



The VOTER

VOLUME 48 NUMBER 5

May 2009

Calendar (League activities in bold)

EVENT/ACTIVITY	DATE	DAY	TIME	LOCATION
LWVCC board meeting and pot luck	June 3	W	6 p.m.	Renée Robbins residence
Freeholder caucus meeting	June 16	Tu	6 p.m.	Freeholder Conference Room, 16th floor-Courthouse, 520 Market St., Camden, NJ
Freeholder public meeting	June 18	Th	7 p.m.	Harry Williams Building, Runnemede
Voter registration for new citizens	July 21	Tu	9 a.m.	Courthouse, 401 Market Street. Contact Bobbie Porter 856-429-1415 to volunteer
LWVCC board meeting	Aug 5	W	7 p.m.	Tentative. Vogelson Library

Voter Highlights

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The LWVNJ has some interesting materials online.

Read the report of the ACLU/LWVNJ combined **election protection efforts** in the last election: Go to the LWVNJ web site: <http://www.lwvnj.org/> and follow the link to the report, at the top of the "News" column.

The State Board report for May has a detailed **advocacy report** by Sandy Matsen. Check it out (page 12 or so) at: http://www.lwvnj.org/members/SBR/SBR_2009_05.pdf

I was unable to get the Voter done before the Annual meeting, so Instead of an Annual Meeting notice, you get the [Annual Meeting report](#). Many of you were there. Hope to see even more in the fall, when we will hold the Kickoff of the new League year.

THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF CAMDEN COUNTY

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President's Message:

We will be conducting our annual meeting Saturday, May 23 and possibly at that time we may be electing co-presidents instead of a president. ... I welcome the change and I believe our members will benefit from the new structure.

Our League year closes on June 30th and a new year begins with renewed sense of purpose and direction for the board. For those League members and potential League members who may not be familiar with the board structure, the League operates under a variety of board structures. Establishing co-presidents or leadership teams is a way to share the duties of the president. Many Leagues operate under the leadership of co-presidents which allows the League to move forward in a very seamless and cohesive manner. It is important, however, for co-presidents to clearly define the duties and responsibilities of each. In many cases it is not necessary to change League bylaws in order to have co-presidents, rather than a single president.

We will be conducting our annual meeting Saturday, May 23 and possibly at that time we may be electing co-presidents instead of a president. For many years we have operated with a president at the helm. I think this possible change in structure will be a positive step for our League and is certain to strengthen our position in the community. I welcome the change and I believe our members will benefit from the new structure. This bold step in organizational structure will ensure the League's future success when so many other organizations are struggling in these dire economic times.

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

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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.

Board Report

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At its May 6 meeting, the LWVCC board:

1. Finalized plans for the Annual Meeting, including the cost (\$30 per attendee).
2. Chose date, time, and potential location for the June Pot Luck dinner
3. Agreed to send a thank you to Macy's for letting us use their conference room in a pinch.
4. Agreed to give gift memberships to the elected officials who assisted at Running & Winning. These are a regular membership, valid for 1 year. At the end of the year, the individual must pay dues to remain a member.



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 - 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 Municipal Building 2131 Auburn Ave. Take Route 30 (White Horse Pike) south past Berlin. You can also get onto the WHP just south of Berlin from 73. A bit more than a mile below the 73 connection on the WHP, pass Atco Ave (big street) then School House. The next left is Auburn. The building is in 1.5 blocks. *The 554 bus runs from Lindenwald PATCO down Route 30.*

2009 Annual Meeting & Luncheon

Saturday, May 23, 2009, 12:30 - 3:00 p.m.

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Good to see many of you at the Annual Meeting at the Catelli Ristorante. We conducted League business and heard an interesting talk by Raymond Yannuzzi, President of Camden County College.

League business:

- Presidency: We had two nominees from the floor for co-president, Winne-Rowell Bullard and Harriet Snyder. Both were elected unanimously. Congratulations!
- Board: We elected Karen Avenick and Claudia Tucker-Keto as returning board members.
- Off board: Barbara Sielaff will again serve as Budget Chair. Ann Koopman will serve on the nominating committee, but we do not have a Chair for that committee.
- Budget: Approved. Local League dues are now \$60 (up \$5 from \$55 to cover increased expenses and higher payments to other levels of League).
- Local program: Approved, similar to the basic items we've had for years (support improved methods of funding campaigns, encourage voter participation, preserve open space, and monitor county government).
- Outgoing president's report: Ann highlighted the achievements of the LWVCC over the past year.

Speaker: Dr. Raymond Yannuzzi talked about funding for higher education in New Jersey, and the impact of the stimulus plan specifically.

He defined first the structure of higher education in this state. We have universities (e.g., Rutgers), state colleges (e.g., Rowan), independent colleges (e.g., Seton Hall), for profit universities (e.g., Phoenix), and 19 county colleges. There are twenty one counties, but two county colleges serve two counties each. So every county has one, but some share.

In Camden County, eight of our college trustees are appointed by the county, and two by the state. Over half of all the college students in the county are in the County College system. The county college does not offer degree programs, but serves as a gateway to such programs for many of its students.

The state supports higher education in a multitude of ways, but most fall into two categories: student aid (grants, loans, etc...) and funds to the schools themselves. Ideally support for a county college should be equally divided between students, the county, and the state. In practice, 60% now comes from the students (tuition) and only about 20% from the county and state respectively. That's not as bad as it seems, because aid to students has been increasing in recent years, so students are able to pay more. The county college is still very inexpensive -- you can attend for a full year for \$2,800.

Originally, Camden County College was slated for a 10% cut in state funding. Thanks to the stimulus, that was reduced to 5%. But wait! The law says that you can't cut *any* funding for higher education if you accept stimulus money. So the college suffered no cut at all. That's good, but doesn't pay all the bills, unfortunately.

Meanwhile the stimulus money serves to increase Pell grants and funds for work study, provides funds for green jobs training, increases the tuition tax credit, and more!





LWVNJ Convention

The 58th convention of the LWVNJ took place on Saturday May 2, 2009. This was the first time the LWVNJ tried a one-day convention. The shorter format was intended to make it easier for more members to attend, and hopefully increase turnout. Overall this approach was well received. We had 63 delegates at the opening gavel, plus 10 visitors. The number of delegates is larger than either of the two previous conventions, so something worked!

The real work of convention is deciding on program items and making decisions that will impact the LWVNJ for the biennium. Here are some of the key decisions:

- We will do the **study of dual office holding** that was approved 2 years ago but never undertaken.
- We will **study the idea of providing in-state tuition for undocumented students** who graduate from NJ high schools.
- We will **update our position on "caps"** in the fiscal policy section. This has been a source of concern and confusion to a number of Leagues (including ours!) so the update and clarification should be helpful.
- Rejected a study of accuracy and fairness in voting.
- Approved a variety of **bylaws changes**. The bylaws for LWVNJ are available online if anybody is truly interested in reading them.
- Approved the **budget, without raising dues**. Yeah!
- Approved a **slate of officers and directors**. The LWVCC is well represented -- we have 3 state board members (Anne Maiese - President, Ed Gracely - Secretary, and Ann Saunders - Director). In addition, Ann Koopman is once again our Budget Director (off board). And, of course, Dottie Dunfee has been editor of the state Voter for many years.

We also heard from the president, executive director, lobbyist, and (over lunch) the executive director of the NJ ACLU, Deborah Jacobs, who spoke about changes in the media.

Some notes from Deborah Jacobs' talk: She argued that organizations like ours and hers need to get involved with the new media -- form relationships with bloggers, make use of the Internet, put our materials on Facebook, YouTube, etc... But she also noted that the real, long-term problem with the media is more serious. Bloggers don't do independent investigations. Real journalists do those. Unless we can build alternative methods of supporting news-gathering, fact-checking, and so on, we stand to lose the basic ability of the press to help maintain a free society. Internet news isn't going to do that.

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 \$60 (plus \$30 for each additional 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 _____

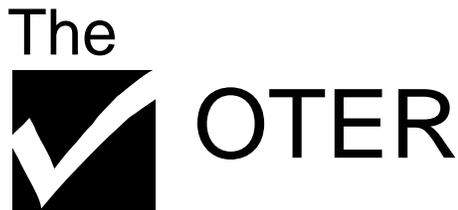
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