



The VOTER

VOLUME 53 NUMBER 3

March 2014

Calendar (League activities in bold)

EVENT/ACTIVITY	DATE	DAY	TIME	LOCATION/INFO
LWVCC Board Meeting	April 7	M	7-9 pm	Voorhees/Vogelson Meeting Room B
LWVNJ Spring Workshops	Apr 26	Sa	9 am - 2 pm	Hold the date!
LWVCC Annual Meeting	May 3	Sa	12-3 pm	Hold the date!
LWVCC Board Meeting	May 5	M	7-9 pm	Voorhees/Vogelson Meeting Room B

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Board Report

The January, 2014 board meeting was cancelled by order of Mother Nature.

So was the February meeting!

And March! But we had a special meeting March at which we decided:

1. The Annual meeting will be Saturday May 3 at noon -- hold the date! We have several exciting ideas for a topic -- more to come!
2. We will continue the \$25 new member rate.
3. Ed will draft a budget, since we have no off board members willing to do it.
4. Ed will represent LWVCC at national convention.
5. The citizens Guides will be distributed similarly to previous years.

League of Women Voters of Camden County

Board Message



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Hi, everyone!

We finally had a board meeting. Yay! But even this one (the first since November) had to be rescheduled due to snow...

At the board meeting a board member mentioned that someone asked her what the League does, and she wasn't able to quickly come up with a good answer. I suggested that she needs an **elevator speech**. Imagine you are on an elevator going up a dozen floors, with maybe one or two stops. In that time you have to convey something about the League. What would you say? Ideal elevator speeches are a hook as well as informative, and you can target to the individual. Suppose you know the person in front of you is an environmentalist. You might say:

We're making the world a better place! You know we run forums and register voters. But did you know that a few years ago the Camden County League was a key player in promoting the County's open space preservation plan?

Suppose you didn't know anything about the person? Then you need a good general, but effective, elevator statement:

We're "making democracy work". You know we moderate debates and register voters. But did you know about our local "Running & Winning" program? High school girls interview elected officials and put on a mock campaign for office, to encourage them to run. The League also fights to protect voting rights, women's rights, civil liberties, a clean environment, and a lot more.

Make up your own speech and memorize it, so you can give it when somebody asks, "So you're a League member? What does the League do?" Go and get us some members!

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
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Follow us on Twitter: @LWVCCNJ

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.

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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 -- thank you!

Eloise Douglas -- in memory of Ann Koopman

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!

The **March meeting** is in Audubon on March 20 (Audubon High School 350 Edgewood Avenue)

The Freeholder meeting list is online at <http://www.camdencounty.com/government/freeholder-meetings/2014-freeholder-meetings>

FROM the LWVUS

Ohio is at it Again, Restricting Popular Voting Methods Ahead of a Major Election

EDITORIAL NOTE: This guest blog was written by Carrie Davis, executive director of the League of Women Voters of Ohio

Earlier this year, we helped LWVUS shine a spotlight on some dangerous bills that were working their way through the Ohio Legislature. Unfortunately, Ohio is at it again. In the last two weeks, **Ohio has enacted four major anti-voter changes to voting rules that will be in place for the general election this November**, including some of the provisions we highlighted before the legislature returned to session in January.

These anti-voter provisions include:

- **Eliminating the first week of early in-person and mail-in absentee voting.** Commonly known as “Golden Week,” the first week of early voting overlapped with the last week of voter registration and had offered a narrow window of same-day registration and voting.
- **A Secretary of State directive eliminating Sunday and weekday evening hours for early in-person voters.** Sunday and evening voting have been hugely popular, especially “Souls to the Polls” programs that shuttle voters to the polls after Sunday church services.
- **Imposing new restrictions on absentee voting, which could lead to voters not receiving their absentee ballot or ballots being rejected for simple paperwork mistakes.** Rejecting absentee applications and ballots for minor mistakes blatantly violates a section of the Civil Rights Act that says states cannot reject voting forms for immaterial errors or omissions. The bill also prohibits any government agency other than the Secretary of State from sending unsolicited absentee applications, going so far as to prohibit counties from automatically giving them to poll workers.
- **Unnecessarily complicating voting by provisional ballot, which could increase the number of provisional ballots cast by eligible voters being rejected.** The new provisional ballot form requires voters to provide additional information on provisional ballot forms, including checking two boxes; ballots will be rejected if the forms are not completed properly. Not only does this violate federal law by rejecting ballots for immaterial errors or omissions, it undermines the safety net provisional ballots are supposed to provide as a “last chance” for voters who, for whatever reason, cannot cast a regular ballot.

The League of Women Voters of Ohio and our coalition partners presented extensive testimony expressing our concerns with the proposed legislation and tried to work with legislators to craft amendments to fix problems with the bills. Regrettably, despite our efforts, many problems remain in the final bills and Ohio Governor John Kasich ignored our plea to veto these voting restrictions.

So what's next in Ohio? Read the plans to address the issue [here](#).

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LWVNJ**Some notes from President Toni Zimmer****PRESIDENT'S TOUR**

There were definitely some bright and festive moments during these chilly months. In December, Kerry and I made a tour stop at the LWV of Fair Lawn to attend their Holiday Meeting, where we were greeted by President Ilene Kahn and an enthusiastic and welcoming group of members and guests. It was a wonderful event, and we had a great time exchanging thoughts on issues that are important to the League. Then, I had the privilege of attending the LWV of Berkeley Heights, New Providence & Summit Holiday Party, hosted by President Marlene Sincaglia in her lovely home. I really enjoyed meeting the members and sampling the delicious holiday fare. We spent a good part of the evening having an informal discussion on different issues of interest. At the end of February, we were on the road again ~ this time to LWV of Ridgewood. Kerry, Jesse and I were greeted warmly by President Patty Infantino and a room full of smiling members and supporters who had just viewed our Hurricane Sandy documentary. We enjoyed a lively discussion on many topics, and had a chance to spend some time with Paul Aronsohn, the Mayor of Ridgewood and with Councilwoman Gwen Hauck. These tours are *so* amazing!

LEADERS NEEDED: DEADLINE APPROACHING

Would you like to make a lasting impact on the future of the League of Women Voters? Here's how:

Become a State Coach in the Membership and Leadership Development Program! State Coaches learn the practices that have helped many Leagues around the country attract and keep new members. Then they work with one or two local Leagues (not their own), to help them adapt these practices for their unique situations. **March 14th** is the deadline to submit an application.

The time commitment for coaches is limited to one conference call with the local MLD team each month, and a conference call with their National Coach each month. Neither call lasts longer than an hour.

Looking for more information on how MLD works? A webinar will be held on **Thursday, March 13 at 12 pm**. MLD 101 will focus primarily on membership recruitment and retention and the ways in which the MLD program can help Leagues integrate these fundamentals into all of their work. [Register here](#).

[More information](#) [Application](#) (listed under "Top News")

SPRING WORKSHOPS

The 2014 Spring Workshops will take place on Saturday, April 26th. We will confirm the exact place and time for you in a few days. In the meantime, there are several workshops planned, including a special local League Presidents Training.

You won't want to miss the main event of the day. A panel of experts will be invited to present a timely discussion on New Jersey open government and transparency issues, including the effectiveness of existing and pending legislation intended to ensure transparency. There will be a brief Q&A session between the panel and the audience following the presentation and discussion. Panelists will include Walter Luers, Chair of the New Jersey Foundation for Open Government (aka NJFOG), with others TBA shortly. So, mark your calendars for April 26th, and we'll let you know the location of the event within a few days, along with information on the full program and how to register.

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. **First time new annual membership** is only \$25! This also applies to student and household members (for an entirely new household membership).

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 _____

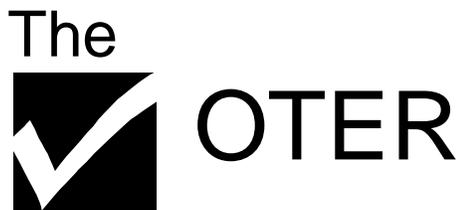
Name _____

e-mail: _____

Address _____

Phone: _____

(Please include area code)



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