



LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS®
OF NEW JERSEY

STATE BOARD REPORT

April 2018

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LWVNJ President's Letter
Nancy Hedinger, President

SBR – April 2018

Dear Local League Presidents and Leaders,

These past few months have witnessed exciting times for LWVNJ. In mid-March, the League held another successful and inspiring Making Democracy Work awards reception – thanks to our planning committee, honorees, sponsors, local League donors and guests. Soon after, LWVNJ and our coalition partners scored a major legislative victory with the passage of the most comprehensive Automatic Voter Registration bill in the country. Jesse Burns had the privilege of attending the bill signing, where she received a pen from Governor Murphy which we have added to the LWVNJ collection.

On April 24, we attended the bill signing for the Equal Pay legislation which we actively supported as part of the Time to Care Coalition. We also look forward to the signing of another Time to Care bill, Earned Sick Leave, which passed both houses of the Legislature on April 12th. A special thanks to our members who participated in the Earned Sick Leave lobby day, weathering the freezing cold as we waited to get into the State House!

Some other bills the League has supported - the ban on offshore drilling and reinstating New Jersey in the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative - were also signed by the Governor this month. None of these legislative successes would have been possible without your support. As soon as the budget break is over, we will be back to work on other important voting bills. Please continue to sign our petitions and make the calls to your legislators when you receive emails from LWVNJ – it's working!

While we've been busy at the State House, we are also continuing to grow our Fair Districts NJ coalition and educating the people of our state about this exciting campaign. Our first educational forum is at 7:00 pm this evening at Monmouth University. Members of our distinguished panel will discuss the problem and offer solutions. (Hint: Fair Districts NJ!)
If you are interested in working on this campaign, please sign up at www.fairdistrictsnj.org.

Hopefully, the My Voice, My Vote initiative is keeping your League busy, speaking with students and registering voters at high schools in your area. Involving young people in civic engagement discussions stimulates the future lifeblood of our organization and instills hope for the continued relevance and success of our mission! If you have an opportunity to speak with high school or college students about the League, ask them to join and become involved. The boards of LWVUS and LWVNJ have just made it easier by waiving Student PMP through 2020! These students are our future. Let's engage them early so we can learn from each other as we transform the League for the next century.

In League,



STATE BOARD
2017 – 2019

Nancy Hedinger, President hedingern@gmail.com	Kathy Abbott, Director abbottkmr@gmail.com
Dawn Clarke, VP, Voters Service clarkeda@comcast.net	Brendan Keating, Director blkleague@gmail.com
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Off-Board

Lena Smith, Strategic Advisor: smith.madeleineruth@gmail.com

Sandra Matsen, Budget Committee (and Lobbyist): smatsen@aol.com

Marlene Sincaglia, Nominating Committee (chair): jcsmm@verizon.net

Michelle Bobrow, Nominating Committee: m.bobrow@verizon.net

Eileen Gallagher, Nominating Committee: eileengallagher99@gmail.com

**BOARD LIAISONS TO LOCAL LEAGUES
2017 – 2019**

<p>Nancy Hedinger</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Glen Rock • Mt. Lakes • Ridgewood • Montville 	<p>Susan Sferas</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Camden County • Princeton Area • Ocean County
<p>Dawn Clarke</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Nutley • Wayne • Hillside • Livingston 	<p>Ann Saunders</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cape May • Sussex Highlands • Pompton Lakes
<p>Ed Gracely</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Burlington • Greater Red Bank Area • Atlantic County 	<p>Ellen Kemp</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maplewood – South Orange • Monroe Twp. • Lawrence Twp
<p>Kathy Abbott</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hudson County • Montclair • Union 	<p>Melissa Scott</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hopewell Valley • East Windsor-Hightstown • Somerset County
<p>Brendan Keating</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fair Lawn • Newark • Morristown 	<p>Terry Thompson</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Berkeley Heights - New Providence – Summit (BHNPS) • Teaneck • Northern Valley
<p>Jill Lewis-Spector</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Township of Ocean • Western Monmouth • Plainfield 	

Meeting held: Saturday, April 14, 2018

League of Women Voters of New Jersey:

In light of the decision by LWV to temporarily waive student PMP at the national level, the following motions were approved:

- To waive local League Student PMP to LWVNJ until January 2021
- To set MAL dues for students at \$10 until January 2021

League of Women Voters of New Jersey Education Fund:

There are no board actions to report

Eliminating Student PMP Charges

Many of you assisted students around the state with voter registration drives during their March for Our Lives demonstrations. The League of Women Voters of the United States has heard that the cost associated with membership is a barrier to students joining the League. They have heard the message loud and clear and have stopped charging PMP for students through January 2021. You can read more about that decision, including recruitment tips, here: <http://forum.lwv.org/member-resources/article/memo-chris-carson-student-pmp-waiver-program>

The League of Women Voters of New Jersey is also eliminating student PMPs through January 2021. In addition, we are changing our student membership dues at the state level to \$10 a year. We encourage all local Leagues, knowing that you will not have to pay PMP for your student members, to consider eliminating or reducing your student membership fees. We hope that you will make a concentrated effort to encourage more young people to join the League.

Transformation Roadmap

Over the past couple of years, the League of Women Voters has been growing at all levels. Recognizing the changing climate, both in the nature of volunteerism and the growing number of competing organizations, the League of Women Voters of the United States, with input from state and local Leagues around the country, has been working to ensure that the League enters the next century strong, visible, and relevant. You might remember a presentation at our own Convention in which LWVUS talked about our transformation journey and how we were going to strengthen the organization.

As the next step in that journey, LWVUS has published a “Transformation Roadmap” as well as specific action steps that should be taken to implement the roadmap. If you wish to review the entire roadmap, please contact Pat Thompson at contact@lwvnj.org. After years of work, input from Leagues across the country, and the professional expertise of consulting firms, the roadmap makes recommendations to ensure the success of our beloved organization. It takes a deep look into the League’s structure, processes, people and engagement, purpose and strategic priorities, and makes recommendations for improvement including:

1. Having a clear strategic focus;
2. Ensuring a healthy League network, with each level having the capacity and support to take on an appropriate role;
3. Changing our culture to be more welcoming, inclusive, trusting, and attuned to the needs of our volunteers;
4. And building sufficient resources to guarantee that we have the technology, communications, revenue, and staff necessary to serve members, supporters, and allies and to accomplish our work.

The overall goals of the roadmap are to create a healthy League network that is powerfully communicating our story consistently at all levels, engaging and welcoming new members, supporters, and volunteers, embraces inclusion and equity, and has the resources necessary to support our core work and have a meaningful impact.

In order to successfully implement these goals, the League of Women Voters of New Jersey has recognized there is a great need for increased staff capacity. We have hired a new staff member, Helen Kioukis, who is tasked with helping implement the roadmap on the state level by offering membership engagement and retention support to our local Leagues. The League of Women Voters of New Jersey is looking to ease the administrative burden on local Leagues, provide messaging, branding, and other communications resources, offer trainings, and help implement best practices for membership and volunteer growth all to better support the work you are doing at the community level.

At times, change might feel uncomfortable, but throughout this transformation, it is important to remember that all levels of the organization are partners with the same goal. We all have a deep love of and loyalty to our organization and wish to see it succeed for another 100 years. Democracy needs the League to be efficient, powerful, and impactful particularly when we face so many challenges. And the League needs you, our members, to help take us into our second century.

Advocacy Update

From January through last week, several League supported bills have made it through the Legislature. We were instrumental in the passage, and in some cases the drafting, of these important policies. As you will see, we have been busy:

Equal Pay: New Jersey now has the strongest equal pay law in America, thanks to the League and our coalition partners. We were proud to be present when Governor Murphy signed this legislation.

Earned Sick Leave: The League, as a member of the Time to Care Coalition, has been working to improve our earned sick leave policies for years. On April 12th, Earned Sick Leave, which provides time off for over 1 million NJ workers currently without sick leave, passed the NJ Senate. It now heads to the Governor's desk.

Automatic Voter Registration: Automatic voter registration legislation also passed both the NJ Assembly and NJ Senate on April 12th. The League was a leading organization drafting and advancing this legislation. We were proud to be present and to receive a pen at the signing of this legislation.

Family Planning: For eight years, the League of Women Voters of New Jersey has worked to see funds for family planning services restored to the New Jersey state budget after being cut by Governor Christie. A supplemental appropriation was finally passed earlier this year.

New Voter Empowerment Act: This League supported legislation allows 17 year olds to vote in a primary election if they turn 18 before the following general election. It has passed the Assembly and we are hopeful it will pass the Senate after the April budget break.

Requiring email addresses on nominating petitions: The League, recognizing the difficulty of reaching candidates running for office, drafted and championed legislation requiring candidates to provide email addresses when filing for office. This legislation has passed the Senate and we are hopeful it will be scheduled for an Assembly vote after the April budget break.

In-person early voting and online voter registration: These core League voting rights policies have passed one Senate committee and we will be focusing on ensuring passage after the April budget break.

Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative (RGGI): The League has worked for many years to reinstate New Jersey in RGGI after Governor Christie withdrew us from the program. Governor Murphy issued an executive order to take steps to ensure our full participation in this ten state compact. The Legislature has passed legislation requiring our participation and adding the stipulation that future Governor's may not withdraw us without legislative concurrence.

Offshore oil and gas: The League has participated in calls to ban offshore drilling and has submitted comments at the federal level. This League supported legislation that has passed both houses and has been signed by the Governor prohibiting offshore drilling in state waters.

Chronic Absenteeism: League supported legislation requiring public schools to address chronic absenteeism also passed both houses.

Fair Districts New Jersey: The League has launched Fair Districts New Jersey, a coalition dedicated to ensuring our legislative and congressional districts are drawn in a way that is impartial, transparent, and representative. You can visit the website here: <http://www.fairdistrictsnj.org/>.

In addition, our new staff member will be focused on advancing our legislative priorities and assisting our local Leagues with their growth. Again, thank you so much for your support. **None of this work would be possible without you.** Because of you, we have been in the forefront of absolutely crucial policy discussions.

Photo Sharing Bank Available: The League of Women Voters of the United States has been gathering photos from League activities around the country. All Leagues are welcome to use the photos on your websites and in materials (but we suggest you do include a caption crediting the original League). You can access and download photos here: <https://www.flickr.com/photos/leagueofwomensvoters/albums>

LWVUS Mission Statement Change: The League of Women Voters of the United States has changed the mission statement. Local Leagues are encouraged to update your mission statements on materials. The new mission statement is: Empowering Voters. Defending Democracy.

Statewide Public Policy Committees Need Members: With all the action taking place in Trenton in the new year, we need more League members to help with our advocacy work. We need members to serve on the following committees: Education, Fiscal Policy, Government, Immigration, Natural Resources, Social Policy, and Women and Family Issues.

If interested in serving or learning more, please contact Jesse Burns at jburns@lwvnj.org.

Join the Centennial Campaign committee: We are raising money to sustain the organization into the next 100 years. Since we will be celebrating our 100th birthday in 2020, we have an opportunity to market that and engage those people who want to help us ensure that the League of Women Voters of New Jersey continues to be a strong advocate for New Jersey voters for many years to come. The Centennial Campaign is a large scale fundraising campaign and we need volunteers to serve on the committee to lead us to success. If interested, please contact VP of Development Susan Sferas, suesfer@aol.com.

LWVUS Convention 2018: The 53rd National Convention is June 28 – July 1 in Chicago, IL. Information on the convention can be found at membership@lww.org. Please let Pat Thompson know if you or a member of your League will be attending. We'd like to have a delegate count as well as a contact list for the purpose of communicating with our delegates before and during the convention.

IN MEMORIUM

It is with great sadness that we inform you of the passing of the following members, leaders, and loved ones:

Pauline Chandler - Plainfield

We offer our deepest sympathies and condolences to their families, friends and all who were fortunate enough to have known them.

We have made all attempts to ensure this list is as complete as possible for deaths that we have been informed of since the February 2018 SBR. However, we apologize if your loved one is missing and we ask that you notify the state office at contact@lwnj.org. We will include his or her name in the future. If you wish to make a memorial donation, please include the name of the person you are honoring on the memo line of the check and mail to 204 West State Street, Trenton, NJ 08608. We will notify the family of your generous gift.