



The VOTER

VOLUME 59 NUMBER 5

June-July 2019

Calendar (League activities in bold)

EVENT/ACTIVITY	DATE	DAY	TIME	LOCATION/INFO
Voter registration	July 11, 2019	Th	10 am	After the naturalization ceremony, at the US Courthouse in Camden. Contact the League at lwvccnj@gmail.com or call (856) 438-0182 if you are interested in helping register.
August Potluck	TBD			At a member's house. Food, fellowship, and good discussions of the upcoming year. Watch for details!
Fall Kickoff	TBD			We're working on plans, soon to be finalized! Watch for details.
LWVCC Board Meeting	Sept 9, 2019	M	7-9	Vogelson Library Room B (3 rd floor). Members are welcome to attend, but please let us know since meetings are sometimes postponed or moved.
Moderator Training	Sept 14, 2019	Sa	TBD	Please let Ed know if you are interested. Edgracely@verizon.net . Space is limited!

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Meeting Report

At the June 3 board meeting, the board:

1. Made plans for a summer Potluck in August.
2. Discussed moderator training - we have interested people and will get a date and trainer.
3. Learned that Running & Winning went well and that Janet Fisher-Hughes is applying for a grant for next year.
4. Discussed plans for member renewal -- the time is NOW! We'll be sticking to some tight deadlines.
5. Reviewed and approved changes to several old, outdated, policies.
6. Discussed plans for a fall Kickoff, possibly in conjunction with Burlington County LWV.
7. Discussed ways we might get involved in ensuring a complete census. Kristin has a contact and will pursue it.

League of Women Voters of Camden County

President's Message

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Hello everyone and happy summer! As it always seems to go, the summer is already flying by. School's out, vacations are planned, and it's time to renew your League membership! Watch for emails and a new easy way to pay online!

While the bigger political landscape is filled with international tensions, tariff battles, a 2020 presidential race already in full swing, and mixed results in yesterday's SCOTUS final decisions on issues of League interest (see stories here: <https://www.npr.org/2019/06/27/731847977/supreme-court-rules-partisan-gerrymandering-is-beyond-the-reach-of-federal-court> and

here: <https://www.npr.org/2019/06/27/717635291/supreme-court-leaves-citizenship-question-blocked-from-2020-census>), at the hyper local level we are busy focusing on voter outreach and preparing all voters in Camden county to be informed, active participants in future elections.

We have a smattering of events taking place (check the events calendar and the Voters Service report), we participated in calling voters before the primary to encourage them to go to the polls and we await a report from LWVUS on the success, and we are starting a vote by mail research project. We've implemented new ideas at our tabling events so you can interact with the public rather than just sit in a chair and hope people talk to you. Our selfie frame will hopefully get people sharing League info on their social media platforms, and it's a good icebreaker.

Two really important actions on our plate are the 2020 Census and the selection of new voting machines in Camden County. If the Census piques your interest, join our working group striving to get a Complete Count Committee in our area to ensure a fair count! We will also be calling for applications to represent us at the Board of Elections voting machine presentations on July 18 and 19.

We want you to get involved! League participation only requires passion, we'll give you the tools and knowledge to translate that passion into action!

Thank you to those who donated in the past couple months: Bobbie and Joel Porter and Claudia Tucker-Keto.

In League

Kristin Burke, President

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

Voter Editor: Ed Gracely (856) 629-2869

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

Voice Mail Line: (856) 438-0182 (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!

Bellmawr Library: 295 to 168 south for a bit less than half a mile. Left turn onto Browning Road (at the light) and the library is on your left in a block. // Coming north on 168, Browning Road is a few blocks past the turnpike interchange

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.

The **July** Freeholder Meeting is taking place on July 18th at 6:30 PM at the Merchantville Community Center. 212 Somerset Avenue, Merchantville, NJ,

The **August** Freeholder Meeting will take place on August 15th at 6:30 PM at the Winslow Township Senior Citizens Center the "Bud Duble" Center, 33 Cooper Folly Road, Atco, NJ

In all cases, **a town hall is at 6:30. Freeholder meeting at 7 p.m.**

Try searching for "Freeholder Meeting" or a specific month like "May Freeholder Meeting". Also, converting to view by month shows a lot more entries. Watch the year -- it shows multiple ones without a year indication until you click the link!

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Voters Service Report

Anita Hahn



There's so much to report for June and July that I've highlighted events and dates. Our group has been focusing on making our outreach table at community events more welcoming, and we've come up with some pretty good ideas. **Kristin designed a photo frame with props that we tried out at the Collingswood Market on June First.** This is a great way to engage youngsters, encouraging the parents to stop and chat with us for a few minutes.

Then on **June 2nd, Nicole Nestopoulos of the Camden County Clerk's Office** met with us to discuss the County's efforts to increase voter turnout. Camden County voter participation is among the highest in the state, and we continue to strive to build on those statistics. The meeting was very informative while forging a good working relationship that should be beneficial to everyone.

Pat Butenis has generously purchased for LWVCC a spinning game wheel that is a real eye-catcher for tabling at community events. We have written up a hundred or so U.S. history trivia questions, ranging from really easy to a little more challenging. Anyone can give it a try and we will have a supply of small prizes, pens or pin buttons, candy, even stickers for consolation prizes.

We were at **Lawnside Heritage Day on Saturday, June 29th**, and the **Alice Paul Institute for ERA Day on Sunday, June 30th**, where we shared a table with members of LWV Burlington County. What a weekend – enthusiastic volunteers and lots of interest sparked by our fun game, that was a big hit, and our selfie-frame. We shared information about the importance of voting and civic engagement, signed up some new voters and collected email addresses of many who want to learn more about our organization.

Coming next month, **Naturalization Ceremonies July 4th** on the Battleship New Jersey, and **July 11th** at the Camden Federal Courthouse. These events are so popular (inspirational) that we rarely have to ask for volunteers. People are signing up in advance to help out!

Tentatively scheduled on **July 18 and 19 the Camden County Board of Elections will be evaluating new voting equipment**, and will include LWVCC. My understanding is that this will be by invitation only, not a sales pitch. More information will be forthcoming, but if you have a particular interest, maybe let me know in advance so that I can be sure to include you in any updates.

We are planning a **Dine and Donate event at LaScala's Birra**, 5300 N. Park Drive in Pennsauken probably on **July 24th and/or 25th**. A coupon will go out via email to all of our members and everyone on our contact list. You will be able to print out the coupon and forward the email to your family and friends. Anyone visiting LaScala on those days can present the printed coupon to their server so that a portion (15%) of the food bill will go to LWVCC. In addition, we will be there for a **Happy Hour 5 to 7 pm on the 25th**. Join us then for some always interesting conversation.

Lawnside Heritage Day 6-29-2019

Pictures by Anita Hahn, who notes, “Because everything's more fun with a colorful Wheel 😊”



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

Interested in learning to moderate? To refresh your skills?

We have a training session planned for Sept 14.
Details to come, but please let Ed know if you are
interested (Edgracely@verizon.net).



LWVNJ Convention Roundup

BUSINESS MEETING

By Ed Gracely, LWVCC Secretary

The 63rd LWVNJ Convention took place on Saturday, May 4, 2019 at the Imperia, in Somerset NJ. 32 local Leagues were represented with 94 delegates at the opening plenary.

Convention included the usual important business, plus several speakers, training sessions, and awards. It was exciting, interesting, and invigorating (as always).

1. **Budget:** The budget presented for delegate approval (LWVNJ) was is a deficit budget, as were most of the ones for the past several years, but that's not as problematic as it seems. Why? Well, we don't budget for income we don't expect to get -- and we usually get some! After a few questions, the two-year budget was approved. The Education Fund budget was approved by the EF Board of Trustees after the meeting closed, since the EF doesn't have "members", just a Board of Trustees.
2. **Program:** The most interesting aspect was that we adopted a **new** position: Support for a *driver's certificate for undocumented drivers*. This was approved at Convention, without an LWVNJ study, by "concurrence" with a study done by the LWV of Illinois. Concurrence takes advantage of the hard work of another League to quickly obtain a new position. Our Immigration Committee was very happy to see this new position added! In addition, all existing positions were retained, and we did not approve any studies for the biennium.
3. **Bylaws:** The main purpose of this year's bylaws revisions was allowing local Leagues (especially, but not necessarily, new ones) to adopt a leaner working structure, with LWVNJ collecting dues directly and handling other administrative tasks. This required a variety of changes throughout the bylaws. In the process we created a new acronym, "SALL" for "State Administered Local League", and retired an old term, "MAL Unit". There will still be members-at-large (MALs) who don't live in the area of a local League, but if they organize themselves in an area, the next step will be a SALL, not an MAL Unit. All bylaws changes were approved.

4. **Board/elections:** Nancy Hedinger will continue as President for the next two years. Ed Gracely, your Voter editor, had been on the state board for over 20 years, and decided to make way for newcomers. Ed is staying active at the state level as budget director, and on several state board committees. LWVCC members Ann Saunders (LWVNJ VP) and Kate Schumacher (LWVNJ Director) will remain in their roles at LWVNJ.

VOTER ENGAGEMENT

By Janet Fisher-Hughes, LWVCC Vice President

The first of our morning plenary speakers was Maggie Bush (pictured) from the LWVUS. She began her talk by describing the four pillars of LWVUS' mission:



- **Voter Registration** – LWVUS priorities include automatic voter registration, online registration (30 states already have this – NJ is not one of them!), election day registration, expanded early voting, and permanent/portable statewide registration
- **Voter Protection** – Through the DEI (Diversity, Equity, Inclusion) lens, a key priority is DC Voting rights
- **Voter Education** – Vote411
- **Voter Mobilization** – Voter Contact Project (VAN)

More about the Voter Contact Project using VAN (Voter Access Network)

VAN is a computerized system that can be used to contact registered voters.

This project is being piloted for June primaries and the League hopes to expand for 2019 general elections and beyond. Previous research has shown that phone calls by real people can increase voter turnout by as much as 3%; outreach like this is particularly impactful for younger and new voters.

- Can access voter file, but VAN also allows user to compile their own lists
- Shows name and telephone number of registered voter, but not party affiliation
- Caller ID shows call coming from LWVNJ
- So many people screen calls, so system allows caller to leave a message
- Training webinars for VAN for June primary occurred late in May
- Numbers are automatically dialed and captures call results and voter contact so that impact of these calls may be measured

OTHER LEAGUE PROGRAMS AND ACCOMPLISHMENTS

by Anita Hahn, LWVCC Vice President

All local Leagues had an opportunity to summarize their accomplishments and programs in the pages of the program book. One local League did get to share during the convention itself.

The LWV of the Greater New Brunswick Area challenged young people to create videos encouraging their peers to get out and vote. These excellent (dare I say hip?) winning submissions were played and are available by following the link: <https://lwvgnba.com/advocacy/>

ADVANCING EQUITY AND INCLUSION

by Kristin Burke, LWVCC President



During the morning plenary, attendees heard from Yvette Murry (pictured) from YRM Consulting. As has been acknowledged in the LWVUS "Transformation Roadmap" ([executive summary available here](#)), the League as a whole is relatively homogeneous and lacks racial, economic, age, and social diversity. LWVUS has [four webinars](#) this summer/fall on the topic of diversity, equity, and inclusion, and we encourage you to register for one or more, or watch the archived recordings later. It's important for each local League to be representative of the community it serves, and Yvette challenged us to consider whether our Leagues include enough different perspectives. We may feel that our Leagues are welcoming and anyone who's interested can join, but diversity and inclusion means actively seeking out and listening to ideas and concerns from people who are not represented at our "table".

It is an over-simplification to think "Race shouldn't matter, we should be colorblind and focus on the League mission." It is incumbent upon those of us who make up the current majority of League membership (white women) to learn about white privilege and keep an open, non-defensive mind. Race discussions are uncomfortable and some people cringe when they hear "white privilege" because they think they're about to be scolded. White privilege does not suggest that white people have never struggled or that everything white people have is unearned. I recommend this easy-to-understand piece that explains what white privilege is and helps keep your defensiveness at bay: <https://www.tolerance.org/magazine/fall-2018/what-is-white-privilege-really> **Learning and talking about racial disparities is not about knocking white people down, it's about white people understanding how we can help lift people of color up.**

LUNCHEON KEYNOTE SPEAKER

By Harriet Snyder, LWVCC Treasurer



The keynote speaker, Ari Berman (pictured), a journalist and author, spoke on voting access and voter suppression. Since the Supreme Court decision in *Shelby County v. Holder* nullified part of the 1965 VRA, which required certain states with a fraught history of voter suppression to request judicial permission before changing voting laws, the campaign to restrict voting rights has intensified. Voter suppression through new ID laws, restrictions on early voting, limiting the number and accessibility of polling places, gerrymandering to target minority voters, and other measures have become common in many states. And even states that are generally in favor of expanding the mandate, like New York and New Jersey, have been slow to institute or expand early voting, automatic and same-day registration, and other means of raising voter participation. He encouraged us to lead the country in these matters!

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

Or join online. Visit: <http://lwvni-camden.org/membership.html>

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!