

The  
OTER

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VOLUME 44 NUMBER 5

May 2005

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**Calendar (League activities in bold)**

**May 2005**

- 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 12 - 2:30 **LWVCC Annual Meeting**  
Ramada Inn, Mt. Laurel

**June 2005**

- 1 W 6:30 p.m. **LWVCC Board Meeting**  
Renée Robbins' house
- 7 Tu All day Primary Election Day  
Polls open 6 a.m. till 8 p.m.
- 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

**At its May 2005 meeting the LWVCC board:**

1. Voted to start holding board meetings in the Voorhees library (Vogelson) from August till December, extension to be determined by our experiences there.
2. Decided that the fall Kickoff meeting will involve light refreshments, rather than dinner. The state Executive Director will be invited as our guest speaker.
3. Heard a report of the successful Running and Winning Event.
4. Heard a report of the LWNJ Convention.
5. Picked up copies of the Camden County Citizens' Guides for distribution.

**It's almost time to renew your membership!**

Renewal notices will be going out soon. 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.

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THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF CAMDEN COUNTY

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## **PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE:**

First I want to thank Barbara Pearlman for all her help on Running & Winning. I accidentally left her off the list of League volunteers I thanked in last month's VOTER.

And while I'm thanking people, I should mention Ann Koopman, who has been so diligent in handling the many requests we've received for the 2005 NJ Citizens Guide.. If you haven't bought one yet, please do so—it has a wealth of information in it. That also goes for our own (free) 2005 Camden County Guide to Elections and Government, which board members are personally distributing to many borough clerk offices and libraries. Helen Ewan is mailing copies to the rest.

Ed Gracely, Ann Koopman, Winne Rowell-Bullard, Ann Saunders and I really enjoyed the LWVNJ convention from April 29 to May 1. It provided a lot of opportunities for serious discussion of issues, as we considered updating our positions on charter schools and regionalization, and studying NJ's succession-to-the-governor procedures. We all learned more about voters service and advocacy work that members are doing in local leagues, and at state and national levels. And we were honored to have three of the women who were widowed on 9/11, the "Jersey Girls," address our banquet. Their persistence in getting answers, when personal tragedy could have flattened them, is inspiring, and it has benefited all of us. (They persuaded Congress to set up and fund the 9/11 Independent Commission, then monitored its activities, and continue to press for adoption of all of its recommendations.) For more details on convention, please read Ann Saunder's report, pages 3-4.

Our own Annual Meeting (kind of a mini-convention) is coming up on May 21, and I hope many of you can attend. It's an enjoyable couple of hours (noon to 2:30 p.m.), a good chance to reconnect with each other as well as handle official business—electing leaders, approving a budget and setting goals for the next year. I'm especially eager to hear former Camden County Freeholder Laurelle A. Cummings explain how women can "break into" politics. See page 7 for more details and a mail-in form. Hope to see you there.

Membership renewal letters are going out soon, and I really, really hope all of you rejoin. Being a member of the League is the single most important thing you can do to "encourage informed and active participation of citizens" and "influence public policy through education and advocacy."

Honored to serve, Anne

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**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: [lwwcc@hotmail.com](mailto:lwwcc@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!

**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 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.*

**Mt. Laurel, Ramada Inn:** Fellowship Road and Route 73. Fellowship Road crosses Route 73 a few tenths of a mile south of 295 and a short distance north of the Turnpike.

**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.

**Help with Cleanup requested!**

Renée Robbins and a crew of intrepid helpers will be cleaning up a stretch of road in Voorhees on Saturday, June 4 starting at 9 a.m. Park in the drugstore at the corner of Centennial and Cooper. Bring gloves and a willing spirit! The area to be cleaned is back from the road, so it's safe from the traffic, but may have poison ivy and thorns. In addition to gloves, a pair of long kitchen tongs will often spare you from reaching into awkward places!

If you can help, please call Renée at 428-4841.

## Report of the 56<sup>th</sup> LWVNJ State Convention

*Ellen Ann Saunders*

The Convention opened with a welcome and citation from the Honorable Jack Shrier, Director Morris County Board of Chosen Freeholders and Michelle Harris King, Council President.

Treasurer Ed Gracely gave the treasurer's report for fiscal year 2005. He stated that the regular arm of the League is likely to end the year in the black, but the tax deductible side (the education fund) is at risk of ending in the red, in part because the building had to have major repairs due to roof damage and other problems. Ed recommended that we work towards upgrading the building to a point where it is self-supporting.

Sandra Matsen, Advocacy, presented the Action and Advocacy report.

Ann Koopman, Budget Chair, presented the **Budget**. The following are highlights of the budget of 2005-2006:

1. Major emphasis: Rebuilding & Strengthening.
2. The NJVoter will continue to be distributed in print.
3. The print mailings of critical materials to Local Leagues are restored.
4. A modest 3% raise in salary is proposed for staff in FY 06/07.
5. Permanent staff of two full time employees is supplemented with part time assistance and student interns.
6. Significant increases in fundraising in both arms of the League, in lieu of increasing per member payments (dues paid by local Leagues to the state League for each member).

Our new Director Danzey Burnham presented a Report of the Executive Director in the form of reflections. Ms Burnham reported that she has increased her knowledge base and has a greater political awareness of the League. Her goals for this fiscal year are to

1. Improve the overall operation of the league office.
2. Upgrade the database
3. Run the office more efficiently
4. Develop projects to increase revenue for the building.
5. Work with the state board on development
6. Improve the Callathon process
7. Increase corporate and foundation giving
8. Raise the profile of the League

Several **programs** were proposed and presented for adoption for the fiscal year 2006.

The League board recommend retaining all current positions, and the convention agreed. This included a reorganization of the positions on natural resources and related areas into a new "Planning for Growth" position.

The convention voted to update the existing position on school regionalization.

A new Study of "Succession to the office of governor" was approved by delegates as well.

The recommended update of charter schools was converted by vote into an informational report only. The education committee will investigate how charter schools are functioning and how well the requirements in the League's position in favor of them have been met,

**Election of officers was held** and the Camden County League now has three members elected to state positions:

Ann Maiese, Director

Ed Gracely, Secretary/Treasurer

Ann Koopman, Budget Committee Chair (off board).

Note that Dottie Dunfee, also a member of the Camden County League, is the editor of the NJVoter, but this is not an elected position.

On Saturday night, the banquet featured the "Jersey Girls" as mentioned in President Maiese's message (above).

Deborah Macmillan presented the **president's report** with several recommendations and action steps for the fiscal year 2006.

**Note:** A heavy emphasis was placed on increasing the number of members. The treasurer and budget chair both stressed this, as did the president. As usual, awards were given to local leagues that increased their membership the most. Maybe two years from now the LWVCC can be among them!

# **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)**

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## 2005 NEW JERSEY CITIZENS GUIDE TO GOVERNMENT

**NAME** \_\_\_\_\_ **QUANTITY** \_\_\_\_\_

**ADDRESS** \_\_\_\_\_ **AMOUNT \$** \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ **PHONE** \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

# April 21 Camden County Freeholder Caucus Meeting

*Martha McGee*

The regular meeting of the Board Of Chosen Freeholders was held at the Collingswood Theatre.

1. 84 resolutions were voted on with no public disagreement during the open public session.
2. Woodrow Wilson High School (Camden) Basketball Team was recognized and presented a proclamation. Principal, Mr. Calvin Gunning and Coach Al Diger was presented and thank the Freeholders for the acknowledgement.
3. April 13, 2005 National Child Abuse Prevention Month proclamation awarded to Brandon P. Goodman of Prevention Child Abuse New Jersey.
4. Alice Betty Clifton/NYT Librarian of the Year. proclamation presented by Freeholder Cream and accepted by Claudia Sumler, Director of Camden County Library.
5. Camden County Employee of the month Peggy Ambrose, oversees the County Stores.
6. Resolution appointing Carol Fishman, Acting Director of the Camden County Dept of Parks, was passed.
7. Proclamation presented to Joe Carruth Principal of Charles E. Brimm Medical High School in Camden City. The proclamation was for April 13, 2005, "Kick Butts Day". This program titled Tobacco Age of Sale Program is about juniors and seniors under the age of 18 who volunteers to go around Camden County buying cigarettes to see if store owners are properly checking ages. The store(s) is cited for two years if caught in a violation. Liberto Spector coordinates the program along with Camden County.

## Nonpartisanship and the League

As members know, nonpartisanship is at the core of the LWV. I can't count how many times I've repeated this phrase when serving as a moderator:

The League is trusted to run forums and debates because it is strictly nonpartisan -- This means that while we study and take positions on issues, we never support or oppose individual candidates or parties for any elective office.

In addition to the organization as a whole maintaining a nonpartisan stance, we also have guidelines for members and board members.

For ordinary members, the only nonpartisanship requirement is that they refrain from speaking in the name of the League or conveying the impression that the League is supporting a candidate or party. Other than that, the League encourages its members to be politically active, and many are!

For the board, a stricter set of guidelines applies. No board member may run for any elective office (with the exception of Board of Education, which is permissible for some board members), and those in sensitive positions, or positions of higher leadership, are restricted from a wide variety of partisan activities.

The nonpartisan policy was called into action recently, when appointed board member Martha McGee informed the board that she was stepping down, in order to work on behalf of some candidates and to run for a committee seat herself. After the campaign, and if she loses the race, she will be able to return to the board. If she wins the seat, she will have to remain off board for as long as she retains the position.

Please Come!

**The League of Women Voters of Camden County**

# ***2005 Annual Meeting & Luncheon***

***Saturday, May 21, 2005***

***Noon – 2:30 p.m.***

**Ramada Inn**

**Fellowship Road and Rt. 73, Mt. Laurel**

**\$30 per person**

***Breaking into the “Good-Ole Boys” Club***

**Laurelle A. Cummings**

**Former Camden County Freeholder**

To Attend

Send your check & the form below to: LWVCC, PO Box 245, Voorhees, NJ 08043

*Please reply by May 13, 2004*

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“Yes, I plan to attend the LWVCC 2005 Annual Meeting and Luncheon.”

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Number Attending \_\_\_\_\_

*Make check out to “LWVCC”*

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Amount Enclosed \_\_\_\_\_ (\$30/person)