



The VOTER

JOIN US

VOLUME 61 NUMBER 3

March 2021

Calendar (League activities in bold)

EVENT/ACTIVITY	DATE	DAY	TIME	LOCATION/INFO
LWVCC Board meeting	April 5	M	7 pm	Zoom. Members are welcome to attend – contact us for details.
LWVCC Annual Meeting	April 24	Sa	Afternoon	Zoom. Diversity, Equity, Inclusion speaker. See information on page 5 (here).

Check out the Google calendar on our home page. There are lots of upcoming LWVUS webinars and training opportunities. <https://www.lwvccnj.org/>

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Meeting Report

At its March 1 board meeting, the board:

1. Approved the Nominating Committee report.
2. Discussed ways to get members involved in communications, writing for the Voter etc.
3. Learned about activities in voters service, Running & Winning, and Vote411.
4. Discussed the DEI (Diversity, Equity, Inclusion) committee's first report. We need to add the LWVUS DEI statement to our bylaws. The board needs to be involved in the DEI. Can we apply the DEI lens to the LWVUS Day of Action in April?
5. Considered screening *ReUnited States*.
6. Discussed plans for the Annual Meeting, speakers we have approached, and other arrangements.

League of Women Voters of Camden County

President's Message

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Dear League Members,

What can you do when you feel like you can't do anything? I've written before about feeling overwhelmed, and encouraging people to push through those feelings to find something - anything - that you can put energy toward in the League's mission of Empowering Voters, Defending Democracy. I think I've written this so often because I need to give *myself* this pep talk.

While I'm "special" in the sense that I believe every human being is special, I'm not so special in the sense that I have problems just like everybody else. Our problems vary, our problems come and (hopefully) go, our problems can be mere annoyances, or they can be devastating. When we are experiencing our problems, doing anything beyond the basics can seem impossible. And sometimes even the basics can be daunting. In these times, you might think being a member of the League is too much on your plate, and you may be right: temporarily, anyway.

I have been dealing with some personal challenges that coincided with the pandemic over the past year. If I tried to keep up my usual League pace I would have burned out months ago and would have become useless to my job and my family, and likely resentful of spending time on League activities. My very patient fellow board members have given me the space to reprioritize, and the League will do the same for you. The good news (also maybe the bad news) is that the work of the League will never be done, so if you need to step back to take care of yourself, do it and you will be stronger when you return. In the meantime your dues continue to support our work, so simply by "cutting a check" each year you are keeping the fight going. Be proud of being a member of the League.

My advice in the meantime is to not think of everything at once. If you're already feeling overwhelmed, then envisioning all of the issues the League is working on, or looking at all of the upcoming webinars, will only make you feel more helpless. Think of one area of particular importance to you: voting rights, diversity/equity/inclusion efforts, civics education...and try to keep track of activities in that one area. Keep an eye on our calendar at www.lwvccnj.org and see what we're up to. Try to read one email a week, whether it's an update from our chapter or the LWVUS "League Update" email ([sign up here](#)), just do a quick check-in to see what we're up to. It's OK if you can't jump to action, your time will come when you feel you can step back up. And your fellow League members will be waiting with an outstretched hand.

In League,
Kristin

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!

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. 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 April 22nd 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 to attend.

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HIGH SCHOOL OUTREACH

Pat Butenis



Talking to high school students about civic engagement in general and voting in particular is hard to arrange and demands creativity, but is so very rewarding and even fun. I have been involved in a few such events and while my experience is limited, I hope to inspire others to take on the challenge.

The easiest way to gain access to a school is if you are invited to present to the students, usually by a motivated teacher, or if another civic organization is already planning an event and wants the LWV to register students to vote. Making a “cold call” to a school board or administrator is not likely to be successful but can work if you have a contact already in the school system who can make your initial pitch.

Once you are in, the format of your event is important. You can have a panel or a single LWV presenter, but want to avoid too much “talking heads”. Whether you are in person (we hope someday soon) or via Zoom, it’s important to be energetic, use videos, and plan an interactive session. For example, I have had the teacher submit survey questions to the students ahead of time (Have you ever thought of running for office? If not, why not? What issues matter to you?, etc.) and we discuss the results in the presentation.

An excellent partner for the League in student outreach is Project 555, a student led, nonpartisan youth voter engagement group under the auspices of Rutgers University – Camden’s Office of Civic Engagement.

I end with a request: that you contact your local high school to see if they can give the League an hour to meet their students. Engaging young people in civic activities, like voting, is at the heart of the League’s mission.



Rutgers, Camden. Admissions Building

Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Report

Jodi Feldman & Claudia Ticker-Keto



Wondering what the newly launched Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) Committee is up to? Even if you feel you cannot commit to joining the committee, we'll try to keep you informed and offer opportunities for reading, watching, learning and taking action. In preparation for our meeting on 3/24/21, we're watching an 18 minute TED talk: *The Danger of a Single Story by Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie*: (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=D9Ihs241zeg>). It's free to watch on YouTube. How do single stories impact you personally? The League? Voting Rights? Our Work? The more room we make for complex stories in the League, the better we fulfill our mission of Making Democracy Work. If you are interested in learning more about the DEI Committee, please fill out this interest form: https://docs.google.com/forms/d/1ZkCs-0TAhLODpp6jd1ot6rUzNKO_Krxs1sd7uBDcnTA/edit?usp=sharing.

Thank you,
Jodi Feldman & Claudia Tucker-Keto
Co-Chairs, DEI Committee

Annual meeting – DEI speaker

Save the Date! **The LWVCC Annual Meeting is scheduled for April 24, 2021 at 2:00pm on Zoom.** We are honored to welcome our featured speaker, Helen Higginbotham, Esq., MBA. Ms. Higginbotham is a graduate of Rowan, Howard and Rutgers Universities respectively. She is a licensed attorney, college professor, freelance opinion writer and an activist whose areas of concentration include Black women, race and politics. Catch up with your LWVCC friends, and join us for Ms. Higginbotham's presentation on Diversity, Equity and Inclusion. More details including registration link to follow.

You can be a Board Worker!

Camden County Board of Elections is Recruiting Board Workers for Upcoming Elections

This is an excellent opportunity to gain first-hand knowledge of our election process and perform an important public service -- while getting paid.

Board workers open the polls, process voters, operate the voting machines and close the polls. Board workers are paid **\$275.00 per day** and work the Primary Election in June and the General Election in November. The hours of work are from 5:15 a.m. until approximately 9:00 p.m. Some towns hold Special Elections throughout the year that you may be requested to work as well.

Young people might find this especially appealing. If you have any college-age friends or family members, be sure to pass this information along. There is also a special need for bi-lingual Board workers in some of our communities.

All new Board workers are required to attend a training class before they can work the election polls as well as a recertification class every two years thereafter. Training class sessions are approximately three hours, held in the Spring and Fall of each year.

Contact the Camden County Board of Elections at 856-401-8683 for more information. Any registered voter can apply. Tell your out-of-county friends they could contact their County Board of Elections for opportunities in their hometown.

Anita Hahn

cell #856-261-2783

Vice President

League of Women Voters
of Camden County (NJ)

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

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!