



LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS®  
OF NEW JERSEY

**STATE BOARD REPORT**

May 2018

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Dear Local League Presidents and Leaders,

It is our pleasure to issue a warm welcome to the new presidents and leadership teams. The LWVNJ board and staff are here to assist you in your new leadership role(s). A list of board members and their contact information and a listing of board liaisons to local Leagues can be found in this SBR. The individual assigned to serve as the liaison to your League is your state League partner, available to provide advice and assistance, explain and update you on LWVNJ decisions, and to bring your concerns back to the state board and staff. To keep apprised of activities and policies at the national level, please visit [lwv.org](http://lwv.org) and [forum.lwv.org](http://forum.lwv.org). Please remember, although the League has three levels, we are fundamentally one organization and it is important that we speak with one voice.

To those leaders who are continuing in your current positions, we appreciate your commitment and thank you in advance for sharing your successes, things you tried that didn't go well, program and get out the vote ideas, and your questions and concerns on the LWVNJ Presidents and Leaders Google Group. Sharing of ideas and concerns serves the organization collectively and enhances individual leadership growth.

A heartfelt thank you to the presidents and leadership teams who are stepping down from your leadership positions. The League is grateful for your commitment to the organization and for the countless hours you devoted to this valuable volunteer experience. The growth of the League over the past two years is due in part to your stepping up to the challenges and opportunities of educating and engaging new members. We are a stronger League because of your efforts. After you've had a chance to regroup, we hope you will consider serving in a different capacity, perhaps at a state level. Information about LWVNJ committees can be found under Opportunities, Updates & Reminders in this SBR.

In addition to municipal and school board elections, 2018 is a congressional election year. As you plan for candidates' forums post primaries, please partner with other Leagues in your congressional district. It's not too early to start talking to each other about dates and locations to ensure the invitations are timely. The candidates will only agree to participate in a limited number of debates/forums so let's not compete with each other and let's make sure one of them in each district is League sponsored!

A number of us will be attending LWVUS Convention 2018 in late June. We hope to gather more information on the Transformation Road Map, some creative ideas for empowering voters and defending democracy, and suggestions for celebrating our centennial year. Information about Convention 2018 and an exciting opportunity to participate from home is provided in this SBR.

We wish you a safe and joyous summer!

In League,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Nancy K. Hedinger". The signature is written in a cursive style and is positioned to the left of a vertical line.

**STATE BOARD**  
**2017 – 2019**

Nancy Hedinger, President <a href="mailto:hedingern@gmail.com">hedingern@gmail.com</a>	Kathy Abbott, Director <a href="mailto:abbottkmr@gmail.com">abbottkmr@gmail.com</a>
Dawn Clarke, VP, Voters Service <a href="mailto:clarkeda@comcast.net">clarkeda@comcast.net</a>	Brendan Keating, Director <a href="mailto:blkleague@gmail.com">blkleague@gmail.com</a>
Ed Gracely, VP, Program <a href="mailto:edgracely@verizon.net">edgracely@verizon.net</a>	Uyen “Winn” Khuong, Director <a href="mailto:atnjwinn@gmail.com">atnjwinn@gmail.com</a>
Susan Sferas, VP, Development <a href="mailto:suesfer@aol.com">suesfer@aol.com</a>	Timothy Priano, Director <a href="mailto:timothy@abtp.com">timothy@abtp.com</a>
Ann Saunders, VP, Governance <a href="mailto:Saunders12@verizon.net">Saunders12@verizon.net</a>	Katharine Schumacher, Director <a href="mailto:katherineanne@gmail.com">katherineanne@gmail.com</a>
Ellen Kemp, Treasurer <a href="mailto:ellenkemp@gmail.com">ellenkemp@gmail.com</a>	Melissa Scott, Director <a href="mailto:mebscott@comcast.net">mebscott@comcast.net</a>
Jill Lewis-Spector, Secretary <a href="mailto:Jlewisprof1@yahoo.com">Jlewisprof1@yahoo.com</a>	Terry Thompson, Director <a href="mailto:Ta-thompson@hotmail.com">Ta-thompson@hotmail.com</a>

**Off-Board**

Lena Smith, Strategic Advisor: [smith.madeleineruth@gmail.com](mailto:smith.madeleineruth@gmail.com)

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

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

Michelle Bobrow, Nominating Committee: [m.bobrow@verizon.net](mailto:m.bobrow@verizon.net)

Eileen Gallagher, Nominating Committee: [eileengallagher99@gmail.com](mailto:eileengallagher99@gmail.com)

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

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

**Meeting held: Saturday, May 12, 2018**

**League of Women Voters of New Jersey and League of Women Voters of New Jersey Education Fund:**

This meeting was a planning session. There are no board actions to report.

### LWVUS Convention

1. LWVUS Convention information is available here: <http://forum.lwv.org/category/member-resources/council-and-convention/convention-2018>. The registration deadline (without paying a late fee) is June 1, 2018.
2. LWVNJ is coordinating local League delegates. If you are attending, please email Pat Thompson at [contact@lwnj.org](mailto:contact@lwnj.org) to let her know that you are attending and which League you are representing. We are also collecting names so we can let you know of LWVNJ social events planned for Chicago and give people opportunities to share cabs to and from the airport.
3. A Conversation on Redistricting with Nick Stephanopoulos and Ruth Greenwood on Thursday, June 28 at 7 pm CT, will be livestreamed. We are encouraging League leaders who are not attending the Convention to organize viewing parties. You can complete [this form](#) to receive tips and tools from the mission impact team on hosting their event.
4. If delegates want to learn more about Convention and how to make the most of it, please visit [forum.lwv.org](http://forum.lwv.org). And/or, join one of the upcoming **webinars**:
  - a. Budget: [Join us](#) on Wednesday, May 30 at 2pm ET. This webinar will discuss the 2018-2020 biennium budget that will be presented and voted on at Convention and provide an opportunity to ask questions of the Budget Committee.
  - b. Navigating Convention: [Join us](#) on Wednesday, June 6 at 2pm ET. Our Convention Parliamentarian will guide us through parliamentary procedure and how to make the most of your plenary experience.

## Voters Service: Get Ready for the Fall Now

### Candidate Forums

1. Demand for trained moderators is high! If your League is interested in hosting a moderator training, please contact Pat Thompson at [contact@lwvnj.org](mailto:contact@lwvnj.org). We provide the materials and the trainer, but we ask the local League host to provide the venue and some light refreshments.
2. Coordinating with other Leagues: It is absolutely crucial that Leagues that share voting districts coordinate their debate efforts (particularly in congressional races). When candidates receive more than one debate invitation from the League of Women Voters, we are competing against ourselves! It is much more effective to have multiple Leagues sponsor the same debate and to work together to ensure it is successful!

### VOTE411.org

The League of Women Voters of New Jersey has purchased VOTE411 for the entire state. It is our goal to cover as many races around the state as possible so we need every local League to seriously consider participating in Vote411 to cover your local races (the state office does congressional races) as well as volunteers interested in covering races where we do not have a local League or the local League is not participating. If you are interested in volunteering or if your local League will cover races in your area, please contact Jesse Burns at [jburns@lwvnj.org](mailto:jburns@lwvnj.org)

### Voter Registration Drives

#### Update Your Knowledge of the Regulations

Go to the New Jersey Division of Elections website, [www.njelections.org](http://www.njelections.org). Learn the latest rules on Vote-By-Mail options and procedures, criteria for registering to vote, and registering and voting options for college students.

#### Request Materials

The League of Women Voters of New Jersey has Vote411 postcards, Don't Forget to Vote postcards, and choosing a candidate brochures for your voter registration drives. To request materials, please email Pat at [contact@lwvnj.org](mailto:contact@lwvnj.org).

#### Collaborate With Other Groups

Coordinate your efforts with other civic or service organizations in your area. Reaching out and working with other groups not only increases your effectiveness, but also improves League visibility. Of course, you will need to ensure that they understand that voter registration drives must be non-partisan. In your planning discussions include some training on how to 'speak' non-partisan. "We are here to provide information on voter registration—we do not endorse or oppose any candidate or political party" is a good start.

#### Train and Retrain Volunteers

Because we all forget, “retraining” of volunteers may be as simple as meeting with them beforehand just to review the law, procedures and to go over the forms. If you plan to collaborate with groups new to the process, you may want to schedule a more formal training session for the volunteers prior to the drive date to include not only the registration information and procedure, but also the necessity to be non-partisan and to understand the responsibility they are about to undertake.

### **Recruit Members**

Remember that every event, including voter registration, is a membership opportunity. Make the League visible: post your LWV banner and wear your League pin. While not stage front, have membership materials available and a signup sheet (name, e-mail and phone) available for those who may want to be informed of future events. Be enthusiastic and point out that this is one of the many things League does.

### **Keep Records**

Develop a simple system for your volunteers to document the number of registrations they take: new registrations, name change, address change, and political party affiliation. Also document the number of registration forms and vote-by-mail forms that are given out. This information is needed to document and evaluate your success. Report out here: <https://goo.gl/forms/9oslkuS1FE5l4VEE2>. Please access and complete the form after each event. It is a very short form and will not take much time.

## Centennial Campaign

The League of Women Voters of New Jersey is growing and we have launched the Centennial Campaign so we can support our growth and meet our capacity needs! We have a million dollar goal that we will reach by the end of 2020 to ensure the League is here to serve our members for the next 100 years.

Ways you can get involved:

### Pledge or Give a Gift

If you are excited about the growth of the organization, please consider a gift to our Centennial Campaign! You can also decide to pledge to donate over time. If you are interested in discussing investing in the future of the League please contact President Nancy Hedinger at [hedingern@gmail.com](mailto:hedingern@gmail.com).

### Join the Centennial Campaign Committee

Raising money to sustain the organization into the next 100 years takes a team! Since we will be celebrating our 100<sup>th</sup> 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](mailto:suesfer@aol.com).

## Legacy Giving

### Remember the League in your Will

If you have already left a gift to the League of Women Voters of New Jersey in your will, we would like to acknowledge your generosity and celebrate your gift. Please let VP of Development, Susan Sferas know of your gift at [suesfer@aol.com](mailto:suesfer@aol.com).

We are also looking for testimonials from those of you who have chosen to leave a bequest to the League of Women Voters of New Jersey. We are collecting your stories to inspire others to follow your example and sustain the League for many years to come. If you are willing to share your story, please contact Kathy Abbot at [abbottkmr@gmail.com](mailto:abbottkmr@gmail.com).

If you haven't already, please consider leaving the League a bequest from your estate. You can also contact Susan for more information about remembering the League in your will.

**Student Membership PMP:** LWVUS has 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.

**Citizens Guides for Sale:** [http://lwvnj.org/images/CG/2018\\_CG\\_OrderForm.pdf](http://lwvnj.org/images/CG/2018_CG_OrderForm.pdf)

**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/leagueofwomenvoters/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 Committees:**

**Public Policy Committees:** With all the action taking place in Trenton, there are plenty of opportunities for members to be involved in 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](mailto:jburns@lwvnj.org).

**Voters Service Committee:** Our statewide voters service committee helps coordinate and improve our voter education efforts. This includes Get out the Vote, voter registration drives, candidates forums, and publications. If interested in serving or learning more, please contact Jesse Burns at [jburns@lwvnj.org](mailto:jburns@lwvnj.org).

**Fair Districts New Jersey:** We are looking for volunteers to help support our Fair Districts New Jersey campaign. Fair Districts New Jersey is a coalition dedicated to ensuring that New Jersey's congressional and legislative districts are drawn in a way that is transparent, representative, and impartial. You can learn more here: <http://www.fairdistrictsnj.org/> To get involved, please contact Helen Kioukis at [hkioukis@lwvnj.org](mailto:hkioukis@lwvnj.org).

**LWVNJ Google Group for local, county and regional League leaders:** A Google Group has been established to provide a safe forum for League leaders to communicate with each other. If you are a new president or part of a leadership team, please send your contact information to Nancy Hedinger at [hedingern@gmail.com](mailto:hedingern@gmail.com) so you can be invited to the Google Group. If you are stepping down, please let Nancy know so she can take you off the list and if you used a League address for the Google Group, please make sure the individual or individuals replacing you have the ability to access the Google Group page.

## IN MEMORIUM

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

*Walter Helfrecht*

*Marlene Pomper*

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 April 2018 SBR. However, we apologize if your loved one is missing and we ask that you notify the state office at [contact@lwnj.org](mailto: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.*