



The VOTER

VOLUME 53 NUMBER 1

January 2014

Calendar (League activities in bold)

| EVENT/ACTIVITY | DATE | DAY | TIME | LOCATION/INFO |
|-------------------------------|--------|-----|-------------|---|
| Happy New Year! | Jan 1 | Tu | All Day! | Your house (or wherever) |
| LWVCC Board Meeting | Jan 23 | Th | 7-8:45 pm | Special meeting. Harriet Snyder's house |
| LWVCC Board Meeting | Feb 3 | M | 7-9 pm | Haddon Township (Rohrer) library, Story Room. |
| LWVNJ Spring Workshops | Apr 26 | Sa | 9 am - 2 pm | Hold the date! |

Voter Contents

| | Page |
|-------------------------------------|------|
| | 1 -- |
| Board Report | |
| Board Message | 2 -- |
| Directions | 3 -- |
| From LWVNJ | 3 -- |
| Freeholder meetings | 3 -- |
| In Memoriam | 4 -- |
| LWVUS - Voter ID | 5 -- |
| Human Trafficking | 6 -- |

Board Report

At its Dec 4, 2013 meeting the members and board

1. Ate lots of good food (thanks to all!)
2. Worked on national and local program planning.
3. Got some volunteers to make calls for the LWVNJ Callathon.

League of Women Voters of Camden County

Board Message



[Back to contents](#)

Hi, everyone!

Welcome to 2014!

This Voter brings the sad news of the death of 2 long-time members, Ann Koopman and Joyce Alexander Walker. See page 4. Both will be missed.

The LWVNJ has now completed its study of human trafficking. Of course there was no doubt that the League would oppose trafficking in any form, but the new position includes a number of specifics that will enable us to lobby more effectively. For example, young victims of human trafficking are often prosecuted as criminals. Our new position explicitly challenges that by saying that we believe society should, "*provide protection for victims of human trafficking from being prosecuted for prostitution or other activities in which they are forced to engage*". Having specifics like that makes us more powerful opponents of trafficking. We will take our position to the LWVUS convention and see if it can be adopted there by concurrence. The LWVCC program planning meeting in December voted to recommend this position as a concurrence item. Take a look at the complete position on [page 6](#).

Both LWVUS and LWVNJ have slide shows of their activities for 2013 -- check out the links on [page 3](#).

Watch the Voter and the website for upcoming activities. Come out and join us!

Ed Gracely

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
Voter Editor: Ed Gracely (856) 629-2869

Voice Mail Line: (856) 795-7878

e-mail: lwvcc@hotmail.com

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!

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. // 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.

[Back to contents](#)

From the LWVNJ

Check out the picture slide show of LWVNJ's activities during 2013 on the LWVNJ home page, <http://www.lwvnj.org/>

The Hurricane Heroes video is also posted there (scroll down). That link may be taken down in a month or two -- so be sure to see it while you can!

The LWVUS also has a 2013 slideshow. Check it out!

<http://salsa.wiredforchange.com/dia/track.jsp?v=2&c=7vbQ%2F3WSH1ow%2BgHetFM7PxrQ5brGiN1b>

Freeholder Meetings

We encourage League members to observe Freeholder meetings when they are convenient for you. Just show up with a LWV button to let them know we are watching! Don't make any statements -- you aren't entitled to speak for the League (or even yourself after wearing a League button). You can ask a neutral/informative question, however. Meetings start at 7. It's good for Camden County!

Freeholder meetings for 2014 will be available on the Camden County web site fairly soon.

<http://www.camdencounty.com/your-government>

In Memoriam

[Back to contents](#)

We had two long-time members pass away in the past few months, Ann Koopman (past President and LWNJ Budget Director) and Joyce Walker (moderator and local community activist).

Ann Koopman (story posted on her Facebook page) of Broomall, PA, died Friday, December 20th from complications relating to pulmonary hypertension. Ann was a librarian and active member of both library and community organizations, and at the time of her death she was a member of the board of directors of the Special Libraries Association, an international organization for information professionals with more than 9000 members in 75 countries. She was also active in the League of Women Voters in New Jersey, receiving the Distinguished Service Award in 2007 for her work as budget director of the state organization and as president of the Camden County chapter. Prior to going on disability in 2012, she had been a librarian at the Scott Memorial Library at Thomas Jefferson University where she held a number of positions relating to electronic services and digital collections since her appointment in 1995.



Ann (left) at the 2007 LWNJ State convention. Renee Robbins (with 50-year award) and Anne Maiese (far right) spoke at Ann's memorial service 1-18-14. Ed (back) and several other LWVCC members attended.

Ann was a 1974 graduate of Lawrence University in Appleton, Wisconsin, and received a master's degree from the Graduate Library School at the University of Chicago in 1981. She worked as a science and engineering librarian at Indiana University – Purdue University at Indianapolis in the 1980s and early 1990s. While in Indianapolis, she was active in the Indiana League of Women Voters and was president of the Indiana Pro-Choice Action League.

She is survived by her husband, Eric Pumroy, and her two daughters, Rachel Pumroy and Ruth Anne Pumroy, and her son-in-law Adam Schaible. Memorial services will be held in January. The family requests that instead of sending flowers, that gifts be made in her honor to the Pulmonary Hypertension Association, to the Special Libraries Association, or to Save the Children.

=====

Joyce Alexander Walker was the first African American councilwoman in Cherry Hill, according to a story on Philly.com (http://articles.philly.com/2013-12-31/news/45710419_1_cherry-hill-township-council-susan-bass-levin-councilwoman#idS57OpS2BvIzGJo.01). The article notes that she served from 1997 till 2005, and her departure was because the Democratic Party refused to support her re-nomination (reasons for that are a matter of who you ask). She continued to be active in politics, and was elected to the Board of Fire Commissioners of Cherry Hill in 2011 and was board chair the year of her death. Last year, she served as a delegate to the Democratic National Convention. The article doesn't mention her League work, but she was active in the League, serving as a moderator and supporter.



Joyce speaking at the LWVCC Kickoff with Citizens Campaign 9-14- 2010

FROM the LWVUS

[Back to contents](#)

How Voter ID Laws Disproportionately Impact Women – And What We’re Doing About It

By: Renee Davidson 01/02/2014

Prior to the November elections, media attention began to focus on an often overlooked population impacted by voter suppression measures: women. Voting rights advocates raised grave concerns over new evidence regarding how photo voter ID laws – which are increasingly being rolled out across the country – restrict women’s access to the polls. This adds women to the long list of populations –including low-income, minority and elderly voters – that are disproportionately affected by voter photo ID laws.

Voter photo ID laws are particularly costly and burdensome for women in part because roughly 90 percent of women change their legal name upon marriage or divorce. According to the Brennan Center, 11 percent of eligible voters do not have a government-issued photo ID, and only 48 percent of voting-age women have a birth certificate that accurately reflects their current name.

The story of 78-year-old Alberta Currie offers just one example of the suppressive nature of photo ID laws. Currie, who is the great-granddaughter of a slave, was born in North Carolina by a midwife and lacks a birth certificate. As a result, she cannot obtain a voter photo ID, which North Carolina is seeking to require to vote as early as its 2014 midterm elections. For Currie, and the thousands of voters like her, the steps to update or acquire a voter photo ID are far from easy. The onerous process can require travelling to a local government office – a particularly difficult task for rural or disabled voters – and shelling out money for the necessary documentation, such as an original copy of a birth certificate or marriage verification documents. Even though government-issued voter photo IDs are meant to be free, the fees associated with acquiring them creates a heavy tax – particularly for women, a population that is already economically disadvantaged and overwhelmingly more likely to live in poverty than men.

Bubbling concerns over the effect of voter photo ID laws on women’s voting rights are largely a result of the push by states to implement voter photo ID requirements – a move closely related to the Supreme Court’s move to gut the Voting Rights Act this past June. Fortunately, Leagues across the country are taking action. Earlier this year, the League of Women Voters of North Carolina (LWVNC) filed suit to stop the state from enforcing its newly passed voter photo ID law. Called the most suppressive voting law in decades, the League, and Alberta Currie are among the suits plaintiffs. This past election cycle, League members across the country spent countless hours helping voters understand voting requirements and obtain the documentation they needed to cast their ballots. And Leagues advocates in Wisconsin and Pennsylvania remain dedicated to combating voter photo ID bills in court.

At the same time, a broad coalition – including voting rights advocates, women’s rights activists, legal scholars and civil rights experts – is speaking out against voter photo ID laws and their negative impacts on women, seniors, students and minorities. Advocates like President Bill Clinton and Representative John Lewis continually point out the many similarities between voter photo ID laws and America’s dark history of discriminatory Jim Crow laws. Luckily, some decision makers are seeing the light. Earlier this fall, a federal judge in Indiana made headlines when he said that he made a grave “mistake” in upholding a state voter photo ID law that could be used to prevent or discourage voting.

Long recognized as foe of discriminatory voter photo ID laws, the League is committed to working at the local, state and national levels to protect voting rights and equal access to the polls. We’re driven by stories like that of Alberta Currie ... For Currie and the thousands of voters like her – women and men alike – the League is dedicated to fighting suppressive voter photo ID measures and protecting the voting rights of all eligible voters.

LWVNJ Human Trafficking Study

The study is now complete and approved. Here is the full position:

Women and Family Issues *Statements of Positions and History*

Human Trafficking — 2013

The League of Women Voters of New Jersey opposes all forms of domestic and international human trafficking of adults and children, including sex trafficking and labor trafficking. We consider human trafficking to be a form of modern day slavery and believe that every measure should be taken and every effort should be made—through legislation and changes in public policy—to prevent human trafficking. Prosecution and penalization of traffickers and abusers should be established, and existing laws should be strictly enforced. Extensive essential services for victims should be applied where needed. Education and awareness programs on human trafficking should be established in our communities and in our schools.

Specifics of the position:

Prevention: *The League of Women Voters supports programs and services created to combat human trafficking, including but not limited to: public outreach and awareness programs; services for the homeless, throwaway youth (youth who have been asked, told, or forced to leave home by parents or caregivers with no alternate care arranged), runaways, and other populations at elevated risk for human trafficking; training for law enforcement personnel, prosecutors, and judges; training for medical professionals, adoption agencies, and school personnel; education on internet safety for young people, parents, guardians, and teachers; and public-private partnerships to combat human trafficking.*

We also believe that schools should incorporate age-appropriate information into their curriculum to educate students about human trafficking as a form of modern-day slavery and to provide them with strategies to protect themselves and others from becoming victims of human trafficking.

Prosecution: *The League of Women Voters supports all effective strategies to use laws, public policies, and the law enforcement system to combat human trafficking, including but not limited to: Update laws and public policies that have proven to be, or have the potential to become, successful in combating human trafficking; ensure that prosecuting human traffickers to the fullest extent of the law is a priority within our legal and law enforcement systems; and place convicted sex traffickers of children and adults on the National Sex Offender Registry list; enact laws at the appropriate legislative level to shut down businesses that engage in human trafficking; establish appropriate civil and criminal mechanisms for penalizing persons who knowingly buy services provided as a result of human trafficking; provide protection for victims of human trafficking from being prosecuted for prostitution or other activities in which they are forced to engage; and consider all minors engaged in such activities to be forced into participating in them.*

Protection: *The League of Women Voters believes that all victims of human trafficking should be offered support, counseling, and rehabilitative services as required, including but not limited to: emergency housing; medical services; legal aid; personal counseling and/or therapy; addiction recovery services; education; job training; protection from his/her traffickers before, during, and after prosecution; the ability to sue his/her traffickers for civil damages; and approved guardianship/protective custody for trafficked minors.*

We also believe that appropriate government or private agencies should provide relevant professionals with training to enable them to identify and assist victims of human trafficking. Professionals receiving this training

should include, but not be limited to: medical professionals and emergency room staff; legal professionals (lawyers, prosecutors, and law enforcement personnel); educators at all levels of education; and mental health professionals (counselors, therapists, and other personnel).

Gender Inequity in Human Trafficking: *The League of Women Voters believes that although both male and female adults and children are victims of human trafficking, the system of human trafficking includes a statistically and anecdotally significant component of gender-based exploitation and violence against women and girls. Accordingly, we believe that combating discrimination and violence against women and promoting gender equity are essential components of efforts to prevent human trafficking.*

Background

There is extensive evidence that victims of human trafficking suffer under what is a modern day form of slavery. We believe that the basic human right of personal freedom and autonomy is grossly violated by human trafficking.

Victims of sex trafficking are often literally or virtually imprisoned by traffickers and forced to work in the sex trade, where they have no control over their own bodies and are threatened both physically and psychologically with repercussions for themselves and their families. They are often subject to beatings, malnutrition, and forced drug addiction, and they are also placed at high risk of contracting HIV/AIDS and other sexually transmitted diseases.

Victims of labor trafficking are forced to work in domestic or industrial jobs or as agricultural laborers under conditions that violate their basic human rights. Economic exploitation of all victims is inherent in the human trafficking system.

Women and girls together account for about 75% of victims detected worldwide, according to the UN Office of Drugs and Crime (UNODC.)

Position History

Before our study on human trafficking was conducted in late 2013, the public policy positions of the LWVUS and the LWVNJ were not sufficient to allow the League to act comprehensively on the issue of human trafficking. LWVNJ has adopted a consensus position on this issue to allow it, as well as local Leagues throughout New Jersey, to advocate on behalf of the victims of human trafficking (modern-day slavery). It is our hope that action taken by League members on the local, state, and national level through concurrence, will make a difference in our society at large and in our communities throughout the country when it comes to abolishing human trafficking.

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



OTER

League of Women Voters of Camden County
P. O. Box 245
Voorhees, NJ 08043