



The VOTER

VOLUME 52 NUMBER 4

April 2013

Calendar (League activities in bold)

EVENT/ACTIVITY	DATE	DAY	TIME	LOCATION
Moderator Training	April 27	10-2	Haddon Township Library	All League members welcome, but please let Ed know you are interested. Edgracely@verizon.net
Voter registration	May 1	W	10 am	After the naturalization ceremony, 401 Market St., Camden. Contact the League at lwvcc@hotmail.com or call 856-795-7878 if you are interested in helping register.
LWVNJ - Gala for Hurricane Heroes!	May 3	F	6-8 pm	Westin Princeton. Sign up here (or visit the LWVNJ web site)
LWVNJ Convention	May 4	Sa	8 am - 5 pm	Conference Center at Mercer
LWVCC Board meeting	May 6	M	7-9 pm	Vogelson library - Voorhees. Note that board meetings are now on Mondays.
LWVCC Annual Meeting	May 18	Sa	12-3	Speaker on Voter Rights and Suppression. Sure to be interesting!

Voter Contents

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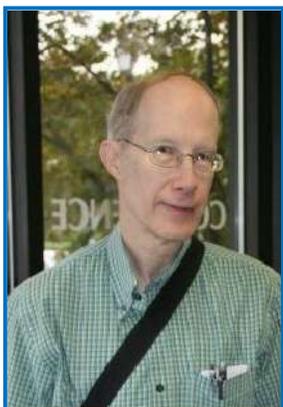
Board Report

At its April 1, 2013 Board meeting, the board:

1. Took copies of the Camden County Citizens Guides for distribution to a number of localities.
2. Discussed and finalized Annual Meeting plans
3. Discussed low turnout at spring membership meeting -- we'll try a Saturday for a future meeting.

League of Women Voters of Camden County

Board Message:



Dear League members:

I hope you are all planning to come to the **Annual Meeting** on May 18 to hear about voter rights and voter suppression from James E. Harris, President of the NAACP, NJ. Since voter suppression tactics often specifically target members of minority communities, he is uniquely placed to inform us about the issue in this state and more broadly. See flier [here](#).

One of the topics for discussion at the board meeting in April was the dismal turnout for the spring meeting. We had a good panel, an interesting and novel topic (ads in the schools), we made sure you all knew, but very few of you came. I heard from only two people about conflicts that precluded their attendance. **What would bring you out to a meeting?** One suggestion was to hold them on Saturdays, rather than weeknights. **Would meeting on a Saturday instead of a weeknight be decisive for you?** Please let me know. If not, what? Are there topics that interest you especially? Is topic the critical factor? E-mail me at edgracely@verizon.net. I'd love to hear your ideas and responses.

The LWVNJ has several cool events on coming up soon. One is a fund-raising gala to honor "Hurricane Heroes" from last fall -- state and local officials who did outstanding work to ensure that everyone was able to vote in spite of disruptions due to the storm. That's Friday evening May 3. I hope many of you will be able to sign up and come! The day after that (Saturday, May 4) is the biennial state Convention. While only a few individuals can attend as delegates, there are other ways to participate -- for example you could come to lunch and hear keynote speaker Myrna Perez on voting rights issues.

We are running a moderator training session on April 27 -- We can use several more trained moderators. Come, join us and learn a new skill! And soon we'll be sending membership renewal forms. Please return them promptly so we don't have to track you down. You know how valuable the League is!

Yours in League,

Ed Gracely
Board member

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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
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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.*

Haddon Township: Rohrer Library: Take 295 to Route 30 north. On 30, pass King's Highway. In about a mile after King's Highway, just after Nicholson Road on the left, you'll see Cuthbert Road on the right. Turn right onto Cuthbert from 30. Stay on Cuthbert for about half a mile. Just past Hopkins, turn right onto MacArthur. The library is at that corner. *(continued above right)*

Haddon Township Library continued: This is the same Cuthbert Road that becomes Cuthbert Blvd further north at routes 70 and 38, so you could take it south from there. MacArthur is about 0.8 miles south of Haddon Avenue on Cuthbert Blvd.

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.

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In memoriam: Esther Gray

Renée Robbins, a fellow 50-year member who knew her well, wrote:

Esther passed away on March 19 at the age of 97 . Several years ago she became a lifetime (50-year) member of the League. She represented us in the Delaware Valley Regional Planning Commission, an organization of states watching over the Delaware River from N.Y. to Delaware including Pa and New Jersey. She will be missed.



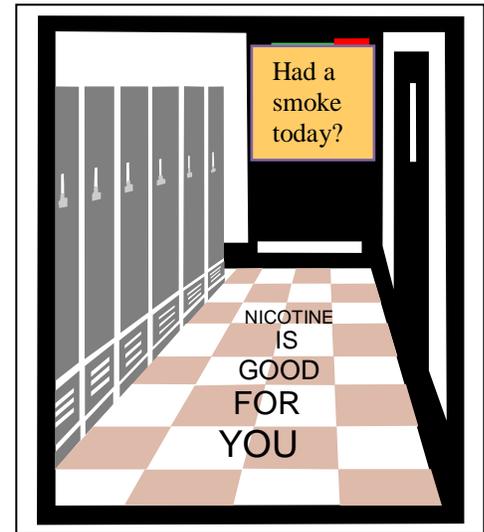
Anne Maiese (L) giving Esther her 50-year member plaque at our Kickoff in 2006 (7 years ago!)

Spring Meeting Report - Ads in schools/buses



March 27, 2013

Cherry Hill Public Library



Our panel was:

- Dr. Michael Etter -- President, Medford BOE
- Dr. Joseph J. DelRossi -- Medford Superintendent of Schools
- Mr. Seth Klukoff Cherry Hill BOE Member, former BOE President

No, the above ads are **not** on the table in either school district! But the issues around using ads in the schools are interesting and important nonetheless. Both school districts considered taking advantage of the new state law that allows selected use of advertisements to make money. Since Cherry Hill contracts for bus service, that idea wouldn't work for them. Medford has its own buses and decided to go for it.

Medford is being **very** careful. Only clean, responsible ads, ideally promoting a local business, will be used, and only in a small place on school buses. They were lucky enough as to have a popular local market to buy a set of ads, which has worked well.

Both attendees and panelists were very aware of the issues. Money is tight and ads can bring in much needed cash, but as one panelist noted, "You always hold your nose a little bit" when putting advertisements in front of school children in a public place. On the other hand, ads are already everywhere. Every computer has the name of the manufacturer on it, as do many other items.

The League has no specific position on the topic. We do want to see schools well-funded, but many of us as individuals would be very concerned if excessive or inappropriate advertising was imposed on impressionable children. Our speakers were aware of Channel 1, which provides free TV's to schools in return for being allowed to show the kids ads during selected periods (like homeroom). They were not interested in this service! Keep your eyes open -- your town may be next. Observe. See what they do.

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From the LWVUS[Back to contents](#)

President MacNamara on the Voting Rights Act

The lawyer's lounge in the Supreme Court building is a soothing shade of green with high ceilings, large windows and portraits of obscure associate justices from centuries past staring down from the walls. As a general rule, members of the Supreme Court bar who can't find a seat in the actual courtroom can listen to oral arguments from the comfort of a sofa or armchair ranged along the walls of the lounge. Yesterday, listening to the oral argument in [Shelby County, Alabama v. Holder](#), it was standing room only.

By eight o'clock in the morning, I was already too late to secure a place in the courtroom, but I did get a seat in the lounge. While it was often difficult to distinguish which justice was speaking, it was a treat to watch the reaction of the lawyers in the room, many of whom, obviously, had some stake in the outcome of this case. When Justice Scalia made his now famous comment that the Voting Rights Act is a perpetuation of racial entitlement, the lawyers lounge momentarily erupted in disapproval.

The lawyers arguing the case were peppered with tough questions. Whatever arguments they had prepared were never really delivered as they responded to the justices who often took to addressing each other. Popular wisdom casts Justice Anthony Kennedy as the swing vote in this case and from where I sat, it is impossible to read anything in to Justice Kennedy's questions other than that he is struggling with the issues in this case.

Emerging from the Court building after the arguments, it was reassuring to see the number of people gathered to support the VRA, including many area members of the League of Women Voters. Speaking for a small podium at the foot of the courthouse steps, many speakers made sure the Court was aware of the significance of this law. When Barbara Zia, president of the South Carolina League and I had a chance to offer the League's experience over just the past year, we got a warm response.

We won't know the Court's decision for some time and it is vital that we keep this issue in the public eye. Whatever differences the justices may have, every member of the Court, except Justice Scalia, agreed that the VRA was one of the most significant pieces of legislation in American history and that the progress we have achieved in making voting free, fair and accessible to every eligible voter is attributable to its provisions. To paraphrase Justice Bryer, racial discrimination is an old disease that has been treated successfully by the VRA but has certainly not been cured. Continuing to administer Section 5 until a cure is achieved is required by justice, history and evidence. When a cure is finally accomplished is not a matter for the Court but for Congress.

[Please join the League in supporting the Voting Rights Act by pledging to protect and defend our right to vote.](#)

[And come to our LWVCC Annual Meeting to learn more about the topic in New Jersey...Ed]

The League of Women Voters of Camden County

invites you to our

2013 Annual Meeting!

Featuring:

James E. Harris

President of the NAACP NJ

Voting rights and voter suppression

Saturday May 18, 2013

12 - 3 p.m.

Caffe Aldo Lamberti

2011 Route 70 West

(Rte 70 and Haddonfield Rd)

Cherry Hill, NJ 08002

Luncheon: \$35.00

Important topic -- Good Fellowship -- **Join us!**

League of Women Voters of Camden County

www.lwvnj.org/camdencounty

856-795-7878 (Voicemail)

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

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
 P. O. Box 245
 Voorhees, NJ 08043