



The VOTER

VOLUME 47 NUMBERS 6 and 7

June-July-August 2008

Calendar (League activities in bold)

DATE	DAY	TIME	LOCATION	DETAILS
Aug 19	Tu	6 p.m.	16th floor, Courthouse	Freeholder caucus meeting
Aug 21	Th	7 p.m.	Barrington Borough Hall	Freeholder public meeting
Sept 3	W	7 p.m.	Vogelson Library	LWVCC Board meeting
Sept 13	Sa	Morning	Rutgers, Piscataway	LWVNJ Fall Workshops See below
Sept 16	Tu	6 p.m.	16th floor, Courthouse	Freeholder caucus meeting
Sept 18	Th	7 p.m.	Voorhees Middle School	Freeholder public meeting
Sept 20	Sa	Noon - 3	Vogelson Library	LWVCC Fall Kickoff See article p 3
Oct 1	W	7 p.m.	Vogelson Library	LWVCC Board meeting

At its June 4 meeting, the LWVCC board:

1. Authorized Lisa Castellani to look into an Internet fund raising technique that works with gift cards.
2. Put together a committee, led by Renée Robbins, to give a talk on the importance of voting, to Upward Bound, at the Community College, July 9. See [article](#), page 3 of the Voter.
3. Created Kick Off planning committee.
4. Took copies of the Camden County Guide to Elections and Government to distribute.

LWVNJ Fall Workshops

"It's all about voting"

Voter accessibility, voting machine issues, and more!

Saturday, September 13, 2008
10 a.m. - 2:30 p.m. Piscataway.

Good networking, education, and training for all!

\$25. Let me know (Ed Gracely) if you'd like to attend, in case we carpool.

See link at <http://www.lwvnj.org/>

THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF CAMDEN COUNTY



President's Message:

The summer went much too fast, but I am sure we are all looking forward to an exciting presidential election year. As we begin planning for the New Year, our first board meeting proved to be filled with new projects, ideas, and a continued commitment to support the League’s programs. We are beginning the new League year with our annual kickoff and have invited a very special speaker from the Philadelphia Committee of 70. Zack Stalberg is the President and Chief Executive Officer of the Committee of Seventy. Mr. Stalberg is a native Philadelphian who spent the first 35 years of his career

*We are beginning the new League year with our **annual kickoff** and have invited Zack Stalberg, the President and Chief Executive Officer of the Committee of Seventy. . . He will speak to the League on topics such as “pay to play” and the political impact of this year’s election on the economy.*

in journalism. He is intimately familiar with the world of media, politics and business in the Philadelphia region. He was responsible for editorial content and business results at the Philadelphia Daily News and, during his tenure as Editor the Daily News won two Pulitzer Prizes. After leaving The Daily news he received one of the newspaper world’s highest honors—the American Society of Newspaper Editors’ 2005

Leadership Award. We are very honored and excited that Mr. Stalberg has consented to speak to the League on topics such as “pay to play” and the political impact of this year’s election on the economy. This year’s kickoff will be held on September 20th from 12:00 – 3:00 at the Voorhees Library. We are encouraging all of our members to attend and participate.

As we move toward this year’s presidential election, we are planning to partner with the South Jersey Delta Sigma Theta Sorority and will hold voter registration at designated sites with the Gas Company. I am requesting that all League members participate in these Voter registration drives by contacting the Camden County League of Women Voter hotline (795-7878). We need your support.

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

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

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LWVCC Fall Kickoff

**Saturday
September 20, 2008**

Noon to 3 p.m.

**Vogelson Library,
Voorhees**

All welcome.

We are excited that Zack Stalberg, former editor of the Daily News and now president of the watchdog group "the Committee of 70", will be our guest speaker -- See the President's message for details. And, of course, there will be opportunities to meet and greet League friends, and find out the League's plans for the upcoming year.



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!

League helps Upward Bound

The LWVCC was asked to give a presentation on Voting to Upward Bound students at Camden County College (CCC) July 9, 2008. The Upward Bound students attend CCC for 6 weeks in the summer and every other Saturday the rest of the year. They are 9th to 12th graders from Camden, Winslow, and Waterford. More than 90% of these children go on to college. Dr. Ferry explained that this summer, they are having 6 weeks to learn the political process by taking part in a campaign. The program will climax in a presidential election. Our topic was "Why Vote." When we entered the brand new amphitheater, the students were wearing red, white, and blue straw hats, waving streamers, holding balloons, blowing noisemakers, and playing music. Dr. Ferry was dressed as Uncle Sam. On the double screen behind us, our League brochure and a picture of Suffragists of 1913 were projected. Karen Avenick and I gave a dialogue on an American history of voting. In the second half of our presentation, the Camden County Guide to Elections and Government was our text. The students followed our explanations with their copy. The League was received with great appreciation. The college administration and faculty hope we will continue to be a part of their civic education programs. *Renée Robbins*

From the LWVUS: CONVENTION 2008

From June 13 through June 18, almost 1,000 League members (two from Camden County) came together in beautiful Portland, Oregon for LWVUS Convention 2008. The sun shone and convention was inspiring!

Convention is where delegates from around the country make decisions that will affect the functioning of the LWVUS for the next biennium and beyond.

In this convention, delegates approved:

- An educational and advocacy campaign against global climate change.
- An educational program for members and the public on health care issues.
- A study of the so-called, "National Popular Vote Compact" as a way to bypass the electoral college in electing the president. Interestingly, the state of New Jersey is one of four that has already approved the legislation that would achieve the compact.
- Budgets, dues, bylaws changes, and more!

We heard from several fine speakers, including a former Colorado Supreme Court Justice who spoke on reform of the judicial system, a panel on climate change, and a former governor of Oregon.

Convention delegates showed their feisty spirit from the start, with over an hour spent in the first plenary session amending and debating the procedural rules for the meeting!

One proposed program item was a concurrence with several state League positions on redistricting. It would have expanded the current League position to provide more guidance. Many Leagues felt, however, that almost any wording of a national position would overturn carefully-designed state positions on this same topic, and after much debate the proposal failed.

LWVNJ members were recognized twice at the banquet. President Wilson used a point of presidential privilege to acknowledge the role of LWVNJ's own Doris Schapira as UN observer. And the LWV of Mountain Lakes, NJ was one of two recipients of a "Pioneer" Award. LWVNJ President (and Camden County League member) Anne Maiese accepted the award on behalf of Mountain Lakes.

Like all LWVUS conventions, it was inspiring and informative. The next one, in 2010, will be in Atlanta. I'm working on my southern accent in advance!



Ed Gracely



From the LWVNJ

LWVNJ Letter to the legislature in opposition to school vouchers.

The League of Women Voters of New Jersey opposes bill S-1607. Since 1995, LWVNJ has opposed the use of vouchers. We believe that public schools provide a universal education that is essential to a democratic society, and using public money for private schools has many undesirable consequences. It reduces the fiscal and human resources of the public schools and weakens community support of them. The proposed bill is no exception.

S1607 would provide funding of a voucher program through the redirection to non-public schools monies that should be tax revenue to support an already strapped state budget. Although this bill is designed as a five year pilot program with caps on how much funding can be redirected, it sets a precedent for this type of program and effectively redirects tax revenue at the discretion of business, without public or legislative input.

By allowing the vouchers to be used at in-district and out-of- district nonpublic schools, the state will have relinquished its ability to require fiscal and educational accountability and will be supporting religious endeavors with what should be public dollars. Shifting these dollars to private boards of trustees and religious groups with limited or non-existent rights for citizens to attend meetings and access records compromises fiscal accountability.

In addition, the requirement in the bill that “in the case of an eligible school that is a nonpublic school, that the school administer an annual test to scholarship students that is aligned to the core curriculum content standards” does not ensure educational accountability, nor does the independent study. The individual school would not be required to comply with core curriculum standards, nor would all the students be required to take the test, nor is the test reviewed by anyone to see if it actually tests core curriculum content standards. So the testing would be of the student’s knowledge and not the school’s program and therefore would not ensure its eligibility for funding.

The League of Women Voters of New Jersey urges you to reject this bill. It is an indirect voucher system that undermines public, universal education.

Sincerely,

Anne Maiese
President