

The
 **VOTER**

VOLUME 44 NUMBER 6

June-July 2005

Calendar (League activities in bold)

June 2005

- 21 Tu 6:00 p.m. County Freeholder Caucus
16th floor, Camden Co. Courthouse, Camden
- 23 Th 7:00 p.m. County Freeholder Meeting
Winslow Township Municipal Bldg.
125 South Route 73

July 2005

- 4 M All Day Happy Birthday USA!
Independence Day. Put out your flag...
- 19 Tu 6:00 p.m. County Freeholder Caucus
16th floor, Camden Co. Courthouse, Camden
- 21 Th 7:00 p.m. County Freeholder Meeting
Voorhees Township Community Center

August 2005

- 3 W 7 p.m. **LWVCC Board Meeting**
Vogelson Library, Voorhees
Date tentative.
- 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

September 2005

- 10 Sa TBA **NJ Gubernatorial succession**
Presented by Ingrid Reed, Eagleton Institute of
Politics.
- 28 W Evening **LWVCC Kickoff**
LWVNJ Executive Director to speak.
Date tentative.

At its June 2005 meeting the LWVCC board:

1. Tentatively selected a date and potential locations for the fall Kickoff.
2. Discussed several proposals for membership and outreach.

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 I turn over this office (and the task of writing the President's Message for each *Voter*) to Ellen Ann Saunders, our new president, I am grateful for the experience of leading this League for the last six years. It has been very rewarding, giving me the chance to learn about important issues, meet wonderfully interesting people, and promote many of the causes I believe in. I am also confident that Ellen Ann's fresh perspective and great capabilities will be a very good thing for the League. She has the support of the whole board, and my promise for any help she might need.

What have I told her about being president? First, I have told her that, although it's a lot of work, she has a great team—experienced board members who capably handle the many jobs necessary for maintaining the organization and carrying out our mission. She also will be able to call on many off-board members who regularly work on specific projects. I am very thankful to have had so much support from all of them. Second, she will be very glad that she agreed to take this office. It is quite an honor to represent this organization—its reputation is sterling!

The board is making plans for the fall, and there is plenty to keep everyone busy. We will hold our "Kickoff" on Wednesday, September 28, place and time TBA, in order to hear Danzey Burnham, our new LWVNJ Executive Director, speak about her vision for the League. You are encouraged to invite friends and acquaintances so that we can widen our membership.

We are on a "fast track" for studying "succession to the governor." The planned sequence of events is that by late August we will be receiving the study questions, our responses to which are due to LWVNJ by mid September, for a state League vote in very early October. What's the rush? It's so the League can weigh in on the referendum before the election on November 8. It seems likely that the LWVNJ will ask us to hold a member consensus meeting in order to provide our responses in mid September. We'll let you know as the time approaches.

Members will attend the LWVNJ workshops at Douglas College on October 15, and we plan to sponsor, moderate and televise a Camden County candidates' forum sometime that month too! Add all this to registering voters and answering citizens' questions to the League Line—it will be a very busy fall season! So have a wonderful summer and take some serious R & R, OK?

It's been wonderful,
Anne

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

President: Anne Maiese (856) 795-4367 Voter Editor: Ed Gracely (856) 629-2869
1st Vice President: Lisa Castellani (609) 239-4947 Voter Distributor: Barbara Sielaff
2nd Vice President: Rosemary Leach (856) 354-8009

Web site: <http://www.lwvnj.org/camdencounty> e-mail: lwvcc@hotmail.com

***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.*

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.

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!

Voorhees Community Center: On Route 561 (Berlin-Haddonfield Road) about a half mile south of Evesham Road, just before White Horse Road on your right going south on 561. If you hit Eagle Plaza, you've gone too far.

Winslow Township Municipal Building: Take Route 73 South into Winslow. Pass Route 30 (White Horse Pike). Continue on 73 for another 5 miles or so. When you see signs to 536 (not the one near route 30) and Beebetown Road, you're a mile or so away. The complex will be on your right, near mile marker 10.

LWVUS Council 2005

I had the pleasure of representing the LWVNJ at LWVUS Council in Washington DC on June 11 and 12, 2005. National Council generally has as its only real item of business passing the budget for the second year of the biennium. This leaves lots of time over the weekend for updates and networking.

One of my first tasks at Council was to participate in the roll call of states, giving a 1-minute list of key things about NJ. I didn't know until the meeting started that I was supposed to do this! During a 15 minute break, standing in the foyer, I decided to stick to things I knew well. In my minute of fame (?) I mentioned that:

1. We plan to promote Running and Winning more widely (and that the person who has spearheaded it in my local League was now on the state board. I didn't name her, but readers of the LWVCC Voter will all know that I meant Anne Maiese!);
2. We're designing a rapid consensus on gubernatorial succession;
3. We're very close to getting a ballot question to create a convention to reform property taxes on the ballot.

I learned that the LWVUS is completely revamping its web page. The look will be quite different, and hopefully it will be easier to use. Among other helpful modifications, there will now be the ability to search by key words, which should take you directly to the documents you want, rather than a half dozen obscure references that happen to have your search words!

I picked up some tips on successful Leagues, effective websites, issues facing other state Leagues, and some pointers useful to me as state treasurer. A very worthwhile 2 days. *Ed Gracely*

Running & Winning 2005

Phyllis Black

What a joy to be part of the Running and Winning Workshop that took place on Wednesday, April 13th at Overbrook Senior High School in Pine Hill, New Jersey. The workshop was a great success, and the library was packed with people.

Seventy-eight teenage girls from Winslow Township High School and Overbrook Senior High School participated. Twenty-one female elected officials including mayors, council women, freeholders, and state assembly women spoke to the girls. Twenty-seven volunteers from our League, Delta Sigma Theta Sorority - South Jersey Alumnae Chapter, and the American Association of University Women registered, photographed, and facilitated the program issues for the teenage girls that attended.

Once the female politicians were given the microphone, it was hard to take it away from each of them as they introduced themselves and talked about their areas of responsibility. Seventeen groups of teenage girls presented their views on the provisions of the Patriot Act that will expire by December 31st, 2005 unless the Congress renews them.

The teenage Senatorial Candidates were almost evenly divided between the pro and the con views on the issue of National Security versus Civil Liberties. Their enthusiasm, strong convictions, and posters with slogans were persuasive presentations of their views. Some used humor and catchy phrases as reasons for electing them. Teachers and Guidance Counselors from both high schools observed the activities and involvement of their students. Overbrook plans to run their own workshop in the future.

A comment from one girl who evaluated her experience at the workshop said, "It taught me to go for whatever I'm interested in and never settle for less." Another girl stated, "I now realize that I'm stronger than I thought, and I was proud of my abilities today." Other comments were, "This experience has given me some insight on how to handle myself in public speaking situations." Or, "It's an honor to be around inspirational women who emphasized that we all have leadership potential. I now truly believe I can tap into that potential."

Two participants from the Running and Winning Workshop, Judith Fisher and Sara Karl from Winslow Township High School, spoke about their experience at our annual luncheon. Their remarks were both eloquent and humorous, and they expressed their ideas with great poise and presence. Their comments and those of the other teenage participants clearly show why the Running and Winning Workshops is a special and unique experience that provides opportunity for growth and learning. The teenage girls who attended were able to realize new abilities and possibilities within themselves. I'm very glad that we were able to be part of this remarkable workshop, and I want to thank all of you who helped to make it possible.

May 17 Camden County Freeholder Caucus Meeting

Martha McGee

The caucus meeting of the Board of Chosen Freeholders was held in its usual location in the Freeholder Conference Room 16th floor Courthouse in Camden. The agenda included:

1. Discussion of Resolutions (74). Many of these are quite interesting and can be viewed in their entirety at http://www.co.camden.nj.us/government/freeholdmeet/fm_may19.html/. #16, for example, accepts a recommendation to pay up to \$2 million towards the Bridge Hollow property in Cherry Hill as open space. Of special interest to League members will be # 45: “ Resolution inserting Chapter 159 funds into the budget for HAVA compliant voting machines in the amount of \$4,510,415.00.” We should find out what kind of voting machines the county is buying. (Touch screen with paper verification -- Ed).
2. Evidently there is a legal requirement to adopt a motion allowing the budget to be read by title only, rather than in its entirety. This was on the agenda for the full FH meeting May 19.
3. Likewise, it appears that the county planned to exceed an official appropriation limit, which required a public hearing before it could be authorized. The public hearing is also on the agenda for the full meeting, before the vote to adopt the budget itself..
4. There was one public comment. Then the meeting went into closed session (in accordance with State Statutes).

LWV and VOTER QUIZ

(Answers below)

1. The incoming president of the LWVCC is:
 - a. Anne Maiese
 - b. Phyllis Black
 - c. Renée Robbins
 - d. Ann Saunders
 - e. George W. Bush
2. The president of the LWVUS is:
 - a. Deborah Macmillan
 - b. Sandy Matsen
 - c. Kay Maxwell
 - d. Marty Weiner
 - e. George W. Bush
3. On what topic is the LWVNJ doing a rapid consensus this fall?
 - a. Gubernatorial succession
 - b. Open space preservation
 - c. Life sentences as a punishment
 - d. School district regionalization
 - e. Voting machines used in NJ

Answers

- 1: d (Anne M is outgoing)
2: c (Deborah M is LWVNJ president)
3: a (Later we'll also update d).

Why Study Gubernatorial Succession?

Did you know?

1. 42 of the 50 states have an elected lieutenant governor, who takes over if the governor leaves or dies. New Jersey is not one of them.
2. In 24 of these states, the governor and lieutenant governor are elected as a team. In the other 18, the two run separately (and could be from different parties!).
3. Only 4 other states turn the governorship over to the presiding officer of the Senate.
4. In some states, the lieutenant governor has little to do. But in others, he or she heads a cabinet office with real executive branch responsibilities. This helps pay for the position!
5. Right now, one man is both the highest officer in the Senate and the governor of New Jersey. Can you say, “Separation of powers”?

LWVNJ already knows that the current system needs to change. But what would work best here? Should we have a LG with little authority or one who has a cabinet post? Should the two be elected separately or as a team? Or should we keep the current system but simply require the Senate president to resign that post? Consensus will address these questions and more!

Source: Oct. 2004, New Jersey Policy Perspective Brief “*The People Should Choose who Fills the Shoes*” by Jon Shure. Visit www.njpp.org.