



The VOTER

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VOLUME 62 NUMBER 5

Fall/Winter 2022

Calendar (League activities in bold)

EVENT/ACTIVITY	DATE	DAY	TIME	LOCATION/INFO
Month Board and Members Meeting	Jan 9, 2023	M	7-9 pm	Zoom. Contact the League for details. lwvccnj@gmail.com
Mitzvah Day at Temple Beth Shalom	Jan 15, 2023	Su		Contact the League for details
LWVNJ Program Planning	Jan 18, 2023	W	7-9 pm	Zoom. We will review positions and possible new positions for the LWVNJ. Contact the League for details

Check out the Google calendar on our home page. <https://www.lwvccnj.org/>

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Meetings Report

Board meeting Dec 2022

Most of the meeting was a presentation on ranked choice voting. The actual board meeting was short. Main items of note:

- Anita is stepping down as voters services chair and we are looking for a new person to take that job.
- Monthly board and member meetings are moving to the second Monday of each month.

Board meeting Nov 2022

- We have new volunteers to do social media and the Naturalization Ceremony.
- Our first New Member forum was a success!
- Mitzvah Day and Program Planning were scheduled.
- We continue to investigate a possible merger with LWV Burlington County.

Board meeting Oct 2022

- We are now up to speed on many aspects of our Club Express web site.
- Fundraising email to members asking for help went out. Mike has received some replies, but needs a lot more!

League of Women Voters of Camden County

Editor's Message

Ed Gracely



Welcome to new members Valerie Clary-Muronda and Karen Jones, both from Cherry Hill and Heidi Graham from Haddon Heights. Thanks to Marion Steininger for her donation with her membership renewal.

It's that time of the year when I have to clean up our member list at LWVUS. Anyone who hasn't renewed by late January has to be removed as a member, or we pay the state and national Leagues for them and may not get it back! So, if you want to remain a member (as I hope you do) and haven't renewed, please do so soon! If you aren't sure, go to the web page (<https://lwvccnj.org/>), log in, and click your name in the upper right. Under profile you will find your renewal and expiration dates.

Please plan to join us for LWVNJ Program Planning on January 18, by Zoom.

Ed

Contacts for Volunteering

Voter Registration/Education: Open – interested?

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

Membership: Joan Divor -- jcd33jersey@comcast.net

Fundraising: Mike Richter -- Mike144@comcast.net

DEI -- Jodi Feldman -- Jodirespect@gmail.com and Claudia Tucker-Keto -- Ketocl@comcast.net

Vote411 (Election information database): Janet Fisher-Hughes -- Fishyhugs@msn.com



Getting there - Directions!

From your house or back yard. All meetings are virtual for the time being. Zoom!

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Board of Commissioners Meetings

We encourage League members to observe Board of Commissioners 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.

The list for the year is online in the form of a county events calendar at <https://www.camdencounty.com/events/> It has lots of entries and is a bit hard to navigate.

It is helpful to show the list as a calendar month (see pulldown menu on the right). Caucus meetings appear to be on the third Tuesday, and Commissioners meetings are the Thursday after that, which can be either the third or fourth Thursday.

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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
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Visit our web site: <https://lwvccnj.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.

From LWNJ

LWVNJ Impact Report

Check out the Impact Report for 2022 and see what we have achieved as an organization. It's a lot!

[Impact report link](#). Or copy/paste the URL: <https://bit.ly/LWVNJ22Impact>

The League is continuing to push for better government, notably for same-day voter registration. Keep watching!

Annual Appeal

Please support this great work by giving an Annual Appeal gift to LWNJ today. The Camden County League has always agreed to participate in this fundraiser and, assuming we do again this year, will receive a percentage of your donation.

The Annual Appeal '23 goals are 50% of the total membership (or 887 members) contributing a total of \$100,000. These are ambitious goals and we need your participation to reach them! Let's accelerate progress towards these goals **together** during this season of giving.

Please consider a gift by check or credit card (www.lwnj.org/donate) by December 31st. You can donate to the League of Women Voters of New Jersey (not tax-deductible), the League of Women Voters of New Jersey Education Fund (tax-deductible), or both! Checks payable to LWNJ or LWNJ-EF can be mailed to 204 West State Street, Trenton, NJ 08608.

Also, a useful side-benefit of contributing now is that we won't call you! Most people prefer to avoid solicitation calls – the LWNJ only calls members who have not already given. So, support the League and save yourself a call!

Program Planning

Our League will be doing state program planning in January. If, like many members, you have found that process confusing, check out this webinar that explains it. [Program Planning webinar link](#). The first 20 minutes or so is a prepared presentation (by me! Ed) followed by discussion and Q & A. Check it out!

GOOD NEWS – WE HAVE GRANTS!

Jean Dougherty



Good News for the New Year! The LWV of Camden County has been awarded 3 Grants from the LWVUS going into 2023.

The New Citizens Voter Grant is for \$750.00 to help us continue our work reaching out to and registering new citizens in Camden and neighboring counties. We have also received, again this year, \$500.00 from the Education Fund/Youth Voter Registration project for student registration, education regarding voting, voting rights and encouraging young people to exercise those rights and participate in their community.

For the first time this year, we applied for and were awarded \$500.00 for our new initiative registering Incarcerated and formerly incarcerated citizens. This new initiative was begun in 2022 and we are happy to be able to continue and expand our work with this new grant.

As always, if you are interested in becoming part of these or any of our other ongoing projects, please contact us or sign up to volunteer on our website! We will need many hands to keep this important work going!

AN INVITATION TO RE-ENGAGE, RECONNECT, REIMAGINE

Joan C. Divor



With the 2022 midterm election as a jumping off point, on October 19 LWVCC launched a MEMBER FORUM, welcoming members to a friendly Zoom chat. Members got to know our chapter, exchange ideas and find new ways to participate.

The forum planning committee was excited to connect with the six members who attended. We shared information about us as individuals, our chapter and the League in general. Everyone shared stories about what brought us to the League, and what matters to us in our community.

A key focus was exploring ways to engage members' talents and interests with rewarding, enriching opportunities to participate in League activities.

To all members:

Whatever your availability and interest, we offer you the chance to connect with other LWVCC members and engage in meaningful activities that you will enjoy!

Watch for announcements: In 2023, look for more initiatives to recruit, onboard, and engage members. We will be planning more member forums - including in-person as well as virtual. We will also be testing new ideas for communicating with members, including via social media and our new website. And, we always welcome your thoughts and ideas!

Voting changes!**Camden County is Moving to a Hand-Marked Voting System***By: Anita Hahn*

After studying and testing various voting systems (and soliciting input from some members of LWVCC) the Camden County Board of Elections has recommended and the County Commissioners have approved the purchase of a Hand-Marked Voting System to be in use this year.

If you have voted in person in the past year or so, either early voting or on election day, you are already aware that the cumbersome poll books have been replaced by e-poll books, essentially iPads. Upon entering a polling location, voters check in with the board workers by providing their name and possibly some other identifying information such as birthdate and/or address. This database is updated county-wide every few seconds. A voter's status shows up on the iPad and they sign electronically. This portion of the process will remain the same. All registered voters in Camden County appear in the database with their status, for instance, inactive or VBM.

Then the ballot for your particular township/district will print out from a printer. This is essentially the same ballot that would be mailed to you if you have requested Vote by Mail. The voter will take that ballot to a privacy booth, hand mark the ballot and feed it through a scanner themselves. Privacy sleeves will be provided for carrying the ballot from the voting booth to the scanner. Your ballot is cast when you see a confirmation screen on the scanner.

There will also be electronic equipment known as Ballot Marking Devices or BMD available for persons with disabilities such as hearing or vision impaired or unable to hand mark a ballot.

Multiple national studies confirm that hand-marked ballots are the most secure and a majority of states already use this type of system on some level, VBM, for example. Hand-marked paper ballots provide physical proof of the voter's intent and can be safely recounted in the case of a contested election. By the way, the State of New Jersey mandates that every county conduct an audit of 2% of votes cast following each election. Obviously, if there are unexplained discrepancies, the audit would be expanded.

Because this new system is so similar to VBM, it is possible that many more voters will opt for VBM. Some of the obvious benefits: you can take time to review and study your ballot in the comfort of your own home. Ballots can be mailed via the U.S. Post Office, delivered to drop boxes throughout the county, or to designated locations such as the County Clerk's Office. Mail-in voters get confirmation via postcard and can also track receipt of their ballots in an on-line database. Additionally, there is a cure option available should anyone forget to sign the certification on the outer envelope of their ballot, for instance.

Most voters in New Jersey cast their ballots in person either at an early-polling location, or on election day at their regular polling place. Many still prefer the experience of visiting their polling place and will appreciate being able to feed their own ballot through the scanner. Another benefit to this system is that if there is an obvious error on your ballot, for instance one column indicates 'vote for two' and you marked three candidates by accident, the scanner should reject your ballot before it is cast and you would have the opportunity to correct that error by requesting a replacement ballot.

Training for poll workers begins this month, more details and clarifications to follow.

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: https://lwvccnj.org/content.aspx?page_id=60&club_id=880496

Name(s): _____

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

Address _____

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

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

Please check activities that might interest you:

- Voter registration IN PERSON (such as tabling events)
- Voter education ELECTRONIC (for example Vote411.org website)
- Voter education SPEAKING (such as invited talks to local groups or schools)
- Social media, marketing, and/or public relations
- Planning events/ activities
- Advocacy/working with elected officials on League priorities
- Fund raising
- Moderating/Time keeping (Training is provided)
- Writing short articles or summaries for the website or the monthly newsletter
- Running & Winning (our program for high school girls)

And circle 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! \$25 for each new household member.

Student membership is \$10!

Under 35 membership is \$35 (after the first year, which is only \$25)

Regular 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!