



LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF THE GREATER DAYTON AREA
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USA Health Care: Professional Perspectives



Tuesday, October 27, 2009

WSU's White Hall
(Boonshoft School of Medicine)



6:30-8:30 pm

Car Pooling Advised; Parking will be available in Lot 17

Campus maps at

<http://www.wright.edu/aboutwsu/maps/pdf/2008pdf>

A diverse panel of medical/health care professionals will answer questions about national health care issues from a variety of perspectives.

Presiding: **James K. Uphoff, Ed.D.**, Dayton Area League of Women Voters
Vice President - Program

Panel Moderator: **Dr. Howard Part, M.D.** Dean: WSU Boonshoft School of Medicine

Panel Members: **Bea Harris, MS, RN**, Director of Disease Prevention
Public Health: Dayton & Montgomery County
Kristine Scordo, Ph.D., RN, Professor
WSU College of Nursing & Health
Bryan Bucklew, President & CEO
Greater Dayton Area Hospital Association
Evangeline Andarsio, M.D., President Elect
Montgomery County Medical Society
Emmett Orr, M.P.A., Founding Director: Drew Health Center
Mark McDonnell, RS, MS, Greene County Health Commissioner

General Fund

2009- 2010 Leadership Circle Members

President (\$10,000+)

Cox Ohio Publishing *

Vice President (\$5,000+)

Cox Ohio Publishing

Cabinet (\$2,500+)

Doug Snyder Graphic Design *

Governor (\$1,000+)

Roger B. Himmell, CPA *

Premier Health Partners
Miami Valley Hospital
Good Samaritan Hospital
Atrium Medical Center
Upper Valley Medical Center
Time Warner Cable

Senate (\$500)

Chuck Fisher*
Kendall Printing*
McGohan Brabender
University of Dayton *
President's Office
Political Science Department

House (\$250)

Anonymous
Dr. Susan Barde
Dayton Metro Library
Five Rivers Metro Park,
Charles Shoemaker, Exec. Director
Dr. & Mrs. Ronald Fletcher
Greater Dayton Area Hospital Assoc.
I supply Company
Gary J. Leppla
David A. Neuhardt
Patricia Schroeder
Jayme Soulati
Senator Fred Strahorn
Judy & Tom Thompson
University of Dayton, Fitz Center for
Leadership in Community
Marie "Penny" Wolff

*In-kind contributions

**In kind and monetary contribution

All elected officials, political entities and candidates are invited to contribute to the LWV. Names appearing on this list do not constitute an endorsement by the LWV which is nonpartisan.

MEMBERSHIP UPDATES

Please welcome the newest League members who have joined over the summer months. * indicates a Nationally recruited member

Cena Buchannon *

Katherine Hill *

Henryetta Lloyd *

The League of Women Voters recognizes that diverse perspectives are important and necessary for responsible and representative decision making. The LWV affirms its commitment to reflecting the diversity of America in its membership, leadership and programs.

Education Fund Current Major Contributors

Charles Berry (\$5,000)
The Dayton Bar Association Foundation (\$1,000)
The Dayton Power & Light Foundation (\$5,000)
The Virginia W. Kettering Foundation (\$5,000)

Recent Contributions Appreciated

Thank you to the following who have made a contribution to the League's General Fund [a 501(c)(4) entity] since our last *Voter*:

* indicates League member

ABLE Law
Judith Baker *
Willis E. Blackshear
Carolyn Bridgman *
Frieda Brigner *
Judge Anthony Capizzi
Deborah & Bruce Feldman
Evelyn Ferguson *
Dan Foley
Gregory A. Hanahan
Eleanor C. Lewis *
Deborah & Dennis Lieberman *
Paula MacIlwaine *
David & Mary Mathews
Lee & David Mills *
David Neuhardt
Tom Norwalk *
Maureen Patterson *
Jeannette Patton
Sheriff Phil Plummer *
Theodore Randall *
Peg Schulz *
Vectren
Carol Winslow *

2010 CALENDARS

Our Dayton Area League of Women Voters 90th Anniversary Calendar will soon be ready. Just in time for Christmas and Holiday giving.

This will be a great, fun item to add to your gift giving list. Our photographer has been busy! More information soon.

Thank you

Led by our Dayton League of Women Voters, a citizen group completed a two-week BIG READ of HR 3200. At the first meeting, hosted by ThinkTV, approximately 45 people divided into ten teams and were given randomly chosen sections of the House Tri-Committee America's Affordable Health Choices Act of 2009. At the beginning of the meeting Judge Walter Rice congratulated the reading groups for participating in the READ process and stressed the importance of citizens being proactive in their government.

For two weeks the teams met independently to read through and study their section of the Bill. The only rules suggested for the individual teams were to read the Bill as it was written, to keep an open mind and to practice civil discourse. After all the town halls and news reports, the main goal of the READ was to try to understand what HR 3200 actually proposes.

Participants in the BIG READ consisted of nurses, retirees, state representatives, social workers, attorneys, small business owners, stay-at-home moms, real estate agents and business executives.

At the second and final meeting of the group at large, each team presented a description of what their portion of the Bill contained along with their questions, concerns and comments. Though readers found the Bill difficult to interpret, most questions centered on the complexity of the proposed changes, the cost of implementing the changes and the effect the Bill might have on small business owners. All conversation, questions and discussion was pleasant, productive and an enjoyable experience. Many participants asked to be included in future similar events.

Our League is in the process of compiling a list of questions to forward to state and federal legislators asking for answers and clarifications.

Questions proposed to legislators will be available for review on the League website at www.lwvdayton.org.

At-Risk Americans: The Uninsured And Underinsured

By Janis McMillen

Janis McMillen is a LWVUS Board member and also a member of the Kansas League of Women Voters and is chair of the LWVUS Health Care Education Task Force

Data from multiple sources agree that in 2007, 47 million Americans (15.6 percent of the total U.S. population) lacked any kind of health insurance coverage. When these numbers are adjusted for age (excluding those 65 years and older), the uninsured percentage of the population rises to 17.9 percent. Moreover, it is estimated that 25 million adults under age 65 were underinsured during 2007, despite having insurance all year. In total, 42 percent of *all* adults (86.7 million) were either uninsured or underinsured during 2007.

Putting a face on persons who were uninsured or underinsured during 2007 and 2008¹

Age: One of three people under age 65 were uninsured for some or all of 2007 and 2008; of the total uninsured population, 60.1 million were adults (between 19 and 64 years of age).

Duration: Among the underinsured/uninsured, 74.5 percent were uninsured for nine or more months and one-quarter were uninsured the entire 24 months.

Employment status: 80 percent of individuals who were uninsured were in working families and only 16 percent were not in the labor force (due to disabilities, chronic illness, or serving as family caregivers).

Income: Nearly 60 percent were in families with incomes below the federal poverty level (FPL: \$21,200/year for a family of four); 52 percent with incomes between 100 to 200 percent of FPL went without health insurance in 2007/2008.

Racial and Ethnic origin: 55 percent of Hispanics/Latinos, 40.3 percent of African Americans and 34 percent of other racial or ethnic minorities had no health insurance in 2007/2008, compared to 25.8 percent of whites. While racial and ethnic minorities are more likely to be uninsured, whites accounted for 49.8 percent of the uninsured.

Age breakdown: The likelihood of being uninsured declines with age; 49.5 percent of those 19 – 24 years old, 36.3 percent of those 25 – 44 years old, 32.5 percent of those 45 – 54 years old and 21.2 percent of those 55 – 64 years old were uninsured over this two-year time period. The 55- to 64-year-old age group consumes more health care on average than younger adults.

For all ethnic and racial groups, lower-income families and individuals were more likely to be uninsured than lower-income whites. This disparity continues even as incomes rise in all groups.

There is a marked increase in the number of adults having difficulty paying medical bills – the most visible consequence of the weakening in insurance coverage. In 2007, 41 percent of adults (72 million people) reported problems paying medical bills, faced bill collectors or were in debt for medical care, up from 34 percent or 58 million in 2005. The majority had

insurance at the time these bills were incurred² – well in advance of the economic downturn.

Please join us in celebrating democracy!

Who is the first person who comes to mind when you are asked to name someone who has been a driving force behind bringing about significant and long-lasting change in your community?

- Someone who helped identify an issue that needed attention
- Inspired others to get involved
- Created a plan of action
- Made things happen
- Brought about a meaningful change with far reaching results

This is the person to nominate for the Cathy Bantz Making Democracy Work Award, an award that recognizes and celebrates individuals who see how to make the community better and engage and inspire others in accomplishing the vision. These people lead by example and motivate others to do great things.

The award will be presented by the League of Women Voters of the Greater Dayton Area on February 25, 2010. It is named after Cathy Bantz, a past president of the League and a founding organizer and first Executive Director of Kids Voting. Cathy was often the first person people turned to about issues of social justice or civic equality. Because of her legacy, the League created this award in her memory to honor those who live as she did --- committed to engaging our community and leading efforts that inspire us all to get involved.

A nomination form is included on the next page of this newsletter. Let us know about someone who has made a difference in your community.

The League is looking for a few good volunteers!

There are openings for Observers to report on City Council meetings and Township Trustees meetings. It is an important function of the League to be informed of the activities of our local governments. A sample of an some observer reports are in the column to the right of this article. Here is a list of municipalities were a League observer would/could volunteer.

- Brookville: First & Third Tuesdays
- Centerville: Third Monday
- Clayton: First & Third Thursdays
- Dayton: First & Third Wednesdays
- Englewood: Second & Fourth Tuesdays
- Huber Heights: Second & Fourth Mondays
- Kettering: Second & Fourth Tuesdays
- Miamisburg: First & Third Tuesdays
- Moraine: Second & Fourth Thursdays
- Oakwood: First & Third Mondays
- Riverside: First & Third Thursdays
- Trotwood: First & Third Mondays
- Union: Second & Fourth Mondays
- Vandalia: First & Third Mondays
- Beavercreek: Second & Fourth Mondays
- Bellbrook: Second & Fourth Mondays

Montgomery County Board of Elections September 9, 2009 - Sandra Mants

The board reviewed and approved petitions for two write in candidates for the fall ballot. One petition involved an uncontested Municipal Court Judge seat and the other involved a candidate in the Ward 3 Council race in Huber Heights. At the time of the meeting the Board was also awaiting the Ohio Secretary of State's decision on the petition of a candidate for the Mayor of Moraine race. It was hoped that the Secretary of State would make the decision soon, as the deadline for printed absentee ballots was approaching.

Washington Township Trustees October 5, 2009 - Lucy Ann McKosky

The trustees approved and extension of an agreement with the City of Centerville on the joint maintenance of a public parking lot. Representatives from Alter High School, Five Rives MetroParks and the United Way were in attendance. Trustee Joyce Young spoke in support of the MetroParks levy. Discussion of a grant funded recycling project involving electronic materials project was discussed.

Nomination for the Cathy Bantz Making Democracy Work Award

Name of Nominee: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ Zip: _____

Profession: _____

How long has this individual been active in their community? _____

Briefly describe why this person should be considered for the Cathy Bantz Making Democracy Work Award.

The League of Women Voters celebrates individuals who have envisioned a way to improve the community and have mobilized others to work with them to effect changes that have benefited the broader community.

How does your nominee exemplify this vision? Please be specific, including date(s) and people and communities who benefited.

Printed name of nominator

Signature of nominator

Date & phone # of nominator

Return to: **League of Women Voters, Talbott Tower Suite1208 131 North Ludlow Street Dayton, OH 45402**

Nominations are due by December 1, 2009.

The League of Women Voters is a nonpartisan political organization, which encourages the informed and active participation of citizens in government, works to increase understanding of major public policy issues, and influences public policy through education and advocacy. The *Voter* is published monthly, except July, August and December by the League of Women Voters of the Greater Dayton Area (LWVGDA), Talbott Tower, Suite 1208, 131 N. Ludlow Street, Dayton, OH 45401-1703. Office hours: Monday through Friday, 9:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m. Phone (937) 228-4041 and (937) 372-4148; FAX: (937) 228-4104; E-mail: league@lwvdayton.org; web address: www.lwvdayton.org
President: Janis James Editorial Board: Vivienne Himmell, Sharon Harmer, Penny Wolff Editor: Viola Matyas

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We are on the web
www.lwvdayton.org

Advocating Voter
Education and
Action on Issues

President's Message

Our office receives between 15 and 50 calls a day ---- depending on how close we are to an election. Some callers want to know how to vote early. Some want to know about absentee ballots. Many want information about the issues. Sandie Mants, our office manager, is always 'up' on the issues and clearly explains them without adding her opinion. That's the League way, and we can all take pride in how our office is run.

The League is also the primary resource for help with Candidate Forums. Sometimes we are asked to moderate; sometimes we are asked to provide volunteers, and sometimes we are asked for guidance about how to assure fairness during a forum. When you attend a forum, you can't help but

feel pride in your League.

And then there's the *Voters Guide* which now provides information to voters in Butler, Champaign, Clark, Greene, Miami, Montgomery, and Warren counties. Our recent *Voters Guide* has information about nearly 700 candidates, more than 100 local issues and three statewide issues.

The *Dayton Daily News* generously provides the printing and distribution for the *Guide*, but *they count on the League* to compile the information. No doubt, as you read the *Guide*, you feel a surge of pride in being a League member.

In addition to all these services during election periods, we continue our monthly programs about critical issues such as health care, education,

foreclosure, environmental issues, redistricting and the census. Our panelists are impressive and our audiences are growing. These events are yet another reason to take pride in being a League member.

I hope you agree that it would be selfish of us to keep all this pride to ourselves. It's time to reach out to our friends, neighbors, family, and co-workers and invite them to experience pride in being a member of such a highly-respected organization, actively engaged in making democracy work. Help support the League's MRI (Member Recruitment Initiative). Contact our Membership, Director Dona Fletcher, at 512-5149 to learn how you can help share our pride.

Janis