

Team Activity Reports – January 2022

Updates from the President

ClubExpress – Holding off on contracting, pending resolution of merger discussions.

LWVSMC Legal Status – No developments during December

MC League Merger Study – Evelyn joined Anne Torre (GRBA) and Sharon Steinhorn (WM) in a zoom meeting with LWVNJ executive director and board members. In the absence of Board volunteers to facilitate discussions, Evelyn spoke individually with members who expressed interest in providing input on the merger concept. White Paper report and recommendation were received from interleague Merger Exploration Committee and distributed to LWVSMC members for review in advance of discussion scheduled for February 10.

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Membership Team

Team Co-Chairs – Wilma Pfeffer, Diane Hara

Members

Current active members – 105

6 members decided not to renew, or were unreachable

3 new members joined:

Linda Whalen Abrams, Interlaken

Carolann Cavaiola, Point Pleasant (Ocean County)

Elizabeth Figus, Juneau, AK (Elizabeth is Evelyn's daughter, likely transfer to an Alaska league sometime next year.

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LWV of Monmouth County (Interleague Organization – ILO)

Board Members from SMC – Evelyn Murphy (Leadership Team), Peggy Dellinger (Secretary), Susan Sferas (Treasurer), Annette Scott, Sherri West

Meeting Wednesday, January 5. Minutes can be viewed on the Members Only section of our website, under the ILO Room tab.

Sherri West would like to leave the ILO Board. Anyone interested in being appointed to the board, please contact Evelyn – EvelynCMurphy@gmail.com

Next meeting Wednesday, March 2, 1:00 – 3:00. Anyone interested in attending please contact Evelyn for the Zoom link.

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LWVNJ State Board Report (SBR)

No Report this month

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Re-Enter, Register, Vote (RRV)

Team Chair – Annette Scott

Voter Education and Registration

Team scheduled 22 meetings through 6 partners in 5 municipalities and reached 81 citizens
16 meetings were completed – 3 in person, 9 zoom, 5 teleconference.

Partners were Reentry Passaic Co. (Patterson), Reentry Middlesex Co (New Brunswick), Reentry Bergen Co. (Hackensack), Reentry Hudson (Jersey City), Reentry Monmouth Co. (Neptune City), GEO Parole (Neptune City)

Volunteers in addition to Annette were Eleanor Novek, Donna Lembo, Dale C, and Vanessa Merhi (GRBA)

Registrations – 5 voter registrations were completed at the in-person meetings and mailed. 5 cell numbers were added to our text line.

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Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI)

Team Co-Chairs – Diane Hara and Lois Kiley

Cordelia Golden has joined the team. Next team meeting not yet scheduled. Anyone interested in joining the DEI Team should contact Lois Kiley - lkiely@aol.com

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Observer Corps

Coordinator – Marie Curtis



MORE OBERVERS NEEDED !!! Governing bodies, planning boards and boards of education are all areas of concern for League. If interested, contact Marie at dandmcurt@optonline.net

Ocean Twp Council – Observer: Wilma Pfeffer

Two Meetings in January:

- Council addressed a variety of traffic complaints and authorizations. They approved a contract with a firm to grow and package marijuana in town. They also made clear that they will NOT approve retail sales of the drug. They urged citizens to get tested at the free Covid 19 testing days provided at the Oakhurst fire house.
- Various paving and traffic projects announced, contracts given. Looking for a second contractor on marijuana growing. Town will purchase acreage at Kepwell Springs for public park. \$2 million price.

Ocean County Board of Commissioners – Observer: Anne Ugrovics

Anne is working with Marie to get started.

Juliet Cozzi is in discussions with Marie about taking on an assignment.

Purchased 10 new Observer Corps Buttons.

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Facts & Issues

Host – Marie Curtis

Recorded a program with **Fuill** – formerly the Food Bank of Monmouth/Ocean Counties – on 1-11-22.

Future Programs:

- Monmouth County Parks staff.
- NJ Audubon: Backyard habitats for birds
- Hometown Histories program, with Dallas Grove.
- Members with program ideas and/or volunteering to host should contact Marie - dandmcurt@optonline.net

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Candidates' Forum Team


Voters Service Co-Chair for Forums – Nancy Sabino

No activity in January.

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Voter Engagement and Registration Team

Voter Engagement and Registration Team Leader – Cordelia Golden

 **New Team Leader!!!
Thank you, Cordelia**

Voter Information and Registration Booths Scheduled:

- Ocean Grove Spring Fling. Sat, May 7, 10am – 4pm
- Jersey Pride Celebration. Asbury Park. Sun, June 5, noon to 7pm
- Neptune Day. Sat, Sep. 10, noon to 5pm (Rain date, Sun, Sep 11)

Cordelia will be scheduling volunteer shifts once details are available.

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Public Relations, Social Media, and Website

Public Relations Chair – Dallas Grove, Public Relations Co-Chair – Nancy Sabino, Webmaster – Ted Dellinger, Social Media Team – Dallas Hlatky, Lisa Ianucci,

Website – Continuing to update and prepare for transfer to ClubExpress.

Public Relations – Team met with Public Relations Chairs from GRBA and WM to discuss calendar for 2022

Facebook – 25 Posts Reached 1630 people with 246 Post Engagements, 23 Page Visits. 1 new Page Like; Total 195 (est. 83% women); 2 new Followers; Total 216. At our request, Janis Iwanyk, Social Media Chair for LWV of Western Monmouth, has organized a three-league team to coordinate social media county-wide.

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Vote411 Team

Webmaster – Ted Dellinger; Elections Information Coordinator – Nancy Clarke. Working with Anne Torre, GRBA.

LWVUS is introducing a major revision to the Vote411 interface. **Members interested in learning to assist with setting up races should contact Ted - ted.dellinger@gmail.com or Anne – annetorrebeebe@gmail.com**

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Energizing Young Voters (EYV)

Director – Pat Supplee

Energizing Young Voters Business Plan - delivered to Jesse Burns and LWVNJ Board President to help guide EYV/LWVNJ collaboration into the future

Looking to develop the business side of EYV:

- Establish a traditional board of directors to assure program continuance
- Enrolled in Brookdale certificate program for nonprofit management and development
- Joined two business groups (Monmouth and Ocean Development Council and NJ Industry and Business Association) to network with other nonprofit groups

Internship - Sheil Shah, a student at Middlesex Co. College is our spring '22 intern, has hit the ground running with research and GOTV efforts

Website - League volunteer web designer will embed code that will allow us to track usage and set up a search function, and potentially set up a payment function for *I AM the Change* digital version that will resolve LWVNJ concerns about financial implications for them

Curriculum development - Speak to be Heard is nearing completion and will be piloted in April and May.

Collaborations -

- YWCA of North Jersey - series of three evenings with most of our programs (Feb./March) with lessons being offered by our student presenters
- Camden Community Coalition - in conjunction with NJEA planning for community and school presentations and student involvement
- Smithsonian Voice and Votes: Democracy in America (From revolution and suffrage to civil rights and casting ballots, the exhibit will explore a variety of concepts related to democracy in America)
 - Program planning is underway at Rowan College at Burlington and Brookdale Community College - will be providing weekly lessons for the public and lessons for classes who sign up ahead of time during their museum visit; Excuses! Excuses! Excuses! will be offered as a game during visiting hours - opening 4/5/22
 - Part of committee to plan community outreach activities at Brookdale Community College (Aug- Oct exhibit)
 - Outreach to 4 other community college sites who will host the exhibit from May through December 2022: Atlantic/Cape May County, Middlesex, Mercer, and Union Co Colleges (if you have any connections, please let Pat know.)

Young Voters Advisory Board think tank meeting 2/6/22 set the following direction for the next 3 months:

- Application and attendance policy: Approved; discussion about how to maintain diversity as board members turn over after their 2-year terms.
- Website - Discussion on design - needed: more photos/videos (short), gathering opinions, offering quizzes/games and questionnaires, videos, to attract repeat visits; EYV board members will help design
- Curriculum development
 - Board members will supply ideas for scenarios that appeal to young people to use for practice in the *Speak to be Heard* lesson.
 - Consensus is that we should add a lesson on communication on social media
- Upcoming presentations by students
 - Diversity Club - Middletown S and Rowan literature class (Fighting for Change: I AM the Change)
 - Three student teams will present evening YWCA series (Timeline of Suffrage and Who's Got the Power 2/23; Vote by Design and Casting Your Ballot 3/3 and What's Your Issue and I AM the Change on 3/10.
 - Experienced students will partner with new to help expand presentations to new groups in each of the schools represented on the Board.
- GOTV Efforts with young voters - it is felt that we need to beef up our voter registration and GOTV efforts in the schools in which we present our lessons to better assure that the intention to vote leads to voting behavior
 - Joining [Students Learn/Students Vote](#) Coalition (SLSV) a national organization supporting organizations like ours with connections, resources, grants, etc.
 - [NJ Ballot Bowl website](#) plan for Get Out the Vote (GOTV) efforts. Students sign a commitment to vote which is part of the All In Campus Voting Challenge at voter registration drives (a second table); Stickers specific to EYV -- our logo and "I'm going to be a voter" when they sign a commitment to vote; then, a go to the polls together event/ - and transportation if we can figure out a way to provide it - then to a photo of those who went with your I Voted sticker idea.
- Social media: need to augment our presence
 - Every board member will take responsibility for posting on the Facebook and Instagram accounts; emphasis on real people doing real things (photos/videos,) not just inspirational posts.
 - Board members will communicate with one another between meetings, with one member serving as the organizer to set up a texting system
 - Everything posted must adhere to the League Nonpartisan and DEI policies
 - Different media should target different audiences with different content. We will consider the idea of TikTok videos to appeal to younger audiences
 - We will begin to use hashtags, but will watch for whether the algorithms begin to align us with one or another political party in which case we need to rethink. #GetOutTheVote was suggested
 - Consider boosting our most frequently hit posts on Facebook