



The VOTER

VOLUME 47 NUMBER 4

April 2008

Calendar (League activities in bold)

DATE	DAY	TIME	LOCATION	DETAILS
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 1	Th	10 a.m.	Federal Courthouse, Camden.	Voter Registration. After the naturalization ceremony
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 Apr 2 meeting, the LWVCC board:

1. Voted to approve a \$25 ad in the Lawnside Scholarship Club booklet.
2. Discussed, edited, and tentatively approved the budget committee report.
3. Learned that the Camden County Guides to Election and Government are in press.

Annual Meeting Date Set!

Saturday, May 17 from 12:30-4

Catelli Ristorante, Voorhees (Directions p 3).

Speaker: TBA

Topic: TBA

THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF CAMDEN COUNTY



President's Message:

This has been a year of heightened voter interest with 100's of thousands of new voters being added to the rolls, renewed activism among younger voters and a never before seen issue focused news reportingAll of this continues to point to the important role League members play in disseminating information, helping to shape discussions around key issues facing our state and our nation, and encouraging involvement at the state and local government levels.

Sandy Matsen, past president of the state League, got our year off to a rousing start heightening political awareness by keynoting our kick-off meeting on the topic, "Local Legislative Visits". This was followed by the program planning meeting held in December where those in attendance participated in a workshop to make recommendations to the LWVUS for possible changes in program. Recommendations from local Leagues around the country will be discussed at Convention in June.

Illegal immigration was the subject of our consensus meeting held in January. This meeting was very well attended and featured an exciting exchange of ideas and information. As a result of input from numerous meetings like ours, the LWVUS now has a position on immigration! Read a summary at www.lwvnj.org/news

The state election calendar forced us to host "Running and Winning" earlier than usual but that didn't dampen the enthusiasm or the attendance. More than 22 women serving in elected office participated as 62 female students of Haddon Heights High School organized their campaigns in support of candidates' position on illegal immigration. We will soon be closing out an exciting year with our annual meeting luncheon which will be held on May 17th 2008. We look forward to seeing you at this year's luncheon.

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

e-mail: lwvcc@hotmail.com



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.

Pay to Play Reform - Local Successes

Pay to play reform is alive in Camden County, and the League is very involved.

The Cherry Hill Reform Committee, including LWVCC member Joyce Walker as an active member, influenced their township to pass an ordinance to ban the practice last summer, after a petition drive which collected over 3,000 signatures and would have placed the ordinance on the November ballot.. The reform committee continues working improve transparency in government. They are currently circulating petitions on 3 ordinances that will affect other aspects of government practice in Cherry Hill.

Meanwhile, Joyce Walker, as Camden County Co-Chair of the Citizen's Campaign, is also active as a consultant in pay to play efforts in nearby Haddon Heights, where the town committee passed the pay to play ordinance without a petition drive.

That happened recently in Winslow Township, where League member Ed Gracely, working with Mayor Sue Ann Metzner (also a long-time League member) succeeded in passing pay to play reform in their township. The town council was quite supportive.

These model ordinances have been used in many towns. They work! Contact Joyce Walker if you are interested in initiating a pay to play ordinance in your municipality (joyceawalker@att.net).

From the LWVUS



“Women as Voters and Activists” Event a Big Success

“Women as Voters and Activists” was a fabulous conclusion to the three-part educational forum series, *The Changing Faces of Power: Women in Politics*, hosted by the League of Women Voters and Sewall-Belmont House & Museum. Moderator Eleanor Clift and the panelists shared very timely insights about “women as voters.” Both C-SPAN AND XM radio provided coverage, and the event was aired in its entirety on C-SPAN 2 the following evening, March 26. To view the event, check the “schedule” tab for subsequent airings at <http://www.cspan.org/>. The video will also be available on our Web site very soon.

Successful Sunshine Week Forum at National Press Club

As part of Sunshine Week 2008, on March 19, the League of Women Voters co-sponsored a successful forum, “Government Secrecy: Censoring Your Right to Know.” More than a hundred attendees came to the National Press Club in Washington, DC, and more than 700 individuals registered to watch the live webcast. The event also was webcast to 22 host sites nationwide, where hundreds participated (some calling in or e-mailing questions to the panelists). Five of the host site events were sponsored by Leagues. The LWVs of Benicia (CA), Knoxville-Knox County (TN), New Jersey, Palos Verdes Peninsula (CA), and Salt Lake (UT) are applauded for their efforts. For a summary of the event and associated resources, please visit www.openthegovernment.org. The webcast will be available on that Web site soon for unlimited future access, and DVDs of the program will be available for sale.

 And your intrepid (?) Voter editor has a new role...

LWVUS Taskforce on Election Audits Established (NEW)



LWVUS President Mary Wilson is pleased to announce the following appointments to the newly established Election Audits Taskforce: [Ed Gracely](#) (NJ), Mark Halvorson (MN), Barbara Hankins (MD and TX), Kurt Miller (OH), Lu Pierson (MD), Barbara Simons (CA) and Norm Turrill (OR). The Taskforce will be co-chaired by Judy Duffy and Norm Turrill, and will focus on what the features of an election auditing process should be in order to best protect the voters and provide confidence in the voting process. The Taskforce will spend the next months reviewing and researching a number of questions related to election audits, and will provide information to the LWVUS Board.

2008 Edition of *NJ CITIZENS GUIDE TO GOVERNMENT* is **HERE** **Place your Order Now!**

The 2008 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**.

2008 NJ CITIZENS GUIDE TO GOVERNMENT

Name _____ Quantity _____

Address _____ Amount Paid _____

Phone # _____

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



From the LWVNJ

HELP FORM NEW STANDING COMMITTEE ON IMMIGRATION

Meet 10 am, Saturday April 26, place to be announced in central NJ

email dmacm@aol.com if you would like to be involved

I am happy to announce that the board of the LWVNJ unanimously approved a motion on March 8 that LWVNJ form a standing committee concerning immigration issues. The study and consensus process to develop the national position was far more intense and it involved far more of us in the issues than we had any reason to expect two years ago, both nationally and here in New Jersey. That national position is now undergoing final revisions and approval by the national board, and should be made public in a matter of weeks. I can't yet talk about the content of the position, but I can say that it is a far stronger position than I personally expected until we got into the consensus process itself. The League may be varied, but we can reach consensus on many issues even when at least some of the country is divided.

I'm hoping that this new LWVNJ committee will build on the interest and enthusiasm engendered by the national study. **How we operate as a committee and what we do will of course depend on who participates in the committee.** For now, however, I see two major categories of things we might do:

Recommend actions to the state board and, where approved, work together with other concerned organizations to help change what happens in our state and in our communities concerning:

- The unifying of our diverse communities, including the integration of immigrants, when appropriate;
- Directly easing the lives of recent immigrants, where needed/appropriate;
- Advocacy of legislation and regulations concerning both immigrants and their integration as consistent with our national and state positions.

Continue our study of the complex issues of immigration as both immigration and responses to that immigration change. This study should certainly be as committee members, but I expect we will want to extend it to

- Members of our own local Leagues,
- Other LWVNJ members, and
- Members of our communities and our state.

If the national position is delayed and not yet public when we first meet, we can still get the committee going and discuss what areas are of greatest interest to us.

Deborah Macmillan, Chair

Running and Winning Scores Again

Renée Robbins

officials who participate believe in this project and give their time to help it succeed year after year.

"Running and Winning" was originally designed by the LWVUS, but our League took the idea and adapted it to make it interactive. I introduced this project to the Greater Tucson LWV in Arizona and they have done it every year since 2003. Two years ago they made a video of their project. That group joined with our League to offer our manual and the video at a caucus at the last LWVUS convention. Many Leagues bought both, and at present, the following Leagues are holding "Running and Winning" as modified by the LWVCC: Mountain Lakes, Red Bank, Tinton Falls (all in N.J.); Omaha, Nebraska; Tucson and Phoenix, Arizona; The School District of Los Angeles, California; Wake Forest, North Carolina; Grosse Point, Illinois; and Raleigh, North Carolina. The school superintendent of Tucson has said that students learn more in one R&W day than in a year of civics class. Our hope is that more and more young people in the United States will benefit from this experience.



(L to R) Renée Robbins, Ann Saunders, Phyllis Black, Janice L. Kovach, Anne Maiese, and Commissioner Joseph V. Doria.

On March 25, 2008, the LWVCC received the 2008 Wynona M. Lipman Innovation Award for developing Running and Winning and spreading it around the country. Given by the NJ Department of Community Affairs and the NJ Advisory Commission on the Status of Women, it was presented at a breakfast award ceremony at the governor's mansion. The award is a wonderful recognition for a worthwhile project. Many people in the LWVCC and in the AAUW, Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc. and the Chinese Women's Association of New Jersey have volunteered for this project over the past eight years. The female elected

