



LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS®
OF NEW JERSEY

STATE BOARD REPORT

January 2017

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Dear Local League Presidents and Leaders:

This month's State Board Report is a short one. You will be hearing more from me at the end of the month when I issue our formal call to Convention. Don't let the brevity of this Report fool you into thinking we've been complacent, however. The LWVNJ Board of Directors devoted much of the January meeting to planning for our 62nd Biennial State Convention, "Growing the Grassroots". Our Budget and By-Laws Committees are diligently working on their recommendations and the Nominating Committee is contacting and interviewing prospective Board and committee members. The work of our members and board over the next three months and the decisions made at Convention on April 29, will lay the groundwork for our next biennium, leading us to the 100th Anniversary of our esteemed organization!

Please note the dates and timeline within this Report. **We need your input** to continue to grow the grassroots. We also want to celebrate your good work, so don't forget to submit your award nominations!

I am off to Washington, D.C. to march with League members from across the country to show our support for the protection of voting rights, women's rights, health care and the environment. If you are planning to attend the Washington D.C. march this Saturday and would like to join the League, please visit the [League Management page for all of the latest updates pertaining to the march.](#)

At the same time, the League of Women Voters of New Jersey will be participating in the sister march in Trenton. If you plan to join Jesse Burns and other LWVNJ members on Saturday, plan to meet at the theater in the War Memorial at 1 Memorial Drive in Trenton. The start time is 10:00 a.m. but you are encouraged to arrive early. [For detailed information about parking, sponsoring organizations, the agenda, etc, please visit the official site of the Women's March on New Jersey.](#)

The League of Women Voters was born out of the struggle for women's right to vote. For decades, our foremothers marched. This month, the League will march again to fulfill our promise of Making Democracy Work for all!

In League,



LWVNJ/EF Board Meeting Key Decisions

SBR – January 2016

Meeting held: Saturday, January 14, 2017

League of Women Voters of New Jersey :

Agreed to keep LWVNJ PMP at the current rate.

League of Women Voters of New Jersey Education Fund:

No key decisions.

Important Timeline Information for Local Leagues

- January 25, 2017: Deadline to Sign-up for Callathon
- January 27, 2017: Program Planning Responses Due to LWVNJ Board
- January 27, 2017: Suggested bylaws Changes Due to LWVNJ Board
- January 28, 2017: First Call to Convention Sent to Local Leagues
- January 28, 2017: Suggestions for New Board Members due to Nominating Committee
- January 28, 2017: Any recommended PMP increase must be sent to local Leagues (if proposed)
- January 31, 2017: Deadline to update Membership Roster
- February 28, 2017: Proposed Budget/Program/Bylaws must be sent to local Leagues no later than this date
- February 28, 2017: Award Nominations due from local Leagues
- April 28, 2017 and April 29, 2017: League of Women Voters of New Jersey Convention

Sign up for Callathon

Thank you to everyone who has sent in an Annual Appeal gift. If you haven't sent in your donation, please consider making a gift today. We are facing many challenges in 2017 and need your support.

I hope that your League will participate in this year's Callathon. **The deadline to sign up to participate is 1/25/2017.** Participating Leagues receive a percentage of the donations made by the members of the League they are calling. This is a great way to support the League and earn some money for your local League.

To sign up please email Pat, thompson@lwwnj.org, and let her know if you would like to call your own League, prefer to call a different League, or both.

Once you agree to participate, the state office will send you a packet on February 1st with instructions and people to call.

New to organizing Callathon? No worries! In addition to the instructions in your Callathon packet, the staff/board will offer you some training and answer any of your questions.

Program Planning and Bylaw Changes

Program planning responses and suggested bylaw changes are due by January 27, 2017. Current bylaws have been sent as a separate document. Suggestions for changes can be sent to Nancy Hedinger at hedingern@gmail.com. Please use either bold print or underline for new wording and strike through for purposes of deletion. It is helpful, but not required, if local League boards submit a rationale for the proposed change. The state board will submit all proposals to local Leagues two months before convention with a rationale for the proposed change and state board recommendation. Amendment of the bylaws requires a two-thirds vote of those present and voting at convention.

Program planning responses are due by January 27, 2017. Information about participating and response forms are available here: <http://lwvnj.org/members.html>

Deadline to Update your Membership Roster is January 31, 2016

Your local League's PMP payment to LWVNJ and LWVUS for the 2017-2018 FY is based on your membership roster as of midnight January 31.

This is your opportunity to access the National roster and to make sure the listing for your local League is correct. If you have added members from last year, be certain they are listed and mark members as inactive or deceased when appropriate. Check EVERYTHING for the correct spelling of names, addresses, phone numbers, emails and expiration date.

It is the local League's responsibility to maintain its roster. The state office is doing more with less, and while we can help answer your questions, we cannot be responsible for ensuring the accuracy of local League rosters. If you have any questions, please contact Pat Thompson at thompson@lwvnj.org.

LWVUS is offering a webinar to learn about making roster updates. During this webinar, you will be able to ask all of your questions live and receive real-time help from the LWVUS Database Manager, Lela Sallis. She will be walking through the various common practices and steps to successfully update your League's roster, including adding new members, updating leadership positions, downloading your roster, etc.

Please use the link below to sign up:

- [Wednesday, January 25th – 4:00pm-5:00pm EST](#)

Call for League of Women Voters of New Jersey Board Members

Do you know someone who would make a great addition to the League of Women Voters of New Jersey Board? Nominate them! Suggestions for board members can be sent to Marlene Sincaglia, Chair of the Nominating Committee at jcsmmm@verizon.net by January 28, 2017. Please include the nominee's name, phone number, and email address. Self-nominations are welcome!

50 Year Members

The League of Women Voters of New Jersey would like to honor our members who have been in the League for 50 years or more at our 62nd Biennial State Convention. Will you please take the time to look over your membership list and send the names of your 50 year members to Pat Thompson at contact@lwvnj.org by March 1, 2017 so that we can be sure we have a complete list of the honorees.

Current Study: Sexual Assault on College Campuses – Due February 17, 2017

All resources and material available here (scroll down): http://lwvnj.org/issues_womenfamily.html

Local League Awards

The League of Women Voters of New Jersey would like to recognize and celebrate local Leagues that have done outstanding work during the biennium and showcase one local League member who has demonstrated extraordinary service. Information about award nominations are included in this SBR. Let everyone know about the great work you are doing! Award nominations are due February 28, 2017.

LOCAL LEAGUE AWARDS

At the 2017 League of Women Voters of New Jersey Convention we would like to recognize local Leagues that have done outstanding work during the biennium.

In order to do so, we need local League boards to nominate their League (or a member, in the case of the Distinguished Service Award) and return forms by February 28, 2017 by email to Pat Thompson at contact@lwvnj.org.

1. ***Innovation Award***: A new project or a new twist on an “old” project that made your League visible, added members, and/or made a difference in your community. It could be one that educated the public on an important issue, served voters or influenced policy. Creativity will be rewarded.
2. ***Collaboration Award***: A project done in collaboration with other organizations that educated the public on an important issue, advocated for a local League program item, or solved a local problem, *and* served to leverage the League’s visibility and effectiveness.
3. ***Communication Award***: The most effective communication effort of a local League. Leagues must submit at least three items of communication for judging by the Board. (Printed or emailed bulletin; other publication; published op-ed, article, letter to the editor; a DVD, radio or TV interview, or internet posting.)
4. ***Distinguished Service Award***: A League member who has served the League in an extraordinary fashion, having directed an outstanding League project or given selfless service to the League on a continuing basis. Nominations made by local League boards, voted on by the LWVNJ board, with present LWVNJ Board members ineligible.

INNOVATION AWARD

Criteria for Award:

1. A new project or a significant modification of an existing/ongoing project.
2. The project (or change) must have been done between July 2015 and the present.
3. The project can be one that educated the public about an important issue, served voters or influenced policy, *with the result that the League became more visible, added members, and/or made a difference in the community.*
4. Creativity will be rewarded.

Submit a description of your project, including:

1. Your goal in doing the project and to what extent you achieved that goal. (If your goal was to educate voters, for example, how and how much did it help do that?)
2. If you modified a project done previously, explain how the changes improved results.
3. Provide evidence that the project made the League more visible and/or made a difference in the community. For example, the number of newspaper articles, phone calls, requests for speakers, policies changed, and/or people who joined because of the project.

Local League _____

Contact Person _____

Email _____ Phone: _____

Return this form with supporting material by February 28, 2017 to Pat Thompson at contact@lwvnj.org.

COLLABORATION AWARD

Criteria:

1. A project or activity that was done in collaboration with at least one other organization between July 2015 and the present..
2. The project needs to have educated the public on an important issue, advocated for a local league program item, or solved a local problem in a way that would not have been possible alone or separately.
3. The collaboration with another organization (or more) brought heightened visibility and a synergy of resources that made it “more than the sum of its parts.”

Submit a one-page description of your project, including:

1. What the project sought to achieve and to what extent you achieved that goal.
2. Names of the other organizations with which you cooperated.
3. Evidence that collaboration heightened the League’s effectiveness and increased its visibility.

Local League _____

Contact Name _____

Email _____ Phone _____

Return this form with supporting material by February 28, 2017 to Pat Thompson at contact@lwvnj.org.

COMMUNICATIONS AWARD

Criteria:

1. Entries should include materials from at least 3 of the 6 categories listed below, which were published, distributed, or disseminated between July 2015 and the present..
2. Each item submitted, except the bulletin/newsletter, will be judged on how wide its audience was, how well it succeeded in serving its purpose (e.g. if it was aimed at getting new members, how many did it deliver), and how it served the League's mission.

Categories:

1. Bulletin/newsletter. How many people get it and by what means? (email, snail mail)
2. Letter to the Editor or Op-Ed. Estimate the circulation numbers of the newspaper.
3. Newspaper articles, either by a reporter about a League project or submitted by a League member.
4. Radio or TV program or interview: Send a script or a summary of the show.
5. Video filmed at a League activity and made available to the public: Send a copy/link.
6. Your website or placement of your material on another site like YouTube. Submit website URL. (A blog would fit here too.)
7. Social Media Presence

Local League _____

Contact Person _____

Email _____ Phone _____

Return this form with supporting material by February 28, 2017 to Pat Thompson at contact@lwvnj.org.

DISTINGUISHED SERVICE AWARD

Nominations must be made by February 28, 2017

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.
2. Local Leagues must nominate individuals for this award. They may nominate more than one person and someone who has been nominated in the past.
3. CRITERIA: The League member selected will exemplify the best in League commitment and leadership. Nominees may have directed an outstanding League project or may have given selfless service to the League on a continuing basis.

Present state board members are not eligible.

4. 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 _____

Return this form with supporting material by February 28, 2017 to Pat Thompson at contact@lwnj.org.

