



The VOTER

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VOLUME 61 NUMBER 1

January 2021

Calendar (League activities in bold)

EVENT/ACTIVITY	DATE	DAY	TIME	LOCATION/INFO
LWVCC Board meeting	Mar 1	M	7 pm	Zoom. Members are welcome to attend – contact us for details.
LWVCC Annual Meeting	April 24	Sa	Afternoon	Zoom. This is a tentative date. Please hold it, but watch for changes.

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Meeting Report

At the Nov 9, 2020 Board Meeting the board:

1. Made plans to call members who have not renewed.
2. Made plans to help get out the vote for the Georgia runoff in January.
3. Set date and time for our December Program Planning meeting. It will be virtual, so less of a party.
4. Discussed possible topics for the annual meeting next spring.

At the January 4, 2021 Board Meeting the board:

1. Discussed non-renewals of some members. Those who joined before Jan 31, 2020 and who have not renewed will soon be removed from our membership rolls and at LWVUS. [Those who join later in the year are counted as good through June of the following year].
2. Discussed the possibility of a virtual *Running & Winning* event. We understand that Burlington County is considering one.
3. Discussed Vote411 for this year. We plan to cover Camden and Burlington Counties, at the least.
4. Set a tentative date of April 24 for the Annual Meeting.
5. Several members volunteered to help research the Citizens Guide.
6. Agreed to remind members of upcoming board meetings through a separate email (not just in the Voter).
7. Agreed set dues at \$35 for members \$35 and under (after the first year, when they are \$25).

League of Women Voters of Camden County

President's Message

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Dear League Members,

Well we've gotten through the first month of 2021, and while I know many of us were looking forward to putting 2020 behind us, we certainly did not find peace and a fresh start. Instead we found insurrection and an attempt to interfere with our electoral process. And adding insult to this injury to our democracy was the fact that the very President of these great United States is the one who fueled an angry mob with lie after lie about a fraudulent election that was stolen from him. He didn't have to light a match on January 6, because the fire in that crowd had been smoldering for months and he simply had to give oxygen and space to spread. These actions led the League of Women Voters of the United States to call for the President's immediate removal two days later (see statement on January 8: <https://www.lwv.org/newsroom/press-releases/league-women-voters-united-states-calls-immediate-removal-president-donald>).

I'm sure for many League members this was a shocking moment. I was shocked at first, too, and I've only been a League member since 2017. It seemed so bold and brazen, when often the League is seen as doing the plodding work of registering and educating voters. But the more I read and re-read the statement, the more I read comments from other League members, the more I felt refreshed that we as the League could speak so openly about something so important: That someone who is willing to disregard all truths about the security and certification of the election and then proceed to pump those lies into a frothing crowd which then proceeds to storm the Capitol Building is someone who is unfit to remain the President of the United States for even another minute. The President was no longer a candidate, and he was interfering in the core mission of the League: Empowering Voters. Defending Democracy.

So while the LWVUS statement certainly felt radical, and while critics took great thrills in calling out the "leftist League," just remember these two things:

- 1) One hundred years ago, many people thought it was quite radical for women to have the right to vote; and
- 2) We remain steadfastly nonpartisan and look forward to holding the new administration to the highest standards of electoral transparency and fighting for voters' rights and voter empowerment.

We have encountered many firsts in the last 365 days, let us take the negative firsts and use them as inspiration to always fight for what's right, and let us take the positive firsts and hold them up as beacons of hope for the future we're fighting for.

Last but not least, thanks to our donors like Randi Davis for her donation to the League

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
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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.**



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

You will **never be able to attend another Freeholder meeting!** Not in person. Not on Zoom. Ever!

We now have a "Board of Commissioners". The term Freeholder has racist and classist origins and has been retired as meaningless and inappropriate.

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. 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 "Commissioners Meeting" or a specific month like "February 2021 Commissioners Meeting".

The Camden County Board of Commissioners will host its monthly meeting on February 18th at 12 PM at 520 Market Street, Commissioners Meeting Room – 6th Floor in Camden. Due to COVID-19, the meeting will be closed to the public but will be streamed live at www.CamdenCounty.com/live . Members of the public are welcomed and encouraged. [Back to contents](#)

In memoriam

Martha Kaplan

Martha Kaplan, long-time League member and treasurer, passed away October 10, 2020. She is fondly remembered by League members who knew her. She will be missed.



Martha at the 2012 Annual Meeting.

Voters Service Report



Our Voters Service group has been inspired by the results of last year's efforts to continue our work in 2021. For all of the new voter registrations and record turnout at the polls, democracy was gravely tested recently, so we have no intention of resting on our successes.

Please join us as we partner with community organizations and faith-based groups, reaching out to students at every level, from daisy scouts to colleges and trade schools, food banks and local clinics. We are willing to share everything we know about voter registration, education and motivation. Along the way, we always learn from those we meet.

Additionally, we will continue to educate ourselves by sharing materials and looking for webinars that might help us to be better-informed citizens. As well, we plan to contact our legislators with an eye towards building confidence in our electoral process and encouraging stronger civics education programs in our schools.

Get in touch if you have any ideas to share, or are interested in helping out. Nothing feels better than doing something!

Thank you,

Anita Hahn

cell #856-261-2783
For the Voters Service Group
League of Women Voters of Camden County (NJ)

Program Planning

WEDNESDAY, DEC 16 PROGRAM PLANNING FOR 2021!

Due to COVID-19, we **didn't do THIS**:



We **did THIS!**



But this is a picture from a previous meeting – I forgot to grab a screenshot at program Planning!

We had some fun (with quiz questions on the process and on women voting in New Jersey)! And we discussed the LWVNJ positions, our ideas about where we should go from here, and more. Good turnout by Zoom – nobody had to drive in a snowstorm!

The food was delicious (because we made our own). Nobody got sloppy drunk or high (not yet – wait for it....)

Next step is for me (Ed) to prepare a report for the board, then to send this off to the LWVNJ on a Google form – new this year to make tallying easier. Done! Good – since I may be the one tallying them! Then the state board will look for sufficient consistencies to make recommendations for the Convention.

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 and Janet Fisher-Hughes -- Fishyhugs@msn.com

Voters Services Action Groups – volunteer call

All League members in New Jersey are invited to participate in one or more of the five Action Groups that will address pressing needs and issues in our voter services activity.

Action Group 1: Voter Education. Develop generic voter education materials that can be “customized” by local leagues for their specific counties.

Action Group 2: County Officials Outreach. Facilitate and support outreach to county election officials to discuss experiences from the general elections and to identify messaging and other assistance that the League can provide.

Action Group 3: Voter Forums. Encourage and support local leagues to hold candidate forums/debates. A specific first task is to review recent experiences with virtual forums and develop best practices for this forum venue.

Action Group 4: VOTE411. Identify practices and strategies to fully utilize Vote 411 in each county and to maximize its effectiveness as a voter education resource.

Action Group 5: Voter Services Manual. Review and revise/update the LWNJ Voter Services Manual.

PLEASE VISIT THE SIGN-UP SITE

<https://forms.gle/zLjMVh1ovYKe7Zs18> **AND REPLY ASAP.** We want to get group members identified and in contact with each other within the next few weeks.

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!