

The OTER

VOLUME 44 NUMBER 7

August 2005

Calendar (League activities in bold)

August 2005

16 Tu 6:00 p.m. County Freeholder Caucus
16th floor, Camden Co. Courthouse, Camden

18 Th 7:00 p.m. County Freeholder Meeting
Gloucester Township Senior Center

26-28 Varied Women Win the Vote
Programs in Philadelphia and Mt. Laurel. See
p. 4 for details.

September 2005

7 W 7:00 p.m. **LWVCC Board Meeting**
Vogelson Library, Voorhees

10 Sa 9-12 noon **NJ Gubernatorial succession**
Presented by Ingrid Reed, Eagleton Institute of
Politics. See President's message.

13 Tu 6:00 p.m. County Freeholder Caucus
16th floor, Camden Co. Courthouse, Camden

15 Th 7:00 p.m. County Freeholder Meeting
Cherry Hill Community Center, 820 Mercer

28 W Evening **LWVCC Kickoff**
LWVNJ Executive Director to speak. Cherry
Hill Library

October 2005

5 W 7:00 p.m. **LWVCC Board Meeting**
Vogelson Library, Voorhees (probably).

18 Tu 6:00 p.m. County Freeholder Caucus
16th floor, Camden Co. Courthouse, Camden

20 Th 7:00 p.m. County Freeholder Meeting
Homestead Youth Association Pennsauken

At its August 2005 meeting the LWVCC board:

1. Made arrangements for advertising the Eagleton event and carpooling to it.
2. Adopted criteria for candidates in our televised county candidates forum
3. Agreed to pay our per-member-payments (dues to LWVNJ and LWVUS) in full now, rather than in installments.
4. Appointed Annette Hills, Marcia Lugger, and Renée Robbins to one-year terms on the board.

It's time to renew your membership!

Renewal notices have gone out. Please renew promptly. We need you and we value you, whether you are active, or you just like reading the *Voter!* The lifeblood of the League is its membership. Thanks to all who renew early... Tell your friends about the League! We'd love to have your neighbours join too. And your spouse!

THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF CAMDEN COUNTY

PRESIDENT’S MESSAGE:

As we enter a new year to conduct the business of the league, our first board meeting proved to be jam-packed with new projects, ideas, and a continued commitment to increase League membership. As your newly-elected President, I was very pleased that you are as eager as I am to begin working on the many projects that we have identified for the New Year.

We are entering the fall with a special kickoff reception and meeting to introduce our State League Executive Director to League members and invited guests. We are especially pleased to be holding this event in the new Cherry Hill Library on September 28 from 6:30 to 9:00 pm. For members who are interested in meeting Ms. Burnham one-on-one, we have planned a “chat & chew” reception which will begin at 6:30 pm. Invitations for this event will be mailed in late August, so set aside that date and come see the “League at Work”. Details are on page 6 of this *Voter*.

As we move toward another gubernatorial election, we will once again plan to partner with the South Jersey Delta Sigma Theta Sorority to register voters. Last year’s voter registration campaign was very successful and we recorded a substantial increase in registrations. Winnefred Rowell-Bullard introduced the voter registration campaign to Rowan University campus and the drive was so successful that they are planning another one for the fall.

We have committed to several major projects this fall, including a televised debate of local candidates. Lisa Castellani is working very hard to make this a successful and exciting event. We won’t need an audience for the taping, but we’ll be sure to let you know when broadcasts will take place.

This summer we were asked by the state League to participate in a study of the Gubernatorial Succession. The sequence of events for studying the Gubernatorial Succession has been modified considerably. It will no longer be a full consensus, although League members will be asked for their input on the ballot question. The main informational opportunity is a half-day workshop on Saturday, September 10 at 9:00 am at Eagleton Institute in New Brunswick. We are asking all League members who are interested, to carpool with us to Eagleton Institute. Letters will be sent to all League members establishing the place and time of departure. See page 7 for more information and locations as well.

I am requesting all League members who are interested in participating on project committees or who have project ideas that will benefit the community, don’t hesitate to contact the League. We need your input and support.

There will be several new projects that we will successfully implement this year, including informational forums that will be open to the membership at large. So, as we began with a full plate, let’s roll up our sleeves and make this a very successful and a continued rewarding year for the Camden County League of Women Voters.

Ann Saunders

The League of Women Voters is a nonpartisan political organization of men and women that encourages the informed and active participation of citizens in government and influences public policy through education and advocacy.

The League of Women Voters of Camden County, LWVCC Voice Mail Line: (856) 795-7878

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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) 795-7878.**

Getting there - Directions!

Camden County Courthouse: Take 676 north to Mickle Blvd. Flow right at the fork (don't go on Campbell Place), then turn right onto 5th street in a few blocks. The courthouse is at 5th and Federal, a block up from Mickle.

Camden, Federal Courthouse: 4th and Cooper, but we generally car pool. Call 856-795-7878 if you're interested. *About 3-4 blocks from the City Hall PATCO station.*

Cherry Hill Community Center: Take 70 west, for about 1.3 miles past King's Highway. Look for Mercer Road on your right, just before Haddonfield Road. The building is about a half mile after that turn.

Cherry Hill Library: On King's Highway, coming from Haddonfield, cross Route 70. The library is a half mile or so ahead, on your left. Before Chapel Ave.

Gloucester Township Senior Center: take Springdale Road from Cherry Hill. Stay on it when it becomes White Horse then Laurel. About 1.5 miles past Route 30, turn right onto Chews Landing. Watch for the Municipal Complex in another 1.5 miles, on your right.

New Brunswick, Eagleton Institute: Take turnpike north to exit 9 and stay right after the toll booths to get onto Route 18 north. Stay in the center or left lane on Route 18 to avoid being forced onto Route 1; follow Route 18 over Route 1 and then move to the right. After the first traffic light (Paulus Blvd.), take the exit for George Street and Douglass College. Go through one traffic light. As George Street starts to curve to the right (very soon after you get on it), bear left through the break in the concrete divider onto Ryders Lane. The driveway for the Eagleton Institute of Politics will be directly ahead of you. *New Jersey Transit trains running between Trenton and Penn Station/New York stop at the New Brunswick station at least hourly. Cabs are generally available from there. It's about 1.2 miles to Eagleton.*

Pennsauken, Homestead Youth Association: Route 38 west, exit onto Cuthbert toward Merchantville. Pass Courier-Post on Cuthbert (also called Magnolia), then take next little road left. In a block, turn left onto Clayton. Watch for signs.

Voorhees, Vogelson Regional Library: Driving south on 30, turn left onto Somerdale Road, just above the Echelon Mall. Go under the train bridge in about a half mile, then turn right onto Burnt Mill. Soon turn left onto Laurel Road. The library is on your right. Burnt Mill Road also crosses 544 (Evesham Road) north of the library and White Horse Road (an extension of Springdale) south of it. If you know where the Echelon Mall is, you're home!

IMPORTANT INFORMATION FOR VOTER REGISTRATION

ABSENTEE BALLOT REQUESTS

A person applying for an absentee ballot no longer needs to give a "reason" for the application. (P.L.2005 c.138).

VOTER'S BILL OF RIGHTS

Posting of a voter information notice, known as the voter's "Bill of Rights" must be placed in each polling place before the opening of the polls on the day of any election. (P.L.2005 c.149).

PRIMARY

Beginning in **January 2008**, the Presidential Primary will take place the last Tuesday in February. The Primaries for Congressional and local offices will remain the first Tuesday after the first Monday in June. (P.L.2005 c.136).

VOTER REGISTRATION

Effective **January 1, 2006**, a voter may register 21 days before an election. (P.L.2005 c.139)

More detailed information on all the above is available at WWW.NJLEG.STATE.NJ.US/ Look for the chapter laws in the left hand column on the home page.

Regional Equity Update

South Jersey Organization picks its action priorities

As you know, the LWVCC has been interested in the South Jersey Regional Equity group since its inception. Up to now, the group's emphasis has been on building community support. But the time had come to pick action priorities! On July 12, 2005, the organization held a meeting at the Unitarian Universalist Church in Cherry Hill to make some decisions. About 35 voting participants (from 10 or so area churches and organizations) and a few observers discussed seven potential action items that had been selected based on a previous meeting and ongoing discussions.

After caucusing and discussing, it was time to vote. And the winners are...

- Housing: focus on low income housing availability, location etc.
- Property taxes: focus on high rates, especially in poorest areas and older towns.
- Education: focus on financial problems in poor areas, segregated schools etc.

All of these are topics the League has studied and cares about as well. What next? More meetings, of small groups and the whole group, to educate ourselves and plan actions around these issues. A large meeting with officials present is planned for October, at which time legislators and other officials will be asked to take stands on solutions to specific problems.

I'm working with the education group. League members interested in working on this topic or others would be welcome. The idea is to increase participation and involvement.

Ed

Women Win the Vote: 85 Years and Beyond

"Women Win the Vote: 85 Years and Beyond," a national celebration of the 85th anniversary of the 19th Amendment, will be held at the National Constitution Center, 525 Arch St., Philadelphia, on August 26-27. This program, honoring the historic struggle for women's right to vote and exploring women's current legal status, is co-sponsored by the National Constitution Center and the National Women's History Project of Santa Rosa, CA.

The program begins at 11 a.m. on Fri., Aug. 26 (Women's Equality Day) with films on woman suffrage and the Equal Rights Amendment. At 3 p.m., Sally Roesch Wagner and Fred Morsell perform in "Elizabeth Cady Stanton and Frederick Douglass: Beyond Race and Gender in the Struggle for Equality." A gala 19th Amendment anniversary reception at 5 p.m., with a special program and silent auction, will also celebrate the National Women's History Project's 25 years of "writing women back into history."

The 6:45 p.m. keynote session, "Democracy and Women's Equal Rights – Mutually Inclusive," features Martha Burk, Chair, National Council of Women's Organizations; Kay Maxwell, President, League of Women Voters of the U.S.; Roslyn Ridgeway, President, Business and Professional Women/USA; and Ellie Smeal, President, The Feminist Majority.

The celebration resumes at 10 a.m. on Sat., Aug. 27, with author Linda Ford discussing "*Iron-Jawed Angels* in Print and on Film," including clips from the 2004 TV movie. Panels will explore "Women and the Vote: Linking the Generations" (11:30 a.m.), "Equal Rights for Women: A Work in Progress" (1:30 p.m.), and "The Power of Place: Interpreting Women's Rights at Women's History Sites" (3 p.m.). The event concludes with a book-signing by participants at 4:15 p.m. in the National Constitution Center's Grand Hall. Voter registration, exhibit tables, and special gift shop items will be available on both days. **For \$25 admission tickets to the reception/keynote session, contact NWHP at 707-636-2888 or nwhp@nwhp.org. All other sessions on both days are free and open to the public.**

The voting rights anniversary will also be celebrated at 4 p.m. on Sun., Aug. 28, at Paulsdale, the National Historic Landmark birthplace of suffragist leader Alice Paul in Mt. Laurel, NJ. For details about this program, which features Sally Roesch Wagner as Elizabeth Cady Stanton and Fred Morsell as Frederick Douglass, contact the Alice Paul Institute (856-231-1885, info@alicepaul.org).

LWVNJ Fall Workshops

Saturday, October 15, 2005

Douglass College Center
Rutgers University
New Brunswick, NJ

Come join fellow League members from all over the state for a morning of learning, updating, and networking. Hear our keynote speaker, Jennifer Langer, update us on the status of Charter Schools in New Jersey. Sign up for one of six morning workshops. Save the date, and help the state League spread the word. Registration forms will be mailed to each League member in early September.

October 15th Schedule:

8:30 – 9:00 Registration/Continental Breakfast

9:00 – 9:05 President's Welcome

9:05 – 10:00 Keynote Address: Jennifer Langer, NJ Charter Public Schools Assoc. (See below).

10:15 – 12:15 Workshops (choose one)

10:15 – 1:15 Discussion Leader Training

12:15 – 1:15 Optional lunch and President's Workshop

Morning Workshops (Subject to change):

Libby Sharpe Memorial Discussion Leader Training

Public Speaking

Running and Winning (Led by our own Anne Maiese)

Government Issues

Membership Recruitment & Retention

Fiscal Policy and Ed. Comm. Update

Lunch Session

President's Roundtable

Registration Fees:

By Oct. 1st, 2005 **\$25**

After Oct. 1st, 2005 **\$30**

*Lunchbox (must be preordered): **\$10**

Keynote Address:

Jennifer Langer, *Executive Director*
NJ Charter Public Schools Association
“The Status of New Jersey Charter Schools”

Starting with a brief history of Charter Schools in New Jersey, Ms. Langer will discuss the new "Quality Standards" developed for Charter Schools, the physical facilities, funding issues and new innovations. The 2005 LWVNJ State Convention approved an update of the Charter Schools position. Ms. Langer's address is the first part of this update.

The Camden County League of Women Voters



Invites you to our annual kickoff
to meet
“The League at Work”



Keynote Speaker

Danzey Burnham, State League Executive Director
Cherry Hill Library
1100 Kings Highway North
Cherry Hill NJ 08034

Wednesday, September 28, 2005
Meet Danzey: Reception: 6:30 PM
Her presentation: 7:00 PM

RSVP: Ann Saunders, 856-232-1041

Gubernatorial Succession - a Panel Discussion

Join the LWVCC at Eagleton Institute

Lieutenant Governor?

Should New Jerseyans amend the State Constitution on November 8th?

Date: Saturday, September 10th

Location: Eagleton Institute, Rutgers University, New Brunswick

Time: 8:30 am - Coffee and tea reception
9:00 – 11:00 – Speakers panel and Q & A

The panel will address the issue of gubernatorial succession in New Jersey, with an introduction by League member Ingrid Reed, Director of the Eagleton Institute's New Jersey Project. Ms. Reed's introduction will be followed by a discussion of the November 8th ballot question which amends the New Jersey constitution to include the office of lieutenant governor. Pro and con will be presented by Senator Barbara Buono (D, Dist. 18 – bill co-sponsor) and Senator Leonard Lance (R, Dist. 23 – nay vote). A question and answer session will follow, moderated by League member Judy Schachter. The panel will be free of charge. If you have any questions, please contact Roberta Spray at 973-299-0919, Louise Murray at (973) 538- 7143 or the LWVNJ office at 609-394-3303.

If you are interested, the LWVCC will be carpooling

We will meet at the Rosa School in Cherry Hill (formerly the Heritage School) promptly at 7:45 a.m. We have to be in New Brunswick before 9, since the actual program (not the reception) starts at that time. Take 295 to Haddonfield-Berlin Road (561) south. At the shopping center, turn left onto Browning. Follow it as it zigzags for about a mile. The school is on your right. Or, enter Browning from Kresson, and see the school soon on your left.

Please call Zena Cohen (856-667-0210) or Annette Dorf-Hills (856-428-6341) if you plan to join us. We need an accurate count in case someone is a few minutes late (we can't wait long!). Directions to the institute itself are on page 3, above.