



WHAT IS RUNNING AND WINNING?

Running and Winning is an annual non-partisan workshop for high school juniors that was initiated by the League of Women Voters.

Our Running and Winning Workshop was first held in 2007 and has been co-sponsored by the League of Women Voters-Greater Red Bank Area, Red Bank Chapter of Hadassah, AAUW-Northern Monmouth County Branch and Junior League of Monmouth County. Sixty juniors from 12 high schools in Monmouth County attend each spring workshop at Monmouth Regional High School in Tinton Falls, N.J. The next workshop will be held on Friday, April 27, 2012 from 8:00 am – 1:45 pm.

GOALS OF OUR RUNNING AND WINNING WORKSHOP

Student participants will:

- ❖ Learn more about the challenges and rewards of holding public office
- ❖ Interview women in government: Mayors, Freeholders, Assembly Members, Councilwomen and Board of Education Members
- ❖ Discuss full-time and part-time leadership positions in government
- ❖ Experience the running of a campaign based on positions on a public policy issue
- ❖ Work in small groups and learn the skills needed to run for any office such as networking, analyzing issues, choosing a position and public speaking

Many teachers also attend and gain insight into different teaching techniques.

Through contact with a teacher liaison in each high school, we request that each school select participants from young women in their junior year of high school, who have potential leadership abilities, but have not yet had the opportunity to assume leadership positions. This daylong workshop introduces participating students to women in government who share their experiences and provide some mentoring. The students also have the opportunity to network, discuss a non-partisan issue, take a position, work on a mock campaign and speak in public. At the conclusion, students are given a certificate of participation that can be included in their guidance folders.

The Running & Winning Steering Committee recognizes that a free press is critical to the electoral process and to the public's understanding of how public policy is created. Starting in 2011, in recognition of the importance of the press, the Steering Committee decided to incorporate student reporters into the Running & Winning Workshop, guided by a trained facilitator. Each reporter needs to write at least one article about their experience for their school paper and/or website. They are also encouraged to submit their stories to community newsletters, local newspapers and online sites after clearing it with our School Liaison. Copies of all articles are also sent on to us for our publicity files.

Some students have followed through, becoming involved in student government, helping with political campaigns and serving on county and city commissions. We are presently forming a Running & Winning Alumni Group in hopes of learning about their post-workshop leadership experiences and sharing information related to future mentoring and work opportunities in the political arena.

The excitement and enthusiasm expressed by everyone at the workshop and the interest in the women in government returning annually truly confirms the workshop's success!

A GLANCE AT OUR RUNNING AND WINNING WORKSHOP

The students and accompanying teachers arrive early in the morning, take group pictures, are given a manual containing material for the workshop and then the students are assigned to a mixed group of four students with a trained facilitator. The teachers also meet with a facilitator. After having breakfast, they are asked to enter the auditorium where they are welcomed, learn about the day's activities and are introduced to 17 women in government.

The groups and facilitators then return to their tables and each group has three 20 minute interviews with three different women in New Jersey government. These women hold positions such as Senators, Mayors, Members of the Board of Chosen Freeholders, County Clerk, Councilwomen, Board of Education Members, County Surrogate, and Monmouth County Administrators. At this time, the young women students are encouraged to ask these elected officials such questions as:

- How did you become interested in politics? Why did you decide to run for office the first time?
- Did you have fears about running? If so, what were they?
- What are some of the challenges and rewards of holding office?
- How do you handle personal attacks?

Under the direction of the facilitator, each group then participates in a campaign exercise in which they take such roles as candidate, campaign manager, legislative aide and publicist. Using materials provided to them stating the pros and cons of a non-partisan issue* each group of students takes a position, speeches are written and

posters promoting their position drawn. Following lunch, each group makes wonderful presentations before the entire gathering.

(*Previous Issues: 2007--"No Child Left Behind Law," (This law was coming up for reauthorization.) 2008--"Teenagers and Internet Access," 2009--"Legal & Illegal Immigration," 2010--"Gun control in America," and 2011--"GRASS ROOTS: A Citizen's Role in Environmental Decisions."

The attending teachers also interview three women in government and then discuss the topic of the day with their facilitator. They learn about the resources of the co-sponsoring groups and/or hear a presentation related to implementing the topic in their classroom.

Before leaving, each participant completes an evaluation form that have consistently have given us high ratings and evidence that we are making a difference. At that time, they are also asked if they wish to be part of our Running & Winning Alumni and if so, supply us with home address and e-mail.

FINANCIAL AND IN-KIND DONATIONS

Support for this free program has come from our co-sponsors, steering committee members, a few elected officials (as private individuals), and a variety of businesses, banks, individuals and grant sources. Over the past five years, these have included:

Grants: Red Bank Rotary Foundation; Charitable Trust of the American Association of University Women-New Jersey

Breakfasts & Lunches: Saker ShopRite of West Long Branch; Bertucci's Brick Oven Restaurant, Hazlet; Whole Foods Market, Middletown; Gourmet Picnic, Fair Haven; Charlie Brown Steakhouse

Supplies, Printing & Gifts: Staples #1742; Jersey Printing Associates, Atlantic Highlands; Howard Kramer, Anderson Flowers, Iselin; Valley National Bank, Shrewsbury; Sovereign Bank, Middletown

Facilities: Monmouth Regional High School provides facilities and photographers

PUBLICITY

Running and Winning has prepared several Smilebox presentations of the workshop which have been used at several LWVNJ workshops and for others interested in starting a Running & Winning workshop in their area.

Link to 2008 Running & Winning Workshop Smilebox --

http://secure.smilebox.com/ecom/openTheBox?sendevent=4d7a6b324e6a6b304e5877304f4445794d6a51300d0a&sb=1&campaign=email_receipt_directurl_makeyourown

Link to 2007 Running & Winning Workshop (our first one) --

http://secure.smilebox.com/ecom/openTheBox?sendevent=4d6a4d324d6a63304d4877304f4445794d6a51300d0a&sb=1&campaign=email_receipt_directurl_makeyourown

Publicity has been submitted and appeared in many local & school papers or websites.

http://www.middletonk12.org/pr/files/pr_RunningandWinning090514.pdf

In 2011, the workshop was covered by the Eatontown-Tinton Falls Patch

(<http://eatontown.patch.com/articles/girl-power-leadership-program-held-at-mrhs-assembles-top-women-in-county-to-inspire-future-leaders#video-5843975>) and

included a video as well as text description. Our student reporters also submitted articles to their school newspapers or websites.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

If you wish more information about our Running & Winning workshop or how to support it through tax deductible contributions to LWV-GRBA Ed Fund, contact Barbara Goldstein, 732-747-0824, bobbiegold@comcast.net.