

Dear members and friends,

As our Annual Dinner meeting approaches, I ponder our year's activities and our effect on our community. Here's what we did together according to my notes and memory. Be sure to let me know about omissions.

Starting in August, 2004, we focused on voter registration and education. The following were our contacts: Colleges-Rider, TCNJ, Mercer County Community College, Lawrence Township Schools, Isles, Capital Health System, Educational Testing Service, Eggerts Crossing Village, Trenton Area Soup Kitchen, Homefront, public libraries in Lawrence, Trenton, Ewing and Pennington, and door to door. We recently added the NJ State Library for the Blind and Handicapped. During these registrations, we educated by going over the voting process and advising on how to evaluate candidates. We furthered our voter education program by having a series of articles published in The Times on six consecutive Sundays in the Commentary Section. These were charts that described vital national issues and presented the position of the Republican and Democratic Parties.

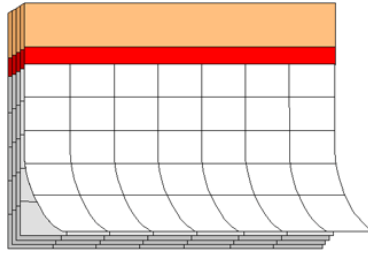
Much of our work entails cooperating with other organizations with like goals. Our members are important participants in The Central New Jersey Regional Equity Coalition and we have held joint meetings to develop means for preventing concentrated poverty. Other joint projects were in election finance reform (pay-to-play), ending the death penalty in NJ, and property tax reform, working with the Coalition for the Public Good.

We held two major public meetings. On affordable housing, we heard from Eggerts Crossing leaders as well as other architectural experts. Our recent meeting on Sex Education in the Schools was well attended by young and old, including educators and their students.

We worked at local issues- public school budget, problems of immigrants, sustainability of a healthy Lawrence community. We joined with others to enjoy events such as Jubilee Day and Community Day in the park. We enjoyed social events-a wonderful holiday party attended by many League members and community friends. This was followed in the Spring with a delightful Brunch and Theater Party which netted us close to \$1,000 for our Martha J. Crowley Award for high school student community activists.

Yes, it has been an active year. I thank you all for your generous contributions to our League and wish you a healthy, happy summer.

Adele Vexler



Calendar of Events

Saturday, June 4 – “Listening” Training Session for Work with Regional Equity Coalition 9:30 – 11:30 a.m. in the Community Room, lower level, Lawrence Township Municipal Building

Tuesday, June 7 – Primary Election Day – Polls open from 6 a.m. to 8 p.m.

Saturday, June 11 – Fantastic Yard Sale to benefit Lawrence LWV Veronica Pickering’s Home, 5 Penlaw Road, Lawrenceville 8:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.



Spring Cleaning? Drop off discards and white elephants at Veronica’s. Then come on Saturday and get what you really need!

Thursday, June 16 – Annual Dinner Meeting for Lawrence League, 6 p.m at Amalfi Restaurant, 146 Lawrenceville-Pennington Road.

Monday, June 27 – Regional Equity Coalition Public Issues Assembly – Time and place to be announced.

Wednesday, September 7 – First fall meeting – planning for the season – all welcome. Time and place to be announced.

Saturday, October 22 – “Women Count – Girl Scouts in Politics” 1 – 4 p.m. at the Lawrence Community Center. Joint venture with the Girl Scouts. Girls will work toward a political activist badge.



The League of Women Voters of Lawrence Township

**Invites you to our Annual Dinner Meeting to celebrate:
Women Working in Public Safety for the Township of Lawrence.**

The categories are:

- | | |
|--------------------------------|--------------------|
| • Police | Kelly Longo |
| • Emergency Medical Technician | Christina Vincent |
| • Fire Fighter | Samantha Carnevale |

The League will also present the Annual Martha Jamieson Crowley Awards for Community Service to two outstanding students in Lawrence Township: Lauren Tracy and Lydia Prakash.

**The dinner is being held Thursday, June 16th, at:
Amalfi's Restaurant
146 Lawrenceville-Pennington Road
Lawrenceville, NJ**

Buffet Dinner 6:00 p.m. Guests welcome. Tickets \$35.00 per person.

RSVP to one of the following: **WE MUST HAVE A COUNT!**

Adele Vexler	896-1988
Veronica Pickering	896-0376
Diane Armington	883-9710

Please use the cut-off to send your checks for the dinner. These may be for non-members.

**Diane Armington, treasurer Dinner \$35
12 Darrah Lane East
Lawrenceville, NJ 08648**

Name(s) _____

Address _____

At the annual dinner we will vote on the following slate of officers:

**NOMINEES FOR LEADERSHIP OF
THE LAWRENCE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS
2005 - 2006**

Co-Presidents:	Joan Tomlin Adele Vexler
Vice President:	Veronica Pickering
Secretary:	Carolyn Kozlowski
Treasurer:	Diane Armington

DIRECTORS:

Bulletin Editor:	Heather Berman
Central Jersey Regional Equity Liaison:	Nicole Plett
Membership:	Lois Riskin
Planning for Growth:	Barbara Greer
Publications:	Joan Rowland
Publicity:	Doris Weisberg
State tax Reform:	Joan Tomlin
Theater Party/Scholarship:	Annabelle Simpson
Voter Service:	Jane Thompson Heather Berman Veronica Pickering

LOCAL PROGRAMS:

Homelessness:	Gloria Longhi
Immigrants to Citizens:	Pam Mount
Women & Youth Issues:	Metta Cahill
Know Your Town:	Diane Armington Doris Weisberg

Nominating Committee: Diane Armington, Nicole Plett, Joan Rowland, Joan Tomlin

May 20, 2005

To: Lawrence Chapter, League of Women Voters

From: Nicole Plett (609-771-1665) & Adele Vexler (609-896-1988)

Re: June "Listening Campaign"

Dear League Member:

Our League is continuing our cooperation with the grassroots organization, the Central New Jersey Regional Equity Coalition (CJREC). We feel this is particularly important now as our town is increasingly affected by regional problems due to the homelessness, crime, unemployment and immigrant issues caused by concentrated poverty in our state.

During our May meeting, our League voted to partner with CJREC to embark on a "Listening Campaign" within our LWV group. The "Listening Campaign" is a proven in-reach activity that can build the strength of our League community and its leadership, at the same time that we identify the shared concerns and hopes of our membership. At the conclusion of the campaign, we will come together to look those concerns and arrive at a list of priorities for our collective efforts and action.

The campaign will kick off at our League annual dinner on **Thursday, June 16**, when we will introduce our trained Listening Campaign leaders. Ten days later we will have our first chance to voice these shared concerns and bring them to the table at the next Public Issues Assembly of CJREC on the evening of **Monday, June 27**. Our community review of the product of this Listening Campaign will come together in **September** when our League chapter reconvenes for its first meeting of the new season.

The Lawrence League "Listening Campaign" will be a focused and disciplined six-week effort, during which 8 to 10 leaders from within our ranks will conduct "one-on-one" visits with every one of our 75 chapter members. A "one-on-one" is a face to face conversation of about 30 minutes' duration for the purpose of building a relationship and learning what really matters to the person being interviewed. It is not a sales pitch or a psychoanalysis. People are not asked to give money or commit to anything during the visit. Our meetings will be by appointment only. Our listeners will identify concerns and issues as well as untapped leadership potential from throughout the membership. So please enjoy these meetings with your fellow League members.

We have already identified nine volunteer leaders who will conduct our "one-on-one" interviews. We have scheduled our training in the "one-on-one" technique for **Saturday morning, June 4, from 9:30 to 11:30 a.m. in the lower level of the municipal building**. The training will be led by Noelle Reeve of CJREC and Nicole Plett. (Noelle & Nicole received this training last summer at the weeklong CJREC Leadership Training retreat.)

Our Listening Campaign volunteers signed up thus far are: Joan Brame, Helen V. Holmes, Pam Mount, Nicole Plett, Lois Riskin, Jane Thompson, Joan Tomlin, Theresa Wrobel and Adele Vexler.

If you volunteered or would like to join the Listening Campaign project and become a listener, please plan to attend our training on **Saturday morning, June 4th**.

Sign up by replying to Nicole Plett at nbplett@nary.org or call her at **609-771-1665** or to Adele Vexler at adelevexler@comcast.net or **609-896-1988**

We need to know who plans to attend as soon as possible!

Best wishes, Nicole & Adele

Girl Scouts in Politics

The Lawrence League of Women Voters is pleased to co-sponsor a fall event with the Lawrence Township Girl Scouts. The young female participants will gain "The Ms White House Project" badge.

The political process has a big impact on younger citizens, from education laws drafted in Washington, DC to safety standards at playgrounds closer to our backyards. How do we help young adults make their voice heard? By demystifying the process and giving them concrete tools to effect change at the local, state or federal level.

Additionally, we need more women in public office in New Jersey! While we are one of only 16 states ever to have elected a woman as governor, we have a markedly poor overall record, ranking 43rd in the proportion of women in our state legislature.

Research shows that elected women bring to the table distinctive issues and perspectives based on their life experiences, so we are trying to encourage young women to want a seat there.

Metta Cahill, League member, and Carol Nicholas, chair of the Lawrence Girl Scouts, are co-planning a "Women Count - Girl Scouts in Politics" event, to be held at the Lawrence Community Center on Saturday, October 22nd, 2005 from 1-4 pm.

The event will begin with a general presentation on Women and NJ Politics to Lawrence Township Girl Scouts of all ages. Following, there will be a skit that describes the different steps in the political process. After, the different age groups will disperse to different areas to work on a political issue of interest to children. There will be booths set up to help the girls identify who their representatives are, how to communicate with politicians by telephone or by letter, how to write op-eds and letters to the editor, how to register to vote and use a voting booth, political cartooning, etc.

Women and men who hold, or have held, political office here in New Jersey will be invited to attend the event also -- and meet and greet their young constituents.

Carol and Metta will be using many ideas gleaned from Kids and Politics.org, a website brimming with links for how kids can get involved and take political action. Michele Tuck-Ponder, Executive Director of Girl Scouts of Raritan and former mayor of Princeton Township, is also involved. Michelle will attempt to recruit some college students who will be attending the Eagleton Institute – Center for Women and Politics' summer program to act as mentors to the girls at our October event.

Metta Cahill

Give me your tired, your poor.....????

On Thursday, May 19th, the Princeton Public Library hosted a community forum titled "The Economic and Political Perspectives of Illegal Immigration".

The speakers included Carol Swain, Professor of Political Science at Vanderbilt University; Alejandro Portes, Director of the Center for Migration and Development at Princeton University; Barrie Peterson, Director of the Institute on Work at Seton Hall University, and Doug Palmer, Mayor of Trenton.

Each presenter had a different take on the "immigration problem", but all agreed that our nation's present immigration laws are woefully inadequate and that reforms are long overdue.

Portes feels that labor flow should be legalized between the US and Latin America and feels those regulations should encourage a cyclical pattern of families moving back and forth between the US and their home country. Peterson's study in New Jersey revealed that illegal immigration results in money going into Social Security coffers under false IDs, and rarely displaces American workers – but admits that the working conditions of illegal workers are often deplorable. Swain wants legal immigration quotas to be increased, but feels that illegal immigration laws should be strongly enforced. She offered evidence that undocumented immigrants create big problems for schools and hospitals, and do take jobs away from low-wage American workers. She worries most about the vigilante Americans who have taken to patrolling our southern borders. Mayor Palmer spoke of the motivation behind his December 2004 executive order that requires all Trenton municipal agencies to respond to undocumented immigrants in the same way they do US citizens.

All speakers applauded the McCain-Kennedy bill, introduced mid-May. This bipartisan immigration reform bill allows some of the 10-12 million illegal immigrants in the US to get legal jobs and eventual citizenship. The proposal allows illegal immigrants - who clear criminal background checks, pass an English language test and pay a \$2000 fee - to apply for temporary work permits that could last up to six years. At the end of six years, the worker and their families could apply for permanent resident status, and five years later for citizenship. The bill also allows foreign citizens to apply for low-paid jobs that Americans do not want, from outside of the country. If the worker loses his job, he has 60 days to find a new one or return home.

Proponents call the bill "an orderly, humane, compassionate" immigration policy, that recognizes that deporting million of illegal immigrants is unrealistic. Opponents claim the bill offers amnesty to millions of people who have broken US laws by entering the country illegally.

Metta Cahill