



The VOTER

VOLUME 53 NUMBER 6

June-July 2014

Calendar (League activities in bold)

EVENT/ACTIVITY	DATE	DAY	TIME	LOCATION/INFO
Board and member meeting and Pot Luck	Aug 20	W	6 - 8:30 pm	Robbins' residence
Voter registration	Sept 18	Th	10 am	After the naturalization ceremony, U.S. Courthouse, 1 John F. Gerry Plaza, Fourth and Cooper Streets, Camden. Contact the League at lwvcc@hotmail.com or call 856-795-7878 if you are interested in helping register.
LWVCC Fall Kickoff	Sept 20	Sat	12-3	Topic and location TBA. But always good fellowship and food!
LWVCC Board meeting	Oct 6	M	7-9	TBA
LWVNJ Fall Workshops	Oct 11	Sa	9-2	Brookdale Community College, Lincroft, NJ . Youth-related theme

Voter Contents

	Page
1 --	Board Report →
2 --	Board Message
3 --	Directions
3 --	Freeholder meetings
4 --	LWVUS Convention
6 --	LWVCC board/program

Board Report

At the June 2, 2014 Board meeting, the board:

1. Discussed and made plans for the August board retreat and pot luck.
2. Worked on membership and fundraising.

The board does not meet in July.

League of Women Voters of Camden County

Board Message

[Back to contents](#)



Dear Fellow Members,

The Voter is a bit late -- it's been a long slow summer! But the fall will be heating up... we're making plans for the Kickoff, probably for September 20, even as the LWVNJ is preparing exciting fall workshops on Oct 11. Both are worthwhile, so please hold the dates! September 27 and 28 will be statewide voter registration weekend -- I'm sure we'll plan some activities around that weekend. If you're interested in helping register voters, send an email to our Hotmail address (lwvcc@hotmail.com), which I check almost every day, or leave a voice mail on our phone line ((856) 795-7878), which is also checked regularly -- the value of the League lies largely in participation -- join our activities!

Already I have two requests to moderate this fall. School board elections used to be mainly in the spring, but now they, along with other local elections, have almost all moved to the fall. We've been training moderators, to replace those who are moving away or no longer able to do the job. We can always use more moderators. If there is enough interest, we can have another training session. Let me know!

Hope to see you soon. Our August board meeting is a pot luck member and board meeting. We'll schmooze, eat, do a bit of League orientation, and hold a brief board meeting. We need to finalize plans for the Kickoff, which is fast approaching!

In League,

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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Visit our web site: <http://www.lwvnj.org/camdencounty>

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!

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](#)

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 **August meeting** is on the 21st at the Bud Duble Senior Center, 33 Cooper Folly Road in Atco (Winslow Township).

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

LWVUS Convention Report Ed Gracely

The LWVUS 2014 Convention took place in Dallas, Texas from June 6 through June 10, 2014. I represented the LWVCC.



The opening plenary was Saturday afternoon. We adopted rules of order, did other introductory business, then heard half of the “roll call of the states”, in which one representative from each state (usually the president) has one minute to brag about what their state League achieved in the past 2 years. Toni Zimmer (*picture left on the big screen*), President of LWV NJ, did a splendid job representing NJ. She talked about the Spring workshops, the documentary film (Hurricane Heroes), the presidents' tour, and a preview of the next NJ specialty license plate: "New Jersey - "Time for Some Traffic Problems in Fort Lee." The license plate is a joke, of course. People laughed at that, but also when she said that our forum was about restoring trust in NJ's government -- we're still wondering why they found that funny! Is NJ's reputation that bad???

Program discussions: Conventions focus heavily on program discussions, such as possible new studies, concurrences with state positions, and resolutions that direct the board to act in certain ways. Of particular interest to us from New Jersey was the fact that the NJ League's human trafficking consensus was a recommended item for approval by the LWVUS board.

In Sunday's plenary sessions we began the serious program work. Several Leagues wanted the convention to consider studies or concurrences that were not recommended for adoption by the national board. So the delegates had to agree just to talk about them, before we voted on them at a later session. A concurrence with the Kansas living wage position and a possible study of economic equality were approved for discussion later, but both later failed the vote to adopt. The living wage position got a lot of support but was kind of complicated, only focused on governments and businesses getting government assistance, and defined “living wage” in a manner that might be unattainable – it got a majority but needed 2/3, so the majority wasn't enough. A study on alternatives to partisan primaries failed even that first step, as did a restudy of agriculture to focus on some aspects many attendees felt were inadequately handled.

Our human trafficking concurrence was already recommended by the board, so it went directly to debate and vote. After discussion and fairly minimal concerns, it passed. Probably the only significant objection was that it called for LWVUS to promote the enforcement of all applicable laws, some of which may be draconian or inappropriate in specific states, That concern was not enough to sidetrack easy approval.

A broad-based, 3-part update/review/study of procedures for changing the constitution, campaign finance, and redistricting was recommended and approved. For parts of this, notably redistricting, it seems likely the result will be recommendations for a study or for actions by state Leagues, since the approved update does not allow major additions to our existing rather limited position.

Several resolutions that provided authoritative directions to the LWVUS were proposed – all 3 passed. Mostly they just ask the board to take certain things seriously (like getting the approved study of

governmental procedures up and running quickly) or to prioritize certain positions (in this case, felon disenfranchisement).

Board: The hottest item at convention was the contested race for president. Deirdre McNab, from Florida, made a spirited attempt to unseat incumbent president Elisabeth Macnamara. We had fliers, buttons, a candidates forum, and a secret ballot election. Somewhat surprisingly (to me) Deirdre lost by a rather large margin. I think she overstated her arguments. For example she asserted that the LWV has lost a lot of members in recent years, whereas part of that loss was a redefinition of some donors as just donors, not members. The actual member numbers have stabilized with the new Membership & Leadership Development Program. So her argument about the need to make big changes to improve member numbers seemed very good at first glance, but didn't stand up to scrutiny. She also has no national experience, which made many people uncomfortable. So, Elisabeth has another turn, and Deirdre can continue doing good things in Florida (her League recently won a major battle on redistricting. Click [here](#) for the story.)

As usual, there were other activities, such as the banquet and various speakers. I was tweeting throughout, as were several others. Many people don't use Twitter because it seems frivolous (following celebrities to find out their breakfast choices) but for following news, organizations, and specific meetings it can be very cool!

Convention is always interesting and worthwhile. Onward with League work!



LWVNJ board members at our wares table.



The NJ Banner!



The life-sized statues of longhorns (and cowboys) in Pioneer Square, a short walk from the convention hotel.

LWVCC Board and Local Program

In the May 2014 Voter I wrote about the Annual Meeting with particular reference to our speakers.

But, as you probably know, the Annual Meeting is also a business meeting at which we elect our board.

BOARD MEMBERS starting July 1, 2014. All are on the board in 2013-2014 as well.

OFFICERS

Name	Office/Portfolio	Term of Office
Harriet Snyder	Treasurer	7/1/14 – 6/30/16

DIRECTORS

Eight are elected (2-year terms), and up to eight may be appointed (1-year terms)

Name	Office/Portfolio	Term of Office
Stephne' Coney	Director	7/1/14 - 6/30/16
Joe Friedman	Director	7/1/14 - 6/30/16
Pearl Friedman	Director	7/1/14 - 6/30/16
Ed Gracely	Voter & Directory Editor. Webmaster.	7/1/14 - 6/30/16
Roberta Porter	Voter Registration	7/1/14 - 6/30/16
Myrna Schlanger	Director	7/1/13 - 6/30/15

OFF-BOARD POSITIONS

Name	Office/Portfolio	Term of Office
<i>Open</i>	Budget Committee Chair	7/1/14 - 6/30/15
<i>Open</i>	Nominating Committee Chair	7/1/14 - 6/30/15
<i>Open</i>	Nominating Committee off-board members	7/1/14 - 6/30/15
<i>Open</i>	Moderator coordinator - on or off board	7/1/14 - 6/30/15

You will notice some gaps. We are working without top leadership (President or Vice President) and we don't have any of the off-board positions filled either. These off-board positions are a great way to help the League without the full commitment of a board position (which actually need not be a huge commitment either, but it is all year whereas the off board positions are part of the year only). Please step up and volunteer!

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)

The



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 P. O. Box 245
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