

THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF BRONXVILLE

(Serving Bronxville, Eastchester, Tuckahoe, Mt. Vernon and Yonkers)

MAY 2008

BULLETIN

ISSUE SEVEN

The League of Women Voters of Bronxville

invites you and your friends to its

Monthly Coffee

*Tuesday, May 20, 2008
9:30 AM*

*Bronxville Women's Club
135 Midland Avenue*



*Speaker: Professor Karen Burstein, Pace University
Subject: New York State Government*

COME MARCH WITH THE LEAGUE!

MEMORIAL DAY PARADE

Monday, May 26, 2008



8:45 AM at Parkway Road near Circle

SAVE THE DATE... & PLAN TO BE THERE!



REGIONAL MEETING

for Westchester & Lower Hudson Valley

*Come find out what's happening here in New York,
and an exciting new statewide campaign
for universal health care reform!*

What's in the work so far: Governor's "Partnership for Coverage" Initiative, postcard campaigns, personal story collections; Statement of Standards for Reform, "People's Public Hearing" in Albany on May 28th, 9 Regional Meetings across the state this spring

Monday, May 19th, 4 to 6 p.m.

**White Plains City Library
100 Martine Avenue**

(between South Lexington Ave. & MLK Jr. Blvd., across from the Galleria – parking on-site)

Westchester-Lower Hudson Organizing Committee (list in formation): *American Cancer Society, Metro NY Health Care for All Campaign, Open Door Family Medical Centers; Westchester Health Action Coalition*; more info at 914-693-9054 or metrohealth@igc.org

Health Care for All New York members (list in formation); *American Cancer Society, Center for Working Families, Children's Defense Fund of NY; Citizen Action of NY, Community Service Society of NY, Metro NY Health Care for All Campaign, New Yorkers for Accessible Health Coverage, NY Immigration Coalition; Raising Women's Voices for the Health Care We Need; Western NY Health Care Campaign; Workmen's Circle/Arbeter Ring*; more info at 845-802-0039 or jwisneski@citizenactionny.org

Funded in part by a grant from the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation's Consumer Voices for Coverage program.

HEALTH ISSUES

This month, like forsythia and daffodils, a few cheery developments were noted on the horizon of health care and protection.

A major one: The House Commerce Committee just approved a bill that would give the FDA regulatory power over tobacco. (NY Times, April 3,'08) This, by the way, is the only addictive drug not subject to any government control although it causes more than \$96 billion in medical expenses and 438,000 premature deaths each year. The bill would enable the FDA to control nicotine levels in cigarettes, dictate warning labels, regulate marketing and advertising, and evaluate product claims. The Bush Administration opposes it as, most likely, will the Senate. However, all three presidential contenders - notable members all of that August body - have endorsed it. The bill would create a center within the FDA specifically for tobacco legislation. The caveat? It would be financed by industry fees. Given the current politicization of our regulatory agencies that's a built-in conflict of interest.

Last month, responding to the wave of defective toys and dangerously contaminated products, the Senate approved a measure to overhaul our consumer product laws and strengthen the Consumer Product Safety Commission by adding staff and funds. It would also empower state prosecutors to act more vigorously than the federal government if they saw fit. (NY Times, March 7,'08). This is most welcome. However, no word yet - that I've seen - about action in the House.

Also being considered in Congress - a plan to have government funded health professionals visit doctors to give unbiased guidance on the safety and effectiveness of drugs to counter the sales pitches of pharmaceutical company "detail" men. A successful project in Pennsylvania enhanced medical care and saved more than \$500,000 a year on gastrointestinal drugs alone for low-income senior citizens (NY Times, March '08). Similar programs are being tried in other states and are already in place in Australia, England, the Netherlands and several Canadian provinces. The hope is that the program will pay for itself by lowering drug costs to federal programs.

And one reminder about something important to every one of us. In these days of shifting medical plans, switches to electronic files, and constantly reorganizing physician practices and health care entities, medical records are at record risk of being misplaced, displaced or actually lost. In this situation, it is safer to rely on ourselves by keeping our own files, and making sure that they're complete and current. By law, we are entitled to copies of all of them including doctors' notes, test results, X-ray films, treatment protocols, etc. Having them accessible can save hours of research and ensure an accurate medical history (memory alone is not so great about this), avoiding diagnostic procedures already done, and drugs already tried and rejected. According to the Public Citizen Health Research Group, March 2008, only 32% of consumers have done this.

Edith Szold, Health Issues Chair

COMPOST BIN SALE!!!

Saturday, May 17th, 9 AM to 2 PM – rain or shine. Saxon Woods Pool and Park, White Plains.

**Choose from 2 types of composting bins, wholesale priced at only \$20 and \$40 for this event – while supplies last!
FREE COMPOST and professional advice for your garden. The Westchester LWV has supported this environmental cause for many years and urges you to start composting - it's easy! To reserve a bin and for more information, call the Westchester County Recycling Helpline at (914) 813-5420 or visit www.westchestergov.com/recycling.**



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www.SmartVoter.org

With the click of a mouse, you can be a *SmartVoter*.

Nonpartisan voter information on elections held in Westchester is updated and maintained by the League of Women Voters® of Westchester. All candidate information is provided by the candidates themselves.



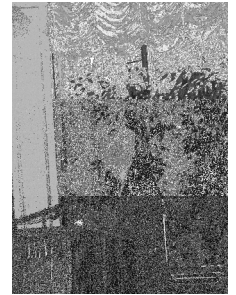
LEAGUE OF
WOMEN VOTERS

PRESIDENT'S LETTER

April was a month full of League activities – on April 4th a Coffee & Conversation with 12 of Westchester's County Legislators took place at the White Plains Library; it was recorded and can be seen on the Eastchester public access station as well as Tuckahoe's.

On April 7th a meeting was held in Dobbs Ferry where the need for Universal Healthcare was discussed by a very informative panel of experts. Our Health chair Edith Szold, along with Rivertowns' Chris Verber, Emma Lou Lewis and Susan Goodwin followed up on the subject at our 4/15 third Tuesday coffee. What a team! Their presentation included ethical and economic issues, and the challenge of HMOs.

Our annual meeting and luncheon was held on April 24th, with 65 attendees. Our speaker, Phil Reisman, of the Journal News, gave a very informative and amusing talk on the goings-on in Westchester, with a special emphasis on our county government. A good time was had by all, and Pat Parker did a great job of inviting local dignitaries, and organizing the event. And as usual, Dorothy Brennan made sure we had beautiful flowers for the tables and pitched in to make it a wonderful event. Our thanks to both ladies for their efforts.



Now, for those who need to renew their membership for the fiscal year 4/1/2008-3/31/2009, please be sure to fill out the form included in this newsletter, and send in your dues. We need your support. Remember, the Per member Person dues (PMP) for National, NYState, and County Leagues take up almost all of the dues amount. And, National is looking to raise their portion once again. (Your additional contributions are certainly welcomed).

A number of us will be attending the County League's annual Convention on May 8th, where Jeanne Zaino, Chair & Assistant Professor of Political Science & International Studies, Iona College will speak on "The Great Divide? Running & Ruling the American System".

May's third Tuesday Coffee will feature Karen Burstein, an attorney and former candidate for Attorney General, currently teaching at Pace University on the subject of New York State politics. She knows the players, and should be treating us to an interesting look at the current state of politics in Albany.

Lest we forget – Bronxville's Annual Memorial Day parade will take place on Monday, May 26th. We gather at Leonard Morange Park to assemble for the parade. ALL League members are invited to march under our banner. So, come on out and participate. I hope to see you there.

Wishing you all the best,

Adelaide

ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP DUES ARE DUE!!!

(Fiscal year begins April 1st)

Individual	\$50	\$ _____
Family	\$75	\$ _____
Contribution		\$ _____

Make checks payable to Bronxville LWV and send with this to:

**Bronxville LWV
P. O. Box 321
Bronxville, NY 10708**

Name(s) _____ **Phone** _____

Address _____ **Email** _____



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Date Sensitive

IMPORTANT DATES

May

17	9 AM/2 PM	Saxon Woods Pool and Park	White Plains
19	4 to 6 PM	Regional Meeting/Health Care	White Plains Library
20	9:30 AM	Bronxville LWV Coffee Meeting	Bronxville Women's Club
26	8:45 AM	MEMORIAL DAY PARADE !!	Parkway Road Circle