

The OTER

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April 2006

Calendar (League activities in bold)

April 2006

- 17 M All day Last day to change party
for the primary election in June.
- 18 Tu 6 p.m. County Freeholder Caucus
16th floor, Camden Co. Courthouse, Camden
- 18 Tu afternoon Board of Education Elections
Polls open at least 5 p.m. till 9 p.m. (state law)
- 20 Th 7:00 p.m. County Freeholder Meeting
Lions Lake Banquet Facility: 101 Dutchtown
Road, Voorhees

May 2006

- 3 W 10 a.m. **Voter Registration**
After the naturalization ceremony, Federal
Courthouse, Camden. See page 5.
- 3 W 7 p.m. **LWVCC Board Meeting**
Haddon Township, Rohrer Library
- 13 Sa 9 am - noon **Regionalization of Schools**
Eagleton Institute
- 16 Tu 6 p.m. County Freeholder Caucus
16th floor, Camden Co. Courthouse, Camden

- 18 Th 7:00 p.m. County Freeholder Meeting
Barrington Municipal Bldg.
- 20 Sa 12:30-3 **LWVCC Annual Meeting**
Cherry Hill -- Clarion Hotel. See President's
message and p. 5 for details. Directions p. 3.

June 2006

- 7 W 7 p.m. **LWVCC Board Meeting**
- 20 Tu 6 p.m. County Freeholder Caucus
16th floor, Camden Co. Courthouse, Camden
- 22 Th 7:00 p.m. County Freeholder Meeting
Winslow Township Municipal Building

At its April 2006 meeting the LWVCC board:

1. Accepted the nominating committee report for presentation at the Annual Meeting.
2. Accepted, with modifications, the Budget Committee report for presentation.
3. Approved final arrangements for the Annual Meeting.
4. Discussed the results of the public relations campaign for *Running & Winning*.

THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF CAMDEN COUNTY

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE:

Congratulations to the *Running & Winning* committee for an outstanding job in planning this seventh annual event. Our Public Relations efforts through Melanie Sole (Media Consultant) paid off in a big way. This year's *Running & Winning* event was featured in:

- ✓ The Courier Post
- ✓ The Cherry Hill Sun
- ✓ NJNTV and
- ✓ NBC10.

“KUDOS” to all for a job well done.

Even though it has been a very busy year for the LWVCC, the **annual meeting** is already upon us. This year's theme for our annual meeting is “Reforming the Pay-to-Play System in New Jersey,” a very appropriate one, considering that newly elected Governor Corzine committed to a comprehensive pay-to-play reform package. The dynamics of the pay-to-play initiatives by local citizen action groups have encouraged local governments to create their own reform laws that in some instances are tougher than existing state laws. Our keynote speaker, Ed McCool, is the Southern Regional Coordinator for the Center for Civic Responsibility, which is a part of this reform process. The Center runs training sessions for residents on how to influence local government through citizen action, with a special focus on adopting pay-to-play restrictions. Mr. McCool will address the hard fought campaign to reduce the role of pay-to-play decision-making at the municipal level through the adoption of local ordinances.

We encourage all LWVCC members to join us at the Clarion Hotel on Route 70 and Covered Bridge Road on May 20th, 2006. The annual meeting and luncheon begins at 12:00 pm and will be followed by a silent auction. The price for this event is \$30.00. Friends of the LWVCC are welcome.

Yours, in League,

E. Ann Saunders, President

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!

Barrington, Municipal Building: 229 Trenton Ave. Take 295 to Route 130 (White Horse Pike). This is a complex intersection that puts you onto Route 30 a bit south of Route 41/273, Clements-Bridge Road. So, go north on 30 for a short distance, look for the left turn to 41 and go there. Trenton Ave is on your right in a few blocks.

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 -- Clarion Hotel: Take Route 295 to exit 34B, onto Route 70 west. The hotel is 100 yards from the exit, on your right. If you are coming east on Route 70, make the jug handle at Covered Bridge Road to cross Route 70 to the hotel.

Haddon Township: Rohrer Library: Take 295 to Route 30 north. On 30, pass King's Highway. In about a mile after King's Highway, just after Nicholson Road on the left, you'll see Cuthbert Road on the right. Turn right onto Cuthbert from 30. Stay on Cuthbert for about half a mile. Just past Hopkins, turn right onto MacArthur. The library is at that corner. // This is the same Cuthbert Road that becomes Cuthbert Blvd further north at routes 70 and 38, so you could take it south from there. MacArthur is about 0.8 miles south of Haddon Avenue on Cuthbert Blvd.

Voorhees: Lion's Lake Banquet Facility. Take Route 73 south from Cherry Hill. About a half mile below Kresson Road you'll see Dutchtown Road on your right. Turn and look for the facility not far. North on 73, Dutchtown Road is 1.7 miles north of Cooper, on your left.

Regional Equity Update

On Saturday, March 26, 2006, almost 100 people gathered at St. Agnes's Roman Catholic Church in Blackwood to learn about the South Jersey Regional Equity Organizing Project. After speakers presented the organization's views, attendees broke up into groups based on legislative districts, to plan activities in each district involving local congregations and organizations. Elected officials will be urged to attend these meetings, to discuss with their constituents issues that affect New Jersey.

The project also developed a **new statement of its purpose and ideals**. Here it is:

The South Jersey Regional Equity Organizing Project is a faith-based, grass roots coalition of groups from throughout South Jersey devoted to the idea that everyone who lives here has a stake in the economic and social well-being of our region, and of all the communities within it, not just his or her own. The existence of distressed and impoverished communities within south Jersey affects all residents, through increased crime, increased taxes, reduced economic growth, and a tendency for blight and poverty to "creep" into other towns. Thus the imperative to work together for the common good derives both from our deeply held values, notably concern for others, and from enlightened self-interest. Our organization's goal is thus to change our social structures to promote equity, stability, and growth in our communities. Side by side with affiliated groups from the center and north of the state, SJREOP works to develop an effective relationship with the decision makers in Trenton and beyond to bring about change in our society. Through these activities, we want to hold our leaders accountable and to become a powerful vehicle for people to act on their interests and their faith. We seek to build a better world and a healthier region.

Does this sound like your kind of group? Let me know! We can always use more interested people.

Ed Gracely (856-629-2869, gracely@dca.net)

**2006 Edition of NJ CITIZENS GUIDE TO GOVERNMENT
is **HERE**
Place your Order Now!**

The 2006 edition of the *New Jersey Citizens Guide to Government* is now ready for delivery. As an information resource this guidebook is invaluable.

The *Guide* is filled with information about registration and voting procedures, political parties, county, state, and local government, the New Jersey courts, and legislative districts. It lists state administrators and the names, addresses, and telephone and fax numbers of the New Jersey congressional delegation and all state legislators. The *Citizens Guide* explains how to address elected officials and provides tips on communicating with them. It also lists resources to contact about legislation and provides an election/registration calendar

The price is \$4.25 each if purchased directly from a League member, or \$5.00 to have it mailed. For orders of 10 or more, the price per copy is \$4.00, and we will arrange for delivery.

Why not buy copies for friends, family, co-workers?

They make excellent gifts for teachers.

Civic groups and social agencies find them useful.

Part of the purchase price benefits the League of Women Voters of Camden County.

To place your order, you can call the League Line, 856-795-7878 or **send the form below** to League of Women Voters of Camden County, Box 245, Voorhees, NJ 08043.

Make your check payable to **LWVCC**.

2006 NJ CITIZENS GUIDE TO GOVERNMENT

Name _____ Quantity _____

Address _____ Amount Paid _____

Phone # _____

League of Women Voters of Camden County, Box 245, Voorhees, NJ 08043

**LWVCC Annual Meeting
Reforming the Pay-to-Play System
in New Jersey**

Please join us for this annual event, to be held this year on May 20 at the Clarion Hotel in Cherry Hill.

The President’s message has the details, there are directions on page 3, and all are welcome for only \$30 each. Our guest speaker, Ed McCool, is an activist in reforming local government, and is involved in training residents to play a role in doing so.

Good food, good company, and an interesting speaker. Be there! A flier announcing the meeting and providing League details such as the Budget and Nominating Committee reports, will be in the mail soon.

**Voter Registration Opportunity
May 3, Law Day**

Your only opportunity this year to help register new citizens after the Naturalization Ceremony will be on Wednesday, May 3 at 10 a.m., Federal Courthouse, Camden. Everyone who participates finds this an inspirational event. The ceremony lasts about an hour. Voter registrars often go out to lunch afterwards.

If you’d like to participate in this interesting and very League-like activity, contact Joan Wells at 663-2864.

**NEW JERSEY SCHOOL
REGIONALIZATION:
Will Bigger Be Better or Will Home Rule
Rule?**

Date: May 13, 2006
Time: 8:30 - 9:00 AM Registration and coffee
9 AM - 12 PM Program
Place: The Eagleton Institute of Politics
Rutgers University
New Brunswick, New Jersey
Cost: Free!

Background: Funding for public school education and its impact on New Jersey property taxes are among the most contentious issues currently facing New Jersey residents. New Jersey school districts rank among the top five in the nation in terms of per pupil spending and the single largest expense in the New Jersey state budget (approximately \$9 billion) is aid to local school districts.

Regionalizing local districts is one approach suggested as a means of creating efficiencies in New Jersey's education spending. The League of Women Voters of New Jersey is revisiting our position on school regionalization. We are seeking to understand if regionalizing saves taxpayers money and what effect it has on sending and receiving districts. Is it a recipe for success or for conflict and discord? More importantly, how does regionalization affect the education of our children? Does it increase educational opportunities or result in a lack of individual attention?

Keynote speaker: Dr. Ernest Reock, Retired Director of the Rutgers University Center for Government Services. Dr. Reock will present his consolidation model and its potential cost savings based on his research.

Why Attend? Learn about the challenges and realities of consolidating or regionalizing school districts to be informed and effective as a participant in local community discussions surrounding this important issue.