



LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS®
OF NEW JERSEY

STATE BOARD REPORT

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Upcoming Election Dates

- o Feb 21 (Sa) Fire District Elections
- o Apr 21 (Tu) School Board Election
- o June 2 (Tu) June Primary Election

Dates to Remember

- o Jan 15 (Th) Quarterly Sales Tax Form due
- o Jan 31 (Sa) LWVUS Deadline for Membership Roster – **determines PMP!!!**
- o Feb 15 (Su) LWVNJ Deadline for Program Planning results
- o Feb 15 (Su) LWVNJ Deadline for Voting Rights for Parolees and Probationers study results
- o Mar 14 (Sa) LWVNJ Alternative Energy Forum, RU, Lucy Stone Hall, Piscataway, 9 – 12:30
- o May 2 (Sa) LWVNJ Convention, Hyatt Regency, New Brunswick all day

Useful Forms Available on the Members Section of the Website or from the State Office:

Request for Proof of Insurance Local League Annual Report Form Local League Sales and Use Tax Form

204 West State Street, Trenton, NJ 08608
609-394-3303 * 800-792-VOTE * Fax: 609-599-3993
Email: contact@lwnj.org Web site: www.lwnj.org

LWVNJ President's Letter
Anne Maiese
(856) 795-4367 maiese2@comcast.net

SBR – January 2009

Dear SBR Readers,

Our work assisting voters has settled down somewhat since the November General Election, but we have been advocating on several education issues recently. With the approval of the LWVNJ Board, our LWVNJ Fiscal Policy & Education Committee helped me write to the New Jersey Board of Education in December to express the League's concerns about the High School Redesign Proposal it is considering. You can read the letter on our website, at http://www.lwvnj.org/pubs/HS_Redesign_concerns.pdf. For the Policy Report of the New Jersey High School Redesign Steering Committee: <http://nj.gov/education/ser/sc/lowres.pdf>.

We also wrote to express our concerns about the present lack of emphasis on civic education and the fact that the Redesign will not improve instruction in this area. You can read that letter at http://www.lwvnj.org/pubs/Civics_Letter_2.pdf.

Thanks to all who've donated to our Annual Member Appeal, especially those who increased their donations from last year—you helped us earn the \$5,000 that a dedicated member offered to match increases. Your dedication to the League is terrific! However, our Appeal is not finished, and overall, we are significantly behind. The Callathon portion of the Appeal is next, and I encourage your Leagues to help make calls and 'cash in' too. The form is on p.3.

LWVNJ is always careful with your dues and donations, and this year we are being even more conservative. Our recent cost-saving measures include insulating windows and reprogramming thermostats, asking members to receive the *NJ VOTER* as a link in an email, and producing fewer copies of the *2009 New Jersey Citizens Guides*. (Rest assured--prices are the same, and you will be able to obtain what you need. Use the form on p. 8 to reserve your copies.)

We are also planning a shorter convention—one full day, Saturday, May 2, at the Hyatt Regency in New Brunswick. The cost will be lower, since no evening banquet or overnight stay is needed, and we are hoping most Leagues will send their full complement of delegates. Our deliberations on program, by-laws, budget and nominations will be broken up by an Awards Luncheon, and we'll do our Silent Auction as usual.

In preparation, we need your program planning recommendations and consensus results on the 'Voting Rights for Parolees and Probationers' study by February 15, so we can consider them all at our February 28 meeting.

One more thing, remember that your PMP owed to LWVUS will be going up to \$29.20 for 2009-2010, and be reassured that the *LWVNJ will not be raising our PMP*.

Thanks for all you do for the League and New Jersey, all year long!

Anne Maiese, President
President

CALL TO CALLATHON!

Want an easy way to raise money for your League while supporting the State League? Participate in **Callathon** for our **2009 Annual Member Appeal!**

Here's how it works: Call your own members and/or members from other Leagues and your League will receive a share of what ALL your members and all those you call donate. If more than 50% of your members contribute, your League will earn 15%. If less than 50% donate, you will still earn 10% of all your member contributions. Many Leagues earn several hundred dollars making these calls! And the calls brought in over \$20,000 for the State League.

How do you sign up? Just fill in the form below and email or send it to the LWVNJ office (204 W. State St., Trenton, NJ 08608) **BY FEBRUARY 1st.**

NEW in 2009:

- 1) February 15--Callathon packets will be mailed to local Leagues that wish to participate.
- 2) March 31—Packets are due back to the State Office. **They must be returned by March 31 or no credit will be received.**
- 3) We will provide a brief "phone call" training to the League member in charge of Callathon so as to assure your League will receive the full credit for your efforts. Please be sure to fill in the name of that person in the form below.

Thank you for supporting the League of Women Voters of New Jersey and **Callathon 2009!**
If you have any questions regarding participation, please contact the office.

CALLATHON 2009 LOCAL LEAGUE SIGN UP (due Feb. 1st)

(PLEASE PRINT)

Will your League participate in **Callathon 2009** by calling your own League Members? Yes ___ No ___

Will your League call members from another local League? Yes ___ No ___ Number of Names _____

(Your League will earn 10% or 15% on calls to another League as well)

Name of your local League: _____

Name and address where Callathon materials should be mailed:

Name: _____ **Phone:** _____

Address: _____ **City** _____ **Zip** _____

Email: _____

Mail to: League of Women Voters of New Jersey, 204 West State Street, Trenton, NJ 08608

Fax: (609) 599-3993 **Email:** contact@lwvnj.org

Updating Your Membership Roster at www.lwv.org

DEADLINE: JANUARY 31, 2009

Each League's PMP, for both LWVNJ and LWVUS, is based on the members your League has in the database. For 2009-2010, the LWVUS PMP is rising to \$29.20. The LWVNJ PMP will remain at \$23.

If you've lost members, you should change their status to "inactive," so that you won't be getting a bill for them, though please reach out, if you can, to get them back!

If you've gained members, please add them if you haven't already, so they can receive the publications and mailings they're entitled to. LWVNJ relies on the LWVUS database for information about New Jersey members—new, dropped, deceased, moved, email changed, etc. **Please enter as many emails as you can.**

The member database can be accessed at <https://member.lwv.org/Login.asp>. Each League has a unique User ID and a password. **If you don't know them or are having problems accessing or changing your roster, please ask for it NOW.** They will be very busy on Jan. 29 and 30, and probably will not be working on Jan. 31, a Saturday. You can email the LWVUS office at database@lwv.org or you can call Betty Taira, at 202-429-1965, Ext. 345.

Save the Date:
May 1-2, 2009
Hyatt Regency, New Brunswick

The 58th LWVNJ Convention will be held on the evening of May 1st and all day May 2nd at the Hyatt Regency, New Brunswick. All business will be conducted on Saturday, May 2, 2009.

Call for Bylaws Amendments

According to our current bylaws, <http://www.lwvnj.org/members/bylaws.shtml>, any local League board may propose changes to the By-Laws, "provided such proposed changes shall be submitted to the board of directors at least three months prior to a convention."

Proposed amendments must be sent to the LWVNJ office, 204 W. State St., Trenton, NJ 08608, or emailed to contact@lwvnj.org, *by February 2, 2009*.

Please use either **bold print** or underline for new wording and ~~strike-through~~ for proposed deletions. It is helpful, but not required, to submit a rationale for the proposed change.

The state board will submit all proposals to local Leagues by March 2, (2 months before convention) and the LWVNJ Board's recommendation. Amending the bylaws requires a two-thirds vote of those present and voting at convention.

Awards

The form for nominating someone for the Distinguished Service Award is on the next page. Other awards are being redesigned and will be described in the Feb. SBR.

Honor Your 50+ Year Members

Please send the names and addresses of all your 50+ year members to Anne Maiese, maiese2@comcast.net, by March 13, 2009. We will name all in our convention program and honor all who attend our Awards Luncheon with a certificate and a cake.

Silent Auction



The League of Women Voters of New Jersey will hold its eighth Silent Auction at our 58th State Convention. This is a way for local Leagues help make the Convention a financial success and to show their flair and creativity and. It can be a basket or other kind of item people would want to bid on, a trip or tickets to an event, for example.

Here are a few ideas for baskets:

- **Beach Theme**: Use a beach pail as the “basket” fill with sunscreen, beach toys, sunglasses, a novel, etc.
- **Movie Theme**: Use a popcorn tub or bowl, fill with microwave popcorn, movie rental gift certificate, movie popcorn, movie review book, etc.
- **Gardener Basket**: Garden tools, seed packets, New Jersey vegetable recipe book, vegetable dip mix, gardening gloves, use a watering can as your basket.
- **Home Spa**: Mask, candles, bathtub pillow, pedicure kit, lotion, nail polish
- **Picnic Basket**: Red and white checked table cloth, wine, wine glasses, cork screw, etc.
- **Garden State**: Use a tote from a local landmark, fill with a state map, book on hiking in NJ, saltwater taffy.
- **Book Theme**: Gift certificate to Amazon.com; book marks, small reading lamp.
- **Home Repair**: Fill a small tool box or caddy with useful household repair items.
- **Specialty Foods**: Fill your basket with gourmet food items from a local eatery.

For more information contact Roberta Spray, 973-299-0919 or rcspray@optonline.net

DISTINGUISHED SERVICE AWARD

Nominations must be made by April 2, 2009

- 1. **DESCRIPTION:** At each LWVNJ Convention, the **DISTINGUISHED SERVICE AWARD** is given to a League member who has served the League in an extraordinary fashion.

Local Leagues must nominate individuals for this award. More than one person may be nominated, and someone who has been nominated in the past may be nominated again.

- 2. **CRITERIA:** The League member selected will exemplify the principles and leadership set forth in the LWVUS publication, *League Basics* (formerly *In League*). Nominees may have directed an outstanding League project or may have given selfless service to the League on a continuing basis. See http://www.lwv.org/AM/Template.cfm?Section=In_League.

Present state board members are not eligible.

- 3. The following outline will help you with your recommendations. This is only a guide.

- A. League history - how long a member, what Leagues, offices held in the League
- B. League projects/programs nominee has been involved in
- C. Leadership skills
- D. Communication skills
- E. What makes this nominee stand out among League members?

LOCAL LEAGUE _____

CONTACT PERSON _____ PHONE _____

Please return this form with any supporting material by APRIL 2, 2009 to:

LWVNJ – Awards Coordinator
204 West State Street
Trenton, NJ 08608

You may also fax materials to 609-599-3993.

Update on Voting Rights Study

Recently local League presidents received copies of our study on voting rights of probationers and parolees. The due date for return of consensus questions is February 15, so that we will have sufficient time to review local Leagues' input and if appropriate develop a position for the League of Women Voters of New Jersey before our convention on May 2, 2009. The study is available on our website at www.lwvnj.org/members/SBR/Probationers_Voting_Rights_Study.pdf.

The voting rights study was approved at the 2007 biennial convention. The study's scope was to examine current state law and its impact on probationers and parolees. This study would serve two purposes:

- 1) to educate League members and the public about current law;
- 2) to offer League members an opportunity to reach consensus about voting rights for probationers and parolees.

The study was delayed because, just as we were prepared to send it to local Leagues, we found a recently published study by the Brennan Center for Justice at New York University Law School. Since that study provided relevant, important information, we included it in our study and had the benefit of having its author review a final draft.

The LWVNJ board reasoned that with all of the activity around the election, members would not have had the time to read the study earlier, and we believe that the final version is much stronger. We thank everyone for their patience, and look forward to your responses.

Another good reference for this study is the following article in a public policy magazine, "Miller-McCune," that is distributed to academics and brings up the possibility of national legislation.

<http://www.miller-mccune.com/article/766>

Non-League Events of Interest

Feb 1st Red Dress Luncheon, sponsored by the Women's Heart Fund
Noon – 3 pm
Marriott Lafayette Yard, Trenton, NJ
1 West Lafayette Street
Trenton, NJ 08608
(609) 421-4000
www.womensheart.org/index.htm
Learn how YOU can prevent heart disease.

Feb 4th Anti-Poverty Network General Meeting
1:30 pm
Legal Services of NJ
100 Metroplex Drive, 1st flr conference room
Edison, NJ 08817
(732) 248-5155
www.antipovertynetwork.org
info@antipovertynetwork.org

Discussion with public advocate Ron Chen about soon-to-be-released report of the Governor's Blue Ribbon Panel on Immigration.

Feb 6th "The "E" in Thorough and Efficient: How Can We Insure Efficiency in Spending School Tax Dollars", sponsored by Princeton's Policy Research Institute for the region and Rutgers Public Education Institute
8 am – 3 pm
Woodrow Wilson School, Princeton University
Robertson Hall
Princeton, NJ 08544-1013

Feb 6th "The Federal Budget Outlook and Economic Recovery Package: How will they affect low- and moderate-income New Jerseyans?", sponsored by New Jersey Policy Perspective
1:30 – 3:30 pm
State House Annex, Rm 16
125 West State Street
Trenton, NJ 08608
RSVP: Raymond Castro: (609) 393-1145 x16 or castro@njpp.org
Guest Speaker: Joan Hugger, Dir. of Federal Budget Initiative, Center on Budget and Policy Priorities, Washington, DC

Feb 20th -- Early Bird Rate Deadline
Ready to RUN – Campaign Training for Women, sponsored by Center for American Women and Politics
*** Friday, March 20th (pre-conference pgms for women of color) ***
Saturday, March 21
8 am – 5:30 pm
Douglass Campus Center
Rutgers, New Brunswick
Register online at: http://www.cawp.rutgers.edu/education_training/ReadytoRun/RtoR_New_Jersey.php

The conference features **two tracks** to meet your needs: *Track 1 - I'm Ready to Run, Now What?* and *Track 2 - I'm Not Ready to Run Yet, But...*