

**THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS  
OF NEW YORK STATE**

**COUNCIL KIT  
APRIL 2008**



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**LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF NEW YORK STATE  
THIRTY-SIXTH BIENNIAL COUNCIL  
APRIL 2008**

**LOCAL LEAGUE ACTION**

LWVNYS 2008-2009 Budget

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TO: Members of The League of Women Voters of New York State  
FROM: The Budget Committee:  
Carol Hurford, Chair, LWV New Castle  
Martha Kennedy, President, LWVNYS  
Betsey Swan, VP Development, LWVNYS  
Debbie Shichtman, Treasurer, LWVNYS  
Joan Elliot, LWV Schenectady  
Janalyn Travis Messer, LWV Shelter Island  
Alison Alpert, LWV New York City

The following pages represent the recommended 2008-2009 budget for the LWVNYS. After your League reviews the budget, please complete the *League Acceptance of Budget* (yellow form) on the page that follows the budget and return it to the state League office by June 2.

This year's budget contains several changes, as the needs and programs of the organization continue to change. The numbers budgeted for salaries and benefits are increased from last year's budget. As you know, the state office has been operating with one less staff person for the past two years. In early 2007, the current Administrative Assistant, Stephanie Lopez, was promoted to Program Coordinator. As a result, next year's budget anticipates the addition of a part-time Receptionist/Secretary to fulfill some of the duties previous held by Stephanie. The positions of Executive Director and part-time Accountant remain as part of the budget line. Additionally, we have budgeted to allow for a stipend for a graduate level intern for one semester.

The anticipated revenue related to Fee For Service-Speaker Fees has been increased with the goal of charging non-League organizations when they request speakers. In relation to expenses, there remains a sum in the line for League Study in the event that further action is necessary on the Compact for National Popular Voter Study following the LWV Convention in June 2008. Additionally, both web site development and postage lines have been increased in anticipation of increased costs in both areas for the 2008-2009 fiscal year.

Finally, the 2008-2009 budget reflects the fact that the LWVNYS will be hosting its Biennial Convention in Syracuse in May 2009.

Please note we have included a description of budget categories with this year's budget to provide more information about each budget line item. If you have any questions about the budget, please contact Kristen Myers, Executive Director, at the state office at 518-465-4162 or email kris@lwny.org.

**PROPOSED BUDGET 2008-2009**

<b>LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF NYS</b>				
<b>2008-2009 Budget Worksheet</b>				
<b>CODE</b>	<b>INCOME</b>	<b>2007-2008</b>	<b>2007-2008</b>	<b>2008-2009</b>
<b>4000</b>	<b>MEMBER SUPPORT</b>	<b>Budget</b>	<b>Actuals</b>	<b>Proposed Budget</b>
			<b>7/1/07-1/1/08</b>	
4000-1	PMP	80,000.00	65,890.00	80,000.00
4002-1	MAL MEMBERSHIP DUES	3,000.00	465.00	2,500.00
4010-1	SPEC. GIFTS FROM LL	1,000.00	200.00	2,000.00
4020-1	MEMBER GIFTS	1,000.00	194.00	1,000.00
4030-1	REVENUE SHARING	800.00	400.00	800.00
<b>4000</b>	<b>TOT MEMBER SUPPORT</b>	<b>85,800.00</b>	<b>67,149.00</b>	<b>86,300.00</b>
<b>4150</b>	<b>DIRECT MAIL INCOME</b>			
4150-1	DIRECT MAIL	10,000.00	453.00	12,000.00
4152-1	LAPSED MEMBER	0.00	0.00	0.00
4153-1	WINDOW OF OPPORTUNITY	1,500.00	0.00	0.00
4154-1	ACTION FUND	3,000.00	565.00	3,000.00
<b>4150</b>	<b>TOTAL D/M</b>	<b>14,500.00</b>	<b>1,018.00</b>	<b>15,000.00</b>
<b>LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF NYS</b>				
<b>2008-2009 Budget Worksheet</b>				
<b>4163</b>	<b>DEVELOPMENT/PROJECTS</b>	<b>2007-2008</b>	<b>2007-2008</b>	<b>2008-2009</b>
		<b>Budget</b>	<b>YTF Actuals</b>	<b>Proposed Budget</b>
4160-1	IDA TRAGER REIMBURSEMENT	2,500.00	455.00	2,500.00
4163-1	ELECT. NIGHT REPORTING	7,900.00	4,800.00	8,000.00

4168-1	WOMEN ISSUES	1,800.00	0.00	1,800.00
4169-1	STUDENTS INSIDE ALBANY	15,000.00	0.00	15,000.00
4170-1	OPERATING EXPENSE	31,250.00	3,924.00	35,988.00
4174-1	VOTER RESOURCE NETWORK	20,000.00	0.00	20,000.00
4175-1	UN EVENT	16,000.00	15,783.00	16,000.00
4180-1	FUNDRAISERS	6,000.00	140.00	1,000.00
<b>4163</b>	<b>TOTAL DEVELOPMENT/PROJECTS</b>	<b>100,450.00</b>	<b>25,102.00</b>	<b>100,288.00</b>
<b>4300</b>	<b>FEES FOR STATE MEETINGS</b>			
4300-1	STATE CONVENTION	0.00	0.00	25,000.00
<b>4300</b>	<b>TOT. STATE MEETINGS</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>25,000.00</b>
<b>LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF NYS</b>				
<b>2008-2009 Budget Worksheet</b>				
	<b>INCOME</b>	<b>2007-2008</b>	<b>2007-2008</b>	<b>2008-2009</b>
<b>4400</b>	<b>PUBLICATION/PRODUCT SALES</b>	<b>Budget</b>	<b>YTF Actuals</b>	<b>Proposed Budget</b>
4484-1	DUPLICATE PRESIDENTS MAILING	200.00	45.00	200.00
4485-1	MISC PUBLICATION SALES	1,000.00	174.00	250.00
4550-1	MISC PRODUCT SALES	500.00	368.00	2,000.00
<b>4400</b>	<b>TOTAL PUBS/PRODUCT SALES</b>	<b>1,700.00</b>	<b>587.00</b>	<b>2,450.00</b>
<b>4600</b>	<b>OTHER INCOME</b>			
4690-1	MISC. INCOME	2,000.00	171.00	500.00
4691-1	FEE FOR SERVICE-SPEAKER FEES	50.00	0.00	2,500.00

4692-1	FEE FOR SERVICE- FDN.	43,000.00	21,780.00	43,000.00
<b>4600</b>	<b>TOTAL OTHER INCOME</b>	<b>45,050.00</b>	<b>21,951.00</b>	<b>46,000.00</b>
	<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>	<b>247,500.00</b>	<b>115,807.00</b>	<b>275,038.00</b>
	<b>LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF NYS</b>			
	<b>2008-2009 Budget Worksheet</b>			
	<b>EXPENSES</b>	<b>2007-2008</b>	<b>2007-2008</b>	<b>2008-2009</b>
<b>5000</b>	<b>GENERAL EXPENSE</b>	<b>Budget</b>	<b>YTF Actuals</b>	<b>Proposed Budget</b>
5000-1	SUPPORT-NATIONAL PMP	425.00	0.00	0.00
5020-1	SUPPORT FOR MAL UNITS	200.00	200.00	200.00
5030-1	REVENUE SHARING	250.00	0.00	250.00
<b>5000</b>	<b>TOTAL LEAGUE SUPPORT</b>	<b>875.00</b>	<b>200.00</b>	<b>450.00</b>
<b>5150</b>	<b>DIRECT MAIL EXPENSE</b>			
5150-1	DIRECT MAIL	4,500.00	0.00	4,000.00
5150-3	LAPSED MEMBER	0.00	0.00	0.00
5150-4	WINDOW OF OPPORTUNITY	1,500.00	0.00	0.00
5150-5	ACTION FUND	500.00	0.00	500.00
<b>5150</b>	<b>TOTAL DIRECT MAIL EXPENSE</b>	<b>6,500.00</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>4,500.00</b>
<b>5163</b>	<b>DEVELOPMENT /PROJECTS</b>			
5160-1	LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT	2,500.00	611.00	2,500.00
5163-1	ELECTION NIGHT REPORTING	5,000.00	0.00	5,000.00
5168-1	WOMEN ISSUES	0.00	0.00	0.00
5169-1	STUDENTS INSIDE ALBANY	0.00	0.00	0.00
5170-1	MISC FUNDRAISING EXP.	2,000.00	16.00	500.00
5174-1	VOTER RESOURCE NETWORK	0.00	0.00	

5175-1	UN EVENT	8,000.00	7,182.00	7,500.00
5165-1	SUPPORT FOR LEAGUE STUDY	2,000.00	0.00	1,000.00
5185-5	CAPITAL ADVANTAGE - CAPWIZ	3,500.00	0.00	3,500.00
<b>5163</b>	<b>TOTAL DEVEL/PROJECTS</b>	<b>23,000.00</b>	<b>7,809.00</b>	<b>20,000.00</b>
<b>LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF NYS</b>				
<b>2008-2009 Budget Worksheet</b>				
	<b>EXPENSES</b>	<b>2007-2008</b>	<b>2007-2008</b>	<b>2008-2009</b>
<b>5200</b>	<b>SALARIES &amp; RELATED EXPENSES</b>	<b>Budget</b>	<b>YTF Actuals</b>	<b>Proposed Budget</b>
5200-1	SALARIES	103,026.00	53,850.00	116,068.00
5202-1	EMPLOYEE BENEFITS	17,365.00	5,977.00	22,053.00
5216-1	HEALTH INSURANCE	7,918.00	3,922.00	5,000.00
<b>5200</b>	<b>TOT SAL. &amp; BENEFITS</b>	<b>128,309.00</b>	<b>63,749.00</b>	<b>143,121.00</b>
<b>5220</b>	<b>FEES</b>			
5221-1	PROFESSIONAL FEES-AUDIT	3,600.00	3,825.00	3,850.00
5222-1	EQUIPMENT LEASE			4,066.00
<b>5220</b>	<b>TOTAL FEES</b>	<b>3,600.00</b>	<b>3,825.00</b>	<b>7,916.00</b>
<b>LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF NYS</b>				
<b>2008-2009 Budget Worksheet</b>				
	<b>EXPENSES</b>	<b>2007-2008</b>	<b>2007-2008</b>	<b>2008-2009</b>
	<b>ADMINISTRATIVE EXPENSES</b>	<b>Budget</b>	<b>YTF Actuals</b>	<b>Proposed Budget</b>
5240	SUPPLIES	3,000.00	1,389.00	3,000.00
5250	POSTAGE	4,000.00	2,138.00	5,000.00
5261	TELEPHONE & INTERNET EXPENSES	4,000.00	1,521.00	3,500.00

5262	WEB SITE UPDATE	4,000.00	2,420.00	10,000.00
5265	TRAVEL & TRANSPORTATION	6,000.00	362.00	4,000.00
5266	MEALS & LODGING	5,500.00	891.00	4,500.00
5267-1	PUBLIC RELATIONS	2,000.00	0.00	2,000.00
5268-1	EDUCATION	500.00	59.00	500.00
5269-1	DUES & SUBSCRIPTIONS	1,000.00	527.00	1,500.00
	<b>TOTAL ADMIN EXPENSE</b>	<b>30,000.00</b>	<b>9,307.00</b>	<b>34,000.00</b>
	<b>INSURANCE &amp; RENT EXPENSES</b>			
5271-1	INS.-DIRECTORS & OFFICERS	850.00	449.00	850.00
5282-1	LIABILITY INSURANCE	2,400.00	0.00	2,000.00
5280-1	OCCUPANCY RENT	6,000.00	3,000.00	6,000.00
	<b>TOTAL INSURANCE &amp; RENT</b>	<b>9,250.00</b>	<b>3,449.00</b>	<b>8,850.00</b>
<b>5296</b>	<b>MISCELLANEOUS EXPENSES</b>			
5295-1	MISC. EXPENSES-GENERAL	20,000.00	500.00	9,601.00
5296-1	CHECKING ACCOUNT	100.00	25.00	100.00
5298-1	MASTERCARD/VISA FEES	1,000.00	304.00	1,000.00
<b>5296</b>	<b>TOTAL MISC EXPENSES</b>	<b>21,100.00</b>	<b>829.00</b>	<b>10,701.00</b>
	<b>LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF NYS</b>			
	<b>2008-2009 Budget Worksheet</b>			
	<b>EXPENSES</b>	<b>2007-2008</b>	<b>2007-2008</b>	<b>2008-2009</b>
<b>5300</b>	<b>MEETING FEES</b>	<b>Budget</b>	<b>YTF Actuals</b>	<b>Proposed Budget</b>
5301-1	STATE CONVENTION	0.00	932.00	25,000.00

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5302-1	NATIONAL CONVENTION	5,000.00	0.00	0.00
5304-1	STATE COUNCIL	300.00	0.00	0.00
5305-1	NATIONAL COUNCIL	0.00	0.00	1,500.00
<b>5300</b>	<b>TOTAL MEETING FEES</b>	<b>5,300.00</b>	<b>932.00</b>	<b>26,500.00</b>
<b>5400</b>	<b>PUBLICATION &amp; PRODUCTS</b>			
5400-1	STATE VOTER	14,000.00	6,021.00	14,000.00
5401-1	IN LEAGUE IN NYS	0.00	0.00	0.00
5408-1	STATE BOARD REPORT	1,500.00	0.00	500.00
5410-1	MEMBERSHIP MATERIALS	2,000.00	0.00	2,000.00
5425-1	IMPACT ON ISSUES	0.00	0.00	0.00
5426-5	LEGISLATIVE AGENDA BROCHURE	1,500.00	731.00	1,000.00
5430-1	MISC PUBLICATION EXPENSE	500.00	0.00	500.00
5530-1	MISC PRODUCT EXPENSES	500.00	58.00	1,000.00
<b>5400</b>	<b>TOT PUBS &amp; PROD.</b>	<b>20,000.00</b>	<b>6,810.00</b>	<b>19,000.00</b>
	<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>	<b>247,934.00</b>	<b>96,910.00</b>	<b>275,038.00</b>
	<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>	<b>247,500.00</b>	<b>116,207.00</b>	<b>275,038.00</b>
	<b>Net</b>	<b>-434.00</b>	<b>19,297.00</b>	<b>0.00</b>

**LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF NEW YORK STATE**  
**DESCRIPTION OF BUDGET CATEGORIES, 2008-2009**

**INCOME**

**MEMBER SUPPORT**

- 4000-1 Per Member Payments from local Leagues, based upon reported membership on February 1.
- 4002-1 Membership dues from NYS Members-at-Large, including members of MAL units.
- 4010-1 Special gifts from local Leagues.
- 4020-1 Special gifts from members.
- 4030-1 Payments from Travel Concepts for League members who participate with the "Travel with the League" program.

**DIRECT MAIL INCOME**

- 4150-1 Major direct mail appeal, mailed in late February each year.
- 4152-1 Lapsed member letter sent in spring, asking them to consider rejoining the League. Last sent in fiscal year 05-06. All membership dues received as a result of this effort are sent directly to the local League's with the premise that the state League will recoup the PMP in the future on each of the memberships recovered. A decision was made by the 06-07 board to halt this for a few years as the non-recoverable costs to the state League are quite significant.
- 4153-1 Window of Opportunity letter sent to non-member donors to LWVUS; receive list once a year from national of their non-member donors. The list is limited and in exchange the state League's need to provide national with a list of each participating state's non-member donors for solicitation purposes. Again, a board decision was made to discontinue this appeal.
- 4154-1 Action Fund letter sent in April, asking for funds to support advocacy efforts, usually an issue-specific campaign

**DEVELOPMENT/PROJECTS**

- 4160-1 Reimbursement from dedicated EF fund for direct expenses associated with the Ida Trager Regional Trainings.
- 4163-1 Payment for local League participation with election night reporting for AP; funds are received and half is passed on to local Leagues for their participation.
- 4168-1 Martha Greenwalt grant received from Westchester Office for Women for work on women's and children's issues.
- 4169-1 Students Inside Albany; all direct program costs are paid directly by EF, and this line represents a place holder for fundraising purposes in which a portion staff salaries could be written in to future funding proposals.
- 4170-1 Grant – Operating Expenses is the line item that is used to transfer money from the EF to cover the overhead expenses associated with running educational projects. The funds in the account are

generated primarily through direct foundation and corporate donations as well as donations by local Leagues of tax deductible funds in lieu of PMP payments; donations to the EF through League-sponsored direct mail campaigns, and League-sponsored efforts such as the raffle and silent auction.

- 4174-1 Voter Resource Network, all direct program costs are paid directly by EF, and this line represents a place holder for fundraising purposes in which a portion staff salaries could be written in to future funding proposals
- 4175-1 United Nations event is a fundraising program that takes place in October.
- 4180-1 Miscellaneous fundraisers – includes the Citizen of Achievement and Sustainers Plaque. During convention years will include some Silent Auction donations.

**STATE MEETINGS**

- 4300-1 State Convention Income includes fees for attending state convention and sponsorships.

**PUBLICATIONS/PRODUCTS**

- 4453-1 *LWVNYS Voters Guide* includes local League purchase of the voters’ guide, along with tax and shipping.
- 4484-1 Duplicate president mailings are purchased by those who wish to receive the State Board Report and other mailings that are usually only sent to local League presidents.
- 4485-1 Miscellaneous publication sales include sales of *In League, Welcome to the League, Impact on Issues, Citizen Lobbyist*, the membership brochure and the *Vote* brochure.
- 4550-1 Miscellaneous product sales including t-shirts, mugs, buttons, banners, etc.

**OTHER INCOME**

- 4690-1 Miscellaneous income.
- 4691-1 Speaker fees are generated by state board member appearances.
- 4692-1 Fee for Services – Foundation is the cash payment the LWVNYSEF makes to the LWV for conducting the Foundation’s business. This monthly fee is set by yearly contract between the

**EXPENSES**

**GENERAL EXPENSE**

- 5000-1 Support –National PMP is payment to LWVUS for members-at-large. Beginning in July 2006, this payment has been automatically deducted by national from the \$5 rebate for each nationally recruited member that national sends annually to each state League.
- 5020-1 Support for MAL units.
- 5030-1 Revenue sharing is a portion of the money from Travel Concepts paid to the local League whose member participated with the “Travel with the League” program.

**DIRECT MAIL**

- 5150-1 Expenses associated with the major direct mail appeal
- 5150-3 Expenses associated with the lapsed member mailing

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5150-4 Expenses associated with the Window of Opportunity mailing

5150-5 Expenses associated with the Action Fund mailing

### **DEVELOPMENT/PROJECTS**

5160-1 Leadership Development expenses cover the Ida Trager Regional meetings conducted in the fall.

5163-1 Election night reporting expenses represent the share of income from the AP that is paid to the local Leagues for their participation.

5168-1 Expenses associated with our work on women's and children's issues; primarily to reimburse legislative coordinator support expenses.

5169-1 All direct program expenses associated with running the Students Inside Albany program are paid by the EF, this line represents a place holder for fundraising purposes in which a portion of staff salaries could be written as expenses for future fund raising purposes.

5170-1 Expenses associated with Sustainers Plaque, silent auction and raffle

5174-1 Expenses associated with Voter Resource Network, primarily design, printing and mailing of voters' guides which are paid directly by the EF, this line is a place holder for fund raising purposes to allow a budgeted expense for staff salaries associated with projects.

5165-1 Expenses associated with the League study.

5175-1 Expenses associated with annual United Nations Event

5185-5 Expenses associated with CapWiz the action website hosted by Capital Advantage and linked to the lwvny website.

### **SALARIES AND RELATED EXPENSES**

5200-1 Salaries of Executive Director (FT), Program Coordinator, Receptionist/Secretary (PT), Accountant (PT) and a stipend for one paid graduate level intern.

5202-1 Employee benefits including pension, FICA expense, Medicare expense, dental insurance, disability insurance, federal unemployment, NYS unemployment, workers compensation, etc.

5216-1 Expenses associated with employee health insurance premiums

### **FEES**

5221-1 Represents the cost of the annual independent audit for the LWVNYS.

5222-1 Lease costs related to the color copier/printer/facsimile

### **ADMINISTRATIVE EXPENSES**

5240-1 Supplies include stationery, water, etc.

5250-1 Postage includes general postage for League business (postage for specific projects are charged to those projects).

5261-1 Telephone and Internet expenses include local, long distance, Internet access and web hosting.

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April 2008

- 5162-1 Website Update/Management includes the monthly fees paid to Debra Drake for updating and managing the League website. This line has been increased as usage continually increases.
- 5265-1 Travel and transportation includes staff and board travel (travel for specific projects are charged to those projects)
- 5266-1 Meals and lodging includes staff and board accommodations (meals and lodging for specific projects are charged to those projects)
- 5267-1 Public relations including expenses incurred for purchase of ads, hiring consultants to promote the League, etc.
- 5268-1 Education includes staff and board training
- 5269-1 Dues and subscriptions include payments to the lobbying commission, tax return payments, professional association memberships, magazine subscriptions, etc.

## **INSURANCE/RENT**

- 5271-1 Directors and Officers insurance indemnify Board members and staff. This policy is split among the League, EF and NYC.
- 5282-1 General liability insurance for League activities and riders for local League events.
- 5280-1 LWVNYS rents office space from the LWVNYSEF for \$500 per month.

## **MISCELLANEOUS EXPENSES**

- 5295-1 Miscellaneous general expenses.
- 5296-1 Expenses for League checking account.
- 5298-1 Expenses for credit card fees.

## **MEETINGS**

- 5301-1 Expenses associated with running the State Convention.
- 5305-1 Expenses associated with sending Board members to National Council.

## **PUBLICATIONS/PRODUCTS**

- 5400-1 Expenses associated with design, printing and mailing *The Voter* to all League members.
- 5401-1 Expenses associated with printing and mailing *In League in NYS*.
- 5408-1 Expenses associated with copying and mailing the *State Board Report* to local League presidents
- 5410-1 Expenses associated with printing membership brochures.
- 5525-5 Expenses associated with the printing of the *Legislative Agenda Brochure* to local Leagues.
- 5526-1 Expenses associated with the printing of *Impact on Issues*.
- 5430-1 Expenses associated with updating or creating other publications such as additional membership or voter service materials.
- 5530-1 Expenses associated with purchasing products such as t-shirts, mugs, banners, etc.

**LEAGUE ACCEPTANCE OF BUDGET**

**From the League of Women Voters of** \_\_\_\_\_

**Submitted by:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Title:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Date:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Please check one:**

\_\_\_\_\_ **YES, we accept the 2008-2009 budget.**

\_\_\_\_\_ **NO, we do not accept the 2008-2009 budget.**

**Comments:**

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**Return to state League office no later than June 2, 2008**

**LWVNYS**

**62 Grand Street, Albany, New York 12207**

**Telephone: 518-465-4162 \* Fax: 518-465-0812**

**E-mail: lwwny@lwwny.org**



**COUNCIL REPORT EVALUATION FORM**

League of Women Voters of \_\_\_\_\_

1) Were materials complete? \_\_\_\_\_Yes \_\_\_\_\_No

2) Did they arrive in time? \_\_\_\_\_Yes \_\_\_\_\_No

3) Suggestions: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Submitted by: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Telephone #: \_\_\_\_\_

**Return to state League office no later than June 2, 2008**

**LWVNYS**

**62 Grand Street, Albany, New York 12207**

**Telephone: 518-465-4162 \* Fax: 518-465-0812**

**E-mail: lwny@lwny.org**

**PRESIDENT'S REPORT**  
***Martha C. Kennedy, President***

As this, my first year as LWVNYS president approaches its conclusion; I am delighted to share with you some of the accomplishments of the LWVNYS as well as the ever-growing number of “works in progress”. Because of the early Spring scheduling for this report, it seems there are more of the later than the former, but my experiences to date with the League support my belief that the work of our organization is always “in progress” and that is what makes everything so exciting.

As is demonstrated in the individual reports in this Council Report, each member of this new board has embraced their particular portfolio with the passion typical of our organization. While I encourage you to read each of those reports, I offer a chronological overview of the highlights since our May '07 Convention. That event, held at the Crowne Plaza in White Plains was, as always, a stimulating and enjoyable period for networking, renewing or establishing relationships with league members throughout the state, and for statewide league business including adoption of the program for LWVNYS. As a result of a most impressive demonstration of grassroots mobilizing and organizing, the delegate body almost unanimously adopted a non-recommended study to determine whether New York State should join the “Compact for a National Popular Vote”. Several months later, LWVNYS was told by National that this question was considered a national issue and, as such, LWVNYS would not be able to take action on any position arrived at as a result of a state study. By that time, a number of local Leagues (LLs) in NYS had already conducted programs addressing this question and it was confirmed that there was substantial interest in the topic. LWVNYS then initiated a movement to include such a study as part of National program for 2008-2010 to be adopted at LWVUS Convention in Portland, Oregon in June of this year. Citizen Education Director, JoAnn Ross, has served as board liaison to this effort.

In the fall, the fifth annual Ida Trager Regional Training Workshops were held in Western NYS hosted by the Buffalo/ Niagara LWV, in Central NYS hosted by the Tompkins County LWV, in the Capital Region hosted by the Saratoga LWV, in Westchester County hosted by the Scarsdale LWV, in NYC hosted by the LWVNYC, and on Long Island hosted by the LWV Smithtown. LWVNYS Board members, Maggie Moehringer, Betsey Swan, Marcia Merrins, and JoAnn Ross, joined me in this most informative and productive activity dialoguing with LLs on specific topics as well as providing networking opportunities for all.

On November 28, 2007 our annual briefings day was held with near capacity attendance at the United Nations in NYC. The topic of this year’s briefings was “The Effects of War on Women Around the World.” League members as well as members from co-sponsoring organizations were addressed by our LWVUS liaison, Xandra Kayden and LWV UN Observer, Doris Schapira prior to UN speakers, Sylvia Hordosch and Dutima Bhagwandin. The briefings were preceded by optional tours of the UN and lunch in the delegates’ dining room.

The Budget Committee, comprised of Janalyn Travis-Messer, Alison Alpert, Joan Eliot, Betsey Swan, Debbie Shichtman, and Martha Kennedy, and chaired by Carol Hurford worked with Kris Myers to develop the enclosed budget for 2008-2009. The state board at the January 2008 board meeting approved that budget and you are asked to review it and return the yellow sheet by June 2<sup>nd</sup>. We have developed a budget that does not include a recommendation for any increase in state PMP. The board is most sensitive to the reality that financial challenges exist for our local Leagues as well as our statewide organization and we work hard to find ways to generate revenue through sources other than PMP to cover our expenses while continuing to provide the services we think will benefit you most.

It is because of our recognition of that critical need to address the financial concerns of our organization both short term and long term and our goal to provide greater service to our local Leagues and stability to our statewide organization and its programs, that we have devoted substantial energy to development questions. The LWVNYS Board determined it urgent to pursue serious consideration of both the current statewide structure and that as it is envisioned throughout the 21<sup>st</sup> century. Our Development VP, Betsey Swan, gathered input from LLs and has developed a plan to address those needs in "The Centennial Plan" along with the creation of an endowed fund under "the Centennial Project", as described in her report. Work on this major undertaking continues and will be a significant part of the upcoming years' efforts.

After five years of uphill work by so many of our statewide LLs under the direction and guidance of our remarkable Off-Board Elections Specialist, Aimee Allaud along with Bo Lipari, our representative to the Citizen's Election Modernization Action Committee (CEMAC) we had some cause for celebration in February. All but one county in the state chose OpScan technology to comply with the directive to provide at least one HAVA compliant voting machines at each voting site in time for the '08 election. The league continues to monitor the implementation of the HAVA legislation and prepare to assist in the transition to this new voting technology in fulfillment of our crucial role in ensuring both the integrity of the electoral process and the informed participation of voters.

The Legislative Priorities for 2008 were adopted based on input from our LLs and our Issues and Advocacy (I&A) team comprised of Legislative Director, Barbara Bartoletti, I&A VP, Edna Vincenti, and Grassroots Lobbying Director, Georgia DeGregorio along with our off-board specialists. While sorry to see Jane Chase and Heather Baker-Sullivan step down from their positions, we were delighted to welcome back Marian Bott, and to add Nancy Heinzen, Valerie Moliterno, Joan Rosenthal and Deb Winslow to this impressive team of off-board specialists. Under the able guidance and support of all of these dedicated individuals, our league voice has remained strong during this legislative session.

In addition to her work as VP in Voter Service, Maggie Moehringer has taken an active role in assisting the growth of our technological tools including an effort to implement a website presence for all LLs throughout the state. These improvements in electronic communication and our state and local websites will continue to be a priority throughout the year.

As JoAnn Ross reports, our LeaderSpark and Students Inside Albany programs continue to thrive with additions to the number of LLs participating in these student programs.

Unfortunately our Membership Outreach Director, Ruth Bonn found it necessary to resign from that board position due to family issues, but Ruth has continued to compile the LL page of our State Voter. Our other resignation this year came from our State Voter editor, Joyce Hickling. While we certainly were sad to lose Joyce's competent and dedicated touch after 12 years in that role, we know our state publication is in capable hands with Patty MacLeish moving into that editor's position.

Despite not being selected by LWVUS to participate in the second phase of the Membership Recruitment Initiative (MRI), our Membership VP Marcia Merrins decided to implement our own version of that program and invited LLs to apply to participate in a focused supervised effort to address membership growth utilizing the LWVUS model. In addition Marcia reintroduced a state board/LL liaison program to keep the communications between state and LLs healthy. I am happy to report that Marcia's special talents and hard work have not gone unnoticed by National and she has been nominated to serve on the next LWVUS board.

Our staff has continued to provide outstanding support for all of us and we thank our Executive Director, Kris Myers for juggling an enormous number of varied activities. We were happy to announce the promotion of Stephanie Lopez to Program Coordinator at the beginning of this year and are currently looking to add a part time receptionist/secretary to address some of the clerical needs of the office.

While each of our board members provides a focused summary of their specific areas in their own reports, I feel it appropriate to add to those accomplishments recognition for all the teamwork to which they have contributed over these past few months, including the somewhat tedious activity of reviewing and updating materials. It is our goal to continue this process to include our publications and, ultimately, add all of these materials to our website.

Please review all of the reports included in this document for more in depth updates on the past year. In addition, I encourage you to refer to the State Board Reports on our state league website: [www.lwvny.org](http://www.lwvny.org) along with other board action and league activities included on that ever-improving resource.

I thank you for your ongoing support of the League and for all that you do for League.

**MEMBERSHIP ANNUAL REPORT**  
***Marcia A. Merrins, 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice-President/Membership***

This has been a great year for membership in LWVNYS, although, with deep frustration, once again our numbers have decreased. In the summer, LWVNYS applied for the next phase of the LWVUS Membership Recruitment Initiative pilot project as one of the state Leagues that would replicate what was learned at the national level. We didn't make the cut. So in true New York style we decided to develop our own LWVNYS Recruitment Challenge. In order to be effective, the state board needed more "person-power". The LWVNYS board gave approval to create an off board membership committee with Jacki Moriarty and Ina Aronow stepping up to the plate. Local Leagues filing applications were Rochester, NYC, Geneva, Albany, Chautauqua, and Utica-Rome Metro.

The basic goal was to help local Leagues identify and capitalize on visibility opportunities for the League and our important work in their communities. League activities in advocacy and education can gain a great deal of media attention all year long—and it is worth the effort. Overall, the League has received a great deal of media coverage. Media outreach is a crucial part of keeping the League strong, and is something that I hope we can continue. It is absolutely critical for all levels of the League to capitalize on visibility opportunities that arise in a presidential year. The public and the media are tuned in to what's going on in politics, and they look to the League for information and guidance.

This presidential year provides innumerable opportunities for visibility providing the perfect storm for significant membership growth. We must continue to market the League and make sure that no one attends a League-sponsored event without being given the opportunity to become a League member. A major commitment is to increase visibility for the League at all levels including the state League, thereby making it more widely known and respected.

In the fall, we continued our outreach with the Ida Trager Regional Workshop Series that strengthen the League's overall capacity by enhancing leadership at all levels. The workshops brought together League leaders to dialogue issues within the League structure and to brainstorm about the many ways to utilize technological resources to further our reach and develop materials on our website that are more usable for local League leaders.

The membership section of "In League" has been updated so that it is a "one-stop" place for any questions on "how-to" do anything in League in NYS. It has been streamlined to help you find the answers you need—fast. Look under member resources where you will also find an Orientation Power Point to be used for member and board orientation. I created this so you can alter the content to suit your local League's audience.

I've made a real effort to communicate with many local League presidents and visit local Leagues from Plattsburgh to Schuyler County and have taken your suggestions to heart. The Board and staff sincerely appreciate your input on the areas where we can be most helpful to

your Leagues, and we look forward to continuing to improve communication between the state and local Leagues.

To that end we've reinstated and strengthened our liaison program to make sure local league presidents have regular and productive contact with state board members. Each member of the state board took on the additional responsibility to establish a direct link with specific local Leagues. It is hoped that this has facilitated the transfer of information and concerns between local League boards and the state board.

We are still nurturing the MAL (member at large) unit in Warren County will soon recognize a new Mal Unit in Putnam County. They held their first informational meeting February 12, 2008 and are moving towards recognition as an MAL Unit. My special thanks to Susan Schwartz for helping in this effort. It is a most enthusiastic group.

Ruth Bonn, resigned from the board but is reading to your bulletins glean items that will be of interest to Leaguers across the state. The items end up on the back page of *The NYS Voter as Local League News*. Reading about who's doing what helps to build a sense of community among all of us and everyone enjoys recognition. So keep those Bulletins coming!

And don't forget that you can see Local League Bulletins in their entirety at [www.lwvny.org](http://www.lwvny.org). We still very appreciative of Adam Gaus who continues to facilitate the addition of local League newsletters to our state website so that we can all benefit from this easy, cost free means to learn what other NYS Leagues are doing. All Leagues have been urged to contact the state office to learn how to add their own bulletin to this site, and to read those submitted by other local Leagues by simply clicking on the site at the bottom of our League home page. Post your League's Bulletin there by e-mailing: [webmaster@lwvny-bulletins.org](mailto:webmaster@lwvny-bulletins.org).

All of these efforts lead to the goal of increasing the League's impact by working in ways that build on its strength and reach and help us maximize our potential.

I am committed to League ideals will continue to bring about forward-thinking ideas for the future of the League. I encourage your feedback, especially on how you will be incorporating the membership message into your education, advocacy, and all other activities.

I am excited about the League's prospects in the coming year, and look forward to working with all of you to move LWVNYS to new heights.

**VOTER SERVICE ANNUAL REPORT**  
***Maggie Moehringer, 3<sup>rd</sup> Vice-President/Voter Service***

There is an astounding amount of hard work coming from Leagues in the voter service area, and this report should really be about the wonderful activities that local Leagues are conducting. Unfortunately, space is totally inadequate for that; refer to February SBR for a summary of local voter service action. Here's a report on the State League activities:

***New Policy on Inclusion of Candidates in Debates***

It became evident in certain election activities sponsored in 2006 that there was the need for more clarity in the LWVNYS policy on the inclusion of *statewide* candidates in debates and forums. In the 2006 instance, the Board, in controversially determining that a "third party" candidate was, indeed, a viable candidate for a certain office, interpreted the policy existing at the time to mean that support in polls was one way, but not the only way, a candidate could demonstrate significant interest. In this instance, the statewide policy determination was that a candidate should be included that the local League co-sponsoring the forum felt was not a viable contender. The revised policy remedies this, and clarifies that a specific polling percentage in a statewide poll will be required if the candidate is running as the candidate of a "third party". We should point out that the state policy applies only to debates of candidates for statewide office; the state League has sole jurisdiction over debates for those statewide offices. Local Leagues are able, and encouraged, to adopt local policies governing debates involving candidates for local offices.

***Research and Support on Voter Registration Drives for New Citizens***

Many local Leagues conduct voter registration activities for newly sworn-in citizens that are inspiring for the League members involved, provided very useful services for the new citizens, and afforded the Leagues some great publicity opportunities. We conducted a survey of local Leagues to determine which Leagues were sponsoring these activities, what they consisted of, how they became involved and how they related to the courts and the local Boards of Elections in doing them. The results of the survey and some other how-to's were published in the State Board Report in hopes that some Leagues that were not currently involved would consider taking on these types of events. In the future, we hope to have a how-to kit and a "First Vote" type publication specifically oriented to new citizens, who have special language needs and a need for more brevity and clarity in printed material.

***Smart Voter: An Alternative to Voters Guides?***

In the course of the regional Ida Trager workshops, the subject of voters' guides was discussed with the participating Leagues in the hope of determining next steps for the future of Smart Voter. In a nutshell, the current financial model for Smart Voter puts it out of reach for many local Leagues that might otherwise think of using it. We will be undertaking conversations with the LWV of California, the Smart Voter service provider, on that topic and alternatives to the funding model that they now use. LWVNYS, in the long run, cannot continue to subsidize Smart Voter for local Leagues, and local funding must be identified. For local Leagues that currently print and distribute a voters guide, discontinuing the printed version would be unpopular, at least

in the short term, with the citizens they serve and their underwriters. While they can see that a Web-based voters' guide is the future, they are faced in the short term with doing both, should they decide to do Smart Voter. From a resource utilization perspective, that's untenable for many Leagues. Stayed tuned!

### ***Statewide Voter Service Publications***

"First Vote" was updated to reflect the new primary configuration. The fall 2007 Voters Guide again was issued in two parts, "Facts for Voters" as Part I, and the Part II "Voters Guide" to the statewide ballot issue and the judicial selection process. Unfortunately, as a result of the US Supreme Court decision, the selection process for justices of the NYS Supreme Court will remain unchanged from the current political party driven process. We found that the League was cited and appreciated by many localities as the only source of information on the ballot issue. For fall 2008, the Voters Guide is again anticipated to be issued in two parts, and, at the time of this writing, Leagues are being surveyed to determine the demand for and desired format of Part II; the tabloid format was popular with some Leagues and unmanageable for others.

It became evident during the February primaries that a League-published guide to the primary process was needed, at least on the Web, and the office received many questions about the confusing differences in the party processes that we weren't well prepared to answer in detail. Steps are being taken to create the guide document content to remedy that for the 2012 elections.

### ***LWVNYS Voter Service Web Site / Web Services for Local Leagues***

In the course of the Ida Trager workshops, local Leagues were questioned about the efficacy of the LWVNYS web site providing consistent, attractive, and scrupulously well-maintained voter service related information for the State and National levels to relieve the local Leagues of providing duplicative web services for that information. Local Leagues could then concentrate on providing good, complete web services on local voting-related information and activities. State League's web site maintains much of this information now, but often not in a format that is user friendly, easy to find, and easy for another web site to transparently link to. The way that the content is organized should allow the local League to maintain the appearance of providing the service locally, and should be so attractive, complete and well-maintained that the local League will feel that it does not need to expend the effort locally. State League should also make it clear what services it cannot perform from the State League web site, so that local Leagues can plan and design their web services accordingly (for example, links to the local Board of Elections, local government offices, local "who represents you", etc.). We should also provide access to League "how to" expertise on the web site for organizations, teachers, students and the general public that we wish to enable to conduct their own voter service activities. AND, we should do this in a way that clearly brands and copyrights the documents as LEAGUE. We are currently doing the document design and web site rework to accomplish this.

A committee of League web masters and others has been convened to design and implement simple web pages on the State League website for those Leagues that cannot do a page locally. Stay tuned!

**DEVELOPMENT ANNUAL REPORT**  
***Betsey Swan, 4<sup>th</sup> Vice-President/Development***

***Planning for the Future - The Centennial Plan***

In the spring of 2006, the League began to develop a long-term plan that would drive funding. It circulated a SWOT (Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities, and Threats) Analysis to each local League and used the results to draft a series of development questions for the Ida Trager workshops. These included discussions about the future of the League, the interrelationship between the state and local Leagues, and the need to plan for paid positions at the point in the future when volunteers were no longer available.

As the result of the answers to these questions, the board resolved to embark on a multi-year endowment campaign to raise funds for the League of the future, and took the initial steps to put this campaign in place.

***Big League Raffle 2007***

The 2005 Big League Raffle was a true partnership between the state League and local Leagues. 50% of the net profit was distributed to the winners, 25% was retained by the LWVNYS, 20% was rebated back to local League based upon the number of tickets that each League sold, and the League that sold the first prize ticket received 5%. The idea was very well received by members and was a definite win-win for the local and state Leagues!

Below are the statistics for the raffle.

Total income	\$18,076	
Costs of printing and mailing	- \$34697	
Prizes to winners	- \$3,714	
Prize to League selling winning ticket	- \$743	
Returned to Local Leagues	- \$3,317	
Credit for sales by State League	+ \$458.20	
Credit for selling winning ticket	+ \$102	6,703

Members of 57 Leagues sold tickets. Sales ranged from \$20 to a high of \$2065, with rebates ranging from \$4.00 to \$413. The winning ticket was sold by the state League. In all \$6,703 was generated for the LWVNYS.

***Silent Auction 2007***

The Silent Auction at LWVNYS Convention last May went well. There were 89 donated items, 78% of which were sold. Our total sales came to \$5,255. Items were also available on EBay.

Thanks to everyone who donated items and/or bid on items. Your participation ensured the success of this event.

### ***2007 Year End Solicitation***

The net income to the League from end of the year solicitation was a gross of \$19,282 minus \$3,136 of expenses, for a net total of \$16,146. The net income to the Education Foundation from end of the year solicitation was a gross of \$42,342 minus \$2,996 of expenses, for a net total of \$39,346. This was a very successful fund drive. Congratulations to all who made its success possible.

### ***UN Day 2007***

The state League sponsored the “Briefings on the Effects of War on Women.” forum on November 28 2007 at the United Nations headquarters in New York City. The net income was \$8,401.

## **FUTURE**

### ***Planning for the Future – The Centennial Plan***

During 2008 the League will draft and finalize its funding plan and documentation for the fund drive and begin to solicit League members, corporations, and foundations.

### ***Big League Raffle Planned for 2008***

The League will hold another Big League raffle, with the drawing to occur at the League office this spring. Once again the raffle will be a partnership with local Leagues, rebating 20% of the net proceeds back to local Leagues.

### ***UN Day 2008***

Another UN Day “Briefings” is being planned for the fall of 2009 at UN Headquarters in New York City.

### ***Silent Auction 2009***

The issue of the silent auction will be revisited in light of the low return relative to the investment of time and money. While we do not anticipate doing away with the auction, it is necessary to focus on bigger ticket items.

**CITIZEN EDUCATION ANNUAL REPORT**  
***JoAnn Ross, Citizen Education Director***

***National Popular Vote (NPV): Update***

Delegates attending the New York State Convention in May 2007, enthusiastically adopted the non-recommended study: Should NYS Join the Compact for a National Popular Vote? A statewide study committee was formed with Lori Dawson, LWV Saratoga County as the chair. In June, the New York National Popular Vote state study committee began its research, developed reference materials, prepared materials for a website and later began work on a study guide. Local leagues held education sessions, and published articles. Also in June, the League of Women Voters United States (LWVUS) was aware that NYS intended to proceed with the study.

While conducting their research, the National Popular Vote (NPV) committee heard from several Leagues across the country that they had been told they could/should not do the NPV study for a variety of reasons. This concerned the New York committee and in September LWVNYS requested clarification on the issue from LWVUS.

In October 2007, after four months of extensive time and commitment to the study process, League of Women Voters New York State (LWVNYS) received a call from our LWVUS liaison informing us that we as a State League cannot establish a position on the National Popular Vote Compact. LWVUS maintained that adoption of such a position would represent a state league adopting a position on a national issue. In answer to the objection that the purpose of the study would be to address a state issue, whether NYS should join the compact, the reply was that this still represents NYS taking action on something ultimately a national issue.

At the November LWVNYS board meeting, the following motion was passed: "LWV New York State Board has been directed to pursue the National Popular Vote Study. Therefore, the Board agrees to direct Lori Dawson and Carol Mellor to lobby across the country to recommend the adoption (at the National Convention in 2008) of a National Study entitled, "The Advisability of Using the National Popular Vote Compact among the States as a Method for Electing the President". To assist in the lobbying effort, revised National Popular Vote materials were posted on the LWVNYS website for Leagues across the country to utilize in making a decision as to whether to recommend the NPV study.

Response to the nationwide lobbying efforts of League of Women Voters New York State has affirmed the interest in the National Popular Vote has been confirmed but there has been a lack of consensus on how best to proceed. Some leagues in New York State and in other states support a national study and have indicated so to program planning. Other Leagues are considering proposing a resolution for adoption at the National Convention in June that would put the matter under State League purview. This would allow Leagues to study and act on the National Popular Vote compact at the state level. The LWVNYS plans to co-sponsor a National Popular Vote caucus at convention along with the League of Women Voters, Arizona. At the

caucus, the League of Women Voters New York State will address the value of doing a study and why it was proposed.

### ***LeaderSpark and Students Inside Albany***

Both of the State Leagues Youth Development programs, Students inside Albany and LeaderSpark are being coordinated by Stephanie Lopez, the new LWVNYS Program Director. A tremendous amount of work both at the state and local league levels has gone into the development of both of these very successful programs. A “first” for the New York State LeaderSpark program in 2008 is the new web link found on the League of Women Voters NYS website.

### ***Students Inside Albany***

One of the challenges that the League faces is that the younger generation are growing increasingly dismayed and skeptical of the political system and they are showing their skepticism by staying away from the polls in great numbers. It is critical for young people to participate in the decisions that are being made in their name and that will have a tremendous impact on their future. They must believe that their voice can be heard. Running the Students inside Conference is one way in which the league is addressing this situation. This conference for high school students gives them the opportunity to learn more about their roles and responsibilities in representative government including their own ability to make or influence public policy decision. The 2008 Conference will be held in Albany April 27-30. For further information contact Stephanie Lopez at the state league office.

### ***LeaderSpark***

In 2005-2006 the League of Women Voters New York State Education Fund piloted a new structured youth leadership program called LeaderSpark. This program was designed to provide a venue for reaching more youth while providing an opportunity to expand and enhance the learning process leading to the Students Inside Albany Experience. Five Leagues participated by running programs in their communities. Since the pilot year 2005, programs have been run in Albany County, Erie/Niagara Counties, Geneva, Schenectady County, Saratoga County, Shelter Island (Long Island) and Smithtown (Long Island)

There are multiple benefits for your Local League by participation in the LeaderSpark program. The program offers the opportunity for your local League to partner with other corporate and civic groups in your community, it attracts volunteers, provides potential league membership opportunities. Most importantly, you will be playing a role in giving the young people of your community the background needed for them to take an active part in their community and in government. Add your League to the growing list of LeaderSpark programs today! For more information, contact the LWVNYS Program Director Stephanie Lopez at (518) 465-4162.