



# The Broome-Tioga Voter

Bulletin of the *League of Women Voters of Broome & Tioga Counties*

[www.lwv-broometioga.org](http://www.lwv-broometioga.org)

[lwvmyers@stny.rr.org](mailto:lwvmyers@stny.rr.org)

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**League of Women Voters of  
Broome & Tioga Counties**

P.O. Box 944, Vestal, NY  
13851-0944

*Co-Presidents*

Clare Simeone 775-0035  
[cas88@earthlink.net](mailto:cas88@earthlink.net)  
Anne Taft 724-6830  
[anci@stny.rr.com](mailto:anci@stny.rr.com)

*1<sup>st</sup> Vice-Pres./Ed. Finance*

Carol Oestrich 797-0026  
[coestrich@aol.com](mailto:coestrich@aol.com)

*2<sup>nd</sup> Vice-Pres./Program*

Mary Johnson 797-3225  
[mjohnson23@stny.rr.com](mailto:mjohnson23@stny.rr.com)

*Secretary*

Joanne Gee 775-4856  
[raygee@echoes.net](mailto:raygee@echoes.net)

*Treasurer*

Alice Brooks 754-8277  
[fbrooksjr@stny.rr.com](mailto:fbrooksjr@stny.rr.com)

*Finance Drive*

Pat Giglio 648-5116  
[pgiglio@chowc.org](mailto:pgiglio@chowc.org)

*Voter Service*

Doris Lawton 723-0890  
[dal22@verizon.net](mailto:dal22@verizon.net)

*VOTER Editor/Website Mgr.*

Sue Garing 775-5041  
[sgaring@verizon.net](mailto:sgaring@verizon.net)

*Program Committee*

Carole Coppens 625-4362  
[ccoppens@stny.rr.com](mailto:ccoppens@stny.rr.com)

*Tioga Liaison*

Jane Ebert 785-0323  
[wsebert@yahoo.com](mailto:wsebert@yahoo.com)

*Public Relations*

Sandy Kosty 754-8051  
[dkosty@aol.com](mailto:dkosty@aol.com)

*New Election Process*

Jane Park 748-4192  
[janepark@stny.rr.com](mailto:janepark@stny.rr.com)

Tuesday, January 22, 2008

## Physicians for National Health Program

Presented by

**Dr. Gustavo de la Roza**

Associate Professor and Residency Director of the  
Department of Pathology  
SUNY - Upstate Medical University

7:00 p.m.

Vestal Public Library

Vestal Parkway E., Vestal, NY

Public Welcome

Refreshments served

(The Library is accessible to people with disabilities.)

## Co-President's Column:

Our next program meeting on January 22, 2008 (snow date - Feb. 26) will be presented by Dr. Gustavo de la Roza, a member of PNHP (Physicians For National Health Program) who will explain the single payer system. He is Associate Professor and Residency Director of the Dept. of Pathology at SUNY - Upstate Medical University. The HR 676 is an act whose goal is to provide comprehensive health insurance coverage for all U.S. residents and is in line with the goals of PNHP and the position of the LWVNYS. I hope all local League members will attend this meeting to hear the Power Point report that Dr. de la Roza has to share with us. A summary of H.R.676 is provided on page 3.

~ Clare Simeone



Dr Gusavo L De la Roza is an Associate Professor of Pathology at SUNY - Upstate Medical University's University Hospital in Syracuse, NY. His clinical Specialty is Anatomic Pathology and Cytopathology.

## WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

Shannon Barbuto-Lewis, Owego

Katherine Gardner, Endicott

Martha Goodsell, Candor

Eleanor Hamilton, Conklin

Stanley Scobie, Binghamton

Penelope Thorp, Endicott

We are pleased to have all of you as members of our local League and encourage you to join a committee that deals with an issue of interest to you.

This is a wonderful way to make new friends and takes very little of your time.

~ Eva Anderson, Membership

## Voter Service

The Voter Service Committee will meet in January to plan activities for 2008. It promises to be a very interesting year with many opportunities for LWV service to voters. As a start, a display case at the Oakdale Mall has been reserved for our use in October of 2008. Trying to stay in the footsteps of Barbara Shope is a bit daunting, to be sure, but the challenges are there and we have the talents to meet them. This raises the issue of moderators for debates and forums. We need to have two, possibly more, ready for service. Elsie Wager, who will do our training, assures that "if you can read, you can moderate".

All area high schools were informed and invited to our annual brunch on December 1 for the "Vote 18" program arranged by Clare Simeone.

Once again we want to thank those who made our Judicial Forum on October 30 such a successful and informative evening: The moderator and organizer, Barbara Shope; publicity, Sandy Kosty; hospitality, Janet Gill; webmaster, Susan Garing; timers, Eva Anderson and Clair Burkhardt; audio visual, Carol Oestrich; and greeters, Izzy Trapper, Julie Larson and Doris Lawton.

~ Doris Lawton

## Get 'Em & Keep 'Em: 8 Surefire Strategies to Build Membership

**Strategy #1: Understand Change** Look at the macro changes in the environmental, but also consider how the expectations of your members are increasing, where your future competition may be emerging and the impact of generational issues.

**Strategy # 2: Build Value** To build value you must increase the benefit to the member or decrease the cost (which includes time and travel).

**Strategy #3: Learn Why They Join** Ask your new members about the most important reasons behind their decision to join and find out what motivated them to join when they did. (page 4 ☞)

**H.R. 676**

**Title:** To provide for comprehensive health insurance coverage for all United States residents, and for other purposes.

**Sponsor:** Rep Conyers, John, Jr. [MI-14] (introduced 1/24/2007)    **Cosponsors** (70)

**Latest Major Action:** 2/2/2007 Referred to House subcommittee. Status: Referred to the Subcommittee on Health.

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**SUMMARY AS OF:**

1/24/2007--Introduced.

United States National Health Insurance Act (or the Expanded and Improved Medicare for All Act) - Establishes the United States National Health Insurance (USNHI) Program (the Program) to provide all individuals residing in the United States and in U.S. territories with free health care that includes all medically necessary care, such as primary care and prevention, prescription drugs, emergency care, and mental health services.

Prohibits an institution from participating in the Program unless it is a public or nonprofit institution. Allows nonprofit health maintenance organizations (HMOs) that actually deliver care in their own facilities to participate in the Program.

Gives patients the freedom to choose from participating physicians and institutions.

Prohibits a private health insurer from selling health insurance coverage that duplicates the benefits provided under this Act. Allows such insurers to sell benefits that are not medically necessary, such as cosmetic surgery benefits.

Sets forth methods to pay hospitals and health professionals for services. Prohibits financial incentives between HMOs and physicians based on utilization.

Establishes the USNHI Trust Fund to finance the Program with amounts deposited: (1) from existing sources of Government revenues for health care; (2) by increasing personal income taxes on the top 5% income earners; (3) by instituting a progressive excise tax on payroll and self-employment income; and (4) by instituting a small tax on stock and bond transactions.

Requires the Program to give first priority in retraining and job placement and unemployment benefits to individuals whose jobs are eliminated due to reduced administration.

Establishes a National Board of Universal Quality and Access to provide advice on quality, access, and affordability.

## Pottery Project Update

Thanks to everyone who stored, set suggested donations, carried, set up, packed, and donated to our League for the privilege of owning some now irreplaceable Sue Cowing pottery, the project was a grand success! We took in an additional \$500 at the December 1 Brunch and have no pottery left!

The only things that are left are a few small lampshades, mop pieces for use as oil lamp wicks, rawhide strips to use with hanging planters, and a filial for a lamp. If you bought a piece of pottery and have discovered that you need any of these parts, please contact Anne Taft.

~ Anne Taft

**Strategy #4: Start Them Off Right** Give them the tools and information they need to take full advantage of their membership, help them get involved in activities that interest them and don't forget to make them feel special.

**Strategy#5: Change Your View** Review your internal procedures from the member's perspective.

**Strategy #6: Listen to Members** Use both regular formal research and ongoing informal information gathering to understand your members' needs and priorities.

**Strategy #7: Anticipate Their Needs** Associations have a responsibility to lead their members, not just provide for today's needs. This means you have to stay ahead of the curve, understand the industry or profession intimately and constantly scan the external environment

**Strategy #8: Use Segmentation:** Different members have different needs. Use your database to help you target your services and programs most productively.

~ LWVNY Website

### Global Warming

Three Binghamton University student groups will be co-sponsoring a "Focus the Nation" event to facilitate a discussion about global warming among local community members, students, and politicians. It will be held concurrently with similar events on other college campuses across the nation, in hopes of making global warming a major campaign issue in the coming presidential election.

The event will be on Thursday, January 31, 2008, tentatively at 7 pm on the Binghamton University campus at a place not determined at press time. Watch the local media for complete details as they become available, or contact Anne Taft or the event organizer, BU student Josephine Chu (631-355-2348 or buclimatechallenge@gmail.com).

~ Anne Taft



### *Be Part of the Action!*

*Join the League of Women Voters – today.*

*Men and women of voting age are welcome to join.*

### **Membership Application**

- Individual membership \$45/yr.
- Household membership \$65/yr.
- Student membership \$20/yr.
- Send me information about the League.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

***Make checks payable to LWVBTC and mail with this coupon to LWVBTC, PO Box 944, Vestal, NY 13851-0944.***

### Identification Statement

The Broome-Tioga Voter is published 9 times a year (January, February, March, April, May, July/August, September, October, and November/December) by the League of Women Voters of Broome & Tioga Counties, 38 Oakridge Drive, Binghamton, NY 13903.

## LWVUS Program Planning 2008-2010

Every two years state and local Leagues and ILOs participate in the LWVUS Program Planning process by making recommendations concerning program issues. This is how we remain a grassroots organization. The Program Planning process is an important League tool for identifying issues for study. It gives members and Leagues a chance to balance the pros and cons, assess possible support, and consider the viability of issues. During the process, members have the opportunity - especially via e-mail and discussion lists - to organize support based on factual materials.

Thinking about the most important national issues we face today, read the LWVUS Positions In Brief (pages 6-7) to determine whether these issues are covered by an existing Position. In considering an issue, ask yourself whether it is timely, has widespread member interest, and would be most effectively addressed by government action. Discuss your ideas with local League colleagues or nationally via the LWVUS Program Planning discussion list (go to [lww.org](http://lww.org), For Members section, Program Planning, to sign up). In addition to suggesting a national study, we can also ask that a position be reviewed by a committee of League members or recommend a concurrence with a state or local League position. Send your ideas to Anne Taft so she receives them by Monday February 11, or discuss them with any member of the Board. We will decide what ideas to send on to the LWVUS at our Board Meeting on February 12.

~ Anne Taft

### Your Input is Needed!!

Please take a minute to send in your ideas for Study items. Send your input by February 11 to:

Anne Taft, 38 Oakridge Drive, Binghamton, NY 13903, or email to [anci@stny.rr.com](mailto:anci@stny.rr.com)

I recommend the LWVUS retain the current program as it

I recommend dropping or reviewing the following:

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Rationale:

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I recommend the following new studies:

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Rationale:

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Your Name:

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# **PUBLIC POLICY POSITIONS**

## **League of Women Voters of the United States**

### **REPRESENTATIVE GOVERNMENT**

**Promote an open governmental system that is representative, accountable and responsive.**

#### **Voting Rights**

**Citizen's Right to Vote.** Protect the right of all citizens to vote; encourage all citizens to vote.

**DC Self-Government and Full Voting Representation.** Secure for the citizens of the District of Columbia the rights of self-government and full voting representation in both houses of Congress.

#### **Election Process**

**Apportionment.** Support apportionment of congressional districts and elected legislative bodies at all levels of government based substantially on population.

**Campaign Finance.** Improve methods of financing political campaigns in order to ensure the public's right to know, combat corruption and undue influence, enable candidates to compete more equitably for public office and promote citizen participation in the political process.

**Selection of the President.** Promote the election of the President and Vice-President by direct-popular-vote and work to abolish the Electoral College. Support uniform national voting qualifications and procedures for presidential elections. Support efforts to provide voters with sufficient information about candidates.

#### **Citizen Rights**

**Citizen's Right to Know/Citizen Participation.** Protect the citizen's right to know and facilitate citizen participation in government decision making.

**Individual Liberties.** Oppose major threats to basic constitutional rights.

**Public Policy on Reproductive Choices.** Protect the constitutional right of privacy of the individual to make reproductive choices.

#### **Congress and the Presidency**

**Congress.** Support responsive legislative processes characterized by accountability, representativeness, decision-making capability and effective performance.

**The Presidency.** Promote a dynamic balance of power between the executive and legislative branches within the framework set by the Constitution.

### **INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS**

**Promote peace in an interdependent world by working cooperatively with other nations and strengthening international organizations.**

#### **United Nations**

Support a strong, effective United Nations to promote international peace and security and to address the social, economic and humanitarian needs of all people.

#### **Trade**

Support U.S. trade policies that reduce trade barriers, expand international trade and advance the achievement of humanitarian, environmental and social goals.

#### **U.S. Relations with Developing Countries**

Promote U.S. policies that meet long-term social and economic needs of developing countries.

#### **Arms Control**

Reduce the risk of war through support of arms control measures.

#### **Military Policy and Defense Spending**

Work to limit reliance on military force. Examine defense spending in the context of total national needs.

### **NATURAL RESOURCES**

**Promote an environment beneficial to life through the protection and wise management of natural resources in the public interest.**

#### **Natural Resources**

Promote the management of natural resources as interrelated parts of life-supporting ecosystems.

#### **Resource Management**

Promote resource conservation, stewardship and long-range planning, with the responsibility for managing natural resources shared by all levels of government.

Continued on next page .....

## **Environmental Protection and Pollution Control**

Preserve the physical, chemical and biological integrity of the ecosystem, with maximum protection of public health and the environment.

**Air Quality.** Promote measures to reduce pollution from mobile and stationary sources.

**Energy.** Support environmentally sound policies that reduce energy growth rates, emphasize energy conservation and encourage the use of renewable resources.

**Land Use.** Promote policies that manage land as a finite resource and that incorporate principles of stewardship.

**Water Resources.** Support measures to reduce pollution in order to protect surface water, groundwater and drinking water.

**Waste Management.** Promote policies to reduce the generation and promote the reuse and recycling of solid and hazardous wastes.

**Nuclear Issues.** Promote the maximum protection of public health and safety and the environment.

## **Public Participation**

Promote public understanding and participation in decision making as essential elements of responsible and responsive management of our natural resources.

## **Agriculture Policy**

Promote adequate supplies of food and fiber at reasonable prices to consumers and support economically viable farms, environmentally sound farm practices and increased reliance on the free market.

## **SOCIAL POLICY**

**Secure equal rights and equal opportunity for all. Promote social and economic justice and the health and safety of all Americans.**

### **Equality of Opportunity**

**Equal Rights.** Support ratification of the Equal Rights Amendment and efforts to bring laws into compliance with the goals of the ERA.

**Education, Employment and Housing.** Support equal access to education, employment and housing.

### **Fiscal Policy**

**Tax Policy.** Support adequate and flexible funding of federal government programs through an equitable tax system that is progressive overall and that relies primarily on a broad-based income tax.

**Federal Deficit.** Promote responsible deficit policies.

**Funding of Entitlements.** Support a federal role in providing mandatory, universal, old-age, survivors, disability and health insurance.

### **Health Care**

Promote a health care system for the United States that provides access to a basic level of quality care for all U.S. residents and controls health care costs.

### **Meeting Basic Human Needs**

Support programs and policies to prevent or reduce poverty and to promote self-sufficiency for individuals and families.

**Income Assistance.** Support income assistance programs, based on need, that provide decent, adequate standards for food, clothing and shelter.

**Support Services.** Provide for essential support services.

**Housing Supply.** Support policies to provide a decent home and a suitable living environment for every American family.

### **Child Care**

Support programs and policies to expand the supply of affordable, quality child care for all who need it.

### **Early Intervention for Children at Risk**

Support policies and programs that promote the well-being, development and safety of all children.

### **Violence Prevention**

Support violence prevention programs in communities.

### **Gun Control**

Protect the health and safety of citizens through limiting the accessibility and regulating the ownership of handguns and semi-automatic weapons. Support regulation of firearms for consumer safety.

### **Urban Policy**

Promote the economic health of cities and improve the quality of urban life.

### **Death Penalty**

The LWVUS supports the abolition of the death penalty.

Whatever the issue, the League believes that efficient and economical government requires competent personnel, the clear assignment of responsibilities, adequate financing, coordination among levels of government, effective enforcement and well defined channels for citizen input and review.

# The Broome-Tioga Voter

The League of Women Voters of Broome & Tioga Counties  
P.O. Box 944  
Vestal, NY 13851-0944  
(607)772-4936

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## Calendar

Tuesday	January 8	Board Meeting, Vestal Library
Tuesday	January 22	Program Meeting, PNHP Health Care Presentation
Thursday	January 31	SUNY, Global Warming Discussion

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