

# The OTER

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VOLUME 46 NUMBER 7

August 2007

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## Calendar (League activities in bold)

### August 2007

- 1 W 7:00 p.m. **LWVCC Board Meeting**  
Vogelson Library, Voorhees NJ
- 14 Tu 6:00 p.m. County Freeholder Caucus  
16th floor, Camden Co. Courthouse, Camden
- 16 Th 7:00 p.m. County Freeholder Meeting  
Lindenwold Municipal Building, Courtroom

### September 2007

- 5 W 7:00 p.m. **LWVCC Board Meeting**  
Vogelson Library, Voorhees NJ
- 8 Sa 9:30-2:30 **LWVNJ Fall Workshops**  
Rutgers, Piscataway
- 20 Th 7:00 p.m. **Gwen Ifill Talk**  
What's really going on in Washington?  
Busch Campus, Rutgers. See page 4.
- 25 Tu 6:00 p.m. County Freeholder Caucus  
16th floor, Camden Co. Courthouse, Camden

- 27 Th 7:00 p.m. County Freeholder Meeting  
Cherry Hill Municipal Building

### At its June 6 meeting the LWVCC board:

1. Enjoyed a pot luck dinner!
2. Added a member to the membership committee (chair still needed).
3. Considered Sandy Matsen (LWVNJ volunteer lobbyist and advocacy expert) as possible speaker at the fall kickoff.

**It's time to renew your membership!**

Renewal notices have gone out. Please renew promptly. We need you and we value you, whether you are active, or you just like reading the *Voter*! The lifeblood of the League is its membership. Thanks to all who renew early... Tell your friends about the League! We'd love to have your neighbours join too. And your spouse!

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THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF CAMDEN COUNTY

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**PRESIDENT’S MESSAGE:**



I hope your summer has been a good one. We had our first meeting of the fiscal New Year and have put together some very substantive programs for the fall. Much of our focus and planning will be on voter registration. Even though the presidential election is a year away, the campaign for both the democrats and the republicans has been filled with debates that are interesting and, for a change, informative. I believe this is because the people have been given the opportunity to ask questions through “You Tube” and other venues that have not been present before. I think the Internet is going to change the way we look at and vote for our candidates and not just along party lines.

"every effort should be made to register as many voters as possible before the election. The League of Women Voters of Camden County intends to reach out and register voters in the housing authorities, active senior communities, as well as malls and grocery stores. We are asking all League members to participate."

Without special interest groups crafting the debates, the American people now have an opportunity to have a closer look at the candidates based on issues and not on special interests. For example the debate at Delaware State required the candidates to address issues that were important to the community, which had little to do with special interest needs. For that reason every effort should be made to register as many voters as possible before the election. The League of Women Voters of Camden County intends to reach out and register voters in the housing authorities, active senior communities, as well as malls and grocery stores. We are asking all League members to participate. A schedule of registration venues will be posted in the next voter. Call our League line to sign up to volunteer for those venues. Your participation is important and needed.

Ann Saunders,

President

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**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                      Voice Mail Line:                      (856) 795-7878**

**President: Ann Saunders                      (856) 232-1041                      Voter Editor: Ed Gracely                      (856) 629-2869**  
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**2nd Vice President: Phyllis Black                      (856-428-1247)**

**Web site: <http://www.lwvnj.org/camdencounty>                      e-mail: [lwvcc@hotmail.com](mailto:lwvcc@hotmail.com)**

***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!

**Camden County Courthouse:** Take 676 north to Mickle Blvd. Flow right at the fork (don't go on Campbell Place), then turn right onto 5th street in a few blocks. The courthouse is at 5th and Federal, a block up from Mickle.

**Camden, Federal Courthouse:** 4th and Cooper, but we generally car pool. Call 856-795-7878 if you're interested. *About 3-4 blocks from the City Hall PATCO station.*

**Cherry Hill Municipal Building** Take 70 west, for about 1.3 miles past King's Highway. Look for Mercer Road on your right, just before Haddonfield Road. The building is about a half mile after that turn.

**Lindenwold Municipal Building,** 2001 Egg Harbor Road. Take 295 to 561 south (Berlin Road). Stay on it for about 4 miles, just past Centennial Boulevard in Gibbsboro. Turn Right onto United States Ave for about 1.8 miles. Turn right onto Egg Harbor Road. The municipal building is about 0.2 miles down the road.

**Voorhees: Vogelson Regional Library:** Driving south on 30, turn left onto Somerdale Road, just above the Echelon Mall. Go under the train bridge in about a half mile, then turn right onto Burnt Mill. Soon turn left onto Laurel Road. The library is on your right. Burnt Mill Road also crosses 544 (Evesham Road) north of the library and White Horse Road (an extension of Springdale) south of it. If you know where the Echelon Mall is, you're home!

### Internet - Who, me??

(Borrowed from the MAL Corner in the NJ Voter)

Some League members who don't own a computer may be discouraged by the amount of activity that takes place online nowadays. So, what do you do when you keep seeing notices about those wonderful "lists" you can join (like the LWVNJ e-Voter list) and wonderful web sites full of information, none of which you can access?

Well, nowadays you don't need your own computer to use any of this! The secret is that libraries usually have Internet access for their patrons. And once you have Internet access, you can do e-mail as well. Most libraries also offer classes for beginners. Try it!

So, how can you get e-mail without paying for it? Simple -- several companies offer free e-mail accounts (paid for with all the ads you'll have to put up with, of course). Hotmail (from Microsoft), and Yahoo mail are probably the most popular, but there are others as well.

To create a free e-mail account, you go to the web site and click on the "e-mail" button, then follow instructions. Usually the hardest part is coming up with a name nobody else has picked, so if your name is Mary Jones, you may need to be MaryJones3000! Or use your cat's name (FuzzEater@Yahoo.com). You'll also need a password. The best way to make those is to use the first letters of a recent event not widely known. So your password might be Ccm.Imy! (Catbird chased mockingbird. In my yard!)

## Notes from the LWVUS



### League Celebrates Defeat of Discriminatory Voter ID Amendment

This week, the League [applauded the defeat](#) of an amendment offered by Senator Mitch McConnell (R KY) that would require every voter in the 2008 election to provide government-issued, current and valid photo identification before being allowed to vote at a polling place. This amendment would disenfranchise large numbers of legal voters and create administrative problems at the polls in the next federal election. Mary Wilson recently spoke about this issue on Pacifica Radio in New York City. If the highlighted link doesn't work, use this URL:

<http://www.lwv.org/AM/Template.cfm?Template=/CM/ContentDisplay.cfm&ContentID=8746>

Read the [League letter sent to Senators](#) urging them to oppose the amendment. If the highlighted link doesn't work, copy this URL:

<http://www.lwv.org/AM/Template.cfm?Template=/CM/ContentDisplay.cfm&ContentID=8734>

## From the LWFNJ

The following was in LWFNJ President Maiese's President's Message in the August State Board Report:

**We have multiple opportunities to educate ourselves about issues this fall:** On Saturday, September 8<sup>th</sup>, at our [Fall Workshops](#), we'll be able to hear experts on "Voting Rights of Those in Conflict with the Law," (a LWFNJ study topic) and "Global Climate Change" (one of our LWVUS priority issues). Then we can choose between sessions on advocacy, voters service and advice for presidents and membership chairs. [The LWVCC will probably carpool, so let us know if you're interested in attending. \$25 for registrations by 8-25-07].

At the [Immigration Forum](#) on Saturday, October 20, at the Livingston Campus, we can prepare for our local League's consensus process in January. Deborah Macmillan, our past president and a member of the LWVUS Immigration Study Committee, is inviting a panel of experts to offer various views on this complex issue. More details will be forthcoming—save the date!

[ANJEC's 34<sup>th</sup> Annual Environmental Congress](#), Friday, October 12, at the Conference Center at West Windsor, will offer suggestions on ways communities can reduce production of greenhouse gases and prepare for changes in climate. Since LWFNJ is a co-sponsor, you can attend for \$50 instead of \$60. For additional information and a registration form, go to <http://www.anjec.org/html/workshops.htm#congress>.

We are also a co-sponsor of a free [speech by Gwen Ifill](#), Thursday, September 20, 7 p.m. at the Busch Campus Center. Her topic: "Politics, Policy and Reality: What's Really Going on in Washington." For more information: <http://www.cawp.rutgers.edu/Programs/Lipman.html>

## 2007 Annual Meeting of the LWVCC



Chad Tolman, expert on global warming, addressed the League as our keynote speaker.



League members Anne Maiese (left) and Helen Ewan (right) recognized for their years of service by President Saunders (center). Anne is leaving the board, but still serving the League as LWVNJ president. Helen is stepping down from her long-time role as secretary



Renée Robbins, former board member, with her recognition award. Renée continues to serve the League through her work on behalf of *Running & Winning*, as well as by hosting the June pot luck board dinner.

### It's Time to Stop Global Warming Chad Tolman

Our speaker, Chad Tolman, gave an interesting and informative talk on this topic, long of interest to League members. He pointed out the rising temperatures over the past century, as well as some of the potential outcomes: more powerful hurricanes, property losses due to rising sea levels, extinction of species, loss of water resources in areas dependent on glacier melt, etc...

His greatest concern was that if we allow the process to go too far, it may become very difficult to reverse. As ice melts, darker surfaces are exposed to absorb still more heat. Stored organic material decomposes faster. Water evaporates, adding to the retention of heat etc. A vicious cycle is possible. We have to stop the process now. The LWVUS agrees and is strongly supporting efforts to end global warming.

Fortunately, through technology, alternate energy (like wind power) conservation, and responsible use, we can cut greenhouse gasses. He argued that a 2% reduction per year was attainable. There are many challenges to attaining this, but it can be done if we have the will. See global warming resources on the next page.

## Resources on Global Warming

### WEB RESOURCES

Paul R. Epstein, **Climate Change and Human Health**, *The New England Journal of Medicine*, 353, October 6, 2005. (4 pp) On the web at:

<http://chge.med.harvard.edu/publications/journals/documents/nejm.pdf>

S. Pacala and R. Socolow, **Stabilization Wedges: Solving the Climate Problem for the Next 50 Years with Current Technologies**, *Science*, 305, 13 August 2004. (5 pp) At:

[http://fire.pppl.gov/energy\\_socolow\\_081304.pdf](http://fire.pppl.gov/energy_socolow_081304.pdf)

Sierra Club 2006 ENERGY RESOURCES POLICY. (17 pp) At:

<http://www.sierraclub.org/policy/conservation/energy.asp>

*Africa – Up in Smoke?*, by the Working Group on Climate Change and Development, details the already damaging effects of climate change on the poorest continent. See:

<http://www.iied.org/pubs/display.php?o=9560IIED>.

*The Economics of Climate Change* by Nicholas Stern, a leading British economist, predicts devastating effects on the world economy unless we rapidly reduce greenhouse gas emissions, with the poorest nations hit hardest. A 27-page executive summary can be found at:

[http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/shared/bsp/hi/pdfs/30\\_10\\_06\\_exec\\_sum.pdf](http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/shared/bsp/hi/pdfs/30_10_06_exec_sum.pdf).

### BOOKS

*Field Notes from a Catastrophe: Man, Nature, and Climate Change*

by Elizabeth Kolbert, Bloomsbury, 2006, 210 pp.

*The Weather Makers: How Man Is Changing the Climate and What It Means for Life on Earth*

by Tim Flannery Atlantic Monthly Press, 2005, 357 pp.

*An Inconvenient Truth: The Planetary Emergency of Global Warming and What We Can Do About It* by Al Gore

Melcher Media/Rodale, 2006, 325 pp.

*PLAN B 2.0: Rescuing a Planet Under Stress and a Civilization in Trouble*, by Lester R. Brown, Earth Policy Instit

W.W. Norton and Company, New York, 2006, 365 pp.

The first three of these excellent books on global warming and the threat it poses were reviewed by Dr. James Hansen, the chief climate scientist at NASA, at: <http://www.nybooks.com/articles/19131>.

### LWVUS NATURAL RESOURCES LIST

To subscribe, type in the "To" section of an e-mail: [subscribe-lwv-naturalresources@lists.lwv.org](mailto:subscribe-lwv-naturalresources@lists.lwv.org).

## LWVNJ CONVENTION 2007 REPORT

**Elections:** There were no nominations from the floor, so the slate, as presented by the Nominating Committee, was approved by acclaim. Note that two Camden County League members are on the state board: Anne Maiese is now President. Ed Gracely, who was LWVNJ Secretary/Treasurer, has retained his role as Secretary but is no longer Treasurer.

**Program:** Convention delegates agreed to:

- Retain all of the existing program positions of the LWVNJ.
- Undertake a **study on dual office holding**. We will try to have preliminary results, at least, accepted by the November election, so we can participate in the discussions likely to begin after that time. Be prepared for a rapidly-moving consensus!
- Undertake a **review and consideration of all Fiscal Policy positions**. This will not be a new position, but a reorganization of existing positions, as was done for the Natural Resources positions recently.
- Add wording to the Private/School Choice position to include "tax credits or other fiscal incentives or equivalent financial instruments" as among the mechanisms for supporting students attending non-public schools that we oppose.
- Undertake a **study of voting rights for those in prison**, or on probation, and/or parole. This item was not among those recommended by the board, but was supported by a 2/3 majority.

### **Budget and Per-Member-Payment:**

Delegates approved the budget as presented, including the requested \$5 increase in per-member-payments. PMP to the LWVNJ will now be \$23 for each member and \$11.50 for each additional household member.

Delegates also approved an increase of member-at-large dues to \$60.

**Bylaws changes:** Several bylaws changes were made at the request of the LWVUS. Most interestingly, the League's goal has been broadened. We now explicitly want to encourage "participation in government" without saying "of citizens". We've always done this, but now the bylaws say so!

**Honorary Life Members:** (Having maintained membership for 50 years or more): 63 in all! Renee Robbins of our League was one of them! Congratulations to Renee. Now shoot for the 100-year award!

**Distinguished Service Award:** (Selected by the board from nominations made by local Leagues)

Our own Ann Koopman, long-time LWVNJ budget director, local League leader, and state and local League webmaster, won this award, the highest given by the LWVNJ. Congratulations to Ann!

**Convention 2007 speakers:** The League was very lucky that two fine speakers both agreed to address us:

U.S. Senator Robert Menendez

U.S. Attorney Christopher Christie