

LWV of Albany County

October 2008

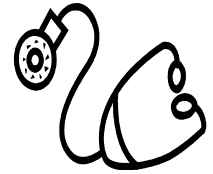
Educate

Participate

Advocate



Health Care Forum Saturday, October 25, 10:00 - 12:00 Rockefeller Institute, Albany



The LWVAC will be co-sponsoring with the Schenectady, Saratoga and Rensselaer Leagues, and with support from LWVNY, a forum on October 25 focusing on the national debate on health care reform. The program, at the Rockefeller Institute in Albany (411 State Street - near Washington Park and intersection of State Street), will be from 10:00 am -noon. While panelists are still to be confirmed, the program is intended to showcase the key points in the national debate on health care reform, the position of our state league on critical aspects of quality, access, equity and cost and the differences (and similarities) of the platforms of the two major national political parties. Since the program will be held shortly before the national election, there will be emphasis on what voting for either of the major candidates could mean to your health care once the election is concluded. To further “speculate” on impact, we are planning to have an expert in local health care issues provide commentary on how the national agenda will “trickle down” to our local level. Courtney Burke, of the Rockefeller Institute and LWVAC will speak on the national health care reform agenda and will also provide commentary throughout the session (see related article on page 9).



Calling New Members!

Join us on October 15th, 7pm, for coffee and discussion about the Albany County League of Women Voters. We will meet at the home of Martha Kissinger; 21 Walden Fields Drive, Delmar. Walden Fields is off Elsmere between Rte 32 (Delmar by-pass) and Feura Bush Road.

RSVP 439-6833 by Oct. 9

Hope to meet new members and interested people on October 15th.

Become a League Mentor

Looking for that special way to demonstrate how much the league means to you? Remember what it was like to be a “league newbie”? Want to expand your list of league friends?

Become a mentor to one of our newer members and provide some guidance about our organization and the opportunities available while demonstrating how welcoming our members are.

Please contact Martha Kennedy: dkennedy2@nycap.rr.com and add your name to the mentor list. Consideration will be given to geographic proximity or any specific requests.

League of Women Voters of Albany County

Website: www.lwvalbany.org Email: lwvac@crisny.org

Lori Keegan-Brady and Maggie Moehringer, Co-Presidents

Carol Webster (439-1491) and Martha Kennedy (439-4559), Membership Co-Chairs

Laura Ladd Bierman, Newsletter Editor



From the Co-Presidents

Happy Fall All !

We had another successful Pot Luck dinner to kick off our Fall Season. Thank you to all who helped make it special. Now is the time to get involved in League activities. There is no shortage of things to do.

We have the Health Care Forum which will educate the general public and us on the major party candidates' health care reform platforms and how the winning candidates' proposals will affect our local area. This is coming up on October 25 at the Rockefeller Institute from 10:00 am to noon. Special thanks to Marian Schwager and Courtney Burke.

We have our annual poll reporting. If you have not done this before, this will be an interesting year to get involved. If you want to help, please call or e-mail Marggie Skinner 489-5311 or marggies@earthlink.net

On Election Day – November 4th, try out the new Ballot Marking Devices yourself in your polling place instead of the lever machine. Please let Aimee Allaud at 85Aimee@nycap.rr.com know your experience. No voter can be denied the right to use the machine. You do not have to provide any reason or documentation of disability. So, be adventurous – try out the new technology!

Our Voter Services Director, Mary Ann Lettau, has so much going on. You could help register voters on October 4 at the Race for the Cure or help with the Candidates Forum on October 7. Just call or email Mary Ann Lettau at 489-0212 or mlettau1@yahoo.com.

Our membership team has a new initiative they are starting, Member Mentoring. If you are interested in being a mentor or to be mentored – just contact Martha Kennedy at dkennedy2@nycap.rr.com.

We have a Greening of Albany County study group that has regular meetings; just call or email Judi Campbell at 478-0016 or jcamp37@verizon.net.

Ever wonder what happens at the Albany County Legislature meetings or your town Board meetings? If you are interested in observing the meetings for the League, just call Ann Brandon, our Action Vice President at 439-4332 or email ambrandon2@verizon.net.

So, you see we have many opportunities to get involved and be better informed.

Yours In League,
Maggie and Lori

New Members

Adele Strominger Delmar

Norman Strominger Delmar

Cynthia Hall Delmar

Welcome!

21st CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT CANDIDATE FORUMS

Our thanks go out to Mary Ann Lettau and her inter-League team of folks who worked to bring together candidates debates for the 21st congressional district race. WMHT and the Times Union thought it was such a good idea that they decided to do it themselves! They have invited the local Leagues to be part of the studio audience, but space is very limited and our League is only invited to bring 5 people to the forum on **October 16th, from 8-9 at the WMHT Studio B**. PLEASE LET US KNOW IF YOU'D LIKE TO GO BY OCTOBER 10TH (Maggie Moehring, 475-0969, mmoehrin@nycap.rr.com).

The League of Women Voters is a nonpartisan citizen organization that promotes the informed and active participation of citizens in government, and influences public policy through education and advocacy. Any person of voting age, male or female, may become a League member.

This newsletter is published by the League of Women Voters of Albany County, 12 Coventry Road, Glenmont, New York 12077 and mailed to League members. The frequency of publication is as follows: one mid-summer issue followed by nine monthly issues from September to May.

League in Profile: Present and Past

Linda E. Brown (present)

I came to the League by way of my sister, Laurie, who was a co-president of the Swampscott, MA, League in the late 1980's. While the Swampscott League was cleaning up the beaches of Boston's north shore, conducting voter service and studying town issues, I was interested in getting some experience on State budget issues in Albany. Why was I excited about Albany? At that time, I was finishing up coursework in Public Administration at Rockefeller College. Although I had been a freelance musician for 15 years and had a career in information systems, my graduate work was a culmination of a life-long interest in public policy and governing and I was preparing to work in such a capacity in State government.

I found the State League Office in the phone book and called for information. I attended my first LWVAC meeting in 1990 and sat next to league president Joanne Esposito, who made me feel at home. The speaker was Judith Saidel from the Center for Women in Government. Saidel's talk was compelling, there was a lively discussion and I enjoyed the people I met. I joined LWVAC and the new Budget Study group – a perfect companion to my academic studies. My involvement in the group helped me understand the NYS budget process quite well - no class could have prepared me better. I was impressed with the professionalism and organization of the study. Later that year, I attended the League's 70th Anniversary event at Rockefeller Institute. Over the years I've enjoyed poll reporting which makes money for the League. For a few years, I was assigned to Ten Eyck apartments and brought my little black Pug dog which cheered up the poll workers.

I served as Public Relations Director from 1993-98. I think I got this job because I could send faxes to the media from my PC – cutting edge technology at that time. During my PR stint, LWVAC hosted LWVUS President Becky Cain and that was an exciting event. I recall that the board meetings were longer then - it seemed like it took about 3 hours to do the business of the 90's. Additionally, I would get lost driving at night through dimly lit developments in Bethlehem. There were at least two good reasons for buying a cell phone: League meetings and poll reporting.

My workload changed in the last few years and I wanted to become more involved when I saw a vacancy for secretary on the board. This proved to be good way to become reacquainted and learn more about the League and its current programs. There are many good things one can do with the League. As I found in 1990, LWVAC remains to be a committed group of citizens that work hard to promote "participation, education and advocacy" of important issues that affect all of us.

Beulah Bailey Thull (past)

Beulah Bailey Thull, the only woman ever to be President of CSEA (1934-35), was also very active as a League of Women Voters member in the 1920s and 1930s. She was the first President of the Rensselaer County League, secretary for the Albany League, and on the State Board. The League runs throughout much of this interesting woman's life, and it will be interesting to Leaguers how easily she floats in and out of partisan activities! We can be proud that the League has attracted and continues to attract women of her caliber. Here's a few highlights from her life that surfaced from research done by CSEA in preparation for their 100th Anniversary.

- Born in Troy, NY, February 27, 1891
- Graduated from Troy High School 1908.
- Graduated from Cornell University (A.B.) 1912 and the State Library School (B.L.S.) in 1916.
- Campaigned for women's suffrage.
- Member of the Democratic State Committee.
- May 16, 1918, the New York Times publishes an address from the State Democratic Committee, signed by Ms. Bailey, among others, that is designed to urge registered women voters to the Democratic Party in order that they may vote in the primary election
- Addressed a women's suffrage meeting, which inspired her to become more involved in the movement.
- Served as Rensselaer County historian.

(continued on page 7)



Primary night and Ballot Marking Devices (BMDs) One Voters Experience

I went to my polling place, spotted the BMD in the corner. I asked if I could use that machine. The inspector asked me “Are you disabled?” I said that I just wanted to use the new machine. He asked the same question again - with a twinkle in his eye.

He said they were told at training that it was just for “disabled” people. They were not to ask the type of disability - just if the person was. So, I winked and said yes. I was the first and only (it was 8:45 pm) person to use the BMD. I explained that I’m involved with the LWV.

They were very open and had questions on how to work with the “disabled”. They showed me all the different ways the machine can be used.

This is my impression of the machine:

Getting the ballot into the machine (like putting a dollar bill in a vending machine) was picky. It wouldn’t take it the first way I put it in - so I turned it over and it was fine. However, getting the paper back out of the machine was like carefully pulling the paper out of a jammed copier.

I could foresee that if the ballot ripped - it could be a problem. Do the inspectors know how to unjam a machine???

So, I tried a few of the visual changes the ballot can undergo. Instructions were clear.

Getting the ballot back out was hard again. This could be a real sticking point and hold up lines.

Also, the ballot goes in an envelope and gets handed to an inspector. Well, I pushed the 2 sides together and handed it in. The inspector noticed that I did not lick the envelope and it was open. I could foresee this being a problem as well. Did the ballot fall out, not confidential, etc...??

Another suggestion may be that when they (Board of Elections) trains the inspectors – they have someone from the “disability” community there to talk about ways of dealing with awkward situations. They did not want to offend folks - but had questions on the right/proper way to deal with different disabilities.

Inspectors also should be encouraged to use the machines where they vote - to get use to the new technology.

On Election Day, I encourage all to try the new BMD’s. This way we can get some experience and work to rectify any problems before all machines are this type. So, go ahead – give it a try!

Ballot Marking Devices

Aimee Allaud, LWVNY Election Specialist

This year will be the first year New York will be using ballot marking devices (BMDs). League members have an opportunity to lead the way in testing out the machines and the accompanying election procedures developed for their use in “real time.” Learn to use the Ballot Marking Devices so you will be able to explain their operation to voters. Consider using one yourself in your polling place instead of the lever machine on Election Day. No voter can be denied the right to use the machine. You do not have to provide any reason or documentation. And you will gain firsthand experience – and the election workers will also! The NYS Board of Elections has a training module on their website (www.elections.state.ny.us.gov) for both types of BMDs being used in the state. You can practice in advance! The NYS LWV Voters Guide Part I (on the web and in hard copy) also has information on the devices.

According to Regulations approved by the NYS Board of Elections on September 5, 2008, ballots generated by the BMDs will be counted in a manner similar to that for emergency ballots at the polling place after the polls close. Observing the election night closing would give us the opportunity to learn how this part of the process is working around the state. However, NYS Election Law only allows Poll Watchers who have obtained a certificate issued by a candidate to remain in the polling place when not there to vote. If you want to observe the poll closing, you would need to obtain that certificate, or if your League participates in election night poll reporting, you would be able to observe in that way also.

News from Voter Services

We have been busy, which is as it should be at this time of year. We represented the League at four events just this week:

- *On Saturday 9/13—at the Sheridan Ave. Street Fair—thanks to Linda English, Maggie Moehringer and NellStokes-Holmes.
- *OASAS conference on Sunday 9/14—thanx to Nell.
- *CCCAP (child welfare advocates) on Tuesday 9/16—thanks to Elaine Menge. The participants actually applauded our presence there! We enrolled many new young voters, among others, and distributed a lot of information and forms, especially absentee ballot requests, and answered a lot of questions at these events.
- *On Wednesday, Mary Ann Lettau spoke at the Glenmont Job Corps to 50 students. Thirty-seven registered to vote for the first time.

The Library Projects at Voorheesville and Guilderland are going great guns—thanks to Lois Griffin. A new library project at Pine Hills is starting this week—thanks to Tina Lord; one starts next week at Albany Main Branch—thanks Tina; and one at the Colonie Library. Some voter materials are also on the bookmobile.

On the 24th, Mary Ann will be speaking at a drop-in center in Albany.

VOTER REGISTRATION FORMS MUST BE IN THE HANDS OF THE BOARD OF ELECTION BY OCTOBER 10, 2008.

We're hoping to get the go-ahead from Crossgates for a voter registration table at the beginning of October. Expect to get a "help!!!" for that.

We are working on two important candidate forums. David Soares and Roger Cusick will appear at Albany Law School on October 7 at the Moot Court Room. This is a high-profile event. The process has been initiated for a school board event in Albany; given recent problems at the high school, that should also be well-attended. We have been asked to register voters at the Race for the Cure on October 4. Since Mary Ann will not be available that day, if anyone's interested in doing it, give her a call.

DEADLINES: absentee ballots—postmarked application 10/28, in person request 11/3, postmarked ballot 11/3, in person delivery 11/4.

Comments, questions, offers of help are always welcome. Mary Ann Lettau 489-0212.

Do you know your local legislator?

Ann Brandon, VP Action

A great way to get to know your town board member, city council representative, mayor, or town supervisor, is to go to one of their regular meetings. You can see what happens before you read it in the paper or hear it on the news. And they will be more accountable because their constituents are watching them. Check out the 2008 meeting times listed below and let me know which one you will attend. Take some notes and we'll put in the next League newsletter. Our aim is to have at least two people to cover each meeting. *You can Google each of these government bodies to obtain agendas, names of legislators, etc.*

Albany County Legislature (39 members): Monthly; usually 2nd Monday, immediately after 6:30 pm public comment period. But Oct. 14 (Tues.), Nov. 10. County Court House, Eagle St., 2nd floor.

Albany Common Council (15 members): First and Third Monday of each month, at 7:00 p.m., with a public comment period up to ½ hour. Common Council Chambers, City Hall, Eagle St.

Bethlehem Town Board (4 members plus supervisor): Second and Fourth Wednesday of the month, at 5:30 pm. Town Hall, 445 Delaware Ave., Delmar.

Colonie Town Board (6 members): 7:00 pm., Oct. 16 & 30, Nov. 6 & 20, Dec. 4 & 18. Memorial Town Hall, Newtonville.

Guilderland Town Board (4 members plus supervisor): First and Third Tuesday, at 7:30 p.m., Oct. 7 & 21, Nov. 6 (Th) & 18, Dec. 2 & 16.

Call (439-4332) or email (ambrandon2@verizon.net) me to tell me which meeting you will attend. If you live in one of the smaller jurisdictions, let me know if you can attend one of their meetings. Let's let our local officials know that the League is interested in what is happening at the local level.

VOTE 18 WAS HERE, THANKS TO US!

“OK, I’m King George III of England. I make the laws, appoint the governors, set and collect taxes, give out land, tell you what religion to practice and make all the decisions that affect your life. Is this right? Do you trust me to make all your decisions for you?”

The Albany High students say, “NO!”

“Do you think I will make choices based on what’s best for you, or what’s best for me?” YOU! “Who has the power?” YOU DO! “Do you like it?” NO!

And so goes “Vote 18” (www.vote18.org) the interactive voting game for high school seniors.

“OK, all the white males join me over here. There’s no more king, but only white male land owners can vote. You women and persons of color, do you trust me to make your decisions for you? Do you think we will act in your best interest, or ours? Is this fair? Do you like it?”

By the time that the students have gone through all the stages of this 45 minute voting game, it has been driven home to them, again and again, in the role plays and mock elections, that unless they want someone else making the decisions for them, they have to vote. Only they can watch out for their own interests, and it is in their own social and economic interest to vote.

“OK, mock election presidential candidates, I’m going to give you each three candy bars. You can give them to whoever you want. By the way, those people I’ve gathered over here in this corner aren’t going to vote.”

The candidates hand out the candy bars, and, unsurprisingly, none of them go to those who aren’t voting.

“Do you know who votes in this country? Older, white males. Do you want them getting all the favors and all the attention from the elected officials? Are they going to act in your interest?” NO!!

At the end of the game, all of the class members fill out voter registration forms. “This is easy!” All of them that are 18 will have their forms filed for them and will be on the roles for the November election. You can see the transformation in their faces, the pride that knowing they have power brings.

Vote 18 came to Albany High last week with the facilitation of our League. Officials with the Albany School District agreed to have the interactive sessions in two of their history classes for seniors. We were on the front page of the Times Union and footage of the sessions was shown at most of the evening news programs. The school officials, the reporters and the students were so impressed that Vote 18 promised to come back in the spring when more of them would be 18.

AND NOW IT’S UP TO US! We can train local facilitators (we have the lesson plans and scripts, and DVDs of the routine) and take the show on the road! IT’S EASY, AND BETTER YET, IT’S VERY EFFECTIVE!! If you’d like to get involved, or you’re a born actor/ham and would like to be trained to do the routine and work with the students, let us know (Maggie Moehring, 475-0969, mmoehrin@nycap.rr.com).

Great Issues Discussion Group

The Great Issues group will have its first meeting on October 6 at 9:30 am. At that meeting and the next, on October 20, we will discuss “Faded Mosaic” by Clausen. We will also decide whether we will read a second book in the Fall.

For information about the meeting times and places, contact Katie Henrikson at 439-4308, or khenriks@nycap.rr.com

Poll Reporting

We need lots of help with poll reporting at the November election. Marggie Skinner will be contacting people to assign locations. Those who are interested should email Marggie at marggies@earthlink.net. Please put "LWV poll reporting" in subject line or she will reject the email.

If you haven't done poll reporting before - that's fine - it's easy, fun and a great way to get involved!

(continued from page 3)

League in Profile

Beulah Bailey Thull

- Member of the New York State League of Women Voters:
 - o First President of the Rensselaer County League of Women Voters.
 - o Secretary to the Albany County League 1929-1935.
 - o Member of the State Legislative Committee 1930-1933.
 - o Regional Director 1935-1936.
 - o State Chairman on Government and its Operations 1936.
- Trustee of the Rensselaer County historical Association.
- Member of the Women's Joint Legislature Forum, Vice-Chairman 1933-1935
- NYS Federation of Women's Clubs, State Legislative Chairman 1932-1934.
- Member of the City Club of Albany, member of the Board of Directors 1936.
- Serves as Vice President of the Association of State Civil Service Employees of the State of New York, beginning in 1929.
- Civil Service Employees Association nominate Beulah Bailey to succeed Mrs. Charles Bennett Smith as member of the State Civil Service Commission.
- Under the Vice-Presidency of Ms. Bailey, the NYS Association of Civil Service Employees announces a plan to establish an adult education center for civil service employees with the help of lecturers from New York University, while other courses will be given by officials in various State departments.
- 1934-1935 Beulah Bailey serves as President of the Association of State Civil Service Employees of the State of New York. On her nomination for the position, retiring President William F. McDonough states: "The successful leadership of Miss Bailey is assured by the fact that she understands the needs of the rank and file of State employees, men and women. Her work as Vice President, particularly that which had to do with educational activities, commends her to all. The Association is a cooperative attempt to improve State service and the position of the State worker, and no two people in the whole State are more honestly interested in these things than are Miss Bailey and Dr. Tolman." (In October 1934 issue of The State Employee.)
- On April 19, 1934, Ms. Bailey addressed the Westchester League of Women Voters to present the total costs of the government and tax figures.
- On October 22, 1934, the New York Times publishes a letter written by Ms. Bailey, in her capacity of President of the State Civil Service Employees Association in support of NYS Governor Lehman's reelection.
- May 24, 1937, the NY League of Women Voters meet at a city-wide convention to discuss the year's six legislative triumphs, as well as the issues with which they continue to be involved.
- Ms. Bailey gives a talk entitled "How Shall We Revise the State Constitution?"
- In her capacity as research assistant to the Tax Commission, Mrs. Thull puts together a tax study on New York State to be used by the State League of Women Voters. (Working Toward an Ideal County?, 1939). With the study, the League hopes to solidify their position when making demands to the Legislature, and also to provide their members with the information to which they feel entitled.
- June 26, 1959, Mrs. Thull wins an 11-lap women's preliminary sports car race at Watkins Glen, NY, in an Alpha Romeo averaging 64.4 miles per hour.
- Dies October 30, 1975, widow of George E. Thull, survived by son George and three grandchildren.



Are You Registered to Vote? Really?

Posted on September 16th, 2008 by Bo Lipari

Don't assume anything, confirm your registration

With all the attention that voting machines have received over the last few years, many people don't realize that the Help America Vote Act (HAVA) addressed more than just voting equipment. HAVA also required substantial changes to the way voter registration lists are managed, requiring that all states maintain a single statewide database:

"...each State, acting through the chief State election official, shall implement, in a uniform and nondiscriminatory manner, a single, uniform, official, centralized, interactive computerized statewide voter registration list defined, maintained, and administered at the State level that contains the name and registration information of every legally registered voter in the State..."

HAVA also describes, together with the National Voter Registration Act (better known as the Motor Voter Act) the critically important conditions which determine whether a voter can be removed from the voter rolls. This means that in New York and other states using the new computerized voter lists for the first time that there could be many thousands of voters showing up at the polls on Election Day assuming they are registered to vote who will find to their dismay that they are not.

There's various reasons that a voter might be flagged for removal – clerical errors, data transfer errors, address mismatches with DMV databases, a matching death record in the Social Security database, a match against New York's felon list, duplicate registration records from multiple counties (this last one could easily happen if you have moved from one county to another in the past, and didn't explicitly deregister from your previous county).

If your registration has been flagged, the local County Board is required to send you a written notice that a problem has been detected and you are at risk of being purged from the voter rolls. But if this notice is sent to the wrong address, or you don't notice it among the pile of junk mail and toss it, you could find on Election Day that you have been 'purged' from the rolls (in which case, you have the right to a provisional or "affidavit" ballot, but these ballots will not be counted on Election Day and may not be counted at all). So what can you do to ensure that you are indeed registered to vote in this important election? You've got to be proactive.

As required by HAVA, New York State provides an online "check your registration" page. This is alright as far as it goes, and will tell you whether your current status is 'Active' or 'Inactive' (active means you are registered and can vote). *But unfortunately it does not tell you if your record has been flagged as needing review and has not yet been processed by the county.* So it is possible that you could check the page today and see that your status is 'Active', but find out on Election Day that it has changed to Inactive because the county processed your flagged record *after you checked it and decided you were not legally registered.*

Given this potential, NYVV is recommending that voters take the following steps to confirm that you are registered to vote this year in New York State:

- 1) Click here to check the online voter registration page. If your status is 'Inactive', or the page tells you "No Matches Found", you are not registered to vote. In this case, **CALL YOUR COUNTY BOARD OF ELECTIONS IMMEDIATELY** and make sure you straighten this out (even if it means re-registering).
- 2) Even if your status is 'Active' on the online page, you need to call your county Board of Elections and confirm that your record is not flagged as unresolved. Call them today and ask them three questions:
 - a) Am I registered to vote?
 - b) Is my name flagged for review?
 - c) Will my name be in the poll book on Election Day?

Insist on getting an answer, even if the folks at the County Board are very busy. And while you're at it, confirm that your address is correct, because we're hearing of data transfer errors that are mangling addresses.

We've got to let the public know about this. For starters, Click here to download a flyer you can post alerting the public to the problem and the need to confirm your voter registration.

I'll have much more to write about in the days and weeks ahead about this vital issue, including the New York City Board of Election's illegal decision to purge all voters from the rolls who do not respond to an 'Intent to Cancel' letter which states "If you do not appear or answer by mail within 14 days after the mailing of this notice, your registration will be canceled. All written responses must be in English".

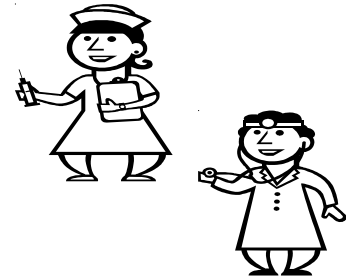
Health Care Coverage: NYS Efforts

Courtney Burke

While much attention has been focused on the presidential candidates' plans for reforming health care, there are many different efforts underway in states to improve insurance coverage. The most visible of these has been the Massachusetts plan, which began in 2006 and has already cut the number of uninsured in the state by more than half. Other states are using various incremental methods to achieve coverage, such as expanding public insurance programs or making incremental dents in the number of uninsured through changes in regulation or providing subsidies for the purchase of coverage.

New York is also examining options for improving coverage within the state. To do so, the state formed the "Partnership for Coverage", which is a collaborative effort between the New York State Department of Health (DOH) and the Department of Insurance (DOI) to examine options for coverage. The partnership held several public hearings and met with numerous groups over the past year. This May the partnership issued an interim report that summarized major themes from the public hearings. A Washington DC-based think tank was then employed to model four major options for achieving universal coverage in the state. The first option is a single-payer approach largely modeled on the national Medicare program. A second option builds on the existing system but makes major reforms in both the private and public insurance markets, known as the public-private plan. This option shares some of the features of the Massachusetts plan such as merging individual and small group markets, increasing eligibility levels for public insurance programs, and creating a statewide insurance exchange. A third option creates a Medicaid buy-in program or "New York Health Plus", and is based on a plan outlined by the Assembly Health Care Committee Chairman, Richard Gottfried. A fourth option, known as the Freedom Plan, relies largely on private markets and individual choice to improve access to insurance. The modeling of the four plans is expected to be finished late this fall.

The modeling will help inform to what degree coverage will be achieved in the state and how much the various options will cost. Other research, being conducted various research entities known as the "Coverage Consortium and funded by the New York State Health Foundation, is also being used to inform policy decision making at the state level in New York. Regardless of which presidential candidate wins the election, there is likely to be a continued role for state governments in providing health care.



Membership 2008-2009 Join & Make a Difference

Name: _____ Telephone: _____

Address: _____

Email: _____

- Individual Membership \$50/year
- Household Membership \$75/year
- Student Membership \$15/year
- Contribution in support of my local League
- Please send me more information

Mail to: League of Women Voters of Albany County
PO Box 611 Slingerlands, NY 12159
Or Contact: Carol Webster (439-1491)

League Calendar

<u>WHEN</u>	<u>WHAT</u>	<u>WHERE</u>	<u>MORE INFO</u>
Oct. 6	Great Discussion Issues Group		see page 6
Oct. 7, 5:45	Board meeting	L. Keegan-Brady's Home	
Oct. 7	District Atty Debate	Albany Law School	see page 4
Oct. 7, 7 pm	Alb. Gun Violence TF Public Mtg	St. Vincent Comm. Ctr	
Oct. 15, 7 pm	New Member Coffee	M. Kissinger's Home	see page 1
Oct. 16, 8 pm	21st Cong Debate	WMHT Studio	see page 2
Oct. 20	Great Discussion Issues Group		see page 6
Oct. 25, 10 am	Health Care Forum	Rockefeller Inst., Albany	see page 1
Nov. 4	Election Day Poll Reporting		
Nov. 4	Board Meeting	Location TBA	
Nov. 17	Souper Supper: International topic	Bethlehem Public Library	
Dec. 2	Trip to the UN	NYC	
Dec. 2	Board Meeting	Location TBA	
Dec. 10	Holiday Luncheon Speaker: Mike McNulty	Normanside County Club	

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF ALBANY COUNTY
PO Box 611
Slingerlands, NY 12159

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