



The VOTER

VOLUME 52 NUMBER 5

May 2013

Calendar (League activities in bold)

EVENT/ACTIVITY	DATE	DAY	TIME	LOCATION/INFO
LWVCC Board Meeting	June 3	M	7-9 pm	Haddon Township (Rohrer) Library.
Voter Registration	July 18	Th	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.

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Board Report

At its May 6, 2013 Board meeting, the board:

1. Began discussing the fall Kickoff -- possibly a speaker on a local history topic.
2. Finalized plans for the Annual meeting.
3. Heard about a very successful Running & Winning event: See pictures in the Voter [here](#).

League of Women Voters of Camden County

Board Message:



Dear League members:

Our annual meeting was May 18th. The words, "Educate, Advocate, Empower" were in bold print on the cover of the program. Our speaker, James E. Harris President of NAACP, NJ gave urgent new meaning to those words. His topic was "Voting Rights and Voter Suppression". His talk was an eye opener.

People are losing their ability to vote through a variety of tactics, many of them legal. States are limiting early voting, requiring forms of identification that are difficult to obtain, making polling places inconvenient, and making voters stand in line for hours.

In some places illegal tactics have been employed to discourage voting, such as fliers telling voters that democrats were to vote Monday and republicans on Tuesday, or a heavy police presence at the polls in areas where the police are often seen as a threat.

We became informed. If enough people were informed, enough people would advocate change, and they might be able to empower themselves and make things right.

There are many issues, many things, we want our government to do right

As the League of Woman Voters we want more disclosure on campaign financing, more voter participation, candidate forums, increased voter registration, and protection of land, air and water. We want to be involved with our local government.

We cannot change what we do not know. If we educate ourselves, we can advocate the changes to empower ourselves and encourage others to participate and influence our government in the pursuit of truth and justice.

Myrna Schlanger,
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
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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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Action!

Petition to support ban on fracking waste in NJ Action Needed -- LWVNJ

Fracking is a type of gas drilling that injects millions of gallons of hydraulic fluids - a mix of water, chemicals, and sand - into a well, fracturing the shale horizontally and allowing gas to flow to the surface. [Read the League's background paper on fracking here.](#)

Fracking waste is laden with toxic chemicals, including carcinogens and endocrine disruptors, toxic heavy metals from deep in the earth, radon, and brine. Processing and releasing it to the environment poses a serious risk to drinking water and is a threat to public health.

The NJ Senate and Assembly passed legislation (A575/S253) to ban the treatment, disposal, processing or discharge of fracking waste in NJ. However, Governor Christie vetoed this legislation. **We need YOUR help to override this veto.** [Please print out this petition and collect as many signatures as possible.](#)

Mail petitions to LWVNJ, 204 West State Street, Trenton, NJ 08608 by Wednesday, May 29.

Running and Winning 2013!



Breakfast



Running and Winning is now a technological affair



But they still make posters!



And campaign with them



As well as with their PowerPoint Slides



All under Harriet's watchful eye

From the LWVNJ

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The League of Women Voters of New Jersey 2013 Convention took place on Saturday May 4 at Mercer County College near Princeton. League Conventions are always interesting and inspiring, and this one was no exception. Our new one-day format is also fast-paced -- this is only the second time we've done Convention in one day (rather than 1.5 days). Attendees like being able to have one full day of the weekend free!

Some of the highlights were:

1. The opening **roll call of local Leagues**, in which a representative from each League presents a brief overview (30-seconds -- I told you this was fast paced!) of that League's achievements over the past 2 years. We heard about the usual League activities such voter registrations, observer corps, and moderating, but also special activities like Running & Winning (a popular program to encourage high school girls to consider running for office: Click [here](#) for a link to Camden County's R&W page), a film showing, a partnership with local police on pedestrian safety, condominium elections, scholarships to high school students, field trips, and even investigation of human trafficking sites. Local Leagues rock!
2. **Inspiring speakers** after lunch. We were privileged to hear from LWVUS President Elisabeth MacNamara, who encouraged our membership efforts by pointing out the successes Leagues have been having with the Membership and Leadership Development initiative. Steve Karnacki (MSNBC's "UP" show), described some of his experiences as a journalist. And our keynote speaker Myrna Perez (of the Brennan Center for Justice) emphasized the ongoing battles Leagues and their allies have been fighting to ensure voting rights and combat voter suppression in this country.
3. We also saw the amazing **Hurricane Heroes** video depicting the efforts of the League and its allies, along with state, county, and local officials to ensure that voters were able to get to the polls in spite of the devastation and power outages wrought by Hurricane Sandy. I'd offer a link to the video, but, alas, the League was only allowed to show it at Convention (and at the Gala the night before) until we can come up with cash to buy the full rights.
4. The **usual Convention business** went smoothly -- we passed a budget, elected a strong slate of officers and directors, made some bylaw changes (which I'll spare you), and so on. The dues ("per member payment") each local League pays for each its members remained the same -- things might have gotten hotter had the board proposed an increase!
5. And we **decided to do a study of Human Trafficking!** What's that you ask? Is there any possibility we wouldn't oppose this scourge? Of course not! We already have, on general principle. But a study could help us better direct effects against trafficking. What is needed? What works? What policies are productive or counterproductive? With this kind of information, we can lobby for specific measures, rather than general ones. League studies are always interesting. A study on a hot and important topic is even more so.
6. We also agreed to do an **update on our Charter Schools position.**

We got done on time and out of the building by 5!

The League of Women Voters of Camden County 2013 Annual Meeting!

Featuring:

James E. Harris

President of the [NAACP NJ](#) (Click to visit their web site)

Voting rights and voter suppression



James E Harris

If you weren't here - we missed you! Harris is a dynamic speaker who engaged the group with his examples and dialog. Myrna's board messages discusses some of his main points. The NAACP is very actively working to identify and reduce activities that may reduce the vote, whether legislatively or through deceptive or other means.

[Of course, the League works nationally on the same issues. We oppose restrictive voter ID requirements and have fought them in many states. Fortunately, we haven't had to fight them here in NJ as such. In at least one state the rules around registering voters have become so strict that the League has stopped registering voters. Sigh.]

He also noted that the NAACP was founded by a group of white and black leaders, and is still to this day open to individuals of all races, just as the LWV is not restricted to women. He would like to see the League and the NAACP working more closely together on topics of common interest.



Attendees



Small silent auction and many old directories (c/o Barbara Sielaff) on the main table and at our tables

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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Voorhees, NJ 08043