



# The VOTER

VOLUME 59 NUMBER 5

May 2019

## Calendar (League activities in bold)

EVENT/ACTIVITY	DATE	DAY	TIME	LOCATION/INFO
<b>County voter outreach</b>	June 2, 2019	Su	2 pm	At Anita Hahn's house (see directory). Nicole Nestopoulos of the Camden County Clerk's Office will address the group. Contact us at lwvccnj@gmail.com
<b>LWVCC Board Meeting</b>	June 3, 2019	M	7-8:45 pm	Bellmawr Library meeting room. Members are welcome to attend, but please let us know because meetings are occasionally moved or canceled.
<b>Voter outreach table</b>	June 30, 2019	Su	Noon – 5 pm	At Alice Paul Institute in Mt. Laurel – shared table with BurlCo League at Equal Rights Amendment Day

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### Meeting Report

#### At the May 6 board meeting, the board:

1. Discussed moderator training and the fee for moderating. Ed is working on both.
2. Decided against doing voter registration at sites that charge a tabling fee.
3. Agreed that Ed will add a note to our "Welcome" email warning against appearing to endorse in the name of the League. And point them to the LWVNJ member handbook.
4. Agreed on some limited distribution of Citizens Guide to libraries and a town we know wants them.
5. Came up with a name to ask to chair the nominating committee. Kristin will approach her.
6. Agreed that Kristin and Ed will discuss the renewal email and contact plan. We have some new, tougher, deadlines, but was also have an online renewal option.
7. Discussed, more or less agreed, that in due time we will move our web site to Weebly, WordPress or another forum.
8. Put off bylaws review till spring.

**League of Women Voters of Camden County**

## President's Message

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Hello Fellow LWVCC Members,

Summer is almost here, and while that means vacations and relaxation for most people, it also means election season is getting started! We'll see if voter turnout for the June 4 exceeds expectations and is a sign of a changing tide that started at the 2018 midterms. We sent out Vote411.org candidate questionnaires to all county-level candidates and we are hoping all candidates will respond. Make sure you talk about Vote411.org to anyone who will listen -- the more we work on increasing voter traffic to the website, the more weight we can put behind our requests to candidates that they need to respond to us because voters are using it!

In this month's Voter make sure you look for Janet Fisher-Hughes summary of the triumphant return of Running and Winning! Janet and all of the wonderful volunteers did such a great job and should be so proud to have brought back a program that has long been one of the jewels in our crown.

Next, a plea to all members. If you joined the League because you wanted to get involved and reach voters and help make a difference, we need you to step up and tackle League work head on. If you haven't been able to come to a tabling event or a committee or board meeting, please just email me at [kristinbburke@gmail.com](mailto:kristinbburke@gmail.com) or text me at 856-524-6082 and we can have a chat about what you might like to do to get involved. I've done this with several members who weren't really sure how or where to start, and I'd be happy to have the same conversation with YOU.

It's been a fruitful late spring for our chapter. Thank you to everyone who has donated to the League, with special thanks to: Anita Hahn, Joe Friedman, and Jean Dougherty who all donated proceeds from election work, to Ed Gracely who donated part of his CCGEG reimbursement, and to Eloise Douglas who donated to Running & Winning.

In League

Kristin Burke, President

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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

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

Voter Editor: Ed Gracely (856) 629-2869

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

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

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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) 438-0182.

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



or visit [www.lwvnj.org/camdencounty/ccgeg.html](http://www.lwvnj.org/camdencounty/ccgeg.html)



## 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 **June** Freeholder Meeting is taking place on June 20th at 6:30 PM at the Cherry Hill Community Center.

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



On May First, Law Day, four of us attended the Naturalization Ceremony at the Federal Courthouse in Camden, registering 17 new citizens. Pictured: Janet Fisher-Hughes, Jane Hanuszcyk and Joyce Nylund.

On May 23, Kristin and Jodi gathered some of our Voters Service members for a training session. We have an updated manual for volunteers that includes a section on how to respond to tough questions, and some new ideas for how to engage people at tabling events such as town fairs.

Planned for early June: a table at the Collingswood Farmers Market, and a get-together with Nicole Nestopoulos of the County Clerk's Office. We are looking into tabling at the Haddon Township Solstice Fair on June 21<sup>st</sup>, and on June 30<sup>th</sup> we will be sharing a table with LWV Burlington County at the Alice Paul Institute.



## Government & Advocacy Committee Report

The committee has not met but chairwoman Jane Scarpellino will be emailing past volunteers to kick off our vote by mail research project. We will be looking at the process in Camden County and comparing to VBM programs in other states. If you don't have time to come to meetings or voter outreach tabling events, consider this project which involves research on your own time! Contact Jane at [jlscarpellino@yahoo.com](mailto:jlscarpellino@yahoo.com).

## Contacts for Volunteering

**Voter Registration/Education:** Anita Hahn -- [hahna98@yahoo.com](mailto:hahna98@yahoo.com)

**Government/Advocacy:** Jane Scarpellino -- [jlscarpellino@yahoo.com](mailto:jlscarpellino@yahoo.com)

**Moderating/timekeeping:** Ed Gracely -- [Edgracely@verizon.net](mailto:Edgracely@verizon.net)

**Running & Winning High School Girls Leadership Pgm:** Janet Fisher-Hughes  
[Fishyhugs@msn.com](mailto:Fishyhugs@msn.com)

**Social Media/Communication:** Kristin Burke -- [kristinbburke@gmail.com](mailto:kristinbburke@gmail.com)

**Fundraising and Other Outreach:** Kristin Burke -- [kristinbburke@gmail.com](mailto:kristinbburke@gmail.com)

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

## Running & Winning 2019 Report

Janet Fisher-Hughes



On May 20, 2019, the League of Women Voters of Camden County and its co-sponsors, the American Association of University Women and The South Jersey Alumnae Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc., presented a very successful *Running & Winning* workshop at Pennsauken High School in Pennsauken.

Ten female public officials from across Camden and Gloucester Counties, along with 33 junior and senior young women selected by Pennsauken High School participated in this event. The keynote speaker was Geri Tabako, the first woman mayor of Pennsauken, who encouraged the young women to attend local government meetings and talk to elected officials in order to learn about what is going on in their community. Also participating were two current Pennsauken councilmembers, Betsy McBride and Jessica Rafeh, as well as current Pennsauken school board vice president, Diane Johnson.

The girls interviewed the officials at length about their experiences running for office and then worked in teams to craft a mock campaign for school board. All teams wrote a position, developed a campaign, and created materials to execute their campaigns on school safety.

At the conclusion of the workshop, each student received a certificate of participation.

A few pictures are below -- lots more [here](#). Future voter (L) -- planning/interviewing (below) and presentation of campaign (bottom). Pictures courtesy of Susan Briant.



## Annual Meeting report and more pictures!

Ed Gracely

Lively discussion was the order of the day as our annual meeting speaker Board of Elections chairwoman Donna Robinson Taylor touched on a variety of election-related topics. The other members of the Board were also present and were introduced.

She noted, as some of you have heard before, that the Superintendent of Elections' office will be merged into the Board of Elections by June. We (LWVCC) have already removed the SoE contact information from our online materials.

Our commissioners are very active, unlike many counties where they serve in more of an oversight role. For example, in Camden County when a new vote by mail ballot comes in, two commissioners (one Democratic and one Republican) compare the signature against the application. Over 40,000 of them eventually! This unfortunately means that their office is inundated, working long hours to keep up. (I meant to ask if there was a breaking point when it will be literally impossible for 4 commissioners to do all the VBM ballots, but didn't get a chance).

Of that large number of vote by mail ballots, only 82 were disqualified in the last election. Many of these were obvious non-matches. The commissioners try to check previous years to find a match and give voters the benefit of the doubt. She recommended that anyone whose signature changes (either because of choice or otherwise, as from a stroke) should contact their office to submit a new official signature.

Then at midnight of election day, it is time to start opening the ballots that passed the initial signature scan. This task, in which board member Anita Hahn, participates, is a Herculean effort that lasts most of the day!

Our county has the highest VBM rate of any county in New Jersey. Pre-paid postage is certainly a factor, for which we the first county. Also reminders and thank you's!

It was the CamCo BoE that suggested allowing VBM ballots to come in up to 2 days after the election. Senator beach was supportive.

As far as machines -- we need new ones. Not just because the old ones don't provide the necessary paper trail to audit and catch hacking, but they are also getting old rather fast and would soon need replacement in any case. The federal government requires a paper trail, but provides no money to help pay for the equipment. New Jersey is lagging other states in this regard.

She noted that while our machines do not access the Internet, nevertheless the programs that go into them could in theory be hacked. If you suspect something went wrong on the all-electric machines, you can only rerun the same data -- there is no way to figure out if there was a problem. Camden County is doing research -- possibilities include various kinds of machines, including optical scan devices, which provide the most iron-clad indicator of the voter's choice. The others have electronic entry and ask voters to check a paper copy they did not create.

The question was asked (as we have discussed at the board) -- if a signature is, in fact, rejected, can the ballot be sent back to the voter for a corrected one? No -- this would be a violation of current legal requirements. But Senator beach is aware of this and would like to see it fixed.

After she mentioned that they brought in a trainer to provide expert advice on handwriting comparison for the commissioners, someone asked whether board workers have ever been trained in handwriting recognition. She said that she didn't know, but that very few are rejected at that level (is that good or bad???)

After Donna's talk, we approved board nominees, budget, and local program. Kristin discussed the state of the LWVCC, our achievements and plans. She thanked Myrna Schlanger for her years of service, now going off the board. Harriet then gave a service award to your Voter editor (hey, that's me!). She read the following:

Today we would like to express our appreciation to a long-time member of our Camden County League.

No mere listing can do justice to the number of positions Ed Gracely has held in the League, let alone his value to the organization and to how much we appreciate his ideas and his efforts, but I'll try. From 1994 to 1997 he was president of the Camden County League. For many years he has been unofficially and, as of today, still is (now officially) secretary, taking accurate minutes of board meetings while fully participating in discussions, editor of The Voter, our monthly newsletter, manager of our website, director of moderator training, producer of the Camden County Citizen's Guide, leader of program planning for our local League (on both state and national topics), as well, and delegate to the state and national conventions. He was also secretary to the state board, where one member told me, "he not only took notes . . ., he organized them, and in so doing he organized us" and until stepping down this year, program vice president for LWVNJ.

So, inadequate as it may seem, this certificate of appreciation is presented by the League of Women Voters of Camden County to Ed Gracely in recognition of his many contributions to our local League, as well as to the LWVNJ and LWVUS. April 28, 2019. Signed , Kristin Burke, President.

Thank you very much! Thanks especially to Harriet, who I'm told was the prime mover behind the award (with the help of Renee Robbins).





Harriet presenting Ed with his certificate of appreciation.



Mike Richter discussing upcoming fundraising efforts.



Janet Fisher-Hughes, our new second VP, presenting nominations for the board.

Pictures courtesy of Marcia Luggner.

# 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://lwvnj-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!