



The VOTER

VOLUME 50 NUMBER 6

June-July 2011

Calendar (League activities in bold)

EVENT/ACTIVITY	DATE	DAY	TIME	LOCATION
Voter Registration	July 19	Tu	10 a.m.	After the Naturalization Ceremony
Freeholder Meeting	July 21	Th	7 p.m.	Bellmawr Community Center - 29 E Browning Road
LWVCC Board Meeting	Aug 3	W	7 p.m.	Probably Vogelson Library
LWVNJ Fall Workshops	Sept 24	Sa	9 - 3:30	Accountability in Education, and various training sessions.

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Board Report

At its June 1, 2011 meeting, the LWVCC board:

1. Decided on honorees at the Annual Meeting and a gift for the speaker.
2. Discussed options the August board meeting (should it be a pot luck?)

It's membership renewal time!

We haven't heard from many of you! Please renew soon.
Membership is power. We need you!!!

League of Women Voters of Camden County

Co-Presidents' Message:



Hello Fellow Members,

Our Annual Meeting & Luncheon on June 11th was a great success. Thirty-four members and guests enjoyed a delicious lunch and heard the remarks of Riletta Cream, an instructive and entertaining speaker. In addition to our speaker, we are especially proud to have hosted three honored guests: Camden County Freeholder Scot McCray; Toni Zimmer, President of the League of Women Voters of New Jersey; and Kerry Butch, Executive Director of the LWV of NJ.

Following the luncheon, we had a business meeting at which we voted on a proposed budget for next year and on a slate of candidates. Your two Co-presidents ended their terms and will be serving in other capacities: Winne as a director and Harriet as Treasurer. We welcome our newly elected officer, Secretary Joyce Kurzweil, and new board member, Myrna Schlanger. Unfortunately, in spite of the hard work of co-chairs Donna Lawrence and Renee Robbins, the nominating committee was unable to fill the offices of President and 1st Vice President, so our League will be run by the board. We hope one of you reading this plea will volunteer to serve. We hope all of you will help us by attending our board meetings, participating in our activities, and offering your ideas.

Your two Co-presidents ended their terms and will be serving in other capacities: Winne as a director and Harriet as Treasurer. We welcome our newly elected officer, Secretary Joyce Kurzweil, and new board member, Myrna Schlanger.

At the end of the meeting, we honored 50-year-members Zena Cohen, Eloise Douglas, Esther Gray, and Renee Robbins and gave Certificates of Appreciation to Phyllis Black and Joyce Alexander Walker for their successful efforts in organizing last year's kickoff meeting. Then your co-presidents were surprised by the Certificates of Appreciation given to us—for which we give heartfelt thanks.

All in all, we've had a successful year, and for that we thank everyone who participated in our endeavors.

Have a wonderful summer.

Winnefred Rowell-Bullard & Harriet Snyder, Co-presidents (through June 30, 2011)

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

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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.



Getting there - Directions!

Bellmawr: James Mullen Community Center, 29 E. Browning Rd, Bellmawr. Take 295 to 168 South. Browning is in about 0.4 miles. Turn left. In about a block, the building is on the left. *The 400 bus runs up and down Route 168 from Turnersville hourly or more often evenings.*

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 (gas station with red horizontal stripes on your left, Cunningham's Cleaners on the right), just above the Echelon Mall. Go under the train bridge in about a half mile, then turn right onto Burnt Mill (at the light). Soon turn left onto Laurel Road at a light. (There is a kind of small park with grass and trees on your left just before the turn and a flower-decorated median on Laurel itself). The library is on your right as you pass the mall. 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!

Freeholder Meetings

After former President Pearl Friedman suggested at the Annual Meeting that we should go back to observing Freeholder meetings and caucuses, an interesting discussion ensued. The main reason we stopped going is the lack of significant discussion or decision-making at many of them. A few years ago some members went to caucus sessions, and found that even in those "work sessions" very little real debate and discussion took place. At the regular meetings there is even less -- in general, as much time is spent giving out awards and making statements as on the business of the board, almost all of which is adopted unanimously (or unanimously with a few abstentions).

But our guest, former Freeholder Cream, emphatically asserted the value of going to Freeholder meetings. Just being **visible** is critical, she said. And we can always ask questions to show we are paying attention. League members have to be careful not to make statements that may seem to imply League positions, but we can be attentive and ask questions!

*...former Freeholder Cream emphatically asserted the value of going to Freeholder meetings. Just being *visible* is critical, she said.*

So perhaps it is time to reinstate our observer corps, or at least make more of an effort to attend. I will go back to putting the day and time of Freeholder meetings in the Voter. They move around the county. When one is in your area, grab a League button and a friend, and go sit in the front row. Let them know the League is watching! You can see the agenda and minutes for previous meetings at <http://www.camdencounty.com/government/freeholder-meetings/2011-freeholder-meetings>

In memoriam

We sadly note the passing of long-time member Helen Libbey, who died on May 4, 2011 at the age of 84. She had been a resident of Cherry Hill for 50 years and a League member for as long as many of us can remember. According to the obituary, she had been a former state treasurer, something I did not know!

Helen continued to participate in League activities even in her final years. Here she is (L) with another long-time member, Dee Stenton (R) at the 2009 annual meeting:



The newspaper writes: "If desired, donations in Mrs. Libbey's memory may be made to Trinity Presbyterian Church, 499 Rt 70 East, Cherry Hill, NJ 08034, or to Children's Hospital of Philadelphia, Lock Box 1352, PO Box 8500, Philadelphia, PA 19178-1352 **or to the Camden County League of Women Voters, PO Box 245, Voorhees, NJ 08043.**"

Renee Robbins writes, "When I moved here in 1967, I joined the league. Helen Libbey was a member. She was on the board the years I served. She always brought greeting cards to sell to us as a fundraiser. On the board of directors, she served on the telephone answering committee and on the budget committee for many, many years. She was in many study groups and at every event. She was gentle, kind, reliable, steadfast - a true lady; and the league is at a loss without her. She will be missed."

Eloise Douglas notes that Helen served as Budget Chair, Finance Director, Speakers Bureau and Observer Corps coordinator and other roles locally.

Anti-poverty meeting report 6-30-2011

Several members of the LWVCC participated in a planning session for a fall meeting on efforts to combat poverty. *Barbara Sielaff* took some note from the meeting. Here are a few highlights:

In addition to Barbara, Anne Simonoff and Janet Morrison of our League were also present. Amelia Kressler, an LWNJ Member at Large from Gloucester County, was interested in helping (but unable to be present) as well. So the League was well-represented!

Tentative location for the main meeting: Rohrer campus of Camden County College, on Rte 70 in Cherry Hill.

Tentative date(s): Wednesday Oct 5, Tuesday October 11, or Thursday October 13.

Likely time: 7-9 pm.

The focus will be on organizations in Camden, Cumberland, and Gloucester Counties.

A moderator, ideally someone who is well known and would be a draw, is being sought.

Tentative format:

Q & A structured by people putting questions on 3x5 cards; we will screen and present them to the discussants. We want to make sure we have enough time for this, for mingling and talking over coffee at the end, and for people to gather handouts, info about election etc.

At a minimum, people will leave with information they can use to educate their legislators and candidates for office in November 2011 election, and fact sheet to take away. We will get people's names and contact information for future action against poverty. We may hold subsequent meetings to organize groups to work on issues related to poverty.

Possible discussants after Anti-Poverty Network presentation, or sources for experts:

New Jersey Regional Coalition (Housing)
Tom Knocke, on health care (or homelessness or hunger)
Carol Wolff of AHEC on health,
Kevin Walsh on housing

Anyone who has ideas or would like to participate is welcome to join the planning group. Contact Barbara in our League (She's in the directory and her email is bsielaff@snip.net), or call the League line at (856) 795-7878.

This could be a powerful meeting to educate the public, and to show them that the League does more than register voters!

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



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