



# The Broome-Tioga Voter

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

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Volume 62, Number 2

October 2009

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## “Gas Drilling in NYS”

Presentation by

Susan Multer

President LWV of Steuben County



**Tuesday, October 27, 2009**

**7:00 pm Coffee**

**7:15 pm Program**

**Vestal Public Library**

**Vestal Parkway E., Vestal, NY**

**Public Welcome**

**(The Library is accessible to people with disabilities.)**

## President's Column

### Seven Falsehoods About Health Care

These myths about the current healthcare debate were forwarded to me by a member of our League, Elsie Wager, and I thought they were worth sharing with all of you. They are found on the Annenberg Public Policy Center of the University of Pennsylvania website under FactCheck.org. (<http://wordpress.asc.upenn.edu/2009/08/seven-falsehoods-about-health-care>) The Center, like the League, wants to keep the public intelligently informed, and is nonpartisan in regards to their research findings. Because of the report's length, I will cover three of the falsehoods at this time. I am quoting the report in the following analysis.

#### False: Government Will Decide What Care I Get (a.k.a. they won't give grandma a hip)

This untrue claim has its roots in the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 (the stimulus bill) for the creation of a Federal Coordinating Council for Comparative Effectiveness Research. The council is charged with supporting and coordinating research that government has been doing for years into which treatments work best, and in some cases are most cost-effective. Supporters of this type of research say it can provide valuable information to doctors, improving care and also lowering costs.

American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009: Nothing in this section shall be construed to permit the Council to mandate coverage, reimbursements or other policies for any public or private payer. None of the reports submitted under this section or recommendations made by the Council shall be construed as mandates or clinical guidelines for payment, coverage, or treatment. The same is true for the H.R.3200 bill as well as the others.

#### False: The Bill is Paid For

At least it isn't paid for yet. According to the nonpartisan Congressional Budget Office and Joint Committee on Taxation, the House bill as introduced would add a net \$239 billion over 10 years to the deficit, while the

Senate HELP Committee racks up \$597 billion over 10 years. President Obama said he has "identified two-thirds of those costs to be paid for by tax dollars that are already being spent right now". These savings are estimates and whether around \$650 billion can be saved remains to be seen.

#### False: Private Insurance Will Be Illegal

Under the House bill, people who want to buy new individual, nongroup coverage will have to purchase it through a new health insurance exchange. The exchange, in fact would offer a range of private plans, in addition to new federal health insurance option.

However, those who were already buying their own insurance before the bill went into effect – about 14 million Americans – will have their plans grandfathered in.

## Donation Opportunity

At the September Board meeting Clare shared a search engine website that will benefit the National League – [www.goodsearch.com](http://www.goodsearch.com) which is powered by Yahoo, so users will get the same high quality which it provides. When you bring up the site, designate LWV Education Fund, LWV Washington and 50% of advertising revenue (about a penny per search will automatically go to the LWV EF).

Sue Garing, Editor

Quandary ...

At the Library bench dedication Vivian Carlip gave her LWV bag to ... someone...and asked it to be passed to Anne Taft. Does anyone have the bag? Call her please at 729-6770.

#### 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, 3 Willow Way, Conklin, NY 13748.

Send Voter newsletter articles and feedback to Sue Garing, Editor, [sgaring@verizon.net](mailto:sgaring@verizon.net).

## Take the Challenge

When we step out of our comfort zone, we find that we stretch and grow in various ways from the effort we put into the task or goal we set out to achieve. The League is offering two opportunities for our members to take a challenge.

Eva Anderson has been our representative at the Status of Women Council meetings for several years and has done a great job keeping the board and membership informed of its activities and plans. She is looking for an alternate representative to take her place when she can't attend a meeting. The meetings are held every third Monday at the Riverside Towers at 6:00 pm. There are no meetings during the months of July, August, and December. If you are willing to take on this position, call or email Eva Anderson (775-2325; daveva345@juno.com).

The other opportunity will require more commitment in time. At the NYS League's Convention this May, the State Board directed the local Leagues to study State consolidation. One of our members has already volunteered, but we need a committee to take on the complexities of a project such as this. There is a State Committee formed, and it has put out information concerning State consolidation, as well the procedures for consensus. There is also a history, research reports and other information, that will give much direction to the study. The State Committee will be willing to give guidance when necessary, and the State board has allotted two years for the local Leagues to reach consensus. Please contact me if you are interested in pursuing this challenge.

Clare Simeone (csimeone@stny.rr.com; 775-0035)

## Member News

Please join me in welcoming new member Marion Pine of Binghamton who has joined us through the LWV of United States. We hope she will join us at our local programs - it is a great way to become acquainted with other members and the workings of the League.

Eva Anderson, Membership

Part II of the Voter's Guild has been mailed with this edition of the Voter.

## Women of Achievement Dinner

The Status of Women Council's annual Women of Achievement Dinner will be held on Wednesday, November 4, at the Owego Treadway Inn. The League's very deserving honoree this year is Alice Brooks, who has been an active member of our League since joining in 1998. She has been our Treasurer since 2005, and before that she was Secretary for several years. Details of her many accomplishments will appear in the next issue of the *Voter*.

The evening will begin with a social hour and cash bar at 6:00 pm, followed by dinner at 7:00 pm. Jan DeAngelo will be playing the piano during the social hour.

The entree selections are (1) Treadway Inn Chicken with champagne Cream Sauce, (2) Orange Roughy, and (3) a vegetarian plate.

Reservation deadline is October 22. The price is \$27.00. Reservations may be made by sending a check payable to Eva Anderson, at 345 Trim Street, Kirkwood, NY 13795. (Please note your entree choice on the memo line of the check.) If you have any questions, you may contact me at daveva345@juno.com or phone 775-2325.

This is not only an evening to honor Alice but also an evening of fun, entertainment, and the good company of League members, as well as members of other organizations. We hope you will join us.

Eva Anderson, Council Delegate

## October Program

Wondering about what effect gas drilling will have on New York State? To find out about the environmental and other impact of gas drilling, plan to come to the October 27 meeting at the Vestal Library. Our speaker will be Susan Multer, one of the founding members of the LWV of Steuben County and currently its President. Ms. Multer received her MS from Columbia University in 1985, and has taught at Monroe Community College for eight years.

She has read and spoken widely on this issue and is enthusiastic about discussing the impact it will have on each of our lives.

Raney Colvill, Programs

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