



PRESS RELEASE

League of Women Voters of South Kingstown and Narragansett
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

Teachers from Portsmouth Middle School & Feinstein Middle School in Coventry will be honored at LWV Civic Education Merit Award Reception at the State House

The RI League of Women Voters is pleased to announce the 2010 recipients of the Susan B. Wilson Civic Education Merit Award. The 2009 – 2010 merit award recipients are: **Deborah Marcello and Gregory Quirk** of Portsmouth Middle School who received the Grand Prize of \$800; and **Susan Burt** of Feinstein Middle School who received the Jury Prize of \$500. In recognition of their achievement there will be **The Susan B. Wilson Civic Education Merit Awards Reception on Wednesday, June 9, 2010, @ 4:00pm in the Governor's Reception Room at the Rhode Island State House**. These recipients, their families and colleagues will be present as will officers and members of the League of Women Voters and various legislators. Judges will give out the awards and there will be a reception afterwards.

About the first place winners, Ms. Marcello and Mr. Quirk, Judges said, "At a time when schools are focussed on raising standardized test scores in reading and mathematics, this project underscores the importance of young people understanding the democratic process by providing different avenues to understanding not only about how government works but also how individuals can effect the process. The Second Place Winner, Susan Burt, trained teachers to become "civic educators"

and to work closely with students on civic education.

The keynote speaker will be a young woman, Amanda Pereira, a member of Young Voices. She will be speaking about "The importance of civic engagement in young people's lives". She will be introduced by Karen Feldman, the Director of Young Voices of Providence, RI.

Musical entertainment from 2:30pm – 4:00pm will be provided by The West Bay Guitar Ensemble and directed by Joe Smith.

The three judges for this year's awards are:

Former Senator Lila Sapinsley:

Former Senator Lila Sapinsley has been recognized for her outstanding political achievements. In the 1970's she was the states highest woman office holder and the first woman to chair the Board of Trustees of State Colleges. She has served on the Board of Butler Hospital, Miriam Hospital and the Fox Point Senior Center among many others. She is unquestionably committed to improving the quality of life and expanding opportunities for all Rhode Islanders.

Joyce Stevos:

Joyce L. Stevos, Ph. D. is an adjunct professor in Educational Studies at Rhode Island College. Retired from the Providence School Department where she was Social Studies Supervisor for many years and past Director of Strategic Planning and Professional Development. She is the co-author and consultant for several textbooks in American History, World History, and American Government. Recently she was a consultant to Trinity Restoration, Inc. in developing the Charter School for the Performing Arts to be approved by the Board of Regents (June 3, 2010) Finally, she was a recipient of the Milken Family Foundation National Educator Award.

James Frutchey:

A retired Social Studies Teacher, Mr. Frutchey has won many awards for his teaching.

The League inaugurated this annual award to honor teachers who have enriched their students' understanding of civic rights and responsibilities; have encouraged their students' civic participation; and have brought context and relevance to crucial events affecting governments within the United States.

Further information about this award as well as a brief biography of Susan B. Wilson, founding member of the League of Women Voters of South Kingstown/Narragansett, is available on The League of Women Voters Rhode Island website: www.lwvri.org . Questions may also be directed to the South Kingstown/Narragansett League at sknarr@lwvri.org.

CONTACT INFORMATION FOR AWARD RECIPIENTS:

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