



The VOTER

VOLUME 47 NUMBER 2

February 2008

Calendar (League activities in bold)

DATE	DAY	TIME	LOCATION	DETAILS
Feb 13	W	7 p.m.	Vogelson Library	LWVCC Board Meeting New date!
Feb 19	Tu	6 p.m.	16th floor, Courthouse	Freeholder caucus meeting
Feb 21	Th	7 p.m.	Bryant Center, Lawnside	Freeholder public meeting
Mar 5	W	7 p.m.	Vogelson Library	LWVCC Board Meeting
Mar 18	Tu	6 p.m.	16th floor, Courthouse	Freeholder caucus meeting
Mar 20	Th	7 p.m.	Waterford Elementary School, 1106 Old White Horse Pike	Freeholder public meeting
Apr 2	W	7 p.m.	Vogelson Library	LWVCC Board Meeting

At its Jan 13 meeting, the LWVCC board:

1. Decided to order 100 copies of the 07-08 membership directory.
2. Discussed the draft program planning write up. It needs revision. Ann Saunders and Ed Gracely will work on that.
3. Agreed that a notice will be sent to nearby members at large of the immigration consensus meeting.

4. Approved a revised schedule of board meetings.

In memoriam

Long-time League member Helen Ludlum passed away on February 4, 2008. She was 88 years old. She had been a member of the League since at least 1964. Donations are requested to St. Paul's Lutheran Church, Attn: W. Moessner, 832 Park Ave., Collingswood, NJ 08108.

THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF CAMDEN COUNTY



President's Message:

Many thanks to the elected officials and facilitators who helped make our ninth annual *Running & Winning* workshop a success at Haddon Township High School. There were a total of 63 female students and 14 female officials who participated in this year's workshop. The discussions around immigration reform were lively and well presented by the student campaign teams. Also I would like to thank the committee that conducted the Immigration Study Consensus meeting on January 23rd 2008. I am pleased to report that we had an excellent turnout of League members who came with ideas and opinions that helped shape and format out consensus.

Now that we are past Super Tuesday, the presidential race has become more intense and is generating a large voter turnout. Given the political climate, now is the time for the League to continue to lobby for changes in our property tax system that has grown to be inequitable and is forcing some of our residents to move to states that are more affordable.

The League has developed a page on the social network site, Facebook, to encourage people to become involved in the political process. If you are already registered with Facebook, log in and visit the League's page. You can find us by going to the "causes" section and searching for the League. It's also easy to sign up for a Facebook account (and it's free). On a local level, Facebook will allow us to reconnect with inactive or lapsed League members. It is easy to sign up and connect with League members from around the country by logging onto www.facebook.com and visiting the League's page.

February 14th was not only Valentines Day, but the League celebrated its 88th birthday. Now is the time for LWVCC to let the community and potential new members know about the wonderful work that the League is doing. Stay tune for the next Voter to read about the legislative initiatives that are being planned for the spring.

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.

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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!

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.*

Camden: Ferry Avenue Library: 852 Ferry Avenue. Take 295 to Route 168 north. In about 2 miles, pass Route 130. In another mile or so, turn left onto Ferry Avenue. Pass 9th Street. The library is in the block between Phillips Street (just past 9th) and 8th Street.

Lawnside: Wayne Bryant Community Center: 323 Charleston Ave, Lawnside. Charleston is off Route 30 (White Horse Pike) about a mile below 295. Coming south, turn left onto Charleston, continue past a tiny jog at Warwick for another half mile or so.

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!

Waterford Works: Waterford Elementary School: Follow Route 30 (White Horse Pike) south through Berlin. About a mile and a half past Route 73, bear left onto Old White Horse Pike. Stay on it

(there is a bit of a jog at Atlantic Ave). The school will be about 2.9 miles after leaving Route 30. Chew Road is a short distance *after* the school (so you've gone too far). Of course, you could also take Route 73 to 30, turn left at 30 and proceed as above.

League Principles

Did you know? That in addition to the list of specific positions that the League has taken over the years, there is also a list of general principles that guides all of our decision-making? Here are the first three of these (with commentary):

- The League of Women Voters believes in representative government and in the individual liberties established in the Constitution of the United States.
- The League of Women Voters believes that democratic government depends upon informed and active participation in government and requires that governmental bodies protect the citizen's right to know by giving adequate notice of proposed actions, holding open meetings and making public records accessible.

The right to know position was originally formalized at the national level and applied to Congress (1972), but it was soon incorporated into the principles (1974) so Leagues at all three levels could promote this vital concept.

- The League of Women Voters believes that every citizen should be protected in the right to vote; that every person should have access to free public education that provides equal opportunity for all; and that no person or group should suffer legal, economic or administrative discrimination.

According to Impact on Issues, "From its inception, the League has worked for equal rights and social reforms...The League was one of the first organizations to address such issues as child welfare, maternal and child health programs, child labor protection and laws that discriminated against women."

Report on the Running and Winning Workshop 2008

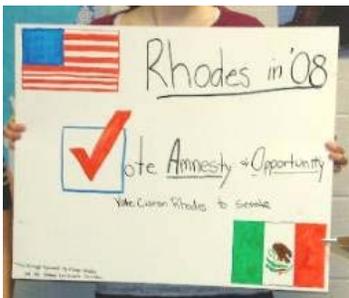
Phyllis Black



Our ninth annual Running and Winning Workshop which occurred on Tuesday, February 12th at the Haddon Township High School was a great success. Sixty teenage girls attended from the 10, 11th, and 12th grades along with 13 female elected officials, and 23 volunteers from the American Association of University Women, the South Jersey Alumnae Chapter of the Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc., and our League.

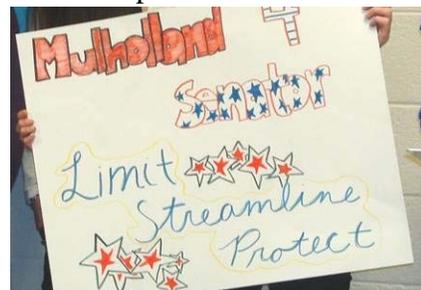
Bonnie Richards, Vice President of the Board of Education in the Haddon Township school district, and Laura Chudd, another member of this Board, had a chance to talk with their students and share their experiences about their work, their challenges, and their accomplishments. The other female elected officials that were present and interviewed were: State Senator, Dana Redd, who is also a Camden City Councilwoman; Sara Lipsett, Councilwoman from Cherry Hill; Joan Leonard, Commissioner from Collingswood; Riletta L. Cream, Freeholder of Camden County; Patricia Egan-Jones, Surrogate in Camden County; Shelly Lovett, Councilwoman in Gloucester Township; Honorable Tish Colombi, Mayor of Haddonfield; Rosemary Fitzgerald, Councilwoman from Haddon Heights; Marie Lawrence, Councilwoman from Winslow Township; and Maureen Bergeron, Councilwoman from Barrington.

"Our ninth annual Running and Winning Workshop ... was a great success. Sixty teenage girls attended from the 10, 11th, and 12th grades along with 13 female elected officials, and 23 volunteers ... The teenage girls did a wonderful job in tackling the campaign exercise. ... We all gain from this exciting experiential workshop."



The teenage girls did a wonderful job in tackling the campaign exercise. They utilized our information in their campaign platforms, and were creative and humorous in their presentations. Our co-sponsors, the Camden County Branch of the American Association of University Women , the South Jersey Alumnae Chapter of the Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc., the Chinese Women's Association of New Jersey, and members of our League, provided financial support and volunteers. Other companies and firms also

made donations to this workshop and support us every year. All of the people involved in our Running and Winning Workshop are the reason why we are able to have a successful workshop. They are instrumental in providing a leadership experience for the teenage girls who can become aware of their own talents and learn ways to improve their own communities. We all gain from this exciting experiential workshop.



LWVCC Immigration Consensus for the LWVUS

On January 23, 2008, members of the LWVCC gathered in the Vogelson Library to debate Immigration Policy and make recommendations to the LWVUS as part of our consensus process. The recommendations local Leagues made will be collected and summarized by the national League board, and will be put together into a position statement that will potentially provide the basis for action by the LWVUS. Since immigration is a hot topic, on which the League does not have a position, this study will position us to be a player in an area of critical interest to League members.

The consensus by the LWVCC is merely advisory to the LWVUS. We cannot act upon any of our decisions locally. Only **after** the national League has adopted a position based on responses from around the country will there be a basis for action.

Some of the key conclusions of our consensus meeting were:

The top three factors that federal law should take into consideration concerning immigration are:

- a) History of Criminal Activity
- b) Economic, Business and Service Employment Needs
- c) Humanitarian Crises/ Political Persecution in Home Countries



We also wanted a high priority placed on:



- d) Family Reunification of Authorized Immigrants and Citizens with Spouses and Minor Children
- e) Rights of Families to Remain Together
- f) Rights of all Individuals in U.S. to Fair Treatment Under the Law (Fair Hearing, Right to Counsel, Right of Appeal, and Humane Treatment)
- g) Education and Training

The questions about what to do with existing illegal immigrants were confusing and overlapping, but attendees clearly didn't want to just deport them all, and we felt that a high priority should be placed on allowing them to earn legal adjustment of status by doing things such as paying taxes, learning English, studying civics, etc.



We were unable to reach consensus on the value of a national identity card, but we approved of various enforcement methods, such as border surveillance, tracking of people who enter the country legally, technology to help employers verify legal status, and improved information sharing. We also supported a guest worker program.