

The
OTER

VOLUME 44 NUMBER 3

March 2005

Calendar (League activities in bold)

March 2005 -- Women's History Month

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

17 Th 7:00 p.m. County Freeholder Meeting
Mary Ethel Costello School Cafetorium
520 Cumberland Street, Gloucester City

April 2005

2 Sa 11 - 4 Spring Fling Jazz Luncheon
Adelphia Restaurant in Deptford. Sponsored
by our frequent collaborators in the SJ
Alumnae Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta. \$45.
For more information, call 856-228-2042.

6 W 7:30 p.m. **LWVCC Board Meeting**
Ann Koopman's house

13 W Morning **Running & Winning Event**
Overbrook High School

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

21 Th 7:00 p.m. County Freeholder Meeting
Collingswood Theater, Collingswood

May 2005

4 W 7:30 p.m. **LWVCC Board Meeting**
Renée Robbins' House

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

19 Th 7:00 p.m. County Freeholder Meeting
James Bud Mullen Community Center
29 East Browning Road, Bellmawr

21 Sa Early afternoon **LWVCC Annual Meeting**
Regency Palace, Mt. Laurel

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At its March 2005 meeting the LWVCC board:

1. Asked the budget committee to look into making a pledge to support the LWVNJ.
2. Accepted the report of the nominating committee for presentation to the membership.
3. Tentatively adopted a plan for the Annual Meeting.
4. Discussed public sites for future board meetings, but deferred a decision to a future meeting.

THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF CAMDEN COUNTY

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE:

Are we there yet? This winter has seemed especially long to me—we can't reach spring fast enough! But there's plenty to do along the way, so it's good we can only get there one day at a time.

On March 16, the membership committee is holding an orientation session /refresher course/party for new, "not so new," and "returning" League members at Rosemary Leach's home. Board members will describe ongoing projects and explain such concepts as "consensus" and "program planning." I thank the committee (Rosemary, Deborah Berkowitz, Phyllis Black, Bobbie Porter, Marsha Titus and Marcy Susman) for all their work in organizing it.

Speaking of work, I also want to thank the Nominating Committee (Chair Anne Simonoff and members Phyllis Black, Rosemary Leach, Martha Kaplan and Sally Thorne) for their persistence in filling all the positions that were open for next year. The list of candidates has been accepted by the board and can be found on p. 6.

Our moderators will soon be busy with the candidate forums that many groups sponsor in anticipation of the School Board (and Budget) Elections on April 19. Many of these are televised by the districts, so make sure you either attend or watch the forum in *yours*. This may seem like a minor election, but the quality of education in our community (whether we have kids in school or not) and how our taxes are spent are very important issues. [We *have* to find a better way to support the schools than by property taxes, but in the meantime, inform yourself, and VOTE!]. The forum list (to date) is on page 3.

On February 16 our speaker from the ACLU described the problems she sees with certain provisions of the USA PATRIOT ACT and how they are being implemented. (See p.5 for a more detailed description.) We will be presenting her views about a few of the provisions that are due to "sunset" at the end of 2005, along with the views of the Justice Department, to the girls attending the *Running & Winning* Workshop at Overbrook Senior High School on April 13. During the campaign exercise, they will take a position on renewing these provisions "if elected Senator."

Event Alert: We will hold our Annual Meeting on Saturday, May 21, at the Regency Palace in Mt. Laurel. Put it on your calendar and plan to come enjoy the luncheon, meet your friends, elect officers and directors, approve the budget, hear our speaker, and win a silent auction item or two. More details later.

In League, 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

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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!

Bellmawr: James Mullen Community Center, 35 E. Browning Rd, Bellmawr. Take 295 to 168 South. Browning is in about 0.4 miles. Turn left. In about a block, the building is on the left. *The 400 bus runs up and down Route 168 from Turnersville hourly or more often evenings.*

Camden County Courthouse: Take 676 north to Mickel 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 Mickel.

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.*

Collingswood Theater 315 White Horse Pike, Collingswood. Take 295 or King's Highway to Route 30 (WHP) north. Pass Nicholson and Cuthbert, then Collings Ave. The theater is about 3 blocks north of Collings Ave on Route 30. *The Collingswood PATCO station is over a mile from the theater, but the 403 bus runs up Route 30 ~ hourly in the evening. It stops in the Lindenwood and Camden PATCO stations.*

Gloucester City: Mary Ethel Costello School 520 Cumberland Street, Gloucester City. Take 295 S to 676 N. After a brief ride, take the Gloucester/Mt. Ephraim exit. At the top of the ramp, turn left onto Market Street. In about 1 mile, turn right onto Broadway for just a block or 2, then turn left onto Cumberland Street. The school isn't far from there.

Forums:

Currently-scheduled forums include:

- Apr 5: Monroe Board of Ed
- Apr 6: Haddon Twp Board of Ed.
- Apr 6: Haddonfield Borough Commission
- Apr 7: Cherry Hill Board of Ed
- Apr 7: Pennsauken Board of Ed.
- Apr 13: Haddonfield Borough Commission
- Apr 14: Winslow Board of Ed.

Call the town for details.

Running and Winning in Tucson, Arizona

Renée Robbins

Two years ago when my husband and I made our annual trek to the International Gem and Mineral Show in Tucson, I contacted the Greater Tucson League and asked if they would be interested in hearing about our highly successful Running and Winning project. I was invited to lunch by President Carol Shearer. She had assembled about ten other women representing their League, The American Association of University Women, Casas Adobes and Tucson branches, Las Adelitas, and Pima County/Tucson Women's Commission.

My presentation was received with enormous enthusiasm. This group has now "done" Running and Winning twice at Sunnyside High School. Both times it was hugely successful.

They made an excellent video and are developing plans with our League to present it at the national convention.

Back again this February, I called Carol again and proposed "doing" lunch. She agreed. When I arrived, I saw a sign saying "Welcome League of Women Voters." Nine women showed up and were even more energized, planning to take it to another high school. The Pima County school superintendent, Dr Linda Arzoumanian, an elected official who attended both workshops at Sunnyside, is quoted in the AAUW Tucson Branch newsletter, "Many of the objectives of the state education requirements are being met in this one-day event, The girls read the materials, evaluate what they read, interview officials, work as a team, formulate opinions, and help write the speeches for the candidates. In addition, the girls who are the candidates have the opportunity to speak before an audience."

Dr. Arzoumanian stated that she feels as much as a semester of work is being achieved in this short period of time." The Tucson AAUW wants to take Running and Winning to their National Convention in 2006 and The Phoenix League wants to hear about our project so we are spreading the news.

New Jersey Citizens Guide to Government

Dear Friend of the League:

The 2005 edition of the *New Jersey Citizens Guide to Government* is now available. The *Guide* is published by the LWV of New Jersey after January government reorganization so that information is more complete and up-to-date. This pocket-sized handbook provides a wealth of information.

- Alphabetical listing of towns with voting districts
- State legislative and U.S. congressional districts, listed by town
- Current names, addresses, telephone and fax numbers of all state legislators and the New Jersey congressional delegation
- Registration and voting information
- Political party information and locations
- National, state, county and municipal governmental information
- Information on the court system
- Information on the N.J. State Constitution

The cost per copy is \$5.00, which includes postage and handling. For orders of 10 or more the quantity price is \$4.00 per copy.

Please make check payable to: League of Women Voters of Camden County

**Return this form or your invoice with check to: League of Women Voters of Camden County
PO Box 245
Voorhees, NJ 08045**

For more information, please call: (856) 795-7878 (LWVCC voice mail)

2005 NEW JERSEY CITIZENS GUIDE TO GOVERNMENT

NAME _____ **QUANTITY** _____

ADDRESS _____ **AMOUNT \$** _____

_____ **PHONE** _____

Has The Patriot Act Kept Us Safe? Has It Kept Us Free?

Anne Maiese



These were the basic questions that Grayson Barber (above), a First Amendment litigator and board member of the American Civil Liberties Union, asked on February 16, 2005 when she spoke at the Camden County Library in Voorhees. She also outlined how the Patriot Act has affected our rights under the First, Fourth and Sixth Amendments.

The Patriot Act is a huge document, most of it written by the Justice Department after the Oklahoma City terrorist bombing, but introduced in Congress only after 9/11. It then became law in just six weeks. It gives greater power to law enforcement (the executive branch), reduces the power of the judiciary, and impacts many rights guaranteed by the Constitution.*

After the Act was adopted, the FBI issued new guidelines** that allow it to conduct surveillance in public libraries, in houses of worship, and at political rallies. This has caused a “chilling effect” on the exercise of First Amendment rights, especially in Muslim communities. Students are afraid to research anything related to Islam at a library or online and worshippers have stopped attending mosques. People have also stopped giving to charities for fear they will later be declared “terrorist organizations.” She asserted that if this law had been in effect in the 1980’s, contributing to the African National Congress would have been an act of terror, since the US Government had declared it a terrorist organization.

Other provisions have encroached upon Fourth Amendment rights, such as protection from unreasonable searches and seizures. Since 1978, a special court has had authority to issue secret surveillance orders, under the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act. The Patriot Act now allows the FBI to obtain secret orders from this court for domestic surveillance. Probable cause is not required in these

cases. And the FBI no longer has to notify people that their home or office has been searched in their absence—they can “sneak and peek.” (Go to www.usdoj.gov/oig, Special Reports, for the Justice Department’s own Inspector General’s criticism of this provision.)

The Sixth Amendment guarantee of a speedy and public trial has also been compromised. As non-citizens, the large number (it is thought to be in the hundreds) of immigrants who were arrested and secretly tried and deported after 9/11 are not covered by the Bill of Rights.

But a few who have been arrested as terrorists *are* American citizens. And the Patriot Act has allowed the government to hold them indefinitely, without filing charges or giving them access to legal counsel. One of these is Jose Padilla, who was arrested at a Chicago airport, allegedly trying to smuggle in a “dirty bomb.” Though apparently a serious criminal, he *has* been denied his rights. What prevents law enforcement from “disappearing” any other citizen?

While limiting many of our rights, the Act may not help keep us free either. It alienates the very people from whom we need help in order to find out about potential terrorist activity in our country. If someone is afraid to do research at the library, he would be even more hesitant to report suspicious activity, lest he or his family be questioned, imprisoned, and/or deported.

She conceded that the Act has many good provisions (like appropriations for translators and more border guards, and better sharing of information between departments), but she urged everyone to examine it carefully, especially the provisions that are set to “sunset”—expire unless reenacted—at the end of 2005. She also urged us to make our views known to our Senators and Representatives.

* For a section-by-section summary of the USA Patriot Act, prepared by the American Law Division of the Congressional Research Service, see <http://fpc.state.gov/documents/organization/7952.pdf>

** The Guidelines are available at www.usdoj.gov/olp/ and the Center for Democracy & Technology has issued a “Guide to the Guidelines” at www.cdt.org/wiretap/020626guidelines.shtml.

Report on Recent Camden County Freeholder Meetings

Martha McGee

Caucus meeting Feb 15, 2005. Caucus meetings are the time when the real business of the Board of Chosen Freeholders is accomplished. They are typically held at 6 p.m. on the Tuesday before the regular Freeholder meeting on Thursday. Caucuses are always held in Camden, on the 16th floor of the Camden Co. Courthouse. I would love to have a few additional interested League members join me.

The only public speaker at the meeting was Dr. Mary Jane Barrett, who represents two branches of the YMCA: one in Voorhees and the other in Camden City. She proposed that the Camden City YMCA add a visitors center, a sculpture garden, a training program, and a state of the art fitness center. She also proposed that the YMCA headquarters for the county be moved to the Camden City branch.

She has been seeking local funding and funding from the state of New Jersey. She requested a total of \$2 million from the Casino Reinvestment Authority. Today, she asked for \$125,000 from the Freeholders. The request was taken under consideration.

There were a total of 73 resolutions, all of which were discussed in closed (executive) session. At the League board meeting I was asked about the appropriateness of that, given the type of resolutions made. This is an excellent question -- executive sessions are only allowed for certain specific kinds of business, such as personnel transactions where personal privacy must be maintained, or contract negotiations. At the next caucus I plan to check the list of resolutions carefully if the Freeholders go into executive session, and perhaps to question that decision if I don't understand why.

Public meeting, Feb 17, 2005. These meetings are ones where the Freeholders hold an open forum at the start to address questions from local residents on any county topic, generally half an hour before the meeting itself gets under way. To facilitate giving all county residents the chance to participate, these meetings are held in different sites around the county every month (see calendar at the start of the Voter, and directions on the third page). They then go into regular session, with very little substantive discussion since the real decisions were made at the caucus. Much of these public meetings revolves around presentations, awards, condolences, and so on.

Sometimes, as today, there are public hearings as parts of certain resolutions. The one today was on an issue related to open space. No one from the audience arose to address the issue.

Nominating Committee Report, LWVCC

Recommended elected positions (2 years)

Co-Presidents: Ellen Ann Saunders & Meredith Acoo

Secretary	Helen Ewan
1st Vice President	Lisa Castellani
Director	Deborah Berkowitz
Director	Bobbie Porter
Director	Winne Rowell-Bullard
Director	Barbara Sielaff

Off Board elected (1 year):

Nom Com Chair	Anne Simonoff
Nom Com member	Sally Thorne
Nom Com member	Martha Kaplan
Budget Com Chair	Bill Skinner

Recommended for appointment (1 year)

Director	Renée Robbins
Director	Marcia Lugger
Director	Marcy Susman
Director	Winnie Branton
Director	Martha McGee
Director	Annette Dorf-Hills
Director	Anne Maiese

Advertise to the League!

The LWVNJ is now offering members and our associates the opportunity to place their business cards into the NJ Voter, a publication that reaches all of our more than 2,000 members four times a year.

In addition, on a one-time basis, you can have your card placed into the Convention workbook for the LWVNJ Convention which is scheduled for the weekend of April 30 - May 1, 2005.

If you would like to take advantage of this opportunity, send your business card to the LWVNJ Office at 204 West State Street, Trenton, NJ 08608. Include the form below, along with your check made out to the LWVNJ.

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

e-mail: _____

I want to place a business card ad in the Convention Workbook _____ (\$35)

I want to place a business card ad in the NJ Voter for 1 issue _____ (\$50)

I want to place a business card ad in the NJ Voter for the next 2 issues _____ (\$100)

I want to place a business card ad the NJ Voter for the next 4 issues _____ (\$150)

Total amount enclosed \$_____

Note the price break for 4 issues: Same as for 3.

Payment for the cards is *not* tax deductible.

The LWVNJ reserves the right to refuse cards that it deems inappropriate.

To be in the Convention workbook, cards must be *received* with payment by Friday March 25, 2005. We're past the deadline to appear in the next NJ Voter, but there will be others! Send in your cards.

Take note that this offer is from **LWVNJ**, not the Camden County League. We are not soliciting ads for the Camden County Voter at this time (and have no plans to do so!).