

Lawrence League of Women Voters

Veronica Pickering & Adele Vexler, co-presidents
896-0376 896-1988

Calendar February 2005 – May 2005

DATE	LOCATION	TIME	MEETING TYPE	DETAILS
Feb 4, 2005 Friday	Adm. Law Off. 9 Quakerbridge Plaza	1 – 3 p.m.	Public Hearing	A public hearing on whether to lift the moratorium on executions. See enclosed “No Executions” flyer. Call NJADP at 609-278-6719 for details.
Feb. 9, 2005 Wednesday	Eggert’s Crossing Rd.	TBA	Parade	200 National Guard soldiers are returning from Iraq. The township is planning a parade to the armory
Feb. 11 – 12 Fri. & Sat.	Ramada Inn in East Windsor	Fri eve. & 9-2 Sat.	Training sessions	Valuable training to develop leaders. Sponsored by the Central Jersey Regional Equity Coalition. Call Nicole Plett for further explanation. 771-0012
Feb. 23, ‘05 Wednesday	The College Of New Jersey	6:30- 9:30 pm	Forum on US Role	Register Early – see enclosed article for details. Light dinner served.
Mar. 2, 2005 Wednesday	To be Announced	7:00 pm	General Meeting	Business meeting first, then a presentation on a current issue. Friends are welcome. In fact, bring a friend!
Mar.21,2005 Monday				Last day to register to vote or change voting address. Do any of your friends need to change?
Mar. 23, ‘05 Wednesday	Amalfi’s Restaurant	6:00 pm	Retirement Dinner	For Helen B. Holmes, long-time League member and Lawrence Senior Center Director
Mar. 29, ‘05 Tuesday	Lawrence Senior Center	10:00 a.m.	Open House	For Helen B. Holmes Executive Director for the Office on Aging/Senior Center.
Apr. 9, 2005 Saturday	Lawrence High School	10:00 – 2:00	“What’s Next” Program	We always host a table for this excellent program for local women and high school girls.
Apr. 10, 2005 Sunday	Veronica’s at 7 Penlaw Rd. & then theater	11:30 am	Annual Brunch & theater party	Benefit for scholarships for H. S. community activists. Brunch at Veronica Pickering’s & play, “84 Charing Cross,” at Off-Broadstreet Theater in Hopewell .
Apr. 14,2005 Thursday	Slackwood School	7:00 pm	Back to School Night	Mayor Pam Mount will speak on the citizenship process. All invited!
Early April	Lawrence High	TBA	Candidate forum	Forum for candidates for Lawrence School Board. Jane Thompson is working on this.
Apr. 19,2005 Tuesday				Election Day – School Board and Budget
Apr. 23, 2005 Saturday	2300 Stuyvesant Ave.	10 am – 2 pm	We will host a table	Voter registration for the Blind and Handicapped. LWV will assist. If you can help, please phone Lois Riskin 882-5376 or Venetia Demson, 609-530-3238
Apr. 27, 2005 Wednesday	Lawrence Road Presbyterian Church	7:30 pm	Community- Wide Discussion	Immigrants to Citizens. LWV and Lawrence Road Presbyterian Church will host a joint meeting and discussion on how to become a citizen.
Apr. 30 – May 1	Morristown Plaza Hotel		LWVNJ State Convention	Call Adele if you want to attend. 896-1988
May 4, 2005 Wednesday	To be announced	TBA	Lawrence LWV meeting	League business meeting.

Letter from the Presidents

Dear League Members & Friends,

A New Year – a time to look forward and back, to celebrate our achievements and to plan for continuing our attention to vital social issues. Our year was rich with League activity in voter education & registration, regional planning, campaign finance reform, affordable housing, fair taxation, civil rights, natural resources and much more. Wherever we could, we cooperated with other community groups and organizations – the Lawrence Road Presbyterian Church, the ACLU, Eggerts Crossing Village, The Coalition for Peace Action, Lawrence Public Schools, Mercer County Libraries, Isles, Trenton Area Soup Kitchen, Mercer County Community College, and the Central Jersey Regional Equity Coalition.

In the months to come we have serious issues needing public non-partisan discussion. New Jersey is one of only seven states where men vote in a higher percentage than women. In the 2004 election year, NJ women were in the bottom 3rd of all states. What ideas can we develop to increase the percentage of eligible voters who go to the polls? NJ ranks last when it comes to state and federal offices held by women. Action needed!

The LWWUS reminds us to be activists on issues such as our national debt, Social Security, family planning, election reform, civil liberties, world cooperation and peaceful solutions to the Iraqi conflict. We urge you to become active in the political party of your choice – speak out!

On the celebratory side, we had a great Annual Holiday Party at Doris Weisberg's home on January 9th, with many of our legislators, Lawrence municipal officers and local school people to help us celebrate. Thank you all for being with us.

We wish you a healthy and happy New Year.

Sincerely,
Adele & Veronica

League of Women Voters of New Jersey Hires New Executive Director

Trenton – The League of Women Voters of New Jersey announces the hiring of Danzey Burnham, Esq. as its new Executive Director. Ms. Burnham brings to the League over sixteen years of experience as a corporate lawyer in New York City and London as well as extensive experience with volunteer and non-profit organizations in New Jersey. Ms. Burnham received her undergraduate degree from Birmingham-Southern College and her law degree from Yale University. “Ms. Burnham brings her excellent experience and credentials to the League at a very active and exciting time for us,” said Deborah Macmillan, President of LWWNJ. “The League expects to have a busy year organizing debates, registering new voters and providing non-partisan information to citizens in connection with the upcoming state and local elections. In addition, the League is actively involved in analyzing the issues surrounding the proposed Lieutenant Governor legislation, the potential Constitutional Convention and the state budget process. The League brings the credibility of its nonpartisan position to these important discussions.”

Messages from League Members

From Venetia Demson, Director, The Library for the Blind or Handicapped:

Voter Registration for the Blind and Handicapped on April 23, 2005 will be held from 10 to 2 PM. A voting booth will be at the library, 2300 Stuyvesant Ave. Trenton. Five counties have purchased voting booths. The National Association of the Blind will have speakers from Baltimore MD. We need a table for volunteers from the League to assist people who cannot write. We have no paper trail at present for votes cast. Lois Riskin volunteered to get a committee to help register voters. We need you! Call Lois at 882-5376.

From Gloria Longhi, our liaison on Homeless Housing:

COLT – Churches of Lawrence Township are endeavoring to get a house. At present we are supporting Catholic Charities to get a house to rent to people in need. Dana Rohrbacher from the Office of Housing is working on reporting issues. Lawrence Township has done a lot. People in affordable housing at Eggert's Crossing want to move on to non-subsidized housing but there is no affordable housing to move on to in the area. Lawrence Township is built out at this time. We could contact Jonathan Girshen for more information on this for a league meeting.

From Joan Tomlin, our liaison on Property Tax Reform:

The lengthy discussion on whether to have a convention on property tax reform is complicated by a call to deal with reforming other taxation and spending. The League did not endorse introducing spending reform into the convention. There may not be enough money for Abbott Schools and state aid has been cut. The convention could cost more than 3 million dollars. People would be paid a stipend for working 4 or 5 months. Legislators can be delegates and they would profit from name recognition in the election of delegates. Research to gather information will be at Rutgers. The question for our State League: "Do we want a limited convention?"

From Mayor Pam Mount:

Two hundred national guard soldiers are returning from Iraq on Feb 9. We are planning a parade down Eggert's Crossing Road to the armory -- need lots of people to welcome them home. There will be a short ceremony in the armory.

We've asked members to send in brief statements on what they're currently doing. Here's the first, from Annabelle Simpson, who chairs our annual Theater Party. – keep 'em coming:

I wear two hats at ETS: I direct ETS's international training and technical assistance unit, the ETS Global Institute. As such I manage courses and consultation projects that build the capacity of educators around the world to develop valid, reliable and fair tests. I'm also the regional director for ETS business development in Latin America.

From Judy Brickman, a new member:

I have lived in Lawrence Township for about 25 years. I am married to my retired husband, Tony. We have 2 adopted Bichon Frise dogs , Roxey and Velma. The children are grown and we have 3 lovely granddaughters. I got involved in the League to help with Voter Registration. I now work for Prudentail Fox and Roach Realtors in Princeton at 166 Nassau St, 609-924-1600x157. I have sold real estate for 21 years and am a top producer.

From Nicole Plett, our liaison to Central Jersey Regional Equity Coalition:

On January 10, 2005, I made a short presentation to Judith Cambria and the LWV State Education and Fiscal Policy Committee about CJREC and its ongoing interest in involving LWV more deeply with the New Jersey Regional Equity Coalition (NJREC) across the state. I characterized NREC as a purposeful grassroots organizing effort bringing together faith-based and secular groups across New Jersey to work for social justice through legislative reform. We aim for voter education, voter organization, and voter mobilization. Personally I perceive the Equity Coalition as a much-needed complement to that state's many sophisticated policy study groups. These groups analyze and propose equity in public policy; the Equity Coalition involves ordinary people from every walk of life to help implement these needed legislative reforms.

My presentation was warmly received by Judith Cambria and the committee members present, and I'm optimistic that cooperation and collaboration between LWV and NJREC will continue to grow.

CJREC is devoting the next three to four months to broadening and deepening its base of support among organizations and congregations that have self-selected to become active participants in this grassroots organizing effort. The current campaign is called a Listening Campaign; its goal is to help us identify and cultivate leaders by identifying our own LWV chapter members' most urgent needs and concerns. Building our second tier of chapter leadership can, in turn, help us attract and energize new chapter members through ongoing meaningful action.

To support the Listening Campaign, the Coalition will offer a free weekend leadership training session that begins the evening of Friday, February 11, and concludes the following day, Saturday, with a program that runs from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Ramada Inn in East Windsor. I invite any interested members of our Lawrence Chapter to join me at the February training. It offers a tremendous opportunity for personal growth and paths to heightened political participation and action.

CJREC will also sponsor two big Public Issues Assemblies with legislators in 2005 -- one in May and a second in October -- to engage our elected officials with the Coalition's quest for fundamental fairness and social justice.

From Naomi Drew, Lawrence LWV Chair for Peaceful Schools:

Here's something my publicist put together:

League Member Receives National Parenting Publications Award

Noted conflict resolution expert Naomi Drew has been selected by The National Parenting Publications Awards (NAPPA) as winner of the Children's Resources Gold Award for her new book, *The Kids' Guide to Working Out Conflicts* (Free Spirit).

"It's an honor to have been chosen for this award for *The Kids' Guide to Working Out Conflicts*," says Naomi Drew from her Lawrenceville home. "I've taught the strategies in this book for years and know they work. My hope is that the book will help stem rising the tide of youth violence, cruelty, and bullying."

Drew was a teacher for twenty-four years and understands first-hand the challenges kids face. Today's kids have a lot to deal with—not just teasing and bullying, but a general culture of disrespect and aggression that can keep kids from succeeding in school and being their best. She wrote *The Kids' Guide to Working Out Conflicts* as an antidote to these problems.

Here's a key strategy from the book that kids (and adults) can use to resolve conflicts peacefully called *The Win/Win Guidelines*:

1. Cool off
2. Talk over the problem using “I-messages”
3. Listen and say back what you heard
4. Take responsibility for your role in the conflict
5. Brainstorm solutions and choose one that's fair
6. Affirm, forgive, thank, or apologize

Naomi Drew is the author of six books including *The Leader's Guide to the Kids' Guide to Working Out Conflicts* and *Peaceful Parents, Peaceful Kids*. A national speaker and consultant to schools and parent groups, Drew has served as the parenting expert for *Classroom Close-ups*, an Emmy-winning PBS program. Drew's Web site, www.learningpeace.com, is a popular resource for those who want to create peace in their homes and schools. Her online newsletter, *Peaceful Parents* has a broad international readership and can be accessed through her website.

From Metta Cahill, Lawrence LWV Chair for Women's and Children's Issues:

Comprehensive Family Life Education – let's put the kids at the helm!

It seems unlikely that a 75 year-old Princeton woman, a graduate of the Brearley School in Manhattan and Vassar, would become New Jersey's most visible activist for sex education. But, that precisely describes Susan N. Wilson.

Susan retired this month after 23 years as the executive coordinator for the Network for Family Life education, a program of the Applied Psychology Center at Rutgers. She also oversees both a website, SXETC.org, and a newsletter, geared specifically to the sexuality concerns of teenagers.

Her work has been controversial. Conservative groups that oppose sex education have grown in influence. In fact, the New Jersey Legislature passed a bill in 1993 called the AIDS prevention Act that requires NJ sex educators to stress abstinence.

Our local LWV chapter is hoping to focus some of our efforts on engaging teenagers in the political process. To that end, we are hoping that we can coax Susan to come to Lawrenceville and speak about her program, “*The Roadmap: A Teen Guide to Changing Your School's Sex Ed*”.

Susan's “*Tools of the Road*” include startling stats on teens and sex, the ABCs of sex education, and a state-by-state breakdown of state laws on sexuality education. Even more importantly, Susan challenges teens to be political activists for their own interests. She uses the topic of sexuality education to give kids “a voice”. Her *Roadmap's* step-by-step action plan teaches teens how to organize a coalition, complete a survey, circulate a petition, stage a community forum, write a press release, op/ed piece, or position paper, and be a more effective public speaker.

We hope that this will be the first of many local League programs directed to the young. Our hope is that we can find ways to interest youth to turn creative thinking on social problems into positive political action.

Help us say goodbye to Helen Holmes

Helen V. Holmes will be retiring from her position as the Executive Director for the Office on Aging. There will be two opportunities for people to bid farewell and wish her the best of luck.

Wednesday, March 23, 2005 – 6:00 pm at Amalfi's (cost \$37.50). Tickets will be available for purchase after February 1st. Call the recreation department for more info.

Tuesday, March 29, 2005 – 10:00 am at the Senior Center (no cost). More information will follow in February.

Public Issues Summit at TCNJ “An Intergenerational Dialog on Americans' Role in the World”

William J. Ball of *College of New Jersey* invites League members to attend the upcoming Public Issues Summit entitled “An Intergenerational Dialog on Americans' Role in the World”. Information regarding the invited speaker will be announced soon by advertisement in the *Times of Trenton*.

Mr. Ball notes that next summit will be somewhat different from previous events. The College seeks to get a mixed-generation group of participants together, and so encourages people to sign up in pairs. This is not a requirement for participation, however.

Following is information about the event, as provided by *College of New Jersey*:

Keynote: TBA

Date: Wednesday, February 23rd, 2005

Time: 6:30 to 9:30 PM

Place: *The College of New Jersey*

With the war in Iraq and the tsunami relief effort Americans must once again ask themselves what role the United States should play in world affairs. The answers to this question are an important part of the legacy one generation of Americans gives to the next.

Pair up with a member of a different generation (younger or older) and come out for an evening of citizen-to-citizen discussion on Americans' role in the world.

Participation in forum is free. A light dinner will be served.

Space is limited. Please register online at <http://publicleaders.tcnj.edu/PIS>
or call (609) 771 2706.

*Sponsored by the Leadership in Public Affairs program at TCNJ and
the Times of Trenton. Supported with a gift to the College by Albert Stark.*

Come out
Friday, February 4

NJ Department of Corrections Hearings

1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m.

Office of Administrative Law

9 Quakerbridge Plaza

Mercerville To join or organize a car pool, call NJADP at 609-278-6719

Do you believe that innocent people sometimes get sentenced to death?

. . .that executions should not be shrouded in secrecy?

. . .that executions are sometimes botched?

Tell New Jersey: **No executions!**

Be present! Make a difference!

The New Jersey Department of Corrections has proposed new regulations for lethal injection in an effort to lift New Jersey's court-ordered moratorium on executions. Last February, in response to an NJADP lawsuit, a three-member state Appellate Court panel rejected the state's regulations for lethal injection and imposed the moratorium

A strong citizens' presence at the February 4th hearing is vital to growing momentum to halt executions in New Jersey before they start. In early December, Acting Governor Codey announced his support for a two-year execution moratorium while a state commission studies the death penalty. While this is good news, no action has been taken on his proposal.

There remains an immediate and very real threat that New Jersey will soon carry out its first execution in 42 years! Also in December, the U.S. Supreme Court rejected the appeal of one of New Jersey's 11 death row prisoners. If the moratorium imposed by the Court does not continue, New Jersey may schedule an execution in 2005.

Please join NJADP and other opponents of capital punishment at the Department of Corrections' Public hearings on February 4th. To testify in writing or in person, contact Celeste Fitzgerald at 973-635-6396 or 609-278-6719.