



Voter

June 2009 Encouraging active and informed citizen participation in government

Come to Summer School on Health Care!

Breakfast Unit Meeting June 30

The Breakfast Unit takes on the subject of HEALTH CARE at its June 30 meeting at 7:00 A.M at Tabb's Restaurant, 4019 Granby St, Norfolk, VA23504 (626-0871). Health care is a priority issue for the League of Women Voters nationally. The LWVUS health care education task force has produced background papers on a variety of issues. The League previously worked to override the Bush veto of legislation reauthorizing the children's health insurance program. The League vigorously supported the new bill known as the Children's Health Insurance Reauthorization Act (CHIPRA) that became one of the first major legislative measures that President Obama signed into law in February 2009. Check out the Web site: www.lwvus.org.

Our speaker on Tuesday morning, June 30, is Assistant Professor Qi (Harry) Zhang of Old Dominion University's School of Community and Environmental Health. Dr. Zhang teaches classes in Health Economics, Medical Decision Making, Measurement of Health Phenomena, and Data Interpretation Methods in Health Care. Last year he was a visiting scholar at the Center for Human Nutrition, Department of International Health at Johns Hopkins University. Dr. Zhang earned his M.A. and Ph.D. in Economics at the University of Alabama. He earned his B.A. in Economics at Fudan University in China.

**Breakfast Unit Meeting
Tuesday, June 30, 2009 at 7 a.m.**

Tabb's Restaurant
4019 Granby St, Norfolk, VA23504

Topic: Health Care
Speaker: Qi (Harry) Zhang, Assistant Professor
School of Community and Environmental Health
Old Dominion University

Co-Presidents' Letter

Hello, Leaguers!

It is a great honor, and a great challenge, to assume the leadership of the LWV -SHR. This organization has a long and respected history of smart, energetic service to the local community, and we intend to continue that tradition. We would like to invite all members to contact us with your ideas and suggestions regarding ways we can continue to fulfill the mission of the League: To encourage informed and active participation of citizens in government and influence public policy through education and advocacy.

We will be calling on you to become more involved with the LWV -SHR's activities in the coming months. Transportation, health care, redistricting and reapportionment – there are a myriad of issues that require attention and action. Join us as we inform ourselves and the public about these and other issues, and prepare to discuss our concerns with our representatives locally and in Richmond.

It's also another election year in Virginia – isn't it always? – so the fall will find us busy with service to voters – candidate forums and voter registration. The LWV of Virginia, in partnership with AARP, plans to hold a candidates' forum for the governor's race on October 12, moderated by Judy Woodruff and broadcast by CBS and PBS.

The new board of directors will spend the summer organizing itself and developing a calendar for the upcoming League year. Your input is always desired and welcome, so don't hesitate to contact any board member with your ideas and concerns. Thank you for your continued support of the League's goals and mission.

Kim Lewandowski, Co-President
Melanie Perez-Lopez, Co-President

Join the conversation with LWV members across the nation

By Kim Lewandowski, Co-President

The LWV of the United States' Web site is a wealth of information on League activities and events. It's also a place where you can discuss topics of interest with other League members throughout the country. LWV -US sponsors mailing lists on topics including issue-related lists like Civil Liberties, Climate Change and Health Care, and League-related lists like Development, League Leaders, Membership and Outreach, Nominating Committee, and Voters Service. Any interested member can join any of these lists.

To join a League mailing list, go to the Web site: www.lwv.org.

Then click on "For Members." Scroll down the page and you will see "Join the Conversation." Click on the link for "Join a new list or manage your account."

If you are already registered, then just log in with your user ID and password. If you are not registered, do the registration for new members. If you have problems with this, contact kim.lwv@gmail.com.

HINT: As with all sites, write down your user ID and password somewhere convenient so you don't forget it in case you don't come to the site again for a while.

If you are not yet registered, you will probably have to wait for an email telling you that you have been "accepted." This is generally almost immediate.

After that, return to <https://member.lwv.org/Login.asp> and log in; you will see a list of all different topics for which the League sponsors a mailing list. Click the checkbox(es) for the ones you're interested in, and then click "Submit Changes" at the bottom of the page. The list(s) you have chosen may also have to accept you via email. Then you are ready to write a posting OR respond to others.

Join the conversation!

May Breakfast Unit Report

By Martha Rollins, Secretary

The Breakfast Unit turned its attention to the issue of school readiness at its May 26th meeting at Tabb's Restaurant. Lisa Howard, the Executive Director of Smart Beginnings, and Paul Hirschbiel, Chairman of the Board, described the way their non-profit organization is

mobilizing resources to raise public awareness and to reach pre-school children and improve the quality of child care. Their team presentation featured Howard's son, Zach, an inquisitive youngster, who readily engaged in some board games with our host, Buzz Tabb, just like the regulars at Tabb's tables.

Today in our community, Hirschbiel said, at least one child in eight is not ready for school. Elsewhere in Virginia, the number may be one in three not ready for school. Hirschbiel referred to longitudinal studies of 40-45 years that show that children who start behind tend to stay behind. He pointed out that readiness was not purely a result of poverty but that as many as 49% children of middle and upper income families demonstrated lack of readiness when they arrive at school. He stressed that today's working families need quality child care. He also emphasized that funding in programs for children ages 0-5 is cost effective. The Smart Beginnings organization has initiatives underway in all five cities in South Hampton Roads.

Howard said that Smart Beginnings is working with 28 centers and 10 family care homes with an array of programs and resources. Tools are being developed to screen children and to evaluate quality of care. Staff training and other collaborative efforts are underway. They have 70 centers on their waiting list.

Smart Beginnings relies on funding from public and private sources. The state contributed \$4.6 million last fall in matching grants to the localities. The Batten Educational Achievement Fund of the Norfolk Foundation is providing over \$4.5 million in additional funding. Innovative sponsorships are being created for private donors and businesses, imaginatively described as "Adopt a Center."

Visit the Web site: www.smartbeginningsshr.org

Thanks to our new and renewing members!

- Janet Beuchler
- Samantha Boucek
- Sandra Brandt
- Dan D. Edwards
- Lynn G. Francois
- Jennette and Bud Franklin
- Frances Jones
- Diane Lee
- Kim Lewandowski
- Robert Michalove
- Melanie Perez-Lopez
- Martha Rollins
- Susan Sharp
- Andrea Trotter

**League of Women Voters of South Hampton Roads
Grants Account Report
4/1/2008 - 3/31/2009**

In 2007 and 2008, the LWV-SHR applied for and received two grants from the LWV-US. This report was inadvertently omitted from the 2009 LWV-SHR Annual Report distributed at the annual meeting in May.

Balance Forward 4/1/2008	186.37	186.37
Grant: "A More Compassionate World"		
Received from LWV-US	500.00	686.37
Disbursements:		
Field Trips	165.04	
Savings Bonds (contest prize)	150.00	
Total Disbursements	315.04	371.33
Grant: "Hosting Delegates from Azerbaijan"		
Received from LWV-US	6,860.14	7,231.47
Disbursements 10/1/2008		
Welcome ceremony	816.07	
Field trips: CD and Williamsburg	1,510.83	
Catering	225.00	
Spirit of Norfolk cruise	618.46	
Guest hosting/transportation	495.48	
Administration/marketing	634.93	
Arlington Independent Media	245.73	
Overdrafts	70.00	
New checks	24.96	
Total Disbursements	4,641.46	2,590.01
Payment for May 2008 Annual Meeting reception	579.78	2,010.23
Balance 3/31/2009		2,010.23

Quick Facts On Health Care Costs

- Total health spending in the U.S. reached \$2.1 trillion in 2007 – or \$7,026 per capita.
- By 2016, total health spending is projected to rise to \$4.2 trillion.
- Between 2005 – 2006, total health spending increased 6.7 percent, more than double the rate of the 2.9 percent increase in overall economic growth.
- Yearly prescription drug spending growth accelerated in 2006 to 8.5 percent from a low of 5.8 percent in 2005, in part because of full implementation of Medicare Part D.

This partial list (without the original endnotes) is from "A Reporter's Toolkit: Health Care Costs" (an Alliance for Health Reform Toolkit produced with support from the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation) and is reproduced here courtesy of the Alliance for Health Care. The entire toolkit can be found at www.allhealth.org/Publications/Cost_of_health_care/health_care_costs_toolkit.asp. Resource provided by the LWVUS Health Care Education Task Force, 2009.

2009-2010 Board of Directors

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Upcoming Events

LWV-SHR Board Meeting and Orientation

- Saturday, July 11, 2009, 9:45 a.m.
- The board may appoint up to seven more board members - if you are interested in serving on the board, please contact Melanie Perez-Lopez at 423-7655 or Kim Lewandowski at 646-4522.

Breakfast Unit Meeting

- Tuesday, July 28, 2009, 7 a.m.
- Tabb's Restaurant, 4019 Granby St
- Topic: To be announced
- \$5 continental breakfast available
- For more information, contact Unit Leader Martha Rollins, 423-0205

Breakfast Unit Meeting

- Tuesday, August 25, 2009, 7 a.m.
- Tabb's Restaurant, 4019 Granby St
- Topic: To be announced
- \$5 continental breakfast available
- For more information, contact Unit Leader Martha Rollins, 423-0205

LWV-VA Workshops

- August 29 in Charlottesville
- Look for more information at lwv-va.org

Gubernatorial Candidates' Debate

- Monday, October 12, 2009
- Co-hosted by LWV-VA and AARP
- Moderated by Judy Woodruff of PBS

The VOTER is published 10 times per year to inform members of LWV-SHR about League activities and events and to provide other information of interest to League members.

Submissions from all members are encouraged. The deadline is the 15th of the month.

Send submissions to newsletter@lwv-shr.org.

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