



The VOTER

VOLUME 51 NUMBER 2

February 2012

Calendar (League activities in bold)

EVENT/ACTIVITY	DATE	DAY	TIME	LOCATION
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!
LWVCC board meeting	Mar 7	W	7 - 9 p.m.	Probably Barbara Sielaff's house

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Board Report

At its Feb 1, 2012 meeting, the LWVCC board:

1. Discussed our proposed April meeting on constitutional issues.
2. Discussed the Annual Meeting -- with an international women's health focus.
3. Decided to produce our local Citizens' Guides, even if the county won't pay to copy them.
4. Distributed Callathon forms to our volunteers.
5. Accepted Myrna Schlanger's offer to chair the next board meeting.

League of Women Voters of Camden County

Board Message:



Dear League members:

I wanted to share with you some interesting observations and upcoming activities in this board report.

At the February Board meeting we had an unexpected guest. Doris Barns, a retired nurse, is interested in our programs and would like to join the League and be an active participant. Welcome Doris!

Thus far Ed has not been able to find a speaker for our meeting on Constitutional Law so a date will be set when a speaker is available, most likely in April. We set a tentative date for our Annual meeting -- Saturday June 2. The alternative date is Saturday June 9. The theme of the meeting is to be Women's Health issues with a speaker from International Planned Parenthood. Winne and Joyce are the committee and Winne will invite other interested groups to join us. The site of the meeting is not yet set. It may be the same site as last year -- Lamberti's which has an expanded room if our group is large.

Running and Winning is well organized and will be at Cherry Hill East. It is not sure if the school will pay half the cost of the food. The topic this year is, "The Law on Bullying".

The "Poverty Forum" follow up will be in Camden Feb. 26, with a topic of "Dynamic Sustainability". Ann Simonoff and Barbara Sielaff will attend. They hope to get more groups involved. See article on page 7 of the Voter (click [here](#)).

Winnie distributed the LWVNJ Callathon packets to the board members for follow up.

Other things of note - the board agreed for LWVCC to pay to have the Camden County Citizens Guide to be printed if the county does not agree to do so. It was also discussed that we (LWVCC) need to have our own stationary as we have had in the past. Ed will follow up with the state office.

Sally Thorne
Board Member

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.



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.*

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!

Fact Checking - PolitiFact.Com has now come to NJ!

Check out their web site at <http://www.politifact.com/truth-o-meter/>

Or go directly to their NJ page at <http://www.politifact.com/new-jersey/>

They check various statements by elected officials, Internet sources, candidates, and more, rating them from "True" to "Pants on Fire" false!

Naturally there are always judgments about making such determinations, and some of those described as making partly or entirely false statements might challenge that. But you can click on a link to the detailed analysis and judge for yourself!

The League cannot endorse such a site, and I've seen specific decisions criticized in League lists, but I think it's still a useful resource. Ed

Congratulations to Winne!

As noted in last months' Voter, The Martin Luther King, Jr. Service Committee of The Gloucester Township Public Schools has selected Winnfred Rowell-Bullard as the 2012 **Community Award** recipient. Her acceptance speech reveals a part of her background that not many of us know, so I reproduce it here in its entirety. Enjoy!



From: L to R:

- **Gail Roberts**, MLK committee member
- **Dion Davis**, MLK committee member
- **Winnfred Rowell-Bullard**
- **Vanessa Jenkins**, MLK committee member
- **Thomas Seddon**, Superintendent of Schools, Gloucester Township Public School District and MLK committee member.

Good After noon Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is with gratitude and appreciation that I say, “Thank You” to the members of The Gloucester Township Public Schools Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Service Committee. My heart is filled with, cherished appreciation, and unforgettable gratefulness because you have selected me to receive this prestigious honor.

Today, along with you, I, too, look back and reflect on the life of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr...

My reflection shows me when I was a college freshman attending Allen University, which is located in Columbia, South Carolina, Two days before going home for the Christmas holidays, I along with 20 other college students participated in a non-violent, sit-in demonstration at a segregated movie theater in downtown Columbia. After paying for our tickets, we took our seats downstairs in the White only section. Immediately, we were told to go up stairs and sit in the Colored only section. We refused to leave our seats to go and sit in the Colored section. Then, harshly, we were told we would be arrested and taken to jail, if we did not sit in the Colored section. WE REFUSED TO MOVE. In addition, the TICKET ATTENDANT CALLED THE LAW. DURING THAT DECADE, LAW MEANT POLICE. WE SAT IN THAT WHITE ONLY SECTION UNTIL THE LAW CAME to take us to jail, but instead of being taken to jail, we were finger printed and taken to the state penitentiary- the place for convicted criminals. We learned later that as soon as Dr. King received the word that twenty African American college students in Columbia, South Carolina had been taken to the State Penitentiary and locked up for refusing to sit up stairs in a segregated movie balcony in downtown Columbia, early the next morning, he travelled from Atlanta, Ga. to the State Penitentiary to have our finger prints exonerated and to set us free. From that remarkable visit, I never forgot Dr. King’s strong words, and I quote: “From this day forward, you will always be proud of yourselves, because you have taken a direct stand for social justice by demonstrating non-violently and peacefully against the social ills of inequality toward humankind. From this day forward, I want you to continue to take a stand and to advocate for social justice.”End of quote.

After returning from dinner with Dr. King, we formed a big circle on campus, we asked Dr. King to stand in the middle of the circle, and then we sang together, loudly, WE SHALL OVERCOME.

From that memorable day, and over the decades to follow, to this day, I have taken a stand for social justice and as a giver of knowledge, my goals as an educator and as an instructional and community leader have been to make a positive difference in the lives of my students and others. I remain active in many community service organizations such as Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc., South Jersey Alumnae Chapter, The League of Women Voters of Camden County, and the League of Women Voters of New Jersey. Each of these organizations works to offer community services for the betterment of humankind. (and I say thank you to some of the members who have come today to show support and to give congratulations). In closing, I will forever cherish meeting Dr. King, listening to his strong, everlasting words, and becoming an advocate for social justice. Dr. King's visionary dreams of social justice remain strongly prevalent today. Thus, I will continue my work in the community for the cause of direct action for social justice. Again, I thank the Gloucester Township Public Schools Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Service Committee for honoring my call to be a community advocate in the name of service for Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

Winnifred Rowell-Bullard

Running & Winning Update



Running & Winning will be on Wednesday April 4 in the morning at Cherry Hill High School East. This wonderful activity is designed to encourage high school girls to consider running for office.

The committee can use more volunteers. Anyone interested should contact Harriet Snyder (harriet_snyder@yahoo.com or call her - she's in the directory).



Have You Seen Human Trafficking In Your Town?

Elizabeth Santeramo

*League of Women Voters of New Jersey board member and
Chair of the League's Women and Family Issues Committee.*

January has been declared "Human Trafficking Awareness and Prevention Month" by President Obama. As a member of the League of Women Voters of New Jersey, I have had the privilege to attend a United Nations briefing on Human Trafficking where a former sex slave bravely shared her story. The devastating crime of human trafficking occurs in New Jersey's urban areas and in the quaint small towns that pepper the state. The League of Women Voters supports human rights, and condemns all forms of slavery and the violence associated with it. We believe that the basic inalienable rights granted at birth must be protected and upheld.

Many of the massage parlors that line our Main Streets are storefronts for sex shops-harbinger of terror and abuse where trafficked women and girls are forced to perform sexual acts on patrons. Often, the victims live where they work, in dark and filthy conditions. They are not allowed to leave, take breaks, or do the routine things you and I do, like shop, visit a friend, or take a walk in the park. They are truly sex slaves.

It is odd to use the term "slave" in 2012. Yet, these victims are transported to our local towns from Newark, where they are trafficked from Brazil and parts of Asia. This is modern day slavery. Some of these victims are as young as 8 years old. In most cases, community members do not complain about the massage parlors because they are unaware of what lies behind the doors, and the establishment does not constitute a nuisance. Many may think it's a typical "happy ending spa" but few realize that we are dealing with real women and girls who have been abducted from their homeland and tricked into thinking they will live the American dream. But we know better. They are living an American nightmare.

As a League member, I was invited to attend other briefings at the U.N. where I heard a survivor share her story of being sold at 16 in her home state of California. She was walking with her sister one day, when another woman and fellow Mexican-American approached her with a job opportunity to clean homes. In need of money, she accepted. After a long car ride, she was taken to a small dark room where she was chained and drugged. Her job turned out to be that of a sex slave for an older married Mexican man. After years of psychological, emotional and physical torture, she now shares her story to help other victims and make citizens aware of how to spot trafficking activity.

I viewed a slideshow presented by an attorney who works at Sanctuary for Families in NYC. The program showed the three key things to look for to help identify makeshift massage parlors: obscure establishment names, i.e. a number and a name; windows discreetly veiled with curtains or blinds to hide the interior from outside; and the inability for potential customers to book an appointment if they are not the "right" type of client for the parlor.

If you have come across such parlors that offer "massages" and you're suspicious that they may hold victims of human trafficking, there are ways that you can help. You can save a woman or a young girl by learning how to identify trafficking in your neighborhood, how to help a victim, and how to report it anonymously. The League of Women Voters of New Jersey partners with Polaris Project to help prevent these crimes. Polaris Project provides a hotline for the public to anonymously report suspicions and the League of Women Voters of New Jersey is looking for members who are interested in working to stop human trafficking in our state. For more information, please visit www.lwvnj.org and www.polarisproject.org.



Dynamic Sustainability:

The role of diversity in creating a sustainable world

Where:

UrbanPromise Sanctuary
3700 Rudderow Street
Pennsauken, NJ 08110



[Driving Directions](#)

When:

Sunday February 26, 2012 from
2:00 PM to 5:00 PM EST
[Add to my calendar](#)

All welcome!

Join us at this interactive event as we discuss the role of diversity in creating stronger communities, a more robust economy, and a healthy environment.

Speakers at the event, ranging from community organizers to academics, will describe how our communities, workplaces, economies and planet benefit from diversity, using real-life examples to show how diverse systems interact to create a stronger whole.

Following the presentations, stay for an interactive, small group discussion that will further examine the ideas of diversity and sustainability.

Co-sponsors:

- Congregation M'Kor Shalom
- The Center for Environmental Transformation
- The Unitarian Universalist Church of Cherry Hill (UUCCH)
- UUCCH Social Justice Committee
- Soul of Camden
- South Jersey NOW--Alice Paul chapter

[Get more information](#)

Register Now!

Hope to see you there!

Sustainable Cherry Hill

Contact: lori.braunstein@sustainablecherryhill.org

609.238.3449

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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League of Women Voters of Camden County

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