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Spring 2009

President's Message

It has been a busy and energizing four years as your President and I do want to say "thank you" for this opportunity. It is a great privilege to represent all your voices when I speak at legislative hearings or write to our members of Congress or present LWV programs around the state.

As League members, you care deeply about good government, a healthy environment, health care for all, international cooperation and much more. And the League is able to direct that energy as we all participate in the organization.

So, please, look for ways that you can be involved. Come to our bi-annual LWVNH Convention on Saturday, May 2nd in Hopkinton. Here you can help steer the course of the state League for the next two years and learn about public transportation (or lack there of) in our state. See page 2 for details and plan to join us.

Also plan to come to Maine May 30 & 31 for our third annual Quad States Leadership Conference. See page 7 for details. And, as the year progresses, help us celebrate 90! years as a League of Women Voters in New Hampshire.

Jane Armstrong, President

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Call to Convention - 2009

The League of Women Voters of New Hampshire will meet for its biennial convention on Saturday, May 2 at the Slusser Senior Center in Hopkinton (directions below). The agenda will include election of officers and directors for 2009-2011, approval of a budget for the next year, and consideration of program and by-law changes.

The program for Convention will focus on transportation, a National position we have regionalized with the other Quad-states. We want to learn more about community needs for transportation, as well as ways of providing public transportation, including rail.

Our speakers will discuss "Community Need for Public Transportation", addressing such topics as how planning and stimulus money impact this need and how rail figures in.

A representative from the Department of Transportation has been invited. Mike Izbeki who has been appointed recently to be the Interim Executive Director of the NH Rail Transit Authority has accepted our invitation. He has over 31 years of design build and operational experience on several major rail projects and rail transit authorities through out the country.

We hope to hear how and where stimulus money will be spent and will have time for questions.

All LWVNH members are entitled and encouraged to attend and vote at the Convention. If you will attend, please call the State Office (225-5344) by Wednesday, April 29, so that you will be included in the lunch count. Cost \$15.00

The proposed budget, a report from the Nominating committee and proposed by-law changes are included in this Voter.

Convention Agenda

9:00 Registration and coffee
9:30 Program
11:30 Lunch
12:30 Business
1:30 Adjournment

Directions to the Slusser Senior Center: From I89, take Exit 6. Coming from Concord, turn right at the bottom of the ramp. Coming from the west, turn left. Continue into Contoocook village. Turn left at the Sunoco station and then left after the fire station onto Pine Street which is between the fire station and TDS. Turn right onto Houston Street. The Slusser Center is on the left at 41 Houston Drive, Contoocook 03229. (The library is on the right).

Report of the Nominating Committee

For two-year terms, to be elected on May 2, 2009 at Convention

Co-presidents: Liz Tentarelli and Sally Davis

Vice-president: Peg Fargo

Secretary: Marilyn Lieto

Treasurer: nominee needed*

Directors:

Jane Armstrong

Ginny Higgins

Nominees needed*

Nominating committee: nominees needed*

Respectfully submitted by Liz Maloof, Sally Davis, and Liz Tentarelli

*The nominating committee urges all members to consider serving on the state board or on the nominating committee. For more information about any of these positions, phone Liz Tentarelli 763-9296 or Sally Davis 726-3775.

New Study Proposed for Convention Approval

The LWV of the Greater Capitol Area submitted a proposal to study the impact on women incarcerated in New Hampshire. The State Board has recommended this new study and it will be presented at the convention. The adoption of this new study will require a three-fifths vote of the delegates attending.

Research indicates that there has been a 24% increase in female admissions to county jails between 2003 and 2007 compared with a 14% increase for men. Female admissions to the state prison for women increased 64% during the same period. The single female state prison, located in Goffstown, is rated for 85 women and currently houses over 100. An increase in incarceration, overcrowding of facilities and concerns over a lack of services that would provide women with skills to prevent a return to the problems that caused their initial incarceration are all aspects the League can study, develop a position and then advocate for change.

The study will not initially cover sentencing, pre-trial, trial and the appeal process. It will look at the physical aspects of incarceration, the rehabilitative services offered, the programs offered to develop new skills and the re-entry support for women as they complete their sentences.

Two respected women's organizations, the Commission on the Status of Women and the Women's Policy Institute, have prepared reports about the impact of incarceration on women. These research documents will give the league study committees a solid base to initiate our study.

Proposed by-law changes

These proposals will be voted upon at LWWNH Convention. They were approved by the State Board March 5, 2009.

Deletions are indicated by strike-through. New wording is in italics.

ARTICLE X

Nominations and Elections

Sec. 4. Nominations by Petition. Nominations for the Nominating Committee and officers and directors of the Board of Directors may be submitted by petition of ten (10) League members ~~from three (3) or more local Leagues~~ to the Board of Directors no later than one (1) ~~month~~ week prior to the date of Convention. The consent of such nominees shall have been obtained prior to submission and their names and identifications and qualifications shall be ~~sent~~ announced to ~~local Leagues~~ convention delegates by the petitioners no later than ~~two~~ (2) weeks prior to the morning of Convention.

Rationale for change: Because we currently have only 3 active local Leagues, we want to extend more autonomy to those Leagues to nominate state board members. We also suggest shortening the time frame so that local Leagues might be able to nominate state board members after they have their own local board slate organized.

ARTICLE XIV

Amendments

Sec. 1. Amendments. These Bylaws may be amended by a two-thirds (2/3) vote at any Convention, using the following procedures: Proposals for change shall be submitted by any local League Board of Directors or by the state Board of Directors at least ~~three (3)~~ two (2) months prior to Convention. All such proposed amendments together with the recommendations of the Board shall be sent to members at least one (1) month prior to the Convention.

Rationale for change: Generally the board doesn't get around to considering changes until convention gets closer. This also lets local Boards consider changes to state by-laws as they start to look at their own proposed by-law changes.

Change "chairman" to "chairperson" and change "chairmen" to "chairpersons" wherever the terms occur in the bylaws. These changes include the following sections: Article V section 4 and Article X sections 1, 2, and 3.

Rationale for change: We were surprised to see the outdated gender-specific term still in our bylaws and decided we should change it.

Quad States Third Annual Leadership Conference
May 30-31, 2009, Wells, Maine

The Quad States Presidents (ME, NH, RI, VT) are presenting our third annual Leadership Conference on May 30-31 at the Hampton Inn in Wells, Maine.

This year's conference will focus on public financing of election campaigns and will have some new features. We will begin the conference Saturday morning with a keynote speaker covering the current issues in public financing of campaigns. Then we will have three workshops teaching skills that can be used with any issue.

The workshops will be:

- Advocacy – conducting a public campaign for an issue
- Fundraising – using an issue as a fundraising device
- LWVUS Advocacy Priorities –how state Leagues can work with LWVUS on federal issues (including campaign finance) and prioritizing in lean times.

The conference will begin Saturday morning (exact time TBA). Lunch will be provided after the keynote speaker. There will be 2 sessions of workshops in the afternoon; ending at 5:00 Dinner will be a dine-around at local restaurants.

On Sunday morning there will be one session of workshops from 9 – 11 a.m.

To register for the Quad State Conference:

- Fill out the registration form below and return with a check for \$20 payable to LWVNH – Quad States. Return to: LWVNH, 4 Park Street, #200, Concord, NH 03301.
- Make you own hotel reservation at Hampton Inns and Suites, 900 Post Road, Wells, ME, 04090 (1-207-646-0555). Be sure to say you are with the League of Women Voters and the room rate will be \$89.00 plus 7% tax. With a roommate that's less than \$48 per person. Breakfast is included in the room rate.

I plan to attend the Quad State Leadership Conference, and I have enclosed my \$20 registration fee.

Name _____

Address _____

Phone _____ Email _____

LWVNH Day at the Legislature - Report

On March 5 former state legislator, Liz Hager addressed leaguers who attended the annual LWVNH Day at the Legislature. Ms Hager served 13 terms in the State Legislature after first being elected at the age of 28. She considers herself a “moderate Republican” and eventually became the default leader of that group in the legislature

For many years she served on the appropriations committee, which she says she loved because it gave her the big picture of NH finances. She makes the case that NH government just can’t fund itself because of a “structural deficit”—the situation in which the possible sources of state income are simply not enough to meet the budgeted expenses. The deficit was offset in the 1990s by federal Medicare money (the “Mediscam” situation) and the real estate boom of the early part of this century. Now in a recession, the structural deficit is more of a problem than ever.

She ended her talk by reiterating her opening statement: “I’m glad I’m not a legislator right now.”

League of Women Voters of New Hampshire

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Convention Materials