



The VOTER

VOLUME 49 NUMBER 4

April 2010

Calendar (League activities in bold)

EVENT/ACTIVITY	DATE	DAY	TIME	LOCATION
Voter registration	May 3	M	10 a.m.	After the naturalization ceremony, 401 Market St., Camden.
Nonpartisan Municipal Elections	May 11	Tu	Varies	In some towns
LWVCC Board Meeting	May 12	W	7 p.m.	Vogelson Library, Voorhees -- Note the change of date!
Last day to register for the Primary Election	May 18	Tu	All day	Be sure to register!
Primary Election Day	June 8	Tu	6 a.m. to 8 p.m.	VOTE!

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Climate change action alert from the LWVUS

Earth Day was April 22. As our nation reflects on the problems facing our planet, it's important to remember why these issues matter, and what we can do as citizens. League supporters are now asking their Senators to make sure a climate change bill is as strong as possible, and it's not too late to add your voice. [Click here to contact your Senators.](#) You can also call **1-877-9-REPOWER**, a service our friends at Repower America are providing as another way to reach your Senators.

League of Women Voters of Camden County

Co-Presidents' Message:



**In Celebration of LWV's 90th Anniversary
"Making Democracy Work. A History of Change.
A Future of Hope"**

Dear League Members,

We join fellow Leagues from 50 states, the Virgin Islands, Puerto Rico and Hong Kong to celebrate 90 remarkable years of League achievements.

The month of April, truly, brought elected leaders and the public together through non-partisan civil means. We continued at the forefront of advocating public policy issues by moderating candidates forums, completing the Running & Winning workshop and holding our annual meeting.

Moderating Candidates Forums

During the month of April, League moderators conducted three forums. Two "Meet the Candidates Night" forums were held in Pennsauken and Winslow Township, NJ, respectively, and one BOE Candidates forum was held in Haddonfield, NJ. Thank you to moderators Joyce Alexander Walker and William (Bill) Skinner and timekeepers Barbara Sielaff and Donna Lawrence. Harriet Snyder served as timekeeper at one of the forums and Winnefred Rowell-Bullard moderated one of the forums.

Running & Winning Workshop: In Celebration of **Earth Day**. (Click [here](#) for pictures!)

The Running & Winning (R&W) workshop enabled 55 high school girls from Lindenwold and Winslow Township High Schools to engage in the democratic process by planning a mock campaign debating the issue of climate change and emerging energy policy while "running" for United States Senator. The girls used the available resources researched by the R&W committee members to debate, phenomenally, the pros and cons of climate change. Not coincidentally, the R&W committee planned for the workshop to be held on **Earth Day**. Many of the "campaign" speeches reflected on the problems facing our planet and focused on the climate change "bill" for a new "**clean energy economy**" that they would present if elected "senator." The girls' power point presentations were remarkable. (see: [LWV Celebrates Earth Day!](#) in the **VOTER**).

Thank you and Congratulations to Chair, Karen Avenick and the Running & Winning committee.

The Annual Meeting & Luncheon (Click [here](#) for Mayor Redd's comments -- page 5)

The annual meeting & luncheon held on Saturday, April 24, 2010 was both a social and productive event. The silent auction table, which was well kept by Ed Gracely, was the center of social attraction.



Attendees appreciated the well-selected items and placed their bids carefully. Ed kept close tabs on each item and encouraged everyone to place his/her highest bid. Thanks, Ed.

Our dynamic speaker was Dana Redd, mayor of Camden. She congratulated the League of Women Voters on its 90th Anniversary and thanked the women who had mentored her. She spoke about how her efforts to revitalize Camden, neighborhood by neighborhood, are

slowly coming to fruition and about the necessity of attracting business, so Camden will have an adequate tax base.

May and June are drawing near; thus, we want to focus our special attention on membership involvement. If you have not paid your dues, please complete the enclosed membership application.

Winnfred Rowell-Bullard
Harriet Snyder

Co-Presidents



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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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

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At its April 7 meeting, the LWVCC board:

1. Appointed Ed Gracely to run the Silent Auction at the Annual Meeting.
2. Planned a special breakfast to reward members who have renewed by June.
3. Discussed representatives to the LWVUS Convention.
4. Decided against ordering any of the NJ Citizens Guides this year, but we will purchase from Anne Maiese any that remain after the Running & Winning Event.



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: Lamberti's: On route 70 E (from Pennsauken), the restaurant on your right is a little bit more than a mile east of the Cuthbert Boulevard, opposite the old racetrack, just before Haddonfield/Grove Street. If you come via 295 go west on 70, pass King's Highway, and Haddonfield/Grove Road and turn around in a few blocks to get to the restaurant going east.

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!

LWVCC Annual Meeting

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Special Guest speaker -- Camden Mayor Dana Redd!

After a delicious meal, in a pleasant room in the Caffè Aldo Lamberti, the League heard from Camden Mayor Dana Redd. Mayor Redd had first addressed the LWVCC a number of years ago when she was a Councilwoman in Camden.

She noted that in the past, Camden was a busy industrial center – a diverse and unique city with a solid tax base. 1962 saw suburban flight. Now Camden sees itself as the center of “eds and meds” – colleges (eds) and hospitals (meds) as anchor institutions. These anchors have expanded their footprints, involved their neighborhoods, etc... The tax base is being improved.

Her goal is to attract businesses over the long run so Camden can be again a “shining urban anchor”, as it once was. She wants to ramp up services, providing good government along the way.

She noted that the school board is now fully appointed (a "type 1" school board). She sees this as critical, because education is so important in the city if we are to develop the work force and attract investment.

She found herself with an \$8 million deficit 2 weeks after being sworn in! She and her staff invested large amounts of time looking for cost savings – they found \$4 million in cuts they "could live with", and \$2 million in revenue they were not collecting. They are seeking give backs from unions (many contracts have expired), such 1.5% contribution toward health benefits, eliminating “opt out” (which forces the city to pay cash instead of providing a health care benefit), and mandating furloughs (which she will take as well).

Next year there will be a \$20 million cut in fiscal aid. The budget is \$178 million – of which \$20 million is local. Most of the budget is police and fire, and there isn't enough money in other parts of the budget to absorb a \$20million budget cut without reducing police and fire. Shared services are being investigated.

Clean Camden is a key initiative. Remove trash, clean up abandoned properties... She wants all the stakeholders to get involved. This promotes business – people want to spend money in a clean area!

The police chief is ramping up programs. Recreational programs are also key – a high percent of the city's population is young. Not just recreation, but also team building, character building, etc. This all provides an alternative to standing on the streets. Volunteers are very important to all of this.

The LWV has always been there for the city of Camden... forums, HUD elections.

NJ gave fiscal responsibility back to Camden, but not 100%. If Camden gets special municipal aid, they still have to report to DCA, can't approve some personnel changes etc. without DCA approval.

One question concerned the drug problem in Camden. She replied that this is partly a workforce and jobs issue – you have to have work for people who are in the underground economy. Both demand and supply need to be addressed. Some would like to come off the street corners, but there is no place for them to go to work. Literacy is a problem. Many are reading at the 3rd grade level. This is being addressed in ways that allow people to save face, such as by couching the reading education in the context of computer training.

Running & Winning 2010

LWV Celebrates Earth Day!

This year's *Running & Winning* event, April 22 at Lindenwold High School, was a great success. Here are a few pictures that provide a flavor for the activities.

Having discussions about politics...



Planning a campaign!



Vote for meeeee!



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From the LWVNJ Alternative Energy Conference

Alternative Energy For New Jersey . . ADA BRUNNER, Natural Resources Committee
April 10 at the New Jersey Hospital Association Conference Center in Princeton.

Barbara Greer, LWVNJ Natural Resources Committee chair, opened the conference by dedicating it to Pearl Schwartz, a long-time League and NR Committee member who died recently

Keynote Address

In his keynote luncheon address, former Governor James Florio explained that energy policy is a matter of life and death because the overseas fossil fuels we rely on come from such “volatile” nations. Although fossil fuels will still be needed as part of our energy mix for years to come, alternative energy systems will play a vital role not only in reducing our dependence on overseas resources but also in regard to climate change. These are difficult times to make policy because of complex changes in society. Florio compared the situation today to the changes that occurred in the late 19th and early 20th centuries when the nation moved from an agricultural to an industrialized economy. What’s needed now are analytical intelligence, courage to make difficult decisions, and the will to resist the temptation to “go along.” In a tribute to the League, Florio said the LWV epitomizes those attributes.

Panelists

In a talk on energy efficiency, **Scott Minos**, senior policy and communications specialist with the U.S. Department of Energy, said that 50 percent of the energy generated is being wasted. To make energy efficiency more effective, the focus must be on investment in education for a green economy, along with “a little imagination” and the political will to achieve change. Speaking about America’s huge consumption of energy today, Minos said, “We would need seven planets to sustain our life-style if everyone in the world consumed like we do in the United States.”

Arjun Makhijani, president of the Institute for Energy and Environmental Research, spoke on “The Smarter Grid.” The grid used today is based on a 100-year-old concept that was wonderful in its day, but has not kept up with changing times. What is needed today is actually two grids: one to deliver electricity, like today’s grid does, and a second to deliver information. For example, advanced technology will allow the smart grid to recognize when electricity storage bins are full, at times when usage is low, and automatically turn on your washing machine at that time if you want to do laundry. It also will allow you to override it and use your washing machine at peak periods — but for extra cost. Smart grid goals will include a better quality of power by using a mix of alternative energy sources such as wind and sun.

Alternative Energy Reports

Members of five NR Committee groups which have been studying various forms of non-carbon based energy for the past year reviewed their work. Their full reports can be accessed on the LWVNJ website www.lwvnj.org.



Barbara Curtis (Monroe Township LWV) reported on **geothermal energy**, energy which uses the heat stored in the earth to heat or cool a building or produce power.

Dawn Clarke (Union Area LWV, state Board member) and Dr. Phil Eisner, retired physicist and volunteer consultant to the committee, discussed **solar energy**. This fast-changing field has exploded since the start of the 21st century, but long before that Thomas Edison said, “I hope we don’t have to wait to run out of coal and oil to take advantage of solar power.”



Paula Gotsch (Ocean County LWV) discussed **nuclear power**, noting that the cost of constructing nuclear plants is so huge that private companies won’t undertake to build them without government subsidies. She also warned of the dangers of nuclear power, including the problem of disposing of radioactive materials.

Ellie Gruber (Ridgewood LWV) introduced three members of her League who spoke on facets of **biomass**, which uses organic materials to produce energy.

Joan Coan described the use of wood and plants, Diana Wing discussed how algae can be used to make energy and Hope Dingley spoke on sewage sludge. Kimberly Diamond (Berkeley Heights Environmental Commission) said that though New Jersey has “excellent potential” for offshore **wind power**, wind farms can impact the environment. She noted that this country is far behind Europe, which has installed 577 megawatts of wind power in the past year.



If You Are Interested In:

- X *Learning about government and the political process.*
- X *Getting involved in the political process in nonpartisan ways.*
- X *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



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