



The  
**VOTER**

VOLUME 49 NUMBER 6

June-July 2010

**Calendar (League activities in bold)**

EVENT/ACTIVITY	DATE	DAY	TIME	LOCATION
Voter registration	July 20	Tu	10 a.m.	After the naturalization ceremony, 401 Market St., Camden.
<b>LWVCC Board Meeting</b>	August 4	W	7 p.m.	Vogelson Library

**Voter Contents**

Page	Topic	Page	Topic
2 --	<a href="#">Co-President's Message</a>	5 --	<a href="#">Convention Report</a>
4 --	<a href="#">Board Report</a>	7 --	<a href="#">Convention Pictures</a>
4 --	<a href="#">Directions</a>	8 --	<a href="#">Member Appreciation Brunch</a>

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.

**League of Women Voters of Camden County**

## Co-Presidents' Message:



90 Years Of Making Democracy Work: A History Of Change. A Future Of Hope.

The June/July presidents' message is a special one for us because it marks our one year anniversary. One year ago, we embarked upon a new structural change for the LWVCC -- Co-Presidents. Sincerely, we stepped up to the plate focusing our attention and goals on promoting and continuing the League's established accomplishments. The year has passed quickly and has ended on a very positive and exciting note. With the support and dedication of the membership, we can proudly say, Thank you. "Mission Accomplished".

### Overview

Throughout the year, the League focused on "Making Democracy Work". Good government programs such as providing citizen education/voter services activities, studying consensus, sponsoring political forums with high school students, maintaining a high visibility in the community by giving a radio interview and visiting NJ American Water in Delran, NJ, conducting moderator forums, sponsoring programs with non partisan organizations and a community college, bringing in new members, and many more were implemented. With gratitude, we held the annual business meeting of the membership in April, and hosted Mayor Dana Redd, Mayor of Camden, NJ as our guest speaker.

### League of Women Voters United States 49<sup>th</sup> National Convention

**June 11-15 2010, Atlanta, Georgia**

**Convention 2010 was extremely motivating and productive. We were two of nearly 700 delegates in attendance.**

Civil rights leader Congressman John Lewis who represents Atlanta gave a vivacious welcoming and reminded us that change comes when groups like the League are not afraid to "get in the way". President Barack Obama sent a message of support and thanks. Speaker Nancy Pelosi sent greetings via video and Secretary of Health & Human Services Kathleen Sebelius thanked us for the League's key role in achieving significant health care reform and reminded us that much more has to be done. The highlight came when a panel of our eight former national League presidents – all those still living – emphasized the core values of League, careful study, consensus building and speaking with one voice. Remarkably, the former national presidents' terms span the 1960s to the present.

During the convention, we attended educational and informative workshops, and caucuses, and discussed many of the critical issues facing citizens across the nation, including global climate change, elections and voting rights, and many more. Delegates elected Elisabeth MacNamara of Atlanta

president and elected a new Board of Directors, passed the LWVUS budget, and voted on public policy positions for the next two years, including voting to study the federal role in education policy and privatization. Please, see the [article](#) (page 5), by LWVNJ President Anne Maiese.

With emphasis on making democracy work, throughout the Convention 2010, delegates from Leagues all over the country were reminded that we need to be strategic in choosing issues that generate visibility and promote membership as well as fulfill our mission...we need to get people to believe that voting makes a difference.

On Monday afternoon at the end of the last session of the day, a number of delegates visited the Martin Luther King, Jr., National Historic Site. The site was established in 1980 to protect, to inspire, and to educate the present and future generations about the place where Martin Luther King, Jr. was born, where he lived, worked, and worshiped, and where he is buried. The park sites include: Historic Ebenezer Baptist Church, The King Center, and The King Birth Home. Indeed, this visit presented a genuine reflection of a great civil rights leader who gave his life "to make democracy work".

We were very proud to represent the LWVCC & LWVBC at Convention 2010. We learned many new things and brought back important ideas for our leagues to use in our communities.

### **Moving Ahead:**

**League Appreciation Brunch:** Sunday, June 27, 2010 Coastline, Cherry Hill, NJ

The occasion was twofold. First, we deemed it necessary to invite our dedicated continuing members and our incoming members to attend a free brunch together in a wholesome setting to thank them for diligently working to ensure that our programs for 2009/2010 were implemented successfully, and secondly, we deemed it necessary to revisit/describe the programs that are upcoming for 2010/2011. Timely, we received a "Helpful Hints"...packet, an extremely helpful League tool from the convention which will enable the League to "Raise the Bar" as we work to move democracy forward in our communities. Kudos to League program presenters: Claudia Tucker-Keto, Barbara Sielaff, Ed Gracely, Bobbie Porter, Donna Lawrence, Mary Ann Bascou, & Phyllis Black. We were also delighted that League members Zena Cohen, Rosemary O. Leach, and Ann Koopman joined us. See pictures of the brunch group in The Voter and on the web-site. Additionally, some comments from the presenters are included in The Voter and on the web-site.

### **"Jersey Call to Service": MARK YOUR CALENDAR!**

The LWVCC is partnering with the Metuchen based Citizens' Campaign to sponsor a "New Jersey Call to Service" on Tuesday, September 14, 2010 at Camden County College at 7 PM. The program is a nonpartisan public service initiative to inspire 5,000 citizens to participate in the leadership of their communities...additional sponsors for the event are the Camden-Gloucester Jaycees, The Gloucester Township Democratic Club, The Gloucester Township Republican Club and the SJ Citizens for Change. Read full details in The Voter.

We are making democracy work!

Enjoy your Summer vacation!

Winnefred Rowell-Bullard, Harriet Snyder  
Co-Presidents

## Board Report

[Back to list](#)

### At its June 2 meeting, the LWVCC board:

1. Worked on the LWNJ Immigration Survey, Part I
2. Completed plans for the paid-up-members brunch.
3. Worked on plans for the fall Kickoff.
4. Discussed plans for attending the LWWUS Convention.



## 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.*

**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 : Convention Summary

[Back](#)

By LWVNJ President Anne Maiese

Of the five conventions I've attended, this was the best. The celebration of our 90<sup>th</sup> birthday, and the mood in general, was very hopeful. A panel of past LWVUS presidents (all 8 of those still living, including our own Susan Lederman) shared the milestones and funny moments of their tenures. Photos of those milestones (and them as president, standing often with THE President) were displayed on large screens while they spoke. Many of the state presidents, including me, used their state histories as a basis for their one minute "Roll Call" addresses. And our speaker for the banquet was Robert P. J. Cooney, Jr., author of "Winning the Vote: The Triumph of the American Woman Suffrage Movement." Parts of his thoroughly illustrated book were projected on the screen as he spoke; in answer to an audience question about why he set upon this task, he said, "I wanted to stamp out the idea that women were GIVEN the right to vote—they WON it!" Our own Doris Shapira, from Montclair Area, was honored then also, on her retirement as the LWVUS's U.N. observer, with another slide show summarizing her work. I am very proud to know her! John Lewis (US Congressman from Atlanta and civil rights hero) and Kathleen Sebelius, U.S. Health Secretary also addressed the Convention delegates -- He was inspiring—"Don't ever stop 'getting in the way'." And she was very informative.

Now, the decisions, made during the plenary sessions:

1. The study many recommended on the federal role in education passed.
2. Another study, "Privatization: the policy agenda to transfer government functions, services and assets to the private sector" also passed (which necessitated raising the PMP to \$20.70 for 2010-11. The body balked on raising PMP for 2011-12 higher than \$30, though.)

(We retained all the other current LWVUS positions in the areas of Representative Government, International relations, natural resources and social policy....)

3. A By-laws change that would permit Leagues to lobby their US representatives on issues important to their states *without approval of the LWVUS Board* was defeated.
4. We approved several concurrences:
  - a. with a Board committee's recommendations to amend and update the Arms Control position—very long—look up on website if you want to read it.
  - b. with the position of the LWV's of both Maryland and Maine that "Marriage Equality" be added to the Equality of Opportunity position. "The League of Women Voters of the United States supports equal rights for all under state and federal law. LWVUS supports legislation to equalize the legal rights, obligations, and benefits available to same-gender couples with those available to heterosexual couples. LWVUS supports legislation to permit same-gender couples to marry under civil law. The League believes that the civil status of marriage is already clearly distinguished from the religious institution of marriage and that religious rights will be preserved."

- c. with LWV of Arizona that this sentence be added to the LWVUS position on selection of the president: "We support the use of the National Popular Vote Compact as one acceptable way to achieve the goal of the direct popular vote for election of the president until the abolition of the Electoral College is accomplished."

5. And many (too many) resolutions:

- Add "Transparency" to the list of attributes that elections should have: "SARA" became "SARAT"-- Security; Accuracy; Recountability; Accessibility; and Transparency.
- Support lifting travel restrictions for Americans going to Cuba.
- Support and lobby for significant strengthening of appropriate regulation, oversight, inspection, and penalties associated with the development of fossil fuel resources. This strengthening should include elimination from national legislation of the exemptions for drilling and mining, as well as additional legislation requiring the federal agencies to regulate drilling and mining in a manner consistent with the preservation of a healthy environment. We also call on the Board to communicate with the President and the Congress putting them on notice that Leagues across the country are deeply concerned about this issue. (Safe Drilling & Mining Resolution)
- Call upon the Senate to change its rules to limit the use of the filibuster.
- Advocate strongly for bills that legislate for improved Medicare for all.
- Emergency Resolution of Gulf of Mexico Oil Spill: Highlight the need for those responsible for the oil spill to be held accountable. Demand that our government hold those responsible for the environmental disaster accountable for the clean-up. Urge the legislative and executive branches of the federal government to immediately take all necessary steps to maximize to the extent practicable the ability and efforts of all relevant federal agencies and departments to take action, and to work with the U.S. coastal states and communities most directly and immediately affected, to respond creatively, efficiently and effectively to the environmental, health and economic crisis created by the oil flowing from the out of control BP oil well in the Gulf of Mexico and by the efforts to contain and disperse it.

Caucuses and workshops were very worthwhile, and we (NJ delegates) helped present a few of them: Ed Gracely, LWVNJ Secretary and a member of the LWVUS Election Audit Task Force, helped run one on transparency. Jesse Burns, our LWVNJ Communications Director, participated in a panel on using social networking media to advance League presence—she was such a hit they invited her to do one by herself the next time around. And Toni Zimmer (LWVNJ VP of Advocacy) and I were on a panel on getting more women to run for public office, she because she ran for office, and I because of my involvement with the "Running & Winning" workshop for high school girls. Your delegates attended many others that covered a wide variety of topics—just ask them!

Hopefully for the next one, to be held in Washington, DC, in 2012, we will have an even larger contingent. Take care, and don't hesitate to contact me if you'd like more information about this, or anything else related to League. We all have to help each other!!

Anne Maiese, President, League of Women Voters of New Jersey

# Convention Pictures



Co-Presidents  
Harriet and Winne at  
Convention.

The NJ delegation at  
Convention. 4 from  
Camden County!



LWVCC Co-Presidents  
Winne Rowell-Bullard  
Harriet Snyder

Former LWVUS President Sue Lederman  
is also from the garden state .

LWVNJ President Anne Maiese  
and your voter editor

Lots more NJ members at Convention and Atlanta pictures are at  
<http://www.flickr.com/photos/lwvnj/sets/72157624215795211/detail/>

## LWVCC Member Appreciation Brunch!

Setting the "bar" higher! At our June 27 meeting in the Coastline's bar!



At the LWVCC Member Appreciation Brunch this past June 27, there were presentations from various League members who offered a reflective look at the League's mission and a perceptive view of where it is going. For those who missed this wonderful event, we wanted to share some of the ideas and information provided.

The presentations began with a review of the League's annual business meeting. The Annual Report at the business meeting provides a status report on the League at the end of the program year by both standing and ad hoc committees. It reports on any changes in the by-laws for a vote of approval by the membership; new officers are elected, and the annual budget is approved by the membership.

Additional presentations were made that touched on the many components of running the League. We heard about:

- The Treasurer and Budget Chair -- maintaining our finances and planning for the upcoming year are essential aspects of running our organization.
- The membership director position, currently open, with suggestions on recruiting and growing the membership. Do you know someone (maybe yourself?) who enjoys outreach and communication with other members and prospective members? Consider taking on this role.

- Callathon, our annual fundraising initiative in support of the LWFNJ, which also provides significant income to local Leagues (like ours!) that participate. Anyone interested in calling a few other members to ask their support for the state League should let the Co-Presidents know. A larger team would allow us to call more people!
- The moderating committee, led by a moderator coordinator, is responsible for providing League members to other Leagues and outside organizations upon request to moderate debates or discussions; this is also a funding vehicle for the League. More moderators and time keepers are always needed -- we train! Both tasks are at the core of the League's mission. It is closely related to other key activities such as monitoring elections in public housing units.
- This was followed a report by the editor of our local newsletter, "The Voter" who asked anyone interested in covering a League or county event to let him know! The Voter is published monthly and is distributed electronically and via U.S. mail to active members of the local League.
- The program committee, responsible for the planning of the annual "kick off" and other activities, gave an overview of its process. It is also responsible for organizing the League's annual Running & Winning event. Needless to say, this is a very active committee which could always use more help, especially if we hope to have more program activities in the future.
- In addition, the nominating committee reported on its process of identifying potential board members, executive officers, and elected committee chairs and how they proceed to develop a slate of candidates.
- Last, but certainly not the least, of these reports was that of the holiday party committee, that described its preparations for the annual holiday party hosted annually at the home of one of our League members.

Many of these tasks provide an amazing opportunity for personal development. You could learn to be comfortable and skilled as a public speaker (moderating), learn how to prepare an organization's budget or keep its books, how to organize a program, write for publication, facilitate a small group (as part of Running & Winning)... The League provides leadership training (consider it a perk of membership!). Now it's up to you...

While this review may resemble the annual reporting, it is a new and innovative approach to League communication. This effort by the Co-Presidents of the Camden County League was designed to restate the League's mission, update the membership on the League's activities and to say THANK YOU to those who support the League through their membership. There is no better way for current members to recommit, to encourage active participation and solicit for new members.

Claudia Tucker-Keto

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**

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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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