



The **OTER**

VOLUME 53 NUMBER 2

February 2014

Calendar (League activities in bold)

| EVENT/ACTIVITY | DATE | DAY | TIME | LOCATION/INFO |
|-------------------------------|---------|-----|-------------|---|
| LWVCC Board Meeting | Mar 3 | M | 7-9 pm | Vogelson Library (Voorhees) Meeting Room A (third floor). |
| LWVCC Board Meeting | April 7 | M | 7-9 pm | Voorhees/Vogelson Meeting Room B |
| LWVNJ Spring Workshops | Apr 26 | Sa | 9 am - 2 pm | Hold the date! |

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Board Report

The January, 2014 board meeting was cancelled by order of Mother Nature.
So was the February meeting!

League of Women Voters of Camden County

Board Message



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Hi, everyone!

Mother Nature keeps cancelling our board meetings, but we persevere! It is now February -- we're past the half way point. The logic of Groundhog Day (originally Candlemas Day) being February 2 was that this was considered the middle of winter -- you should have half your winter firewood left at that point. So, spring is coming!

One very early sign of spring (other than the birds starting to sing and a few bulbs poking their heads up) is **Fire District elections** in some towns (like mine, in Winslow). February 15th -- does your town have one? I hope you voted!

At one time we had **Board of Education Elections** plans (often moderating) to get us involved in the spring, but that sign of spring has largely disappeared as these elections have moved to November.

But the **LWVNJ spring workshops** are on the horizon! Details to be determined, but always interesting and worthwhile -- mark your calendar for Saturday, April 26.

The LWVUS is doing an **agriculture update** -- but the materials are quite complex and would require a committee to study them, plus possibly several meetings to inform the membership. Since the deadline is this spring, our board isn't planning to take this on. Too bad -- it looks like an interesting study on things like subsidies and genetically modified foods. In any case, the LWVUS will soon have a modified agriculture position dealing with 21st century concerns. I'll put information about the results in the Voter when they come out.

Ed Gracely

Board member

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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Follow us on Twitter: @LWVCCNJ

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!

Haddon Township: Rohrer Library: Take 295 to Route 30 north. On 30, pass King's Highway. In about a mile after King's Highway, just after Nicholson Road on the left, you'll see Cuthbert Road on the right. Turn right onto Cuthbert from 30. Stay on Cuthbert for about half a mile. Just past Hopkins, turn right onto MacArthur. The library is at that corner. // This is the same Cuthbert Road that becomes Cuthbert Blvd further north at routes 70 and 38, so you could take it south from there. MacArthur is about 0.8 miles south of Haddon Avenue on Cuthbert Blvd.

Voorhees: Vogelson Regional Library: Driving south on 30, turn left onto Somerdale Road just above the Voorhees Town Center. 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. The library is on your right as you pass the mall.

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Donations -- thank you!

Renee Robbins -- in memory of Ann Koopman and Joyce Walker

Marcia Luggar -- in memory of Ann Koopman

Unsolicited donation from **Evelyn Levit** -- Cherry Hill, NJ 08002.

Freeholder Meetings

We **encourage League members to observe Freeholder meetings** when they are convenient for you. Just show up with a LWV button to let them know we are watching! Don't make any statements -- you aren't entitled to speak for the League (or even yourself after wearing a League button). You can ask a neutral/informative question, however. Meetings start at 7. It's good for Camden County!

The **March meeting** is in Audubon on March 20 (Audubon High School 350 Edgewood Avenue)

The Freeholder meeting list is online at <http://www.camdencounty.com/government/freeholder-meetings/2014-freeholder-meetings>

FROM the LWVUS

The LWVUS is using a wide variety of social media -- take advantage of them to keep up and learn!

Take a look at the LWVUS Blog:

http://www.lwv.org/blog?utm_source=BlogRoundup&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=JAN2014

Some recent posts:

New Founding Mothers – Women and Political Power
2014 Could be Watershed Year for Youth Voting Participation
Follow Last Night's State of the Union Action!
Why, "We're Not About to Turn Around": Honoring Martin Luther King's Fight for Voting Rights

You can also follow the LWVUS on Twitter (@LWV)

You can visit their Facebook page (and "like" it): <https://www.facebook.com/leagueofwomenvoters>

You can join the League's "Forums" to participate in discussions:

<http://www.lwv.org/content/getting-started-forums>

And you can sign up for email alerts: <http://www.lwv.org/get-involved>

And, if you prefer to stay closer to home, **the LWNJ has many of the same services:** Visit the LWNJ home page (<http://www.lwnj.org/>). You'll see the blog and Facebook links on the right. The "news" page has a link to sign up for LWNJ alerts and newsletters (<http://www.lwnj.org/news.html>). Twitter is @LWNJ, of course.

The **LWVCC now has its own Twitter account!** Search for us as @LWVCCNJ! Please follow us. I post county news and information (election reminders and links to results, the county newsletter, alerts and such from LWNJ and LWVUS... Not a lot, but some good stuff -- IMHO!)

LWVUS Legislative Priorities for 2014

- The LWVUS Board established the following as **Legislative Priorities for 2014:** Money in Politics and Voting Rights.
- The following were included as **a second tier of focus for 2014:** Affordable Care Act, Reproductive Choice, Immigration and the Environment.
- Other issues, third tier (watch) such as Fiscal Policy/Social and Economic Justice and Gun Safety may be acted on as opportunities arise for League action, if they do not interfere with action on an LWVUS priority, and it appears the LWVUS can make an impact.

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LWVNJ Testimony

Senate State Government, Wagering, Tourism & Historic Preservation Committee

January 30, 2014

S.536 Early Voting for Certain Elections

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The League of Women Voters of New Jersey supports S 536. Voting is a fundamental right of citizens. Increasing accessibility to the electoral process is integral to ensuring a representative electorate and the right of every citizen to vote.

As of this date, 32 states and the District of Columbia already have early voting in place. It is time for New Jersey to join them by providing its citizens with accessible early voting.

The League of Women Voters of the United States has identified four priorities for increasing accessibility for voters

- Secure Online Voter Registration;
- Permanent and Portable Statewide Voter Registration ;
- Expanded Early Voting; and
- Improved Polling Place Management

S.536 addresses one of these priorities – it expands the opportunity of citizens to vote by providing, in the 15 days before the general election, early voting opportunities at 3-7 sites within a voter's county and outside of traditional business hours including on the weekends.

Ample research supports early in person voting. The League of Women Voters of New Jersey is in agreement with the findings of the Brennan Center for Justice in the report "Early Voting: What Works." The Brennan Center's research indicates that there are 5 key benefits of early in person voting: reduced stress on the voting system on Election Day, shorter lines on Election Day, improved poll worker performance, early identification and corrections of registration errors and voting system glitches, and greater access to voting and increased voter satisfaction.

Additionally, the Presidential Commission on Election Administration, charged with identifying best practices in election administration and making recommendations to improve the voting experience, includes expanding in person early voting opportunities as a key recommendation in its report.

The League of Women Voters of New Jersey asks this committee to release S.536 as a first step in providing New Jersey voters with increased opportunities to cast their ballot. We thank you for this opportunity to testify and welcome the opportunity to work with you on legislation that addresses our other voting priorities.

Presented by Sandra L. Matsen LWVNJ

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. **First time new annual membership** is only \$25! This also applies to student and household members (for an entirely new household membership).

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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