

League of Women Voters of Brookhaven

THE VOTER

January 2010

www.lwv-suffolkcounty.org/brookhaven.htm

WHAT'S NEXT FOR OUR TOWN

SPEAKER: TULLIO BERTOLI

NEW BROOKHAVEN TOWN PLANNING COMMISSIONER

MONDAY, JANUARY 25, 1:30—3:00 PM

AT COMSEWOGUE LIBRARY
170 TERRYVILLE ROAD
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PLEASE WRITE TO YOUR CONGRESSMEN ABOUT HEALTH CARE
FOR DETAILS, SEE PAGES 4 AND 5

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*New York State Government***PRESIDENT'S COLUMN—WELCOME 2010!!!**

Each year there seems to be more for thoughtful involved people to do. Is that because there are more problems, or more possible solutions? We have been watching the Congress come closer to universal health care than ever before. The effort to move forward globally on an energy policy, on nuclear nonproliferation, on solutions to global warming—all hold out hope for a better world. But they won't happen without a lot of commitment from citizens all over the world.

On our local front, we ask each League member to write at least one letter to a legislator about the health care reform. We can tell Senators Schumer and Gillibrand and Congressman Bishop how much we appreciate the support they have given sound health care reform, but we can also urge them to stand fast for some form of a public option and for cost containment. We include addresses and a sample letters on pages 4-5.

At our next meeting, on January 25, in the afternoon, we will have the opportunity to meet our new Town Planner, Tullio Bertoli, hear what he thinks is important, and ask questions about the issues on our minds—Carman's River protection, transportation, affordable housing, land preservation and water quality, and revitalized downtowns, or whatever you want to ask.

One of the most effective impacts the League can have is by individual visits to elected officials by informed League members. We are forming a committee to take on the task of keeping in touch with election officials, and will have our first meeting on Wednesday, February 3, at 3:30, right after our February board meeting. We will make plans to visit our New York State Legislators, find out more about their interests, draft questions, and plan follow-up actions. Each year we try to visit another group of legislators, to get to know them and their interests, but, most important, to make sure they know our interests and concerns. Please consider being part of the committee. It will take only a few hours of your time, but will make a difference.

OUR SPEAKER IN JANUARY

COMMISSIONER TULLIO BERTOLI

- Brookhaven Town Supervisor Mark Lesko and the members of the Town Board appointed Tullio Bertoli as Commissioner of the Town's Department of Planning, Environment and Land Management at their May 28 Town Board meeting.

"The Town is extremely lucky that such a talented and accomplished professional has decided to step forward and lead our Department of Planning, Environment and Land Management at this critical time in the Town's history," said Supervisor Lesko. "Tullio Bertoli has the management skills, temperament, and most important, the vision to shape the future growth of this Town so that it is smart, protective of the environment, and sustainable."

Bertoli was selected from a pool of more than 80 applicants following a nation-wide search of planners and land use managers. Candidates were interviewed by the entire Town Board.

"Land use planning is the most important function of the Town of Brookhaven. Land use affects all aspects of our lives, from how we get around, to where we live, to where we shop. That is why I am so pleased that an individual with the temperament and qualifications of Tullio Bertoli has agreed to head up the Town's Planning Department," stated 4th District Councilwoman Kepert.

Tullio Bertoli, an architect, boasts a long list of accomplishments as a real estate development consultant, planner and licensed real es-

tate broker. He has over 30 years experience in all phases of real estate development, including site selection, feasibility analysis, land use approvals, master planning, zoning, architecture, construction, leasing, legal and investment planning. He has used creative design skills to develop building and land projects from conception to build-out, and conceptual designs considerate of Smart Growth, New Urbanism and Green Architecture philosophies.

Bertoli's most recent experience was as Director of Acquisitions, Design and Development for the Christopher Companies, LLC of Glen Cove. He was responsible for all phases of a wide range of projects from Connecticut to North Carolina, including the 40-unit Riverview condominium project in Patchogue; the 45-unit West River Landing condominiums in Patchogue; and Roslyn Landing, an 80-unit New Urbanism project in Roslyn, NY.

Bertoli was educated and trained as an architect at the Yale University School of Architecture, where he received his Masters degree, and was a Fulbright Scholar in Architecture and City Planning at the American Academy in Rome, Italy.

TIME FOR YOUR VOICE TO BE HEARD

Now is an important time to write letters to Rep. Tim Bishop and our Senators about health care. They have been actively supporting healthcare reform and could use our support.

SAMPLE LETTER :

Dear

Thank you for your support of meaningful health care reform. Please continue to work for legislation that will create real change and take effect as quickly as possible. I still support the public option and hope that some aspect of this can be retained. I also urge you to include as many cost containment features as possible.

Sincerely yours,

ADDITIONAL FACTS IF YOU WISH TO ADD MORE

The House and Senate are now working to pass identical bills so that legislation can go to the president for his signature.

Here are some of the areas where the house and Senate bills differ:

Public Option - it seems unlikely the public option will pass the Senate - unless some acceptable compromise can be found. But that's a very long shot.

Cost containment - The Senate bill includes an independent board which would have the power to carry out Medicare reforms and also recommend changes in private programs. The House bill relies heavily on pilot projects within Medicare, to determine which approaches might best restrain medical costs, but has no mechanism for pushing use of these practices. The Senate bill would require insurance companies to spend the bulk of their revenues on patient care (at least 80-85%).

Start date - The prohibition on insurance companies rescinding insurance policies (except for fraud or misrepresentation) would take effect immediately in both bills, However, on other major reforms, the Senate bills delay an extra year (until 2014)

ADDITIONAL FACTS (CONTINUED)

when the new exchanges would be set up, and when insurance would be required and help would be given to those who have trouble affording insurance. The house bill would start these programs in 2013.

In spite of the differences, and the unlikelihood of the public option at this time, this legislation would make some important improvements in our health care system and is worth passing, so write your congresspeople. It is important to counteract the negative correspondence that our elected officials are probably receiving so they can justify voting for this program. Word has it that letters make more of an impact than emails or phone calls. You might also want to send your letter to Nancy Pelosi and Harry Reid.

Congressman Timothy Bishop, 225 Cannon House Office Building, Washington, D.C. 20515

Senator Charles Schumer, Hart Senate Office Bldg, Room 313, Washington, D.C. 20510

Senator Kirsten Gillibrand, 531 Dirksen Senate Office Bldg, Washington, D.C. 20510

Senator Harry Reid, Hart Senate Office Bldg, Room 522, Washington, D.C. 20510

Congresswoman Nance Pelosi, 235 Cannon House Office Building, Washington, D.C. 20515

CELEBRATE THE 37TH ANNIVERSARY OF ROE V. WADE

with Planned Parenthood Hudson Peconic and Planned Parenthood of Nassau County

On Thursday, January 28, from 6:30 to 8:30 pm at the Huntington Cinema Arts Centre.

Planned Parenthood will present *An Evening with Aspen Baker*. She is the leading voice in the nation on the personal experiences of women post-abortion. In 1999 she founded Bay Area based *Exhale*, an award-winning pro-voice organization dedicated to promoting post-abortion health and well-being. She has won many awards, including "Top Activist Under 30" by Choice USA in 2003. Wine and cheese reception at 6:30 will be followed at 7 pm by conversation with Aspen Baker. Donation \$10. RSVP by January 25, 631-240-1126.



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At the two meetings in December to review the LWV-US programs, our members agreed that redistricting and campaign finance were of most importance, especially since the 2010 Census will produce new population figures. We also considered the possibility of an update on our federal subsidy system to see whether the current system of incentivizing corn production is leading to the production of more foods with fructose, and less grain.

Esther Glass and Reggie Seltzer, long concerned about the need for reform of our New York State Government, will be focusing on redistricting on the state level—at our February 22 meeting they will present facts about our current system of drawing election district lines and possible ways to change it. They hope to inform voters and excite them about the issue so that we can help make a change.

As League members we regularly visit our legislators to remind them of our positions, and learn more about their concerns. Many League members are willing to visit their legislator, but say they would like some preparation. In order to include new League members and plan ways to make the visits more effective, we are setting up a legislative committee for our League. We will gather information we need to make our visits and plan a strategy to convince the legislators that we are serious and informed. The committee will meet right after the February Board meeting, on Feb 3, at 3:30 at Robbie Fishman's, 17 Mott Lane. All are welcome to the Board meeting as well. It starts at 2 pm. For more information, please call Nancy Marr, 730-6556.

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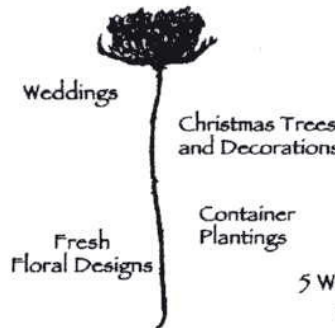
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