



The VOTER

VOLUME 55 NUMBER 6

June-July 2015

Calendar (League activities in bold)

EVENT/ACTIVITY	DATE	DAY	TIME	LOCATION/INFO
Voter registration	July 8	W	10 am	After the naturalization ceremony, Camden. Contact the League at lwvcc@hotmail.com or call 856-795-7878 if you are interested in helping register. We carpool to the building.
LWVCC Board Meeting and Pot Luck	Aug 4	Tu	6-9 pm	Renee Robbins' house. Schmooze, observe a board meeting, and eat a nice pot luck dinner in a beautiful house in the woods! League members welcome. Let us know if you are coming -- meetings can be cancelled or moved.
LWVCC Kickoff	Sept 26	Sa	11-2 or so	Date tentative. Speaker on church/state issues.
LWVNJ Fall forums	Oct 10	Sa	9-2 or so	Good presentations, training and more!

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Board Report June 1, 2015

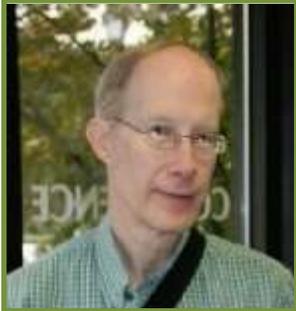
At its June 1 board meeting, the LWVCC board:

1. Agreed that Ed will run the August board meeting. We will ask Renee for an available date at her house.
2. Agreed to hold the Kickoff on either Sept 19 or 26th, and that we will try for the Beneficial Bank we've used before. We will invite a speaker from Americans United for Separation of Church and State. Myrna has the contact and will ask them.
3. Agreed to ask Signe Wilkinson to our Annual Meeting next year, since special meetings are poorly attended.
4. Asked Ed to send an initial renewal message by email, pointing out the wasted time and resources when we have to mail or call.

League of Women Voters of Camden County

Board Message

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Dear fellow League members and other readers:

Our Annual Meeting was a great success. Almost 30 members and guests filled the room at Sakura Spring, where we had a delicious family-style meal and heard an informative talk on issues in immigration law from our guest speaker Shereen Chen. I wrote up a brief report, which you can read on page 4. There are pictures on page 5!

I'm sure that, like me, you have been following recent Supreme Court decisions closely. I was especially concerned about the challenge to redistricting commissions based on the requirement that the legislature determine the manner of election (in the constitution). States that created their commissions by popular referendum (not including New Jersey) would have been most likely to have their commissions invalidated. But the court narrowly ruled that such procedures are OK. Whew!

The court also ruled in favor of Obamacare (allowing subsidies even in states that took advantage of federal plans, rather than creating their own). A win for the Obama administration.

We are planning our Kickoff, tentatively Sept 26 (lots of sites are refusing to reserve rooms more than a month or two in advance, which makes planning difficult, but it is very likely going to be late morning/early afternoon on the 26th). We have engaged a speaker on church/state issues, and will have a light brunch as usual. Please plan to join us!

Ed Gracely
For the Board

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.

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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.

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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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 list for the year is online at <http://www.camdencounty.com/your-government/public-information/2015-freeholder-meetings>

The July meeting is July 16 at 7 PM (Bellmawr Community Center, 29 Browning Road, Bellmawr)

Take a look -- see when they are near you and observe the meeting!

Annual Meeting Notes

Our annual meeting, at Sakura Spring in Cherry Hill, was well attended. The food was good, and less expensive than other places we have used. The setup worked well (after we dealt with some initial technical glitches!)



Our speaker, Shereen Chen of law firm Hyland Levin, is an expert on issues in immigration law. She discussed a variety of issues of concern.

Interestingly, she said that the common phrase "undocumented immigrants" is technically incorrect, since an "immigrant" is necessarily legal by definition. A better term is "undocumented individuals". But even she used the older terms, including "undocumented aliens" and "undocumented immigrants", which are fairly standard.

Some notes from her slide show.

- There were 11.2 million unauthorized immigrants in the U.S. in 2012, a total unchanged from 2009, and currently making up 3.5% of the nation's population.
- Mexicans make up about half of all unauthorized immigrants (52%), though their numbers have been declining in recent years. There were 5.9 million Mexican unauthorized immigrants living in the U.S. in 2012, down from 6.4 million in 2009, according to Pew Research Center estimates.
- Over the same time period, the number of unauthorized immigrants from Asia, the Caribbean, Central America and a grouping of countries in the Middle East, Africa and some other areas grew slightly. The numbers from south America and Europe/Canada did not change.
- Six states alone account for 60% of unauthorized immigrants—California, Texas, Florida, New York, New Jersey and Illinois. [Yes, NJ is one of the top 6!] 8% of our workforce in NJ is undocumented.
- In 2012 the Obama administration put in place certain conditions that would allow selected individuals to request "deferral" of deportation action against them for 2 years (with renewal) and the possibility of a work permit. This rule mainly applies to people who came to the US as children (DACA = Deferred Action for Child Arrivals). In 2014 the rules were expanded, for example to allow parents of US citizens and lawful residents to also request deferrals (DAPA = Deferred Action for Parents of Americans). The President took these actions in his executive role, since it appeared increasingly unlikely Congress would agree on a legislative solution to the situation of many undocumented individuals who arrived as children or care for legal residents.
- In February 2015, however, a federal judge temporarily halted all of these executive actions pursuant to review. The Obama administration argues it was within its legal rights and that the President has the authority to make these decisions. [As far as I can tell, this is still stalled in the courts. I cannot find an update that says what is actually happening... Ed]

League business:

Budget -- Approved.

Nominations Report -- Myrna Schlanger to a renewed 2-year term as board member. Approved.

Local Program Recommendations -- Approved.

Annual report -- presented.

Annual meeting pictures!



Guest Speaker, Shereen Chen



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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