The restorative rights movement advocates for the right to vote for those incarcerated, and those who have re-entered their communities but who are serving a period of parole or on probation. It was a compelling discussion, devoid of judgment and filled with “food for thought.”

The speakers noted that denying felons the votes disproportionately affects minority communities. They argued that allowing people in jail or on probation or parole to vote helps reintegrate them into their communities and may prevent recidivism. Plus the simple fact that they are still human beings who deserve their human right to be part of the electorate. People have argued that these people may vote “badly” -- but how? You can't pass laws to make crimes legal!

The LWVNJ is generally supportive of this movement. Our position strongly supports voting rights for people on probation and parole, for the reasons listed above. We don't oppose voting rights for those in prison, but we have not taken a position on it -- your call.

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ELECTION NOTES (from the LWNJ Web Site)

On Election Day you have the right:

- To vote without intimidation, threats, coercion, or interference.
- To bring your children into the voting booth with you.
- To file a signed or anonymous written complaint at your polling place or by mail, telephone, or online if you are dissatisfied with the way the election is being run.
- To bring someone of your choice into the voting booth to assist you with voting if you cannot read or write English or have a disability. You can also request special assistance from the poll worker.
- To vote by an emergency paper ballot if the machines are malfunctioning. Emergency ballots are counted automatically.
- To be given a provisional ballot if you are not allowed to vote on a machine or by emergency ballot, with written instructions about your provisional ballot and how to find out if it was counted. Your eligibility to vote must be verified by the county before your provisional ballot is counted.
- To vote under your original name if you have changed your name since registering to vote.
- To ask for assistance from a poll worker.

You have the right to vote by provisional ballot if:

- You believe you are entitled to vote but your name is not on the poll list of voters.
- You have moved recently within your county and have not registered at your new address.
- You are a first-time voter and you did not provide the accepted form of ID when you registered to vote and did not bring it on Election Day. You must bring acceptable ID to the appropriate county office within 48 hours of voting for your provisional ballot to be counted. Poll workers must give you a form that tells you where to bring your ID.
- You requested a vote by mail ballot but didn't receive it in time.

Contacts for Volunteering

Voter Registration/Education: Anita Hahn -- hahna98@yahoo.com

Government/Advocacy: Jane Scarpellino -- jlscarpellino@yahoo.com

Moderating/timekeeping: Ed Gracely -- Edgracely@verizon.net

Running & Winning High School Girls Leadership Pgm: Janet Fisher-Hughes
Fishyhugs@msn.com

Social Media/Communication: Kristin Burke -- kristinbburke@gmail.com

Fundraising and Other Outreach: Kristin Burke -- kristinbburke@gmail.com

Vote411 (entering information about candidates): Kristin Burke -- kristinbburke@gmail.com

PROGRAM PLANNING

The year at our annual holiday program planning party, we'll be doing LWVNJ program planning.

So what is program planning?

Well, every other year, in the spring at Convention, the LWVNJ decides on its program for the upcoming two years. The NJ League supports a variety of public policy positions. These are listed in the membership directory, as well as on the LWVNJ web site. Some examples to give you a flavor:

- Support restoring voting rights to all parolees and probationers who are U.S. citizens (Adopted in 2009). See article on a recent meeting in this issue [here](#).
- Promote increased state funding for public education to guarantee a thorough and efficient education, equalize opportunities, and provide adequate support for children with special needs.
- Support a sound fiscal policy with balanced, progressive, and equitable tax structure, reduced dependency on the property tax, reduced disparities in tax rates and services between communities, and adequate revenue for state services.
- Support conservation of open space, biodiversity, and farmland, historic preservation, and provision of low and moderate-income housing consistent with environmental policies.
- Support state efforts to increase the availability of quality child care services.
- Promote laws which protect the rights of women, provide adequate protection for women throughout their lives, and take into consideration changes which may occur in their status (single/married/divorced, working/non-working, etc.).

At our local Program Planning meeting we review the list, suggest ones that may be outdated and need review, others we would drop entirely (rare), and possibly new topics suitable for study.

New positions can only be adopted after study and consensus at the state level, through one of several mechanisms. The most common mechanism is for a number of Leagues to promote the topic during program planning and for the Convention delegates to agree that a study is merited. The study of voting rights for felons, for example, was adopted in this way and we now have a position. Before that, we studied and adopted a position on the death penalty (which we then helped promote into a national position in opposition to capital punishment).

The Camden County League is one part of this larger process. We need input from as many of our members as possible.

We have generally found it easiest to work as a group of the whole in recent years, although if we started getting a larger crowd we could revert to working in groups on parts of the positions (for a bit more depth. Probably not this year.

UPCOMING ACTIVITIES

Thursday, November 1; 6 - 7:30 pm Alice Paul Institute: An Introduction ((90-minute presentation on suffragist and women's rights activity Alice Paul, information about the API and their modern-day work, plus networking and wine/cheese). 128 Hooten Rd., Mount Laurel, NJ 08054. Register here: <http://www.alicepaul.org/newsevents/rsvp/>

Saturday, Nov 3 from 11:30 am - 1:00 pm

"Know Your Ballot" public outreach presentation at Congregation Nafshenu (1721 Springdale Rd Cherry Hill)

President Kristin Burke will give a presentation outlining the practical things voters need to know before Election Day: how to use Vote411.org to learn about candidates, how to vote by mail (last minute), election security, and more. Observe and you can be part of our "speaker's bureau" next year!

Monday, Nov 5 from 7 - 8:30 pm

LWVCC Board Meeting (Vogelson Library Voorhees, Room C-3rd floor)

Members are always welcome at the monthly board meeting. Come see what we're working on and how you can get involved!

Wednesday, Nov 7 at 7 pm

LWV of Burlington County presents "Redistricting Reform for a Fairer NJ" (Moorestown Friends Meeting House, 118 E Main St Moorestown)

Learn about gerrymandering and the current status of LWVNJ's Fair Districts NJ initiative. Please see the [flyer](#).

Tuesday, Nov 13 from 5:30 - 7:30 pm

Drinks and Discourse Happy Hour

PJ Whelihan's Cherry Hill (Route 70)

A relaxed social gathering for members and interested citizens to talk about civic engagement and what the League is up to.

Saturday, November 17 from 10 - 11 am

Coffee with the League

Panera Voorhees (White Horse Rd)

Same thing as Drinks and Discourse, but for the weekend coffee crowd!

SAVE THE DATE FOR WEDNESDAY, DEC 5 PROGRAM PLANNING FOR 2019!

This crucial member gathering will allow us to strategize for 2019. Don't miss it!

LWVCC MEMBERSHIP FORM

YES, I am Interested in:

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

I Want to join the League Of Women Voters of Camden County!

Send this form with your check to: LWVCC, PO Box 245, Voorhees, NJ 08043

Name(s): _____

e-mail: _____ (our primary mode of communication)

Address _____

Phone: Cell / Home / Work (_____) _____ - _____ (circle type)

Phone 2 Cell / Home / Work (_____) _____ - _____ (circle type)

Please circle activities that might interest you:

- | | |
|-------------------------------|---|
| • Voter registration | • Moderating/Time keeping (Training is provided) |
| • Public relations | • Writing for the Voter |
| • Planning events/ activities | • Running & Winning (our Program for high school girls) |
| • Advocacy/Action | |
| • Fund raising | |

And how active you would like to be:

- Membership only
- A few times a year
- About once a month
- More active

First time new annual membership is only \$25! This also applies to household members.
Student membership is \$10!

Renewal membership is \$60 annually (plus \$30 for each additional household membership).

Number of members in the household: _____

Total dues: _____

Extra gift: _____

Amount enclosed: _____

Thank you!