

VOTING AND ELECTION REFORM: A PRIORITY FOR LEAGUE



Last fall, the League of Women Voters of New Jersey was a lead organization ensuring the passage of automatic voter registration legislation in New Jersey. In the coming year, the League plans to advocate for legislation that will continue to increase voter participation.

According to **state league President Nancy Hedinger**, "our state is falling behind when it comes to access to the ballot, and we cannot wait any longer to correct our shortcomings. We will continue working in partnership with the Governor and the Legislature to break down arbitrary barriers to voting and pass and implement strong policies that include online and same-day voter registration, in-person early voting, allowing certain 17-year olds to vote in primary elections, and restoring voting rights to people with criminal convictions. We will also continue advocating for voting machines that produce a voter-verified, auditable paper trail in order to further safeguard the integrity of our elections."



Nancy Hedinger, Pres. LWV NJ

In January and February, the state league conducted and/or participated in forums that reviewed what current state (legislative) redistricting process is, identified best practices for redistricting, either proposed or undertaken in other states, and obtained feedback on what principles and policies attendees would like to see enacted in NJ.

Last December, there was a massive public outcry against the flawed redistricting proposals state legislators were close to enacting. The League hopes redistricting reform will be transparent, inclusive and put more power in the hands of voters.

If enacted, new legislation introduced in the U.S. House of Representatives, HR1 (For the People Act), will modernize our election system, reform redistricting, and restore the Voting Rights Act. As the legislation includes many election reform pieces that are consistent with core principles of the League, the national office is an active coalition partner in helping to shape the language of the bill.



Currently, the bill contains no provision to reduce the undue influence of **Big Money in elections**. It is also unclear how much support the legislation will have in the U.S. Senate.



Northern Valley League of Women Voter members Peggy Kabakow and Naomi Epstein attend Demarest Day to help attendees register to vote. KEVIN J. RILEY/NORTHERNVALLEY.COM

VOTER SERVICE:

At Left: LWVNV members, Peggy Kabakow and Naomi Epstein volunteer in Voter Registration outreach!

JOIN IN-VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITY:

LWVNJ Voters service committee: to review voter service materials, policies, procedures, and guidance to ensure it is up to date, accurate, in line with LWVUS materials, and set clear guidelines for local Leagues to follow regarding voter service activities. If you wish to get involved, please contact Nike Bach, nike.bach@gmail.com

LWV OF NORTHERN VALLEY
2018-2019

Officers

Nike Bach, 1st VP
Lucy Heller, 2nd VP
Fran Molnar, Secretary
Vicki Sidrow Treasurer
Vi Ruschman, Membership

Elected Directors

Lorraine Cohen
Naomi Epstein
Bobbie Hass
Betty Frank
Anne Lander
Cathie Mick
Shirley Shapiro

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

UN WOMEN	2
LWVNJ Convention & Volunteer Opportunities	2
LWVNJ Annual Appeal & Call-A-Thon	3
Member News	3
NJ Coalition Against Human Trafficking	3
NJ Citizens Guide	3
Calendar of Events	4

PHOTOS WANTED!

NEXT SUBMISSIONS DEADLINE: 5/8/19

Please submit articles to:

Nike Bach, 1st VP
Nike.Bach@gmail.com

Sally Tayeb, Member
TayebFamily@gmail.com

Quarterly Newsletter Editors



LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS®



JOIN IN OUR MEMBER ACTIVITIES

If you would like to get involved in Voter Service Activities, Please contact: Nike.Bach@gmail.com

The League of Women Voters, a non-partisan political organization, encourages informed and active participation in government, works to increase understanding of major public policy issues, and influences public policy through education and advocacy.

It operates through more than 800 state and local leagues in all 50 states, Washington, DC, Hong Kong, and the Virgin Islands.

The organization develops grass-roots leadership and enjoys widespread credibility because it is strictly non-partisan.

www.lwvnj.org



LWVUS UN OBSERVERS PREPARE FOR THE 63RD MEETING OF THE COMMISSION ON THE STATUS OF WOMEN

LWVUS UN Observers are preparing for the 63rd Meeting of the Commission on the Status of Women at the United Nations in New York on **March 11-22, 2019**.

The Commission on the Status of Women (CSW) is the principle global intergovernmental body exclusively devoted to promoting women’s rights, documenting the reality of women’s lives throughout the world, and shaping global standards on gender equality and the empowerment of women. There are about 20 League delegates who will attend a minimum of 4-5 days of CSW and will partici-

pate in all varieties of sessions including commission meetings and side events.

Northern Valley member **Chris Sagona** is a LWVUS UN Observer and a UN Google Group Administrator. She updates the Google Group & Facebook Pages, which are normally pretty active and provide engagement with other members.



League members can follow the Facebook Page LWVUS United Nations. They can join the Google Group by sending a request to Chris at chrissagona@gmail.com



99 YEARS OF

EMPOWERING VOTERS & DEFENDING DEMOCRACY

LWV



The State League will hold its 63rd Biennial Convention on **May 4** at the Imperia in Somerset, NJ.

On the evening before, **May 3**, the League will host a cocktail reception to celebrate 99 years of Making Democracy Work and award its Making Democracy Work awards to several individuals. We encourage members and friends to attend both.

CONTACTS FOR OPPORTUNITIES:

Centennial Campaign Committee:

VP of Development Susan Sferas at suesfer@aol.com or susanferris123@gmail.com

Advocacy committees such as: Education, Fiscal Policy, Government, Immigration, Natural Resources, Social Policy, and Women and Family Issues: Jesse Burns at jburns@lwvnj.org

Voters service committee:

Nike Bach at nike.bach@gmail.com



STATE LEAGUE ANNUAL APPEAL AND CALL-A-THON

This month, Northern Valley members will be calling members to ask for your contributions to the state league if you haven't already made them.

The Callathon is a follow-up to the written appeal sent by the state, to members, in November. Our Northern Valley League will receive a percentage of every donation obtained.

If you wish to avoid receiving a call and wish to make a donation, please send to Nike Bach, 309 Westview Avenue, Leonia, NJ 07605. Make your check payable to the LWVNJ Education Fund if you wish a tax-deductible contribution (supports voter service and education efforts). Make check payable to the LWVNJ for a non-tax deductible contribution (supports advocacy and member services).

MEMBER NEWS:

LWV Treasurer **Vicki Sidrow** will be retiring as Chief Executive Officer of Vantage Health System after serving 33 years, 21 of which was as CEO & President. Vantage will honor her on **Tuesday, April 23, 2019** at Seasons in Washington Township. On Thursday, **April 25, 2019**, along with two others, Vicki will be honored by the Community Chest of Eastern Bergen County at its annual Spring Gala to be held at the Montammy Golf Club in Alpine. These honors are well-deserved. Best wishes in Vicki's next ventures!



The NJ Coalition Against Human Trafficking will hold its Spring Orientation meeting for those who wish to learn how to combat modern slavery and meet leaders of the organization. It will be held on **Thursday, March 7**, in Whippany. See pg 4 calendar for details. Visit

their web site to learn more, www.njhumantrafficking.org **Chris Sagona** represents the NVLWV, one of about 170 non-profit and faith-based organizations, government agencies, academics, law enforcement, and direct service providers in the Coalition.

MARCH IS WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH!

Beginning as Women's History Day in 1911, Women's History Month has been officially proclaimed by the President each year since 1988. March 8 is International Women's Day, celebrated across the globe.



2019 NEW JERSEY CITIZENS GUIDE TO GOVERNMENT AVAILABLE FOR PURCHASE

This guide contains:
Current names, addresses, phone and fax numbers, and e-mail addresses of all State Legislators and U.S. Representatives/Senators
Registration and voting information
Political party information

National, state, county, and municipal government information
To order, please use order form on [state league web site](#). Payment is due when order is placed. The Guide is \$3 for League members (includes tax and shipping & handling).



EVENTS OF INTEREST

MARCH 2019

Thurs. 3/7/19, 9:15 AM-12:15 PM, Orientation program for Volunteers. Presented by the NJ Coalition Against Human Trafficking. Location: Jewish Federation of Greater MetroWest, 901 NJ 10 in Whippany.

Fri., 3/8/19: International Women's Day

Tues., 3/12/19, 7:30 pm, Feminism and Partisan Politics with Stacie Taranto, associate professor of history at Ramapo College of New Jersey. Sponsored by Network for Responsible Public Policy. Location: Emmanuel Church, 14 Hope Street, Ridgewood

Fri., 3/15/19, 10:30 am Women's Movement: From Past to Present. What's Next? with Sally Roesch-Wagner, a feminist pioneer at the forefront of the women's movement. Sponsored by Network for Responsible



Public Policy. Location: Teaneck Library, 840 Teaneck Rd, Teaneck

Thurs., 3/21/19, 7:30 - 9:30pm, Understanding Systemic and Cultural Racism: From our past to our present. Sponsored by Network for Responsible Public Policy. Location: Fairleigh Dickinson University, Dickinson Hall/Wilson Auditorium, 140 University Plaza Drive, Hackensack



Thurs 3/28/19 at 7:30-9:00 pm CODE GIRLS: A hidden chapter in the WWII history of women's US military intelligence service. Thousands of intrepid young women were recruited to help crack German and Japanese codes. You don't need to have read the book to join the conversation! Light Refreshments. Location: Teaneck High School, 2nd floor Media Center, 100 Elizabeth Ave, Teaneck. Hand-



icapped Parking at Rear of Building. Information: facebook.com/lwvt07666/

3/12/19 at 10:00 AM LWV-NV Board Meeting*

APRIL 2019

4/9/19 at 10:00 AM LWV-NV Board Meeting*

Tuesday, 4/9/19 LWV of Fair Lawn Event Email: lwvfairlawn@gmail.com

MAY 2019

5/3/19 - 5/4/19 LWV NJ 63rd Biennial Convention. Location: Imperia in Somerset

5/8/19 - Newsletter Submissions due

5/14/19 at 10:00 AM LWV-NV Board Meeting*



WWW.LWVNJ.ORG & WWW.LWVBERGEN.ORG Please visit for updates on State Wide And Bergen County events postings.



LWV OF NORTHERN VALLEY BOARD MEETINGS Held on the 2nd Tuesday of most months: 3-12, 4-9, 5-14, 6-11 Board Meetings are Open to All Members LOCATION at Vantage Health System, Inc., 2 Park Avenue, Dumont—(South of

Madison Ave and West of Washington Ave.) Along the Railroad Track between Ivy Lane and Quackenbush Avenue. DIRECTIONS: Take Washington Ave. into Dumont, then turn WEST onto Quackenbush Ave. Plenty of Parking.



Facebook: LeagueofWomenVotersNorthernValley/ Twitter: @LeagueNValley

PHOTOS WANTED! Share your activities with Fellow members in this Newsletter.

MAILING ADDRESS & CONTACT INFORMATION: c/o Vicki Sidrow, Treasurer 1-Horizon Rd, Apt 1405, Ft Lee, NJ 07024

- Alpine Cresskill Emerson Hackensack Leonia
Bergenfield Demarest Englewood Harrington Park Montvale
Cliffside Park Dumont Englewood Cliffs Haworth New Milford
Closter Edgewater Fort Lee Hillsdale Northvale

Membership is open to all women and men and includes membership in the national, state, and local organization. Membership runs from July 2018 - June 2019 and is \$55.00 for individuals, \$75.00 for family and \$10.00 for students.

LWVNV MEMBERSHIP GET INVOLVED!

Please print out this form and return it, along with your check, to LWV Treasurer, Vicki Sidrow, One Horizon Road, Apt 1405, Fort Lee, NJ 07024. Please make your check payable to the League of Women Voters of Northern Valley ("LWVNV").

Questions? lwvno.valley@gmail.com or call 201-947-0756
Download Form: lwvbergen.org/membership/
Name: _____
Address: _____, NJ _____
Tel: _____
Email: _____