



The  
**OTER**

VOLUME 49 NUMBER 8

September 2010

**Calendar (League activities in bold)**

EVENT/ACTIVITY	DATE	DAY	TIME	LOCATION
<b>LWVCC Board/Pot luck</b>	Oct 6	W	6 p.m.-9 p.m.	Renee Robbins house.
Last day to register to vote	Oct 12	Tu	All day	
General Election	Nov 2	W	6 a.m. - 8 p.m.	Your local polling place
<b>LWVCC Board</b>	Nov 3	W	7 p.m.	Vogelson Library

**Voter Contents**

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**Board Report**

At its Sept 7 meeting, the LWVCC board:

1. Discussed plans for the Kickoff and voter registration activities.
2. Finalized plans for the pot luck covered dish meeting in October.
3. Made plans for a number of voter registration sessions.
4. Discussed plans for Issues Forum in the spring.

**League of Women Voters of Camden County**

## Co-Presidents' Message:



Dear League Members:

In last month's message, we wrote about our Fall Kick off meeting-The Camden County Call to Service Summit. Well on Tuesday, September 14, 2010, we are excited to report that the very successful and informative event took place. Focusing on methods of balance and the importance of tolerance, the political experts discussed how citizens with only a few hours to spare could make government work – from cutting waste, to improving services, to stabilizing property taxes. Kudos to Program Chair, Phyllis Black and League member, Joyce Alexander Walker for a superb job. See report and pictures below!

### Important Mid-Term Election

With only one month and four days to go before the midterm elections, the League has launched its VOTE411.org Registration Challenge, underscoring its commitment to ensure every eligible American is registered to vote. An e-card has been provided for your convenience. (Please see Voter listing on page 7). We urge all League members to help reach as many unregistered voters as possible by forwarding the League's message to at least five others.

**Membership & Leadership:** New members bring new ideas, renewed energy, and possible new leaders to our League.

As announced earlier, on Wednesday, October 6, 2010 our *Covered dish "Hot Topics"* membership/new members meeting will be held at the home of League member Renee Robbins.

We are asking members to bring another member and a covered dish. Prospective members do not have to bring a covered dish, but we are asking everyone to R.S.V.P. by October 4, 2010 by calling: Harriet Snyder (856) 779-1298 or Winnefred Rowell-Bullard (856) 228-2042. Come, meet, greet, and enjoy an evening of eating, socializing, and discussing League "Hot Topics".

### League of Women Voters of New Jersey Fall Workshops

The fall Workshops held on Saturday, September 25, 2010 were well attended and very educational and interesting. Focusing on "Gaining Ground: Women in Politics", speakers Ingrid Reed and Anna Mitchell Mahoney discussed Challenges and Successes for NJ women in Government and Fostering Women's

Participation in Politics. We were encouraged to become involved in the needs of our communities. Namely: 1) study how municipalities are financed, 2) work to eliminate gender bias in local & state government, 3) find new energy by being involved with the Internet and Face book, 4) study how property taxes are assessed, 5) present a caucus on women's role in government, 5) research, study, and publish information on property taxes and school funding, 6) celebrate the success of 90 years, and 7) run for public office. "When you are in a political position, you learn as well as shape how the government works".

**Election dates:**

Oct. 12 Last day to register for the general election.

Nov. 1 Mail-in ballots may be obtained in person from the county clerk until 3 p.m.

Nov. 2 General Election: Polls open 6 a. m. to 8 p.m.

In closing, we leave you with a quote from LWV President, Elisabeth MacNamara, "Let us dedicate ourselves to making our country stronger and safer by reminding our communities of the importance of tolerance".

Yours in League,

Winnefred Rowell-Bullard, Harriet Snyder  
Co-Presidents

## Upcoming Voter Registration Activities

9-29-10	W	12-2 pm	Camden County College, Blackwood, NJ
10-2-10	Sa	10 am - 4 pm	Deptford Mall, Deptford, NJ (partnership with Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc., South Jersey Alumnae Chapter).

If you can help with any of these, please let one of the co-presidents know a.s.a.p. Their phone numbers are:

Harriet Snyder (856) 779-1298

Winnefred Rowell-Bullard (856) 228-2042

Harriet can also be reached by email at [harriet\\_snyder@yahoo.com](mailto:harriet_snyder@yahoo.com). Winne is at [wbullard9@comcast.net](mailto:wbullard9@comcast.net)

For the October 2 event, Please, respond to Suzanne Wood. E-mail: [PaulaWood2002@yahoo.com](mailto:PaulaWood2002@yahoo.com)

## Two important items of business! Still true from last month.

1. **Have you renewed your membership?** We need all of you. See renewal form in the Voter or at [http://www.lwvnj.org/camdencounty/Membership\\_renewal\\_form\\_2010.pdf](http://www.lwvnj.org/camdencounty/Membership_renewal_form_2010.pdf)
2. **We need a treasurer!** A chance to learn about keeping the books, handling a spreadsheet or finance program, and fulfill a vital service for the League. Let Winne or Harriet know.



## Getting there - Directions!

**Renée Robbins' house:** If you are a member or prospective member interested in attending the pot luck dinner on Oct 6, please let us know and we will provide directions one-on-one. She lives in southern Cherry Hill not far from Voorhees. For more details, contact Harriet or Winne (See Co-Presidents' message).

**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!

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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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*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.

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## LWVCC Kickoff Report

On September 14, at Camden County College's Blackwood Campus, nearly 100 League and community members came together for a "Call to Service Summit" organized by the Camden County League and co-sponsored by several other organizations. It featured training by Citizens Campaign and a number of speakers.

How to be an effective citizen? Joyce Alexander Walker, LWVCC member and also the Co-Chair of the Citizens Campaign for Camden County told attendees about a number of "Paths to Service". For example, you could:

1. Be a *Citizen Legislator* by presenting and promoting valuable local ordinances in your town committee or board of education.
2. Serve on local *boards and commissions* by determining the requirements for such service and applying in your town or county.
3. Serve on a *political party committee*.
4. Become a *Citizen Journalist* who covers local events and meetings, then submits stories (or pictures) to the newspaper.

The Citizens Campaign has courses on all of these topics at <http://www.jointhecampaign.com/>.

In addition to Joyce's informative presentation, we heard from Kelly Johnson, Vice President for Government Affairs for Campbell's Soup Company (our keynote speaker), and from a panel of local leaders who discussed cost cutting measures in towns and the county.

Some of the ideas presented by panel moderator Bob Shinn were:

- Open competition for insurance contracts (municipal, school) rather than having a broker paid by the insurance carrier find the best contract.
- Cost sharing between towns and the county -- this is more appealing for many towns than sharing with each other.
- Do a municipal energy audit -- the state board of public utilities will even pay for it!
- The top five salaries in each department should be posted online.
- Pay to play reform.
- Ban on benefits for part time employees and a ban on accumulating large amounts of sick time.

The other panelists were Freeholder Ed McDonnell, Gloucester Township Mayor Dave Mayer, and 4<sup>th</sup> District Assembly Member Domenick DiCicco.

Freeholder McDonnell noted that the county puts a lot of emphasis into facilitating consortium agreements between towns. This makes it easier for towns to work together. He also indicated ways in which the county is improving open government, such as putting salaries and agendas online.

Mayor Mayer pointed out actions his town has taken to refinance debt and change the fiscal year to work better. Gloucester Township and Cherry Hill are planning to work together on trash collection.

Mr. DiCicco argued that special interest influence and the lack of active citizens together are the primary cost drivers in politics. He urged an active and informed electorate.

**Pictures from the Kickoff!**

Registration table



Audience



Winne leading off



The panel



Joyce presenting on the Call to Service approach



Harriet introducing keynote speaker



**From the LWVUS**

**OBSTRUCTIONIST POLITICS PREVAILS OVER CAMPAIGN FINANCE REFORM**

***Voters on the Losing Side of Political Gamesmanship***

Washington, DC – The League of Women Voters of the U.S. issued the following statement by national League President Elisabeth MacNamara on the obstructionism that prevented the Senate from beginning debate on the DISCLOSE Act today (September 23). The DISCLOSE Act aims to restore transparency to U.S. elections after the Supreme Court’s *Citizens United* decision.

“Voters lost and special interests won today. It is sad to see Senators cling to partisanship and obstructionism once again, instead of working together to find a middle ground on the DISCLOSE Act. This is a failure for which voters will have to pay this November and in elections to come. We were particularly disappointed that Senators Brown, Snowe and Collins, each of whom understands the importance of reform and of fair elections, chose not to stand up for their beliefs.

“In the wake of *Citizens United*, the DISCLOSE Act is essential. It requires CEOs to stand by their ads, and exposes special interest groups behind last-minute attacks. It stops manipulation of elections by fly-by-night hit groups, and prevents U.S. corporations controlled by foreign – or even hostile – governments from pumping secret money into our elections.

“How can individual voters compete with organizations that not only have vested interests in Washington, but millions of dollars to make sure those interests are protected?

“The bottom line is that voters deserve to know who is paying for election advertising. This is not only common sense – it is crucial if voters are to remain the cornerstone of our democracy.

“We would like to know what these opponents have to fear from disclosure of election advertising. Furthermore, what is to prevent them from falling victim to the deceitful advertising which they are refusing to bring into the sunlight?

“The League will continue to fight for enhanced disclosure. Our democracy belongs to the voters -- not special interests.”

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The countdown to Election Day has begun! There are less than two months left until the upcoming midterm elections and here at the League, we are committed to making sure that every eligible American is registered to vote.

With the outcome of these elections playing a large role in next year's congressional redistricting process and shaping the political landscape for the next decade, **the stakes could not be higher.**

That's why we need your help today in making sure that every eligible American is registered to vote. Join the League's VOTE411.org Registration Challenge by sending an e-card about voting to your friends. Just click on [http://participate.lwv.org/p/salsa/web/postcard/public/?postcard\\_KEY=168](http://participate.lwv.org/p/salsa/web/postcard/public/?postcard_KEY=168)

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 \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_

e-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

(Please include area code)

The



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