

The
OTER

VOLUME 46 NUMBER 2

February 2007

Calendar (League activities in bold)

February 2007

28 W 6:30 p.m. **Regionalization Update**
Gloucester Township Library, Blackwood

March 2007

7 W 7:00 p.m. **LWVCC Board Meeting**
Vogelson Library, Voorhees. Members invited. See agenda, p 3.

13 Tu 6:00 p.m. County Freeholder Caucus
Courthouse 520 Market St, Camden, 16th floor

15 Th 7:00 p.m. County Freeholder meeting
Pine Hill Borough Hall

15 Th Morning *Running & Winning Event*
Haddonfield Memorial High School.

21 W Morning *Running & Winning Event*
Rowan University.

April 2007

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

17 Tu 6:00 p.m. County Freeholder Caucus
Courthouse 520 Market St, Camden, 16th floor

19 Th 7:00 p.m. County Freeholder meeting
Collingswood Senior Center

At its Feb. 2007 meeting the LWVCC board:

1. Decided to order 200 copies of the NJ Citizens' Guides, at the same price structure as we used last year.
2. Voted to employ our regular publicist to publicize *Running & Winning* in Haddonfield. [Rowan will publicize the session being held there.]
3. Decided to retain February 14th for the Regionalization meeting, rather than change the announced date to fit the schedule of a speaker.
4. Appointed Barbara Sielaff to the Budget Committee.
5. Chose Saturday May 19 for the Annual Meeting,

Have you reviewed the materials on Regionalization?

<http://www.lwvnj.org/members/regionalization.shtml>

Be sure to check them out before the meeting on the 28th.

THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF CAMDEN COUNTY

PRESIDENT’S MESSAGE:



Dear League Members:

On February 14th the League of Women Voters of Camden County had intended to celebrate its 40th birthday by doing what it does best -- hosting a consensus meeting on Regionalization. Unfortunately “old man winter” had a different plan, forcing us to reschedule our historic day and the Consensus meeting on Regionalization to February 28th. February 14th was not only a special day for our local League but represented the 87th birthday of our national organization.

As we continue to honor the years of work its members accomplished, we are also looking to the future. In 2007, as it has been for the past 87 years, League members will continue their commitment to improving communities across the country.

As we celebrate the difference we have made over the years, we remain focused on the future, working to keep Camden County strong, healthy, and vibrant. This year the League remains committed to our mission to educate and engage members of the community in their government. Our League is an organization where we do hands-on work toward that goal every day by reaching out to new citizens, improving our election system, and holding public forums on government and other important issues.

In reflection, as we celebrate our 40th birthday, we are a unique organization because we have energetic and engaged volunteers across the county. We invite anyone who wants to bring about change to join us and actively participate on the various committees that need your expertise. Presently we are looking for volunteers who can serve on our “membership committee” and our “program committee”.

The LWV of Camden County has an active agenda this year. Our top priority is to host a town hall meeting on the “much talked about” property tax relief program. Our second priority is to address issues related to homeland security. With so much concern around global warming and the issues surrounding our involvement in Iraq, our own security becomes a topic that needs to be considered and addressed.

Help us celebrate our 40th year with your involvement and active participation as a League member.

Ann Saunders, President

The League of Women Voters, a nonpartisan political organization of men and women, encourages informed and active participation in government, works to increase understanding of major public policy issues, and influences public policy through education and advocacy.

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

President: Ann Saunders (856) 232-1041 Voter Editor: Ed Gracely (856) 629-2869
1st Vice President: Lisa Castellani (609) 239-4947 Voter Distributor: Barbara Sielaff
2nd Vice President: Phyllis Black (856-428-1247)

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.

March 7, 2007 Board Meeting Draft Agenda

M. Allan Vogelson Regional Branch Library
203 Laurel Rd.
Voorhees NJ
Phone: 856 772-1636 for directions

The League of Women Voters of Camden County welcomes all members to its board meetings. If there is a topic of interest and you wish to join a committee, don't hesitate to sign up. **Come to a meeting and see the League at work.**

I. Reports / Old Business

- | | |
|----------------------|-----------------|
| A. Minutes | Helen Ewan |
| B. Treasurers Report | Mary Ann Bascou |
| C. Membership | Ann Saunders |
- We are looking for a membership chair for 2007. You do not have to be a board member to chair one of our committees. If you are interested, please contact me for additional information.

I. New Business

- | | |
|--|------------------------|
| A. Running & Winning | Phyllis Black |
| a. Running and Winning will be held this year at Haddonfield Memorial High School. This year's topic is Illegal Immigration. | |
| b. Rowan University is going all out for its version of Running and Winning. | |
| B. School Regionalization Consensus | Ann/Phyllis Black |
| a. Report on LWVCC positions. | |
| C. Nominating Committee | Ann Saunders |
| D. Callathon Update | Ann Saunders/Lisa |
| Let's all join in this fund raising effort to support. The state League needs you. | |
| E. Camden County Housing Authority | Joyce Alexander Walker |
| F. Budget Committee | Mary Ann Bascou |
| G. State League – Update | Ed Gracely |
| H. Program Planning Committee | Ann Saunders |
| I. The Annual Luncheon | Ann Saunders |



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.*

Collingswood (Senior) Community Center: 30 West Collings Ave. Collings Avenue intersects Route 30 (White Horse Pike) about 2 miles north of Kings Highway. Going north on 30, turn right. The center is about .8 miles further, just before Haddon Ave. Collings also intersects route 168 (Black HP) a few miles above Kings Highway, but further west. Turn right onto Collings, pass Route 30 and keep going, as above. From Cherry Hill take 38 or 70 to Lexington/ Cuthbert Blvd. Flow south to Haddon Avenue, and turn right there. Collings Ave. is about .7 miles up. Turn left. *The Center is also about 0.2 miles from the Collingswood PATCO station.*

Glassboro: Rowan University: From much of northern Camden County, the fastest way will be to take 676, 130, or 295 to 76/42 south. In a mile or two, flow off to the right onto Route 55. Stay on 55 for about 9 miles, then exit onto 322 East (towards Glassboro). In about 2 miles the road goes through the campus. There is no entrance onto 55 from 42 north, so don't try that! // From points in mid county, take 42 south to where it becomes a non-expressway. In about 2 miles, flow right onto 655 (Fries Mill). In another 2-3 miles, turn right onto 689 (Glassboro-Cross Keys). In a few miles you're in Glassboro. Right turn onto 47. In a block, turn left onto 322. The campus is less than a mile.

Gloucester Township: Library. 15 S Black Horse Pike (Route 168). Take Route 42 south to Route 168 (or take Route 168 from the Camden/Audubon/Bellmawr area south -- it is Mt. Ephraim Avenue then becomes the Black Horse Pike as you go south). About a mile below the 42/168 interchange in Blackwood, cross Church Road. The library is a half block later, on your left. There is parking at the library, but it's a fairly small lot. You can also park in a small municipal lot across the street.

Haddonfield Memorial High School: 401 Kings Highway East, about half a mile north of Grove Street, From Route 70, follow 41 south (Kings Highway) for just over a mile. The school is on your right. From Route 30, take 41 north for a bit over 2 miles, and the HS is on your left. *The HS is about 0.6 miles north of the High Speed Line Station.*

Pine Hill Borough Courtroom: On 7th Street in Pine Hill. Traveling east on Blackwood-Clementon Road (534) in Clementon, turn right onto Erial Road. In about 1.3 miles, turn right onto 7th. The courtroom is a half block down 7th.

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!

Sunshine Week!

What is Sunshine Week? Sunshine Week is a national initiative to open a dialogue about what the government is doing, and why. It encourages people to take an active role in their government and stresses the importance of open government and freedom of information.

When is Sunshine Week? Sunshine week 2007 runs from March 11th through March 17th.

Visit www.sunshineweek.org to learn more about Sunshine Week.

Notes from the LWVUS**LWV Summary of H.R. 811, the Voter-Verified Paper Ballot "Holt Bill"**

Several Leagues have asked about the LWVUS position on H.R. 811, the “Voter Confidence and Increased Accessibility Act of 2007,” also known as the Holt Bill. This bill, which was introduced in the House on February 5, 2007, differs somewhat from the Holt Bill previously introduced in the last session of Congress. For that reason, as we always do at all levels of the League, I wanted to make sure that we understood the provisions of the 44-page bill before I spoke about it. [You may read the entire text of H.R. 811 on the House website.](#) We have also prepared a “plain English” summary of the bill and [posted it on the LWVUS website here.](#)

In brief, the bill would require that all voting systems provide an individual voter-verified paper ballot for inspection and verification by the voter before the vote is cast and counted and that said permanent paper ballot is the “true and correct” record of the vote for recount and audit purposes, and authorizes \$300 million for payments to states to meet the bill’s new requirements for voting systems. The bill also contains exhaustive procedures for mandatory hand count audits, a process to be administered by new audit boards in each state who are independent of the state elections officials. Although there are details of the bill with regard to the voter-verified paper ballot system I may encourage be refined or improved when I provide testimony or official comments on the bill to the House Committee, I find the part of the bill which requires voter-verified paper ballots to be consistent with the LWVUS position adopted at Convention 2006. Therefore, if Leagues would like to address this issue with their local Representatives, they may indeed confirm that the League supports the bill’s requirement that voting systems provide a voter-verified paper ballot and that said ballot should be the official ballot used for recount or audit purposes. The requirement that a mandatory random audit of some kind be conducted is essential to restoring the voters’ confidence in the vote count.

“...the League supports the bill’s requirement that voting systems provide a voter-verified paper ballot and that said ballot should be the official ballot used for recount or audit purposes. The requirement that a mandatory random audit of some kind be conducted is essential to restoring the voters’ confidence in the vote count.”

With respect to the part of the Holt Bill which establishes a requirement for a mandatory audit, the LWVUS has never conducted a study of such details as to what percentage of votes would constitute a statistically appropriate random audit or whether such audits should be conducted by a state entity that has no prior expertise in vote counting. We also have no knowledge of the ability of states to comply with this requirement by the 2008 election. Therefore, at the present time, if Leagues would like to address the issue of mandatory audits with their local Representative, please feel free to state that the League supports routine audits of paper ballots in randomly selected precincts in every election, and believes that the results should be published by the jurisdiction. Please do not indicate, however, that we have a position at this time on the specific provisions of the Holt Bill related to mandatory audits.

Mary Wilson, President LWVUS