



The VOTER

JOIN US

VOLUME 61 NUMBER 4

April-May 2021

Calendar (League activities in bold)

EVENT/ACTIVITY	DATE	DAY	TIME	LOCATION/INFO
LWVCC Board meeting	June 7	M	7 pm	Zoom. Members are welcome to attend – contact us for details.

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

Voter Contents

	Page
1 --	Board Report →
2 --	President's Message
3 --	Directions
3 --	Commissioners' meetings
4 --	DEI Report
4 --	Voters Service Report
5 --	Annual meeting
7 --	Contacts for volunteering
8 --	LWVCC Membership form

Meeting Report

At its April 5 board meeting, the board:

1. Heard that our annual Callathon for the state League was successful. We got \$900 in pledges. We'll get at least 10% of that.
2. Discussed setting up a local moderator training session. Ed will ask about this with a memo to our members, then contact LWVNJ.
3. Discussed participation in state convention. We have 5 delegate seats. One of our members (Janet Fisher-Hughes) is running for state board! We decided against paying \$250 to honor someone. They want a video of our work -- we'll use one we already have.
4. Considered movie night with discussion, but decided not to. This doesn't work well on Zoom.
5. Learned that Winslow and Deptford are working with Pat Butenis on voter education.
6. Finalized some details about the Annual Meeting.

At its May 10 board meeting, the board:

1. Continued planning for a local moderator training session.
2. Modified dues for members under 35.
3. Learned that Pat is still waiting for Winslow (see above).
4. Learned that our DEI group is meeting, and is exploring training through Leaderosity.
5. Finalized plans for state Convention.
6. Decided to use the August meeting for discussion and planning.

League of Women Voters of Camden County

President's Message

[Back to contents](#)



Dear League Members,

And just like that...spring is on its way out and summer is around the corner. With summer comes long days of sunlight, days at the beach/lake/pool, and just a few mosquitoes. But it's also primary season, so look out for opportunities to spread the word to your friends, family and neighbors - and direct them to Vote411.org. Thank you to Janet Fisher-Hughes for your hard work once again, and for even giving a workshop at the state convention.

Speaking of convention, five of us served as official delegates on Saturday, May 22 while others from the chapter joined as observers. After a crazy year, I found myself feeling renewed and reenergized by hearing what others have done and reflecting on what our own chapter has done. This video speaks for itself, congrats to all who made 2020-2021 a success! <https://youtu.be/5VN4LqEQHQI>

Some member recognition: Welcome, new members Brenna Snyder, Maria Carrington, Lauren Munn, and Jackie Goldstein, and thank you to Brenna and Jackie for your donations! Thank you also to Renée Robbins for your donation. Finally, we learned that Barbara Kahn passed away in 2019, and while I am sorry that it took this long for us to learn and share this news, I still wanted to recognize this loss and ask you all to keep Barbara in your memories.

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!

[Back to contents](#)

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 June 17th 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.

[Back to contents](#)

Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Report

Jodi Feldman & Claudia Ticker-Keto



The DEI Committee Chairpersons (Jodi and I), were guest presenters at the League of Women Voters Atlantic County on Wednesday, April 14. Members of the LWVAC have attended our DEI meeting with an interest in forming their own Committee. We had a breakout session for each of the issues, Diversity, Equity and Inclusion, then reconvened as a larger group to share what each of the components represented to the individual group, what could be done to embrace the mission of the LWVUS and a myriad of recommendations for next steps.

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

Voters Service Report

Nancy Barna of the West Deptford Women's Club phoned to express her gratitude for helping put together a video presentation on voting and civic engagement for the high school students. Pat Butenis spent a lot of time coordinating, then it was Kristin and Cori in front of the cameras last Thursday.

Nancy was most appreciative of the engaging presentation by Kristin and Cori, and will send us a CD as soon as it's done. West Deptford HS plans to use the CD for a couple of years. She said the freebies and handouts we sent along were well received too.

It's always an added bonus to be recognized for a job well done. Pat, Kristin, Cori - add our thanks along with Nancy Barna, for your efforts in advancing the important work of LWV, reaching out to young people, and for making all of us proud!

Anita

p.s. from Pat, "Anita is too modest to mention her own contribution in drafting the talking points and as always, offering excellent advice."

Annual meeting report

League of Women Voters of Camden County (LWVCC)

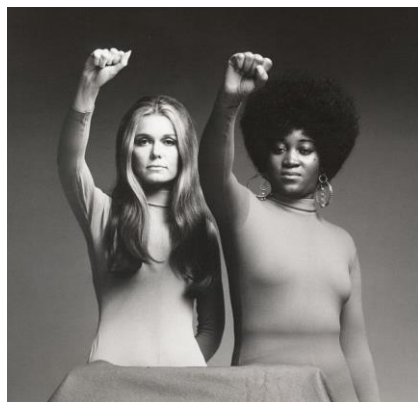
2021 Annual Meeting on Saturday, April 23, 2021 via Zoom.

Claudia Tucker-Keto and Jodi Feldman

The League's featured speaker was Helen Higginbotham, Esq., MBA, professor at Rowan University and human rights activist whose focus is Diversity, Equity and Inclusion.

Ms. Higginbotham opened by emphasizing the value of conversation, which provides the best opportunity to learn from others and listen to divergent viewpoints. At the same time, she noted that the discussion of race is often excluded from conversations about diversity because it takes most people out of their comfort zone. Helen drove home the reality that most decisions in this country are made primarily and traditionally by white males and others in positions of power, who pay lip service to diversity by including a white female in the group, while excluding black and brown people.

Actual diversity can bring meaningful change. Ms. Higginbotham discussed the impact of jury diversity on the Chauvin trial and verdict. In that case, the jury was more reflective of the Minneapolis citizenry than we may have observed in the past that lead to a just verdict.



Ms. Higginbotham included some visuals to illustrate her points. While many of us recognize Gloria Steinem (left) as an icon of “The Women’s Movement”, fewer may recognize and name Dorothy Pittman-Hughes (right). Pittman-Hughes was already a well-established community based activist and feminist, when she encouraged Steinem to begin speaking about feminism. Yet, it is Gloria Steinem whose story is told, whose name was lifted to cultural significance. Exclusion erases entire historic figures, and limits our understanding and perspectives. (Biography of Pittman-Hughes: [With Her Fist Raised, Dorothy Pittman-Hughes and The Transformative Power of Black Community Activism](#) by Laura Lovett)

The presentation included some of the barriers to discussing racial diversity. Rather than broad acceptance that racial diversity is the road to equity and inclusion, many fear that it results in taking power and privilege from those who benefit from the status quo. Black people in America have fought for both equity and equality since their arrival as African slaves. Diversity, Equity and Inclusion looked promising during Reconstruction and the passing of the 14th Amendment,

however it was short lived and we have fought for DEI since the inception of the 15h Amendment of the Constitution.

Ms. Higginbotham fielded a question about why it seems so difficult to talk about race when having a conversation about diversity. She pointed out that racial inequality was built into our Constitution, legislated on all levels of government and reinforced by the Courts, e.g., Plessey vs. Ferguson, Brown vs. the Board of Education of Topeka and with more subtly, Roe v. Wade.

So, you might ask, “What does this have to do with how the LWVCC operates and meets the mandate of its national mission?” We take a lesson from the early history of the women’s movement on the path to the 19th Amendment. We invite all members of our community who share the mission of the LWV to lead by the example set by early women of the movement such as Elizabeth Cady Stanton and Susan B. Anthony, to include such women as Mary McCloud Bethune, Mary Church Terrell, and Ida B. Wells, to march side by side as advocates with the same ambitions and goals, marching shoulder to shoulder, not relegated to the back of the line. Diversity, Equity and Inclusion on all levels, as depicted by the partnership of Gloria Steinem and Dorothy Pittman-Hughes.

We must challenge ourselves to bring more black and brown women and men into the circle. Embrace their differences, not exploit them. Judge less, talk more and act in unison to educate through voter education and registration, civic engagement, monitoring and responding to those issues imperative to preserving our democracy. These are more than racial issues, they are human issues.

We offer our sincere gratitude to Ms. Higginbotham, our members and friends for joining this illuminating Annual Meeting presentation!

Anyone interested in learning more about the LWVCC Diversity, Equity and Inclusion (DEI) Committee please send an email to lwvccnj@gmail.com. The DEI Committee is working to realize the mission of the LWVUS to engage all individuals, households, communities, and policy makers in creating a more perfect democracy.

Part of the presentation discussed a number of important black female suffragist and civil rights leaders, only a few of whom are well known.

Here are their pictures and a link to their Wikipedia pages.

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sojourner_Truth

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mary_McLeod_Bethune

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ida_B._Wells

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Nannie_Helen_Burroughs

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mary_Church_Terrell

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Fannie_Lou_Hamer



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! \$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!