



The VOTER

VOLUME 49 NUMBER 1

January 2010

Co-Presidents' Message:

Dear Members:

Happy New Year to All! We hope you are newly energized and ready to join in our activities.

Our Program Planning meeting/ holiday party was quite productive, producing recommendations for a review of the LWVUS position on agriculture and two suggestions for Advocacy Priorities: voting rights (and full representation) for Washington, DC residents, and the Equal Rights Amendment.

Our next board meeting will be on February 3rd, at 7 pm, at the Vogelson Library in Voorhees, and we want to remind you that all members are welcome to attend. We are in the process of planning for the Callathon, for Running and Winning, and for our Annual Meeting, and we welcome (and need) your help. We are also in need of volunteers for our Budget Committee and would like a committee to review our by-laws.

We also hope to lend our support to the 2010 census. Please do encourage everyone you know to respond to the census form, which is expected to be much simplified this time around.

Mark your calendars: TUESDAY, March 2nd General Membership meeting, special notice of which will include a list of our committees & a request for your ideas.

Here's to a successful 2010, both for the LWVCC and for each of you.

Winnefred Rowell-Bullard
Harriet Snyder
Co-presidents



League of Women Voters of Camden County

Calendar (League activities in bold)

EVENT/ACTIVITY	DATE	DAY	TIME	LOCATION
LWVCC Board meeting	Feb 3	W	7 p.m.	Vogelson Library - Voorhees
Citizens' Campaign Call to Service -- learn to influence your local government!	Feb 5	F	5 - 8 p.m.	Stockton State College. Contact Renee@jointhecampaign or 609-499-1860 for information
Freeholder caucus meeting	Feb 16	Tu	6 p.m.	16th floor-Courthouse, 520 Market St., Camden, NJ
Freeholder public meeting	Feb 18	Th	7 p.m.	Lawnside Public School 426 Charleston Avenue
Voter registration of new citizens -- after the naturalization ceremony	Feb 24	W	10 a.m.	US Courthouse 401 Market, Camden. Contact the League by phone or e-mail if interested in helping.
LWVCC special meeting – details to be announced	Mar 2	Tu	Evening	TBA, perhaps Blackwood library. The board meeting will be this evening, as well.

Voter Contents

- Topic**
- 1 -- [Co-President's Message](#)
 - 3 -- [Directions](#)
 - 3 -- [Board report](#)
 - 4 -- [From the LWVUS](#)
 - 5 -- [From the LWVNJ](#)

February 14 is the birthday of the LWV.

90 years! Quite a legacy... We have some members who have been with the League for more than half of that time. Also quite a legacy! Thanks to all of you for all you do.

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

Co-Presidents

Harriet Snyder (856) 779-1298
 Winnefred Rowell-Bullard (856) 228-2042
 1st Vice President: Ann Saunders (856) 232-1041
 2nd Vice President: Phyllis Black (856) 428-1247

Voter Editor: Ed Gracely (856) 629-2869
 Voter Distributor: Barbara Sielaff

e-mail: lwvcc@hotmail.com

Welcome to



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.

Board Report

[Back to list](#)

At its Jan 6 meeting, the LWVCC board:

1. Approved the program planning report and authorized sending it to LWVUS.
2. Approved the list of suggested program priorities and approved having the co-presidents send this to LWVUS Vice President Judy Duffy.
3. Agreed to accept 100 Callathon cards from our members and other Leagues.
4. Discussed plans for Running & Winning and ideas for the Annual Meeting.
5. Approved the purchase of 100 membership books at the usual price (already determined).
6. Discussed and gave feedback for the LWVNJ about a proposed vacation trip raffle.



Getting there - Directions!

Brooklawn, Am. Legion Post #72: From Haddonfield, drive south on King's Highway (NJ 41, later County 551). Pass the Black Horse Pike (Route 168). In about 1.4 miles after 168, angle right onto Browning Road for 0.5 miles. This hits a T in the road. Turn right onto Old Broadway (which immediately becomes Railroad Ave) for less than a block. Look for 11 Railroad Ave.

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.*

Lawnside Public School 426 Charleston Ave. From the east, take route 295 south to the exit for Warwick Road south (toward Lawnside). Stay on Warwick Road for about 0.6 miles, then turn left at E Charleston for 0.7 miles. // From the west, take 295 north to route 30 south. Stay on 30 (White Horse Pike) for 0.8 miles, then turn left onto E Charleston for 0.8 miles. // From the south, you can come up route 30. About 0.5 miles past Evesham Road, angle right onto Warwick. Stay on Warwick for 0.2 miles, turn right onto E Charleston for 0.7 miles.

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!

From the LWVUS

January 11, 2010

[Back to contents](#)**LEAGUE, GROUPS ISSUE REPORT ON OBAMA ADMINISTRATION'S ETHICS, LOBBYING
& TRANSPARENCY REFORMS***Call on Administration to Take on Public Financing, FEC Reforms*

Washington, DC – The League of Women Voters and other groups today issued [a report](#) grading the Obama Administration's first year of achievements in ethics, lobbying and government transparency.

“The Obama Administration took extraordinary steps forward in 2009 – adopting the strongest and most comprehensive lobbying, ethics and transparency rules and policies ever established to govern its own activities” said Mary G. Wilson, national president of the League.

“At the same time, these achievements are only the essential first steps,” Wilson stated. “We call on the Obama Administration to continue to lead in changing the way business is done in our nation's capital,” added Wilson. “2010 is the time to tackle the critical reforms that will clean up the corrupting effects of campaign money throughout our government,” she said.

“The administration's government reform agenda this year must focus on the reform and enforcement of the nation's campaign finance laws. The League believes that this means: Repairing the presidential public financing system; Establishing a new public financing system for congressional races; and Fundamental reform of the Federal Election Commission (FEC),” stated Wilson.

“The FEC is failing as an enforcement agency just as the nation is preparing for the 2010 elections. As a start, we urge the President to use his appointment power to put the agency on a better path,” she said.

The [report card](#) issued by the League, Common Cause, Democracy21 and U.S. PIRG details seven areas in which the administration has implemented government reforms and provides a grade for each area.

- Revolving Door Lobbying Ban, A
- Open Government, A
- Reverse Revolving Door Restrictions, A
- Lobbyist Gift Ban, B
- Preventing Lobbyists from Serving on Advisory Boards, B
- Restrictions on Seeking Stimulus Funds, B
- Restrictions on Seeking Financial Bailout, No Grade

To read the full report and a more detailed explanation of each grade, [click here](#).



From the LWVNJ

[Back to contents](#)

Instate Tuition Consensus

After a brief round of consensus meetings and input from many local Leagues, the LWVNJ was able to determine a consensus on the topic of instate tuition for unauthorized immigrants. The position is:

The League of Women Voters of New Jersey supports extending instate tuition to unauthorized immigrants who graduate from NJ high schools and are admitted to NJ's public institutions of higher education.

In addition, if the state funds private higher education for New Jersey students, the League supports including unauthorized immigrants who would qualify for instate tuition at par in the funding formula for private colleges and universities.

Explanatory Statement

The League position is informed by the 1982 US Supreme Court decision (*Plyler v. Doe*) which required equal educational access without respect to immigration status through grade 12. The League believes that equal educational access should be extended to New Jersey's unauthorized immigrants by allowing them to qualify for instate tuition at New Jersey's public colleges and universities.

This position is founded on the principles of:

- Fairness for children who came to this country not on their own but with adults, and
- The well documented social benefit of educated individuals in society.

Several conditions that were explicitly explored with respect to their impact on support for instate tuition were acceptable to League members, but the consensus was that they were not mandatory:

- Instate tuition should be limited to students who have attended three years of New Jersey's high schools. Note that the support is for some length of attendance, not necessarily for the three years exactly that are required in the 2009 proposed legislation.
- Requiring an affidavit that the student was applying for legal status, or would do so when possible, and protecting the full confidentiality of all immigration status records at the colleges.
- Other conditions received less support than those above.

New Jersey now contributes to the Independent College Fund of New Jersey (ICFNJ) which in turn provides funding for private colleges and universities. The League's consensus does not address the details of any specific funding mechanism and does not entail support for public funding as such. Instead, if the state funds private colleges and universities based on New Jersey student enrollment, then we support including New Jersey unauthorized immigrant students in each school's enrollment count, so long as the unauthorized immigrant student would have met the instate tuition criteria set by New Jersey's public colleges or universities.

=====

Unlike many positions, this one was almost immediately put to use, since instate tuition was a hotly-debated idea in the Lamé Duck session of the legislature. Activists from the League, the New Jersey Regional Coalition, and other groups were present at the statehouse for hearings, rallies, and meetings with key legislators for several days. Unfortunately, the legislation ultimately failed. Since Governor-elect Christie is opposed to it, we do not expect to see motion on this bill for a long time.

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.

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



OTER

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