



The VOTER

VOLUME 48 NUMBER 3

March 2009

Calendar (League activities in bold)

EVENT/ACTIVITY	DATE	DAY	TIME	LOCATION
Freeholder caucus meeting	Mar 17	Tu	6 p.m.	16th Floor Courthouse, Camden
Freeholder Meeting	Mar 19	Th	7 p.m.	Cherry Hill Public Library
LWVCC Board meeting	Apr 8	W	7 p.m.	Vogelson Library NOTE: 2d Wednesday
Running & Winning	Apr 21	Tu	Morning	Sterling High School, Somerdale
LWVNJ State Convention	May 2	Sa	All day	New Brunswick
Annual Meeting - Hold the date	May 16/23	Sa	12-3 (usually)	TBA

Voter Highlights

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Notice: The **National Popular Vote Compact Consensus** will be part of the April 8 board meeting. See [page 5](#) for details. All members are welcome! Please read the materials in the January Voter and on the LWVUS web site. Come prepared to discuss!

THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF CAMDEN COUNTY

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President's Message:

As an organization dedicated to the citizens right to know and be informed, the Camden County League is engaged once again in a project that is dedicated to inform. For the last eight years Running and Winning has been a top project and that is designed to inform our young female high school students of the opportunities to run for public office. Each workshop is set up as a mock election with a topic that is considered to be timely and relevant. This year's topic addresses climate change, a subject that many Leagues across the country is embracing and encouraging a nationwide call to action. The national League is now calling for a moratorium on new construction of coal fired electric power plants.

The state of New Jersey is spearheading the first mandatory market-based program to reduce carbon emissions in the U.S. This program will cap regional power plant CO₂ emissions at approximately current levels from 2009 through 2014 and reduce emissions 10% by 2019.

What better way to support economic justice and promote the health and safety of all Americans?

Sincerely,

Ann Saunders

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.

Running & Winning 2009

Phyllis Black



The Camden County League of Women Voters will hold its tenth annual *Running & Winning* Workshop on Tuesday, April 21st at Sterling High School in Somerdale, New Jersey from 8:00 am – 2:30 pm. Sixty teenage girls from the 10th, 11th, and 12th grades will meet and

interview female elected officials and participate in a mock campaign as they develop and present their campaign for Senator on the issue of "Climate Change and Emerging Energy Policies". The purpose of the workshop is to involve young women in learning about the challenges and rewards of running for and holding a political office. There are fewer women, particularly in New Jersey, involved in politics, and the teenage girls are able to experience how they can make a difference in their own communities.

"The purpose of the workshop is to involve young women in learning about the challenges and rewards of running for and holding a political office."

Our co-sponsors in this award winning workshop are the Camden County Branch of the American Association of University Women, the South Jersey Alumnae Chapter Inc. of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, and the Chinese Women's Association of N.J. They all believe that this experiential and transforming workshop develops leadership potential and self confidence.

Board Report

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At its Mar 4 meeting, the LWVCC board:

1. Agreed to do the National Popular Vote Compact Study Consensus at the April Board meeting.

2. Decided to seek a speaker on the impact of the stimulus bill on New Jersey for the Annual meeting. Larry Kane will not be coming.
3. Decided that the Annual Meeting will probably be May 23, at the Catelli Ristorante.
4. Decided to order only 50 NJ Citizens Guides this year due to declining requests.



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.*

Cherry Hill Library: On King's Highway, coming from Haddonfield, cross Route 70. The library is a half mile or so ahead, on your left. Before Chapel Ave.

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!

From the LWVNJ



Alternative Energy Forum, March 14, 2009

Two members from Camden County and over-100 green-energy fans in total attended the LWVNJ's Alternative Energy Conference at Rutgers Livingston on Saturday, March 14.

Several speakers and panels described the state's energy plans and its implementation.

Key to much of the discussion was the **New Jersey Energy Master Plan** (available online as a pdf file, with other documents at <http://www.nj.gov/emp/>).

The master plan has five basic components, representing goals for New Jersey over the next decade.

1. Decrease energy consumption by 20% by 2020.
2. Decrease energy demand at peak times such as during heat waves. (Peak demand plays a surprisingly-strong role in determining the total electricity resources needed, and what it costs. For example, some expensive plants exist only to fill the peak energy demand).
3. Obtain 30% of the state's electricity needs from renewable sources by 2020, up from 22.5% now.
4. Develop a 21st century energy infrastructure, such as "smart grids".
5. Invest in innovative clean-energy technologies.

A wide variety of strategies are being used to meet these goals. One is incentives to residents and businesses to use energy-saving methods. For example, the cost of a home energy audit is typically \$300, but with a subsidy the cost is \$125. Subsidies make it possible for people to install solar paneling that will pay for itself in 10 years or so. Without subsidies and tax breaks, pay back could take 5 times that long. As a result of such programs, there are about 3,600 solar installations in this state, second only to California!



Barbara Belasco (L) and the panel from four power companies.

A participant asked if incentives (carrots) would be enough to achieve the ambitious goals. The answer: Maybe. For now, they are avoiding any legal mandates (sticks), but don't rule those out if the incentives don't achieve the desired effect.

Some other techniques include consideration of LEDs for street lights (still being investigated), installation of solar panels directly on utility poles, creation of wind

farms off the coast (96 turbines off Atlantic City are already approved), etc...

There are also a variety of strategies to reduce *peak* demand, such as specialized electrical meters in your house, and novel ways of storing energy (like using electricity at night to create ice that can be used for cooling during the day!).

All in all, a very enlightening morning! See more pictures, and (in due time) a transcript of the event at <http://www.lwvnj.org/news/>

From the LWVUS

What is the national popular vote compact?

Imagine that a state agreed to cast all of its electoral college votes for the winner of the national popular vote, regardless of the candidate the state's own voters supported. Imagine further that this agreement would only go into effect when enough other states had also committed to it that this group would decide the election. Voila -- the winner of the popular vote will win the election! That's the National Popular Vote Compact.

New Jersey already has the law. The question is: should the LWVUS support this method nationwide?

The LWVUS has a strong position against the electoral college, and opposes tinkering with it. "Abolish it or leave it alone!" is the current LWVUS position. So, support for the Compact would require a new national position.

Should we support it?

There are good arguments in favor, like guaranteeing a President elected by popular vote. But there are also serious arguments against, such as the possibility of legal battles tying up a Presidential election while challenges are worked out.

The January Voter, at http://www.lwvnj.org/camdencounty/voter/09/Voter_2009_01.pdf, has a summary of the issue and pros and cons.

A lot more details are available on the LWVUS web site, www.lwv.org. It's a bit tricky to find: Go to that site. Click on "For members" on the blue bar across the top. The screen that comes up has several boxes on the right, one of which is under "Quick links". Click on that link and you'll see plenty of information about the compact.

Local News: Upcoming Forums of Interest

Haddonfield Borough Commission: Wednesday, Apr 15, at 7:30 p.m. Haddonfield Middle School, 5 Lincoln Ave.

Winslow Township Board of Education: Thursday, April 2, at 7 p.m. School 6 (Sickler Ave).

In memorium

Mabel Sutman, long-time League member, and former President of the LWVCC (1971-1972), passed away on January 18. Under Mabel's leadership 20 LWV members were trained and deputized by the Board of Elections as registrars for a number of local registration drives in Camden City. In addition registration was taken to many High Schools in Camden County.

In lieu of flowers, donations can be sent to the South Jersey Cancer Fund, P.O. Box 1084, Brigantine, NJ, 08203 in her memory.

If You Are Interested In:

- *Learning about government and the political process.*
- *Getting involved in the political process in nonpartisan ways.*
- *Meeting and working with other citizens who care about good government.*



Join the League Of Women Voters of Camden County

Call 856-795-7878 or send this form to: PO Box 245, Voorhees, NJ 08043

Annual membership is \$55 (\$82.50 for household membership). To join, or for more information, send this form or call the number above.

I want to become a member of the LWV of Camden County: _____ (Check enclosed for \$ _____)

Please send me information on membership in the LWV of Camden County _____

Name _____

e-mail: _____

Address _____

Phone: _____

(Please include area code)



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

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