



The VOTER

VOLUME 51 NUMBER 1

January 2012

Calendar (League activities in bold)

| EVENT/ACTIVITY | DATE | DAY | TIME | LOCATION |
|---|--------|-----|---------------|---|
| Award ceremony (with an award for Winne!) | Jan 16 | M | 1-3 p.m. | Come see Winne Rowell-Bullard get the Community Award for Gloucester Township Public Schools. C.W. Lewis Middle School. All welcome. See page 3 . |
| LWVCC Board Meeting | Feb 2 | W | 7 - 9 pm | Vogelson Library |
| Fire District elections | Feb 18 | Sa | Check locally | In some towns. |
| Voter registration | Feb 23 | Th | 10 a.m. | After the naturalization ceremony, 401 Market St., Camden. NOTE: Voter registration may be cancelled this month. Be sure to check before going! |

Voter Contents

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Board Report

At its Jan. 4, 2012 meeting, the LWVCC board:

1. Authorized Ed to further pursue a speaker on constitutional issues.
2. Approved the summary of program planning provided.
3. Decided on our participation approach for the state Callathon.
4. Decided to follow-up on contacts from the Anti-Poverty Forum last fall.
5. Accepted Sally Thorne as the meeting Chair for the February meeting.

League of Women Voters of Camden County

Board Message:



Dear League Members,

As 2011 “Closes”, on behalf of the Board of Directors of the LWVCC, I would like to thank you for your hours of dedication and for a job well done.

The focus is now on 2012 and on the elections that will be upon us shortly. This point brings to my mind the mission/purpose of the League. The League of Women Voters, a nonpartisan political organization for women and men, encourages informed and active participation in government, works to increase understanding of major public issues, and influences public policy through education and advocacy. The goal of the

League of Women Voters is to empower people to shape better communities worldwide.

League matters and we have to work together to bring about a positive outcome for our communities. We welcome your ideas and if you are unable to attend some of the meetings, please feel free to contact us by email or by telephone. Your presence and your ideas are important to us. Through “togetherness”, the League’s voice makes democracy work!

In closing, I will end with a list of Election Year Resolutions/Hopes from the LWVUS President, Elisabeth MacNamara.

A list of **Election Year Resolutions/Hopes:**

1. Ensure all eligible voters are registered to vote and can exercise their right to vote without having to overcome unnecessary and restrictive hurdles.
2. Educate the electorate on the candidates and issues on their ballots and help them find their polling place.
3. Encourage informative and productive debates between candidates so voters can learn about their elected representatives through more than just sound bites.
4. Fight to make sure election outcomes are decided by voters, not by special interest money.
5. Promise clean air for children and their families, and change the discussions to the important issues facing Americans in 2012.

Wishing you a Happy New Year, Winnefred Rowell-Bullard
Board member, League of Women Voters of Camden County

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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.



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.*

Gloucester Township C. W. Lewis Middle School: From Haddonfield or places N, take 30 S. Turn right onto East Laurel Rd (just past Pep Boys -- very briefly on Union, then E Laurel). Stay on E Laurel, which becomes College, for 3.4 miles total. Right onto Erial. School 0.3 miles on the left. From the south take Sicklerville Rd north to Stone Bridge Road (See Terrestria sign). Turn right. Stay on it through name changes (P Cheeseman, Little Gloucester) for 2.4 miles. Turn left onto Erial. School very soon, on left.

Runnemede: Harry Williams Building. At the corner of Broadway and the Black Horse Pike (Route 168). Take 295 to Route 168 south. Pass the turnpike entrance. Just below it is Broadway. Look for the building around there.

Voorhees: Vogelson Regional Library: Driving south on 30, turn left onto Somerdale Road (gas station with red horizontal stripes on your left, Cunningham's Cleaners on the right), just above the Echelon Mall. Go under the train bridge in about a half mile, then turn right onto Burnt Mill (at the light). Soon turn left onto Laurel Road at a light. (There is a kind of small park with grass and trees on your left just before the turn and a flower-decorated median on Laurel itself). The library is on your right as you pass the mall. 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!

Congratulations to Winne!

The Martin Luther King, Jr. Service Committee of The Gloucester Township Public Schools has selected Winnefred Rowell-Bullard as the 2012 **Community Award** recipient. This prestigious honor is bestowed upon exemplary members of the Gloucester Township community who unselfishly contribute to the betterment of mankind, while working to uplift others to a higher plateau of compassion and to a more noble expression of humanity. Because of her numerous contributions, she is being honored for her commitment to enhance the lives of others on a local and national level.

The 6th Annual Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Celebration of Service will be held at the C.W. Lewis Middle School on Monday, January 16, 2012 from 1:00 PM – 3:00 PM.

All are welcome. The ceremony will feature musical numbers, student awardees, two student essays on topics relevant to the day, and Winne as the community Service Award winner. I'm told it will probably be less than 2 hours in duration, although it is set to run from 1-3. Hope some of you can come out! (See directions above) [Ed].

LWVUS Program Planning

On Dec 7, 2011, 18 members of the LWVCC met to discuss national and local program. After some time to eat, chat, and renew acquaintance, we turned to the main work of the evening. As we have for several years, we reviewed positions in sets, and discussed recommendations for each of them. Unlike previous years, we were not asked to approve retention of existing positions.

After much discussion, the LWVCC decided to recommend a national League **study of birthright citizenship**. The background and scope of the study (developed after the meeting) would be:

The US constitution currently defines anyone born in this country and subject to its jurisdiction (thus excluding, for example, children of diplomats working for their own country) as a US citizen. Some national political leaders have argued for changing the constitution to eliminate this provision. The League currently does not have a position pro or con birthright citizenship. Since the League is very concerned with the rights of citizens, and since this issue may become a hot topic in the next few years, we should be armed to take a stand on it if need be. The **scope** of our proposed study would be to investigate the pros and cons of birthright citizenship, review the international standards, and determine the League's position on the issue. In particular, appropriate questions would be:

1. Should the US constitution provide citizenship to anyone born in the United States and subject to its jurisdiction, regardless of the legal status of his or her parents?
2. If not, what would be an appropriate alternative?
3. If the provision remains in the constitution, would it be appropriate to legally define children of undocumented immigrants as "not subject to US jurisdiction" and therefore not citizens?

The LWVCC also approved retaining all of our current local positions.

LWVNJ -- Callathon Coming. Save yourself a call!

Thank you to everyone who has already sent in an Annual Appeal donation to the state League. Your donation is vital to sustaining the League's work!

Local League leaders are beginning to sign up for the "Callathon" portion of the Annual Appeal and will soon call members who have not yet donated to ask for their support. You can save these volunteers a call by [giving a gift today!](#)

If your local League is participating, they will still receive a percentage of your donation even when you [give today](#) so there is no need to wait to be called.

Nobody likes getting fund raising calls. And nobody likes making them. So why do many people who give every year wait to be called??? Wouldn't it be great if they all gave **in advance**? Please help your hard working volunteers and give today. Thanks!

LWVUS Action Alert

Today you have an important opportunity to take an essential first step to fight back against *Citizens United* and the deregulation of the campaign finance system.

[Click here to urge President Obama to clean house at the Federal Election Commission \(FEC\).](#)

Already in this important election year, new Super PACs are flooding elections with huge expenditures from million-dollar donors. Because they are supposedly “independent” from the candidates, and with new loopholes from the Supreme Court’s *Citizens United* decision, Super PACs can raise and spend unlimited amounts from corporations and individuals, and they can do so with limited disclosure.

While there are different avenues that can be taken to fight back against *Citizens United* and cut the influence of special interests, you can join us by taking the first step today by urging President Obama to appoint new commissioners to the FEC. Among other duties, the FEC can define what election efforts are “independent” from the candidates.

The FEC is supposed to be the agency that enforces campaign finance laws, but it is dysfunctional. Of the six commissioners at the agency, three of them staunchly refuse to enforce the law, and five of the six are serving despite expired terms. It is time to clean house.

[We need real campaign finance reform, and getting President Obama to nominate new commissioners to do their duty and enforce campaign finance laws is a good place to start. In the next 30 days we need to gather 25,000 signatures of support.](#)

Don’t just sign it yourself: post the petition on Facebook, Tweet about it and forward this note to all of your friends. Together we can make sure that the citizen’s voice is heard.

For extra reading, [click here](#) for an interesting discussion of the new Super PACs presented by PBS.

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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