



LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS®
OF NEW JERSEY

STATE BOARD REPORT

March 2017

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Dear Local League Presidents and Leaders:

We hope you will be joining us at our 62nd Biennial Convention, "Growing the Grassroots" along with your League's full delegation. Across the country and here in New Jersey, our organization is growing as we welcome new members to our ranks. Convention will be sure to offer inspiration about member engagement and you will leave ready to continue to grow and transform our beloved organization.

We are proud to announce that a representative from LWVUS will be joining us to share information and solicit feedback on an exciting organizational transformation that will strengthen our organization and ensure we are vibrant for another century. You won't want to miss this presentation. Be sure to read the information about Convention in this SBR for more information about delegates. If you are not able to fill all your delegate slots, please consider allowing a member at large (MAL) to attend as a delegate from your League. You can let Pat Thompson know if you have any open delegate slots at contact@lwnj.org.

The evening before Convention, we will once again hold our annual "Making Democracy Work" cocktail reception and awards ceremony. This is a wonderful social event where we celebrate leaders in our state as well as our own organization. We are looking for silent auction donations and there are still sponsorship opportunities available for local Leagues.

We are also proud to announce that the LWVNJ Board of Directors has once again approved funding for Vote411. Vote411 is a great way to engage new members and a valuable service to your community. Please read all about it in this SBR and we hope we can count on your participation.

I look forward to seeing you all April 28th and April 29th, celebrating with you, and working together to create a vision and roadmap for the League that will bring us into our 100th year and beyond!

In League,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Nancy".

Meeting held: Saturday, March 11, 2017

League of Women Voters of New Jersey :

1. A minor amendment to Article IX of the bylaws was accepted for approval at Convention. The amendment provides for Convention notification to members at large (MAL), consistent with proposed amendments for MAL participation in Convention.
2. An Immigration Committee project to collect resources for non-criminal undocumented immigrants was approved and deemed appropriate under our immigration policy.

League of Women Voters of New Jersey Education Fund:

1. Approved expenditure of up to \$7,000 for Vote411 in 2017.
2. Approved expenditure up to \$2,500 for purchase of one year webinar software subscription.

Vote411 Opportunity for local Leagues

Last year, was our inaugural year using Vote411, an online voters guide accessed by thousands in your community every election season. Several local Leagues successfully participated and we were able to provide voters with information about local candidates.

We are proud to announce that, once again, the League of Women Voters of New Jersey is willing to fund the use of Vote411 for any local League that wishes to participate this year (for the June 2017 primary and/or the November 2017 General Election).

About VOTE411.org: Launched by the League of Women Voters of the United States Education Fund (LWVEF) in October of 2006, VOTE411.org is a "one-stop-shop" for election related information. It provides nonpartisan information to the public concerning the election process, including access to online voter guides.

Participation in VOTE411 is not free. Local and state Leagues buy into the system in order to access all VOTE411 has to offer. **However, the League of Women Voters of New Jersey will purchase VOTE411 for our local Leagues interested in participating!**

Local Leagues should use VOTE411 to publish local (board of education, council, county clerk, and other town and county races) voters guides. No other organization is publishing information about local candidates and this will really bring your local League greater visibility. The League of Women Voters of New Jersey will publish state races (Legislative and Gubernatorial races).

Your League's participation would entail volunteers who are willing to learn the online system (with help from LWVUS and LWVNJ) and put the time into creating the online voter guides. If your League is interested in participating, or if you have any questions, please email Jesse Burns at jburns@lwvnj.org.

62nd Biennial Convention of the League of Women Voters of New Jersey
“Growing the Grassroots”
Saturday, April 29, 2017
Forsgate Country Club, Monroe Township, NJ

[Register Now](#)

Please join us Saturday, April 29, 2017, 8 am - 5 pm at Forsgate Country Club for the 62nd Biennial State Convention of the League of Women Voters of New Jersey: Growing the Grassroots.

The day of Convention will feature:

- Morning breakfast and networking, parade of local Leagues, inspirational speeches, and the opportunity to inform decisions that will impact the future of the organization.
- An awards ceremony during a sit down lunch honoring the service of local Leagues and the contributions of outstanding individuals and 50-year members.
- Caucuses to inform delegates about decisions they will be making during Convention. For example, sponsors of non-recommended studies may hold a caucus to inform and lobby delegates for their support. Caucuses will also be held to offer a more in-depth examination of material scheduled to be voted on during the afternoon plenary. **If you wish to hold a caucus at Convention, please contact Pat Thompson at contact@lwvnj.org to discuss your caucus request no later than April 17.**
- The business of voting on program, nominations, bylaws, and the budget.

The evening before Convention, Friday, April 28, please join the League of Women Voters of New Jersey to celebrate **"Making Democracy Work" with a cocktail reception and awards ceremony at the Forsgate Country Club at 6:30 pm.** The League will be presenting our prestigious "Making Democracy Work" awards to deserving honorees in honor of their work educating, engaging, and protecting New Jersey voters. For more information about the cocktail reception and honorees, [please click here](#).

We hope that you will make a weekend of it, spending Friday and Saturday celebrating at both the cocktail reception and Convention. We are offering a \$40 discount when you register for these events together using the option available during the registration process.

Information about delegate representation: Convention is open to all, but only delegates can cast votes. Delegates are chosen by local Leagues, MAL units or ILOs and shall include the President/Leader or other authorized representatives. Delegates must be voting members of the League of Women Voters of New Jersey. In addition to the President/Leader, each local League or MAL unit in good standing is allotted one more voting member up to the first 25. When the number reaches 26, an additional delegate shall be authorized (thus a total of 3 delegates at 26 members), and one more delegate for every 25 additional voting members above that number according to the count on January 31, 2017. If you are unsure how many delegates your League is entitled to, please contact Pat Thompson at contact@lwvnj.org.

Hotel rooms are available for the evening of Friday, April 28 at the Crown Plaza Monroe, 390 Forsgate Drive at a discounted rate of \$99 for a double room and \$119 for a suite. Reservations can be made by calling the hotel at 609-655-4775 and requesting the League of Women Voters block. Please make your reservations by Friday, April 7, 2017.

We look forward to an energizing and productive state Convention!

Order your 2017 New Jersey Citizen's Guide to Government

We are pleased to inform you that the **2017 New Jersey Citizen's Guide to Government** is now available for purchase!

The *2017 New Jersey Citizen's Guide to Government* has all the information every New Jersey resident needs including **updated contact information for elected officials**, information on **political parties** and affiliation, **civics information** for different levels of government, tips for effective communication with elected officials, and an **easy to reference district locator** for legislative and congressional districts.

Order forms are available here: http://lwvnj.org/images/CG/2017_CG_OrderForm.pdf

***Making Democracy Work
Cocktail Reception
Local League Sponsorship Opportunity***

On April 28, 2017 we will celebrate the extraordinary dedication of five honorees to improving our democracy. These distinguished honorees will receive one of the League's highest honors, the "Making Democracy Work" award.

The following honorees will receive the award in celebration of their efforts to engage, educate, and protect New Jersey voters:

Senator Diane Allen, *New Jersey Senate*
Patricia Campos-Medina, *Campos Strategies Group*
Dawn Clarke, *League of Women Voters of New Jersey*
Nicholas Corasaniti, *New York Times*
Jeannine LaRue, *Kaufman Zita Group*

We will also celebrate the League, an organization built and sustained by a membership committed to making our government more transparent, our residents more engaged and informed, and our democracy more accessible. The League was formed as a direct result of our foremothers' struggle to continue fighting for a place at the table in government, even after they won the right to vote.

We hope you will join us as we celebrate our foremothers and you, our current members, along with our distinguished awardees. We are offering an exclusive opportunity, only to local Leagues, to remember, recognize, or honor someone significant to your local League in our cocktail reception program.

Your League might like to memorialize a member recently passed who embodied League virtues and carried the spirit of the suffragists. Or celebrate your members who have been committed to Making Democracy Work for 50 years or more. Or maybe you would like to honor a great woman who you consider to be a foremother of our organization.

Your local League can honor anyone or anything of your choosing with a half page (7.5 wide x 4.75 tall) ad in the Making Democracy Work program book. The cost of \$200 will be used to keep the organization strong for years to come. This offer is only good for local Leagues and is normally \$500 for other supporters.

Please make checks payable to LWVNJ-EF, send to 204 West State Street, Trenton, NJ 08608 and write "local League ad" in the memo line. Email your completed ad to Jesse Burns, Executive Director at jburns@lwnj.org by March 27, 2017. If you have questions, please contact Jesse.

Thank you for Making Democracy Work!

Making Democracy Work Cocktail Reception Silent Auction and Wine Pull

At our Making Democracy Work Gala on April 28th at the Forsgate Country Club in Monroe, the League of Women Voters will be sponsoring a wine pull and a silent auction.

The wine pull consists of getting donated bottles of wine valued at at least \$10.00. We put the bottles in a bag and people pay \$10.00 and pick out a bottle of their choice. Some get bottles worth \$10 but others get bottles worth \$15, \$20 or more. It is the luck of the pull. Last year we made \$390. Please donate a few bottles to this event. Our goal this year is to earn \$500.

We are also looking for items to be auctioned at our silent auction. Items can include restaurant certificates, tickets to plays or sporting events, gift cards, clothing, vases, candlesticks, fancy serving bowls, handmade jewelry, baskets of assorted books, coffees/teas, plants and gardening supplies, arts and crafts or candy. Your imagination is the limit. We can bundle smaller items. All donations are appreciated. Last year we raised \$2300.

If you have any bottles of wine or silent auction items to donate to the Gala, please contact Marlene Sincaglia, 908-464-1988 or jcsmmm@verizon.net. She will pick them up.

Thank you in advance for making our event a success.

