



The VOTER

VOLUME 47 NUMBER 3

March 2008

Calendar (League activities in bold)

DATE	DAY	TIME	LOCATION	DETAILS
Apr 2	W	7 p.m.	Vogelson Library	LWVCC Board Meeting
Apr 15	Tu	6 p.m.	16th floor, Courthouse	Freeholder caucus meeting
Apr 17	Th	7 p.m.	Collingswood Senior Center	Freeholder public meeting
May 13	Tu	6 p.m.	16th floor, Courthouse	Freeholder caucus meeting
May 14	W	7 p.m.	Vogelson Library	LWVCC Board Meeting 2d Wed.
May 15	Th	7 p.m.	Magnolia Community Cntr	Freeholder public meeting
May 17	Sa	12:30-4	Catelli Ristorante, Voorhees	LWVCC Annual Meeting

At its Feb 13 meeting, the LWVCC board:

1. Decided to order 100 copies of the LWVNJ Citizens Guide.
2. Set a tentative date of May 17 for the Annual Meeting.
3. Discussed several possible topics and speakers for the Annual Meeting.
4. Obtained lists of Callathon volunteers.

At its March 5 meeting, the LWVCC board:

1. Finalized location plans and other details for the Annual Meeting
2. Made plans for a silent auction at the Annual Meeting.
3. Heard a summary of the excellent and positive evaluations of Running and Winning.
4. Learned that our League will receive an award for Running & Winning (story in April Voter).
5. Discussed next steps in our legislative outreach planning.

THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF CAMDEN COUNTY



President's Message:

Congratulations to the League of Women Voters of Camden County, which is this year's recipient of the 2008 Connie Woodruff & Yynona M. Lipman Innovation Award for the *Running and Winning* workshop. This award will be presented at the Governor's mansion on March 25, in Princeton NJ. The committee and its chairperson, Phyllis Black, are all to be commended for their dedication, commitment and hard work, which have made this program so successful.

The Camden County League is also making preparations for its annual meeting and luncheon ... We have set the date for May 17th at the Catelli Ristorante in Voorhees.

The Camden County League is also making preparations for its annual meeting and luncheon, which is a very important meeting for the membership. We have set the date for May 17th at the Catelli Ristorante in Voorhees. We are planning to have a dynamic speaker who will address the political climate and what changes we might expect from our next chosen leader. Even though we have a speaker, the most

important action at this event is to elect the board for the coming year, adopt local programs that affect the membership, and to approve a budget that provides financial support for the League's activities.

Every effort is made to make this an enjoyable social event as well as a business meeting. Let me encourage any member who has not recently attended an annual meeting to make it a priority for this year. Of course, we encourage regular attendees to join us again as well! Please check your April Voter for additional information.

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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Visit our web site: <http://www.lwvnj.org/camdencounty>

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.*

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.

Voorhees - Catelli Ristorante: Plaza 1000, Main Street Complex, Voorhees. Take Springdale Road south to Kresson. Turn left there. After 1.5 miles on Kresson, pass the light at Evesham, then turn right through the flagpoles into the complex. The restaurant is directly ahead of you. // From the south, take 73 to Kresson for 1.3 miles. Just after the light at Centennial, turn left into the complex. I didn't see a sign to it. Looks like the entrance to a church or synagogue. But it takes you through to the complex.

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

In last month's Voter I discussed the first three "League Principles". Here are the rest:

The League of Women Voters believes that efficient and economical government requires competent personnel, clear assignment of responsibility, adequate financing, and coordination among the different agencies and levels of government.

The League of Women Voters believes that responsible government should be responsive to the will of the people; that government should maintain an equitable and flexible system of taxation, promote the conservation and development of natural resources in the public interest, share in the solution of economic and social problems that affect the general welfare, promote a sound economy and adopt domestic policies that facilitate the solution of international problems.

The League of Women Voters believes that cooperation with other nations is essential in the search for solutions to world problems and that development of international organization and international law is imperative in the promotion of world peace.

From the LWVUS

League Expresses Concern With New Ethics Procedures

Office of Congressional Ethics "Will Prove Inadequate" Due to Lack of Subpoena Power

Washington, DC— The League of Women Voters today expressed concerns about the new ethics procedures passed by a House vote of 229 to 182 last night.

"This does not provide the independent ethics enforcement process that is needed to clean up the House and protect the public interest," said Mary G. Wilson, national president of the League of Women Voters.

"The investigative powers of the Office of Congressional Ethics are simply insufficient," Wilson continued. "Without access to subpoena power, investigators will not be able to compel cooperation from outside entities and individuals, congressional staff and Members," she said.

"Voters in 2006 clearly reacted to the 'business as usual' approach that Congress took to the scandals that plagued the House. Voters continue to have high expectations for ethics reform. They want changes that will be strong and effective," Wilson said. "This agreement falls short," she said.

"This proposal will prove to be inadequate and will have to be revisited, probably when the next wave of public scandals arrives," Wilson said.

"The League is disappointed that this proposal is the best the House is willing, or able, to achieve," Wilson concluded.

On the election ...

"From what we have seen so far, the 2008 presidential election will be in the history books for several compelling reasons," said national League president Mary G. Wilson. "Americans are energized about this campaign and we are seeing that reflected in the high voter turnout and record amount of funds being raised from millions of voters."



"The League has been educating voters throughout the 2008 primaries and caucuses and is prepared to do the same this fall. Our members are working in communities across this country to be sure the elections systems work as well as they can for voters, the candidates and elections officials. Our online election resource, www.VOTE411.org, educates millions of voters about the election and helps them locate their polling place through the only nationwide online polling place locator," noted Wilson.





From the LWVNJ

Action/Advocacy update

In the latest State Board Report, League Lobbyist Sandy Matsen addresses a number of legislative issues relevant to League members. One topic of particular interest is clean elections. She writes:

The legislature is using an ad-hoc committee to develop legislation for 2009. Members are Joe Roberts, Linda Greenstein, Bill Baroni, Loretta Weinberg, Lou Greenwald, and Amy Handlin. These are closed meetings and the League and other advocates will have to deal with a finished product “announced” late May or early June. The coalition members met early February and agreed to three principles:

- Inclusion of primaries. None of the groups will support another cycle that does not include primaries
- Expansion of the program, but even more importantly permanence in the legislation. We don't want to fight this battle every two years. The coalition will most likely call for expansion to 40 legislative districts, knowing state finances will prohibit full expansion.
- Finally address issue of equal funding or parity funding for all candidates who qualify.

Members of the coalition are meeting with the legislators to have some input into their deliberations before we are presented with a *fait accompli*. The elephant in the room is the issue of financing—primarily how much money is politically possible and how that total translates in the number of districts and candidates it can support. We have been assured the legislation will include primaries and also told it won't be any more money than 2007 and realistically probably less.

Read her entire report at http://www.lwvnj.org/members/SBR/SBR_2008_03.pdf.

Studies Approved at Convention (also from the SBR).

At the 2007 biennial convention of the League of Women Voters of New Jersey (LWVNJ), delegates approved two new studies.

The Study on Voting Rights for Probationers and Parolees will examine current state law and its impact, with the purpose of educating League members and the public about current law and giving League members the information they would need to develop a position in support or opposition to New Jersey's laws about voting rights for probationers and parolees. At present, New Jersey election law prohibits individuals with a felony conviction from voting while incarcerated, on parole or probation. ... New Jersey law is similar to several other states, although in recent years, several states have expanded the franchise. In view of these trends, it may be opportune for New Jersey to re-examine its election rights voting laws. The LWVNJ study has the potential to contribute to this discussion.

At the 2007 convention, many delegates assumed that our Dual Office Holding Study would examine the practice of allowing individuals to hold two or more elected offices. At about the same time as we voted to undertake the study, New Jersey enacted a ban on dual office holding for elected officials who assumed a second elected office after February 2008. ... According to the New Jersey Policy Perspective, dual *elected* office holding is just the “tip of the iceberg”, because there are some 700 elected officials throughout the state who also hold *non-elected* public sector positions. The LWVNJ Board of Directors concluded that *non-elected* positions should be included in this study, and we will be supplying study materials in late fall 2008.

Members interested in working on either (or both!) of these studies are encouraged to contact Louise Murray (louiseamurray@gmail.com) or the League office. discussions are most welcome.