



THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS®

August 2009

President: Patte Newman
President-Elect: Mary Boschult
Secretary: Carol Connor
Treasurer: Margaret Remmenga
Voter Editor: Jim Johnson

Calendar of Events

August 25 (Tuesday): 6:00-7:00 p.m.
Health Care Rally,
State Capitol, west side
(14th Street and Lincoln Mall),
See article on pages 2 & 3.

September 17 (Thursday): Noon
Lunch & Learn,
US Bank Bldg 20th Floor,
13th & M Streets, Lincoln
Topic: *Federal Immigration
Reform and the Future of the U.S.
Workforce*

[See page 5 for a complete
scheduled for the 200-2010 Lunch
& Learn series.](#) Watch our
September issue for more
information about the September
program.

September 17 (Thursday): 5:00 p.m.
Helen Boosalis Memorial
Tree Planting,
Hwy 2, near 37th & LaSalle.
See article at right.

October 15 (Thursday): Noon
Lunch & Learn,
US Bank Bldg 20th Floor,
13th & M Streets, Lincoln
Topic: *Mayor's Health Care Task
Force Update*

[See page 5 for a complete
scheduled for the 200-2010 Lunch
& Learn series.](#)



Helen Boosalis Memorial Tree Planting

Please join us at at 5 p.m. on Thursday, September 17th on the Boosalis bike trail just north of Highway 2 (at approximately 38th, with parking north on LaSalle). Speakers will include Mayor Beutler and Jan Gauger, who will dedicate the oak tree donated by League members in memory of our lifetime member Helen Boosalis. More details will be in September's *Voter*. If any League members still want to donate a memorial, an additional tree will be purchased in the same area.

Lunch & Learn Fall Series

The United States League of Women Voters will celebrate 90 years of existence in 2010.

The League is a grass roots, non-partisan organization that promotes political responsibility through the informed and active participation of citizens in government.

Here in Nebraska, the Nebraska Woman Suffrage Association reorganized as the Nebraska League of Women Voters in 1920 after a sixty-five year battle to gain the right to vote for women. Our mission of getting people involved in our democratic government is as important now as it has ever been.

The League of Women Voters Lincoln-Lancaster County (LWVLL) continues to work in the community to register new voters and educate the public with issue and candidate forums. The League also organizes a very popular Lunch and Learn series which are open to the public. These take place at noon on the third Thursday of the month from September through May every year at the restaurant on the 20th floor of the US Bank building at 13th & M. Members, guests and the general public are invited to hear world-class speakers on topics important to us locally and nationally for the cost of the \$10 lunch. For reservations, contact the League Office by e-mail at lwv-ne@inebraska.com or by phone at 475-1411 by noon the Monday prior to the luncheon and leave a message with name and contact telephone or email.

We welcome new members interested in helping all citizens to be better informed on government issues and to support responsible and responsive government. Information on the League of Women Voters is available on the national website at www.lwv.org or locally at www.lincolnleague.org. For more information please contact current LWVLL president, Patte Newman at 484-8770 or newman2003@neb.rr.com.

LWV and Health Care Reform

Nationally, the League of Women Voters has encouraged our nation's leaders to find a way to help the estimated 47 million uninsured citizens of this country to find accessible and affordable health care. The National League of Women Voters' website states:

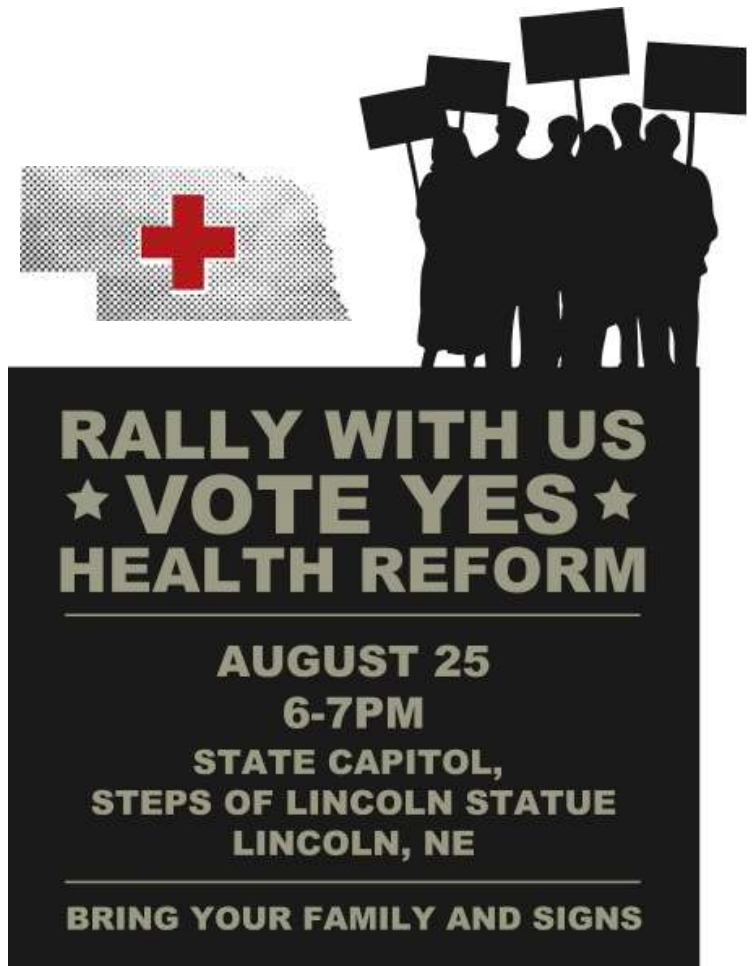
"The League believes that quality, affordable health care should be available to all U.S. residents. Other U.S. health care policy goals should include the equitable distribution of services, efficient and economical delivery of care, advancement of medical research and technology, and a reasonable total national expenditure level for health care. Furthermore, the League believes that all Americans should have access to a basic level of care that includes the prevention of disease, health promotion and education, primary care (including prenatal and reproductive health), acute care, long-term care and mental health care.

Through decades of work in their communities, League members have learned that Americans believe that fairness and responsibility, as well as access, are important values for any health care system. We believe that healthcare reform can only succeed if it takes all these values into account."

Please go to www.lwv.org and click on the "health care reform" link on the left of the homepage to read more about the League's position.

We all know someone who has been impacted by the inability to find affordable insurance coverage, or someone who has experienced staggering medical costs and the ever increasing costs of life saving medications. Your local League of Women Voter's Board encourages each and every one of its members to get informed on this issue. Please get involved and contact your elected representatives NOW.

Patte Newman
President, League of Women Voters-Lincoln/Lancaster County



RALLY WITH US
★ VOTE YES ★
HEALTH REFORM

AUGUST 25
6-7PM
STATE CAPITOL,
STEPS OF LINCOLN STATUE
LINCOLN, NE

BRING YOUR FAMILY AND SIGNS

PUBLIC OPTION IS ESSENTIAL TO HEALTH REFORM

League Urges Congress and President to Continue Support for Public Option

Washington, DC - "The public option in health care reform may not be essential to bureaucrats or insurance companies but it absolutely is essential to the almost 47 million uninsured Americans who live day to day without health care coverage," said League of Women Voters National President Mary G. Wilson. Calling on Congress and the President not to succumb to the bullying tactics being used by special interest groups, Wilson urged Congress and the President not to waver in their support of the public option included in H.R. 3200, America's Affordable Health Choices Act of 2009, recently passed by three House committees.

America is facing a health care crisis caused by a combination of skyrocketing costs and an insurance system that leaves millions of Americans without any coverage. "The current health care system is endangering our economy, our health, and our national security," Wilson said. "Last fall, voters elected a Congress and President that promised to reform our health care system. Voters made it clear that they want a change in our health care system, a change that puts the brakes on the excesses created by a system dominated by large insurance companies," she continued.

"It is universal coverage that will determine the humanity of our system and a public option will make that possible for Americans who cannot obtain coverage through the traditional employer-sponsored plans," noted Wilson. "We believe that health care reform legislation must guarantee access to comprehensive and essential benefits to all U.S. residents."

"But the possibility of universal coverage is not the only advantage of the public option," warned Wilson. "We must control costs and the public option is the best chance to bring costs into line with reality. As a nation, we are spending \$1 out of every \$6 we earn on health care. Over the last three decades, increases in the amount we spend on health care have consistently risen faster than wages and inflation. Health care reform must provide effective cost controls, equitable distribution of services and allow for efficient and economical delivery of care. Offering everyone the choice of a government administered health insurance plan like Medicare that would compete with private health insurance plans is key to lowering costs."

"The public option is critical to health care reform," Wilson concluded. "Now is not the time for politicians to get cold feet just because a handful of special-interest-backed protesters spread lies and make noise at public forums. Congress and the President need to demonstrate real leadership and move forward with true health care reform."

The League of Women Voters, a nonpartisan political organization, encourages informed and active participation in government, works to increase understanding of major public policy issues, and influences public policy through education and advocacy.

See last page of this newsletter for more information on the LWVUS positions on Health Care and Climate Change, as well as information.

League of Women Voters – Lincoln/Lancaster County
Lunch and Learn Programs 2009-2010
Cost: \$10/lunch including tax and tip *
3rd Thursday of each month @ Noon
Speakers: 12:20-12:50 w/10 minutes for Q&A
20th Floor – US Bank Building, 13th & M

September 17, 2009	<i>Federal Immigration Reform and the Future of the U.S. Workforce</i> Jim Partington Executive Director Nebraska Restaurant Association
October 15, 2009	<i>Mayor's Health Care Task Force Update</i> Lori Seibel CEO, Community Health Endowment of Lincoln
November 19, 2009	<i>Economic Retail Trends</i> Jim Otto President, Nebraska Retail Federation
December 17, 2009	<i>Growing, Buying, Using Local</i> Ingrid Kirst Executive Director of Community CROPS
January 21, 2010	<i>Plans for Stimulus Funds</i> Milo Mumgaard/Mayor's Office Senior Policy Aide to Mayor Beutler
February 18, 2010	<i>Legislative Update</i> Senator Amanda McGill Representing District 26 in Northeast Lincoln
March 18, 2010	<i>How the Economy Got This Way</i> Andrew C. (Skip) Hove Former Vice Chairman & Chairman Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation
April 15, 2010	<i>Wind Energy and the LES Electrical Grid</i> Bruce Barnhouse Plant Supervisor, Rokeby Generating Station Oversees Lincoln Electric Service Wind Turbines
May 20, 2010	<i>Sustainability Issues in Lincoln</i> Cecil Steward FAIA, President Joslyn Castle Institute for Sustainable Communities

*** Two Lunch and Learn Payment Options**

So that you don't miss the views and information in this wonderful program, we're offering two payment options.

*** Lunch and Learn Pre-Paid Stimulus Package**

All nine \$10 lunches for \$85. No refunds or transfers

Reserve: Pay by check: LWVLL, 140 N. 8th St., The Apothecary, Ste 215, Lincoln, NE 68508

Payments for the "Pre-Paid Stimulus" option **must** be received by the first meeting, Sept. 17th

*** Pay \$10 at the door each month after making reservations at 475-1411 by no later than noon on the Tuesday before meeting**

Either way, mark your calendars, for who would want to miss anything in this series?

The Lincoln Lancaster *Voter*
League of Women Voters ®
The Apothecary, Suite 215
140 North 8th St.
Lincoln NE 68508
475-1411
<http://www.LincolnLeague.org>



Time Dated Material
Please Do Not Delay