



The

VOTER

VOLUME 47 NUMBER 5

May 2008

Calendar (League activities in bold)

DATE	DAY	TIME	LOCATION	DETAILS
June 4	W	6 p.m.	Renée Robbins' house	Potluck LWVCC Board dinner
June 17	Tu	6 p.m.	16th floor, Courthouse	Freeholder caucus meeting
June 19	Th	7 p.m.	Berlin Township School	Freeholder public meeting
July 15	Tu	6 p.m.	16th floor, Courthouse	Freeholder caucus meeting
July 17	Th	7 p.m.	Lindenwold HS Cafeteria	Freeholder public meeting
Aug 13	W	7 p.m.	Vogelson Library	LWVCC Board meeting
Aug 19	Tu	6 p.m.	16th floor, Courthouse	Freeholder caucus meeting
Aug 21	Th	7 p.m.	Barrington Borough Hall	Freeholder public meeting

At its May 14 meeting, the LWVCC board:

1. Made plans for *next* year's Annual meeting.
2. Agreed to work with Upward Bound on creating a civics education program.
3. Created a committee to work with PSE&G on voter registration at their Camden site this summer.
4. Completed planning for the Annual Meeting this year, May 17.

Spread the Word -- NJ 2-1-1

"Our intention is to make sure that every New Jersey resident thinks to dial 2-1-1 or access information through www.nj211.org when they need help and don't know where to turn. That is why we have taken to the airways in select Shop Rite, Pathmark and Wal-Mart stores throughout the state. For the next two months, when residents are waiting in the check-out line, we hope they'll hear the 30 second Public Service Announcement that portrays different everyday concerns and ends with a line to remember: - "2-1-1 - When you need help. Start Here."

THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF CAMDEN COUNTY



President's Message:

I would like to thank everyone who turned out for the annual meeting luncheon and participated in the silent auction. I would like to extend a special welcome to our newly elected board members and look forward to working with you in the next fiscal year. We will close out this fiscal year with a potluck dinner meeting in which we will start to plan the League activities for the coming year.

I will be attending the League Convention in Portland Oregon that is scheduled to be held June 13th thru June 17th. This year's convention theme "Reaching New Heights Together" seems to be very appropriate in today's political climate. One of the proposed program items, which is of primary concern for many of us for 2008-2010, is The LWVUS recommended Health Care Program which is to educate members and communities in order to be better prepared to do health care advocacy. The LWVUS is also proposing a 4.5 percent increase in the PMP increase to the local Leagues which represents a \$1.20 This increase is a cost of living increase based upon assessment of the current projections of income the next fiscal year and the planned level of activity for the next two years. If approved this will necessitate an increase in the dues to local members to offset this cost.

At first I had some strong reservations regarding another PMP increase, however the leadership has demonstrated a strong commitment to its local Leagues by developing tools that have increased outreach and the electronic tools that are currently in place have created a dialogue and exchange of ideas with other local Leagues that has proved quite productive. KUDOS to the national League for considering the communication needs of the local Leagues by making the tools available to us all.

As the League year draws to a close, I wish to thank the board for the time and effort that has been put into making this a very successful year for the LWVCC.

Ann Saunders, President

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
1st Vice President: Lisa Castellani (609) 239-4947 Voter Distributor: Barbara Sielaff
2nd Vice President: Phyllis Black (856) 428-1247

e-mail: lwvcc@hotmail.com



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

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.*

Lindenwold High School: 801 Egg Harbor Rd. Take Route 30 (WHP) south past the Echelon Mall area to Gibbsboro Road. Turn left at that intersection (with traffic light). In a bit less than a mile, cross Egg Harbor Road and see the school on your right.

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!

Citizens Campaign Meeting - Cherry Hill

Camden County Co-Chairs of the Citizen's Campaign, Bob Shinn and Joyce Alexander Walker will speak to the Breakfast Group at Trinity Presbyterian Church, 499 Route 70 East (Barclay), Cherry Hill NJ on Tuesday May 20th at 10:00 AM. All are welcome!

The speakers will provide information about the Citizen's Campaign. The Citizen's Campaign started by The Center for Civic Responsibility is a non-partisan, tax-exempt 501(c)3 public charity based in

Metuchen, New Jersey. Its mission is to build civic community and restore citizen control and public responsibility for our democracy by providing citizens with the educational and legal tools to exercise their power in local, state and national decision-making.

The Speakers will also provide information about the Cherry Hill Reform Committee and their initiative and referendum efforts to enact three (3) model Ordinances to promote good government. The Cherry Reform Committee was responsible for the Pay-to-Play Ordinance in enacted in Cherry Hill in 2008.

The presentation will take place in the rear building of the church. There's plenty of parking. Coffee and donuts will be served. Please come out and hear about this community effort.

Some LWVNJ Positions of Interest

The Board of Directors of LWVNJ has voted to support the **Smart Container Act** and has written its sponsor, Assemblywoman Valerie Vainieri Huttel, in support. We encourage local Leagues and members to write their assembly representatives in support also.

The bill would impose a deposit on containers for juice, sports drinks, bottled waters, soda, wine and beer. The distributor would pay the initial deposit on each full beverage container to be sold in New Jersey to the State Treasurer on a quarterly basis. The retailer would collect the deposit from the consumer when the beverage is sold and reimburse the distributor.

The board also voted to support A.1095 and S.1646, which would **decrease the fees set for copies of government records** under the open public records act (OPRA). This legislation is on the priority list of the New Jersey Foundation for Open Government (NJFOG), of which LWVNJ is a member. The coalition is committed to protecting and expanding public access to government records and meetings while respecting the legitimate privacy rights of individuals in New Jersey. (www.njfog.org).

LWVCC Annual Meeting 5-17-08



Twenty seven members of the LWVCC came... To bid in our silent auction; to vote on our officers and directors; to approve our local program; and to learn about state League advocacy efforts from LWNJ President Anne Maiese. We gathered at the Catelli Ristorante in the Main Street Complex in Voorhees for a luncheon feast and our Annual Meeting. A glass-enclosed, sunny room, good company, good food, and good discussion. If you weren't there, you missed a great meeting!



The silent auction went very well, bringing in nearly \$300 (including \$25 each for two large paintings bought by a single art-lover!). We elected a slate of officers and directors, and approved the budget and local

program, the latter to include a study of pay-to-play issues in Camden County. Watch for opportunities to get involved in the study, which is sure to be interesting.



Some items for silent auction

Anne Maiese's talk

Anne updated us on several topics of interest to League members. One was public financing of campaigns. Sandy Matsen, LWNJ lobbyist, represents the League on a coalition dedicated to extending the public financing experiment throughout the state, including primaries, and incorporating third party candidates. We're a long way from achieving all of this, but we're moving in the right direction! The second round pilot (unlike the first) was quite successful, which bodes well for expansion of the program. The state League worked with local Leagues in all 3 districts in the recent pilot, making contacts and helping the local Leagues put on forums. Watch for action alerts. Be sure to sign up to receive them on the LWNJ web site, where you can also click a link to contact your representatives through Capwiz.

Anne noted that several committees are active on New Jersey issues, notably the Education & Fiscal Policy Committee and the Natural Resources Committee. She recognized that these committees tend to meet in distant locales (from our perspective) but expects that they will increasingly shift to conference calls and e-mail work, which will provide opportunities for Camden County League members to participate.

She also told us about several "programs in a box" that are available. These are DVDs of excellent state League meetings, such as the one on regionalization or the one on No Child Left behind. Local Leagues can plan meetings around these, especially when edited versions become available that hit the highlights while perhaps cutting the duration to an hour.

Anne explained that we have a new Executive Director (Anne Ruach Nicolas) to replace Danzey Burnham. Anne RN is young, technically savvy, and multitasks well. She is learning the League rapidly and has already improved our web page considerably! Although we have a significant number of members who are not computer-literate, clearly the web is the future and the League has to be there.

We hope that many LWVCC members will be able to participate in the activities Anne outlined in her talk.

From the LWVUS



LWVUS Statement on Indiana's voter ID law

Dear Friend,

Just last week, I wrote to you about the Supreme Court ruling that upheld Indiana's voter identification law — the most restrictive in the nation. League members responded in full force to fight back against this blatantly discriminatory law.

We are already seeing the negative effects of this law. At Tuesday's Indiana primary, for example, about 12 nuns — all in their 80s or 90s — were turned away from a polling place by a fellow sister because they didn't have state or federal identification bearing a photograph.

And the implications of the Supreme Court's ruling reach far beyond Indiana.

Nationwide, it is estimated that as many as 11% of U.S. citizens don't have government-issued photo identification— that is as many as 21 million Americans.

On the heels of the Supreme Court's decision, many states will be tempted to unnecessarily tighten their ID restrictions, while other states may use the Supreme Court ruling as a springboard to take action on this issue before the 2008 elections.

Already, in Missouri , a state representative has tried to pass legislation that would require voters to obtain and show a government-issued photo ID. Fiscal estimates indicate that this bill would cost cash-strapped Missouri taxpayers more than \$6.4 million — and could disenfranchise 240,000 Missourians, especially the elderly, low-income individuals, minorities, the homeless and handicapped people.

That's why we can't stop now. Only the League of Women Voters has the knowledge, reputation, experience and grassroots network to fight back against politicians that are trying to rig our elections to expand their political power. And we will continue our work to fight all the challenges we face. Learn more here (<http://www.lwv.org/Pavp>) !

I'm so proud to be standing together with dedicated League members and activists like you who understand what's at stake and have stepped up to make change happen.

Thank you for your continued support.

Mary G. Wilson
President, LWVUS

**2008 Edition of NJ CITIZENS GUIDE TO GOVERNMENT
is HERE
Place your Order Now!**

The 2008 edition of the *New Jersey Citizens Guide to Government* is now ready for delivery. As an information resource this guidebook is invaluable.

The *Guide* is filled with information about registration and voting procedures, political parties, county, state, and local government, the New Jersey courts, and legislative districts. It lists state administrators and the names, addresses, and telephone and fax numbers of the New Jersey congressional delegation and all state legislators. The *Citizens Guide* explains how to address elected officials and provides tips on communicating with them. It also lists resources to contact about legislation and provides an election/registration calendar

The price is \$4.25 each if purchased directly from a League member, or \$5.00 to have it mailed. For orders of 10 or more, the price per copy is \$4.00, and we will arrange for delivery.

Why not buy copies for friends, family, co-workers?

They make excellent gifts for teachers.

Civic groups and social agencies find them useful.

Part of the purchase price benefits the League of Women Voters of Camden County.

To place your order, you can call the League Line, 856-795-7878 or **send the form below** to League of Women Voters of Camden County, Box 245, Voorhees, NJ 08043.

Make your check payable to **LWVCC**.

2008 NJ CITIZENS GUIDE TO GOVERNMENT

Name _____ Quantity _____

Address _____ Amount Paid _____

Phone # _____

League of Women Voters of Camden County, Box 245, Voorhees, NJ 08043

~~~~~



## From the LWFVNJ



### *Immigration Study Update*

By Karen Siracusa (From the Lawrence League Bulletin)

In March the State board of the LWFVNJ approved a motion to form a standing committee to address immigration issues. Following up on this motion, Deborah Macmillan, who was part of the LWFVUS Immigration Study Committee, met at the East Brunswick Public Library on April 28<sup>th</sup> with interested League members from around the state to start a Standing LWFVNJ Committee on Immigration. Three Lawrence members attended: Adele Vexler, Diane Armington, and Karen Siracusa.

Deborah suggested areas for the Standing Committee to focus on:

1. Recommending actions to the state board and, where approved, working with other concerned organizations to help change what happens in our state and in our communities concerning:
  - The unifying of our diverse communities, including the integration of immigrants, when appropriate;
  - Directly easing the lives of recent immigrants, where needed/appropriate;
  - Advocacy of legislation and regulations concerning both immigrants and their integration as consistent with our national and state positions.
2. Continuing our study of the complex issues of immigration as both immigration and responses to that immigration change. This study should certainly be as committee members and extend to members of our own local Leagues, other LWFVNJ members, and members of our communities and our state.

The next standing LWFVNJ Committee on Immigration meeting will be May 31 (Saturday) in East Brunswick. We will discuss briefly issues such as: instate college tuition for undocumented children graduating from New Jersey high schools, legalization issues, the work of the New Jersey Governor's Blue Ribbon Advisory Panel on Immigrant Policy, drivers' licenses for the undocumented, detention centers and penalties for employers who hire the undocumented. Advocacy in line with our new national consensus and education on immigration policy continues!