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Area Bulletin 2010-2019

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LWV Bulletin, November, 2010

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The League of Women Voters of the Huntington Area



Helen Gibbins, President
6128 Gideon Road
Huntington, WV 25705
304-736-3287

Ann Speer, Treasurer
706 Ridgewood Rd.
Huntington, WV 25701
304-525-2244

LWVWV website: [www: LWVWV.ORG](http://www.LWVWV.ORG)

LWVUS website: www.LWV.ORG

November 2010 Bulletin - Patricia Keller, Editor

The LWV is a nonpartisan organization that encourages the informed and active participation of citizens in government and influences public policy through education and advocacy. Membership in the League is open to women and men of voting age. Annual dues, not tax deductible, are \$40 individual, \$55 for two in one household and \$24 for students. To join, send your check to: Ann Speer, Treasure, 706 Ridgewood Road, Huntington, WV 25701. Check is to be made out to the League of Women Voters of the Huntington Area.

HOW WILL THE NEW HEALTH CARE ACT AFFECT WEST VIRGINIANS?

On Nov. 15, 7 pm at the Enslow Park Presbyterian Church, the League of Women Voters and the NAACP will cosponsor a meeting on health care. Delegate Don Perdue, chair of the House of Delegates' Health and Human Resources Committee, will discuss how the federal Affordable Care Act will affect West Virginians and what West Virginia must do to comply with the Act.

There have been many misconceptions circulating about the Act and talk about repealing it or de-funding it. But we should take note that the Business Roundtable, which includes many of the most prominent CEOs in the country, recognizes the costs if the US did not act. If nothing changes, by 2019, total health care spending will consume more than 20 percent of the U.S. Gross Domestic Product. Many other experts have stated that comprehensive health-care reform is our most potent deficit reduction weapon. It reduces the deficit by \$1.2 trillion in the next 20 years, according to the nonpartisan Congressional Budget Office.

The Act will extend health insurance coverage to more than 30,000,000 US Citizens. As many as 184,000 currently uninsured West Virginians will gain access to insurance.

Bring your friends to this important meeting. We will serve light refreshments.

Those who need transportation to the meeting may contact – Southside and Woodlands, Martha Woodward, 525-7404; Fairfield West, Wendy Thomas, 522-0983; Beverly Hills, Julie Damewood, 522-2340; East Pea Ridge, Portia Warner, 733-4078.

WHAT WILL THE AFFORDABLE ACT DO?

Some of the programs of the Act will not kick in until 2014, and some gradually over a longer period. Here are some of the changes in how health care will be improved in the U.S.

Now children can't be denied coverage due to pre-existing conditions and eventually that will apply to everyone. There are no longer lifetime limits so you will not have to worry about going bankrupt if someone in your family becomes severely ill. Young adults can stay on their parent's insurance plan until they reach 26.

Some 16 million Americans will be eligible for Medicaid in 2014 under the new law. Medical Exchanges will make it easier to find and purchase affordable insurance. If you can not afford health insurance, you will be eligible for tax credits.

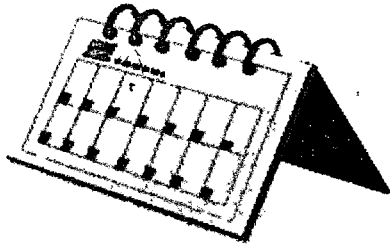
West Virginia's community health centers now serve nearly 375,000. The Act will improve and expand these centers so that more West Virginians will have a health home for primary care, pediatrics, pharmacy, dentistry, and mental health services. These services all enhance preventive care and decrease the need for going to emergency care, an expensive alternative.

Preventive care is expanded and will be free for many. Such care includes flu vaccines, mammograms and even diet counseling for adults at-risk of chronic disease.

Seniors who subscribe to the Medicare Part D prescription drug program and are in the "doughnut hole" will receive \$250 this year. Gradually the "doughnut hole" will disappear.

More than 4 million small businesses will be eligible for tax credits to pay for health insurance for their employees.

Programs to prevent Medicare fraud have been substantially improved.



CALENDAR

Nov. 15. 7 pm. Enslow Park Presbyterian Church. Health Care in WV

Dec. 7. 11:30. Bates Presbyterian Church. Strengthening our Membership.

Jan. 17. noon. Ponderosa. Preventing Medicare Fraud and LWVWV legislative priorities

VOTERS SERVICE ACTIVITIES

League members were busy, busy during the elections season. Susan Hubbard gave presentations at 8 different Head Start Mothers meetings. She talked about how important it is to vote as well as giving the attendees information on voting processes, how they can be involved in the elections, how to be a poll worker, how to evaluate candidates, etc.

Other League activities –

- Organized candidates meetings at Woodlands, and at the Southside Neighborhood Organization meeting
- Aided other organizations in their candidates meetings; moderated at one of them.

- Disseminated information on Rides to the Polls
- Produced a Vote flyer
- Registered voters at the Veterans Home
- Spoke at Beverly Hills Women's Club
- Wrote Letters to the Editor

League members who assisted in these projects were Wendy Thomas, Isabel Spindell, Betty Barrett, Helen Gibbins, Portia Warner, Susan Hubbard, Rose Riter, Lois Wallace. Donna Spindell was a moderator at the Woodlands.

We would like to hear from you what activities could be improved or initiated in the next elections' cycle.

THANK YOU TO Monika Rowe for preparing and mailing out letters for our Finance Drive

MYTHS AND TRUTHS

Myths have abounded especially during the period up to the general election. They can all be checked at Factcheck.org, the Kaiser Family Foundation, and the WV Bureau of Senior Services, 877-987-4463 or www.wbship.org.

WEST VIRGINIANS HEALTH STATUS. West Virginia earned the 42 spot in the ranking of the 50 healthiest states by the United Health Foundation. Category rankings include - Prevalence of smoking – 50; Prevalence of binge drinking – 2; Prevalence of obesity – 48; Occupational fatalities – 46; Children in poverty – 41; Air pollution – 46; Public health funding – 5; Preventable hospitalizations – 50; Poor mental health days – 49; Poor physical health days – 50; Cardiovascular deaths – 47; Cancer deaths – 48; Premature death – 44.

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