



The VOTER

VOLUME 56 NUMBER 6

June-July 2016

Calendar (League activities in bold)

EVENT/ACTIVITY	DATE	DAY	TIME	LOCATION/INFO
Summer Board/Member planning meeting	Aug 8	M	6 p.m.	The Porter residence. Contact us for details. Members and interested nonmembers are welcome.
Voter registration	Sept 21	W	10 am	After the naturalization ceremony, on the Battleship NJ , 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 Fall Kickoff	Sept 24	Sa	Early pm	Vogelson Library room A (3 rd floor). Topic: Showing of the short video, "Selma - the Bridge to the Ballot". Plus updates on League activities and plans for the year.

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Board Report

At the June 13, 2016 board meeting, the board:

1. Planned membership renewal follow up.
2. Learned that Running & Winning has two new co-chairs for next year! Lynn Smith and Claudia Tucker-Keto have agreed to take over. Thanks to them.
3. Decided on Sept 24 for the Kickoff. Probably a viewing and discussion of the short video, "Selma: The Bridge to the Ballot".
4. Discussed dates for the August board/membership meeting.

League of Women Voters of Camden County

Board Message

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Hi, League members and friends!

Looks to be a hot July and early August. If you want to see the best guess for the week or so after the regular forecast, check out the 8-14 day forecast <http://www.cpc.ncep.noaa.gov/products/predictions/814day/> It shows probabilities of being in the top third or bottom third of seasonal average temperatures. This time of the year you want the temperature prediction to be blue. Unfortunately as I write this our area is on the red/orange side -- that doesn't mean "Cool and fall-like"!

Speaking of fall, our fall Kickoff is shaping up -- a short video ("Selma -- the Bridge to the Ballot", not to be confused with the full-length film "The Road to Selma"), discussion, and updates on League activities. Vogelson Library, Sept 24, at noon (room A -- third floor). Join us! We'll have snacks and a light luncheon. It's free! By then the weather should be more pleasant, with some colors in the leaves (watch the dogwoods, sumac, and poison ivy -- they turn early to draw the migrating birds with their berries).

I see we have proposed legislation in NJ to do automatic voter registration when you get a driver's license (drivers would be able to opt out). The legislature has passed the bill -- but the governor may veto it. The League supports this idea, and probably expanding it to other government agencies. Make registration easy! Read an article by LWVNJ Executive Director Jesse Burns, and one of our frequent collaborators, Myrna Perez, here: <http://www.northjersey.com/opinion/opinion-guest-writers/boost-n-j-voter-registration-through-motor-vehicle-offices-1.1633358>

LWVUS Convention was interesting and informative. See my report on the voting and discussions in an article below. We now accept 16 and 17 year olds, as well as noncitizens, as full voting members. Associate members will be those under 16.

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/2016-freeholder-meetings>

The August meeting is August 18 at 7PM (Merchantville Community Center, 212 Somerset Avenue, Merchantville). Then, September 15 at 7PM (Voorhees Town Center, 2400 Voorhees Town Center, Voorhees)

LWVUS Convention Blog Post (for LWVNJ)

Ed Gracely

The voting and decisions at this year's LWVUS convention were interesting and contentious. Since I like a good floor debate, done in League style (fair, time limited, polite), I enjoyed the process, except for a few unnecessary problems.

At the Friday afternoon plenary, a delegate tried to introduce a wording change to our position on equality as a non-recommended item, but it was quickly ruled out of order (non-recommended items are for studies and such -- you can't change an existing program directly in that manner). There were no other non-recommended items proposed.

We also took up the two-year emphasis on protecting the vote that LWVUS had recommended. This was adopted, as was the retention of all existing positions.

The redistricting concurrence (put together by a LWVUS team from existing state positions) created quite a bit of discussion and a group was actively opposing it. They said it was too specific. The proposed position says that it does not override existing state positions -- this is both good (because it allows states to keep their own) and bad (because allowing that could create confusion, and because it is unclear if states can create new positions). Opponents had several other objections, which they listed in a handout. No amendments were allowed. After considerable discussion, the new position passed, on a close card vote. Even the call to end debate required a card count vote! This new position is fairly good, in my view, and covers most of the content needed. However, it may not work perfectly in New Jersey so we will be assessing whether to use the national position or continue with our own study.

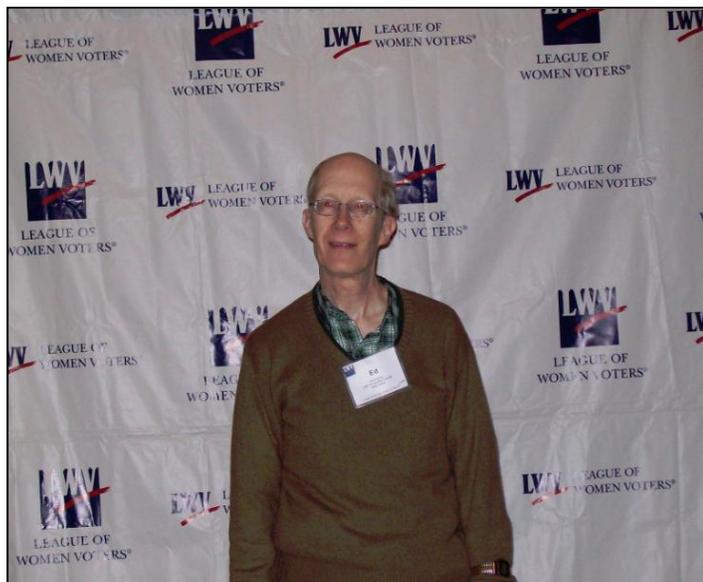
The concurrence on behavioral health got some discussion as well, although very few were actively opposed to it (mostly as being not something we should focus on now). It passed with only a few no votes. This concurrence (with the Colorado League) adds specific language that behavioral health (defined as including both mental illness and substance abuse) should be funded and handled in a manner that has parity with physical health. There is support for mental health services in the existing position, but this addition is a much more thorough and specific statement.

We had some extra time Saturday morning, which we planned to use for discussion of partisanship issues in this historic election. The president wisely decided to deal with bylaws first, because the change of membership to include noncitizens and then to change the minimum age generated a long discussion. Including noncitizens got some discussion, but passed pretty easily. The elimination of the lower age generated heavy discussion, and ultimately failed on a card count (clearly less than 2/3). But the president admitted soon after that she had made a mistake in not allowing certain kinds of amendments. Someone asked for reconsideration for that purpose, the delegates voted to allow it, and the amendment was proposed to strike 18 and add 16 years as a minimum age. Unfortunately, the amendment was not well thought out, because it inserted the 16 into the proposed amendment that struck out the minimum age altogether, which wouldn't have worked! The leadership went back and forth for several minutes struggling with the proper parliamentary method to fix it, but finally concluded that we all knew what the intent of the amendment was -- so they asked for unanimous consent to make the necessary changes. All agreed, then the vote was quite clearly in favor, so we now allow voting members as young as 16 who don't have to be citizens.

After several somewhat hot meetings to discuss the budget (with a lot of concern about finances) the actual discussion on the last day was rather tame -- no more comments from the floor and the budget along with the existing \$32 per member payment both passed easily.



I had a 15-20 minute walk from my hotel, across a bridge over the Potomac River, with a nice view!



The "Selfie" board, with yours truly. But I use a camera with a timer, so it's an old fashioned selfie!



Dawn Clarke summoning the troops!

Most of the New Jersey Delegation



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 _____

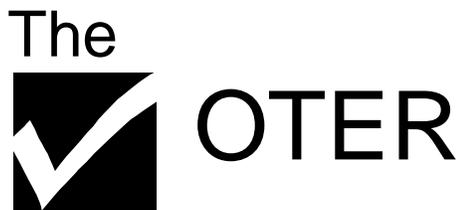
Name _____

e-mail: _____

Address _____

Phone: _____

(Please include area code)



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