



The VOTER

VOLUME 51 NUMBER 6

June-July 2012

Calendar (League activities in bold)

EVENT/ACTIVITY	DATE	DAY	TIME	LOCATION
Voter registration	July 19	Th	10 a.m.	After the naturalization ceremony, 401 Market St., Camden. See board message (p 2).
LWVCC board and member meeting	Aug 8	W	7 - 9 p.m.	Bobbie Porter's House. Note change of location and date (second Wednesday).
LWVCC board meeting	Sept 5	W	7 - 9 p.m.	Probably Vogelson library
LWVCC Fall Kickoff	Sept 15	Sa	11 - 2 p.m.	Beneficial Bank, corner of Route 70 & Springdale Rd., Cherry Hill.
LWVNJ Fall Workshops	Sept 22	Sa	Morning to early afternoon	New Brunswick area. Generally a speaker-panel in the morning on a League topic, then training sessions (moderating, advocacy, and others) for the remaining time. All welcome (there is a charge)

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Board Report

At its June 6, 2012 meeting, the LWVCC board:

1. Accepted Bobbie Porter's offer to chair the August board meeting.
2. Changed the August board meeting to August 8.
3. Made some location and topic decisions about the fall Kickoff. We'd like to show a video on the 19th amendment made by a local school girl, maybe excerpts from our Running & Winning video.
4. Decided to call non-renewals in July.
5. Finalized plans for the Annual Meeting.
6. Discussed Running & Winning for 2013. Harriet has been making contacts at Highland High School in Gloucester Township.

League of Women Voters of Camden County

Board Message:



Dear League members:

The ever-shrinking Board needs and wants your input.

Please join us at our Summer Meeting on Wednesday, August 8, 2012, 6:30 PM at my home in Cherry Hill. If you'd like to join us, please call for directions (see below).

We will regroup and finalize our Fall Kickoff event.

Also, Voter Registration will take place one time this summer, on Thursday July 19. I will be calling the "Regulars". If you would like to participate in this very inspiring event, please call me at 856-429-1415.

Our Annual Meeting June 9th was delicious, fun, and informative.

See you on August 8th.

Bobbie Porter, Board Member

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.

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.*

Voorhees: Vogelson Regional Library: Driving south on 30, turn left onto Somerdale Road just above the Voorhees Town Center. 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. The library is on your right as you pass the mall.

Donations

The LWVCC gratefully acknowledges donations given with their membership renewal from the following:

- Dottie Dunfee
- Ed Gracely
- Donna and Jim Lawrence
- Bobbie and Joel Porter
- Barbara Sielaff
- Sally Thorne

Donna and Jim Lawrence also made a special donation in honor of Dee Stenton ("Dee embodied the values and strengths of our organization. Many of us joined the LWVCC because of her example, commitment, enthusiasm and her delightful personality.")

Joyce Kurzweil sponsored the speaker at our Annual Meeting.

Thanks to all of our donors!

New members

Welcome our new members (who joined at the Annual meeting):

Julia & Marisa Chang: Julia is a professor of writing and her daughter, Marisa, is a recent college grad with a degree in radio/television/theater. Marisa told me she encourages her friends to vote and can't figure out why they don't want to. Her mother is interested in political issues and advocacy. I'm sure both will find the League very congenial!

From the LWVUS

Money in Elections: What the LWV can do

OVERVIEW

We are all aware that the huge amount of special interest money, particularly in federal races, has been a problem for years. We also know that these problems have been magnified by the Supreme Court ruling in the *Citizens United v. Federal Election Commission* case which unleashed corporate spending for supposedly independent campaign expenditures and which has resulted in millions and millions of dollars in secret contributions. And we are also concerned that a great deal of this money is going into highly negative, and often misleading, election-related ads.

I'm writing today to tell you what LWVUS is doing in this area – and to identify some ways in which your League and members can get involved as well.

LWVUS ACTIVITIES UNDERWAY

1. We are continuing the fight to pass *the DISCLOSE Act*. This essential legislation will require financial disclosure for all campaign advertising. No longer will trade associations, corporations and wealthy individuals be able to make secret contributions to run election ads. Our volunteer national Lobby Corps is working both the Senate and the House on the bill, we made a statement to the Senate Rules Committee, and you can expect a series of up-to-the-minute action alerts.
2. With a *grant from the Unitarian Universalist Church of Shelter Rock, NY*, we will be joining with one or two state Leagues to purchase advertising to bring the reform message to the public. I spoke at an exciting event at the church recently and can report great enthusiasm for challenging secret money in politics.
3. As you know, the *Federal Elections Commission* is not enforcing current law on campaign finance, so we and our sister organizations have been pressing for big changes. As a start, we've called on the President to appoint five new commissioners to the agency. With the strong support of thousands of League members, our efforts on the petition to the President on the FEC reached its goal of 25,000 signers and we are anxiously awaiting his promised response.
4. A new League *Campaign Finance Task Force* is now up and running, which includes nine knowledgeable and committed League members from around the country. The Task Force will serve as a resource to the LWVUS Board and will provide information and input on campaign finance issues, including short- and long- term strategies for reform.
5. Senior staff is participating in an *Independent Sector working group*, whose focus is on developing a response for the non-profit community on the increasing use of existing and new 501c(4), social welfare organizations, to engage in electoral activities. The League is a member of Independent Sector, which is a national organization that speaks for the non-profit sector on a number of issues. One concern of the IS working group is that the valuable role played by social welfare organizations will be tainted by new groups that are being created under section 501c(4) of the tax code but whose purpose is primarily to funnel funds into electoral races.
6. The Board is *recommending to Convention a comprehensive program* to educate members and communities on the issue of campaign finance in order to inform our education and legislative efforts as needed.

LWVCC Annual Meeting Report



Guest speaker, Chloe Cooney from Planned Parenthood

Chloe emphasized that many of the women's rights issues we fight locally are also being fought worldwide. She also noted that US foreign policy has a big impact in the rest of the world -- for example, our government is one of the biggest funders of family planning services in the world. Providing dollars for international health is both humanitarian and in our interests, because diseases that develop elsewhere may come here!

President Obama has restored the UN Population Fund, increased the family planning budget and eliminated the global "gag rule" (which prevents an organization from using money it raises to perform abortions if it also gets US money).

We all enjoyed her informative talk. Thanks!

Silent Auction:

We brought in \$157 from the items that sold (which was most of them). Items that sold were:

- Wine with decorative bag
- League-items basket
- Wine and cheese set
- Summer afternoon basket
- Mexican chess set
- Wine basket
- Stuffed animals
- Beach tote

Thanks to all who brought and bought items!



Left to right:
Joyce Kurzweil (LWVCC Secretary)
Chloe Cooney (Planned Parenthood)
Barbara Sielaff (LWVCC Budget Chair)

See more pictures (some I took, others from Marcia Lugger's skillful photography) in my Picasaweb folder [here](#).

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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