



Memorial Tribute to Gail Hammond **Former Executive Director NJLN**

Gail Hammond joined the NJLN in 1980 as a clerk-typist and advanced to Executive Director in 1985. Gail was “the face” of the NJLN, representing us at state, regional and national venues. Her creative talents, managerial skills, business expertise, leadership abilities and professional acumen sustained us as an organization, while garnering the respect of organizational colleagues and business partners alike.

The many contributions Gail made over the years were motivated by her love and respect for the nursing profession. She took advantage of every opportunity possible to maximize the potential of each member of the NJLN. She nurtured and mentored NJLN presidents and board members.

Due to her fine reputation, Gail frequently served as a speaker, consultant and resource for the National League for Nursing’s Constituent League Advisory Council. She authored an article on Constituent League Reorganization which appeared in *Nursing Education Perspectives* and served on the *Advance for LPN’s* Editorial Board.

Gail was the driving force behind many successful programs, partnerships and events. She managed conventions, educational conferences and many galas. Her efforts fostered the education and services to thousands of nurses and nurse educators in New Jersey.

Gail worked well with everyone, using her excellent communication and people skills to help the NJLN reach its goals and continue its mission. Many nursing scholarships have been given throughout the years under her guidance.

At the 100th Anniversary Gala in 2015, which she had been so excited to co-ordinate and promote, the Board of Directors honored her with the one and only “Heart & Soul” Award. It was for her tireless efforts over 35 years of service to the organization. It was Gail’s last public appearance during which she was so touched and proud. She thoroughly enjoyed looking so glamorous and sharing that event with her friends and NJLN family. Gail will always be remembered by the infinite number of accolades poured upon her that evening. Going forward, the NJLN may never grant that award again. It is not possible to find another human being to fit an award with such extensive criteria!

Gail’s absence is felt on so many levels, yet a sense of her presence will always remain in our hearts.