



# The VOTER

**JOIN US**

VOLUME 60 NUMBER 6

June-July 2020

## Calendar (League activities in bold)

EVENT/ACTIVITY	DATE	DAY	TIME	LOCATION/INFO
<b>August stay at home potluck</b>	TBA	TBA	Evening	Your house (via Zoom)

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### Meeting Report

#### At the June 2020 Board Meeting the board:

1. Decided that a virtual version of the Boscov's fundraiser would probably not be worth our time.
2. Finalized plans for the Annual Meeting as a virtual event.
3. Organized our approach to attending and observing at the LWVUS Convention.
4. Discussed Vote411, due to go live June 12. Some candidates still don't have email addresses, despite a law requiring them!
5. Discussed an online version of Running & Winning, with our preference being for the spring.
6. Asked for and received reviewers for the new website.
7. Made preliminary plans for our August member/board pot luck (virtual – eat at home!)
8. Planned a speaker on rank choice voting for June 24.
9. Planned a statement on police violence and solidarity with Black Lives Matter.

**League of Women Voters of Camden County**

## President's Message

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Hello Fellow League Members,

Welcome new members Jessica Hamilton, Tiffany Pesyna, Zach Oppenheimer, Joan Hamou-Lhadj, Marilyn Sobel, Desiree Harris, Sally Oliphont, Lynne Bruno, Nina Fuentes, and Samantha Keen! We are excited to see so many new members and look forward to working with you. Thank you to donors Marion Steininger, Donna Robinson, Myrna Schlanger, Greg & Lynne Bruno, and Pat Butenis for their donations to the LWVCC over the past few months.

This is for my fellow league members who are, well, white. Many of you may have been "doing the work" of anti-racism activism for years if not your entire lives. But some of you may have always focused on other work, good work of course, without thinking about race explicitly. You've worked alongside brown and black people, they are your friends and League compatriots. You may not have really noticed their color at all, because you've been focused on the League mission. If this might describe you, I would encourage you to read this article: [https://www.huffpost.com/entry/things-white-people-say-highlight-privilege\\_15deafafc5b637b87e22cee0](https://www.huffpost.com/entry/things-white-people-say-highlight-privilege_15deafafc5b637b87e22cee0)

I know people who are turned off by articles like this because you feel attacked as a white person. Please be willing to learn that this is not a story of what you're doing wrong, it is a story of recognizing how to do what's right.

One common refrain I hear when faced with the term "white privilege" is "I don't have white privilege." As the article explains: "[...] because they're not wealthy or because they've worked hard for what they have or because their life has been a struggle in any number of ways. [...] White privilege doesn't mean all white people live charmed lives. It simply means..." KEEP READING!

Please also check our Black Lives Matter statement from last month, which includes a reading list at the end. It's important to see color, recognize how our color has led each of us to be treated differently, and how we can actively work to change that differential treatment as we continue to the next 100 years of League work.

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  
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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.

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## Getting there - Directions!

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

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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 2020 Freeholder Meeting".

The **August** 2020 meeting is Thursday, August 20th, 2020 @ 6:30 pm, at Gloucester City High School Auditorium, 1500 Market Street, Gloucester City, NJ,. This meeting appears to be live, rather than virtual, but check the county website to be sure.

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## Annual Meeting Notes

Our annual meeting on June 15 2020 started with a lively and interesting discussion of preparations for the Primary in a pandemic. SPEAKERS Some of the points raised:

1. 87% of normal polling places in Camden County will be open. But voters who go there will mostly still have to vote on paper by provisional ballot. Why? Because everybody got a vote by mail ballot and they don't want your vote recorded on the machine and possibly also by mail. They need to confirm that you didn't vote by mail before counting your vote. Handicapped people will be able to vote on a machine.
2. The ones not still open are places that could be badly affected by a coronavirus case, like a firehouse. One sick person could make an entire shift self isolate.
3. Vote by mail ballots can also be dropped of in 1 of 5 drop boxes, which are under 24 hour video surveillance and locked.
4. The postal service now understands that for mail ballots, the post mark must be clear and not obscured. The board of elections works with them on that.
5. If signatures don't match, they check every signature on file for the person to try to find a match. But only around 1% of ballots are rejected – many more for not signing at all than for signature mismatch.
6. Rich was challenged because he is republican party chair in CamCo and a number of people have posted on their web site attacking VBM. He said the posts are not under his control and are entirely wrong – vote by mail is safe in this county!

Our speakers, Commissioners Rich Ambrosino and Donna Taylor:



**After the presentations, we had our League meeting.**

We elected our board, approved a budget, and approved our local program. Marty Weinar and Suzanne Daulerio are new to the board – welcome! Mike Richter was elected budget director (off board) – our first elected budget director in several years. Bobby Porter, long-time board member, has rotated off, but will remain involved with voter registration.

## LWVUS Annual Convention

June 25 to 27, 2020

Janet Fisher-Hughes



Ed Gracely and I had the good fortune of serving as our chapter's delegates to the LWVUS Annual Convention. Originally scheduled to take place in Washington, DC, through the magic of Zoom Webinar, this convention took place in my living room and in more than 2,000 living rooms, kitchens, and studies across the United States and the globe.

Kicking off the convention was a welcome speech by Chris Carson, President of LWVUS, followed by a panel presentation with several dignitaries, including Muriel Bowser, Mayor of Washington, DC; and Valerie Jarrett, former senior advisor to Barack Obama and current "When We All Vote" Board Chair and The United State of Women Co-Chair. I found Ms. Jarrett's remarks, which focused largely on the mission of When We All Vote, to be particularly inspiring. Via grassroots efforts, this non-partisan organization seeks to increase voter participation by changing the culture around voting, particularly among younger voters and voters of color. She related the story of a young woman, who, on her own volition, set up her ironing board on her sidewalk in order to register voters in her neighborhood (sign her up for LWV)! Further, Ms. Jarrett emphasized the importance of seizing opportunities and following through to get things done: "When we have the baton, we should run with it as fast as we can!"

Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) was the theme of this year's convention, from a proposed bylaws change that affirms LWV's commitment and compliance to DEI (this vote passed) to a resolution advocating against systemic racism in our justice system (this also passed). Virginia Case, CEO of LWVUS, gave a moving speech that touched on some of the issues she faces as a mother of two African American young men. The convention concluded with an impassioned speech by LWVUS' incoming president, Dr. Deborah Turner, the first person of color in that role since Dr. Carolyn Jefferson-Jenkins (the first African-American President of the League) in the 1990's. In addition to speaking about her childhood and career in Iowa, Dr. Turner, who is both a medical doctor and a lawyer, spoke of the racial reckoning our country is currently facing. We cannot ignore the open wounds caused by racism and simply hope that they will go away, she said. "It does not work that way. Trust me, I'm a doctor."

Dr. Turner concluded her remarks with the announcement of the location of the 2022 convention: Denver, CO. I hope they have comfortable sofas there.

## Voters Service Report

As we come to accept our new normal, it's time to re-evaluate the efforts and initiatives of LWVCC voter outreach. There are scaled down naturalization ceremonies, but due to restrictions, our members are not attending. Nor have we set up tables at community events, if those have actually taken place. And as much as we miss the energy of engaging with young people, at this point it still is not clear how education will be structured in the coming months, hampering our ability to find our place there. But here's what we can do:

**Zoom Meetings and Presentations.** We've already successfully met via Zoom with organizations such as Moms Demand Action, Alpha Kappa Alpha, and social justice groups from local churches and congregations. Let's do more of those. Reach out to anyone you know who might have an interest. We are enthusiastic about encouraging voter participation and civic engagement whenever possible. We can also deliver supplies of voter registration applications, Vote411 info cards, etc. anywhere in the Southern New Jersey area.

**Vote411.** Come August and September, we'll need help organizing this database, one-stop shopping for all the election information you'll need. Janet Fisher-Hughes will be leading this initiative once again – I hope!

**Voter Motorcade.** Members of Delta Sigma Theta successfully held one in June. We'd love to collaborate with them for voter registration in September and Get-Out-The-Vote efforts leading up to the November General Election. First up would be coordinating with Winne Rowell-Bullard and Audrey Miller who are members of both LWV and the Deltas.

**Our New [LWVCCNJ.org](http://LWVCCNJ.org) website.** There's so much information here that you can share with anyone you talk to. Take a look at the FAQs. Ask your friends and relatives if they intend to vote in November. Is their registration up to date? We can help them check status and make any necessary changes.

**Senior Centers,** nursing homes, assisted living facilities. Many older folks need to update their registrations and would probably appreciate clarification on Vote-By-Mail. We can offer to deliver application forms along with our Vote411 cards and provide instructions safely.

**Social Media.** If you have an interest in posting on Facebook, Twitter and platforms I don't even know about, get in touch, we really could use some help here.

**Phone Banking to remind voters to vote.** We tested VAN (Voter Access Network) last year and hope to try it again leading up to the November general election. Jodi Feldman is looking into this initiative.

Sooo, are there any particular items on this list that inspire you? It's never too early to start planning, general election season is right around the corner!

We look forward to hearing from you soon.

All the Best,

*Anita Hahn*

cell #856-261-2783

For the Voters Service Group



## 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)

**Census Complete Count -** Jodi Feldman -- [jodirespect@gmail.com](mailto:jodirespect@gmail.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) and Janet Fisher-Hughes -- [Fishyhugs@msn.com](mailto:Fishyhugs@msn.com)

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## Redistricting reform – from LWVNJ

Equal and Fair Representation for All – Strengthen our Redistricting Process

SCR123/ACR188 is a proposal for a redistricting-related Constitutional Amendment that is being fast-tracked through the Legislature as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic and Census operational delay.

**This proposal would permanently change our redistricting process to allow for the 2-year extension of a previous decade's map anytime Census data is sent to New Jersey after February 15<sup>th</sup>. This is a far-reaching and overly-broad solution for future scenarios that may allow for other solutions that don't compromise our political representation.**

Delaying the implementation of a new voting district map that more accurately reflects New Jersey's population changes and demographic shifts will deny New Jersey's diverse communities of their full voting strength and undermine the principle of “equal and fair representation.”

We are calling on our legislators to support a companion amendment to address the harm to our political representation that this Constitutional amendment proposal will cause.

**SCR123/ACR188 should not move forward without structural improvements to our redistricting process that would guarantee that diversity, racial equity, public participation, transparency, and fair redistricting standards guide the map-drawing process.**

**Take action [here](#).**

# 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://www.lwvccnj.org/join-the-league.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 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! 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!