



The VOTER

VOLUME 50 NUMBER 1

January 2011

Calendar (League activities in bold)

EVENT/ACTIVITY	DATE	DAY	TIME	LOCATION
Freeholder Caucus	Jan 18	Tu	6 pm	Freeholder Conference Room, 16 th floor, 520 market St., Camden
Freeholder Meeting	Jan 20	Th	7 pm	Sterling High School, Somerdale
LWVCC Board	Feb 2	W	7-9 pm	Vogelson Library
Freeholder Caucus	Feb 15	Tu	6 pm	Freeholder Conference Room, 16 th floor, 520 market St., Camden
Voter Registration	Feb 16	W	10 am	After the naturalization ceremony, 401 Market St., Camden.
Freeholder Meeting	Feb 17	Th	7 pm	Cherry Hill Community Center, 520 Mercer St, Cherry Hill

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Board Report

At its Jan 5, 2011 meeting, the LWVCC board:

1. Approved the draft program planning report. This still needs input from 2 subcommittees drafting scope of updates before it can be submitted.
2. Learned that we need a new Chair of our Nominating Committee, since the former Chair has stepped down. **Volunteer???**
3. Considered topics for the Annual Meeting -- redistricting was the highest priority.
4. Discussed a Trolley Tour for the fall Kickoff.
5. Considered a March program meeting, probably with an immigration-related topic.

League of Women Voters of Camden County

Co-Presidents' Message:



Dear League Members:

Happy New Year!

Last year was an active and successful year for our League, and we are looking forward to the activities of 2011 with renewed energy.

Our Program Planning/Holiday Party meeting was productive and fun. We socialized and indulged in delicious food, but also fulfilled our duty to review the advocacy positions of the State League and to recommend which ones to retain, update, or restudy.

Several of our committees are actively planning for the coming months. The nominating committee is reviewing possible candidates for officers and for the board: **WE URGE YOU TO CONSIDER SERVING IN ONE OF THESE POSITIONS.** The program committee is hoping to have a general meeting in March to hear a speaker on U.S. immigration policy. And another committee is actively planning for our Annual Meeting/Luncheon in May. Of course our Running & Winning committee is well along in its planning for the April 13th R & W workshop at Eastern High School. More specific information on these events will be offered in The Voter and through special announcements. We hope you will join us for all of these activities.

Our board meetings are open to all members, so please join us on February 2nd, at the Voorhees library, and give us the benefit of your ideas.

In League,

Winnefred Rowell-Bullard

Harriet Snyder

Co-Presidents

Welcome to our newest member:

Janet Morrison
Mt. Laurel



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.*

Somerdale: Sterling High School: 501 S Warwick Road. Take 295 to East Route 30 (White Horse Pike). Go under the turnpike. After about a mile from 295, just past Marion Ave, McDonald's on your left, turn right at the traffic light onto Warwick Road: sign says Hi Nella and there is an Eckerd's Drug Store on the right hand side (or was -- may be closed). Count three more traffic lights on Warwick Road, of which the last is Somerdale Road. Sterling High School is 1/4 mile past third traffic light. From the south you can get to Warwick via Somerdale, or via Laurel Road, which hits Warwick about a mile south of the school.

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!

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.

LWVNJ Program Planning

The LWVCC met on December 8 at the home of Bobbie and Joel Porter, where we shared delicious food, enjoyed good company, and did state program planning anticipatory to the upcoming Convention in spring 2011. So, what happens now?

After the final report on our meeting is approved by the board, it will be sent to the LWVNJ. There it will be compiled with other reports from around the state to look for patterns. The state board will see if there are any positions being consistently cited as in need of an update, for example. Also, whether there are any new studies being proposed by several Leagues.

The state board will convert these results into recommendations to the attendees at Convention in the spring. Those suggestions that meet criteria of timeliness, suitability, evident member interest, and so on, and that were proposed by several local Leagues will probably be classified as "Recommended" items by the board. The other suggestions will be on a "Non-recommended" list.

Neither list has a guarantee of approval. Attendees at convention must propose each item there, argue in its defense, and garner enough votes from the delegate body to achieve approval.

If several studies or updates are proposed, practical reality becomes the biggest counter-concern. Neither the state League board nor local Leagues have unlimited resources. Even a simple update takes a fair amount of time and energy, while a full study takes much more. Considerations of what is reasonable to undertake in a 2-year period (the time between conventions) plays into both the decision of the state board and the decisions at Convention.

Some recent changes to state program:

- *Death Penalty*: Position opposed to it adopted in 2004 after a study.
- *Gubernatorial Succession*: Position in favor of Lt. Governor adopted in 2005 after study.
- *Regionalization*: Position revised in 2007 after an update.
- *Voting Rights for Parolees and Probationers*: Position adopted in 2009 after a study.
- *In State Tuition for Undocumented Students*: Position adopted in 2009 after a study.

February 14 is the birthday of the LWV

Hard to believe it has been more than 90 years! I remember those early days well... NOT!

Callathon is Coming!

Have you responded to the Annual Appeal from the LWVNJ? If not, you'll be getting a call. Some of you will even be *making* the calls. If you are a recipient, PLEASE remember that this is no cold call from a boiler room. It's a fellow League member calling to help both the state League and our local League (since the LWVCC gets a small share of what is raised). We understand if you can't give -- no need to hang up or complain about the call! Just say so. We appreciate your membership anyway! All three levels of League ask for money. We hope you can respond positively to the LWVNJ's fund raiser. Thanks!

From the LWVUS

Redistricting 2011 Reading and Resource List

Reading Resources

- The **Brennan Center's** newly updated *A Citizen's Guide to Redistricting*, [available for free download here](#), provides an excellent refresher course for beginners as well as experts, and includes helpful state-specific information on all things redistricting.
- The **National Conference of State Legislators** has made many materials available online. Visit [their dedicated redistricting web page](#) to see what legislators and other key stakeholders are saying and reading as they prepare for the redistricting process.
- **NAACP Legal Defense Fund's** comprehensive guide, *The Impact of Redistricting in Your Community*, provides easy-to-understand information about the importance of public input in the redistricting process, with a special emphasis on why the involvement of the minority community is so critical. Published in conjunction with the Asian American Justice Center and the Mexican American Legal Defense and Educational Fund.

Tools to Use:

- **Sample Redistricting Transparency Legislation**, [available here](#) from the Campaign Legal Center, provides useful guidance and sample language for Leagues interested in advocating for more open redistricting processes in their states.
- **U.S. Census Bureau Reapportionment Data** will be available for all states in early 2011. Visit the [Census Bureau redistricting page here](#) to learn more about the data that will be used to draw legislative districts in your state.
- **Public Mapping Project**, a site sponsored by George Mason University and other key stakeholders, provides a range of resources including up-to-date summaries of the redistricting landscape in key states as well as information about the District Builder software, now available in prototype form to nonprofits and the media.
- "**Gerrymandering**," a movie that is garnering a great deal of attention among activists, lawmakers, and citizens, is now being screened in theaters nationwide. Visit the movie website for a [schedule of past and upcoming screenings](#). If you are interested in organizing a special public screening in your state, please contact the filmmakers (contact@greenfilmcompany.com). When organizing your event, be sure to alert the local media that League experts will be on-hand to discuss the importance of a transparent redistricting process!

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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