

Team Activity Reports – February 2022

Updates from the President

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

LWVSMC Legal Status – No developments during January

MC League Merger – 21 members attended the LWVSMC Consensus Meeting on Feb. 10 and reached a consensus to support merging the four league entities in Monmouth County. Based on the outcome of this meeting and meetings at the two other leagues, the Merger Exploration Committee created a revised White Paper and submitted it to LWVNJ, seeking approval by LWVNJ Board to move forward. Details, including the recording of the consensus meeting are available in the Members Only section of our website, under the Merger Exploration tab.

We have now scheduled a Zoom brainstorming meeting entitled “Imagining Our New League” at 7:00 on Tuesday, March 15, to which members of the three leagues are invited. The meeting will be facilitated by Peggy.

Award – Annette Scott has been selected to receive the Community Services Award by The Central Jersey Club of the National Association of Negro Business and Professional Women’s Clubs, Incorporated. The award is given in recognition of her “impressive accomplishments with the LWVSMC and the Reenter-Register-Vote program”. The Central Jersey Club is an important partner with LWVSMC in our work to bring voter education and registration students and families throughout the county.

The award will be presented during the 58th Annual Founders Day Celebration, which will be held virtually on April 9, at noon, with a Meet and Greet beginning at 11am. LWVSMC has purchased a full-page ad in the event journal. Tickets to the event will be available for purchase.

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Membership Team

Team Co-Chairs – Wilma Pfeffer, Diane Hara

Members

Current active members – 106

1 member renewed unexpectedly

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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, March 2. Minutes can be viewed on the Members Only section of our website, under the ILO Room tab.

Next meeting Wednesday, May 4, 1:00 – 3:00. Anyone interested in attending please contact Evelyn for the Zoom link.

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LWVNJ State Board Report (SBR)

Report from the Meeting of February 19 can be viewed at [State Board Report February 2022](#).

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Re-Enter, Register, Vote (RRV)

Team Chair – Annette Scott

Voter Education and Registration

Team scheduled 21 meetings through 6 partners in 5 municipalities and reached 104 citizens
19 meetings were completed – 6 in person, 10 zoom, 3 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 Chant, and Vanessa Merhi (GRBA)

Registrations – 7 voter registrations were completed at the in-person meetings and mailed. 6 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

The DEI ZOOM meeting was held on February 19th. Members attending: Lois, Evelyn, Annette, Cordelia, Wilma, Marie

The team welcomed Cordelia (Goldie) to the group. Annette gave an update of the Re-entry Program. The DEI Glossary was discussed, and it will be fluid as terms arise that are pertinent to understanding diversity, equity, and inclusion vocabulary and issues. Several members will send Lois definitions for terms that will be included (e.g., Transit Equity) and she will add them to the Glossary and forward the list of definitions to Ted for posting on the DEI website tab.

Action items:

1. An invitation will be sent by Evelyn to all local league members from the DEI Committee to attend a DEI related zoom meeting recommended by Marie.
2. Evelyn will discuss with Peggy a logo or format for DEI announcements and activities.

The next DEI meeting will be scheduled for April when Lois returns to New Jersey.

Anyone interested in joining the DEI Team should contact Lois Kiley - llkiely@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

Ocean Council introduced new police chief, Michael Sorentino, at meeting 2/10/22. Usual contracts, bids approved including repairs to Palaia Park walkways. Lawsuit concerning construction at Deal Rd./Rt 35 intersection drags on with still no decision. Annual Scholarship luncheon will be March 8 and St. Patrick’s Day dinner March 11.

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.

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Facts & Issues

Host – Marie Curtis

Two programs scheduled for recording on March 15.

- 1. Jen Coffey of ANJEC on the plastic bag ban and
- 2. Dallas Grove on Hometown Histories.

Future Programs:

- Monmouth County Parks staff.
- NJ Audubon: Backyard habitats for birds
- 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 February.

Upcoming Elections with Possible Forums:

- 1. Long Branch Municipal, May 10
- 2. Keansburg Municipal, May 10
- 3. Various Primaries, June 7

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Voter Engagement and Registration Team

Voter Engagement and Registration Team Leader – Cordelia Golden

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 – The three Leagues of Monmouth Co. had met in January, and formulated a PR strategy which was presented for approval at our February board meeting. These included dates and deadlines for publicizing Hot Topics, various forums, and possibly a press conference to have the better working relationship with the press.

In response to a Letter to the Editor in the Coaster asking where the public can get answers to pressing issues, Pres. Evelyn Murphy quickly responded to the writer with her own Letter to the Editor. The answer she gave was that he can confidently rely on the LWV through our articles, How To webinars, Hot Topics, and asking his own questions at our candidate forums and visiting our website. Evelyn passed her letter by the LWVSMC Board in order to involve the Board in confirming it was appropriate for submission on our behalf. Dallas submitted the letter.

Responding in her own name and therefore not requiring any consultation, member Rosemary Venter also answered the same gentleman in a letter of her own, asking *How About the League of Women Voters?* Then answering her question with a list of what the non-partisan League has to offer, including membership to men.

Letters to the Editor are a really good way to reach the public-- picking up on current topics when a Press Release is not announcing or reporting an event. Peggy also did that last summer when she recapped our election year, citing the huge number of voters and candidates who participated in forums and Information webinars and introducing Evelyn as the new president.

It a good thing to BYOH - Blow your Own Horn!

Facebook – 42 Posts Reached 1941 people with 238 Post Engagements, 47 Page Visits. 5 new Page Likes; Total 199 (est. 83% women); 8 new Followers; Total 225.

We created a post to share in advance of each meeting of the Monmouth County Board of Commissioners, to alert residents of the opportunity to attend meetings and to speak on topics of importance to them. We also have begun actively sharing content from the pages of partner organizations.

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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

Programs:

- We are now offering supporting programming at all 6 venues for the Smithsonian exhibit, *Voices and Votes: Democracy in America*, touring NJ this year.
- EYV is providing docent training for the exhibit at Rowan (3/23 via Zoom and 3/30 in person at the exhibit.) Anyone interested is welcome to sign up at RCBC.edu/Smithsonian - scroll down the left column of the page to volunteers to sign up.) There will be opportunities to do the same at other venues over the course of this year, including at Monmouth Museum during the summer.
- Art contest, organized by Jayne Mackta, will have students submit postcards, posters, cartoon strips or tiktoks urging people to GOTV. Prizes at different age levels; winners will be used as models at the Smithsonian exhibit with art materials available for visitors to create their own to take with them as a souvenir.

Materials updates:

Across the Divide: Speak to be Understood is waiting for student-created videos, then is ready to pilot. Two middle schools have been lined up. Looking for at least one high school and one college/community college class to pilot for those age groups. Can be clubs or classes.

Collaborations:

NJ Department of State

- Eric Knipis. The Asst NJ Secretary of State will inform the NJ Secretary of State, Tahisha Way, who is the current VP, soon to become President of the National Assn of Secretaries of State, about EYV. The Dept. of State is going to promote EYV and our programs
- The Dept. of State is also going to promote our art contest that Jayne Mackta, one of our members is setting up which will be part of the exhibits that take place in collaboration with the Smithsonian exhibit; students will submit postcards, posters, cartoon strips or tiktoks urging people to GOTV. Prizes at different age levels; winners will be used as models at the exhibit with art materials available for visitors to create their own to take with them as a souvenir.
- The Dept of State is establishing an overarching organization/coalition (probably called NJ Alliance for Civic Education) that will bring together under one umbrella all of the organizations in NJ that are in any way connected to civics education to improve collaboration; I've been asked to serve on the Advisory Council.

YWCA of Northern NJ – Empower U. is a 10-week, after school leadership/empowerment program educating girls on social issues; EYV is providing three remote sessions (3/3, 3/10, 3/17) each one being presented by one of our student teams. Fifteen girls aged 13-15 are enrolled for the first session.

Development/Funding:

- We are continuing our effort to engage people as sustaining supporters (asking for tax-deductible donations of \$10/month (or more) We are asking for matching corporate donations as well. Donations can be made through our [website](#).

Presentations:

During the first semester, we held 31 presentations that reached 384 students and 156 adults (mostly teachers and/or community members being instructed by students) who experienced one or more modules, evenly divided between Fighting for the Vote and Fighting for Change.

Future sustainability of EYV:

- I am enrolled in a Brookdale course, Board Development, with an eye towards moving EYV from a startup to a growth nonprofit entity
- Zoom Presenter Training: Student Advocate Toolkit (3/5/22 1:30-3:30 PM) [Register here](#) and Vote by Design (3/6/22 1:30-3:30 PM) [Register here](#) advertised by LWV NJ and LWV US
- Application made to present a caucus session at the LWVUS Convention in June 2022

Internships:

- Katy (fall '21) has been appointed to the Governor's Youth Advisory Council. She and representatives from 14 other organizations focusing on young people, advise the governor and his staff on issues of importance to young voters. Watch for updates on Facebook and Instagram.
- Gina (spring '21) is developing our third edition of our quarterly newsletter.
- Paid internship: Welcome, Sheil Shah from Middlesex Community College, our spring '22 intern. His two areas of focus are: 1) filling the gap in our program - GOTV efforts beyond educating young people; and 2) improving our social media presence. His skills and enthusiasm for the job and connections to outside sources that can assist him are remarkable.

- Unpaid internship: Welcome, Charlotte Parauda from Middletown South HS. Charlotte's school enables seniors to undertake an internship during their last semester. Charlotte chose EYV. Her goal is to become a program director: 1) identifying schools/teachers/community organizations, etc. interested in our programs; 2) scheduling those and handling the administrative details associated; 3) presenting various programs to the groups.

Publicity: Newsletter:

- EYV now has its own channel on Slack, enabling board members to communicate with each other directly, and enabling the organization to promote our programs and activities to other Leagues.
- [Facebook Live interview](#) was conducted by the YWCA of Northern NJ prior to our first evening program for them.

Copyright issue

After learning of the copyright issue facing LWVSMC, EYV put out the word to some of our engaged volunteers to help search and scrub our slideshows of any and all images that may have copyright issues. Catherine Volk, one of our HS volunteers, stepped up quickly and helped us determine the quickest and easiest way to achieve that goal. The word was put out for help, and the process is underway to revise the slideshows so that there can be no question of our commitment to excellence and integrity, two of Energizing Young Voters' core values. I'm hoping to have everything ready for review next week.