

## **NOMINATING COMMITTEE REPORT**

### **Evelyn C Murphy, PhD, Chair**

The Nominating Committee is composed of five members: an elected off-board chair, two elected off-board members, and two appointed Board members.

The committee met regularly throughout the 2021-23 biennium to catalogue the attributes and skills of current Board members, review Board structure and operating practices, and identify needs for prospect recruitment. The committee chair attended all regular Board Meetings to observe working relationships and committee members conducted one-on-one interviews with all Board members.

Names of potential candidates were solicited from each current Board member, each local League, ILO and MAL unit through their leaders and members, the Advisory Council, and partner organizations.

Committee members conducted individual interviews with each prospect as they were identified and shared information about Board Member responsibilities, Board Committee descriptions, and the non-partisan policy. Each prospect was encouraged to join LWVNJ (if they weren't already a member) and volunteer on a Board Committee to work with current Board Members and gain insight into LWVNJ's Board operations. Each qualified prospect interested in pursuing a nomination was interviewed by the full committee.

In conducting our work, nominating committee members sought to fulfill core organizational responsibilities, including:

- To make decisions in the best interest of LWVNJ, putting the interests of the organization before their personal and professional interests,
- To engage openly with committee members and candidates to ensure that bias is not having unintended negative impact on the process,
- To work collaboratively and across differences,
- To apply a Diversity, Equity and Inclusion lens in doing their work, and
- To create and present a diverse and high-functioning slate of candidates for LWVNJ Board, Budget Committee Chair, and Nominating Committee

We are very grateful for the many excellent recommendations received and we are pleased to present the attached Slate of Nominations.

Respectfully submitted,

### *Nominating Committee*

Evelyn C Murphy, PhD – Elected Chair

Michelle Bobrow – Elected Member

Nancy Hedinger – Elected Member

Jessica Backofen – Appointed Board Member

Emahunn Raheem Ali Campbell, JD, PhD – Appointed Board Member (January 2023-current)

Natalya Johnson, Esq. – Appointed Board Member (May 2021-January 2023)

## **SLATE OF NOMINATIONS**

### **Board of Directors**

#### **Officers:**

President – Jennifer M. Howard, MD, MPH  
First Vice President – Iveth P. Mosquera, MPA  
Second Vice President – Deborah McComber  
Treasurer – Janet Fisher-Hughes  
Secretary – Mariel Mercado-Guevara, Esq

#### **Directors:**

Jessica Backofen  
Lucienne Beard  
Dr. Marlena Brown  
Emahunn Raheem Ali Campbell, JD, PhD  
Jason DeAlessi  
Deborah Y. Lee  
Princess G. Hoagland, EdD, MBA  
Jin Y. Hwang, Esq.  
Yvette J. Lincoln  
Lauren F. Nance, CMP  
Henal Patel, Esq.  
Dr. Kelly A. Shea

### **Member-Elected Committees**

#### **Budget Committee Chair:**

Nancy Hedinger

#### **Nominating Committee:**

Chair – Evelyn C Murphy, PhD, LWV of Monmouth County  
Committee Member – Sharon Suber, LWV of Burlington County  
Committee Member – Donna Ward, LWV of The Montclair Area

## SLATE OF NOMINATIONS

### BOARD OF DIRECTORS

#### OFFICERS

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##### President

##### **JENNIFER M. HOWARD**



Jennifer M. Howard, MD, MPH is the President of the League of Women Voters of New Jersey. She has been a member of the League of Women Voters of the Princeton Area since 2013 and currently serves on the Leadership Committee. Jennifer is a practicing OB/GYN physician in NYC having also previously practiced in NJ. She has been a Vice President for the African American Parent Support Group, WW-P Regional School district (a parent advocacy organization with over 25 years of addressing racial disparities and educational achievement gaps in African-American students), a preceptor to medical students and residents, a medical volunteer for overseas medical missions and a medical director of a reproductive health organization. She received her undergraduate degree from Harvard/Radcliffe, her medical school degree from Howard University's College of Medicine and her Master's of Public Health from Columbia University's Mailman School of Public Health.

##### First Vice President

##### **IVETH P. MOSQUERA, MPA**



Iveth joined the state board of the League of Women Voters of NJ (LWVNJ) in 2019, currently serves as second VP of Programs, and co-chairs the statewide Membership committee.

Iveth works as Director of Communications and Public Relations at Matheny School and Hospital - an accredited nonprofit organization serving children & adults with medically complex disabilities.

Since 2008, Iveth has served on the board of LUPE Fund and is currently the President. LUPE is a non-profit organization dedicated to civic engagement, education, and leadership development for Latinas. She is a co-founder of the LUPE Latina Leadership Scholarship that has awarded nearly \$100,000 in scholarships since 2011.

Iveth was named in the Influencer: Women in Business list in March 2022 by ROI-NJ. That same year, Iveth was appointed to the advisory board of the Center for Hispanic Policy Research and Development and continues to serve in this capacity.

In 2005, Iveth earned a Master's degree from the Rutgers School of Public Affairs and Administration. Born and raised in Newark to Ecuadorian parents, she currently resides in Kearny NJ with her husband and two sons.

## **Second Vice President**

### **DEBORAH MCCOMBER**



Deborah McComber is a communications consultant specializing in communications strategies for small nonprofits and local businesses with limited resources to meet the challenges of the tech world. She designs and manages websites, social media / email marketing campaigns and public relations strategies for organizations in the Morristown, New Jersey area.

For the League of Women Voters of the Morristown Area, Debbie developed a website and social networking campaign and manages both. She brought together local Leagues and provided tech support for shared virtual candidates' debates. At the state level, Debbie served on the advisory committee to the Fair Districts New Jersey campaign. Debbie represented the League as co-organizer of the NJ Women's March in Morristown 2018, adult advisor to March for Our Lives Morristown 2018, and webmaster for the NJ Women's March in 2019. She co-organized the NJ Leagues' RBG Legacy Rally in 2020.

Debbie is a graduate of Wellesley College with a degree in Mathematics and a background in economic research and forecasting. Upon moving to Morristown, she became actively involved in the schools and community, including serving as trustee for the Morris Educational Foundation, administrator for the Whippany River Watershed Action Committee, and communications coordinator for The Presbyterian Church in Morristown.

## **Treasurer**

### **JANET FISHER-HUGHES**



Elected to the Board of the League of Women Voters of New Jersey in 2021, Janet Fisher-Hughes serves on the Finance, Budget, Communications, and Strategic Planning Committees. She has applied her professional skills and experience as a marketing research consultant to conduct interviews among current and former League members. The resulting insights from these interviews have been used to inform LWVNJ's Strategic Plan.

Janet has been on the Board of the League of Women Voters of Camden County since 2018, serving as Treasurer since 2022. She has directed LWVCC's Running & Winning program and Vote411 efforts and very much enjoys moderating candidate forums and registering voters at naturalization ceremonies.

Janet lives in Pennsauken with her husband, Bob and dog, Griff. She is Treasurer of the Pennsauken Historical Society and is a member of the Westmont Accordion Club.

Janet holds a B.A. in Psychology with a minor in Spanish from the University of Pennsylvania.

## Secretary

### MARIEL MERCADO-GUEVARA



Mariel Mercado-Guevara, Esq., has been a member of the League of Women Voters of Ridgewood since 2020 and now serves as a Board Member of the League of Women Voters of New Jersey. She is a corporate defense attorney and civil litigator practicing in the areas of insurance law, intellectual property, and workers compensation defense and is licensed in both New York and New Jersey. Mariel frequently speaks and writes about voter suppression, insurance law, legal ethical issues, and diversity and inclusion matters. Before becoming a lawyer, Mariel was the New Jersey Hispanic Campaign Coordinator for Barack Obama's first Presidential campaign. This inspired her to become a lawyer in order to expand her service to her community. She has served as a Panelist on Contract Law and a Coach for the Hispanic Entrepreneurship Training Program with the NJ Hispanic Chamber of Commerce. She has also served as Past-Chair of the Minorities in Profession Section with the New Jersey State Bar Association, and is a longtime member of the Hispanic Bar Association of New Jersey. Mariel earned her Juris Doctorate from Rutgers University Law School, Newark. She also graduated magna cum laude with a Bachelors degree from Boston University in classical vocal music, and was a professional Opera Singer for several years before moving to the New Jersey/New York tristate area.

## DIRECTORS

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### JESSICA BACKOFEN



Jess Backofen is the executive director at The Foundation for University Hospital and is charged with raising funds to support the Hospital's vulnerable patient community. Prior to joining the Foundation, Jess held leadership roles at the American Cancer Society, Friends of the Children and JDRF International over the past 20 years, building strategic partnerships with philanthropists, corporations, and foundations to scale impact and accelerate mission. Ms. Backofen graduated from Quinnipiac University with a BS in Health Administration and currently sits on the board of the League of Women Voters of New Jersey.

## LUCIENNE BEARD



Lucy was the Alice Paul Institute's ([www.alicepaul.org](http://www.alicepaul.org)) Executive Director until 2021, where she established public visitation at Paulsdale, Alice Paul's birthplace in Mt. Laurel, and created the Alice Paul Leadership Programs for girls to inspire today's young women to pursue leadership into the future. Beard led efforts to raise awareness of Alice Paul's work for passage of the Equal Rights Amendment. Beard co-chaired New Jersey's statewide commemoration of the 100th anniversary of women's suffrage. She co-chairs the board of directors of the National Collaborative for Women's History Sites. She is a charter member of Kiwanis of Greater Mount Laurel and is an active member of the Mt. Laurel Society of Friends (Quaker) Meeting. She earned a B.S. in International Affairs from The George Washington University and an M.A. in American History from Rutgers University. Beard lives in Mt. Laurel with her husband and the world's friendliest cat.

## MARLENA BROWN



Dr. Marlena Brown is a Sr. Specialist in Quality Engineering E-Systems at Bristol Myers Squibb in the Cell Therapy Operations division. She is a graduate of New Jersey Institute of Technology where she earned a Bachelor of Science in Biomedical Engineering and Masters in both Engineering Management and Pharmaceutical Engineering. In 2014 she earned her doctorate in Biomedical Engineering from Rutgers University where her research focused on the feasibility of the utilization of drop-on-demand technology in the fabrication of flexible dosing and novel multi-drug dosage forms.

Marlena has worked in bio-pharma space for over ten years. Her main area of focus has been in quality, compliance, and manufacturing for oral solid dose (OSD), topical, and CAR-T Therapy for cancer treatments.

Marlena is an active member of the Monmouth County Alumnae Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc. and the Central Jersey Club of the National Association of Negro Business and Professional Women's Clubs.

Originally born in Neptune and raised in Asbury Park, NJ, Marlena recognizes her responsibility to give back and volunteers her time and services to help others. Marlena is a volunteer member of the Medical Reserve Corps of Monmouth County and a recent volunteer member of the American Red Cross.

In her spare time, she enjoys comedy, reading, and spending time with her family.

## **EMAHUNN RAHEEM ALI CAMPBELL**



Emahunn Raheem Ali Campbell is currently the Marvin M. Karparkin Legal Fellow with the Racial Justice Program at the national American Civil Liberties Union. Prior to joining the ACLU, Emahunn completed a year-long judicial clerkship with New Jersey Appellate Division Judge Thomas W. Summers, Jr., and graduated from Rutgers Law School in 2021, where he won the Judge J. Skelly Wright Prize for the Greatest Contribution to Civil Rights, Civil Liberties and Human Affairs; the Pro Bono Service Award; along with the Kinoy-Stavis Public Interest Fellowship, the Judge Herbert H. Tate, Sr. Scholarship; and the Dean's Merit Scholarship. While at Rutgers Law, Emahunn was a fellow at the Eagleton Institute and interned with the NJ Division on Civil Rights, NAACP LDF, and the Center for Constitutional Rights, and worked in both the constitutional rights and civil justice clinics. He served as president of the Association of Black Law Students, as well as the attorney general for the Northeast Black Law Students Association. He is also a former high school teacher and professor with a PhD in Afro-American Studies from the University of Massachusetts Amherst, and a BA from the University of Virginia.

## **JASON DEALESSI**



Jason DeAlessi is an entrepreneur who works in startups across the media, entertainment, real estate, and hospitality industries. His primary focus is currently with Fuerza Strategy Group, where he serves as Managing Director of the boutique public affairs and marketing firm on its projects with clients across the United States in the political and social justice arenas. Prior to starting his firm, he worked at NBC News on "Morning Joe". Jason studied political science and public health at Johns Hopkins University and Rutgers University and holds an MPH in Epidemiology. He previously served as President of his local board of education and in his spare time enjoys training for triathlons and officiating ice hockey.

## **DEBORAH Y. LEE**



Deborah Lee joined the League of Women Voters in Ridgewood in 2020 and currently serves as a Director, as well as co-chair of the Ridgewood League's Education committee. She is also a co-chair of the NJ State Education committee.

Deb is currently the Founder & CEO of Dancing Panda ([www.dancingpanda.com](http://www.dancingpanda.com)), an education technology startup focused on family engagement. She has been in a variety of different roles in education - from a Chief of Staff consultant supporting senior education

leaders to an operational school leader at an elementary school in East Harlem. She also was a founding team member of edtech startup Newsela, and led the talent development and anti-racism work at an education non-profit in East Harlem.

Deb has a Masters in Education Leadership from the Broad Center, an MBA from Babson College focused on Social Entrepreneurship, and a BA in Economics from Wellesley College.

## **PRINCESS G. HOAGLAND**



Princess G. Hoagland, EdD, MBA, is an advocate and philanthropist who is committed to serving her community. Her focuses are socioeconomic, political, and racial justice and historic inclusion for our underserved population. Dr. Hoagland is a member of several nonprofit organizations including: Association for the Study of African American Life and History; League of Women Voters of Lawrence Township; National Association for the Advancement of Colored People; New Jersey Association of Black Educators; New Jersey Association of Museums; and Trent House Association (1719 William Trent House Museum).

Dr. Hoagland has an AS in General Business from Mercer County Community College, and both a BS in Business Administration and an MBA with a concentration in Finance from Rider University. She has a EdD in Organizational Leadership from Stockton University.

Dr. Hoagland is a life-long resident of Trenton, New Jersey, is married, has five adult children, seven grandchildren, and one great grandchild.

## **JIN Y. HWANG**



Jin Y. Hwang is a stalwart champion of equity, inclusion, and belonging and seasoned attorney with management experience and expertise in several areas of law. For her latest venture, Jin is the founder and chief executive officer of Jinvesting Consulting LLC, providing financial education, JEDI consulting, and executive coaching services.

Before that, Jin was Associate General Counsel with Verizon and an inaugural Steering Committee member of Verizon's Public Policy, Law & Security Diversity and Inclusion Council. Prior to her 16-plus years with Verizon, Jin was an attorney with France Télécom (now Orange).

For many years, Jin has been leading change to increase equity, inclusion, and access. Jin was a board member of the National Asian Pacific American Bar Association for 7 years, including being privileged to serve as president. Jin is a Commissioner on the American Bar Association's Commission on Women in the Profession as well as co-chair of the Grit Project and a project researching Native American women attorneys' experiences. Jin currently serves on the board of the League of Women Voters of New Jersey, including as Governance Committee co-chair, Finance Committee member, and Strategic Plan Committee member. Jin has served as a mentor to many law students and lawyers as well as a speaker for numerous organizations across the country.



Jin has a B.A. with double majors in Psychology and French Studies with honors from the University of Pennsylvania and a J.D. from American University's Washington College of Law.

## **YVETTE J. LINCOLN**



Yvette J. Lincoln, Executive Director of Business Process & Governance Excellence, Global Product Development & Supply, Bristol Myers Squibb. Yvette identifies and drives strategic initiatives for process and system improvements for global teams. Yvette believes that by combining diverse perspectives, cutting edge science and out-of-the-box thinking, that we can provide more lifesaving medications to patients around the world with life threatening illnesses every day.

Yvette holds an MBA and a MS in Finance from Drexel University and BS of Chemical Engineering and Biochemistry from Rutgers University. She is a Certified Supply Chain Professional (CSPC), Certified Business Continuity Professional (CBCP) and is PMP certified.

In her free time Yvette enjoys serving the community with her sorority, Zeta Phi Beta Sorority, Incorporated, playing golf with her daughters and is an avid jazz fan. She and her family reside in Southern New Jersey and are members of Jack and Jill of America, Incorporated.

## **LAUREN F. NANCE**



Lauren Nance is an active contributor to the business, service, and civic uplift of northern New Jersey. Driven by her passion for efficiency and community, Lauren frequently leverages her community connections to help other people excel.

As Chief Executive Officer of Nance Communications, LLC, and a Certified Meeting Professional, Lauren is an award-winning contributor to her profession. Her clients include nonprofits, entrepreneurs and creatives in a variety of industries. Nance's greatest body of work in service, civic engagement, and leadership engagement is done through Zeta Phi Beta Sorority, Inc. She joined while attending Rutgers University in 1989. Zeta's global impact on social action, community service, and voter education initiatives are well known. Nance has served in several leadership roles, including local chapter president and on the board of directors. Nance has also served on the board of directors of Meeting Professionals International, New Jersey Chapter, as its director of education.

For nearly 30 years, Nance has shared her life and love with retired law enforcement officer, Bert Nance, Jr. They have one daughter who is studying to be a music therapist for children.

## **HENAL PATEL**



Henal Patel is Director of the Democracy & Justice Program at the New Jersey Institute for Social Justice.

Before joining the Institute, Henal was an associate at McElroy, Deutsch, Mulvaney & Carpenter. Previously, Henal had the honor of serving as a law clerk to Chief Justice Stuart Rabner on the New Jersey Supreme Court. While in law school, Henal was an Eagleton Institute of Politics fellow, participated in the Constitutional Litigation Clinic, and served as an assistant to the Chairman of the New Jersey Redistricting Commission. Henal received her J.D. from the Rutgers University School of Law – Newark and B.A. from

Rutgers University.

## **KELLY SHEA**



Dr. Kelly A. Shea is an associate professor of English/Director of the First-Year Writing Program (and former Writing Center director) at Seton Hall University. She teaches undergraduate and graduate composition and literature courses; trains graduate students as composition instructors; and studies, presents, and publishes on writing, teaching, faculty development, and technology issues - and their intersections. She is a co-leader of the SHU reading-/writing-intensive core proficiency project and works closely with SHU's Teaching, Learning, and Technology Center on course management systems, virtual instruction platforms, digital humanities tools, and other pedagogy-improvement initiatives. She was a founding member and officer of the League of Women Voters of Warren and West Morris Counties (NJ) and has been actively involved with voter education, voter registration, get-out-the-vote, and other LWV initiatives since 2018. She is also a small business owner in Hackettstown, NJ, and, like her two grown sons, has been a lifelong, attentive voter.

## MEMBER-ELECTED COMMITTEES

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### BUDGET COMMITTEE

Chair

**NANCY HEDINGER**



Nancy is a past president of the League of Women Voters of New Jersey. Over the last biennium, she served as co-chair of the LWNJ Development and Government Program Committees and as a member of the LWNJ Nominating Committee. She is currently serving as the president of the League of Women Voters of the Morristown Area. Nancy was Budget Chair for LWWUS last year and looks forward to drawing on her experience in this corresponding role as LWNJ Budget Chair for the 2023 - 2025 biennium.

### NOMINATING COMMITTEE

Chair

**EVELYN C. MURPHY**



Evelyn C. Murphy, Ph.D. (she/her/hers) was elected to the LWNJ Nominating Committee in 2019 and elected chair in 2021. She is Co-President of the LWV of Monmouth County, an LWNJ Certified Moderator, and a member of the LWNJ Development Committee. At LWWUS, Evelyn was appointed to the League Structure Task force in 2021, charged with addressing organizational capacity, and now contributes to “Framing the Future” with the Business Modeling Working Group. She served as an LWWUS Delegate to the 65th Annual Session of the UN Committee on the Status of

Women in March 2021. An economist by training, Evelyn began her career in the banking industry at the Federal Reserve Banks of New York and Minneapolis before moving to the nonprofit sector. Today, she works with nonprofits, entrepreneurs, and government agencies as a management consultant. Evelyn holds a BA in Economics from Manhattanville College and a PhD in Economics from Michigan State University with concentrations in industrial organization, banking, and finance.

## **Committee Member**

### **SHARON SUBER**



As a member of the Burlington County League, Sharon serves on the leadership team. Her responsibilities include VOTE411, the school voter program, former/currently incarcerated voter program, public relations, the website, social media platforms and tech support. At the state level she is a member of the membership and communication committees. She is currently a Moderator in Training.

Sharon is a member of Zeta Phi Beta Sorority currently serving the Gloucester County community as the men and women's auxiliary sponsor, and the community service coordinator. At the state level she is the coordinator of all the Sorority's March of Dimes Programs.

She is the Public Policy Chair for the Greater Delaware Valley Branch of the NAACP; and the President and Public Policy chair of the American Association of University Women (AAUW) Burlington County Branch. Currently at the state level she is AAUW's Communications Vice President and in July will assume the position of State President.

She retired last year as a Technology Coordinator in an elementary school and is the owner of S3MediaDesign, a business that designs online platforms for small businesses and organizations.

## **Committee Member**

### **DONNA WARD**

Donna Ward is President of the LWV of the Montclair Area, after previously serving as Vice-President and Chair of Voter Services. She is a trained League moderator and has presented numerous programs on "Why Voting Matters" in Essex County high schools. She retired after a 35 year career in global marketing working for major companies like Procter & Gamble Inc and Bayer AG. She is also a court appointed advocate for children in foster care and co-chair of the Northern NJ chapter of The Transition Network, a national organization of women over 50 going through life transitions like retirement. She is also on the board of People's Prep, the only independent charter high school in Newark and on the grants review committee of Impact 100 Essex, a major charitable giving circle for local non-profits.

