

League of Women Voters of New Jersey
2009-2010 Annual Local League Report — Due July 15, 2010

The League president or a designated representative should fill out this form and mail it to **LWVNJ, 204 State St., Trenton, NJ 08608**. A copy is available online at www.lwvni.org in the “Members Area” – once there, click on Forms.

Please attach and mail along with this form:

- A list of your BOARD MEMBERS or Administrative Council or Committee for 2010-11.
- Your approved BUDGET for 2010-11.
- *Up-to-date BYLAWS. (New)*
- Any new PUBLICATIONS your League has developed.

LOCAL LEAGUE: League of Women Voters of Lawrence Township

Person submitting report: Nicole Plett

2010-11 President(s), Contact(s), or Managers: Please provide 2, indicating titles.

NAME: Nicole Plett, President

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NAME: Lois Riskin, Vice President

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2010-11 Treasurer: Diane Bartfield, Treasurer

Address: 5 Woodbury Lane, Lawrenceville, NJ 08648

Phone: 609-912-0873 **Email:** pbartfield@aol.com

MEMBERSHIP:

Annual dues (for 2010-11): Individual, \$55; Household, \$75; Student, \$25.

How many members were on your rolls as of Jan. 31, 2010? **80 members**

What did you do to recruit new members and retain old ones? *(Please note those that were particularly successful)*

A. To recruit new members, our membership chair Lois Riskin sends membership brochures and a cover letter to local residents who write letters to the Trenton Times – she invites them to join the LWV (based on their concern for public affairs).

B. To retain old members we try to present programs on topics that are of greatest interest to them.

Do you have a special orientation for new members? Please describe:

Two factors:

- A. We introduce them to the group at our September "Back to League Night" social meeting.
- B. We try to give them a position of responsibility in the organization as soon as possible under the assumption that they joined the League to accomplish some personal goals.

What did you do to include MALs in your area? Successes?

None that I know of.

DEVELOPMENT: Describe how your League finances its operations beyond dues, if so.

Through limited fundraisers – but there is not much motivation for members to work hard raising funds when they consider \$55 a hefty annual fee. We have one significant fundraiser a year to finance our annual high school scholarship awards.

VOTERS SERVICE:

What did you do to register new voters and/or encourage voting? (registration drives, brochures, etc.)

We have a lot of leadership and activity in this area from Lois Riskin and Doris Weisberg. We have a table at as many Back to School Night programs and community fairs as possible. We also do voter registration for large employers such as Mercer County Community College, hospitals and other workplaces.

What did you do to inform voters about candidates or issues? (voters guides, debates, etc.)

We host debates for Town Council, School Board, etc.; present public programs on issues; and publish issue analysis articles in the Trenton Times.

What did you do to educate young people about government and about voting? (essay contests, Running & Winning, giving them Citizens Guides, etc.)

Our only real activity in this area is voter registration at the local high schools. We would like to do more.

How can LWVNJ support your service to voters and/or improve our own?

Good question.

LEAGUE PROGRAM

If you did a Local Study, what was it and how did you conduct it?

We had three 2009-10 Local Studies and added programming on legislation around prisoner re-entry and national health care reform. For our Local Studies on Immigration and In-State Tuition and Census 2010, we put together committees to program and run public forums on the topics with specialist guest speakers. Member and the general public were invited to both programs.

If you participated in a **State or National Study**, specify which and describe what you did.

Immigration and In-State Tuition and National Healthcare Reform.

How many are in your **Observer Corps** and which government units do they regularly observe?

None that I know of.

What were your most successful **meetings/events/projects**? **Why**?

Our public program on "Immigration and In-State Tuition," with expert guest speakers, was most successful because it introduced our members, and the public, to a problem of which many of them were previously unaware.

ADVOCACY

What **actions**, if any, did you take on League positions?

Health care reform letters to the editor and informational public programs. For In-State Tuition legislation (2009-10) we sent members to the Statehouse to testify and speak with legislators.

What was/were the **position(s)** you acted on? *(Indicate whether a local, state or national position)*

Healthcare reform and single payer option (national); in-state tuition at state colleges for children of undocumented residents (state).

What can LWVNJ do to strengthen your/our advocacy efforts?

Provide research and white papers for use by our members in their local advocacy activities.

COLLABORATION:

Which organizations, if any, did you work with to hold events or accomplish League goals?

Lawrence School Board (debates); New Jersey Regional Coalition (immigration & in-state tuition; prison re-entry, justice reform); Second Chance campaign (prison re-entry).

COMMUNICATIONS:

How did you communicate with your members? *(email, mail, phone tree, website, others?)*

Email (primary); U.S. mail; website.

How did you make the public aware of your events/positions? (Most effective method?)

Letters to the Editor.

How can LWVNJ best communicate with you and your members?

Please rank the top 4 methods, 1 as "most effective":

1--Action Alerts

2—website & Facebook

3--Board liaison (needed!)

4—email

What can LWVNJ do to improve communications with local League leaders and members?

We wish we knew!

Any other comments?

Sorry this is so incredibly late! (Summer tends to be a time of rest and refueling.)

THANKS FOR ALL YOU DO FOR THE LEAGUE AND FOR YOUR COMMUNITY!