



The VOTER

VOLUME 51 NUMBER 5

May 2012

Calendar (League activities in bold)

EVENT/ACTIVITY	DATE	DAY	TIME	LOCATION
Nonpartisan Municipal Elections for those towns that have them.	May 8	Tu	Check locally	Local election places
LWVNJ event featuring former governor Whitman	May 16	W	5:50-8:30 pm	Somerset NJ. Visit the LWVNJ web site (http://www.lwvnj.org/) for more information.
Primary election	June 5	Tu	6 am - 8 pm	Your local polling place
LWVCC board meeting	June 6	W	7 - 9 p.m.	Vogelson Library, Voorhees
LWVCC Annual Meeting	June 9	Sa	12 - 3 p.m.	Caffé Aldo Lamberti Restaurant in Cherry Hill. See flier in the Voter, page 5.

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Board Report

At its May 2, 2012 meeting, the LWVCC board:

1. Agreed to hold a silent auction at the Annual Meeting. Ed will coordinate it. We really need some good, interesting baskets: Household items didn't sell well last year. Wine does sell!
2. Looked ahead to the fall meeting -- maybe show an award-winning student video on women's rights.
3. Accepted Bobbie Porter's offer to chair the next meeting, recognizing that she may be away.
4. Heard the nominating committee report. Some important positions remain unfilled.
5. Ed agreed to draft an mixed email/phone contact tree. We will discuss this at the Annual Meeting.
6. Agreed to allow people to sign up for the Annual Meeting online, but with a limit of 30.

Board Message:



Dear League members:

Two of the LWVCC highlights of the month of April were the very successful "*Running and Winning*" event at Cherry Hill East High School and the program on Constitutional Law given by Falk Engel of Rutgers Law School. See the report on Falk Engel's talk on [page 4](#).

The LWV Annual meeting is at Aldo Lamberti Restaurant (as was last year's) on June 9. We are privileged to have as our speaker Chloe Cooney from Planned Parenthood. See the flier on [page 5](#).

All members! Remember to **vote** in the Primary Election!

We need moderators for Fall school Board Election Debates.

Sally Thorne
Board member,



*Running
&
Winning!*



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
 Voter Editor: Ed Gracely (856) 629-2869
 Voter Distributor: Barbara Sielaff
 2nd Vice President: Karen Avenick (856) 784-8977
 e-mail: lwvcc@hotmail.com

Voice Mail Line: (856) 795-7878

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.



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: Lamberti's: On route 70 E (from Pennsauken), the restaurant on your right is a little bit more than a mile east of the Cuthbert Boulevard, opposite the old racetrack, just before Haddonfield/Grove Street. If you come via 295 go west on 70, pass King's Highway, and Haddonfield/Grove Road and turn around in a few blocks to get to the restaurant going east.

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!

It's membership renewal time!

Renewal notices have gone out with the materials for the Annual Meeting.

Hey! The LWVCC does NOT send a lot of mails to you, and we rarely ask for money. In other words, our mails are generally not junk mail! Open our mail... Then renew.

Membership is power. We need you!!!

April Public Meeting -- Obamacare and the Constitution



About 20 people turned out to hear Falk Engel, JD discuss the history and constitutional issues facing the Supreme Court as it ponders the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (PPACA). Our audience included several from both the Camden and Burlington County Leagues, as well as interested non-members. It's always great to see a mix of attendees, not just our own CamCo people.

Falk started by noting that the term "Obamacare" implies that the PPACA is what the President wanted. In truth, the law is a significant modification, based on partisan pressure, from the more sweeping changes the President supported (notably including the "public option" that could have had wide implications).

As most League members know, other western democracies generally have comprehensive health care plans, and generally pay a smaller proportion of their gross domestic product for health care than does the US. Our system covers the poor (Medicaid) and the elderly (Medicare) but leaves many who don't fall into those categories without coverage.

The PPACA requires all adults to buy insurance (the main challenge-point), expands Medicaid (not a serious issue since the feds are paying for most of the expansion), extends the time young people can stay on parental plans, and eliminates pre-existing condition restrictions (although it does not explicitly limit what companies can charge to provide care for people with such conditions). The law does **not** include cost controls, tort reform, income-indexed insurance, or an option to buy into Medicare, all of which might have improved it (and some of which were initially proposed).

The biggest constitutional issue is that our constitution is not designed to give much power to the federal government. The so-called "Commerce clause" allows our government to regulate commerce between the states, and was probably included due to fears of interstate trade wars for which federal involvement would be necessary. Its interpretation has since been expanded to provide much broader powers. Perhaps the most important case affecting the modern interpretation was *Wickard v. Filburn* (1942) in which the court ruled that even the wheat a farmer grew on a private plot for his family's personal use was subject to federal regulation, because anything you buy, sell or make for yourself could affect the market (this farmer would not be buying from somebody else, say). After that, federal power to regulate commercial activities was largely unlimited by the courts.

But critics observe that in *Wickard v. Filburn* the government was not requiring Filburn to buy something from a commercial company. Thus there is no case law that directly compares to what the PPACA mandates. Some have argued that if the mandate to buy health insurance is upheld, there would be essentially no limits on federal power, and that the rest of the constitution would be dominated by it. Justice Kennedy (the likely swing vote who will determine the result) addressed this concern when he asked what the "limiting condition" on the Commerce Clause would be. In other words, what *wouldn't* it allow. The answer given was not very strong, which raises questions about the sustainability of the law.

Falk wasn't confident in any particular outcome, but he felt that the mandate would slightly more likely than not be rejected by the court. Then they need to decide what happens to other provisions of the law, some of which are critically tied to the mandate. The ruling will be in a few months. Stay tuned!



The League of Women Voters of Camden County

invites you to our

Annual Meeting!



Featuring

Chloe Cooney

Director of Global Advocacy

Planned Parenthood® Federation of America

June 9, 2012

12:00-3:00 p.m.

From Refusal to Fungibility: Global and Local
Battlegrounds for Reproductive Rights

Caffé Aldo Lamberti Restaurant

2011 Route 70 West

(Rte 70 and Haddonfield Rd)

Cherry Hill, NJ 08002

Luncheon: \$35.00

Silent Auction -- Good Fellowship -- **Join us!**

League of Women Voters of Camden County

www.lwvnj.org/camdencounty

856-795-7878 (Voicemail)

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Name: _____ email address: _____

Address: _____

Phone: (____) _____

Number of attendees: _____ Amount enclosed: \$ _____

Cost per attendee: \$35

Make check payable to: League of Women Voters of Camden County.

Mail to: LWVCC PO Box 245 Voorhees, NJ 08043

LWVNJ Forum on Human Trafficking

The LWVNJ Anti-Trafficking conference on April 21 was educational and informative. It's hard to condense a 3.5 hour session with several speakers (including a trafficking survivor) down into a page or so, but I'll hit the highlights (for me).



Dorchen Leidholdt (L) being introduced by LWVNJ board member Liz Santeramo.

Dorchen Leidholdt, Director of the Sanctuary for Families, noted that the Polaris Project (<http://www.polarisproject.org/>) combats human trafficking. Polaris runs the National Human Trafficking Hotline: 1-888-373-7888. Anyone with suspicions of human trafficking should call that number. [Note that other speakers suggested that New Jersey residents call our state's hotline -- 877-986-7534 instead. In either case, they investigate, but won't get anyone in trouble unless they find actual trafficking].

She noted that in this state the three most common types of sex trafficking are Latino residential brothels, pimp control, and massage parlors, with pimp control as the most important.

She gave an example: A girl is sexually abused as a child by her family. At age 10, a “nice man” approaches her while she is crying, and does something nice for her, thus building a bond from the start. The relationship soon progresses to fear and threats. She hears, “if you love me we need some money, let’s go to the gogo club”. If she says she doesn’t want to, he beats her till she submits. He controls her experiences and sets up an “Us” versus “them” environment. “We” are going to make money. He may engage in beatings at random to help keep her internal alarm system active all the time, so she will lose the ability to deal with predictors of threat.

But not all trafficked women are very young when caught up in it. Dorchen had examples of older, even professional, women who had been trafficked by pressure of debts or a boyfriend who forced her into it. The survivor, Danielle, who addressed us, is in something of that category, because she was 17 years old and a college student when her horror story started. She was invited to a party by some friends, but when she arrived they weren't there -- just a stranger who suggested she had the wrong day, but offered to take her to dinner. She agreed. Her story from there resembles the child described above... a period of bonding followed by beatings and forced prostitution, multiple times a day, with no money for her, plenty for him. She was arrested several times, but neither police nor the judge tried to help her. She didn't try to escape, because she was totally “controlled” psychologically by her pimp. She finally got away thanks to a lucky combination of circumstances, but even afterwards the pimp would come to her house in hopes of kidnapping her back. She dealt well with the trauma and is now married with kids, but she has been affected by the experiences in ways that won't go away.

One of our speakers, Jamé Bolds of FREE International, is a minister who works with trafficked women. He told a story (while we were gathered outside under a few trees during a fire alarm!) of a time he was

eating in a Mexican fast food place, noticing the skimpily-clad young girls, and the fact that some of the men were putting down \$50 for a few burritos. He realized something was going on, and began observing and probing, eventually figuring out that this was a front for a trafficking ring. And, yes, the young women serving him were trafficked women, who were not able to escape even though they were in full view, most likely because they were too afraid. Or they may have been foreign immigrants (possibly undocumented) who had no idea they could get help. I didn't catch the ending of the story.



Rev. Bolds' outdoors talk! He described how he recognized trafficking in a fast food place.

I don't think the experts would ask the public to investigate very closely. It could be dangerous! If you think you see possible trafficking, gather just enough information to justify your suspicions, then call one of the numbers above. They will investigate. Bear in mind that the process may be a long one. And actually rescuing women who are terrified to testify and perhaps of being deported can be very difficult. They may insist on staying with their abuser.

I recently saw an article about an approach in which government investigators gather the necessary information to prosecute traffickers *without* requiring any testimony by trafficked women. This is a much more effective, and promising, approach that I hope will be widely adopted.

For more information, take a look at the February 2012 Voter (also online) which has a copy of Liz Santeramo's blog post for the LWVNJ.

Donations: Thank you!

Bobbie & Joel Porter have donated \$100 in memory of Dee Stenton & for the recovery of Renee Robbins, Winne Rowell-Bullard, & Karen Avenick.

SCHOLARSHIPS: AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF UNIVERSITY WOMEN

The American Association of University Women (AAUW) advances equity for women and girls through advocacy, education, philanthropy and research.

The CAMDEN COUNTY BRANCH AAUW (CCAAUW) is currently awarding scholarships to residents of Camden and Burlington Counties. The scholarships are designated for students who have completed at least one year of post high school study and are currently enrolled in a post high school program. Primary consideration is given to students who have returned to school after a break in education. The number and amount of the scholarships will be based on proceeds from the CCAAUW summer book sale fundraiser. The scholarships will be awarded during October 2012. Applications are due by July 15.

Please refer to the CAMDEN COUNTY BRANCH AAUW website <http://www.ccaauw.org> for applications and additional information.

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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P. O. Box 245
Voorhees, NJ 08043